

Adam McDermott commits to North Dakota

Written by Jim Ecker

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 18:54 - Last Updated Tuesday, 23 September 2014 19:00



Another member of the McDermott clan will be playing Division I college basketball next year.

Adam McDermott, a 6-foot-4 senior at Xavier High School who averaged 16.5 points last season, committed to the University of North Dakota Monday night after taking an official visit to the school in Grand Fork, N.D., this past weekend.

If Adam McDermott has half the success in college as his cousin - former Creighton All-American Doug McDermott - he'll have a great career.

"He's a big role model for me," McDermott said Tuesday. "It's crazy to think where he's come from and what he's done."

Doug McDermott helped Ames High School win multiple state titles when he played alongside Harrison Barnes, who played at North Carolina before heading to the NBA. McDermott scored 3,150 points at Creighton, the fifth-most in Division I history, and is currently a rookie with the Chicago Bulls after being selected in the first round of the 2014 NBA draft.

Adam McDermott would like to help the Xavier Saints win the Class 3A state title this season with a club that also features Calvin Winker and Prairie transfer Michael Mims.

"Hopefully we can make it to the state tournament this year and definitely our ultimate goal is to get that state championship," he said.

Adam McDermott commits to North Dakota

Written by Jim Ecker

Tuesday, 23 September 2014 18:54 - Last Updated Tuesday, 23 September 2014 19:00

The Saints finished 15-9 last season and lost in the substate tournament, missing the state tournament by one game.

McDermott fielded offers from Eastern Illinois, American University and Northern Colorado before casting his lot with North Dakota.

"I went up there for a visit this past weekend," McDermott said. "I really liked the campus, I liked the town, I really liked the coaches and the players. I love the facilities. It just kind of felt like home."

North Dakota, coached by former University of Iowa assistant Brian Jones, finished with a 17-17 record last year.

Greg McDermott, Adam's uncle and Doug's father, began his coaching career at the University of North Dakota from 1989 to 1994 following his playing days at the University of Northern Iowa. Greg McDermott coached Doug at Creighton and previously served as the head coach at UNI and Iowa State. Adam McDermott is the first player in the history of Xavier High School to receive a scholarship for Division I basketball, according to Xavier Coach Ryan Luehrsmann.

"It feels great," said McDermott. "It's a huge accomplishment. I'm really excited to get up there."

McDermott averaged 5.3 rebounds and 2.3 assists last season to complement his 16.5 scoring average. He said he has worked hard since last season on his strength, quickness, jumping, ballhandling and shooting.