

March 12, 2009

Impact Sports
ATTN: Aaron Foreman
47109 Sorrel Drive
Lexington Park, MD 20653

Dear Coach Foreman,

I want to thank you for helping my daughter Ashley Lindsey and myself with the long college and NCAA Clearing House process which helped her to be eligible to play Division I and II Basketball. It was awesome when you took many students from our Tri-County area to North Carolina with official transcripts so they would have the opportunity to be accepted on the spot to colleges. You always encourage all students to go college and further their education.

I'm grateful that you have a lot of important point of contacts at many college and universities and for giving me the tryout information for the Women's Basketball Coach at Claflin University. I value your knowledge and wisdom and appreciate you encouraging me to send game tapes, newspaper clippings, etc to the head coach and to drive my daughter to the school on April 19, 2008 to tryout for the team. You were very instrumental in my daughter receiving a full athletic scholarship to play basketball at Claflin University in Orangeburg, SC.

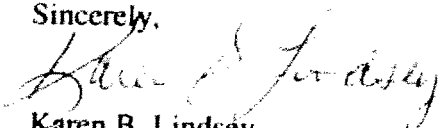
You have also been an inspiration and big help to my son Jerry Lindsey, Jr. (LJ). He really enjoyed playing on your AAU football team this past season and is anxious to be on your team again. You always emphasize to my son and others to do well in school and then on the field. You're a mentor and father figure to my son and his teammates, and you're continuously helping young men and women to believe in themselves, help others to strive to be better and encourage them to also attend college, to be productive citizens, and you also groom these students to be great men, women and leaders.

I would also like to thank you for helping our family (Smith Family) through a difficult time when my cousin William Smith, Jr. was tragically killed at Becker College on September 21, 2008. Many students called and sent you text messages all day and night and you were there to talk to them and pray with them and for them. You made sure that the coach, player(s) and students who came to his Homegoing arrived and departed safely. You were also instrumental in arranging a basketball shootout this April in honor of William Smith, Jr. known as Will for college coaches to recruit players from our area and for all of these things were are extremely grateful. The Impact Sports program, yourself and your wife has been an inspiration to us all.

Thank you for all you have done for my daughter, my son and my entire family and all of our students.

May God continue to bless you and your family so you may continue to be a blessing to others.

Sincerely,


Karen B. Lindsey

Lindsey heading to Claflin

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

When Ashley Lindsey began playing basketball at an early age, she hoped it might one day lead to a college scholarship.

In late May, that dream came true for the Great Mills senior, as she signed a letter of intent to play basketball for Claflin University in Orangeburg, S.C. Lindsey earned a full scholarship to play at the Division II school.

“That’s actually what I’ve been banking on my entire life,” said Lindsey, of her scholarship opportunity. “I’ve been trying, wanting, wishing, dreaming of it. I was very excited because that is what I’ve always wanted.”

Lindsey chose Claflin after being impressed with the Panthers coaching staff. She plans to major in communications and hopes to someday work in radio, preferably sports, and said Claflin’s academic record was a huge influence in her decision to join the Panthers.

“At first, I was into the whole TV-video production part,” said Lindsey. “But now I think I’ll go into radio broadcasting. I like radio more.”



Lindsey will join a program in Claflin that has quickly established itself as a force in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. Last season, the women’s basketball team was a provisional member of the conference, as Claflin joined only four



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Staff photo by REID SILVERMAN

Megan Matheny and Ashley Lindsey signed their letter of intents to continue their basketball careers on May 21. Sitting: Julie Paul, Matheny’s mother, left, Megan Matheny, Ashley Lindsey and Karen Lindsey, Lindsey’s mother. Standing: Great Mills High School athletic director Brenda Henley, left, Great Mills High School principal Tracey Heibel, Richard Matheny, Matheny’s father, Great Mills head girls basketball coach Brian Weisner, Great Mills assistant girls basketball coach Jim Dicus and Pax River Silver Stars coach William Powell.

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as Claffin joined only four years ago. But if the team had been a full member, the Panthers would have finished with the second best record in the conference.

“I’m very, very excited to work with them,” said Lindsey, who used to sleep with a basketball when she was a child. “The head coach, coach [Miriam Walker-] Samuels, is very strong. She doesn’t take any crap. She wants you to do well, but to learn how to do it on your own.”

Lindsey will take her own winning tradition with her to Claffin. The Hornets are currently the two-time defending SMAC champions and won their first regional title since 1990 last season. The senior played every position throughout her time with the Hornets, but was told by the Panthers coaching staff that she will primarily be used as either a shooting guard or forward when she reaches Orangeburg.



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“It’s something that we had been working on since we were freshmen,” said Lindsey, of her team’s recent success and of leaving on top. “It feels good. There are really no words to explain it — you have to experience it.”

Claffin is the oldest historically black college in the state of South Carolina and was the first college in the state to admit students regardless of race or gender.

For Lindsey and her mother, Karen, going to a school like Claffin, ranked as the seventh best historically black college by U.S. News and World Report, is a big accomplishment.

“I definitely wanted a top notch educational school,” said Lindsey. “To get that and to have it be historically black was a major plus.”

Orangeburg is over eight hours away from Great Mills by car, but Lindsey and her mother both say they aren’t worried about the distance. Lindsey grew up in Puerto Rico and moved to Southern Maryland in 1999, so living away from the area shouldn’t be a problem.

“In a way, I am nervous because I won’t have my mom to wake me up in the morning and I can’t just go down the street to see my cousins and my aunts,” said Lindsey. “But for the most part, I’m just excited to get away and try something new.”

Lindsey’s mother said she was initially concerned about the distance. But after speaking with some family and friends from the area, her tensions were eased.

“I think it’s a great decision,” said the elder Lindsey. “I think she’ll have a nice blend of culture and a great education. ... I have faith in God that she will be looked over. I think she’ll do well.”