

CALEDONIA – Jonathan Comer knows workers never sleep.

It doesn't matter if it's early in the morning or late at night, the Caledonia High School boys basketball coach has encouraged his players to call him or to text him during the season when they want to get in the gym and work on their games.

Jeremiah Dumas and Mason Godsey made sure they took advantage of the fact that Comer lives one minute from the school. In doing so, the Caledonia High seniors polished their skills and hoped their hours in the gym would help them earn a chance to play at the next level.

On Wednesday, Dumas and Godsey officially realized their goals when they announced their intentions to play basketball at Mississippi Delta Community College and Mississippi University for Women, respectively, during a signing ceremony at Caledonia High.

“Mason and JD were vital parts of our team this year, and have been for the last four years,” Comer said.

Dumas moved to Caledonia when he was in the eighth grade, while Godsey moved into the area after living in Vernon, Alabama.

Comer envisions Dumas playing on the perimeter at the next level. He said Dumas needs to work on his footwork and his

defense, but he said his ability to handle the ball and to shoot from 3-point range will give him plenty of opportunities.

Comer said he also sees Godsey playing a wing position at The W, which plays at the Division III level. He said Godsey's size and strength will give him a chance to contribute.

Dumas, a 6-foot-7, 160-pound swingman, averaged 13.7 points, 8.6 rebounds and 3.5 assists. He shot 55% from the field and 70% from the free-throw line for the Cavaliers, who finished 20-9 (4-4 district) and lost to Itawamba Agricultural in the first round of the Class 4A state tournament.

Dumas said he realized in the 11th grade he had a chance to play in college. He said spending countless hours in the gym – with Godsey, other teammates or by himself -- set the stage for him to celebrate Wednesday with family and friends.

“It is what you do when people are not looking,” Dumas said. “Things that are in the dark will always come into the light.”

Godsey, a 6-5, 200-pound forward, averaged 13.1 points, 8.5 rebounds and 1.5 assists. He also shot 55% from the field and 68% from the free-throw line. Godsey declined an interview for the story.

Comer said Dumas and Godsey “wore him out” during the season, calling as late as 9:30 p.m. to get into the gym to do skill work or to work on their shooting.

Dumas said his routine consisted of free-throw and perimeter shooting, ballhandling and conditioning. Every day or night he said he tried to make at least 200 shots before he received word from Comer that it was time to wrap it up.

Being there to open the gym at all hours is one way Comer, who played basketball at Caledonia High, wants to help his players get better. He said the after-hours work could pave the way for more basketball players from Caledonia High to continue their careers in college. Comer knows the program hasn't produced many signees in recent years, but he hopes Dumas and Godsey have provided a plan the younger players can follow to change that, which is why he anticipates receiving plenty of calls and texts in the coming years.

"Tradition wise, we haven't had that many players go to college. They showed it can happen here," Comer said. "They laid a foundation. They showed the younger guys the work they will have to put in to be able to play at the next level."