

Bobcats ink four for 2011-12

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Four student-athletes have signed a National Letter of Intent to attend Lees-McRae College and join the men's basketball program, announced head coach Scott Polsgrove Wednesday.

Joining the Bobcats this season are BJ Battle (Orlando, Fla.), Gideon Oji (Wake Forest, N.C.), Asad Lamont (Oak Ridge, N.C.), and DJ Brown (Belton, N.C.).

"All four of these young men are not only quality basketball players, but outstanding young men as well," said Polsgrove. "They are motivated to do great things, both on and off the floor."

Battle joins the Bobcats from Timber Creek HS in Orlando, Fla., where he garnered Orlando all-Metro Conference First Team recognition, averaging 15.6 points and 8.8 rebounds per game. The 6-3 wing led his team to an 18-9 record, guiding Timber Creek to the 6A FHSSA playoffs where it lost to eventual state champion Winter Park and Duke signee Austin Rivers.

"BJ is a gifted athlete with a very good mid-range game," said Polsgrove. "With increased strength and experience, he will be a valuable member of our program."

Oji comes to Lees-McRae from Franklin Academy in Wake Forest, N.C., where he averaged a double-double with 16.1 points and 11.5 rebounds per game. The 6-9 forward led his team to a 15-14 overall record and a 10-3 mark in conference play, earning team MVP honors.

"Gideon's best basketball is certainly ahead of him," said Polsgrove. "His size, athleticism, and shot-blocking ability will give him a chance to make an immediate impact."

Lamont joins the Bobcats from Oak Ridge Military Academy in Oak Ridge, N.C., where he captained the team for three years and led it to a 33-6 record last season. While at Oak Ridge, Lamont scored over 1,000 points, averaging 12.6 markers and 6.3 assists per game as a senior.

"Asad brings a wealth of experience, playing against some of the best high school programs and players in the nation," said Polsgrove. "He will do a great job of seeing the floor and distributing the ball, and will be a great addition to our team."

DJ Brown comes to Lees-McRae from Spartanburg Methodist College, where he led the team to a 19-11 record last season. A native of Belton, N.C., Brown averaged 8.5 points per game last season, knocking down 65 three-pointers while earning the Outstanding Pioneer Award for academic and athletic excellence at Spartanburg Methodist. Brown was also a recipient of the Pinnacle Award for Academic Excellence in 2011, which recognizes NJCAA Academic All-Americans.

"DJ had an excellent career at Spartanburg Methodist," said Polsgrove. "He is an outstanding shooter, and will add some veteran leadership to our team."

Lees-McRae College, a four-year, co-educational liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, USA, is located in the scenic Blue Ridge Mountains of northwestern North Carolina. Being a year-round tourist destination, the area provides the best of a vibrant college community coupled with natural beauty and a rich history.