

# MMC's Smith Makes Self At Home

## St. Louis Native Finds A Home With Lancers

BY NICK ROBINSON  
sports@yankton.net

A rare voyage from Mississippi River to the Missouri River, from St. Louis, Mo. to Yankton, S.D. was all Bud Smith needed to right his ship of life.

The junior guard at Mount Marty College was born in raised in the River City.

"There was a lot of violence and a bad things growing up in St. Louis," Smith said. "At an early age I was getting involved in fights and such. Most of my friends had their hands in drugs and stuff like that. I tried to get away from all of that, though. I played sports: football, baseball, and basketball. I used sports to help me stay out of trouble."

Growing up, Smith did whatever he could to stay away from the violence and trouble on the streets.

"Looking back, most of my friends are locked up in jail," he said. "They got their hands into gun violence and stuff like that. The drug stuff was bad in my neighborhood too, like weed and crack. There are a lot of ways to get in trouble down there. I just played basketball all the time and worked hard in school, if I had to I would stay late to get my work done. You don't want to get caught up in the streets."

If there were one person Smith looked up to as a child, it would especially be his father. However, he noted, he does look up to his mother as well.

"My dad is so influential to me. So is my mother. My parents have been separated since I was 11 years old. So, I never really lived with both of them. I usually lived with my mom and spent time with my dad on the weekends."

The middle school days were rough for Smith, trying to figure out which path to take, but ultimately, he kept his dreams of playing basketball alive.

"In middle school, I was always getting in trouble with fights and such, but my dad was like 'if you want anything, you're going to need good grades and be good in school.' I knew I needed to get good grades in order to play basketball."

In high school, Smith studied as much as he could, trying to do anything to not land in a jail cell.

"My freshman year I made the National Honor Society and honor roll, same thing with my sophomore and junior years," he said. "My mom and dad always said that if I didn't get good grades I would end up like my friends. That motivated me to stay on the right track."

After high school was over, Smith was looking for a place to call home and play basketball collegiately.

"Back in high school, I had a few division one schools looking at me, and I signed my letter to play at a junior-college down in Texas, but a handful of my friends decided to come here (Mount Marty) to play basketball," Smith said. "And basically, they ended up not coming here."

After a couple wrong turns, Smith was the only of his four friends that ended up making it to Mount Marty College.

"Initially, after my friends decided not to come, I didn't want to come to South Dakota, but after I took time to think about it, they got me to come up here and play," he said.



Mount Marty guard Bud Smith, 10, drives to the basket during a recent home game. The St. Louis native is a captain and leading scorer for the Lancers in their first season under Coach Andrew Baker.

School at Mount Marty had just started and Smith was read to make an impact immediately for then-head coach Jim Thorson and his staff.

"It just so happens that I didn't make the varsity squad my freshman year, I made the team, but I was so caught up in this spread offense," he said. "I was one of the better players, I was just caught up in trying to go back home and not focusing."

According to Smith, his freshman year of college was one of the lowest moments of his life.

"My freshman year I had a lot of growing up to do," Smith said. "I was getting in trouble a lot, hanging out with the wrong crowd, I was always homesick. I wasn't going to class. Ever since my grandma passed and one of my best of friends got killed that year, he got shot in the head like four times; I was going through a lot. I had to grow up and mature to deal with the situations."

After becoming academically ineligible to play the second half of his freshman year, Smith, one of eight children, had a few decisions to make.

"I could have said 'man forget school, just go home and do what my friends do,'" Smith said. "I talked to my dad, got motivated and got my grades up."

During his sophomore campaign, only a year ago, is when things turned around

for Smith in Yankton.

"I got my grades up my sophomore year, last year was my first full year with the squad," Smith said.

season under the helm as Lancers head coach.

"One of the things we're trying to build here at Mount Marty is that we want to have

also just tell him what he did and he understands exactly what he did wrong. It's easy to coach him, he comes to practice ready to go. He

**"Not everyone gets the chance to play college basketball, but if you get a second opportunity to come back, I knew I would be able to help this team."**

**BUD SMITH**

Another tough decision faced Smith as Mount Marty College decided to let go the coach that brought him into the navy and gold jersey.

During the offseason, after making the move to hire Andrew Baker, Smith decided to stick with the school that stuck by him during his struggle.

