

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



Home. What could be more important to a young man embarking upon a journey seeking out a better future? I'm sure you felt that way when you went to compete in Euroleague, and I know you feel that way now, as you prepare to choose a college. And that desire - to feel at home, to remain close to your culture, to bring a little bit of the Bahamas with you - is exactly why you should come ashore as a Hurricane.

It starts with the physical proximity to home, of course - the University of Miami is hundreds of miles closer to your hometown of Nassau than any other D1 institution, being just a simple hour-long flight away from your friends and family. With such close vicinity, our climates are almost the exact same, too - just like Nassau, the Magic City is warm and tropical year round, with our lowest average temperatures in the comfortable mid-60s. You'll feel the same salty spray on your lips, the same tropical breeze on your face, as you do every day at home.

But home is really all about the people. Bahamian and Caribbean culture is ingrained in not only all of Miami, but in the very fabric of our basketball program. The *first major recruit* I signed as head coach at The U, Manu Diaz, is a young man from the Dominican Republic who has become a cornerstone of our program. And just last year we brought in D'Shon Ferguson, a young man you're surely familiar with from your hometown of Nassau, as a long-term developmental piece. The Bahamas and the Caribbean are a pipeline as important to me as our own Floridian backyard - an entire region of the planet I intend to keep locked down.

Oh, and you'll be joining a program that churns out pros - top 25 all-time, including my first draft pick as head coach, Scott Marshall - an unheralded recruit who went 45th overall, plus two first rounders this year, Lance Rumph and David Welzel! 3 draft picks in the past 2 seasons makes Miami one of only a handful of programs in the country with that level of current professional influx - compare that to Florida, coached by someone who hasn't developed any draftees. Imagine what that style of proven-successful Hurricane development can do for someone like you, already showing up high on future mocks! In addition, the Hurricanes will keep winning - Miami returns almost our entire roster (and over 70% of the minutes) from last year's ACC Championship, 30-8, campaign, featuring *eight* returning upperclassmen - four seniors, four juniors (two redshirt), plus a pair of redshirt freshmen.

With your addition, I expect this to be a season in which we successfully defend our ACC title and make a deep run in the NT.

And there's a starting spot with your name on it - last year's superstar, our elite swingman Lance Rumph, was exactly the sort of player you are - 6'6", great shooter and distributor, a skilled rebounder and clever student of the game. He's gone, and so are his 30 MPG - but you'll step right into his shoes, filling the void he left with a similar game and similar attributes. The roster won't miss a beat, and you'll have an opportunity to be a starter on an ACC Championship roster until the day you head to the NBL.

Finally, let me touch on our city's culture - like I said, just because you're leaving the Bahamas doesn't mean you have to feel away from home. The single largest enclave of Bahamian-Americans (according to [one source](#), a majority) in the country resides in Coconut Grove, the neighborhood *right next* to our campus! Coconut Grove is so replete with Bahamian people and culture that it was officially declared "Little Bahamas", a distinction that no other American city has proclaimed! Heck, you can just cross the street from campus to *Mamey Miami* and get an immediate taste of home with their phenomenal, mouth-watering Bahamian Conch Fritters (one of *dozens* of Caribbean joints all over the city - that's just a sample!). Become the storm, Tavario - come to Miami, and let's bring Bahamian thunder to the whole country!