

Interview with ROSHOWN MCLEOD, assistant coach at Indiana and former Jr All-American Camp/Fab Frosh Camp coach. "Ro" was recently added to the staff at IU.

CD: Congratulations on your new job! You definitely deserve it!

RM: Thanks Clay. I really appreciate that. I'm excited!

CD: You interviewed for the Duke opening earlier this summer before Indiana and were a finalist along with former Blue Devil Nate James. They ultimately hired him. Were you disappointed you didn't get that?

RM: Maybe at first. I mean of course. I played there. But I was confident something as good or better would come along. A better fit. And it did. It worked out for everyone.

CD: What will be your role?

RM: I will be involved in all aspects. Coach Crean wants me to help with coaching in games and practice, practice planning and coaching during practice, recruiting, scheduling, scouting opponents, monitoring our players' academic progress, and individual skill development. I will be working with the bigs (inside post players) -- getting them ready.



CD: How will you guys be this year?

RM: We'll struggle a little bit. We're young. We don't have a lot of depth. But we'll win our share.

CD: Did working with the Fab Frosh Camp help you get the job?

RM: All of my experiences and background helped. Coach Crean was aware of my involvement with the camp and knows what a good thing it is. He knows that most of the nation's top kids in the class of 2011 attended the Fab Frosh Camp last year in 2007, the first time I was there. We discussed it and we want to keep coming back as long as we're allowed to (by the NCAA).

CD: Speaking of your background, you have one of the most well-rounded, most-connected and qualified basketball backgrounds - or resumes - of anyone in the business.

RM: Yeah I think that has helped shape me into the coach I am today. I'm from the New York metropolitan area. I played high school basketball at St Anthony in Newark, New Jersey for a Hall of Fame coach, the legendary Bob Hurley. After that I went on to play at one of college basketball's all-time winningest programs in St Johns before transferring to Duke. I played two years there and that's where I really took off! With Coach K. I was fortunate enough to be drafted in the first round (by the Atlanta Hawks). I played three seasons before getting hurt and being forced to retire.

CD: Coach Crean said in an interview upon you being hired there at IU that you'd still be playing in the NBA now 8 or 9 years later if you hadn't suffered the career-ending injury.

RM: I appreciate that. Probably so. Perhaps that's true.

CD: What was it like playing for Coach K?

RM: It was great. Coach was cool. He brought out the best in me and my game. He

challenged you to get better. He really lets you play. I got a chance to do my thing. I believe I was the first-ever transfer in Coach K's program at Duke. That's very rare there. We were good too. We were a family. I keep in my touch with a lot of my teammates from back then. I'm still very close to those guys.

CD: Ro, you coached in the Atlanta Celtics program. Everyone knows they're one of the biggest, most successful, most-talented, longest-running grassroots travel teams in the country. How will you use that to help you at Indiana?

RM: Well obviously coaching with the Celtics put me around a lot of talent so I have a great relationship with the kids and the organization. I think it gives me an advantage in being able to relate well with kids...top young prospects...better than maybe some other coaches who haven't coached AAU or not recently like I have. The players know I understand them and they feel they can trust me.

CD: You are especially well known around the country and particularly in Atlanta, where you've made your home since retiring from the NBA, for working out kids—being a great workout coach. Why is that?

RM: I think because players know my background. They know I've been a first round pick, played in the NBA and at Duke. In their eyes, that means credibility. So they listen to me. They know I know what to do, how to get them ready and develop them. They know that I know where they're trying to go. And I can show them how to get there.

CD: You were one of the many great coaches we've had at the Jr All-American Camp and the Fab Frosh Camp. How did you like that? And how does that help you now as a college coach?

RM: I loved it! Working with the kids in that first year. Then again this year, with both camps combined. It was more about coaching them when they're that age and not recruiting them. Letting them get to know me, how I coach. You know? Developing relationships with them. Now that I'm a college coach, the added plus is that when I walk into a gym they will see me and remember me. They already know what I'm like.

CD: So the Jr All-American Camp and Fab Frosh Camp are good for you?

RM: Definitely! I mean...we can't see kids at that age on a regular basis. Without it we wouldn't be able to really know much about who was out there and also the chance to coach them and work with them. Because once they're in high school the rules don't allow that kind of interaction. With camps like yours, we can see who's who, make notes, track a player's progress and development. Plus working the camp allowed me to get to know other coaches from outside my own region. Get to know them and build relationships.

CD: How's recruiting going?

RM: We're involved with some great kids. We also have already gotten some good early commitments.

CD: Will you recruit some of your former Atlanta Celtics players?

RM: I would think so.

CD: Jr All-American Camp alum and camp all-star, Jordan Price, is an Atlanta Celtic and the No. 1 player in Georgia in the class of 2012. He has to be one of your targets, right?

RM: Clay you know I can't discuss specific prospects by NCAA rules. We will be involved

with a lot of very good kids all over the country. Indiana has always been a national program. The Atlanta Celtics are an elite program and of course with my ties to them, we hope it helps us at least get in the door with their guys. Any student-athlete that is a good fit for us and wants Indiana, we will recruit them. We want kids that want us.

CD: Thanks Ro! Good luck at Indiana!

RM: Thank you Clay! Keep doing what you're doing.