

Olson named MVP of all-star game

Written by Jim Ecker

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Jacob Olson would love to follow his brother's footsteps and play basketball at Kirkwood Community College next season.

He'd also love to strike out on his own and play at Mount Mercy University.

Either way, the all-state point guard from Cedar Rapids Jefferson figures it's a win-win situation.



"It's open-ended right now," Olson said Wednesday night. "I'm not sure yet. It's between Mount Mercy and Kirkwood. I've haven't decided yet which one I'm going to go to."

Olson displayed his skills in the 4th Annual Eastern Iowa All-Star Game Wednesday night at Kirkwood and was named the MVP after helping the North team defeat the South, 68-63, with a game-high 12 points and several nice assists.

"It was definitely fun," he said. "There was a lot of talent out there. It was definitely harder than usual, but it was fun."

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He called the MVP award "An honor, for sure."

Olson's older brother, Taylor, finished his two-year career at Kirkwood this season as an All-Region point guard. Both brothers are looking for new schools, with Cornell University having joined the hunt for Taylor Olson.

Taylor Olson has been trying to twist his brother's arm a little bit and get him to attend Kirkwood.

"He definitely wants me to be an Eagle like he was," said Olson. "I don't know yet."

"I think they are both in need of a point guard, but I'm not sure what kind of point guard they need, like pass-first or stuff like that."

Olson said he's enjoyed the recruiting process so far. "It's exciting," he said. "Big changes are coming up, but I'm ready for it."

Olson is a slender 6-foot-1 guard, with room to grow.

"I need to get a little stronger," he said. "College is different. There are definitely a lot of bigger guys. That and my shot."

Olson led the Mississippi Valley Conference with a 20.7 scoring average this season. He was named second team all-state by the Iowa Newspaper Association and now is the MVP of a prestigious all-star game.

"It's definitely what I wished for," he said about his final year in high school. "I knew what I could

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do and I feel like I did a good job."

Kory Kuenstling, a 6-11 center from Dunkerton who has committed to Drake, helped the North squad with 11 points. Seth Bonifas, a 6-9 center from Dubuque Senior who has committed to Missouri Western State, scored 10 points for the winners. A.J. Carter of Kennedy scored five points for the North.

Chike Ukah, a 6-6 forward from Iowa City West who has Kirkwood on his list of possible colleges, led the South team with 12 points.

Paige Greiner of Williamsburg, a Drake recruit, led the South to a 58-57 victory in the Girls All-Star Game with 15 points. Cyerra Hutchins of Prairie, who has signed with Kirkwood, scored eight points for the winners. Morgan Martin of Kennedy, who is headed to Eastern Illinois University, had four points for the winners.

Blaire Thomas of Waterloo West, who is headed to Iowa State, led the North with 21 points. Katie Sommer of Linn-Mar scored four points for the North. Kristie Sommer of Linn-Mar also played for the North squad.