



GREG BENDER

Ross star is going south

News-Messenger Reports

Greg Bender of Fremont Ross will attend the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

Bender, who today was named special mention on the Associated Press (AP) All-Ohio Class AAA team, and his coach, John Sawyer, made the announcement today. The 6-5 Bender is Ross's all-time leading scorer and holds the single season scoring record for the Little Giants.

A three-year starter, Bender led the Little Giants to their best record, 16-5, in more than 20 years this past season with a 19-plus points average. Ross lost in overtime to state semifinalist Mansfield Senior in the first game of the sectional tournaments.

Bender had expressed an interest in the North Carolina school before the past season began. He had indicated that he wanted to attend a "warm weather" school.

At UNC-Wilmington, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I school, Bender is expected to play a wing or an off-guard (shooting guard) slot.

"Their coach, Mel Gibson, told me" Sawyer said, "that he needed someone who could shoot from outside. In the league they play in, teams play mostly zone defenses and UNC did not have a good outside shooter this past season."

UNC-Wilmington finished 12-16.

Bender had been actively recruited by the Air Force Academy, Pennsylvania, Penn State, Bowling Green and Kent State.

The agreement to attend UNC-Wilmington was verbal. High school seniors are not allowed to sign winter sports national letters-of-intent until April 12.