



John McCarter,

I'm a Maryland man born and raised. Something you can see from my eagerness to sign a max length contract and extension keeping me here through 2077 and hopefully for the rest of my life.

Just like you'll be, I was a Maryland student, and the one thing I loved was sports. You could always find me at Soccer, Baseball, Lacrosse, Football, and of course Basketball games. They were easily the highlight of my time in school, and what really made college a blast.

In all those sports I would go on to see players become all-stars in the pros or look back at past all-time greats that came from my school. All except basketball. In the 50 years since I've been a student, that hasn't changed.

Of the teams offering you Maryland has the fewest players drafted, the fewest first-round picks, and the fewest all-stars. Not only that, but in the 18 years you've been alive, a Maryland player in the NBL has not started a single game.

School	Draftees	First Round	Games Started past 18yrs	All-Stars/League
Maryland	17	4	0	0
Georgetown	20	10	270	0
NC State	21	7	542	1
Florida	31	15	2000+	5
Northwestern	32	19	2119	1
Colorado	37	16	2000+	1
Louisville	49	23	2000+	3
Georgia	49	32	2000+	4
LSU	50	29	2000+	3

You might think a team with such little pro history will be lacking in history as a whole, but that's not true. Maryland has 4 Sweet 16s with one coming as recently as 2013 and had a stretch of 8 straight NT appearances with half of them being 4 seeds or higher. We're gaining steam now, bouncing back to the program's highest prestige level in over a decade.

Despite Maryland's lack of pros, as a coach, I have produced plenty myself. Caution at Georgetown only has one, and a 2nd round pick at that. Coach Ben at NC State doesn't have a single draft pick in the past 5 years. In the last draft, Cortez Sumler was selected with the 11th pick from Cincinnati who I had recruited and trained for 3 years. Before that, I've had 4 other players drafted. One of which is Martavius Williams who just signed a massive 144 million dollar contract. Another, Nick James, you probably recognize as he won a ring with your hometown Sixers. I know I can get you there. Now I want to do it for my fellow Terps so they can finally have that all-star to look up to.

Getting drafted isn't easy, but playing in the SEC will help. This conference isn't easy, but it will put you in the spotlight playing the best. Houston are the reigning champs, Georgia is a perennial force, Tennessee is a program on the rise to greatness, and Tulane has been an NT mainstay for the past 8 years. Not only do we have elite programs, but the coaches are also elite at bringing in and developing talent hence the SEC having the most 1st round picks in the last draft with 10.

We won't roll over to these teams either. Beating Houston in my first season was our best conference win in the past decade or more, and we've beaten upstart Tennessee in my first two seasons too. Coming into this season on an upward trajectory and ranked 20th in returning talent we are primed for a breakout.

Maryland will be home for you John. The most represented state at UMD after Maryland is New Jersey with 2,000+ students. Fellow Timber Creek graduates and New Jersey natives Belberov and Howell are already Terps so you'll be surrounded by familiar faces on campus and the court. UMD is just a 2.5-hour drive down from Hammonton. Closer than every other school that offered you, and will let friends, family, and coaches make their way down to games on the regular without having to deal with the beltway traffic that getting to Georgetown would require. I hope you continue the trend of Jersey guys heading down I-95 and playing for the Terps.

Fear the Turtle.