



The West Georgian

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BLUE MOCKTAIL TOWN HALL MEETING PROVES BENEFICIAL

Conrad Mears

Contributing Writer

The fifth annual Blue Mocktail Town Hall (BMTH) took place at UWG on Feb. 25 inside of the Campus Center ballroom. During the event, local police officers and students got a chance to bond over dinner.

This event, which was organized by the Center for Diversity and Inclusion (CDI), was meant to improve the strained relationship between students and officers. However, there is one key figure behind the scenes that has been instrumental in marking the massive improvement of student and officer relations. Dr. Yves- Rose Porcena has been at the forefront of this issue and is ready to tell her story.

As a chief diversity officer, Dr. Yves - Rose Porcena is very adept at handling sensitive issues. Two years ago, she recognized student and police relations at UWG were on the verge of reaching a boiling point. Along with the help of the county, university and city police, she helped UWG President Kyle Marrero launch the “protect our pact” operation. As a result of this, the BMTH was created through assisted funding. This operation ensures the local police and CDI work together to maintain well standing with the students at UWG.

“The main reason for doing this event was to really push the idea of community policing,” said Porcena. “We also wanted to provide the police officers with a forum so they can meet with our students and get to know them.”

Change takes time which is why the progress of the meeting is such an encouraging sign for the UWG community. Under Dr. Porcena’s supervision, it was evident that both sides were fully comfortable communicating serious topics with each other. Even more important, it appeared that students and police officers alike enjoyed each other’s company.

“They are starting to see them as fellow human beings and not only police officers,” said Dr. Porcena. “At the end of the event, students wanted to take pictures with the officers and post them on Instagram. And the police officers are starting to see the students as young people instead of something else. We always do a pre and post survey and we could see the

trust that is being built.”

Although the Blue Mocktail Town Hall meeting went over smoothly, Dr. Porcena recalls when animosity took over the room in meetings only two years prior.

“Two years ago, students would come into my office and complain about the local police at least once a week,” said Porcena. “Now, although the students still are often stopped by police, they feel they are treated with respect. It comes down to basic things we learned in kindergarten, you know?”

Unsurprisingly, students have become aware of the importance of the meetings. As a result of Porcena’s efforts, each BMTH meeting draws a large audience.

“This meeting had 119 students swipe in with their student ID,” said Dr. Porcena. “We also had 18 police officers there as well.”

Although this event is very influential Dr. Porcenas work extends outside into her daily life as well.

“This event is once a semester, but we meet with them once a month,” said Dr. Porcena. “I meet with the chief of police for both the university and the City of Carrollton, along with the county sheriff to govern crime statistics and strategy.”

Dr. Porcena’s efforts along with the creation of the BMTH cannot go unnoticed in relation to the progress of police and student relations. Look for Dr. Porcena and the BMTH to continue the everlasting push toward a safe environment for UWG at the next meeting in August.

College Circuit, Where Students are the Plug

Ariana Carter

Contributing Writer

Each semester the campus radio station has rolled out a diverse group of students through the station’s WOLF In Training Program (W.I.T). In Spring 2016 the show *College Circuit* hit airwaves for the first time and three years later the show has become a fan favorite all over campus.

Original cast member Mykenzi Zehren, a senior at UWG, is the new Executive Producer of *College Circuit*.

“I don’t remember how we [the original cast members] all got together but we all sat in the same region of the lecture hall and just looked at each other and asked ‘You want to make a show?’ said Zehren. “We kind of wanted *College Circuit* to be a way for students to hear tips about different things and also give us tips through experience or things they found helpful. We’ve always wanted *College Circuit* to be a plug, and that’s where our slogan came from.”

College Circuit, where students are the plug, has become a staple at The WOLF Internet Radio through heavy student interaction. Through segments such as “Tea Time with Mac”, “Underground Sound” and “Confessions with Moni”, students get an inside look at the different personalities that make *College Circuit* the show that it is.

College Circuit is getting ready to hit airwaves for the semester and this last year with Zehren will be a bittersweet one.

“I’ve had multiple premiere days, but this is my first one as the show’s

Executive Producer,” said Zehren. “I’m kind of nervous about it because I am not too sure of what I am doing, but I’m just chugging along.”

