

Wayne State gains jewel in Clarkston's Kouri

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STAFF WRITER

Because she is only 5-foot-7, some of the big boys backed down on the recruiting trail for Chelsea Kouri.

In other words, the Wayne State got quite a steal in the Clarkston sharpshooter.

Kouri, one of the best three-point shooters in Oakland County the past four years, signed last week to Division II Wayne State University, during the November early signing period for high school seniors playing athletics at NCAA Division I and Division II institutions.

"Wayne State was looking for a shooter and they were sincere in recruiting me," said Kouri, a four-year varsity player for the Wolves and one of the school's all-time top three-point marksmen. "I think I'll be able to get some playing time right at the beginning, because I fit what they need."

Kouri, who is also an outstanding student with a 3.95 GPA, ranks in the top-20 in her graduating class, chose Wayne State over numerous schools that had been in contact with her over the course of the past year.

Division I schools Oakland University and the University of Detroit-Mercy had shown some interest, along with D-II schools Northwood, Gannon (Pa.), DePauw (Ind.) and Division III Albion, among others.

Kouri averaged around 14 points a game for her four-year career, including around 15 per contest this season for the 14-7 Wolves, who were upset in their first district game last week by Lake Orion. She helped her team reach the state quarterfinals as a junior, averaging nearly 20 points a game.

Kouri also nailed six three-pointers in a game on three different occasions in her



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Clarkston senior sharpshooter Chelsea Kouri will take her talents to Wayne State next school year.

career, which is believed to be a school record.

This season, she also averaged around five rebounds and four assists a contest, an area of improvement for Kouri.

Clarkston coach Tim Wasilk believes that Division I schools missed out on a terrific shooter and that Wayne State will gain a jewel.

"She's as pure of a shooter around," said Wasilk. "She's a great weapon to have and a great player. I think what has made her even more valuable to us is that she's worked so hard with her all-around game. She is now better at boxing out and getting rebounds and she can handle the basketball better than in the past."

For Kouri, she had the pleasure of growing up watching several former Clarkston players advance onto the collegiate ranks. They served as a motivational factor.

My older sister (Jill) played with some girls who went to play in college, and I got a chance to see them play a lot," said Kouri, who is considering going into physical therapy at WSU.