

SPORTS > HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Lowell basketball star George Turkson commits to Texas A&M

Bradford Christian Academy and Mass Rivals basketball star excited about becoming an Aggie



Lowell native and Bradford Christian Academy basketball star George Turkson has committed to play for Texas A&M. He announced his decision Wednesday in Lowell. (Courtesy photo by Emmanuel Gayyeen)



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LOWELL — It was a basketball dilemma most hoop stars only dream about. But for George Turkson, it quickly became a Division 1 college reality.

The Lowell native and Bradford Christian Academy forward officially committed to Texas A&M during a special unveiling ceremony at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell on Wednesday.

A 6-foot-7, 205-pound forward, Turkson had his pick of the D1 litter, narrowing the field down to three schools, with attractive offers from UMass and Northwestern also on the table. But when it came down to decision time, the basketball star elected to head deep into the heart of Texas.

“It feels amazing,” said Turkson, 17, who unzipped his BCA windbreaker to reveal an Aggies T-shirt in front of a capacity crowd of friends and family, including his mother, Juliana. “I have a lot of emotions. I’m just happy the hard work paid off. A lot of people have seen what I’ve gone through, the transformation and mountains I’ve climbed. I’m just so happy.”

It was really a no-lose situation for the hoop star, but one he took very seriously over the past few weeks.

“I’ve been thinking about it for a while now,” said Turkson. “The college process can be stressful at times. A lot of colleges are calling, texting, and building relationships. It’s been on my mind for a long time, but I feel like I’m picking the right school, and the right program to help me succeed.”

So what was it about Texas A&M that ultimately separated them from the rest of the pack?

“They just valued the intangibles, the character, and player that I am,” said Turkson. “They really made that known with all the calls and texts I got from them every couple of days telling me they needed me. That I can make a huge difference in their program and help them win.”

When it came to making his formal announcement, Turkson decided to go back to where it all started, holding it at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell, the facility where his dream began.

"I've been coming here since I was seven," said Turkson. "It feels like home. To be making this commitment here, I wouldn't have it any other place. I'm blessed to come back to my roots where I started my basketball journey."

Born and raised in Lowell, Turkson first dribbled a basketball as a fifth-grader, but didn't gravitate to the game until much later.

"I'm a late bloomer," he admitted. "I started to take it seriously around ninth grade. That's when I realized the potential I had in this game."

Turkson was playing JV basketball his freshman year at Lowell High School, when he was discovered by Vin Pastore, program director and coach of the Rivals elite boys high school basketball program. He believed he had found a diamond in the rough.

"He was very, very raw, but he wanted to be good," said Pastore. "And his work ethic was amazing."

Leaving Lowell High following his freshman year, Turkson went the prep route, attending Bradford Christian Academy in Lawrence, where things quickly began to take shape. He continued to hone his skills with the Mass Rivals, while also maintaining a sparkling 4.0 grade point average in the classroom.

"It's been great playing at prep school, playing against the best teams in New England," said Turkson. "It helped me. It shaped me to become the competitor and the basketball player that I am."

According to Pastore, Turkson is the real deal.

"This is an amazing day for George, the city of Lowell, Bradford Christian Academy, and of course my Mass Rivals club team," said Pastore. "George is a unique individual. He's an unbelievable student, a high-motor talented athlete, and one of the best shooters I've ever had the opportunity to coach. It's an incredible story. Basketball has become a tool, along with his academics, to get a free education. I think that's great. That's why we do this. It's a proud moment for me as well."

Turkson is looking forward to starting the next chapter of his career, but first thing's first. He still has one more year of high school ball to look forward to.

"I'm not finished yet," said Turkson. "I may have committed, but I'm still going to continue to work hard for BCA, for the city of Lowell, and be an example of hard work paying off."



Lowell native and Bradford Christian Academy basketball star George Turkson unzips his windbreaker to reveal that he's committed to Texas A&M during a ceremony at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Lowell on Wednesday. (Courtesy photo by Emmanuel Gayyea)

Tags: **boys basketball**, **college basketball**, **George Turkson**, **Lowell**, **Texas A&M**



Christopher Hurley | Sports reporter

Christopher Hurley is an award-winning multimedia sports journalist with over 20-years newsroom experience, joining The Sun in 2021. A hockey and heavy metal enthusiast, the Malden native has covered the Stanley Cup Finals, the NHL All-Star Game, NBA Draft, Belmont Stakes, the Miss USA Pageant, WrestleMania XIV, the mighty Van Halen, and countless local and regional events. When not in the pressbox, he can be found catching his favorite hard rock bands in concert, or chasing around his puppy, Bella.

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