College Circuit has gone on to win multiple awards including six wins in both categories of Best Outreach and Waylin’s Show of the Semester and a few wins for Best Listenership. Through the use of social media and creating original content for the show, *College Circuit* has proven they are here to stay.

“I really hope that people next in line continue the show; I don’t want it to have a down semester,” said Zehren. “Instead of having an all-girls show, we’ve thrown in boys and it gives a look into both sides of college.”

Each semester The WOLF produces amazing shows and *College Circuit* is just one of many to showcase the talent and hard work put in by a group of students semester after semester.

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The West Georgian welcomes letters to the editor.
Letters may be mailed to:
Editor, The West Georgian,
University of West Georgia,
Carrollton, GA, 30118,
or sent via electronic mail to:
uwgeditorinchief@gmail.com

All letters must be signed and include a phone number and mailing address for verification purposes. Letters should not exceed 350 words and should be submitted by 5 p.m. the Friday prior to publication. Editors reserve the right to edit for style, content and length.

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NAACP: *Know Your Rights*

Jasmine Dwamena

Contributing Writer

UWG’s National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) chapter hosted an interactive discussion on knowing how to deal with encounters with law enforcement. Guest speaker Mawuli Davis, a founding partner of the Davis Bozeman Law Firm, was invited to provide insight that he has gained in his profession.

Being an institution with a large representation of black students, the students at UWG have had problems with the police on and off campus.

“We have an issue with our police on a county level, on a city level, a sheriff level, state patrol, Douglasville, Villa Rica, on top of UPD,” said Kayla Mitchell, Political Action chair of the NAACP.

The relationship between people of color and the police have been tense and getting worse over the years. The main purpose of this discussion was to give students of color different approaches to de-escalate situations with the police. The guest speaker began by asking the audience questions about the law.

These questions had varying answers but they left the students shocked. Although alarming, this gave them a different perspective on how the system works, and how, at times, worked against them.

“Racial profiling is legal,” said Davis. “They can really say I stopped this person because they were black in a white neighborhood, but their tag light was out.”

In context, officers cannot use racial profiling as the main reason to suspect a crime or pull someone over, but they may use another reason or “probable cause” to approach, like a broken tail light or speeding. However, these stops are what usually lead to hostile situations.

Davis explained that in these situations it is best to stay calm to help de-escalate the tension. If pulled over for no apparent reason and the police

officer has to release you then instead of making a scene it is best to just ask for their information and file a complaint. That way if other people have experienced similar treatment by the same officer then there is a record.

Also, it is best to notify local NAACP chapters so they too can have a record of the complaint and proof that an officer is abusing their position.

However, in the event that students are caught in possession of marijuana or other contraband, instead of trying to run from the police they should just cooperate and take the charge. This is the best way to be protected against a possible fatal encounter.

“We prepare for things all the time, why wouldn’t we prepare for an encounter with someone who holds life and death in their hands,” said Davis.

The underlying message of the discussion was that as young adults of color, it is important to know how to handle possible scenarios so that they can leave them safely. By being smart and knowing your rights any interaction with law enforcement can be less threatening.

NEWS

WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

Brittany Shivers

Copy Editor

Although women’s history is recognized for the entire month of March, it started out as only a day. The first National Woman’s Day occurred in the U.S. on Feb. 28, 1909, when women protested working conditions in New York. In 1910, the Socialist International proposed and established a women’s day that would be international and would be celebrated annually starting in 1911.

In 1982, this day was expanded to a week by the U.S. government. Women’s History Week was recognized on the week of March 8, when International Women’s Day is celebrated. Finally, in 1987, March was declared Women’s History Month by presidential proclamation and eventually became an annual occurrence.

Women’s History Month is recognized by many universities including UWG. Dr. Stephanie Chalifoux, Assistant Professor and women’s historian at UWG, is passionate about the celebration of women’s history year-round and explains why Women’s History Month is extremely significant.

“There’s a lot of nameless women in history, women that we just don’t know that did a lot of the groundwork to make things better for women, so I think recognizing it, even if it is just this one month out of the year, is important for us to do,” says Chalifoux. “And, it gives an opportunity to reflect on how things have not always been this way. You know, how did women have to fight to get access to rights and certain privileges that other folks in the community have already had?”

