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Homeschool forward playing for respect

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Allen, Texas, resident Brett DeMetrotion doesn't want much. He doesn't ask for big-name recognition or multiple press clippings after a monster game. He doesn't worry about the athletes ahead of him in the numerous player rankings.

All DeMetrotion wants is to play the best. If he does that, he feels everything else will fall into place.

That's the mentality of DeMetrotion, a 6-foot-7, 190-pound senior who is homeschooled. DeMetrotion plays forward for the Dallas Home School Athletic Association (HSAA) North basketball team, a squad that has had its own journey for respect this season. HSAA North is 20-5 on the season and has beaten six public school opponents.



Brett DeMetrotion

"Over the years, we've started to play more public schools," DeMetrotion said. "I think a lot of them look at us like we're just some home school. Some of those schools, we've beaten them handedly."

In the process of taking a huge loss, some of those schools get a chance to see just how good DeMetrotion is. The senior, the tallest player on the team, may be one of the more versatile big men and biggest sleepers in the Dallas area. He is averaging roughly 19 points and eight rebounds per game, and he is shooting 55 percent from the field and 40 percent from the 3-point line.

DeMetrotion leads a team of players who aren't afraid of any challenge. This year's team has defeated UIL teams Sachse and Denison, as well as three-time Southwest Preparatory Conference champion Episcopal School of Dallas. HSAA North has won five in a row, and DeMetrotion has played a

solid role in each game.

Arguably his best performance came in the final of the Houston Christian Mustang Classic at the beginning of December. DeMetrotion sank a buzzer-beating 3-pointer to give HSAA North a 64-63 win and the tournament championship against Episcopal Bellaire. He also was named tournament MVP.

"I've always been a fairly good shooter all my life," DeMetrotion said. "I shoot quite a bit. I'll go to a gym or my driveway and shoot. Basically, I play a lot from out to in. I like to let [bigger opponents] respect my shooting, then I pump fake and take them to the hole."

DeMetrotion, in addition to getting tutelage from HSAA coach **Paul Davis**, has a skills trainer in Elton Drake, who works with him on everything from shooting to ball-handling to moving without the ball.

DeMetrotion has received early interest from smaller schools, such as Centenary, the University of Dallas, and Trinity University in San Antonio. Arkansas and Oklahoma have sent letters letting him know they are keeping an eye on him.

Until that big offer is put on the table, DeMetrotion said he will keep on working for himself and the good of the team. He and **Pierce O'Dell** are the lone seniors, while juniors **Connor Davis** and **Davis Kinville** aid in providing a bulk of the offensive production.

"We can beat some big name teams. I think we can play with anybody," said DeMetrotion, who added that HSAA North beat state-ranked TAPPS team Arlington Grace Prep last season with Texas A&M-bound **Jamal Branch** and Baylor-bound **Isaiah Austin** on the team.

"I think this motivates me. I see lot of kids who get the [college] interest, and I feel I'm just as good as them. It motivates me to do some things so that more colleges can notice me."

DeMetrotion and HSAA North next will travel to Moore, Okla., to participate in next week's John Nobles Basketball Tournament.

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