

MINDEN'S HUNTER GOES CRIMSON

BY PAUL GEORGE

Hunter Myers, 18, a power forward for Douglas High School's basketball team, the Tigers, played his first game of the season November 28, helping his team defeat the Spanish Springs Cougars. Like many high school seniors, this season is his final as part of the Tigers. But, for Hunter, basketball will continue to be an important part of his life as he goes to Cambridge, Mass., next fall to play for the Harvard Crimson.

After examining offers from many universities, including California, Lehigh, Princeton and UC Santa Barbara, Hunter narrowed his choices down to two: Harvard and Stanford.

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"I was looking for a school that was best for me academically and athletically," Hunter said. After a tour, he loved the 376-year-old Harvard campus and its surroundings. Raised in Minden, Nev., he found Harvard to be different, but comfortable.

Hunter's father, Dave, is excited about his son's opportunity to get a Harvard education and work under head coach Tommy Amaker. He is proud of not only what Hunter has accomplished, but also the work and effort Hunter has put into reaching his goals.

As a child, Hunter played in multiple sports, but developed a passion for basketball as he grew older. He also started setting goals, academically and athletically, as a young adult.

An ESPN analyst wrote online, "Myers has very long arms and a feathery shooting touch out to 22-feet," adding that the 6-foot-7-inch athlete's "jump shot is pure with a smooth release and his range is excellent."

ESPN blogger Dave Telep wrote in April his surprise when he saw Hunter play

at the Pangos Spring Spectacular and Adidas VIP Run. Hunter "won me over," Telep wrote, adding that Hunter "was the best player I'd never heard of prior to the Pangos Spring Spectacular."

Hunter has yet to declare a major but he is leaning toward mechanical engineering. He studied Advance Placement Calculus as a high school freshman.



And basketball has taught Hunter more than just free throws and jump shots. "I've developed relationships that will last a lifetime," Hunter said. As a kid, he was shy, but playing a team sport has made him comfortable in a leadership role.

"Basketball has brought out who I am inside," he said. His father, who participated in athletics in college and has coached teams at a variety of level, agrees, believing team sports are a "tool for molding young people."

In his free time, Hunter likes to help his community. He enjoys spending time with children at the local elementary school library, where his mother, Karen, is a librarian. He also goes to elementary classes and talks to students, encouraging them to focus on their education and setting goals.

With a busy senior year and basketball season ahead of him, Hunter has a full plate. Next year his workload will increase with Harvard academics and the Crimson's training and game schedule. But Hunter is more productive and focused when he's busy.

Has he thought about the next step as a basketball player, going pro? "Of course I've thought about the pros. Every kid playing basketball thinks about the pros. But I want to focus on my education," he said. "A Harvard degree is something that will be with me and benefit me for the rest of my life."