This reflection on women’s history shows that change for the better is possible, and this notion has the ability to spark a passion or a movement. In fact, it already has.

“One of the most important things going on right now, I think in this country, is this Me Too movement, #MeToo, and that has a long past. It actually was created in 2006 by Tarana Burke, but even before that women in this country were working on behalf of seeking justice for women who experience sexual assault,” said Chalifoux. “For instance, Rosa Parks ... we know she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white rider, but Rosa Parks her very early sort of social justice efforts were on behalf of women who had been raped in the 40s. She was a big part of this movement seeking justice.”

When looking at women’s history in the U.S., it is easy to trace patterns from the past into contemporary society. The current culture is heavily affected by all of history and women’s history is a tremendous part of that. Without women’s history our current society would be incredibly different

and women would not have the rights they do today.

“We have to think about women as being this incredibly important role in all of history,” said Chalifoux. “They help shape society, the culture, politics, and economics, so I think it’s important to know because if you only know a limited amount about history, and that doesn’t incorporate what women have done, then you have an incomplete history, and so I think you only have a little bit of the story, and you really want the full story.”

Without the full story, women would not have the right to vote, own property or get a credit card in their own name. Political, economic, and social power for women would be nonexistent. Essentially, all the power that women have in contemporary society would be stripped away. This is why women’s history is something that is powerful and life changing for not only women but for all people groups all over the world, including men.

“Men typically have at least one woman relative somewhere in their life,” says Chalifoux. “They know they have women friends. Personally, I think they have an investment in knowing about the lives of women.”

Whether it be a girlfriend, best friend, wife, sister or daughter most men have a woman in their life that is special to them. Women’s history gives these special women rights and equality that should not be taken for granted by women, men or anyone. It should be celebrated, and that is what Women’s History Month is all about.

It is about acknowledging the hard work of historical figures. It is a party for women’s rights and equality. It is a reflection for what everyone has to be thankful for and it is a chance for hope and optimism. Women’s history gives people hope that they live in a world where good change is possible, that they live in a world where both men and women have a voice, and that change can happen with a little perseverance and passion.

This is why Women’s History Month is truly a celebration.



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FATHER OF 4 REVIEW

Jasmine Dwamena
Contributing Writer

After pushing back his release date, rapper Offset finally dropped his album titled *Father of 4* on Feb. 22. Being the last of the Migos to release a solo project it is easy to say that it is the most authentic of the three albums.

Offset has artists like J.Cole, Travis Scott and even spouse Cardi B On the album. Offset also includes local Atlanta legends Big Reuben and Cee Lo Green. However, unlike most artists, he did not over saturate the album with features because he was trying to tell a story and show fans a different side of himself.

Offset opens the album with the title track. The song *Father of 4* sets the mood for the rest of the album on it he talks about each one of them and why he was not in their lives. He expressed how everything he is doing now is for them, especially because he was not as fortunate as a kid.

In the following track, *How Did I Get Here*, Offset really explains how his life was before the fame and what he went through to get where he is now. All of which shaped the path that brought him to music and made him successful.

One of the most interesting tracks on the album is called *North Star*. Offset slows down his normally rapid flow and breaks down the demons he has battled along the way to fame. Having Cee Lo Green accompany him on this track gives it a beauty that just could not be captured by any other artist.

was another personal song that most fans and anyone who followed social media understood the meaning behind. Towards the end of last year, he was allegedly involved in an infidelity scandal and was at risk of separating from his wife. However, he made it clear that he was not going to let that happen and he would do anything to get her back and gain her forgiveness.

The themes in this album show that there is more to a rapper or musician than what meets the eye. Rappers are known for talking about their cars, money, and drugs, not to say that is not touched on the album,

but he also speaks on sharing his wealth, not just with family but with people that he cares about and grew up with. Offset shares the value that if one person makes it then we all make it because it is imperative to look out for each other.



TYLER PERRY’S A MEDEA FAMILY FUNERAL: MARKING THE END OF A CINEMATIC ICON

Amir Sports
Contributing Writer

Tyler Perry decided to cap-off the *Madea* series with the film *A Madea Family Funeral* that was released March 1.

The American actor, filmmaker, playwright and comedian started his *Madea* franchise in 1999 with the play *I Can Do Bad All By Myself* and Madea first appeared on the big screen in 2005 with the film *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*.

