

Hairston Leaves Team USA

Written by Staff Reports
Wednesday, 26 June 2013 18:53

The woes continue for North Carolina rising junior P.J. Hairston. Hairston, who was arrested for possession of marijuana and driving without a license in an expensive

rental SUV, has left the USA Basketball Under-19 National Team. A back injury has been sighted as the reason. It's been a bad summer for Hairston, who is also facing an NCAA inquiry. The NCAA is making inquiries about Hairston's connection to a man named Rodney Blackstone. Blackstone is alleged to have made payments to the AAU coach of former Kansas player Ben McLemore prompting the NCAA to take notice. According to UNC AD Bubba Cunningham, UNC and the NCAA are looking at what, if any, connections Blackstone might have to Hairston. On the surface that doesn't appear to be related to the SUV which could mean there are two separate NCAA issues to worry about now instead of one.

There is no word how severe the back injury is but one would assume there is more than enough time for Hairston to be ready for the season. That is assuming all the other issues get resolved.

Team USA will play the Ivory Coast in its first preliminary-round game Thursday at 8:15 p.m., at the 2013 FIBA U19 World Championships in Prague, Czech Republic. The Americans will play China in a second-round game Friday night at 8:15 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: P.J. Hairston, UNC Athletics