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Richter's book on recruiting 'hits the nail on the head'

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As **Dylan Richter** navigated through the college recruiting process, it quickly became apparent landing a college scholarship entailed more than he or his family ever envisioned.

The former Stevenson High School basketball star (2008 graduate) found a good fit at Division III Washington University (where he's averaging 7.9 points a game for the 9-1 Bears).

Yet all the trials of the recruiting process prompted Dylan's mother, **Laurie Richter**, to write a book. "Put Me in Coach, A Parent's Guide to Winning the Game of College Recruiting" is a thoughtful and detailed look into everything a student/athlete — and his parents — need to know before attempting to find a school that best fits the stu-



Laurie Richter

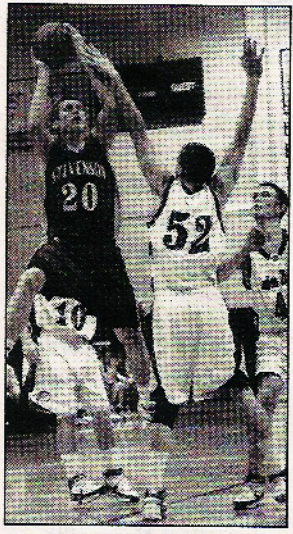
dent's needs. "When you go through the process, you realize no one is in charge," the Lincolnshire resident said. "You have to find out what to do on your own."

"We had a pretty successful outcome," Richter added. "But we've talked to so many people who got stuck (at schools the athlete didn't like). It (recruiting) is a horrible process for parents, and every year thousands of people go through it."

Before Richter's book went to press, she sought out the opinion of Stevenson head basketball coach **Pat Ambrose**.

"Laurie asked me to preview it," Ambrose confirmed. "It's fantastic. It shows she did a tremendous amount of research, and I think it hits the nail on the head."

Richter details the recruiting experiences of several area athletes (who are identified by



DAVE SHIELDS/FOR PIONEER PRESS
Ex-Stevenson High School standout Dylan Richter drives to the hoop during action last winter. He now is playing collegiately for Washington University in St. Louis.

first name only). She also contacted college coaches — in a wide range of sports — for their views on all aspects of the process.

Put Me in Coach is full of common-sense tips for the prospective student/athlete. Here's a quick sample:

— overestimating the talent level of the athlete is a common mistake made by both the athlete

and his/her parents.
— don't wait for colleges to find you; instead, contact the schools of interest yourself.

— high school coaches will help in the process, but remember the coach is also a teacher and has family commitments that take up his/her time.

— play on AAU and club teams to gauge your athlete's skill level outside the high school atmosphere.

— look into merit-based scholarships (academic achievement), as there is much more money available through that avenue than athletic scholarships.

— make sure the school of choice is attractive academically, socially and athletically.

The book has been available for more than a month. To purchase, order online at rightfitpress.com or head to one of these local bookstores: Borders in Deerfield, The Lake Forest Book Store, or The Book Stall in Winnetka.

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