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Liberty athletes going pro: Rashad Jennings drafted by NFL, Megan Frazee to join WNBA

June 01, 2009 | Eric Brown

Flames fans will have the opportunity this summer to see two Liberty University athletes begin their professional playing careers. In April, running back Rashad Jennings and Lady Flames Basketball senior guard Megan Frazee were drafted to the NFL and WNBA respectively, adding to the list of LU athletes to reach the pros.

On April 26, the Jacksonville Jaguars picked Jennings 250th overall in the 2009 NFL Draft, making him the first Flame chosen on draft day since Eric Green went 21st in 1990.

“It’s a childhood dream to go play in the National Football League,” Jennings said. “For fans, family and everyone else it’s like I finally accomplished it. For me, it’s just beginning.”

The Forest, Va., native ends his collegiate career at Liberty with 3,633 total rushing yards. In just three seasons, he racked up 278 points on 42 touchdowns, achieving school records in both statistical categories.

After transferring from the University of Pittsburgh to be closer to family, he helped Liberty achieve one of the nation’s best turnarounds in 2006. During the 2007 and 2008 seasons, Jennings’ explosive running attack guided the Flames to back-to-back Big South Championships.

Jennings is already familiar with his new head coach Jack Del Rio, having played under the Jaguars' skipper during the 2009 Under Armour Senior Bowl. Just one day after learning where he would begin his NFL career, the running back expressed much enthusiasm in having another opportunity to work with Del Rio.

"He wants to play physical football, and I think I'll fit that mold for [the Jaguars]," Jennings said. "I got a chance to meet the whole coaching staff, and I really liked them all. I'm just excited to go down there and work for them."



Like Jennings, Frazee is also headed south. With the 14th pick in the 2009 WNBA Draft, the San Antonio Silver Stars selected the guard on April 9. Frazee's selection came as no surprise, as she averaged 19.8 points and 9.9 rebounds this past season, leading the Lady Flames to their 12th Big South Conference title in 13 years.

"I'm very thankful that I'm going to San Antonio," she said. "I know they've got a really good program going on down there, not just basketball, but with the [players] and how they act off the court."

Frazee will join former Lady Flames associate head coach Olaf Lange in San Antonio. After coaching at Liberty from 2005-07, Lange now serves as a Silver Stars assistant under head coach Dan Hughes.

"We're aware and know of a lot of the coaches and the programs in the WNBA, but probably none more than San Antonio," Lady Flames Head Coach Carey Green stated. "We feel like their administration, their front office and their coaching staff will be a good fit for Megan and we're excited for both parties."

Frazee is the second Lady Flame to reach the WNBA. In 2005, former Liberty center Katie (Feenstra) Mattera was drafted eighth by the Connecticut Sun before being traded to the Silver Stars on draft day.

Frazee leaves Liberty as the No. 2 scorer and third leading rebounder in school history, tallying 1,833 points and 951 boards. She also holds school records for career double-doubles (50), consecutive

double-figure scoring games (68) and career free throw percentage (.805/417-518). After an accomplished collegiate career, Frazee is now looking forward to playing in the Alamo City.

“I feel like Liberty has done a good job in preparing me to go out into the world,” she said. “I’m ready to go out there and be a light for Him and I’m excited to see what happens.”