



Gary adds Hammond native to 2008 roster

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PRO BASKETBALL | GARY STEELHEADS

You watch DeAnthony Bowden fly up and down the court as if his uniform is on fire, attack the basket with a freakish 43-inch vertical and dive for loose balls even with the game safely in hand.

No matter the opponent, the league, or the town he's playing in, the former Creighton University star never takes his foot off the pedal.

"My mother, Linda, passed in April of 2006. We lost her to liver cancer. She was only 49," Bowden said. "Gosh, I miss her. She's still my driving force.

"Every town, every game, I keep her obituary in my locker. I know she's watching from above, and is happy for me."

The 6-foot-2 guard is a Hammond native, attending Morton High School his freshman year before moving to Arkansas with Linda. He'll be returning to the Region in late March as a new member of the Gary Steelheads, who are preparing for their inaugural season in the International Basketball League.

Bowden must first complete his CBA season with the Oklahoma Cavalry.

"My grandmother's still there. My girlfriend. My son. My father. Everybody's still in Hammond," Bowden said by phone Wednesday from Butte, Mont. "I'm excited to be coming home. I actually played 11 games last season in the IBL. Any point guard would

love to be able to get up and down the floor and score at will, like they do.

"I finished third in scoring last year at 32 points per game. It's definitely a guard's league. If there's gonna be some big guys, they're gonna have to get up and down the floor."

As a kid, Bowden fondly recalled the many pickup games at area parks with Tyray Pearson, Batiste Haywood and Keith Herron -- all former Hammond High stars who remain friends to this day.

At Creighton, he was teamed with 3-point phenom Kyle Korver, now with the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bowden has had several NBA workouts, including with the Sacramento Kings, the Seattle SuperSonics and the Atlanta Hawks, and has performed well in the NBA Developmental League as well.

"There's a lot of things that players will say they do better than everybody else. The thing I bring every night is the one thing I can control -- I play hard," Bowden said. "You're not gonna make jump shots every game, you might miss a couple of free throws, and you might have a few turnovers. Those are things you can't control.

"But every time you walk out on that floor, you control how hard you play and how hard you defend."