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## Staruch signs with UDM — Brighton senior expects to step in and play as a freshman

BY TIM ROBINSON  
DAILY PRESS & ARGUS  
• FEBRUARY 22, 2009

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BRIGHTON — When Tyler Staruch begins his college lacrosse career at the University of Detroit-Mercy next year, there will be at least one familiar face.

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His coach.

Matt Holtz coached a travel team Staruch (pronounced starch; the "u" is silent) played on, and when Holtz had a [scholarship](#) to offer, Staruch was ready.

"He was interested, and a bunch of kids from my travel team went there. So knowing the coach already, and half the team, helped," Staruch said.

Staruch began playing lacrosse in the first grade in Syracuse, N.Y., and joined the Brighton team when he moved there as a freshman.

The Titans are in their first year as a varsity program and the scores have reflected that. They

started with a 21-1 loss at Ohio State and an 18-8 loss at Bellarmine.

But the newness of the team and the chance to play right away were what swayed Staruch.

"I can start right away as a freshman," he said. "I talked to other [schools](#) but probably would have had to sit at first."

In an interview, Holtz indicated that Staruch has the skills his team needs.

"We're building from scratch," he said. "Tyler is a big kid, a strong, athletic player. He's 6-foot-2, 210 pounds, which is big for a lacrosse player, he plays strong, has good stick skills, he works hard and he'll do well in school. He's the kind of player we're definitely looking for."

Staruch said his father, Mike, who will be the Brighton girls coach next year, played a key role in his development.

"He helped me out a lot and pushed me," Tyler Staruch said. "He put my name out there. He's a good motivator, expecting me to be a leader even if I'm not a captain."

Staruch plans to major in either [education](#) or physical therapy at U-D. One thing he's definite about is his relief the recruiting process is over.

"It's sort of awkward talking to coaches from schools you don't want to go to," he said. "There was some



Tyler Staruch, with parents Korina and Mike behind him, will play lacrosse at the University of Detroit-Mercy next year, where his travel coach is now the men's coach. (Photo by TIM ROBINSON/DAILY PRESS & ARGUS)

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pressure, but it's not just about playing. It was going to college. I just wanted to get that over with."

As a senior, he now can concentrate on his senior season at Brighton.

"I don't have to be worried (about college)," he said. "I can just play. I don't have to talk to (college) coaches any more."

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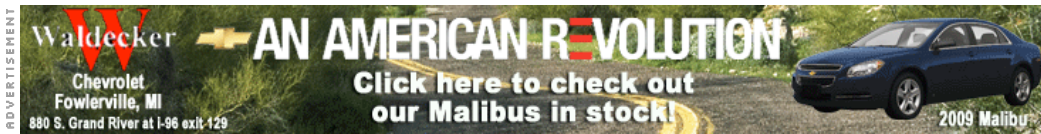
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