

Laying Tracks **in** Music

Star athlete achieves in new pursuit

BY NICOLE HOOPER

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Because of his promising past as an NBA hopeful, some people see Antoine Stoudamire as nothing but a basketball star. But Stoudamire debunks that typecast with his pursued of another love, music.

The Portland native released his first CD "Rebirth," in 2003, showing the world that a handsome six foot three athlete can be multi-talented. This month, he released his second and self-titled CD "Madgesdiq."

The 33-year-old cousin of Portland Trail Blazer Damon Stoudamire took the name Madgesdiq because to him it means, "Powerful, spiritual and inspiring all rolled into one."

Madgesdiq does not have the larger than life, wannabee "bling bling" persona that many would expect from an MTV rapper or an NBA player. Instead, he is calm and his music is poetic instead of full of rage and sexual vulgarities.

He said to pivot from basketball to music took determination. In the process he turned around a mindset for those who loved him.

"Basketball was ingrained in my family from an early age," he said. "But I was charting off on a different road."

Madgesdiq can now look at his family as his biggest supporters.

"My friends see my mother selling my CD's to church members," he said.

He said his new album is less egotistical than his first, one he described as "word play." This time around the album is more about life experience and motivation.

When Madgesdiq isn't performing, he works at Montego Bay Jamaican restaurant as a waiter and also at Music Millennium.

"Working at a place that sells my CD has been a humbling experience," he said. "Everyone isn't moved enough to buy my CD, but I haven't heard anything negative from customers."

In the music business, an aspiring talent may get many rejections before someone believes in them.



PHOTO BY NICOLE HOOPER/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Madgesdiq (also known as Antoine Stoudamire) has turned in plays on the court for a successful music career.

On "Rebirth," Madgesdiq produced the CD along with, High Brow. This time around, Stoudamire has B&M Management as a support system.

From a commercial standpoint, his music is described as more like Common, who has had some level of cross over success but nothing compared to bad boys 50 Cent or Eminem. Even though, Madgesdiq doesn't think that commercial rap is all that

Many alive commit suicide lookin' cool in physical terms but dyin' inside. — Madgesdiq (aka Antoine Stoudamire)

positive he still has his favorites.

"Jay-Z is one of the most witty rappers out there, and you can tell he takes time to make his rhymes,"

said Madgesdiq.

Listening to Madgesdiq is not for getting up and shaking your booty at the club. Instead, you will

want to be someplace quiet so you can chill, listen and enjoy the words of the positive songs or listen to the melancholy in songs like Poetic Justice.

An example of his lyrics include "Suggest you follow your own dreams instead, if not might as well kill yourself dead one to the head," and "Many alive commit suicide lookin' cool in physical terms but dyin' inside."