



Famous dads Glen Rice, Tim Hardaway watch anxiously as sons play at Legends Classic in Atlantic City

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By SUSAN LULGJURAJ, Staff Writer | Posted: Saturday, November 27, 2010

ATLANTIC CITY - Glen Rice Sr. squirmed in his seat at Boardwalk Hall on Friday night. He moved slightly one way and then another.

The former NBA star didn't show much reaction in the first half of Georgia Tech's 71-61 win over Texas-El Paso in the Legends Classic semifinals.

But as the game went on, Rice was on his feet like any other proud parent. Glen Rice Jr. finished with his first career double-double for the Yellow Jackets, scoring 19 points and grabbing 11 rebounds.

"This is the opportunity I get to kind of step into coaching mode from my seat here," said Rice, who sat three rows from the court. "I'm always trying to move for him out there. When I see he's about to make a mistake, I try to will my influence for him. It hasn't worked yet, but I won't give up."

Georgia Tech will play No. 9 Syracuse in the championship game at Boardwalk Hall tonight. That game will follow the 5:30 p.m. consolation game between Michigan and UTEP.

Rice Sr. finally jumped out of his seat Friday with 17 minutes, 58 seconds left in the game. His son dunked while being fouled and hit the ensuing free throw to put the Yellow Jackets up 38-37. Rice Sr. high-fived the people around him.

He didn't sit for long, either.

A minute later, Rice Jr. hit teammate Jason Morris for an alley-oop, and Rice Sr. pointed at his son.

"It's fun seeing him out there playing," Rice Sr. said. "I try and tell him all the time, just go out there and work as hard as you can. When you do that, good things will happen."

Rice Jr. could have followed his dad to Michigan. The elder Rice led Michigan to the national championship in 1989, earning Most Outstanding Player honors in the tournament. He was the fourth pick in the 1989 NBA draft by the Miami Heat.

Michigan already has three sons of former NBA players, but Rice Jr. wanted to make his own way at a school that didn't add any more pressure that came with his name.

"You always want your kid to go to the same school you went to, but I understand," said Rice Sr., who visited with the Michigan team on Thursday night. "If he would have went there, it would have been a tremendous amount of pressure. I'm not saying he wouldn't have lived up to it. The choice he made is a great choice."

Another former Miami Heat star, Tim Hardaway, is one of three ex-NBA players with sons on Michigan's team. Friday was the first time Hardaway witnessed his son, Tim Jr., play for the Wolverines in person.

But he watches on television, and the nerves build from thousands of miles away in his Miami home.

"I always get nervous when I watch," Hardaway Sr. said. "My hands start to sweat. I want him to do well and learn from his mistakes. I'm going to keep my mouth closed and just watch the game."

Michigan will face UTEP in today's consolation game, leaving Hardaway Sr. facing a conundrum. He went to UTEP.

Even though he wore a Michigan shirt on Friday night, for tonight's game he plans to wear all black. He said he won't root for any team.

"If they play together, I'm going to become neutral," Hardaway Sr. said.

Rice Sr. wasn't as unbiased. He already knew what he would do if his son had wound up playing against Michigan.

"We already tried to rehearse what I would say and how I would react if Michigan and Georgia Tech went out and played one another," Rice said. "I hope my son does well, but I've got to pull for Michigan. That's where my heart lies."

Rice sat in one corner of Boardwalk Hall on Friday, and Hardaway sat on the opposite side of the arena.

Those two played in the NBA at the same time, along with Tito Horford and Joe Dumars, who sons Jon and Jordan, respectively, play for Michigan.

Now, their sons are in the spotlight.

"We all realize that our sons are pretty good and they're playing with very talented teammates," Rice Sr. said. "We want them to be in a position where they've got to go up against the best. No fear."

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