"I felt like Baker was a good move because he's young and he would change some things," he said. "I know that we're struggling right now, but it's a work in progress. I knew Baker before he was the head coach. I knew I would get a lot of playing time being one of the guys they asked to come back. Not everyone gets the chance to play college basketball, but if you get a second opportunity to come back, I knew I would be able to help this team. Baker is so fiery and up-tempo. I felt a lot of excitement and was really intrigued when he became head coach."

Baker was able to make some executive decisions as coach who he wanted to bring back for his inaugural

good kids in our program and Bud is a very good kid," he said. "The other thing is Bud is very competitive, he is a guy who wants to win, and that's who I am. He isn't worried about himself or the stats, he simply wants to win. Having an older guy like that helps our team."

Coming into his junior season, this past fall, Bud was voted in as captain of the squad.

"Bud has made strides and understands his role. He is one of our premier guys when it comes to scoring and whatnot," Baker said. "He has been much more aggressive. It's been a change for him as well, we played him at the point guard position last season, and we moved him to the two guard this year. He's improved his outside shot, him being on the floor just makes us better."

Baker noted that he has an excellent relationship with Smith.

"Me and Bud have a good relationship, he's very coachable," Baker said. "He understands the game so well. I can get on Bud really hard, I can

BASKETBALL			
Men's 2013-14 Schedule			
Dec. 14	at Concordia	4 p.m.	
Dec. 17	vs. Ogallala College	6 p.m.	
Dec. 21	at Hastings	4 p.m.	
Dec. 30	vs. The Masters College-6	3:00 p.m.	
Dec. 31	vs. Arizona Christian*	8:30 p.m.	
Jan. 4	at Nebraska Wesleyan	4 p.m.	
Jan. 8	vs. Briar Cliff	8 p.m.	
Jan. 11	vs. Presentation	4 p.m.	
Jan. 15	at Dakota Wesleyan	8 p.m.	
Jan. 18	at Midland	4 p.m.	
Jan. 22	at Dordt	8 p.m.	
Jan. 25	vs. Doane	4 p.m.	
Jan. 29	vs. Northwestern	8 p.m.	
Feb. 1	vs. Concordia	4 p.m.	
Feb. 5	at Morningside	8 p.m.	
Feb. 8	vs. Hastings	4 p.m.	
Feb. 12	at Briar Cliff	8 p.m.	
Feb. 19	vs. Dakota Wesleyan	8 p.m.	
Feb. 22	vs. Nebraska Wesleyan	4 p.m.	

\*Phoenix, Ariz.

GPAC Tour. — Feb. 26-March 4

Baker also understands it's a work-in-progress with his team leader.

"He has made some improvements, he's becoming more vocal, but that's something we're working with him on," he said. "He has to understand that he's the oldest guy on the team, he's the leader, he was voted captain. All of those kinds of things show what kind of leader he can be. He is great at leading by example, we're just trying to work with him on being vocal and holding the same accountability for everyone else."

Smith is currently majoring in recreational management with a minor in business. However, he has added his own mix to his degree.

"I have a little twist to it, it's more of a sports management degree," he said. "I'd like to coach or even scout, some type of sports agent. I'd like to coach, though. My younger brother plays basketball, and I'd love to coach him."

According to Baker, you can find Smith always finding something to keep him busy during his free time.

"He has great work ethic, that's a quality in a human being that you can't teach," he said. "He's in the gym late at night, when we practice in the morning, he's there very late. When he's got down time I see him in the Cyber Cafe or the library studying. He's as competitive off the court as he is on the court; he wants to get good grades. That's the biggest thing; it's hard to teach work ethic. Between that and the will to succeed at life help him on and off of the court."

Something Smith wishes he would accomplish after his life in a Lancers jersey is success.

"A lifelong goal of mine is to be successful, I know a lot of people say that, but that's what I want to do. Whatever I chose to do, I want to be successful. Where I come from, very few people make it out. I just want to make my parents proud. At the end of the day I want to be able to say that I'm a hard worker and that I'm very dedicated and persistent."

It's safe to say that Bud Smith has made a home here in Yankton, SD.

"A lot of people ask me 'how do you live up in South Dakota?' I usually respond like 'It's a long story, but I like it up here,'" Smith said.

You can follow Nick Robinson on Twitter at [twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013](https://twitter.com/RobinsonNick2013). Discuss this story at [www.yankton.net](http://www.yankton.net).

