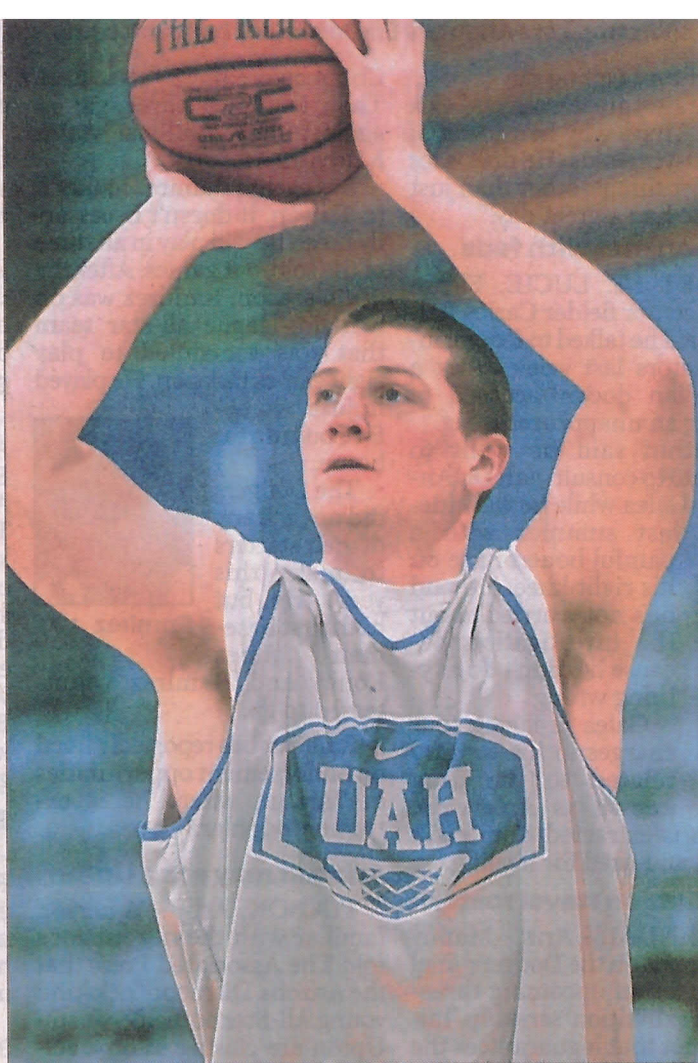




Eric Schultz/The Huntsville Times

Jaime Smith, above, and Zane Campbell, right, are two reasons UAH is 21-5 this season.



# YOUNG GUNS

## Pair of redshirt freshmen paying dividends at UAH

By Reggie Benson

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This time last year, Zane Campbell and Jaime Smith were spectators. Despite star-studded high school careers, University of Alabama-Huntsville basketball coach Lennie Acuff elected to redshirt Campbell and Smith.

After the way they've played of late, Acuff looks like a genius.

"Jaime and Zane have really shined the last month," Acuff said. "We thought they were going to be special and it's played out that

## UAH men's top five scorers

Name	Class	Pos.	Games	Starts	Pts.	Avg.
Zane Campbell	Fr.	F	26	7	297	11.4
Cody Jones	Sr.	F	23	19	255	11.1
Josh Magette	So.	G	26	26	262	10.1
Jaime Smith	Fr.	G	26	3	262	10.1
Tyler Hanback	Jr.	G	26	26	223	8.6

way."

Campbell and Smith have played big roles in UAH's run to its first Gulf South Conference East Division title since 2003 and they have the Chargers (21-5) in position to reach the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2006.

"We really want to win the GSC tournament," said Campbell, who was named the GSC East Division Freshman of the Year on Tuesday. "UAH has never

won it. It's something we really want to do."

The play of Campbell and Smith hasn't surprised Acuff.

"Last year, we'd come off the road and they'd be calling us to meet us at the gym so they could shoot at 1 or 2 in the morning," he said. "When you've got guys that want to work and they've got ability, that's a pretty good combination. We sure have seen the fruit of that this year."

The Chargers have a chance to win their first GSC tournament because of the emergence of Campbell and Smith.

A former West Limestone High standout, Campbell was forced into action after Christmas during the West Florida Classic when Cody Jones went down with an ankle injury. He led UAH in scoring the next three games and has been terrific ever since.

"I was real nervous because I didn't know how I would do," said Campbell, who is averaging 16.2 points per game over the last 14 games after averaging just 5.8 through his first 12 games. "I was scared I wouldn't be able to hold the load, but once I got through

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