Outside the Lines:
Kordenbrock takes different path to basketball

By Nick Phillips

Generally speaking, if you are 6 foot 9 inches, there is a good chance you are going to play sports. Most of these instances have children playing a certain game or games from a young age. Now take that stereotype and flip it.

Then you’ll get Tyler Kordenbrock’s path to the UNCP basketball team. Despite being tall, lean and athletic-looking, the Braves freshman didn’t play basketball until his senior year of high school. That would be last year for those of you keeping track.

In that year’s time, the lanky kid has turned into a collegiate player. Sort of. Kordenbrock is sitting out his first season here at UNCP while he is still learning the game of basketball, adding in a new chapter as he studies the collegiate level of play.

The learning curve
While he is redshirting, which means that he cannot play in any games for the Braves this season, he can still participate in practices as he continues to grow as a player.

“Deciding to redshirt was based on my slim knowledge of the game and slim physique,” Kordenbrock said, as he will undoubtedly find himself in the weight room this season, while possibly mixing in a few extra meals in the cafeteria.

Tyler is a long, athletic kid with tremendous upside and passion for the game. He will need to get stronger at competing at this level, but he is very quick and agile at 6 foot 9 inches, UNCP head coach Ben Miller said when Kordenbrock signed with UNCP last November. At that time, Miller added that Kordenbrock could become “a very versatile and exciting player” and that his length and athletic ability would create problems for opposing coaches and players.

In his one year playing at Mandarin High School, Kordenbrock averaged nine points, seven rebounds and 2.5 blocks per game while being selected to the Florida Association of Basketball Coaches All-Star game and was also named to the 6A All-State team for his play. Another newcomer to the UNCP family, assistant coach Ben Thompson said highly of Kordenbrock.

“Tyler is a young man who is developing very quickly. He’s very long and athletic. Most kids who are 6 foot 9 inches and have grown this quickly have yet to develop into their bodies, but because of some of the skateboarding, surfing and other activities Tyler has been doing recently, his coordination is very good,” Thompson said.

“Tyler is already picking up skills, fundamentals, and philosophies very quickly. He’s an intelligent young man, he wants to learn and he is a hard worker. This redshirt year will do him good as he continues to learn how to play the game of basketball and develop as a young man as well. We believe that because of all these attributes, he can be an even bigger asset to our team moving forward,” Thompson added.

When he’s not working on basketball, Kordenbrock is a big music guy. He says that he enjoys playing and writing music, adding that he mostly plays the guitar but is learning to play the piano as well.

Music helpful
The rhythms from the music world have helped Kordenbrock on the court as well.

“I find that having that rhythm with my instrument helps mentally with the rhythm of my footwork and how I run and things like that,” he said.

Jokingly, he added that his rhythm helps with basketball events like Moonlight Madness that require dancing.

Along with music, Kor- denbrock also likes to do the usual hanging out with friends and family and have fun in his free time. But he also had one other special hobby.

Kordenbrock rides in the annual MS 150 bike ride, pedaling the route from Jacksonville, Fla., to Daytona, Fla., to help raise money for multiple sclerosis.

Not too many people can picture a 6 foot 9 inches person riding a bike. But then again, not too many 6 foot 9 inch people learn the game of basketball in college either.

Bio of the week
Dominique Washington

Year - Senior
Sport - Basketball
Position - Guard
Hometown- Redlands, Calif.
Major - Psychology

2011 Stats - Through three games
Averaging 12.0 points per game, 5.7 rebounds per game, 4.7 assists per game

What do you personally do before a game?
Personally before a game I like to listen to slow music to ease my mind. Then before I go on the court I like to stare at myself in the mirror and give myself a little pep talk.

What is the last movie you watched?
The last movie I watched was “The Pursuit of Happiness.”

Who/what are your biggest inspirations, in basketball and life?
My main inspiration with everything is my mom. I am trying to accomplish the goal of a world cure for Multiple Sclerosis.

What is your most exciting basketball moment?
My most exciting basketball moment would have to be being conference player of the year at my Junior College.

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