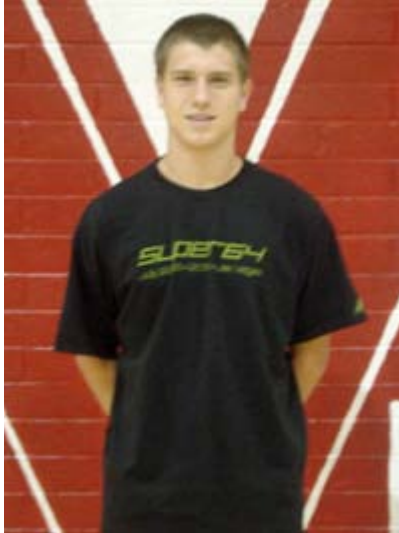


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Sweeney shot leads to a championship

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Mesa (Ariz.) Mountain View has a top shooter on their hands returning for his senior season. At 6-foot-5 and 200 pounds, **Jaren Sweeney** is a talented multi-position player.



Sweeney is a great shooter and rebounder for Mesa Mountain View.

With a pass in the eye test, Sweeney can play at or against positions 1-5 at the high school level. Although his excellent shooting is what gives him an edge over his opponents, he has broadened his attacks to become a more versatile threat from the outside.

Sweeney can not only pull up and drain the long ball, but he can catch the ball and carry out any number of pump fakes and moves to the basket. He can stuff it down from the perimeter with one dribble, but he could also pull up for a running floater or a spot up shot.

Last season he reported shooting 56 percent from the field, and made a devastating 44 percent of his three-point attempts. He also came up big on the boards, grabbing seven rebounds a game. He also uses his long reach and dexterity to control rebounds over his head and get quick put backs. Overall, Sweeney was able to contribute 12 points a game as a junior.

His performance last year on the court earned him All-State honorable mention and 2nd team All-Region.

Sweeney is looking for even more out of his senior season and has high expectations for his Toros, who made it to the semi-finals of the state tournament last year.

"I am working to average about 20 points and eight rebounds," Sweeney said.

"I have a great team to play with and expect us to do very well this year. I feel confident that we will be able to stay ranked in the top five. I want to make it to the state title game, and I personally believe that we are capable of winning it all," He continued.

Sweeney has been working hard over the summer in order to get to that next level.

"This summer I feel like I have improved my ball handling, my shot off the dribble, and my ability to get the ball to the basket," he said.

Sweeney has been recently been trained by coaches that have many years of combined experience.

Mountain View head coach **Gary Ernst** is going on 40 years of high school coaching.

Coach **Dewey Pennell** is the coach of Sweeney's club team, the Arizona Premier. Pennell has 47 years experience coaching high school and is also a former Director of Basketball Operations at the University of Arizona.

Pennell said that Sweeney has made some improvements over the summer that will help him during the senior year.

"He has been shooting the ball really well, and also rebounding and hitting the boards. He has become a lot more aggressive. I think he is ready to have a really good senior season," Pennell said.

Sweeney had a successful summer outing with the Premier. His team got the chance to compete in major tournaments across the country, including events in California, Wisconsin, Oklahoma, and Las Vegas.

At the Adidas Super 64 in Las Vegas, one of the biggest club tournaments in the country, Premier was the 17U Gold Bracket champions. Sweeney had a significant role in the team progressing through the tournament.

Against a team that some favored to win the bracket, the L.A. Double Pump Elite, his shooting was on throughout the game and it was responsible for a six point come back in the last 10 seconds of the game. Sweeney hit a three-pointer to end a fast break with only seconds remaining. An immediate turnover gave Premier the ball back for a shot to tie it.

Sweeney can enjoy looking back at the crazy turn of events.

"When we got the ball back off of the turnover we didn't have any timeouts left, so I just tried to get open for a three. They passed the ball to me but it went out to half court. I ran to it, turned around, and threw the ball up just before the buzzer went off. It went in and our whole team went crazy," Sweeney recalled.

Sweeney then scored the first two points of their overtime victory. The Premier went on to win their remaining games to become champions.

"That was the most memorable event I attended this summer, and was especially exciting because we won the championship."

Sweeney said that his college recruiting has been picking up. He is a good student, with a 3.71 GPA, and is looking to play on the college stage.

He has not determined which schools he is most interested in, but he said that he has been in contact with Grand Canyon University, BYU, Bradley University, Western State College of Colorado, as well as others.

"I know as coaches see me play more and become familiar with the type of player that I am, more and more schools will be interested," Sweeney stated.

Coach Pennell believes that he will find a home somewhere at that next level.

"He is just an easy, easy, player to coach. He always listens and tries to do what the coach is telling him to. I think he is going to make a great player for some college coach," Pennell said.



Jaren Sweeney has seen his shooting ability come in handy at recent events.