Ferguson stands on guard for Canadian hoops

basketball profile

Daniel Ferguson
Bears Basketball

MATT HIRER
Sports Editor

Prior to every tip-off, when Daniel Ferguson's name is called in the starting lineup for the Bears basketball team, the announce innocently states that the 6'3 guard is from Richmond. It's a misleading oversight that has gone unrecognized partially due to Ferguson's self-effacing demeanor. "They say that before the game for some reason. This is the first time that I have ever been from Richmond. I don't know why they say it, but I don't bother saying anything," Ferguson explains. "I'm originally born and raised in Vancouver, and then moved to Toronto in the eighth grade."

Despite the confusion over his birthplace, Ferguson is making a name for himself in Canada's basketball community — a distant cry from when he was born. He had difficulties finding the means to show his talent, unable to get court time at Georgia Southern University. But he eventually found a place to finish his English literature degree at Berry College, a small school outside of Atlanta. After finishing his Bachelor's degree, Ferguson found comfort in the cold wilderness of Richmond while studying for his Master's degree. He had no trouble finding his way into the CIBA style of play — in his first eight games as a Golden Bear, Ferguson is averaging more than 24 points per game, third best in the country, and he's currently the best player in the country from behind the three-point arc. Ferguson has already sunk an astonishing 33 buckets from downtown with an efficiency of more than 50 percent. But Ferguson's skill set is not the only thing that is turning heads on the Bears basketball team. Greg Francis, Ferguson's head coach who played for the Canadian national team, praises his protégé not only for his scoring ability, but also for his charisma and maturity on the court. As Francis assures, Ferguson's teammates look up to him as somebody they can strive to be like both on the court and in the classroom.

"He has obviously had a big impact voting wise. He is the top scorer in the (Canada West Conference), but from the beginning where he helped us was with our team maturity and confidence. He makes us a little more confident," Francis adds. "But more importantly on the academic side of things, he has created a very good environment on our team. Where he helps the team is that he shows the guys that if you stay focused, that they can get that same degree in five or six years." It could have been different. When Ferguson was only 17 years old, his father passed away. Despondent, Ferguson lost interest in school, averaging Cs and Ds and becoming a constant troublemaker. But in Ferguson's senior year, Neville Anderson, extended a fatherly hand to encourage him and his brother's to continue their school, offering both emotional and financial support from.

"Playing in Canada, it seems more relevant than playing in the States. Even being interviewed for a newspaper, in the States it would be in the local paper. 'So what?' — nobody that I know there is going to read it. If I'm here, I can send it to my mom."

Daniel Ferguson
GUARD, BERNARD

DANIEL FERGUSON
GUARD, BERNARD