

EARL CURETON

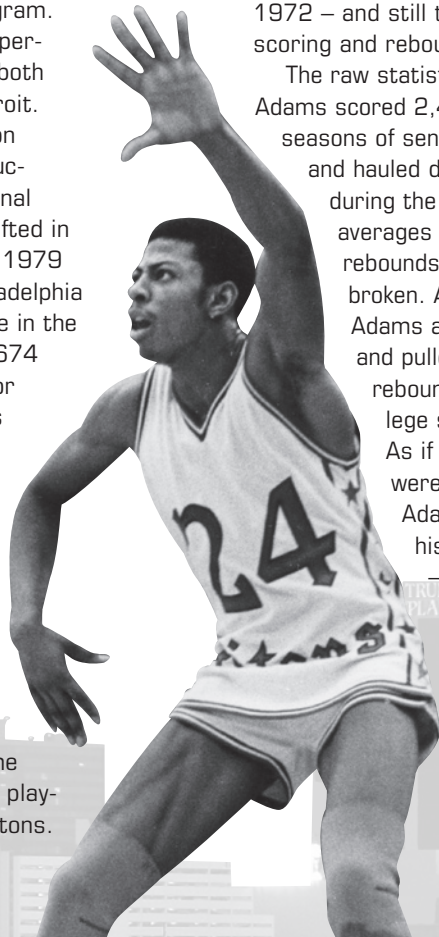
**University of Detroit Mercy
Player (1978-80)**

He might have only played two seasons for the red, white, and blue, but Earl Cureton left a lasting impression on the Detroit men's basketball program, both on and off the court.

He played two seasons in the Motor City after transferring from Robert Morris College. While with the Titans, Detroit posted a 36-19 record and Cureton was a major reason for the Titans' success. Cureton, who earned the nickname "The Twirl" for his great spin move, helped the team to a 22-6 record and a NCAA Tournament appearance in 1979 after posting 11.7 points and 9.0 rebounds per game. A year later, Cureton was the main man in the middle as the center topped the squad by averaging 19.9 ppg and 9.1 rpg.

A defensive intimidator, Cureton left the Titans among the school's leaders in career blocks (79) and blocks in a single season as he tallied 47 in his senior campaign. During his four-year collegiate career, Cureton amassed 1,716 career points, including 865 as a member of the Titans' program. He also shot over 50 percent from the field in both of his seasons at Detroit.

Cureton would go on to a lengthy and productive 12-year professional career after being drafted in the third round of the 1979 NBA Draft by the Philadelphia 76ers. During his time in the NBA, he appeared in 674 games while playing for seven teams, and was a member of two championship teams, winning the title with Philadelphia in 1983 and the Houston Rockets in 1994. His best NBA season came in 1986 as he averaged 8.6 points and 6.3 rebounds per game in his hometown while playing for the Detroit Pistons.



In 2007, Cureton was enshrined in the Titan Hall of Fame and is still an active member in the Detroit athletic department as he is involved in Titan broadcasts as a color analyst for FOX Sports Detroit.

All for a guy who grew up in the city of Detroit, starring at Finney High School before embarking on his collegiate and pro careers. He also coached in the WNBA for the Detroit Shock and the Charlotte Sting.

GEORGE ADAMS

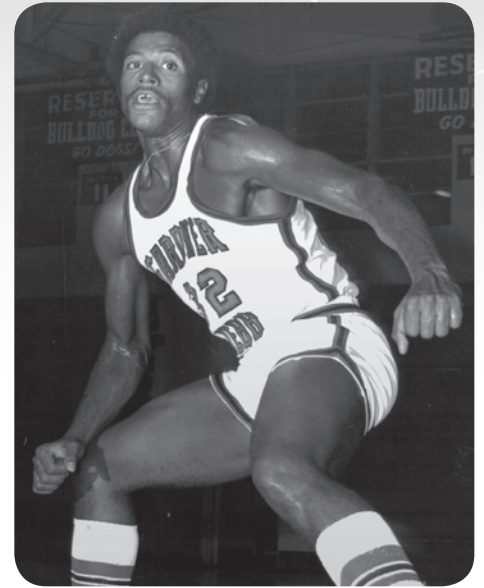
**Gardner-Webb University
Player (1969-72)**

Gardner-Webb legend George Adams finished his career with the Runnin' Bulldogs as one of the greatest players to step onto the court in Boiling Springs, and remains a luminary in the program's rich hardwood tradition.

The Kings Mountain, N.C., native played for Gardner-Webb from 1969-1972, helping the program successfully transition from the junior college to senior college level. He earned first-team NAIA All-America honors twice – in 1971 and 1972 – and still tops the school's career scoring and rebounding lists.

The raw statistics are hard to ignore. Adams scored 2,404 points in just three seasons of senior college competition and hauled down 1,113 rebounds during the same period. His career averages of 31.2 points and 14.4 rebounds per game may never be broken. A high-flying 6-5 forward, Adams averaged 26.9 points and pulled down almost 400 rebounds during his junior college season at Gardner-Webb. As if the dominant numbers weren't impressive enough, Adams went about posting his scoring totals efficiently – shooting at a 60.3 percent clip for his career (987-of-1,638).

Former NBA player Eddie Lee Wilkins (1980-1984) came the closest to eclipsing Adams' career



totals, falling 43 points and 10 rebounds shy. The impressive factor in Adams holding onto the top spot is the fact that he made his mark in just three seasons.

He also still holds single-game records for scoring (57 points), rebounding (26), and field goals (24). He averaged a school-record 34.3 points per game in 1971-72, scoring 986 points to lead the Runnin' Bulldogs to a 31-5 record. He also averaged a school-record 15.2 rebounds per game that year (407 boards).

Adams, who was inducted into the Gardner-Webb Hall of Fame with its inaugural class in 1991, remains at the top of the list in seven of the 10 major career statistical categories in the GWU record book nearly 40 seasons after his career came to an end at the school.

Adams was drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks in the third round of the 1972 draft (46th overall) and went on to play with the San Diego Conquistadors in the American Basketball Association. Adams scored 1,652 points, pulled down 873 rebounds, and dished out 317 assists during his career with the Conquistadors, which spanned 1972-1975.

In 2009, Adams was inducted into the Cleveland County (N.C.) Sports Hall of Fame. He is also one of only four men to have his men's basketball jersey retired at Gardner-Webb. The other three are Artis Gilmore (1967-1969), John Drew (1972-1974), and Wilkins (1980-1984).