

Wade ready to make run

- **D-Wade** looks to take court with reshaped Heat
- **Would welcome** renewal of great Knicks-Miami rivalry

BY THOMAS CULLEN
Special to Newsday

Dwyane Wade finally decided to bring his game to New York. Unfortunately for Knick fans the game was polo. Decker out in a dark blue Polo shirt with his number 3 on each sleeve, Wade was on hand at the Mercedes-Benz Polo Challenge in Bridgehampton yesterday to toss out the ceremonial first ball.

While Knicks fans are disappointed that Wade decided to stay in Miami, he did consider Mike D'Antonio's team one of his final four, along with the Nets, Bulls and Heat. "I had a great meeting with the Knicks and I was intrigued to play in the mecca of basketball," he said.

Wade might have been intrigued but not convinced because he ultimately decided to stay in Miami. Much like the Celtics offseason three summers ago, the Heat brought in two superstars — LeBron James and Chris Bosh — to join their in-house superstar. The Celtics adding Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen to Paul Pierce paid immediate dividends with an NBA Championship in June 2008.

Wade is hoping for that same result in Miami on a June evening next year.

"The goal is to achieve that

success," he said. "No one knows how fast it will come, that's what we play the game for. We are going to get together, practice, play the game and start getting familiar with each other and let basketball take care of itself. We can't put the pressure on ourselves to say we have to be better than this team or that team. We have to get better everyday as *our* team."

The thought of Wade and James, two of the leagues premier offensive threats conjures up images of other dynamic duos, such as Michael Jordan and Scottie Pippen and Magic Johnson and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. To Wade those comparisons are unnecessary. "We are going to be Dwyane and LeBron," he said. "There have been a lot of great people that came before us that showed us how to do it, but we've got to figure out our own way. I think we will figure it out, we have been all time friends since day one when we came into the NBA."

Wade could have another big three to contend with in the East. With Carmelo Anthony wanting out of Denver and Chris Paul wanting out of New Orleans, both could possibly end up on the Knicks with Amar'e Stoudemire. Wade likes that idea and the rekindling of the great Knicks-Heat battles that were so prominent in the late '90s. "You welcome any rivalry," Wade said. "Right now this is all about competition and fun. I want the best for Carmelo and Chris where ever they decide to go."

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