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Versyp lands first for 2017

Mike Carmin

Dani Lawson was "totally shocked" by the scholarship offer presented by Purdue women's basketball coach Sharon Versyp on Monday.

It didn't take the 6-foot-1 Ohio native long to accept.

"It took a little bit of time, about five minutes. It was an easy decision," Lawson said.

Lawson is a 2017 recruit - she's going into her sophomore season at **Hathaway Brown** High School in Cleveland - and plays for the Toledo Thunder program and coach Karen Hewitt.

Lawson was in town participating in the program's elite camp, which included 2015 commitment Dominique McBryde from Bedford-North Lawrence. Versyp has future commitments from the 2015, 2016 and now the 2017 class - a total of six players.

"The atmosphere is good. I felt like I wanted to be part of something like this," Law-

son said.

Lawson is the daughter of Kay Tucker, who played for the Boilermakers from 1990 to 1993.

Lawson plays mostly the power forward spot, but Hewitt said "she can bring the ball up the floor. I wouldn't want to limit her. I don't see her being a (small forward) but I see her as a matchup issue with the (power forwards). She can handle the ball very well."

Hewitt said Lawson is a strong rebounder, but needs to work on finishing around the basket with more contact.

"When she's more consistent, she's going to be very difficult to guard," Hewitt said.

Hewitt said Purdue has always ranked near the top of Lawson's list.

"I knew how she felt about Purdue, and I knew if that opportunity ... just based on her experiences. She fell in love with Purdue on her own. I knew if it was going to be anybody early it's going to be Purdue," Hewitt said.