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Sweeney set to lead Toros

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Mesa Mountain View High School is known as the state's best basketball program, as they have consistently won division and league championships over the last twenty years.



6-foot-4 senior wing Jaron Sweeney is among the state's best 2011 prospects.

The program has turned out numerous division-I prospects over the last twenty years as well, as such recent top-rated prospects as **Brendon Lavender** (Arizona), **Harper Kamp** (Cal), **Kendall Wallace** (UNLV) and **Stephen Rogers** (BYU) all came through the Toros' basketball program.

Recently, senior wing **Asaad Woods** signed a scholarship and moved on to the collegiate level.

The program has consistently won basketball games each year and last season was no different, as the team finished with a 25-5 overall record and another *5A Central League Championship*, before falling in the 5A Division-I State Semi-finals to Cesar Chavez HS.

This year's team will be no different as Head Coach **Gary Ernst** returns another talented team that will be led by the play of 6-foot-4, 195-pound senior forward **Jaron Sweeney**.

Sweeney was among the Toros' most consistent players last season and returns to action this up and coming high school season after a strong summer performance while competing on the AAU/club circuit. Sweeney traveled this summer with the **Arizona Premier**

club program coached by **Dewey Pennell** and helped lead his team to many big wins and a successful summer performance.

In one big win over a talented **Pump N' Run (CA)** team this summer, Sweeney hit several big shots in the clutch to lead the Premier to a big playoff victory, including a half-court shot as the buzzer sounded to send the game into overtime. The Premier would go on to win the game in overtime after Sweeney's clutch performance.

While Sweeney is a very talented basketball prospect, he has been known to lead his team with his play - rather than being a vocal leader. Sweeney simply gets it done on the basketball court.

This young man possesses good size and has a very good overall skill level, as he has always been taught to be able to shoot and handle the basketball like a point guard.

His grandfather, **Jim Reed**, is widely regarded as one of the better basketball players to come out of the state of Arizona in his time, and still plays the game today in his 70's.

"I always taught Jaron to play like a guard," said Jim. "It makes it much tougher to guard you when you can handle and shoot the basketball from anywhere on the floor."

As a result, Sweeney has worked very hard on his overall game to make himself as effective as possible on the basketball court - traits that have made him into one of Arizona's best overall prospects in the 2011 class.

Sweeney is an excellent shooter of the basketball, and is capable of making shots from anywhere on the floor. He squares up to the basket very well and has a nice looking release on his shot. He also is

a good scorer off the dribble, which he does very well in traffic against bigger defenders - utilizing a variety of floaters and scoop shots to make plays.

Sweeney's best attribute is his ability to move without the basketball. He gets open shots within the offense, as a result of his movement and a willingness to find the open spot on the floor.

Sweeney is also a good rebounder and often gets good inside position from working hard to beat his man for the ball. He has excellent overall work ethic and it shows in his hustle on every play.

Sweeney is a good overall defender and is capable of guarding either the 2 or 3 positions on the floor. More focus on his lateral quickness and foot speed will only improve his overall defensive effectiveness.

Sweeney is currently hearing from numerous division-I and division-II programs for his services, although he has yet to find a clear leader for his services. This high school season will play a major role in his college recruitment.

This year's Toros team should rank again among the top 5A Division-I teams in the state, and look for Sweeney to lead this Toros' team deep into the state playoffs once more.