

## NIMMO

FROM PAGE B1

County High School and Murray State, golf has been second nature to Nimmo. He left Murray State as one of the program's top golfers after leading the Racers with a 73.27 scoring average in 2023-24 and recording 13 rounds of par or better. In 2022-23, he earned his first collegiate victory by

winning the Hoosier Collegiate, becoming Murray State's first champion at a tournament hosted by a Power Five school since 1974. As a standout at Marshall County he won back-to-back Kentucky state championships in 2019 and 2020 and was named the 2020 Kentucky Junior Player of the Year.

From amateur and college golf to now playing professionally, Nimmo says the level of

golf is on another level. "Everybody is really good," Nimmo said. "Everybody can play. If you turn pro you're obviously very talented at the game, but the mindset that everybody has out there is different from college and amateur golf. It's truly a job and these guys are out here with an attention to detail that I think amateurs don't have. This is our job, this is how we're going to make money and it's

no longer just a hobby we have."

While still new to the profession, Nimmo has been busy on the road competing in a variety of different tournaments and finding success along the way. And with a long road ahead, he plans on playing in local tournaments like the Irvin Cobb Championships and hitting the road plenty for more events before heading to Q-School in an effort to earn his PGA Tour

card or a spot on the Korn Ferry Tour.

He says the journey is a long one no matter how good of golf he's playing, but staying patient and playing good golf at the right time is what matters to take advantage of the opportunity ahead of him.

"This is the important part of the schedule," Nimmo said. "I've got two events that I really care a lot about in The Cobb and the State Open then Q-School is

where you can really change your career. I'll need to play some good golf these next couple of months."

When it's all said and done, while golf is now his job, he still makes it a priority to have fun while working.

"I look at the game a little different because it's my job, but I'm still trying to have fun," Nimmo said. "At the end of the day, if I'm not having fun then I don't need to be doing this."

## DOSS

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the year coaching at Murray offered him a new perspective on coaching and improved his skill set overall.

"I think being at the high school level made me 10 times better as a coach," Doss said. "It made me appreciate things a lot more at the collegiate level. You're constantly recruiting, having to offer kids or cut ties with kids. It's a business. Whereas at the high school level, a lot of kids play multiple sports to have fun. It was a year where I built some amazing relationships with the players."

In Doss' first stint in the collegiate ranks at John Melvin Christian College two years ago, Doss had the task of building a first-year program from scratch, having to construct a whole new roster in just two months. This time around, he gets to take on a program with a rich history of success, and a strong foundation

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of a roster already in place.

"There's a lot more resources here," Doss said. "The University of Toccoa Falls was founded over 100 years ago. Financially, the school's in the best spot it's ever been, with the largest enrollment class in school history. It's a beautiful campus with updated facilities, so this is a pretty big step up. There's a lot of pressure that goes on me here to say the least, but it's a great opportunity."

Not only is the school a great place to be, but the team Doss is inheriting is primed for action.

"We have eight guys returning, and three of them are starters. Getting guys to return in this age with the transfer portal and all that is a really big deal. Just in

the first week of the job for me, we've already added three or four commitments, so we're really excited about that," Doss said. "It's actually a blessing to get those guys back. I got to meet and talk with those guys, and they ended up not entering the portal. I think that says a lot about the university because it's not just me keeping them there; it means the University of Toccoa Falls has been great to them too."

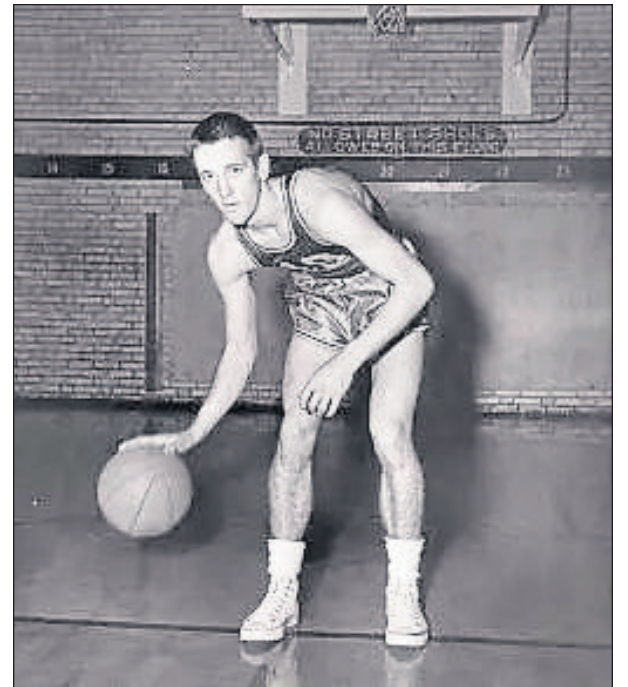
As always, a coaching change is never easy on a program, but Doss has proved in his previous two years he can find success in a turnaround year. This season, Colin said the goal is always to win, but in his inaugural season, it is important to build a solid foundation to get

this program where he wants it to be.

