

Sports

They Were Part of BC's Best Men's Basketball Teams. Now, the Players Worry the Program Forgot About Them.



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bcheights A group of former Boston College men's basketball players gathered at halftime in the Conte Forum function room during the Eagles' game against Georgia Tech on Feb. 27, 2016. They spent time catching up, reconnecting, and exchanging phone numbers.

John Oates, a three-year starter at BC from 2004–08 and one of the players in attendance, said he was thrilled to be back at his alma mater. But as the second half neared and players began to finish their meals, that attitude quickly soured when a representative from the program announced the players needed to leave the room.

Nobody took issue with the announcement, according to Oates. He said players, such as Jon Beerbohm, Louis Hinnant, and Biko Paris, were busy catching up and were taking their time to go back to the game.

"And they made another announcement like 'Guys, you really got to get back to your seats,'" Oates said. "And we're like, 'Totally, we're out of here, one sec.'" Oates said they were not fast enough for the staff's liking.

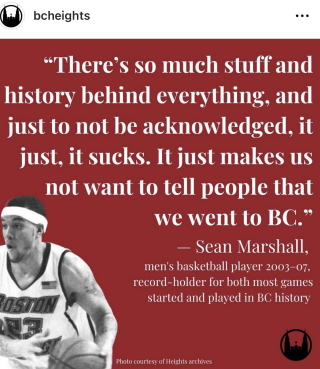
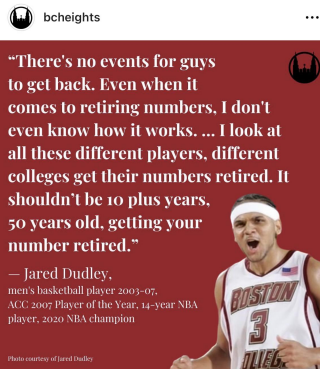
"The [Boston College Police Department] came in and they were like 'Everyone clear the room now!'" Oates said. "So yeah, we got kicked out of the room by the BCPD."

Oates is not alone in feeling disrespected by the program since graduating. Eight other former players—ranging from program greats to walk-ons from BC's 2000s teams—told *The Heights* that BC has failed to celebrate former players' accomplishments, rarely used players' connections to help the current program, and even ghosted them when they offered mentorship to the team throughout the past 10 years.

Read more at the link in our bio.

Story by Jack Bergamini and Sourabh Gokarn

Graphic by Paige Stein / Heights Editor



Twitter Reporting <https://twitter.com/HeightsSports/status/1653035397046489089>

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The Heights spoke to nine players from the Al Skinner men's basketball 2000s teams, many of whom expressed some level of dissatisfaction with their relationship with the program today, as many cited specific incidents of disrespect.

Read more here:

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Tyrese Rice (2005–09, fifth highest scorer in program history):

"If they really want to change something and if they really want to try to build something, they need to make an attempt to bring some of us back. Bring us back in there and let us work with some of those guys."

1 1 2 1,900

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Craig Smith (2002–06, program's all-time leading rebounder):

"We need to start building certain things towards the alumni, because we have some pretty strong alumni and some great guys that can actually help the program."

1 1 2 1,949

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Tyler Roche (2006–10, former team captain):

"This was such a big part of our life. Such a happy part of our life. So that's kind of the goal. We just wanna be part of it again."

1 2 1,168

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Things have improved under Earl Grant and Anthony Goins, some players said.

"He just wanted to build that relationship, because there was none with former players," Marshall said of Goins. "I've been in communication with him ever since, probably for the past year and a half."

1 2 1,373

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Athletics Director Blake James' response:

"The Boston College men's basketball program has a rich tradition of excellence and our men's basketball alumni serve as the foundation for that success." (1/2)

2 1,400

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"We are constantly looking for ways to cultivate and strengthen our relationship with our alumni base. I am always happy to meet with any former player to discuss our basketball program or answer any questions." (2/2)

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Read more about the players' experience and how they think their relationship with the program can improve here:

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2 1,476