

Tennessee High School Basketball standouts sign with Columbia State

By Zach Bennett

Columbia State's Men's Basketball program has announced they will be welcoming Two Student Athletes to their program for the upcoming 2016-2017 season who hail from Tennessee High Schools.

Isaiah Crawley, a 2016 graduate from Ripley High School (Ripley, TN) will continue his basketball career at the Junior college level next season for the Chargers under Head Coach Winston Neal.

"We are Excited to add Isaiah to the Columbia State Family. He's the high character student-athlete that will excel on the court and in the classroom at Columbia State. On the court he's a long, athletic, versatile forward that can play multiple positions that fits our pressing, running style of play." Neal Said

The 6-foot-7 Forward helped his High School team boast a 26-8 record in his senior season. Crawley received All-State, All-District, and 15AA All-Tournament team honors, while also being awarded the 15AA Tournament Most Valuable Player. Crawley averaged 21 points per game and 15 rebounds per game last season. He plans to major in exercise science during his time at Columbia State.

"My family and I are extremely excited to be a part of the Charger Family. I chose Columbia State because it is a great fit for me. I was looking for a great academic school and a Coach that can help me get to the NCAA Division I level. Columbia State is the top academic community college in Tennessee and Coach Neal is known for developing Division I players. I am excited to get started this fall." Crawley said.

Also signing with Columbia State for the upcoming season is recent Centennial High School graduate and Williamson county resident, K.J Lesure.

"I am pleased to announce the addition of KJ Lesure from Centennial High School in Williamson County to Charger nation. We have made a commitment to recruit local players and KJ is one of the best players in the state of Tennessee. KJ is a tremendous young man on the court, in the classroom, and in the community which is exactly the type of student-athlete we want at Columbia State." Neal said.

The 5-foot-9 guard has been a key role player for the Centennial Cougars during his time in High School. Lesure assisted his team to post an 18-8 record this past season, averaging 18.8 points per game and connecting 42 percent from the field-goal range, in addition to earning All-District, All-District tournament team, and All-Region honors.

He was also nominated for Williamson county athlete of the year and Williamson county Basketball player of the year for the 2015-2016 season. During his High School career, In addition, Lesure was also recognized as the Max Preps player of the game 10 times.

During his time at Centennial, Lesure was not only a standout athlete, but also an excellent student in the classroom, graduating with a 3.7 GPA and being recognized as a National Honor Society award winner. Lesure plans to continue his academic success, as he will be majoring in Pre-Medicine at Columbia State.

“I am thrilled to be joining the Columbia State Men’s Basketball team for the upcoming season. Columbia State is a great academic school with a history of developing students for academic success at four-year colleges, and Coach Neal is building a Top 25 basketball program. My ultimate goal is to play NCAA Division I basketball and I believe the program Coach Neal has built will get me prepared for that level of the game.” Lesure said.