

Shooting for the Scholarships

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Tyreke Locure, Sophomore point guard

The strive for college begins with commitment and hard work. In and out of school students will have to embrace their stories and personality to take them to new heights. Two students who take on the game of basketball to achieve higher education through their skills and commitment.

Tyreke Locure, sophomore, also known as the varsity point guard, has been playing since the third grade. Originally from New Orleans, Locure was forced to find a new place to live after the effects of hurricane Katrina, he is now able to call Des

Moines and North his home. Being exposed to this sport at a young age, his life has revolved around just that. “When we first moved out here, my dad’s close friends introduced us to the game” said Locure. “Us” being his older brothers and himself.

Basketball was his way of coping with the effects of hurricane Katrina. When asked what his motivation was to play the game everyday, Locure firmly responded “My pops... I want to make it easier for him, for us, for me.”

But he also claims one other person that’s been a father figure in his life. The boys varsity coach, Chad

Ryan. “He be on me a lot like he doesn’t let me slack, he takes care of me, if I need something he got me. He’s more than a coach he’s like my second dad.” Locure said.

His teammate could say the same about their coach. Jal Bijeck, a senior who plays the forward and big man position has been active in basketball since the 5th grade. “He opened up the game for me and does a lot, making me want to give back to those younger than me with my

“It’s countless hours, basketball everyday, and lifting on the weekends...” -Jal Bijeck

knowledge,” Bijeck said. His motivation to play is that of similar to Locure, stat-

ing “It benefits me because it gives me potential to get into any school for free and I just want to give back to the community.”

These young men have been with each other since the 3rd grade, playing for the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) team: Kingdom Hoops and looking up to each other while calling themselves “brothers”.

The game has shaped their lifestyle up to this day. “It’s countless hours, basketball everyday, and lifting on the weekends. You give up your social life to hangout with the same group of people while practicing through the year,” Bijeck explained.

His teammate, Locure could compare saying that it's "School, homework, basketball, sleep and it repeats. On weekends I'm playing games with the team or probably a quick workout in the mornings".

All of the work pays off when colleges come in to scout and hand in offers. Bijeck has received offers from South East Missouri State and University of North Dakota and Locure still has yet to receive offers considering that he is still a sophomore. "I don't have any offers yet but I feel that with Iowa there's an offer coming soon... but it's a weird process," Locure said.

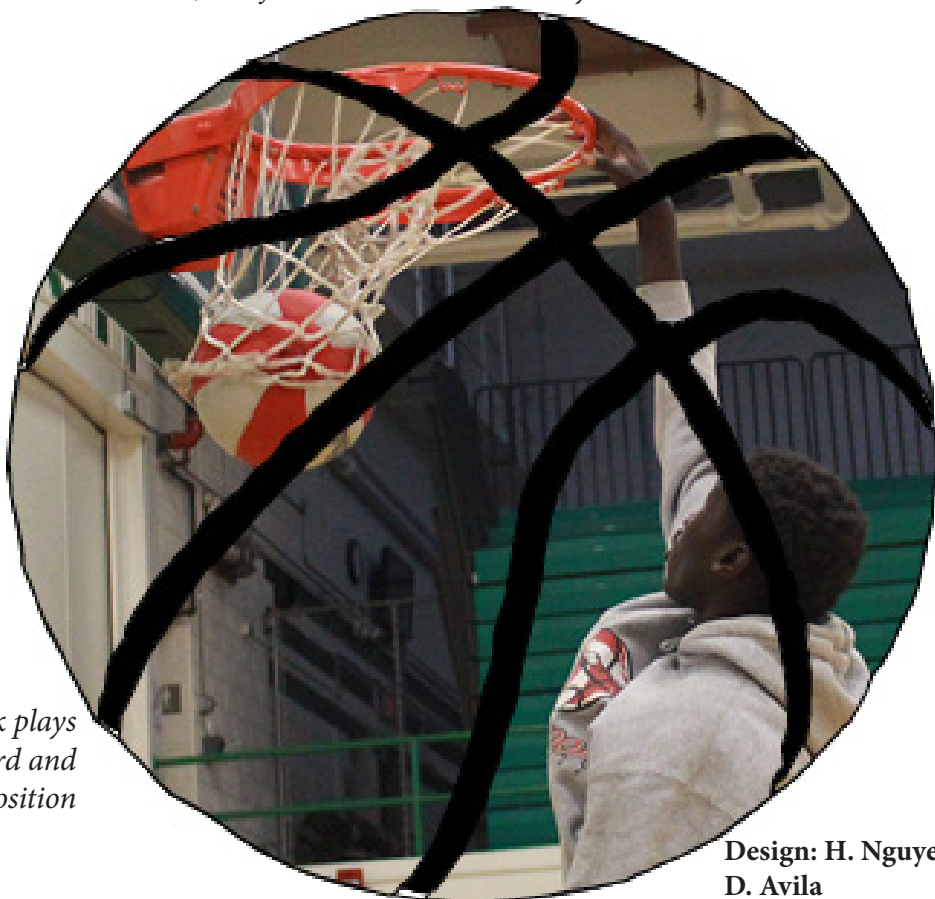
In the process of choosing a school, Bijeck explained that "It's which-ever one feels more comfortable and will improve my skills" while Locure says "I'm not even thinking about it like that yet but right now I'd say Iowa because it was just different when I was there. They make me feel like I'm at home".

In terms of college itself, the two explained their plans on course of study. "To major in, I'd say history just because I like learning about the past," Locure said. Meanwhile, Jal would like to major in business because "I just like business. I'm a money guy".

North has become a major key for success, here it is found on and off the court starting with two players of the boys basketball team. Their stories, work, and spirit that they put into the game will soon prosper as decision day comes around for their choice of college and career.



Jal Bijeck a senior on the varsity basketball team



Jal Bijeck plays the forawrd and big man position