

**Willie Crane**

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**March 28, 2007**

**Willie Crane**

HuskyDigest.com Staff Writer

As a sophomore, [Matt Qualls](#) has talent and strength beyond his age. Hailing from Tahlequah, Okla., the 6-foot-7, 270 pound sophomore had a standout season this year, averaging 21 points and shooting over 65 percent from the field. While the Tigers finished with a 10-12 record, Qualls has seen his profile rise. He has already gained his share of interest from top programs around the country.

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The University of Washington along with other major programs such as Kentucky and Texas A&M have been quick to start recruiting this young power forward. While the list has grown in recent months, Qualls has already begun the process of narrowing it down.



**Matt Qualls is getting a lot of looks.**

"Recently, Marquette has really shown some interest," said Qualls. "But I don't see the number of schools growing any bigger now."

With no clear favorites among the schools yet, Qualls is trying to keep his energy focused on the game. By doing his best on the court, he knows he will make the right decision when it comes time to make a firm commitment.

"All the schools are all about the same level of interest right now," said Qualls, "Except for Arkansas which is probably the lowest one."

With so much attention, Qualls can rely on his father, who also is his head coach.

"My coach is my dad, so he doesn't want the attention to get to me too early," said Qualls.


By keeping focused on his game, he can look up to his father who is both a mentor and role model. "I see how many hours he puts in and I just want to give that back to him," said Qualls.

With inspiration, talent and a bright future ahead of him, Qualls is looking forward to next season. He is already focused on taking his skills to the next level. He sees room for improvement, especially when opponents use a 2-3 defense.

"I want to work on opening up my outside game," said Qualls. By improving this aspect of his game he can become a more versatile offensive threat.


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