

BASKETBALL

Finding his place

Wimbish's decision to attend MCC working out

By Jason P. Skoda
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There has always been something smooth about Tylor Wimbish on the basketball court.

Whether it is cutting to the basket or his release on a 12-foot jump shot, the former Mountain Pointe star can make the game look easy at times.

It is one of the reasons, along with his work ethic, that Wimbish is flourishing at Mesa Community College with opportunities to play at a four-year school just around the corner.

"He has really developed into one of the top players," MCC coach Sam Ballard said. "He knows the game, where he needs to be, and does a great job of getting everyone else involved."

Ballard admitted he came across Wimbish while checking in on other players, but kept wanting to see more of Wimbish.

"Every time we saw Mountain Pointe he'd get 18 or 20

points," said Ballard, the former Pride coach. "We honed in on him pretty quickly after that."

It has turned out to be a good fit after taking short to MCC when he could have gone to Division II schools like Hawaii Pacific and Notre Dame de Namur (Belmont, Calif.).

In his sophomore year, Wimbish has become one of the Thunderbirds' top players as the 6-foot-8, 200-pound forward leads the team in scoring (12.0) and rebounding (6.5) through Tuesday.

"It's going pretty good," he said. "We're winning and doing some good things. Coach is one of the smartest people I've been around. If you are struggling on the court, he can tell you what you are doing wrong."

With Wimbish the changes since leaving Mountain Pointe have been subtle. He's playing much the same way, just more efficient.

"I came to Mesa to further
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Mesa Community College sophomore Tylor Wimbish has plenty of options to continue his basketball career at a four-year college.
[Aaron Webster/Courtesy of MCC]