With an opening of about \$23 million at 2,442 sites on Friday, *A Madea Family Funeral* has taken full control of the box office topping *How To Train Your Dragon 3*. The film, which Perry directed, wrote and produced is set in the heart of Georgia, where a family reunion becomes an unexpected funeral.

As usual, Perry portrays multiple characters, and regulars Patrice Lovely and Cassi Davis return. For Madea fans, it was unexpected for Perry to call it quits for the beloved franchise.

“I’ll be 50 this year and I’m just at a place in my life where this next 50 I want to do things differently,” said Perry, according to Indiewire.com. “This character has been amazing. So many people have loved her. It’s been a great franchise.”

The capability of this film becoming the best of all of the *Madea* films is hard to say. *Madea Goes to Jail* produced \$41.3million in its opening week. *Forbes* reported that the *Madea* franchise has made \$523.52 million at the domestic box office but has never proved to be a solid box office draw in non-domestic markets.

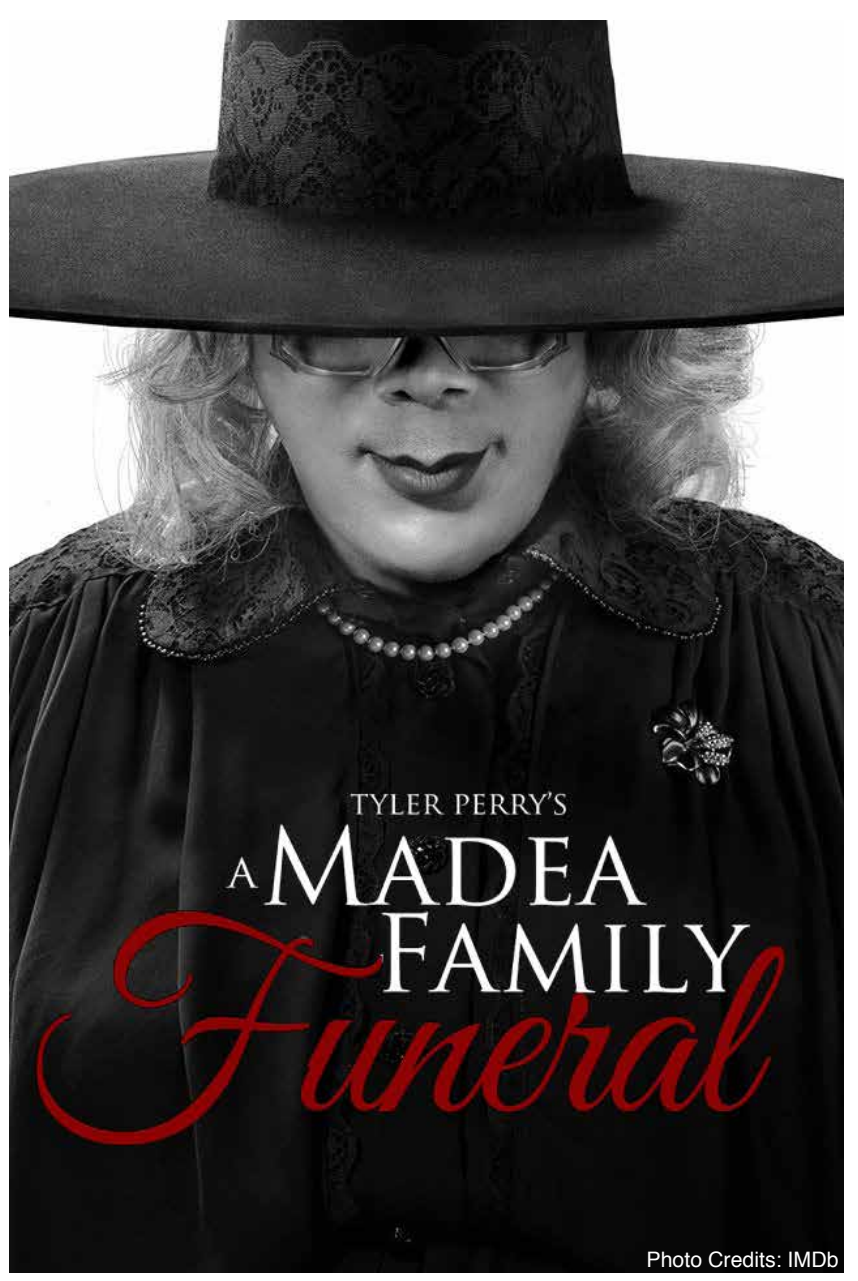
This film is a pure *Madea* motion-picture that captures the humor in family distress that the franchise is loved for. The movie reveals deep family secrets that will leave the audience speechless. You can say Perry has done it again, reaching new humorous limits with jokes that revolve around sexual raunchiness with puns throughout the film.

