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ne(x)t

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2015

All-Star guard

Jeff Teague

NBA's Atlanta Hawks

Also Inside:

- › Summer Fun on the Cheap
- › Moving Out: Apartment Budgeting Basics





IN THIS ISSUE

SPRING 2015

- 3 **the word, with will**
an update from our editor, will
- 4 **jeff teague**
nba's atlanta hawks all-star guard
- 6 **summer fun**
plan an inexpensive vacation or staycation
- 7 **moving out**
apartment budgeting basics
- 12 **connect with i(x)**
we'd love it if you'd like us

pg 7

moving out and living independently for the first time

The Word, with Will



Spring is finally here, and this special season always gives me a feeling of excitement. I'm finally able to put away winter clothes, ride in the car with the windows down, spend some time on the deck grilling out or sitting at a restaurant patio with friends. This time of year also signifies the winding down of yet another school year. Whether you'll be

entering another year of high school, heading off to college or starting your career, we hope this year has been as good to you as it has to us!

Featured on the cover and within this issue of Ne[x]t Magazine is NBA All-Star and point guard for the Atlanta Hawks, Jeff Teague. With the Hawks looking to win an NBA Championship, Jeff took some time to talk with us about the success of this year's team and how he's become one of top guards in the NBA.

If you've never lived on your own, but are thinking about renting an apartment for the first time, you'll definitely want to check out our article Moving Out: Apartment Budgeting Basics. It gives some great insight on a few expenses you can expect to help you prepare yourself financially for the big move. You may find a few big-ticket items you didn't expect.

Also inside this edition, we give you a few tips to enjoy budget-friendly summer fun. While summer is a couple of months away, now is a great time to start planning some possible excursions and figure out ways to cut some costs. Whether you stay local or decide to travel, hopefully you'll find some ideas to help you get started.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Ne[x]t Magazine!

FEEDBACK.

We always want to hear from you! Tell us what you like, what you don't like or what topic you want to see us cover. Send your comments and questions to wjmiller@georgiasown.org and we'll see what we can do!

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ON THE COVER

Name:
Jeff Teague

Age: 26

Hometown:
Indianapolis, IN

Team:
Atlanta Hawks

All-Star guard

Jeff Teague

NBA's Atlanta Hawks



The 2014-2015 season for the NBA's Atlanta Hawks has gone much differently than last year's season. At the time of this article, the Hawks are entering the playoffs as the top seed in the Eastern Conference. This year's team also hopes it will end differently than any in the Atlanta Hawks history: as champions of the NBA (the franchise won a title in 1958 as the St. Louis Hawks). Much of the success of the team can be attributed to All-Star guard, Jeff Teague. Teague, however, is quick to point out he's not the only reason for the success in a recent chat with us. He also talks about his career as a basketball player and how he became the player he is today.

ne[x]t: At what point did you realize that being a professional basketball player was a real possibility?

JT: When I was a freshman at Wake Forest was the first time I thought that if I worked hard enough, I might have the chance to play in the NBA.

ne[x]t: Can you talk a little about the work you had to put in as a high school student to become the player and person you are today?

JT: I worked hard on and off the floor in the gym so that I could be the best player I was capable of being. I always had goals, but they were my own goals and I didn't let anyone else define them. I also wasn't a

highly-recruited player and my AAU team was full of great players.

ne[x]t: For any young athletes, what's the best advice you can give them to help them reach their dreams?

JT: Don't let people tell you no. But at the same time, create your own motivation.

ne[x]t: Who has had the biggest influence on your life?

JT: My family.

ne[x]t: What is your best memory so far in your basketball career?

JT: Probably getting drafted was my best memory so far.

ne[x]t: What team or player do you enjoy playing against the most?

JT: Every player in the NBA is good, otherwise they wouldn't be here. But I definitely enjoy the challenge of playing and competing against the best. It's hard to pick one.



ne|x]t: How is this year's Hawks team different than teams in past years and what has led to the success of this year's team?

