
Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by SUMG - 2009/08/27 08:59

Our best freshman from last year has left.

This team will be what 80% new players? Other than Brittney James....I'm not sure if there's another Slinker player left (I realize that might be good--don't know).

I just hope Coach SS knows what she's doing. She has run off an awful lot of players---or had them leave.

Here's hoping for the best...GMG!

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by Buford_Julep - 2009/08/27 13:45

I hate to see Mansa EI leave the team. She is a great athlete and a pretty good BB player for a Freshman. According to her Twitter she is recovering from knee surgery and is a member of a team in Florida now.

Mansa's Twitter

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by GrandGreen - 2009/08/27 14:22

I am officially concerned with our new coach. EI was the the player that SS inexplicably named the MVP of last years team and now she is gone.

She only has three players left from last years team and two of them are seniors. She was for a time over the limit counting those on the team and signed, now she has only twelve players on ship. Lets hope she doesn't start losing her own recruits.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by daReporta - 2009/08/27 20:05

Put your seatbelt on! The ride will begin in about 6 weeks.

Personally, I can't wait.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by daReporta - 2009/08/28 14:02

They have a new PG coming in - from ATL. Was being recruited by a major D1 program.

We should see a big improvement on talent level with this year's team.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by CMJ - 2009/08/28 16:26

I have to echo GrandGreen's concerns about player retention.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by Cooley - 2009/08/30 13:09

I think Stephens will be awesome! Some of these recruits/transfers are much better! Where were we going with Slinker? And yes, she will lose some of her recruits! This always happens with teams on the rise.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by CMJ - 2009/08/30 20:38

I'm concerned, but still optimistic about Stephens. Hopefully we see some improvement this year.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by Buford_Julep - 2009/09/02 07:27

When Todd Dodge was God, the ones who left the team were demonized, but when Stephens' players leave-her inexperience and inability to get along with players get the blame.

Of the five players that have left, Mansa EI is the only one that most likely would have been in the rotation. Even she might have faced reduced playing time.

They may have left to get more playing time. There is no evidence that anyone left because of conflicts with the coaching staff. Mimi Goodman will be a student assistant this season. So we know that at least one is still on good terms with the coaches.

I hate to see Mansa EI leave and I hope the APR doesn't suffer, but otherwise I am looking forward to a good season.

It may take several months to come together as a team, and there may be some early season disappointments ahead. But I look for NT to be much improved by the end of the season.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by daReporta - 2009/09/02 11:21

Is anyone thinking about the fact that EI's Sister was removed from the roster?... That may have had an impact on her decision to move on.

Playing time, personnel changes, expectations - could have all played into everyone's decision to part ways. SS is not the first coach in the very near past that has revamped their roster. She has 5 yrs to make a point - I would assume she is taking no prisoners! Having a group that buys into the system is crucial to the program's success.

And, there is no need to dwell on what we don't have - more so on what we are working with - which, on paper - is a better quality of players with a much more diverse basketball background (D-1 Transfers, JUCO recruits, Prep school, and HS Championship level teams). Take into consideration the size of the incoming players too. Also, at least 5 of the girls were being recruited by Major D1 programs.

=====

Re:Mansa EI leaves the team

Posted by GrandGreen - 2009/09/03 15:06

I hope many of you are right and SS builds a powerhouse. I don't know how anyone though could deny she is off to a rocky start. As for as her recruiting better players than Slinker that also remains to be seen. I don't see anything on the surface that tells me that SS has recruited that much better than Tina. Slinker in the lamest of lame duck years managed

to snag a couple of heralded recruits Green and El. Both who are no longer on the team. Amber Jackson was an all state Indiana player. In one class Slinker recruited the foursome of Sanetra Jackson,Jo Hall, Tricia Lee and Ashley Vation. All these girls were rated in the top 35 in Texas.

I think Stephens has recruited well, I particularly think that Cuffee, Hughes and Calvin may turn into big time players. Obviously, she has recruited a great quantity of recruits. It kind of reminds me of Trilli who bought in about 13 players in one class but frankly I don't see any players SS has recruited that are comparable on paper to Chris Davis or a Dexter Tennell. I certainly hope that is the only way that Stephens can be compared to Trilli.

I definitely think it was time for a change from Slinker. I like what I hear from Stephens and enjoy her style of basketball. But frankly, I am concerned when she found it necessary to suspend about half the team at one time or another, end a brilliant career of Amber Jackson on a very sour note, and has thus far lost Green, Thompson, Bailey and El. Many believe that she is just cleaning up Slinker's mess and getting the players with right attitude and attributes. I don't buy that at all, Slinker as much as any coach recruited players with character. I just think a young coach made a lot of freshman mistakes manageing a team and I sincerely hope that she learned from it and is on her way to success.

=====