“[My mother] loved Madea,” said Perry. “She told me ‘whatever you do, don’t stop playing this character.’ She loved Madea. My mother -- even though we look alike -- she was a much more beautiful version of this character for sure.”

It is still unsure if Perry is truly throwing in the towel with the beloved Madea character. There were rumors that he tried to kill the *Madea* series back in 2009 and now, 10 years later, he is saying she is done.

Whether you are a Madea fan or not, this film is a must-see because it is the last for now. The movie expresses multiple emotions and brings light to dark family secrets. With the film being released Friday, it has constantly produced positive approval ratings from critics by the Rotten Tomatoes’ online review.

“She’s also run out of things to say in my point of view,” said Perry. “So, if there’s something else for her to say maybe one day she’ll return but for right now, no, I think I’m done.”



ONE OBSTACLE AT A TIME: UWG ALUMNUS COMPETES ON AMERICAN NINJA WARRIOR

Victoria Chaney

Contributing Writer

UWG alumnus, Tyler Martin, has participated in athletic competitions such as Ninja Quest, The Green Beret Challenge, the Leap Parkour Competition, Crossfit’s Little Burn and even the USA Parkour Cup. He has also appeared on phone commercials and competed on shows like *America’s Got Talent* and most notably, the popular sports entertainment show, *American Ninja Warrior* (ANW).

“Securing a spot on Ninja Warrior was fairly easy,” Martin says. “People assume it’s a sport, and while that has a lot to do with it, it is really a reality show. Your story is your key in the door. My story was how my mother passed away when I was twelve and parkour saved me from a troubled life.”

Martin’s first appearance on ANW took place in Atlanta in June of 2016, where he went against 14 other competitors.

“Competitions generally don’t scare me, but thinking in my head about them does,” Martin says. “It really depends on the size of the competition. The obstacles were fun to me, but the most difficult moments would be before the show aired on TV. I was nervous of how everyone would react because I couldn’t say anything about what I was doing until it aired.”

Although Martin has done three seasons of ANW, with the obstacles growing more in difficulty each time, his favorite season was his first.

“On my first year on Ninja Warrior, I’d already been training those guys and training with them,” Martin says. “I had to step my game up. It was an underdog kind of feel, though. It’s the year I remember most on the show. I met a lot of people and got to do what I love.”

Despite Tyler Martin’s extensive appearances on TV, he considers himself more of an athlete than an actor or celebrity. Many celebrities are constantly updating their social media, looking for more ways to spread their brand and thinking of ideas to generate more income. This is not the case for Martin. As a professional free runner and traceur, he looks at what he does as exciting, rewarding and a way to push himself further.

“I’m always having fun,” Martin said. “I play, and I get paid. It wasn’t until recently that I realized I was taking care of myself with what I earned.”

After his competitions, events and training, Martin must edit and submit his own video footage of his work. This footage goes to different gyms he



works for where he trains children in parkour. According to Martin, this is something that takes a lot of time.

“The editing is what takes forever,” Martin says. “The actual training is easy. The hard part is finding good angles and footage of me in action to show what I can do. Then I have to edit that footage and add music and subtle effects to make it interesting.”

One of Martin’s favorite aspects of being successful is the impact it has had on his life. Although it took years for him to gain recognition, he sees it all as completely worth it since it has given him an opportunity to become closer with his family while doing something he enjoys.

“Last year was the first time my Dad saw me compete,” Martin says. “He didn’t see me when I was on Ninja Warrior. When I was younger I used to be the trouble kid. Now my dad won’t stop bragging about me. It’s just awesome because I get to have fun with what I do.”

