

BIG MAN ON CAMPUS

Notre Dame's Troy Murphy has a head for the game

Troy Murphy likes to finish what he starts. He once tried to dye his hair blond and ended up with an orange head. "I looked like Ronald McDonald," he said.

So Notre Dame's junior forward did what he always does when things go wrong: He tried again. The result: a strawberry-blond head. On his third try, he got blond hair.

Troy was a skinny 6' 10" forward out of Delbarton High School in New Jersey when he entered Notre Dame in 1998. Some scouts thought he wasn't tough enough to bang with the big guys of the Big East. Troy had something to prove, so he proved it. He set the school freshman scoring record (519 points) and was the Big East Rookie of the Year. So much for the "soft" rep.

He didn't have a good outside shot, so he took 700 jumpers a day in the off-season and developed a deadly one.

As a sophomore, Troy was the 1999-2000 Big East Player of the Year and the only player in the U.S. to finish in the Top 10 in scoring (ninth, with 22.8 points per game) and rebounding (sixth, with 10.8).

Notre Dame hasn't been to the NCAA tournament since 1990. Troy wants to bring the Fighting Irish back to the March Madness. "Things wouldn't be complete if I couldn't say I played in an NCAA tournament," he says.

Don't be surprised if the Irish make it. Troy knows how to finish what he starts.

— by Justin Tejada





'HOUSE RULES

Jerry Stackhouse is finally Detroit's main man. Now he wants to win.

Jerry Stackhouse was a one-man show for the Detroit Pistons last season. He had to be: His team was tied for the NBA's second-worst shooting percentage (42.4 percent) and finished 32-50.

The 6' 6" guard/forward scored from anywhere, relentlessly driving to the hoop or hitting the jumper. He led the league in points scored (2,380 in 80 games) and was second in points per game (29.8).

"The personal stuff, scoring a ton of points, was the silver lining," says Jerry, "but last season was tough."

Jerry had always wanted to be an NBA team's main man. He was in 1995-96, as a Philadelphia 76ers rookie. He led the Sixers in scoring

(19.2 points per game), but they won just 18 games. The following season, they drafted Allen Iverson, and Jerry became the team's second option. He was traded to the Pistons in 1997, but Grant Hill was already their go-to guy. "I didn't like being second fiddle," says Jerry.

Grant bolted for the Orlando Magic before last season, and Jerry finally took charge. In fact, he was forced to do *too* much. He led the NBA in attempted field goals (1,927) and turnovers (4.1 per game). Critics called him a ball hog.

Teammates felt differently. "I don't think there's another player who does more for his team than Stack," says guard Dana Barros.

The Pistons will have a more balanced offense this season. They acquired forward Clifford Robinson from the Phoenix Suns (16.4 points per game last season) and drafted forward Rodney White from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (18.7 points).

Jerry needs to be patient. The Pistons could make the playoffs, but winning the title isn't going to happen for a while.

"If I can build the Pistons into a championship-caliber team" he says, "I'll be a happy man."

— by Jeannie Roberts



House Rules/Big Man on Campus

1. Which team drafted Jerry Stackhouse?
2. Jerry led the league in points scored (2,389)? True or False
3. In what year was Jerry traded to the Pistons?
4. What would make Jerry a happy man?
5. Allen Iverson, Grant Hill and Jerry Stackhouse all play on the same team? True or False
6. Notre Dame has not been in the NCAA Tournament since what year?
7. What did Troy work on between his freshman and sophomore year?
8. Troy led the team in scoring and assists? True or False
9. Troy was 6'10" and led his team to a state title in New Jersey? True or False
10. Troy was Big East Player of the Year in 2000? True or False