

DAILY Southtown SPORTS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Matthews to enter NBA draft

Former St. Rita standout to gauge teams' interest, plans to not hire agent, could return to Michigan

Associated Press

Michigan standout and St. Rita grad Charles Matthews is taking a step toward playing professional basketball without giving up on the option of staying in school.

Matthews said Friday he is declaring himself eligible for the NBA draft but will not hire an agent.

Matthews can start working out for NBA teams on Tuesday in

the hopes of being picked to participate in the draft combine next month in Chicago. He has until May 30 to stay in the draft or withdraw his name from consideration.

The Chicago native would have two seasons of eligibility remaining if he returns to Michigan.

"We have loved the initiative and maturity Charles has shown during this early phase of the testing the NBA Draft process,"

Next up

NBA draft: June 21, 6 p.m., Barclays Center, New York, ESPN, two rounds

Michigan coach John Beilein said. "We have been, and will continue, to work closely with Charles and his family to gain as much information as possible in the weeks ahead."

The 6-foot-6, 200-pound guard helped the Wolverines advance to the NCAA finals and had a career-high 31 points in a Sweet 16 win

over Texas A&M. He started all 41 games and averaged 13 points, 5.5 rebounds and 2.4 assists in his first season playing at Michigan after transferring from Kentucky.

He averaged 1.7 points as a freshman two years with the Wildcats.

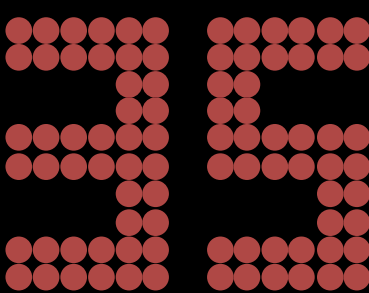
While Matthews may come back to Michigan, Moe Wagner has decided to enter the NBA draft and skip his senior year.

The Wolverines will also be without departing seniors Muhammad-Ali Abdur-Rahkman and Duncan Robinson next season.



TONY DING/AP

Michigan guard Charles Matthews started all 41 games this season and averaged 13 points and 5.5 rebounds per game.



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

THREE, TWO, ONE...

The addition of a **35-second shot clock** looks to be coming soon to Illinois high school basketball, but expect it to have varying degrees of impact

If you're a high school basketball coach who prefers to run a half-court offense and demands 17 passes before your team can attempt a shot, I have some unsolicited advice.

It's time to start tweaking your playbook.

That's because there's a good chance Illinois will become the 10th state to use a 35-second shot clock. The move is likely within three years.

"I believe it's no longer 'if' a shot clock comes to high school basketball in Illinois, but 'when,'" said Kurt Gibson, the associate executive director for the IHSA. "Listening to my colleagues from around the country makes me come to the conclusion there will be a shot



PAT DISABATO

clock."

Gibson couldn't verify exactly when, but he was more certain that it would be introduced only for the varsity, not freshman or sophomore levels.

The National Federation of High Schools will announce its rule changes for the 2018-19 season within the next few weeks. Gibson doesn't believe adding a shot clock will be part of those rule changes.

"I don't expect it, based on what I've heard," Gibson said. "But if a shot clock were to be part of the federation's rules changes, I don't believe it would be something we'd implement next season."

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SOFTBALL

Carly's way powers Knights

Alvers goes 3-for-3 with 5 RBIs as Lincoln-Way Central routs Lemont

BY TONY BARANEK
Daily Southtown

Of the many ways that freshman Carly Alvers impressed Lincoln-Way Central coach Jeff Tarala during tryouts, one thing stood out.

"Her violent swing," Tarala said. "That's the first thing I noticed about Carly, honest to

God. Her violent swing."

She didn't miss with her bat in Friday's 18-0 five-inning victory over host Lemont.

Alvers went 3-for-3 with a pair of doubles and five RBIs for the Knights (11-1). Ashley Platek also had three hits and five RBIs while Sydney Grein hit her first home run.

Lucy Conway and Christina Tomala had hits for Lemont (7-2).

Alvers capped a five-run first inning with a double, duplicated her effort with a two-run double in the second and drove in another

run with a single in the fourth.

An everyday third baseman, Alvers moved to shortstop for the game against Lemont and was flawless with an assist and a putout.

She came to the Knights' first practice with a positive recommendation.

"My JV coach also coaches in the same summer program she plays for," Tarala said. "He told me, 'You might want to keep an eye on her.'"

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GARY MIDDENDORF/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Lincoln-Way Central's Carly Alvers connects to drive in two runs during Friday's game against Lemont.