

SPORTS

MN Timberwolves Trade Butler

BY ELHAM MUHAMMED

Jimmy Butler was a glimmer of hope to the Minnesota Timberwolves, an all-star player coming from the Chicago Bulls, who helped rebuild the Timberwolves' reputation. The athlete brought excitement back to the city of Minneapolis.

Butler got injured and missed seventeen games with the Timberwolves, during which they went 8-9. Coming back from his injury, Butler was able to lead the Timberwolves to the playoffs. This is where the frustrations with the team began for Butler. In an article with the Chicago Sun Times, he states, "I put so much into this game and I only play to win... and at times I get lost in how everybody is not built the way that I'm built. Sometimes I just look around, and I don't understand how or why you all don't love to get better the way that I do."

These comments left Butler's teammates confused and questioning his commitment to the team. The concern was heightened when Butler denied the Timberwolves' offer of a four-year, \$110 million contract extension.

Tensions were high for a few months in the Timberwolves high office but ultimately, Butler was traded to the Philadelphia 76ers. Brett Brown, 76ers coach said, "He (Butler) replicates [and] mirrors the spirit of Philadelphia. He is a fierce competitor. And there is a toughness that he plays with; that's who he is. And he wears it on his face, it's seen in his game, it's confirmed by multiple all-defensive teams and it's a perfect fit for the city and our program defensively."

As part of the trade, the Timberwolves received a couple of talented young players who should make an immediate impact in Robert Covington and Dario Saric. Minnesota also received Jerry Bayless and a future second-round pick. Though the Timberwolves received many offers for Butler, they ultimately chose to accept the 76ers' offer of Covington and Saric. The newcomers should fit in well alongside the young core of Karl-Anthony Towns and Andrew Wiggins.

Butler's trade to the 76ers, although upsetting, is what was best for the Timberwolves. The tensions in the locker room between Butler, his teammates, and the owners wasn't good for the morale of the team or the fan base. Now, Timberwolves fans can support their team without feeling concern about the players desire to be there, or the tumultuous relationship between teammates and coaches. †

Male Athlete of The Month: *Bryndan Matthews*

BY VICTORIA TURCIOS

BRYNDAN MATTHEWS, sporting jersey #23 for the CSP Bears basketball team, is taking on his senior season. From NSIC South player of the week, to male athlete of the month in December, Matthews is getting the notoriety he deserves.

As he begins his last season with the Golden Bears, Matthews stated that he's aiming for all-conference, as well as the possibility to land the title-of-all-time as leading scorer at CSP. This is more than possible for the talented athlete as his Concordia record shows him leading in many areas in past seasons. He has been a starter in 26 of the 29 games his freshman season for the Golden Bears in 2015-2016, ranking second in the program's history with his career defensive rebounds per game in the 2016-2017 season, and set career-highs last season in back-to-back games.

After being asked how it felt to be recognized twice in a row this early in the season, Matthews stated, "I have worked really hard along with my teammates to be able to succeed this season and the work has paid off this far."

No statement could be truer as he was announced NSIC player of the week, Matthew's was leading in scoring, in addition to ranking third in rebounding, third in assists, and even third in assists-to-turnover ratio in the NSIC.

Despite his individual success in his athletic career at CSP, the words "team" and "teamwork" were repeated keywords throughout the interview by Bryndan Matthews making it clear what he values on and off the court aside from his personal goals. Bryndan Matthews gives students at CSP a closer look at the dynamic of what our men's basketball team relies on to move forward this season, and that is each other.

When asked about what it takes for him to step onto the court prepared for anything not just individually but the rest of the team as well, Matthews mentioned the importance of both a physical and mental preparation; "Physically preparing for the game is just getting warm and getting shots up before the game so you feel as good as possible during the game. As the season goes on and we enter conference play, the mental side becomes even more important."

"I love playing for CSP and Coach James," were Bryndan's words as he was asked what it has been like playing for the CSP Golden Bears the past four years. Matthew's sole concern this season isn't the technical success of his team or his personal goals, but rather, he also hopes to leave a legacy behind to future players and fellow teammates to remember him as a guy who worked and played hard for them. The CSP road hasn't been easy for Matthews, but he stated, "I wouldn't trade it for anything." †



Photography provided by CSP Athletics

Photo above captures Bryndan Matthews beating defenders at the net

