

Molly Hightower

Coming Home Again

Malhon Jones

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Reggie Sloan

UCO men's basketball
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It all started in the third grade, and it helped shape him into the young man he is today.

Malhon Jones, 22, grew up in Edmond, Oklahoma. He is a senior starting guard for the University of Central Oklahoma Bronchos. Growing up he loved playing sports, but basketball was always his favorite. He knew this was the sport he wanted to pursue.

“Growing up in the city I needed something to keep me out of trouble,” Jones said. “And playing basketball is what did that.”

Jones played his high school basketball career at Santa Fe High School in Edmond, Oklahoma. Santa Fe is one of three high schools in Edmond. During his high school days he won several awards, class 6A honorable mention all state and the 6A Defensive Player of the Year.

After high school, Jones was recruited by Oral Roberts University, the University of Central Oklahoma and Hesston College. Jones elected to attend Hesston College because he knew he would get more playing time there. Hesston College is a small junior college located in Hesston, Kansas. During two seasons with the Hesston College Larks, Jones scored 1,314 points and averaged 19.2 points and 4.4 assists per game. He was a third-team National Junior College Athletic Association All-American as a sophomore.

Last season, he played for the University of Sioux Falls in South Dakota. USF is a NCAA Division II school. He started in 17 of 27 games. He shot 51.2 percent from the field and 75 percent from the line. He only played one season before transferring again.

When it came to figuring out where to play his last season his love for Oklahoma, family and friends brought him back home for his senior year. Reggie Sloan, Jones' best friend, who also transferred to UCO for the 2014-15 season, was one of the reasons that Jones decided to come back. Jones and Sloan grew up in Edmond together and have been good friends for years.

"Malhon is a family man, our coach this year really wanted me to help get him here at UCO," Sloan said. "I was able to talk him into coming to play here, but I am sure his family was the number one reason he came back. "

UCO is a NCAA Division II school and is a part of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletic Association. Since coming to UCO, Jones has started every game for the Bronchos and is shooting 50.9 percent from the field and has helped lead the team to a 16-9 record.

"He brings a lot to our team," Sloan said. "He is a big, strong guard that can really score. He is a monster in transition, and it has been a great opportunity to be on the floor with him."

Looking to the future, Jones is hoping that his perseverance to never quit through his basketball days will help him succeed later on in life.

"I feel like basketball has given me the networking skills to succeed after college." Jones said.

