

Chris Wilcox at 30

WCHS and WHS student still strong in second decade in NBA

By **MARK GILCHRIST**
Photographer

More than six million people live in the state of Massachusetts, and when they talk sports this time of year, they rally around 13 men on a team called the Boston Celtics.

One of those men, Chris Wilcox, knows the Whiteville High School gymnasium as well as Boston Garden; Wilcox grew into basketball here.

Leaving Columbus County in 1999,

Wilcox spent his senior year in Raleigh, then attended the University of Maryland, where in two years he helped them bring home a national championship.

The NBA was waiting, and Wilcox left college early to begin his pro career.

What a career it has been. Wilcox has played for the L.A. Clippers, the Seattle SuperSonics, the Detroit Pistons, Oklahoma City Thunder and New York Knicks. And now the Celtics, who Wilcox has been optimistic may give him a taste of the playoffs.

With more than one relative suffering from Lupus, Wilcox has embraced efforts to find a cure, adopting the Lupus Foundation of America for many of his fund raising and awareness campaigns.

The last two years have been exciting and challenging for Wilcox. In 2011 while playing with the Detroit Pistons, he married Tiffany Graham.

In 2012, after only a few months with the Celtics, Wilcox underwent heart surgery, a situation that had him off the team's roster for nearly four months.

After the Celtics end their season this year, Wilcox will return to the WHS gym, as he does every year when he visits family here, to promote a children's basketball camp that bears his name.

His is a life of charter jets and rowdy, adoring fans – and all of it a ride in first class. But above all that, when he wants to take a breather and relax, he knows he can always come home to Columbus County.

CHRIS WILCOX

Height: 6' 10"
Weight: 235 lbs
Team: Boston Celtics
Position: Forward #44

TIMELINE

1982 - Born

1999 - Leads WHS Wolfpack to 2A State Championship

2000 - Graduates from William G. Enloe HS in Raleigh

2000 - Attends the University of Maryland

2002 - Sophomore Chris Wilcox helps lead Maryland Terrapins to their first national basketball championship

June 26, 2002 - Wilcox is the 8th overall draft pick in the NBA - LA Clippers take him

February 14, 2006 - Traded to the Seattle SuperSonics

April 4, 2006 - Wilcox grabs 24 rebounds for the Sonics against Houston, more than any Sonic player in 23 years

2008-2009 - Plays with Oklahoma City

February 19, 2009 - Traded to the New York Knicks

July 22, 2009 - Signs with Detroit Pistons

July 23, 2011 - Marries Tiffany Graham

December 9, 2011 - Signs with the Boston Celtics

March 29, 2012 - Heart surgery



Chris Wilcox gives the Charlotte Bobcats a taste of his own North Carolina in a Feb. 11 game in Charlotte. All action photos here are of that game.



Chris Wilcox at his basketball camp in 2010 with former WHS basketball coach Glenn McKoy, who coached him in high school.

LATEST STATS		#44 CHRIS WILCOX CENTER-FORWARD BOS CELTICS													
Date	Opponent	Result	MIN	FGM-A	3PM-A	FTM-A	ORB	DRB	REB	AST	STL	BLK	TO	PF	PTS
Feb 24	@PHO	L 86-92	15	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	3	2
Feb 22	@PHX	W 113-88	22	7-9	0-0	0-0	4	8	0	0	1	1	7	14	
Feb 20	@LAL	L 99-113	7	0-0	0-0	0-0	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	

BORN: SEP 3, 1982 WEIGHT: 235 LBS. / 106.6 KG. YEARS PRO: 9
HEIGHT: 6-10 / 2.08 COLLEGE: MARYLAND

Chris Wilcox #44 @Celtics at Trail Blazers tonight at 9PM ET. pic.twitter.com/77R27wH874

chriswilcox.com

