Quarterback Paul McCall started playing football at 6 years old. His grandparents took him to sign up for baseball, but tryouts already were underway. Instead, he signed up for football and the rest is blue-and-gold history in the making.

What I enjoy most about basketball:
The camaraderie. I've been playing football since I was so young. You get on these teams and you stick with these guys and you grow up with them. You become a band of brothers and together we have the power to add something to university life.

On the 2008-'09 FIU football season:
I remember playing my first game here against FAMU. It was electric. We had a great crowd. Having that at the new FIU Stadium when we go up against USF on Sept. 20 gives me the chills. It's going to be amazing.

The life of a scholar-athlete:
You make up your mind when you're a student-athlete to find time for the things that are important to you. If you're here to play football but leave without a degree, it's pointless. You have to manage football and school and whatever's left you spend with your family, your girlfriend. You take it as it comes.

On why he chose FIU:
I wanted to play football, but the great engineering campus at FIU is what really attracted me here. Once I get my bachelor's I'll get started on my master's. Plus, Miami has great weather and my family is down here. It was a one-in-a-million opportunity to keep everything together. I had to take advantage of it.

My dream:
I want to graduate, and if the whole NFL thing doesn't work out, I want to work with the Department of Defense on government contracts. And I want to start a family.

“I want to give back to FIU, which has given so much to me and my family. I can only hope to reciprocate one day.”