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# Medford making a name for himself

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Senior Tucson Amphi point guard **Lester Medford** is one of the top rated southern Arizona players. He is a true point guard that can show you it all. Medford is a real triple threat that will use his dribbling, passing, and shooting abilities all to his advantage.



**Medford had a successful summer with the Desert Storm club team**

At 6-foot, he has excellent ball handling skills and the speed and quickness to get by most defenders. He dribbles the ball hard and under control with his head looking up and scanning the floor, plotting out his attack.

Defenders may be reluctant to guard him tightly because of his speed, but too much room and Medford can knock it down. Last season he shot 46 percent from the floor while draining over 50 percent of his shots from inside the arch and 35 percent from beyond it.

Playing him close up often leads to the defender a half step behind Medford. Once he has penetrated into the thick of the defense, he will continue to slice through towards the basket or look to draw a defender away from his teammate so that he can find them for an assist.

Medford has been taking care of defenses in this fashion since he was a sophomore. That year he averaged over 13 points a game and was finding his teammates for four assists per game. He improved in both these areas his junior year, where he scored over 16 points per game and averaged five assists. Over the course of two years, it was not uncommon to see Medford finish a game with over 20 points and eight, nine, or even ten assists.

That's not all. Medford puts forth his effort even away from the ball. Last year he averaged between three and four rebounds a game, totaling an impressive 108 rebounds on the year. He also averaged nearly three steals a game, with a total of 85 steals.

Medford is not just a numbers guy. He also values the experiences of being a varsity player.

"Playing high school basketball is a great experience because it is a chance for me to get coached by different levels of coaching within the Amphi program," Medford said. "It is also a blast playing with your friends and to win games while earning the respect you want for all of the hard work put in."

"The goals I have this year is to take my basketball skills to the next level. Also a big goal is to really focus on my school work so that I come out of high school with the best grades I can."

On top of his individual goals, Medford has high expectations for his team this year.

"I see us winning the state championship as long as we stay together as a team and keep our heads level and eyes on the prize. We are going to have to work hard every day and play each game like it is our last."

The Amphitheater Panthers finished last season with a 23-3 record. They made it all the way to the 4A DII state championship game and lost to Santa Rita high school by two points. They will be returning this season with many, if not most, of their top players, including highly ranked junior **Tim Derksen**. Amphi should be one of the favorite teams out of southern Arizona.

In preparation for the school year, Medford has been competing in basketball events all summer to work on his game. It was also a good step in getting his name out there for colleges to see.

"This summer I played against some great players. I got to see where I stand and what my strengths and weaknesses are. I traveled with my Desert Storm club team to the Las Vegas Fab 48 tournament and the Cream of the Crop in LA, as well as to some other great tournaments, also. We only lost a few games all summer. It really gave me a chance to get my name out there," Medford said.

Medford has come in contact with some college coaches and programs, but is still waiting for that first big offer. He has expressed interest in Portland State, UC Irvine, Cal Poly, Weber State, Utah Valley, ASU, San Diego State, and Arizona.

If he continues to play as a dominant guard and has a successful season, he could be looking at his first offer.