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COMMUNITY

GDHS ALUMNUS MURRAY HENDRY ON PLAYING PRO BASKETBALL IN GLASGOW

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Chloe Love/photo

Hendry says he owes his success to his parents, his friends and his basketball coach and youth pastor from Georgetown.

For Murray Hendry, Georgetown District High School will always be remembered as the place that propelled his basketball career.

The 22-year-old power forward/centre, who recently began his first pro season playing for the Glasgow Rocks in Scotland, says his passion for the game stems back to Grade 12, when he tried out for the Rebels at GDHS.

"The basketball coach Mr. (Steve) Pettit and a friend of mine brought me out to a tryout and the moment I went out I absolutely fell in love with the game," Hendry said.

And living in a small town with no gyms to practice basketball in outside of school, Hendry says he spent many hours in the basketball court at Maple Avenue Baptist Church.

"Those people there are so kind, they will always let you in there to play," he said.

Pettit says, as a coach for GDHS, he prides himself on helping students become better citizens. "I think Murray is an example of the kid who's evolved and been able to use the game to help himself grow and I think he's much better for the experience," he said.

Hendry was born in Scotland, then lived in Holland, before moving to Halton Hills when he was 10

years old, where he attended Harrison Public School, then Georgetown District High School. Both of his parents were exceptional athletes and because of that, Hendry says he dabbled in all sorts of sports growing up.

"My mom was a gymnast, a tennis player, played soccer, she did it all," he said. "My dad also played soccer at one of the highest stages in Europe and represented his country in the World Cup, so sports has always been a huge, huge thing in our lives."

Hendry says while he played soccer and a number of individual sports such as tennis and badminton, he enjoys the physical nature of basketball, as well as the camaraderie that comes along with the sport.

"It's nice to know that when you make a mistake, you have your teammate to

pick you up," he added. "It really is like a brotherhood."

After high school, Hendry visited Scotland, as he had done many times throughout the years, but this time, while playing basketball for fun, he connected with the general manager of the Glasgow Rocks.

Though Hendry ended up going back home to Owen Sound, Ont., where he was living at the time, he kept playing basketball and continued communicating with his connections in Scotland.

Before he knew it, he took a chance and bought a one-way ticket to Glasgow to try out for the team.

He signed his contract this past August.

"I love the team I'm playing for, I love the city; the fans are amazing," Hendry said. "The players I play with have so much experience and knowledge so there's so much to learn from them. So, knock on wood, but I definitely want to stay in Glasgow."

As for young, hopeful athletes in Halton Hills, Hendry says it's important to make use of the resources in town and to find a knowledgeable mentor.

"For me, I couldn't have done it without a lot of my friends, Mr. Pettit and Mike Rosinski, my youth pastor," he said. "They pushed me so far and taught me so much that I never would have known without them."

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