

SPORTS / GENERAL

The Los Angeles Lakers Have Signed Scotty Pippen Jr. and Shaq's Son, Shareef O'Neal



Nationwide — Shareef O'Neal and Scotty Pippen Jr., the sons of former NBA legends, have recently signed two-way contracts with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Shareef, who is 22-years old, is the son of Lakers icon Shaquille O'Neal who played in the NBA from 1992 to 2010. Scotty, Jr., who is 21-years-old, is the son of six-time

NBA champion Scottie Pippen who played in the NBA from 1987 to 1999.

Shareef is a 6-foot-10 power forward who previously played at LSU. He struggled during his last season due to his health and some injuries. Shareef even revealed his father wanted him to just stay in school because of his condition. Still, he

pushed through and will start playing for the Lakers in next month's Summer League.

Meanwhile, Scotty had played for Vanderbilt's Commodores for the past 3 years. He was initially undrafted in both rounds of the NBA Draft but eventually received a call from the Lakers.

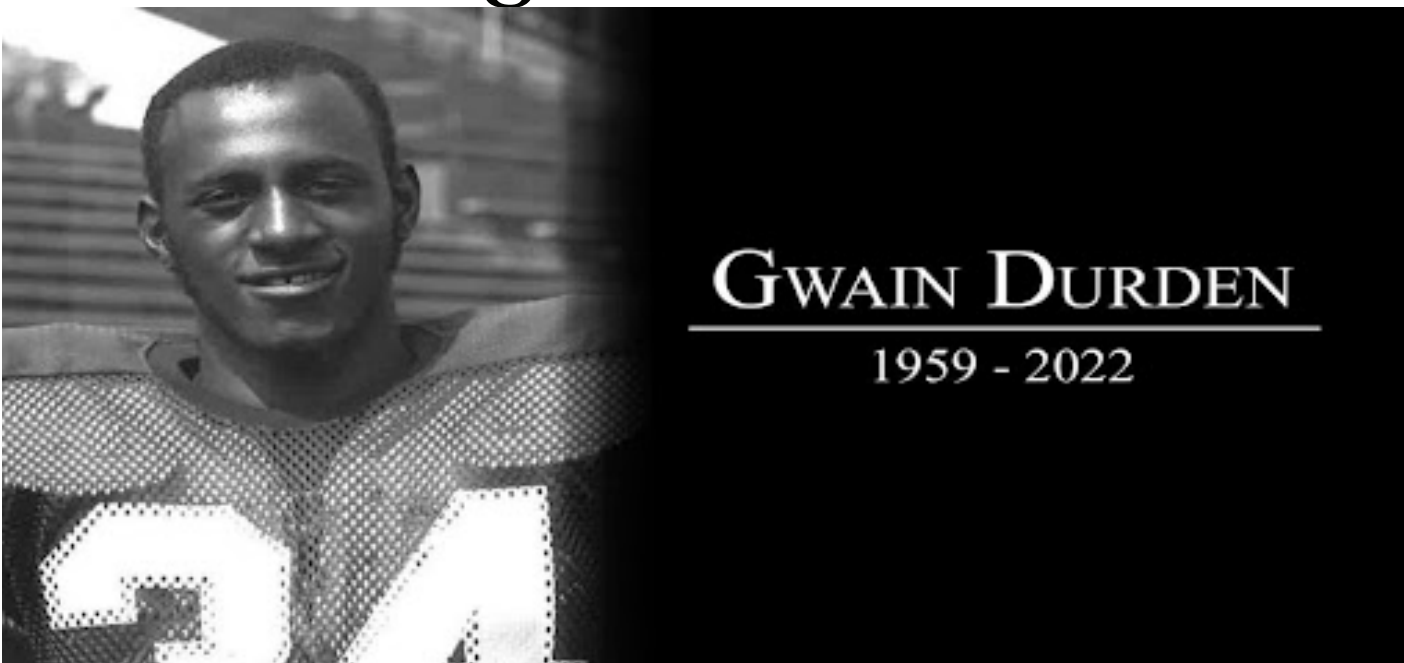
The two players expressed their

excitement on Twitter after signing the deal.

"Thank you for this opportunity," Shareef said, along with a throwback video of his young self wearing a Lakers jersey.

"Dream come true. Let's get to work #lakeshow," Scotty wrote.

Chattanooga Moc Gwain Durden Passes



GWAIN DURDEN

1959 - 2022

CHATTANOOGA---Gwain Durden, the Chattanooga Mocs second-leading rusher all-time, passed away last week at the age of 62. Durden (1959-2022) most recently resided in Vidalia, Ga.

He burst onto the scene in 1977

with a 1,000-yard freshman campaign. Durden and fellow freshman Mike Smith Combined for 2,112 yards that initial tour of the Southern Conference with 1,045 coming from the native of Lyons, Ga., starring at Reidsville High

School. They still rank as the only freshman pair in DI history to both run for 1,000 yards in the same season. It has not been done in either FBS or FCS since Division I split in 1978 into those common monikers of today.

