

Falls, Wallis Sign With Lees-McRae

Written by Whitney Noble

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Donte Falls (Shelby, N.C.) and Avery Wallis (Ronda, N.C.) 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.

"These two young men are what we want as Bobcat basketball players," Hardin exclaimed.

"They both understand what it means to be a student first as Donte and Avery both sport a GPA of over 3.0 in high school. Donte and Avery also are long, lanky and can play multiple positions. They both fit "FIRE" basketball - Fearless, Intense, Relentless, Effort."

Falls comes to Lees-McRae from Shelby High School in Shelby, N.C., where he earned all-SMAC First team honors as a senior while leading Shelby to the semifinal round of the North Carolina State Tournament. The second team all-district selection averaged 15 points, seven rebounds, and three blocks per game this season while helping Shelby to a 27-4 record.

"Donte [Falls] is a good addition for our program and Lees-McRae," praised Hardin. "He is a good student and also was highly recruited. Falls is long and athletic on the defensive end. He fits our brand of "FIRE" bobcat basketball, and can play multiple positions for us. He is a good passer, a great rebounder, and scores the ball in a variety of ways. I am extremely excited to welcome Donte Falls into our Bobcat family."

Wallis joins the Bobcats from East Wilkes High School in Ronda, N.C., where he averaged over 21 points per game while posting five rebounds and three assists per contest. The 6-4 guard was named the Wilkes County Player of the Year as a senior, while also earning all-conference honors in each of the last two seasons. Wallis also led the conference in scoring this winter, and was second in the league as a junior.

"Avery [Wallis] is a scorer," said Hardin. "He has a crafty game somewhat similar to [former Bobcat] Daniel Sepokas. He can also play and guard multiple positions, which has been a common theme in our recruiting process. Avery will be able to contribute in many ways in our "FIRE" system. He can really score the ball in many different ways. Avery also has great grades and understands what being a student athlete entails."

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

"'FIRE' is our brand of basketball, which means Fearless, Intense, Relentless, and Effort," said Hardin. "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: Donte Falls and Avery Wallis, LMC Athletics