Joel Berry II signs with Los Angeles Lakers

Alongside teammate, Theo Pinson, Joel Berry II did not get drafted in the 2018 NBA Draft. But that did not end his basketball career. Joel Berry II signed with the Los Angeles Lakers just a day after the draft. The former NCAA Champion and Final Four Most Outstanding Player will be taking his talents to the west coast.

Joel Berry has progressed every year at UNC Chapel Hill. In his sophomore season, he was the ACC Tournament MVP. In his junior season, he was a Second team all-ACC selection, NCAA South Region All-Tournament team selection, Final Four Most Outstanding Player, Bob Cousy Award Finalist and USBWA All-district selection. For his senior season, he was a first team all-ACC selection, NABC All-district selection, third team NABC All-American selection, Bob Cousy Award Finalist, USBWA All-district selection, and James A. Sullivan Award finalist. He has helped the tar heels to become back to back ACC Regular Season Champions and 2017 ACC Tournament Champions. With his leadership, the tar heels have gone to the NCAA National Championship Game in back to back seasons in 2016 and 2017.

Despite falling short before the Final Four, Berry II made a name for himself in his senior season. He averaged 17.1 points per game, 3.5 rebounds per game, 1.2 steals per game, and .344 three-point percentage. He led the ACC in free throw percentage (89%), which is the second highest in UNC history. He was fourth in threes per game, and sixth in scoring in the ACC just this past season. Berry II led the team in made three pointers (93) which is the fourth most in UNC history. With averaging 2.58 threes per game, he marked himself tied for fourth for highest in UNC single season history. He was second on the team in defensive player of the game awards (9). Also, Berry II has been there for the tar heels in clutch times by hitting game winners against Wake Forest, Notre Dame, and Syracuse.

After scoring 22 points against Gonzaga in the 2017 NCAA National Championship, his No.2 jersey will be honored in the Smith Center rafters. He is the only tar heel to earn all-Final Four honors in two seasons (2016 and 2017). He is one of seven players to score 20 or more points in consecutive national championship games. He is one of four tar heels to finish with 1800 points and assists, and one of two tar heels to finish with 1800 points, 400 rebounds, and 400 assists. He is top 15 in points and assists in UNC history.

The Apopka native has been successful since his high school days. The three-time Gatorade Player of the Year and three-time Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Basketball led Lake Highland Prep to two state championship titles. He was the tournament MVP as a senior and 4A Player of the Year. He played in the McDonalds All-American Game, Nike Hoop Summit, and was invited to the Jordan Brand Classic. Berry II is used to winning titles since he helped his AAU team win the Nike Peach Jam in 2013 and earned a gold medal on USA’s U17 team in Lithuania in 2012.

Expect to see Joel Berry II in purple and gold during the NBA Summer League. One of the Summer League’s locations is in Orlando, Florida where Berry II has a lot family and friends that support him.