

## Webb sparkles for Mustangs in romp

Written by Jim Ecker

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The Mount Mercy Mustangs have a new point guard, a new off-guard, a new small forward, a new power forward and a new center.

His name is RoyShawn Webb.

Webb, a 6-foot-2 bundle of talent, can literally play all five spots on the floor. He can run the offense, score, rebound, dunk and guard just about anyone.

"Wherever Coach wants me to be, to put us in the best position to win, that's where I'm going to be," he said Saturday.

Webb scored 17 points, snared six rebounds, made three steals, dished out two assists and had two crowd-pleasing dunks as the Mustangs rolled by Maranatha Baptist, 110-51, in the home opener at the Hennessey Recreation Center.

"We need him to be aggressive and be himself," said Mount Mercy Coach Aaron Jennings. "I think he's going to be very good for us."

Webb shot 8-for-9 from the floor and did all his damage in 22 minutes as the Mustangs raised their record to 2-0 for the young season.

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"He is so strong," said Jennings. "He is built out of granite. He loves the weight room and tackles it there. And he loves being in the gym. He's in here all the time.

"It's fun to coach players like that."

Webb, a southpaw, is fast, quick, elusive and a great leaper. He did not attempt any 3-pointers Saturday, but he's also an excellent outside shooter.



Jennings made a strong pitch for Webb's services when Webb was a senior at Cedar Rapids Jefferson, but he decided to play at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge for two years instead.

"We worked hard," said Jennings, who never gave up.

"I texted him him the day I committed to Iowa Central and he went, 'OK, I'm sure I'll see you in a couple of years,'" Webb explained.

"And it's crazy," he continued. "After my last game at Iowa Central, he immediately texted me the next day, 'Hey, we want you on a visit.' I came here and it was like, 'This is the place I need to be.' And I've been happy ever since.

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"It just shows that he really wanted me as a player and he really liked all the things I bring to the table."

Webb got a little too excited Saturday when he dunked the ball and hung on the rim for a technical foul early in the second half. The Mustangs were leading by 35 points and Webb merely got a laugh and smile from his head coach.

"He was excited about being in Cedar Rapids and having fun," said Jennings, who quickly dismissed the episode.

The Mustangs, who led the NAIA in 3-pointers last season, drilled 15 Saturday. They pressed Maranatha into oblivion, forcing 39 turnovers in the 40-minute game, and had six players score in double figures.

Streeter McIlravey scored 18 points, Webb 17, Bailey Basala 12, Dennis McKinney 11, Davion Watson 10 and Keishun Thomas 10.

**MARANATHA (51):** Taylor Bell 0-4 4-4 4, Stephen Wilkerson 5-11 2-2 12, Jed Mayhak 2-6 1-2 6, Aaron Sanders 1 0-0 3, Brenden Caldwell 1-5 1-2 3, Joshua Miller 1-6 0-0 2, Sam Ratledge 0-1 0-0 0, Tyler Reid 2-4 3-5 7, Josh Davis 2-5 0-0 5, Corbin Blankenship 0-1 0-0 0, Jared Fopma 2-4 0-0 4, Caleb Moultrie 1-2 2-2 5. Totals 17-55 13-17 51.

**MOUNT MERCY (110):** Dennis McKinney 5-10 0-0 11, Davion Watson 3-5 2-3 10, Bailey Basala 4-8 3-4 12, RoyShawn Webb 8-9 1-2 17, Davarea Loggins 3-6 0-0 8, Tyler Kelley 1-7 1-2 4, Keishun Thomas 4 0-0 10, Donovan Beard 0 2-4 2, Brady Stoeffler 0-0 0-0 0, Streeter McIlravy 3-5 9-10 18, Nolan Ruff 2-3 0-0 6, Christian Reischauer 4-5 0-0 9, Devin Laird 0-1 2-2 2, Barry Doe 0-2 1-2 1. Totals 37-73 21-29 110.

Halftime - Mount Mercy 51, Maranatha Baptist 28. 3-point goals - Maranatha Baptist 4-16 (Moultrie 1-1, Mayhak 1-2, Sanders 1-2, Davis 1-4, Ball 0-1, Wilkerson 0-4, Miller 0-1, Ratledge 0-1), Mount Mercy 15-43 (McIlravy 3-5, Watson 2-3, Loggins 2-5, Ruff 2-3, Thomas 2-10, McKinney 1-4, Basala 1-5, Kelley 1-5, Reischauer 1-1, Laird 0-1, Doe 0-1).

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