

## 'Boo' returns for Blast

By [LEE LAMBERTS](#)

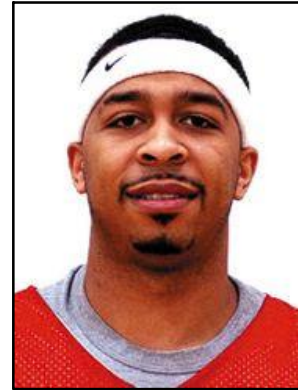
James "Boo" Jackson missed a free throw Wednesday night in the Holland Blast's Red-White scrimmage.

That's not major news in the sports world, but it did signal an important event for the Holland Blast.

Blast head coach Terry Smith succinctly proclaimed "Boo's back!"

Jackson was one of the mainstays a year ago for the Holland Blast, the Tulip City's International Basketball League team.

Jackson, out of Eastern Michigan University, averaged 21 points and 12 rebounds per game for the Blast in 2006 as the team had a 14-8 record in its inaugural season.



"I've been moving around a little bit since last year," Jackson said. "I went to the CBA (Continental Basketball Association) and the ABA (American Basketball Association) ... wherever I could go to play ball and do what I do best.

"I kind of couldn't wait to come back to the IBL. It didn't take a lot to get me to come back here. I got various calls from different IBL teams, but I told them that Holland had the first opportunity to get me."

Jackson said he turned down "at least four overseas calls" so he could be close enough to home where his parents, who live in the Detroit area, could watch him.

Jackson said that a couple of the other IBL teams wanted to sign him as part of a package deal that would have included Jared Bledsoe and Dennis Springs, Holland's two leading scorers a year ago.

"We were all holding out to see where everybody decided to go, and we decided we would come back here," Jackson said.

Jackson will be in uniform Friday night when the Blast have their season opener, a home game at the Holland Civic Center against league newcomer Chicago Heights.

Smith said cuts would be made today to finalize the roster.

Smith got a look at his players in game situations at the scrimmage.

Jackson and fellow frontcourt players Duane Bosma (Hope College) and Dominick Melton had their game faces on. So did Ronald Ferguson, a Holland High grad who displayed both quickness and a jumping ability he seldom got to display during his prep days.

Jackson was the center of attention, though. He said he's ready.

"First game Friday," he said, "I'm going to get a double-double."