

SPORTS

Goetz guard verbally commits to George Brown College

MN Sept. 10, 2015

By Jason Miller

Special

Father Michael Goetz Secondary School basketball star Nikki Ylagan has not even started her final year of high school and already has a plan for her post-secondary studies, verbally committing to play basketball for the George Brown College Huskies in the 2016-17 season.

The 5-foot-5 point guard has been a force on the court, leading her high school team to the Region of Peel Secondary School Athletic Association championship final last year, where they lost to the eventual Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations champion St. Edmond Champion Bears. Only in her Grade 11 year, she was named her school's senior girls basketball MVP and Female Athlete of the Year.

With one year left in high school, she is determined to lead her team back to the promise land and qualify for OFSAA, but that has not stopped her thinking about her future and joining the Huskies next fall was a decision she felt came easy.

"When I got a chance to practice with the team I quickly found out how much I liked the program he (coach Fatih Akser) was running," Ylagan said. "I did my research on the academic side as well and found out that George Brown was a strong academic institution as well and knew it was the right place for me."

On top of her high school team she also plays for Canada Elite, a travelling rep team that competes in tournaments around the United States in the American Athletics Union (AAU). Despite tougher competition, she has continued to shine earning an all-star nod in the Elite Division at the Tournament of the Champions Midwest.

Akser recently took over the women's



Goetz basketball star Nikki Ylagan says George Brown is the right place for her going forward.

basketball program and is optimistic for what lies ahead after landing the top-notch recruit.

"Nikki possesses a strong personality and character. She comes from a family that values very important character traits such as selflessness, respect and hard work," Akser said. "She is the type of a player that elevates her teammates performances both at the practices and at the games."

Ylagan is happy to find a home for next season and overwhelmed a dream of hers has come true. The humble guard may have climbed another step up her ladder of aspirations, but she is not satisfied, until she reaches the top.

"It is such a great opportunity. I cannot wait to be a part of the team," said Ylagan. "I have to work on my strength. The college game is really physical and I have to be able to take the hits."