

## Press Clippings 07/03/20 to 07/07/20

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**---Press Clippings---07/07/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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**---Press Clippings---07/06/2020**  
**There are no U-46 related news stories.**

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**---Press Clippings---07/04/2020**  
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**---Press Clippings---07/03/2020**  
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### **SPORTS**

**---The Courier-News---07/05/2020**

#### **The decisions**

Bartlett's Hare and Sinclair, Larkin's Wheeler-Thomas close to college choices

**By: Paul Johnson**



Bartlett's Lexie Sinclair said she'd like to finalize a decision as far as college before the start of her senior year.  
(H. Rick Bamman/Courier-News photos)



Larkin's Damari Wheeler-Thomas, left, has gotten offers from Chicago State, Detroit Mercy and Grambling this summer.



Bartlett's Mackenzie Hare, left, recently received an offer from Florida International in addition to four other offers.

Bartlett's Mackenzie Hare and Lexie Sinclair share a bunch of experiences together.

Hare, a rising junior guard, and Sinclair, a rising senior guard, are year-round teammates. They go from playing in high school for the Hawks to an Aurora-based AAU team.

They're also navigating the Division I recruiting waters, garnering plenty of attention. The rides to and from Aurora have turned into debriefing sessions for the close friends.

"We talk about different colleges we're talking to and the ups and downs of schools, what we like in a school," Hare said. "We get a feel for where we are in the process so we can bounce ideas off of each other and talk about all that."

Sinclair values having Hare there to help guide her through the process.

"It's good to have someone that you know to talk about it," Sinclair said. "Usually, you want to keep that stuff to yourself, but having her is different. I've known her my whole life."

Sinclair is further along in the process, hoping to make a decision before starting her senior season in November.

The versatile point guard has offers from Colgate, Saint Louis and St. Bonaventure. She also said she has talked to schools like Denver, UNC Wilmington and Utah State.

"My timetable is I want to declare before the season, but if it doesn't happen, it's not the end of the world," Sinclair said. "I want to find a place that fits me."

Hare is only halfway through her high school career, but her college interest is heating up as well.

She recently picked up an offer from Florida International to go with offers from UAB, Murray State, Northern Illinois, Saint Louis and Milwaukee.

Hare spent the quarantine working out with her sister Kayla, who plays at NCAA Division II Missouri-St. Louis, and their father Chris, a strength training coach.

“I was weightlifting, so I got a lot stronger and faster,” Hare said.

Hare and Sinclair played their first AAU game of the summer Thursday in Indiana. They were heading Sunday to the USJN Premier Tournament in Indianapolis.

“It felt so good to get back on the court, play with my teammates,” Hare said. “It’s super exciting.

“I enjoy playing with Lexie. We play both seasons together, so we’re around each other a lot. It’s fun to compete against her.”

Gaining interest: Larkin’s Damari Wheeler-Thomas has picked up a trio of Division I offers this summer.

Wheeler-Thomas, a rising junior, has received offers from Chicago State, Detroit Mercy and Grambling.

“I think it’s recognition of the two years he’s had and the potential they see in the next two years,” Larkin coach Deryn Carter said. “He’s such a hard worker. He deserves everything he gets.”

The starting point guard for the Royals since he arrived on campus as a freshman, Wheeler-Thomas has benefited from Carter’s faith in him.

It’s starting to pay dividends on the recruiting trail.

“We’ve asked a lot,” Carter said. “The future is so bright for him. I think the sky is the limit.”

Whip-Purs tidbits: A pair of former Hampshire stars recently made news.

After playing two years at Northern Michigan and two at Indianapolis, Emma Benoit is coming home. In June, she was introduced as a graduate assistant at Judson.

“I am very excited to have Emma join our staff,” Judson coach Sarah Nelson said in a statement. “She’s a great competitor and will bring that same energy to her position here. I can’t wait for her to be a part of our community.”

Recently graduated Collin Woods decided to put college off for a year. The 6-foot-5 guard will instead head to Phoenix, where he will attend highly regarded Hillcrest Prep. He made the announcement June 26 on social media.