



Season Preview

2007-08 Monroe Mustangs Men's Basketball Team

New Look Emphasizes Backcourt

It's no secret that success in college basketball often depends on a strong, deep backcourt. That's why during this offseason, Monroe Mustangs Head Coach **Jeff Brustad** was a man on a mission: improve at the guard position. Now in his sixth season with an impressive 135-33 (.804) record that includes four Region XV championships, two District III titles and two NJCAA Division I National Tournament appearances, Coach Brustad knew exactly what he was looking for.

"You always want athletic players," he said, "and to fill this year's backcourt, we looked for young guys who could do it all: shoot, handle the ball, pass the ball, and play defense. They also had to have that desire that means the difference between good and great."

With an entirely remade backcourt, Coach Brustad thinks he has gotten what he wanted: athleticism, versatility, depth, and desire.

BACKCOURT

Westley Perryman, a 6'2" freshman out of East Boston HS, in Boston, MA, has an impressive array of scoring options, whether draining threes, dunks off the drive, or baby jumpers. He is also in perpetual motion, which is something that any coach loves. Out of White Plains, HS in White Plains, NY is 6'0" freshman **Jamell Cromartie**, a true point guard who has what's known as "basketball smarts."

Evan Pope, a 6'3" freshman from Bronx Regional HS, in the Bronx, NY, is an intense, tough-nosed defender, which should fill another important role. **Tyvon Williams**, a 6'0" freshman from St. Thomas More Prep in Manhattan, has lightning first-step quickness and 6'1" freshman **Scottie Payne** is from Julian HS in Chicago, IL, which is the same school that brought Monroe great Dashaun Williams. Scottie's in the same mold, a versatile guard with a composed game.

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MONROE COLLEGE OFFERS GRADUATE, BACHELOR'S, AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES



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The one sophomore in the back court is 6'3" **Kevin Josey**, from Curtis HS on Staten Island, NY. A transfer from Genesee CC, Kevin can shoot the three-ball and defends well.

FRONTCOURT

Monroe's front court is deep and should provide the kind of veteran leadership any championship team needs. **Herman Wrice**, a 6'7" sophomore from Riverside HS in Philadelphia, is a step quicker this year and has a chance to be a definitive front-line player. He can block shots and rebound which should combine nicely with his quick post moves. In his 25 games with Monroe last year, Herman averaged 2.5 bpg and 4.8 rpg.

The Mustangs two other returning players are **N'Faly Berete**, a 6'8" Sophomore from Vial-Talensac HS in France who started 24 games for the Mustangs last year, and 6'4" sophomore **Lester Hunte** from Lincoln HS in Yonkers, NY. Berete is a good mid-range shooter with good post moves. In his 14 minutes per game as a freshman, N'Faly shot 47% from the field and averaged 4.6 ppg and 3.3 rpg.

Lester may be the best leaper on the team. His aerial show makes him a fan favorite and he has the ability to change games with his speed and "ups". As a freshman, Lester hit some three-pointers to go with his arsenal of up-and-down the floor moves.

Providing athletic depth in the front court are freshman: 6'7" **Maurese Jackson** from Boys to Men HS in Chicago, IL; 6'7" **Lyvann "Freddy" Obame** who hails from Bessieux HS in Gabon, Africa; and an effervescent local player, 6'8" **Matt Little** from Monroe HS in the Bronx, NY.

In 2006-07, the Mustangs were 22-8 and played only in the first round of the Region XV playoffs, which broke a streak of four consecutive Region titles. Their two District III championships resulted in 5th and 7th place finishes in the NJCAA Division I National Tournament. Since 1991 the Mustangs are 329-137, which is a .706 winning percentage.

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For more information and up-to-date results of Monroe Mustang games through the season, visit www.monroecollege.edu/athletics . Once again, tapes of many of this season's Monroe College basketball games will be broadcast on Bronxnet television and on the web at www.bronxnet.org and many Monroe games will be cybercast LIVE at www.cybersportsusa.com .

The Monroe College Athletic Department fields teams in twelve sports: baseball, men's basketball, women's basketball, men's and women's cross country, men's soccer, softball, men's and women's indoor and outdoor track and field, and women's volleyball. All Monroe teams are members of the National Junior College Athletic Association and participate in NJCAA Region XV. Monroe Mustangs men's basketball and baseball are Division I programs. All of the other Monroe sports play in Division III.

PHOTOS AND BIOS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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