

By **Anthony Garcia**

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Last time *PHOH* spoke to Cleveland Brush point guard, **DJ Dial (2019)**, everything was pointing in a promising direction. The young floor general was taking in an interest in commanding the court as a freshman on an upcoming Brush team, and had a noticeable thirst for improvement. The only piece that was missing was college interest.

Ten months later, the 16th ranked sophomore in Ohio received an offer from Kent State. Teammate, and potential co-captain **Andre Harris**, was offered the same day.

The 5'8" underclassman is also receiving mail from a number of college programs: Cleveland State, Tennessee State, Jackson (MI), Dillard (LA), and North Carolina A&T.

Furthermore, Brush head coach Chet Mason said that Toledo, Akron, Youngstown State, and Cleveland State have "all been in to see him."

It goes without saying that a D-I offer before your sophomore season is unusual and a monumental accomplishment. For Dial, he's remaining humble.

"The work has only begun now," Dial said. Specifically, Dial broke down what he's been focusing on, "Better leadership. Commanding the floor, being a better floor general. We got a young team, so I'm going to have to command the court and I have one year [of] experience so I'm going to have to be a leader this year."

For a young team, there's few people across the Ohio who you'd rather have at the helm of your team. Dial is not only great at hitting a floater in the lane, he's an admirable young man off the court too.

"It's bigger than basketball. Off the court, I try to get involved in the community. I try to be a student-athlete, and set the goal for student-athletes. Not just for basketball, but for anybody to look at school to see what Brush student-athletes are like, to be an example," Dial said.

Dial is also in discussions with his mother to create a foundation and fundraiser for Leukemia.

He is carrying a 3.6 GPA.

Even during our interview, it's apparent that Dial is purposeful in everything he does. On the court, he's continuing to improve the pull-up jumper, but he's most concerning with becoming the best possible leader.

"All of the players that Coach Chet got around me right now, they're only going to make me look better. So, all I got to do is go out here and be leader, run a team," Dial said.

Obviously, Dial will be a name you'll continue to hear in Ohio recruiting news. With three more seasons, it's hard to say how high his recruitment can reach.

At the moment, Dial is looking for academics and said he'd like to leave Ohio and explore another region in college. Maybe the interest from schools in the South is a sign that Dial will be at a warm-weather college in a few years.