Tyler Martin is currently teaching parkour to children while continuing to better his career. As a young athlete, Martin wants to continue making a name for himself.

KEHLANI RETURNS TO MUSIC WITH *WHILE WE WAIT*

Athea Hutchinson

Contributing Writer

The Oakland singer Kehlani recently dropped her highly anticipated mixtape *While We Wait*.

This mixtape comes after a two-year hiatus from recording music of her own. Kehlani gives her fans a step inside what has been happening in her world. Similar to a roller coaster ride, this mixtape will have its listeners emotions up and down.

While We Wait is a mix of smooth soul, upbeat rhythms and pure, rhythmic lyrics noted for tugging at the heartstrings. The song “Footsteps” takes on a balance of trying to have the person you care for find their way back to you. Kehlani lets listeners know that the dynamic is between the singer and a fellow lover. “And when you walked away, I left footsteps in the mud so you can follow me”. These lyrics make it clear for the listener to understand that there is a path being set for the lover to return back.

This is Kehlani’s fourth musical project and her third mixtape since *SexySweetSavage*. The mixtape has only been out on streaming services for a week and is already sitting at number 54 on the top albums on iTunes. With only nine tracks included on the mixtape, there was only slight room for features of the songs. The song “Nights Like This” includes rapper Ty Dolla Sign bringing in a slow, simple rap.

With a slow, resonating, beat, the song takes listeners to a place where they may have spent a fun-filled night with a lover. This song, along with

other songs on the mixtape, shows listeners the vulnerability of the singer. The listener is able to hear the pain in the singer’s voice while having to describe the love that was lost throughout the relationship.

There are no specifics to the reasoning behind the name of the album, so it is up to the listeners to determine what is trying to be conveyed. There is some speculation that the mixtape could be named that because there could be an album on the way. But from start to finish this mixtape was dually anticipated by many fans.

While the mixtape is R&B based it also falls into the category of Soul. Kehlani has previously mentioned how some of her influences are Lauryn Hill and Jill Scott. These women are noted as having a Neo-Soul of music and Kehlani follows in the footsteps of her idols.

If you are looking to listen to some songs pertaining to trying to suppress your feelings for a lover, or realizing that you could be falling for someone, the *While We Wait* mixtape is for you. Even if you are not looking for songs to strictly relate to, the mixtape still provides a smooth listen for anyone who is open. Regardless of if you have listened to Kehlani’s music before or not, she definitely gives listeners the emotional ride of their lives. From the beginning of the mixtape until the end, listeners will be able to gain at least one new favorite song by Kehlani.



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SMITH STILL LOCKED IN FOR MARCH MADNESS AFTER SENIOR NIGHT LOSS

Arvon Bacon

Contributing Writer

Thursday night the UWG Wolves lost a spirited contest with the Huntsville Chargers, 83-72, due to the pressure caused by the Chargers 2-3 zone.

The Wolves began the contest playing with great energy on both offensive and defensive ends, starting the game off with 10-5 run while holding Huntsville to 42 percent FG five minutes into the half. Seeing early signs of defensive struggles, the Chargers changed their defense setup to a 2-3 zone, which stifled the Wolves scorching offense to 53 percent FG from 60 percent. The Chargers fought back going on an 8-0 run to tie the game 14-14 with 13:50 on the clock. The rest of the half went back and forth until Huntsville finally converted off three forced turnovers to lead 42-38 to end the half.

The second half began with more problems for the Wolves, as the Chargers jumped out to a quick 10-0 run 2 minutes into the second half. Knocking down the first jumper of the second half for the Wolves, shooting guard Marquill Smith halted the

Charger's run, breathing new life into the hometown crowd as the Wolves cut the lead to 48-40. Struggles with the Chargers 2-3 zone again continued for the Wolves as the Huntsville team extended their lead by 17 points. The Wolves were unable to cut the lead under 10 points, finally losing to the Chargers, 83-72.

Two seniors, Smith and point guard Aren Ulmer led the Wolves in scoring, combining 45 points, 5 assists and 8 steals.

One of the most prolific scorers to ever don the UWG basketball uniform, Smith is confident about his skills on the court.

"I've always been a scorer," said Smith. The shooting guard added that by being a more efficient passer, he will take his game to the next level by keeping defenders guessing.



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