JT: This is a very unselfish team that shares the ball and plays very organized and with a common purpose. We all have the same goal and it's just to win games. No one here cares about individual accomplishments. We believe in Coach Bud and we all listen to him.

ne|x]t: Is there one specific moment or game that made you realize you could have a special team this year?

JT: I think when we got into training camp and started playing together as a unit, we saw that we could be successful if we played the right way. Once we started the season, we saw the positive results. We have stayed hungry by taking it one game at a time.

ne|x]t: Hawks fans have really shown up in a big way this year. Can you talk a little about the fans and how they might make an impact on home games?

JT: The fans have been amazing. They have lifted us up when we've needed it all season. We have one of the best home-court advantages in the league now.

ne|x]t: Who's your favorite sports team other than the Hawks?

JT: I root for my hometown Indianapolis Colts of course.

ne|x]t: Do you have interests in other sports?

JT: I like playing Monopoly and Uno with my teammates, friends and family.

ne|x]t: If you weren't playing basketball, what type of profession would you see yourself being in?

JT: If I wasn't playing, maybe I'd be a coach or work with kids in some way.



**“Don't let people tell you no.
But at the same time, create
your own motivation ”**

ne|x]t: Here at Georgia's Own, we like to stress the importance of making smart financial decisions to our young members. Before you reached the NBA, how were you at managing your finances and how has that changed? Do you practice any smart money habits?

JT: I definitely know that my NBA career won't last forever, and I've always felt it was really important to take care of my finances. I save a lot of what I earn, and I'm really interested in the real estate business.

ne|x]t: We also speak greatly about the importance of giving back to your community. Are there any charities or organizations with which you currently work?

JT: Through my Foundation, I work with Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding. The last couple of years, I've made a donation for every assist I had to the hospital. I also challenged local businesses to join me in donating.

Through much hard work and dedication to his craft, Jeff Teague has helped lead the 2014-2015 Atlanta Hawks to one of their most successful regular seasons ever. We hope you join us in wishing them even greater success this post-season as they work towards becoming NBA Champions.

Summer Fun on the Cheap



With summer approaching, now is a great time to think about your plans to enjoy your free time. It's easy to spend wildly as the options for entertainment and travel can get quite expensive. There are, however, lots of budget-friendly ways you can have fun or plan an inexpensive vacation or staycation. Here are a few tips to keep in mind for your summer planning.

1. Set a budget.

To keep from overspending that may strain your finances, sit down and establish a budget. Also, be sure to set a realistic budget. While that trip to Disney World may be what you have in mind, only do it if it's possible. If it's not in the budget this year, plan ahead for next year and start saving toward it now.

2. Think about alternate lodging options.

Vacation rentals or private homes are great options that may be cheaper than a hotel. Websites like VRBO and HomeAway are great sites to browse for these options. One benefit is that most of these rentals have kitchens which allow you to cook your meals versus heading out to an expensive restaurant every meal.

3. Search for special offers.

Companies like Groupon or Living Social have getaway deals that just might work for you. They also have great deals on other entertainment such as theme parks, painting classes or skeet shooting. Let the internet be your friend! And who knows, you may find a location you never thought you'd visit.

4. Go camping.

A quick Google search shows there are more than 15 free camping sites in the state of Georgia. If you don't own camping equipment, ask family members or friends. Camping is a great way to unwind from your busy lives and can be very affordable.

5. Volunteer.

Instead of spending money heading out of town, look for ways to volunteer with your family around your community. Not only will you be doing a good deed for others, it will be a special bonding time you'll be able to share with your family. It's a win-win for all involved!

6. Look for free events.

Concerts or movies in the park, art festivals or open-mic comedy nights are just a few free events you can probably find. Utilize the internet or check a local paper for listings around your area.

