

Tryout

Ex-Rice star shows stuff to Pistons

By Marty Budner
staff writer

Kevin Smith, flanked by two teammates and fronted by one defender, sprinted down the Oakland University basketball court. Once near the basket, he dished off perfectly to the teammate on his left side, who scored an easy layup.

Along the sidelines, Detroit Pistons coach Scotty Robertson voiced his approval.

"That's the way to work it... now hustle and get back (on defense)," he shouted.

Smith, a ninth-round choice of the Pistons in last June's annual National Basketball Association (NBA) college draft, was one of a dozen players at the Pistons' week-long rookie-free-agent camp at OUI.

The 6-foot, 2-inch, 170-pound wiry point guard looked like an oak tree among a forest of redwoods. Only Dave Coulthard, a 6-2, 165-pound guard who graduated this year from York (Ontario) College — the Pistons' 10th-round choice — was as small.

But Smith did not appear intimidated.

THE 1982 Michigan State University graduate, who plays for coach Bud Heathcote, was the blue team's offensive leader. He handled himself well, hitting the open men for a number of assists and showing finesse with a few between-the-leg dribbles.

Smith also had a few anxious moments.

At one point in Thursday's late-morning scrimmage, for example, he threw a pass to Pistons center Kent Benson — in camp "for a little exercise" — intercepted at midcourt. The beefy former Indiana Hoosier cager lumbered downcourt for a shot, but Smith raced back and smacked the ball out of his hands.

All totaled, it was a good camp for Smith.

"He's played real well this week," said Robertson after practice. "He's tried very hard to do what I want him to do — to be a quarterback of the offense and a leader on the floor."

"At times he showed the talent we thought he had when we drafted him. He's definitely one of the better players in camp. He has great leadership ability."

"He's a product of excellent coaching, and that's very evident out there on the court," he said.

DESPITE ROBERTSON'S accolades, it's a slim possibility Smith will be playing professional basketball with the Pistons when the NBA season opens this fall.

Even if Smith survives this tryout, he must attend the veterans' regular pre-season camp that starts Oct. 1.

The resurgent Pistons will have a number of veteran guards on hand — including Isiah Thomas, John Long and Ronnie Lee — plus forwards like Benson and Terry Tyler. Also, consider the Pistons' top two draft choices — 6-8 forward Cliff Livingston and 6-5 guard Ricky Pierce — did not attend last week's free-agent-rookie camp.

"We are not going to pick a certain amount of people," said Robertson. "Anyone we think who has a chance to make the team will be invited back to (veterans) camp — whether it's one player or five players."

"Keep in mind that our team has improved to a good point. Right now we're looking at more talent to start with," he said.

Smith is a 1977 graduate of Birmingham Brother Rice High School, where he played for coach Bill Norton — an assistant last year at MSU. He spent his freshman year of college with coach Dick Vitale on a University of Detroit team that included Tyler, Long and Terry Duerod.

He set a school freshman assists record of 139 in one season at U-D, then transferred to MSU. In three years as a Spartan, Smith averaged nearly 13 points per game.

He was the team leader in assists the past two seasons and finished his college career with a 46-percent field-goal average and a 73-percent free-throw mark.

THE 22-YEAR-OLD Smith was not nervous at his first professional basketball tryout last week.

"I'm fortunate because my dad's been a coach in Detroit for some 15 years, and I've been playing with the pros ever since I've been in high school," said Smith, whose collegiate high-point total was 29 in a game against Indiana this year.

"I'm not awestruck out there, and that's got to work to my advantage. I just go out and play like Kevin Smith can play. I'm playing point guard, and my role is to handle the team, get them in an offense and check the other team's guard."

"It's pretty competitive out there, but I have to think I've been doing well," he said. "These guys are the best guys to come from their college teams, and all of them are good, or otherwise they wouldn't be here."

"But I'm a fighter myself, otherwise I wouldn't be here," he said.

Smith said if he didn't make the team this year he'd make another attempt next season.

"All I think about right now is being a Detroit Piston," he said. "Whatever happens after that I'll face when the time comes. If I don't make the team this year, I'll try to make the NBA again next year."

"If I can't make it then, I'm not an NBA player," he said.



Kevin Smith (right) soars through the air for a short shot during action last week at the Detroit Pistons free-agent-rookie camp at Oakland University.

sport shorts

Two Farmington Hills golfers, Donna Greenburn and Mike Heisterkamp, were Masters (ages 13-15) Division winners in the state finals of the Walter Hagen Jr. Golf Tournament. The tournament was played Aug. 16 at the University of Michigan Golf Course.

