

Nation Zeroes in on Seward Guard

Tucked away in the southwest corner of the great state of Kansas, the small town of Liberal has seen a recent spike at their local airport which normally only has a handful of flights come in and out of it each day. For some reason the added arrivals and departures seem to be on Wednesday and Saturday nights, which point directly to a culprit that can be found in what is known as the 'Greenhouse' on those evenings.

Seward County Saints sophomore point guard Jeremy Jones, is highly regarded as one of the top junior college recruits in the country and day by day adds new suitors to his already large list of major Division 1 programs salivating at the chance of having him in their backcourt for next season. Jones, who is currently averaging 18.1 points and 4.6 assists per game overall on the season for the 23-6 and Jayhawk West Champion Saints, amped his game up even another notch to lead Seward to their first conference crown in the past three seasons by leading the league in scoring in conference games at nearly 20 points per game while still creating for his teammates with an identical 4.6 assists per conference tilt. The 6'2 combo guard from Chicago, who hails from the same high school as Bulls star Derrick Rose, seems to wow even on his off nights. "I was apologizing for the way we played to two Big 12 coaches who flew in to watch us play the Dodge City game when we as a team and Jeremy as well didn't play his best and they cut me off to say that he could play for their team any day" Saints Assistant Coach Jay Cyriac laughed. "We get spoiled watching him play every night and don't realize that even in a game that you don't seem to notice him as much he still ends up with 17 points and 6 assists" he continued. Jones' off nights, if you can even call them that, have come few and far between this season as he has scored at least 13 points in 17 straight Seward games and has been over the 20 point mark 12 times this season. He has not been padding his stats against inferior competition either as some of Jones top games this season have come against the nation's elite with a 26 point game against, then undefeated, and 14th ranked Odessa, a 22 point, 6 rebound effort against #1 Missouri State-West Plains in a Seward County win, and a 26 point, 6 assist performance on the road at then #1 Hutchinson to start conference play. "Big time players step up in big time games" Seward Head Coach Bryan Zollinger said. "Jeremy has been the model of consistency for us all year long and has elevated his game when we needed him most. He is a special player" he added.

Jones talents have not gone unnoticed this season as he has now placed himself on the radar and in the sights of over 30 different Division 1 programs hailing from 21 different states and 16 different conferences. He has had Head Coaches Bob Huggins of West Virginia, Buzz Williams of Marquette, Frank Martin of Kansas State, Jeff Capel of Oklahoma, Travis Ford of Oklahoma State, and Jim Boylen of Utah

just to name a few, fly into Liberal to take a look at his talents. Jones list of interested parties also includes Big 10 schools such as Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa, the Pac-10's Arizona State, as well as the ACC's Roy Williams led North Carolina. While it is hard to believe that a 21 year old could stay away from the hype during all of the attention, Jones has. He has verbalized to many schools that he will not even begin thinking about what his next move will be until his Seward County season is done, saying "right now I need to have all my focus and attention on what we (Seward County) is doing on the court. It is fun getting to know all of these coaches and hearing what they have to say but all I am interested in right now is trying to get my team to the National Tournament" Jones said. "Once our season is done, whenever that may happen, I will probably take a couple of days to get my head clear and then start narrowing things down to where I can take my official visits and then make a decision" he continued. Jones looks like he has his Saints primed to making a run at that NJCAA National Tournament as Seward will enter the start of the Region VI Tournament on Tuesday as the #1 overall seed and will square off with the #16 Labette Cardinals in the Greenhouse in the first round before hopefully heading to Wichita next weekend to compete for the National Tournament bid in the tournament finals.

For a complete list of Division 1 schools that have expressed an interest in Jones please see the list below. To keep a tab on Jones and his Saints as the 2010-2011 season heads into the home stretch make sure to stay tuned to www.scccsaints.com for updated game recaps as well as information about Jones recruiting as he begins to narrow his list of choices down before making his final decision.

SCHOOLS INTERESTED IN JONES

Arizona State

Arkansas St.

Austin Peay

Eastern Illinois

Houston

Illinois

Illinois State

Illinois-Chicago

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas State

Lamar

Marquette

Mercer

Nebraska

Nevada

North Carolina

Northern Colorado

Oklahoma

Oklahoma State

Sam Houston State

San Jose State

South Alabama

South Florida

Stephen F. Austin

Stony Brook

TCU

Texas State

Texas-San Antonio

UC-Riverside

Utah

West Virginia

(Roy Allen)

SCCC/ATS Sports Information