

Mitch snakes his way into the NBL

FORMER GENESIS STUDENT SIGNS WITH TAIPANS

Jacob Grams

FORMER Genesis Christian College student Mitchell McCarron has found a home in the National Basketball League after success in Europe on his first professional contract.

The 23-year-old last week inked a two-year deal with the Cairns Taipans to play alongside former Australian Boomers star Mark Worthington.

Both players attended Metro State University of Denver in the US and won the NCAA Division 2 National Player of the Year — McCarron in 2015 and Worthington in 2005.

"He was a huge deciding factor in Cairns I think. I reached out to him and he was helpful when I was at

PLAYER PROFILE

Name: Mitch McCarron

Age: 23

Team: Cairns Taipans

Position: Guard

■ NCAA Division 2 Player of the Year on 2015 in US college basketball, the award Mark Worthington won in '05

■ Trained with Golden State Warriors, LA Lakers, Denver Nuggets in 2015 but signed to play in Europe

Metro with advice so I've kept communication going with him and he just let me know about Cairns," McCarron said.

"He's a very straight up guy so I knew he wasn't lying when he said Cairns was a good place to be."

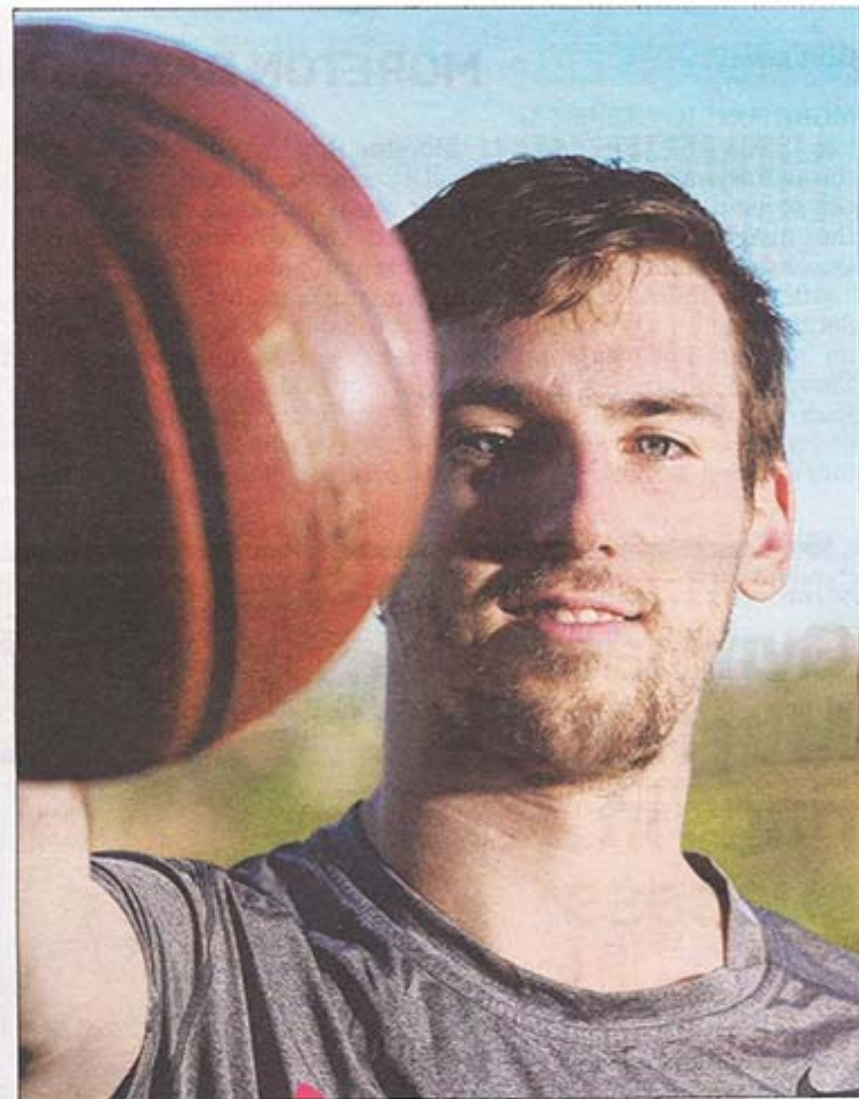
The guard has just returned from playing a part in Palencia Balon-

cesto's championship season in the Spanish LEB Oro second tier league. The former Northside Wizards player had the chance to play in the NBA Summer League last year, but chose to play for Australia at the World University Games before heading to Spain.

"I learnt so much on and off the floor just about the professional lifestyle and how different it is to college and how you've really got to take care of your body," he said.

"It was different because these are peoples' lives now, these are peoples' careers ... and they take it very seriously."

Taipans head coach Aaron Fearne said McCarron was one of the top guards on the free agent list — a "hungry young guy" set to bring enthusiasm to the defensive end.



Mitchell McCarron, a former Northside Wizards player, has signed on with the Cairns Taipans for the 2016-17 NBL season. Picture: Chris Higgins