

Behind The Scenes: Getting To Know Phil Cofer

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The men's basketball program has been through a whirlwind the past two weeks.

With their official season kickoff, the first week of practice, and "Jam with Ham" this past Friday night, on top of all of the media attention and expectations of this "should-be" "could-be" dynamic team, the players haven't had much time to breathe.

But sophomore power forward Phil Cofer took the time to relax for a few minutes. Stealing away from practice in the Donald L. Tucker Center with the team, Cofer sat and reflected on not only his time as a Seminole, but also all the small intricacies that make him more than just the famed player who dunked on Jahlil Okafor, a dynamite player coast to coast and at the rim, but more as just a regular guy from Fayetteville, Georgia:

You guys have been in practice for exactly a week now. How are you feeling? What are you seeing in these guys out there?

Man, these guys are working hard. Everyone is just coming out to practice and competing. So if we keep doing that it's going to be a great year this year.

Take me back on your career as an FSU basketball player. Tell me about one of your favorite moments.

You know everybody's going say the Duke game, but I'll probably just have to go with the road games. You know just in the hotel, interacting with the team, planes, flights, stuff like that."

Can you tell me about one of your most embarrassing moments as a player?

I'll probably say the Clemson game when I fell. I had slipped on the baseline, so I had to play it off like I was hurt, but I wasn't hurt. I was just embarrassed.

So take me back a little bit further. Tell me about when you were young. How did you pick up basketball?

When I was young actually I was about to quit sports because I was so clumsy. In seventh or eighth grade, I was like super, super clumsy. I played football in seventh grade and I was super clumsy at that. But I started playing with the Atlanta Celtics after that and started getting back in the game and loving the game and just getting better and better each year.

Where there any significant obstacles you faced growing up when it came to ball? Anything that made you think you wanted to quit?

I would say mainly just being so clumsy.

Was it because you were so tall?

Yeah, yeah. You know how it is. So I started to get like 6'6 so when 8th grade came I started dunking.

When did you realize that you were something special? When did people start telling you that you could play college ball one day?

I would say probably ninth grade, I guess cause I was the tallest guy and I was just overpowering people. So around ninth, tenth grade I started getting noticed.

Take me through the average day in the life of Phil Cofer.

Wake up, breakfast, tutoring- early, early tutoring, so I'm tired in that. Then two or three classes. After that I'm here [at practice] and then dinner. It's like constant, constant. So you don't really have much time for naps or anything.

You don't have any down time during the day?

No, probably the walk from my house to class is my only down time during the day.

So when you do have your down time, in between appointments, who are you with?

Book (Devon Bookert), Bake (Dwayne Bacon), T (Terrance Mann). Mainly the whole team, we'll be together.

So ya'll are always rolling up as a team?

Yeah, yeah. We'll go out to eat or something, play some games, 2K, Madden, just little stuff like that.

I'm pretty good at 2K. Who's your team?

Everybody know I love 2K. I'm going to have to go with the Thunder or the Knicks. I'm a Melo fan.

Tell me what game day is like for you? How do you prep?

The main thing for me is just getting up early, getting my mind ready. Eating a good breakfast, looking over scouting report, getting your mind set and ready for the game.

Is there anything you do superstitiously to prepare? Anything to psych out your opponent?

Well, me, I'm a goofy dude. So I'll probably go in the gym and freestyle a little bit with my boys and listen to music. I need music before a game.

Important question, who's on your playlist?

Yung Thug, Future, and Meek Mill.

Tell me who your hero is.

I'll have to go with my dad. Just because he's been through it- he played pro football for ten years, so he knows what it takes and how hard you have to work. I compare basketball to football with what he did and how hard he worked.

Does he come to a lot of games?

Yeah, when he can, when he gets time to. It's kind of a hard drive to get here. But when he's here, you'll probably hear him in the stands, him and my mom. They like to scream. I tell them to calm down sometimes.

Tell me who your basketball icon is? Who do you model you game after?

I'm going to say I'm a Shawn Kemp type dude, because he dunks everything. Him or Blake Griffin. Or Lamarcus Aldridge. I watch their highlights a lot.

Before we wrap up, I'm going to ask you some rapid fire questions. So just tell when what comes to your mind first.

Tupac or Biggie?

Tupac

Kobe or LeBron?

'Bron

Drake or Meek Mill?

Meek

Good Kid MAAD City or To Pimp a Butterfly? (Kendrick Lamar Albums)

To Pimp a Butterfly

Jordans or Slides?

Jordans

Who's your early pick for the NBA title next year?

I want to go with the Lakers, just because I like my boy Swaggy P (Nick Young) and Lil Will.