NCMC men's basketball inks two Illinois products
Sports
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Two student/athletes from Peoria, Illinois have signed letters of intent to attend and play basketball at North Central Missouri College in Trenton this fall. They are Blake Johnson, a graduate of Peoria High School, and Xavier Newson, a graduate of Richwoods High School.

Johnson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Johnson, is a 6â□□1â□□ guard. A member of the Letterman Club and the Honor Roll, he averaged 15 points, 3 assists, 5 rebounds, and 2 steals per game during his senior year. He was named to the All-Conference 1st Team, six All-Tournament Teams, the All-Area Team, and All-State Honorable Mention. While his major field of study is undecided, Blake Johnson intends to earn an Associate Degree from NCMC and then transfer to a four-year university.

Xavier Newson, a forward, is the son of Renetta Watson and Tyson Newson. At 6â□□4â□□ and 225 pounds, Xavier will have a strong presence on the floor. Head Basketball Coach Steve Richman commented, â□□Xavier will add size and strength to our lineup. He is a great rebounder and finisher around the basket.â□□ Newson had a game average of 16 points and 8 rebounds during his senior year. A member of the All-Conference 1st Team and the All-Area 2nd Team, he also received the Joel Gatsby Award. At NCMC, Xavier Newson will major in physical education with a goal of a four-year degree.

Richman remarked, â□□Both these players are great additions to the â□□13-14 Pirates basketball team. Blake will add depth at the guard position as shooting and quickness are his strengths, and Xavier will be a strong man for us.â□□ Previously-announced signees are Jory Woodson (Rockwood Summit in Fenton), Tyrell Thirkield (Higginsville), Andrew Berry (Columbia-Hickman), and Dalton Lundy (Oak Park).