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FREEMAN ACADEMY BOBCATS			
Boys' Basketball			
Dec. 13	at Alcester-Hudson	Jan. 24	at Centerville
Dec. 14	vs. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland	Jan. 28	vs. Ethan
Dec. 21	at Walthill, Neb.	Jan. 30	at Irene-Wakonda (I)
Dec. 23	at Andes Central	Feb. 4	vs. Marty Indian
Jan. 3	at Menno	Feb. 6	vs. Gayville-Volin
Jan. 11	vs. Mitchell Christian	Feb. 7	vs. Viborg-Hurley
Jan. 14	vs. Marion	Feb. 13-15	Dakota Plains Inv.
Jan. 18	Tri-Valley Classic (Alcester)		(at Marty)
Jan. 21	vs. Canistota	Feb. 17	at Marion
Jan. 23	vs. Baltic		
Girls' Basketball			
Dec. 13	at Alcester-Hudson	Jan. 28	vs. Ethan
Dec. 14	vs. Oldham-Ramona-Rutland	Jan. 30	at Irene-Wakonda (I)
Dec. 21	at Walthill, Neb.	Feb. 1	Tri-Valley Classic (Alcester)
Dec. 23	at Andes Central	Feb. 4	vs. Marty Indian
Jan. 3	at Menno	Feb. 6	vs. Gayville-Volin
Jan. 11	vs. Mitchell Christian	Feb. 7	vs. Viborg-Hurley
Jan. 14	vs. Marion	Feb. 13-15	Dakota Plains Inv.
Jan. 17	at Dakota Christian		(at Marty)
Jan. 23	vs. Baltic	Feb. 17	at Marion
Jan. 24	at Centerville	Feb. 18	vs. Canistota

FREEMAN FLYERS			
Boys' Basketball			
Dec. 13	at Viborg-Hurley (H)	Jan. 30	at Dakota Christian
Dec. 16	at Bon Homme	Feb. 3	at Scotland
Dec. 19	at Canistota	Feb. 7	vs. Howard
Jan. 7	vs. Alcester-Hudson	Feb. 8	Combell Classic (at Freeman)
Jan. 10	at Bridgewater-Emery (E)	Feb. 10	vs. Hanson
Jan. 17	at Marion	Feb. 13	vs. Corsica-Stickney
Jan. 21	vs. Centerville	Feb. 15	vs. Ethan
Jan. 23	vs. Menno	Feb. 17	at Irene-Wakonda (W)
Jan. 25	vs. DeSmet (at Madison)	Feb. 21	at Avon
Jan. 28	vs. McCook Cent.-Montrose	Feb. 27	vs. Parker
Girls' Basketball			
Dec. 10	vs. Parkston	Jan. 18	vs. Howard
Dec. 12	vs. Parker	Jan. 20	at Viborg-Hurley (V)
Dec. 20	vs. Canistota	Jan. 24	at Menno
Dec. 21	at Platte-Geddes	Jan. 27	vs. McCook Cent.-Montrose
Jan. 2	vs. Centerville	Feb. 3	vs. Marty Indian
Jan. 6	at Irene-Wakonda (W)	Feb. 4	vs. Scotland
Jan. 7	vs. Alcester-Hudson	Feb. 8	Combell Classic (at Freeman)
Jan. 9	vs. Bridgewater-Emery	Feb. 10	at Avon
Jan. 13	at Bon Homme	Feb. 11	at Hanson
Jan. 16	vs. Marion	Feb. 18	vs. Ethan
Wrestling (with Marion)			
Dec. 7	Kimball-White Lake-Platte-Geddes Tour.		Kimball
Dec. 10	Howard/Sioux Valley/Mt. Vernon-Plankinton-Corsica Quad		Volga
Dec. 12	Flandreau/Alcester-Hudson/Deuel Quad		Alcester
Dec. 14	Burke-Gregory Inv.		Gregory
Dec. 17	Parker/Bon Homme Tri.		Parker
Dec. 21	Titan Inv.		Plankinton
Jan. 4	McCook Central-Montrose Tour.		Salem
Jan. 11	Miller-Highmore-Harold Inv.		Miller
Jan. 18	Tri-Valley Tour.		Colton
Jan. 23	Flandreau/Beresford Tri.		Flandreau
Jan. 25	Kingsbury County Tour.		Arlington
Jan. 28	McCook Central-Montrose/Alcester-Hudson		Marion
Feb. 1	Wagner Inv.		Wagner
Feb. 4	Elk Point-Jefferson/Garretson/West Sioux Quad		Garretson
Feb. 14	Alcester-Hudson/Wagner Tri.		Wagner