

## Talented Trio Signs With LMC

Written by Whitney Noble  
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Darius Smith (Woodridge, Va.), Logan Chaucer (Wilmington, N.C.), and Marcus Hash (Wytheville, Va.) have signed National Letters of Intent to attend Lees-McRae College and play men's basketball in the

fall of 2013, announced head coach Steve Hardin Tuesday

"Darius Smith, Logan, and Marcus are perfect matches for the campus community of Lees McRae and our "FIRE" basketball culture," praised Hardin. "They understand how we will play and also what it takes to be a student first in college athletics. The coaching staff is excited to teach these three young men the game of basketball and help guide them through their career here at LMC."

"[Darius] Smith is a perfect PG for my style of play 'FIRE'," said Hardin. "He fits a need at the point guard position, he can find make the right play offensively by finding the open man, and most of all he can harass/defend point guards for 40 minutes."

Smith comes to Lees-McRae from the University of Virginia at Wise, where he was named the 2010-2011 Mid-South Conference Freshman of the Year, while averaging 10.4 points and 4.6 assists over the last three seasons. A native of Woodridge, Va., Smith recorded 779 points and 342 assists in that span, posting four double-doubles and dishing out at least 10 assists on five occasions.

"I am extremely blessed that Darius decided to be a part of the Bobcat family," Hardin exclaimed. "Darius will be a leader and a coach on the floor and he also wants to become a coach. He already understands what I want out of a Bobcat player on the court and in the classroom. Darius embodies our brand FIRE – Fearless Intense Relentless Effort."

Chaucer joins the Bobcats from New Hanover High School in Wilmington, N.C., where he led his team to a pair of conference championships and the 2012 4A State Championship. The 6-3 guard averaged 11 points, six rebounds, and three assists per game as a senior, earning all-conference first-team honors.

"I am excited to have Logan apart of our Bobcat basketball family," said Hardin. "Logan has been committed to LMC for most of the year and understands the direction our team is going in the "FIRE" system. Logan is extremely athletic, a winner, and also understands the value of being a student first. He is a team guy that will do whatever it takes for us to be successful."

"Marcus is a 'high flyer' and comes from a great family," praised Hardin. "FIRE" will be on full display with Marcus in the gym. He is long athletic dunker that can alter shots and we will teach him how to become a rim runner on offense and a deflection machine on the defensive end."

Hash dons the Green and Gold following a successful prep career at Wytheville High School in Wytheville, Va. The 6-6 forward averaged 15 points, 13 rebounds, and four blocks per game as a senior, leading the team in each category.

"I feel that Marcus will get better every year as he becomes stronger and understands the college game," said Hardin. "Marcus is another signee that understands what it means to be a true student athlete and we are glad Marcus chose the Bobcat basketball family."

Smith, Chaucer, and Hash join an already impressive recruiting class for the Bobcats, which already includes Josh Gaither (Statesville, N.C.), Chase Arnold (Kingsport, Tenn.), Daruis Malbon (Hickory, N.C.) and Mike Chambers (Winston-Salem, N.C.).

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"FIRE' is our brand of basketball, which means Fearless, Intense, Relentless, and Effort. We will constantly put pressure on our opponent's 94 feet and for 40 minutes. Check in every Monday for more Bobcat basketball signees."

**Photo Courtesy: Chaucer, Smith, Hash**