

Love and Trust Forever
By Jesse Almeida 6/25/23

After Paul Pierce and Kevin Garnett departed from Boston to Brooklyn, the Celtics were hitting the reset button and starting to rebuild. Boston ended up getting three unprotected first round picks, and a pick swap in 2017 in return for Pierce and Garnett to start their rebuild. In the 2013-2014 season, the energy was missed at the Garden. There was zero buzz because the Celtics were not looking to make a playoff spot. Fans were really missing Pierce and KG due to the fact that the C's did not make the postseason after finishing 25-57. Boston secured the number 6 pick with their own pick and had the 17th pick from Brooklyn. One need that Boston had heading into the draft was a guard. With Rajon Rondo's future in question, Courtney Lee heading into free agency, Boston needed a guard who could have an all around game. Danny Ainge decided to fill this need with that 6th pick and drafted a player named Marcus Smart out of Oklahoma State.

Marcus Smart was exactly what Boston needed. He brought hustle, intensity, and high energy every night. Once Smart entered into the mix, it was clear to Ainge that there was a bright spot going forward and it was happening sooner than expected. The Celtics were close to a playoff spot at 20-31 on February 19, 2015. Ainge took this opportunity to build a culture and traded for Isaiah Thomas. This does not happen without Smart's efforts and his hustle on the floor. Once the Celtics brought Isaiah Thomas in, that only elevated Smart's game. The Celtics made the playoffs going 20-11 the rest of the way. After Smart's first season, the Celtic got better year after year. In Marcus Smart's tenure in Boston he was in the postseason every year in his time with Boston. Marcus was the first step of Boston getting back to championship contender.

Marcus Smart's intensity was similar to what KG brought. He would do anything it takes for his team to get another offensive possession, or another shot. Even though his shooting was not as good, and it took time for him to develop a playmaking game, what made Marcus so great was his defense. The defense would outweigh his shooting. Marcus Smart has a career defensive rating at a 107.4 which is elite level defense. Even though Smart is at 6' 3", he always made shots tough with his contest. On average, opponents are 44 percent from the field on Smart. On the offensive side in his 9 year tenure in Boston, Marcus averaged 10.6 points a game, 4.6 assists per game and 3.5 rebounds a game. He shot .386 percent from the field and .336 percent from three. Marcus was apart of the All-Rookie team in the 14-15 season. He was a 3x All NBA Defensive Team player, and of course won Defensive Player of the Year in the 21-22 season.

Smart was in the postseason every year in his time with Boston. Smart on the court was a warrior, left all that he had on the court, and was a great teammate.

Marcus Smart loved the city of Boston. Marcus was all about the fans and giving back to the people who welcomed him with open arms. His foundation called “Marcus Smart’s Younggamechanger Foundation” focused on giving people who were diagnosed with cancer some strength and encouragement. Smart has meet many fans who look up to him, and want to be like him. The fans love Marcus in Boston. From wearing his jersey’s to buying his cereal called “Wicked Smarts” for his foundation, Smart will always be loved in Boston. Will his number be retired one day? Most likely not. Did fans get frustrated because of his shot selection? Yes. However, Marcus Smart will never be forgotten here in Boston. There are two things that can describe Marcus Smarts time here in Boston. The first is that he gave it his all on the floor day in and day out. Some decisions were questionable for sure, but he gave it his all every night. Finally, he loved the city of Boston. He loved the city so much that he dyed his hair green for the Celtics. That is what made Marcus so special. We wish Marcus Smart nothing but the best, and we thank you for all that you have done for the city of Boston.