"Our first year goals are simple," Doss said. "They're the same everywhere I've been, and that's to win in year one. We're going to build it up as the season goes on, and we're going to set high goals. I also want winners on and off the floor. I want these guys to improve physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually."

Although his time at Murray High was just one year, Colin Doss left the Tigers' program in a better place than he found it while building lasting relationships in the Murray community. Now, he returns to the collegiate ranks in hopes of leading a successful program and continuing his trends of finding wins in year one.

While the scenery may change from Murray to Toccoa Falls, his approach remains the same: build meaningful relationships, develop players on and off the court, and create a program capable of competing for championships year after year.



MSU Athletics

Howard "Howie" Crittenden was the first Murray State men's basketball player to reach the 2,000-point mark, earning his No. 19 a spot in the CFSB Center rafters.

## RACERS

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Murray State didn't wait long to recognize what Crittenden meant to the program.

His No. 19 was retired in 1956, the same year his Racer career came to an end.

Nearly 70 years later,

No. 19 remains in the rafters of the CFSB Center, representing one of the greatest scorers and most influential figures in the history of Murray State basketball.

The "Retired Racers" series continues next with Jeff Martin, whose No. 15 became the fourth men's basketball jersey retired by Murray State in 1989.

## STARK

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But when Stark stood in front of this year's team, his accomplishments weren't the focus. Instead, he wanted to remind the players that the standard at Murray State didn't begin with him.

"I was here when we started to mold that foundation, but it was built before me. And we kind of just kept it going on," Stark said. "I think sometimes, the further we get away from that, sometimes we can move that feel of that foundation. Sometimes it's good to come back and be able to reiterate that foundation that was set here."

For Stark, one of the biggest lessons he learned in Murray had nothing to do with basketball.

He told the team the relationships he built during his time at Murray State continued to help him long after he left campus.

"I wanted to harp on the relationship part because it meant a lot for me," Stark said. "There were times where I was hurt during my professional career, and not just here at Murray State, where I was still communicating with a lot of people that were here at Murray State and they kept me going."

The message Stark hopes today's players embrace is simple. "It's much bigger than basketball," he added. "They actually care about you and who you are as a person."

With college basketball changing rapidly and many players spending just a season



CLAY WAGONER | MSU Athletics

Jonathan Stark got a sneak peek at the renovations taking place at the CFSB Center, an arena he spent a lot of time playing in.

or two at one school, Stark believes it's more important than ever to invest in the people around them.

"I think it's just taking advantage of the time," Stark said. "They have time to really get to know these people, but they have to want to do it."

"The fans here, the community here, they want to get to know the players. But as players here, they have to take the lead and go meet with these people and get to know them, because it'll mean good for them."

Stark also challenged

the team to understand what winning has always looked like at Murray State.

Rather than relying on one star player, he said the most successful Racer teams were built on everyone embracing their role.

"It takes a full team to win. It's not just the main scorer or the point guard or the shooting guard. It's the entire team," Stark said. "Everyone has certain roles, and everyone has to be the best in their role. Once you're able to get that contribution from everyone, you can make a good team and have a good

chance to win."

The message Stark delivered wasn't something he created on his own.

He said it was passed down to him by the players and coaches who came before him, including former Racer great Isaiah Canaan, a two-time OVC Player of the Year who led Murray State to a school-record 31 wins and an NCAA Tournament victory in 2012 before playing several seasons in the NBA. Former head coach Steve Prohm as well, who guided the Racers to four NCAA Tournament appearances

during his first stint in Murray.

"I'm just speaking on what was taught to me," Stark said. "I learned it from Isaiah Canaan, Coach Prohm. That's where I learned it from. It's the culture, it's tradition. And I'm just passing down their culture, that tradition, that foundation. I'm just

passing it down to the guys that are getting around."

For Stark, returning to Murray State wasn't about looking back on everything he accomplished, it was about making sure the culture that helped define his career continues with the next generation of Racers.

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