No matter your financial situation, everyone deserves to have a little fun throughout the year and summer is a great time to find affordable entertainment. Hopefully this gives you a few ideas on how to enjoy your summer without breaking the bank!

Source: U.S. News & World Report

MOVING OUT:

Apartment Budgeting Basics

You may feel emotionally ready to move out on your own, but are you financially prepared? Living independently means much more than not having to be home by curfew; it comes with a great deal of financial responsibilities. Renting a place is the easiest way for you to get started on your own. But, before you take the leap, know the types of expenses you'll incur with the big move.

There are many costs for which to prepare just to walk in the door of your first place. Here's a list of a few big ticket expenses you may need to save for in advance of getting your first place.

Moving expenses

If your friends won't do it for the price of a couple of pizzas, you may be looking at hiring some help and renting a moving van. While it removes a large amount of the stress of a move on yourself, hiring movers can get pricey. According to kudzu.com, a local move can average \$260-\$580.

Security deposit

Some places require that you pay your first and last month's rent up-front, which is held as protection against damages to the premises or unpaid rent. Paying two months' rent protects the landlord financially in case you move out on a moment's notice. With average rent in Atlanta at \$1,085, paying \$1,000-\$2,000 up-front can be quite a lot of money for a first-time renter to come up with.

Cleaning deposit

Yet another cash sum a landlord is likely to want is a cleaning deposit. This is held in the event the residence needs some extra scrubbing after you move out. If you have a pet, expect the cleaning deposit to be even higher.

Utility deposits

Before you ever turn on air conditioner or lights, you may have to put down some money to activate these necessities. Deposits for gas or power service can range from \$50-\$200 for each service.

Furniture and appliances

Most rentals don't come furnished. Depending on the room, you may have to buy a few key items to be somewhat comfortable:

- Bedroom – bed, mattress, linens, pillows, dresser, rugs, lamps
- Living room – sofa, chairs, coffee table, television, DVD player, stereo, lamps, rugs, pictures
- Kitchen – table, utensils, dishes, cookware, microwave, cleaning supplies
- Bathroom – hair dryer, shower curtain, bath mat

Of course if you plan to have roommates, you'll be sharing at least some of these costs. But even with a quick estimation you can see that you may need to save quite a lot to leave home.

Monthly bills

Once you are in your own place, the costs continue. It is extremely important to pay all bills on time. If you don't, you'll probably be charged late payment fees, and if left unpaid, they will go into a collection agency. Dealing with collectors is not only highly unpleasant, but the negative effect on your credit report is severe. And if you default on some, such as telephone and other utilities, you may not be able to turn them on again until they're paid (and even then it can be difficult).



If you are sharing your home with roommates, establish how the bills will be paid from the beginning.



If you are sharing your home with roommates, establish how the bills will be paid from the beginning. You may be able to split some and each send a check for your portion of the amount due. Another option is for one of you to act as money manager and collect from the others. However you arrange it, if the accounts are in your name, know that you are responsible for sending the complete payment in on time. Once you figure out the payment arrangements, here are some of the typical bills you'll have to pay:

- **Rent:** If the rent is due by the first, don't pay on the fifth or some other late date. Think ahead. It is highly unlikely that you will remain

in your first place forever, so being a good tenant today will help you rent/buy another place in the future. The last thing you want is to establish a bad relationship with your landlord – the very person you will turn to for a glowing rental history reference.

- **Utilities:** Utilities include cable, Internet access, garbage, gas, electric, and water. You will soon understand why your parents were always telling you to turn the lights off when you leave the room.

- **Telephone:** Whether you have a landline, cell phone, or both, know that all that chatting can cost you big money. Be especially careful with cell phone minutes. Once you have exceeded your plan's limit, the cost per minute can be outrageous. Bills of many hundreds of dollars are common.

Final Thoughts: Moving out and living independently for the first time can be a thrilling experience. You can make it even better by being financially prepared and responsible from the beginning. While this doesn't cover every single cost you may see, it at least gives you an idea of some of the most common expenses you can expect.