The duo amassed 7,026 yards over their four years together leading the Mocs to a 33-9-2 mark and three straight SoCon titles in 1977, 1978 and 1979. Durden finished his career as the school's all-time leading rusher with 3,686 yards. It was later eclipsed by current tight ends coach and former quarterback Jacob Huesman in 2015 finishing with 4,051 rushing yards. Durden ranks 31st all-time in NCAA Division I history with 6.8 career yards per carry. That's among impressive company finishing three spots ahead of Barry Sanders (Oklahoma State).

Durden was named to the Mocs' All-Century team in 2003. He was inducted into the UTC Athletics Hall of Fame in 1988. A story on his life can be found here. His family is hosting a visitation Friday, July 15, from 5-7 p.m., at Vidalia Funeral Home. The funeral service is Saturday at 2 p.m., at the First African Baptist Church, also in Vidalia.

Medical-Debt: from front

small, new or recently-paid-off medical debts stand to gain the most from the changes.

The study listed Chattanooga as number 18 out of the 182 cities ben-

efiting most from medical-debt credit report changes. Norfolk, Va. was identified as number 1 on the list; New York, N.Y. was at the bottom at number 182.

The changes to how medical debt is reported by the three major credit bureaus are: from July 1 onward,

all medical debt in collections that was eventually paid off will be removed from people's credit report history; from July 1 onward, new unpaid medical debts will not appear on credit reports for a full year to give people time to pay them off without hurting their score; and start-

ing in the first half of 2023, medical debts of \$500 or less will no longer appear on credit reports. (Source: Chattanooga Is the City with the 18th Greatest Benefit from Medical-Debt Credit Report Changes – WalletHub Study July 2022)

SkillsUSA: from pg 4

interviewing with the judges. Their résumé and portfolio are used during their interviews.

MEDICAL ASSISTING: Tara Grimes of Tracy City, Gold

Tested on their skills in the clinical and administrative setting and judged on speed, use of correct safety measures and ability to interact personally with the patient(s). The contestants are judged on general office skills, communication skills, patient education, knowledge of anatomy and physiology, knowledge of medical terminology, instruments, medical equipment, as well as on procedures and techniques found in an ambulatory medical office or clinic. Contestants are given a scenario which requires action; they should be able to read the scenario, assess the supplies/equipment and/or situation in a short period of time and perform a skill required for that situation within the given time limit. Documentation, grammar, correct pronunciation and spelling count in all stations.

INTERNET OF THINGS – SMART HOME: Matthew Deckman of Ooltewah, Silver

Test each contestant's preparation

for employment and to recognize outstanding students for excellence and professionalism in the field of home technology integration. The contest is made up of multiple stations where the contestants will be judged and scored on the following skills and knowledge: Installation of "smart home" residential products including items such as bulbs, thermostats, locks, alarms, sensors, cameras, speakers, a home theater system; computer networking; video security equipment and construction of the various cables used at each of the stations. A written test includes Computer Networking Fundamentals, Audio and Video Fundamentals, Home Security and Surveillance Systems, Telecommunications Standards, Structured Wiring (Low Voltage & High voltage, and Systems Integration) and IoT products.

JOB SKILL DEMO – OPEN: Liz Zapata Obregon of Wildwood, GA, Silver

Contestants demonstrate and explain an entry-level skill used in an occupational area outside of their training program. Any technical skill may be demonstrated, from outside the training program of the participant.

QUIZ BOWL: Alisha Holland-Fra-

zier, Ashlyn West, Denzel Monfort, and Nathan Whitten of Chattanooga; Andrew Orr of Harrison; Erik Van Daley and Timothy Kerley of Dayton, Silver

A team of five competitors are tested on their ability to quickly respond to questions covering the areas of academic knowledge, SkillsUSA Career Essentials knowledge and current events. The competitors also demonstrate communications, time management, team-working and problem-solving skills. The teams receive one point for a correct answer and lose a point for each incorrect answer. The preliminary and final rounds are 100 questions each.

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES: Amy Salazar of Hixson; Di-Marco Haire, Jacob King, Jerry Fuget, and Shyanne Geathers of Chattanooga; Jacob Gross and Josh Osterhaus of Soddy-Daisy, Bronze

A teamwork and oral presentation contest that evaluates teams' understanding of the symbolic representation of the colors and assembled parts of the SkillsUSA emblem. Each team includes seven registered members in the roles of president, vice president, parliamentarian, reporter, treasurer, secretary and historian.

Chattanooga TCAT Dean Jessica Green says that the students who enroll in the TCAT division of Chattanooga State are a special group of students. "They have chosen to enroll in a full-time program to pursue an education with a particular job in mind, and most do this while caring for their families and working full-time," noted Ms. Green. "What they accomplish is impressive and to take on the additional work required for SkillsUSA is even more impressive. We are proud of each and every one of the students that participated in SkillsUSA and feel that the national recognition of some of them is a reflection of the great education and training our students are getting at Chattanooga State."

Advisors to these winning students included Diane Jasper, LeShundria Nelson, Nancy Draper, Mike Mercer, Rex Weeks, Tiffany Hammond, and Cynthia Rutledge.

For more information on SkillsUSA and Chattanooga TCAT programs available, please plan to attend the TCAT Open House on Wednesday, July 20 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., visit chattanooga-gastate.edu/tcat or call (423) 697-4433.