Heisterkamp shot a six-over-par 78, while Greenburn carded a 24-over 99. Other division winners: Golden Masters (16-18), Gerald Repasky, Livonia, 86; Tim Baldwin, Goodrich, 74; Challenger (12-and-under), Jeff Mich, Ann Arbor, 87.

The annual tournament raises money for American Cancer Society projects.

coach Roscoe Dann has scheduled a meeting for prospective candidates at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 24, in H Building on the Orchard Ridge Campus, 1695 and Orchard Lake Road in Farmington Hills.

To be eligible for the golf team, a student must be enrolled for 10 semester credit hours at any of the college's four campuses. Interested students who cannot attend the meeting should call Dann at the college (476-9100, Ext. 376) or at home (682-1011).

● **SILVERDOME BOUND**
North Farmington High School's football game with Redford Union, originally scheduled for Sept. 25 at North, has been moved to the Pontiac Silverdome.

The date remains the same — Saturday, Sept. 25 — but the time has been revised to 4 p.m. The game is part of a triple-header involving Northwest Suburban League teams.

● **OCC GOLFPERS**
Oakland Community College golf

● **DOUBLES TOURNEY**
Southfield's Parks and Recreation Department will host its second annual doubles tennis tournament Sept. 11-12 at the Civic Center courts. The tournament is open to anyone, with no residency requirements.

Registration deadline is Sept. 3, a Friday. The entry fee is \$10 for residents and \$14 for non-residents. Players may register at the Southfield Parks and Recreation Building, 20000 Woodward. Additional information may be obtained by calling 456-9117 or 354-9503.

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CITY OF FARMINGTON
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
(Summary)

A Special meeting of the Farmington City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bennett on August 10, 1982, in the conference room of the Department of Public Services facility, 33720 W. Nine Mile Road, Farmington, MI.

PRESENT: Mayor Bennett, Councilmen Mitchell, Tupper.

ABSENT: Councilmen Hartsock, Vester.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Deadman, Public Services Director Billing, Engineer David Mariner of Orchard, Papke, Hiltz and McCliment, Inc.

After Engineer Mariner outlined the drainage district which affects Liberty/State Street area flooding, he was instructed by Council to develop cost projections for correcting the drainage problems in this area as well as for a sewer separation system within the entire drainage district.

Council also instructed the City Manager to investigate various financing alternatives for this drainage district.

The City Manager advised Council that the Oakwood Cemetery fencing along Grand River has deteriorated. Council asked for a review of various types of fencing and associated costs.

Council also reviewed the status of current negotiations between the City and the Public Safety Officers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ALTON L. BENNETT, Mayor
JOSEPHINE M. BUSHEY, City Clerk

Publish: August 13, 1982

FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION

A Special Election will be held in the Farmington Public School District on the 21st day of September, 1982 for the purpose of submitting the following proposition:

In order to renew the five (5) mill operating tax increase which expires in 1982, shall the limitation on the total amount of general ad valorem taxes which may be imposed for all purposes in any one year upon real and tangible personal property in the Farmington Public School District, Oakland County, Michigan, be increased as provided in Section 6, Article IX, of the Constitution of Michigan, for a period of ten (10) years from 1983 to 1992, both inclusive, by five (5) mills on each dollar (\$5.00 per \$1,000) of assessed valuation of property as finally equalized, for the purpose of defraying a part of the operating expense of the school district?

THEFORE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the last day upon which unregistered persons may register in order to be able to vote at said election is

Monday, August 23, 1982
up to 5:00 P.M. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

Applications for registration should be made to the clerk of the city or township in which the elector resides. Registration will be received during regular office hours Monday through Friday of each week. Farmington City residents may register at City Hall, 23600 Liberty Street. Farmington Hills residents may register at the Farmington Hills City Hall, 31555 Eleven Mile Road. West Bloomfield Township residents may register at the West Bloomfield Township Hall, 4460 Orchard Lake Road.

Persons already registered upon the registration books of such city or township need not re-register.

Absentee ballot applications will be available at the Board of Education Offices, 32500 Shilawasse, until 2:00 P.M., Saturday, September 18, 1982.

EMMA S. MAKINEN, Secretary
Board of Education

Dated: August 3, 1982
Publish: August 9 and 23, 1982

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