Need a Student Loan? You Have Options!

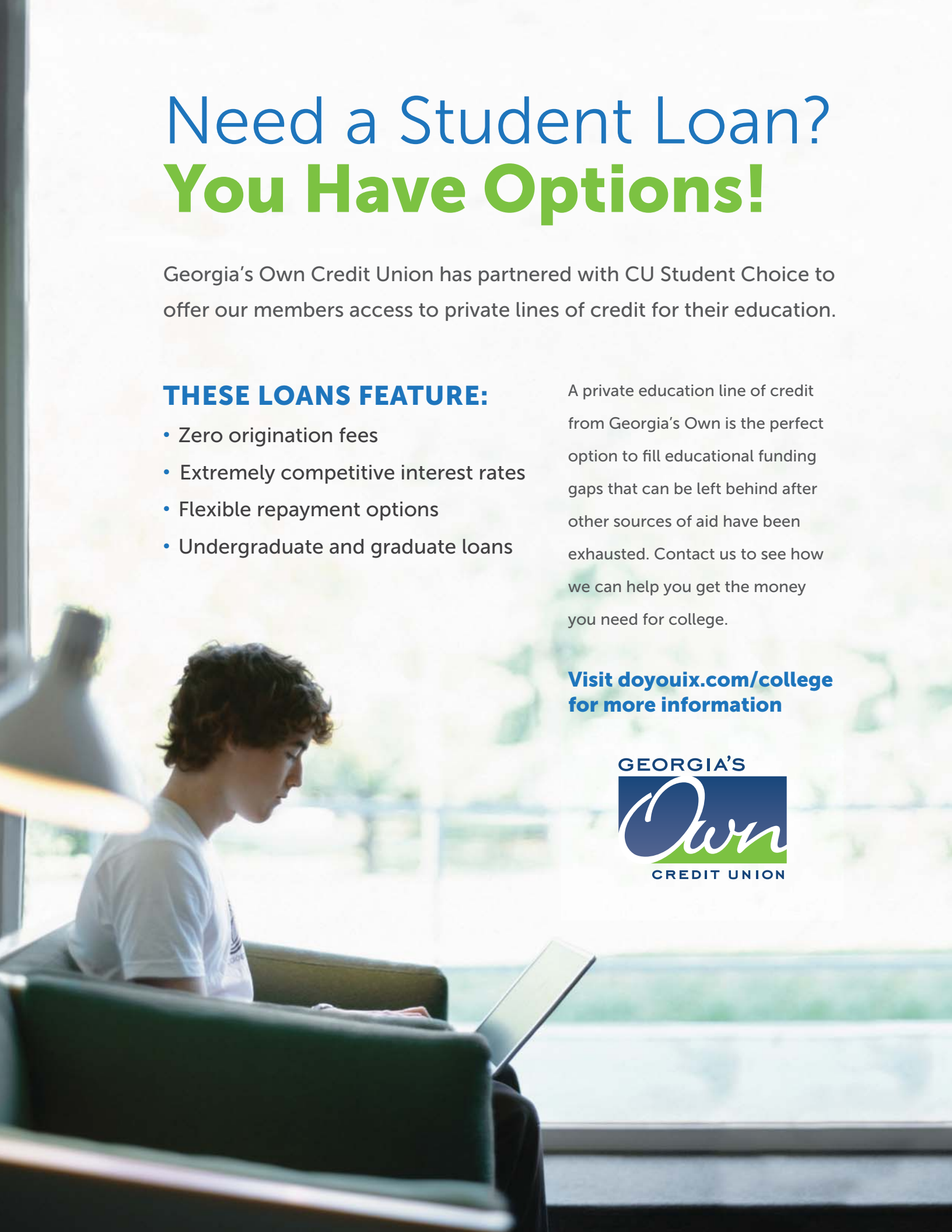
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