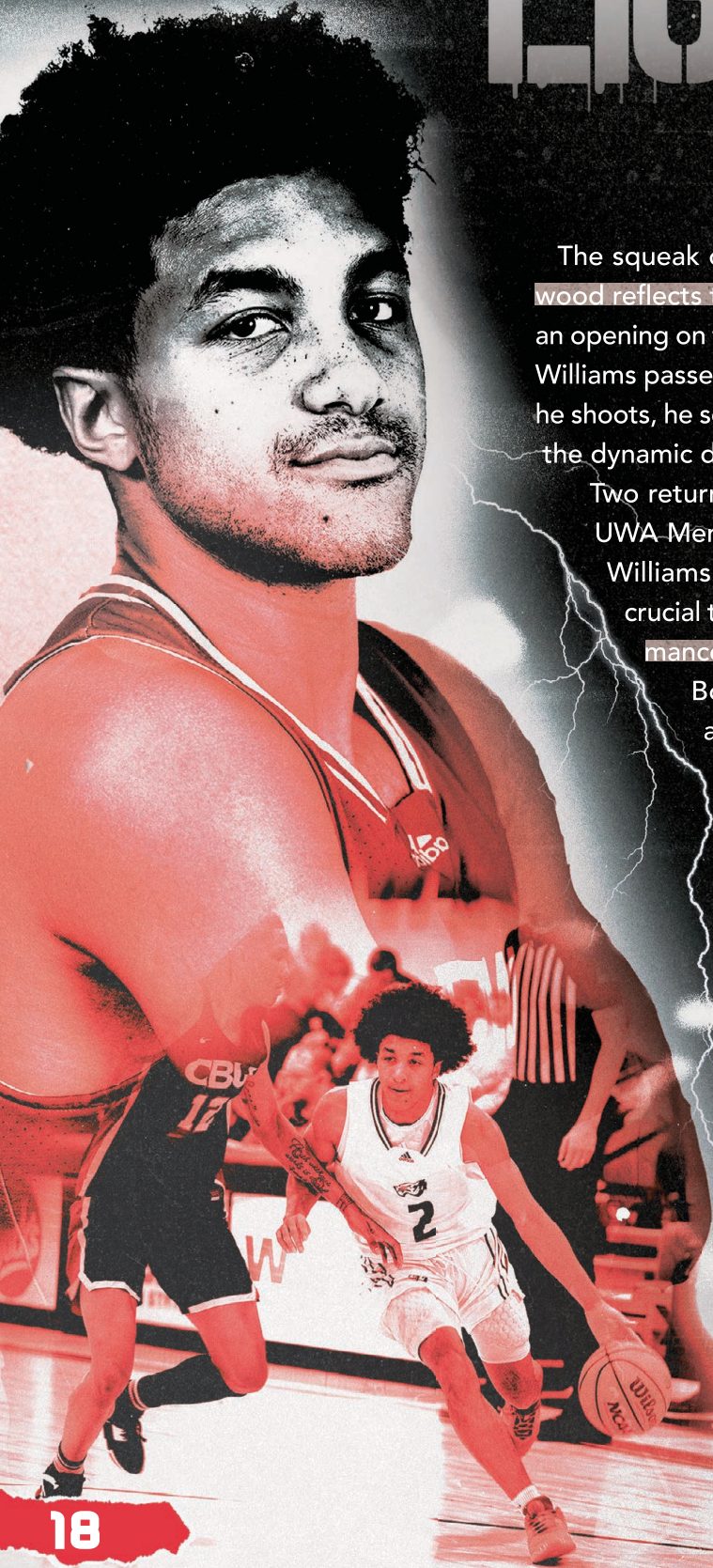


# THUNDER AND LIGHTNING

By Trinity Cates



The squeak of sneakers. Waxed wood reflects the focused faces—an opening on the court. Thaddeus Williams passes to Jaylen Lemons: he shoots, he scores—a glimpse of the dynamic duo in action.

Two returning players for the UWA Men's Basketball team, Williams and Lemons, were crucial to the team's performance last season.

Both players started all 30 games for the 2023-2024 season.

During that

time, Lemons scored 133 times, and Williams 136 times. Combined, that makes 37% of all baskets made. For total points scored, Lemons earned 412, and Williams 408, averaging together 27% of all points scored by the team.

"It's like thunder and lightning," said Coach Woodruff. "They made a really good team combination with one that could get downhill and the other had good pace. Both were really good guards that made it tough on the other teams. And that's what we wanted."

Williams and Lemons didn't start as a powerhouse duo; it took work to build their chemistry. Trust was the foundation of their relationship. The adversity they experienced last year helped build that trust between them. As Williams put it, "Without trust, there is nothing."

Lemons recalled an instance of establishing trust: "We were at