

## Trice Sr. won't try to sell son on alma mater

By [Doug Harris](#) | Monday, August 24, 2009, 01:43 PM

Wayne coach Travis Trice Sr. may have played college basketball at Butler, but he said he doesn't believe his background as a Bulldog will influence where his son, Travis Trice II, ends up going to college.

Dayton is recruiting the Wayne junior, and UD coach Brian Gregory has plenty of competition for the 6-foot guard. Trice also has scholarship offers from Butler, Ohio U., Miami, Cleveland State, Akron, Wright State, Missouri State and Valparaiso, while many schools from BCS conferences are moving in, too.

"I'm telling him this is going to be one of the biggest decisions he's ever going to make in his life, and I will help him, and my wife Julie will help, but the role I'll play is I want to make sure he sees an awful lot," Trice Sr. said. "I want to make sure he gets out and gets an understanding of what the players are like, gets an understanding of that team's character, gets a first-hand experience of the coaches and campuses of schools he's interested in.

"Quite honestly, I told him and I told coach Gregory this as well: What I did has absolutely nothing to do with what Travis is going to do. He's his own man and has got a mind of his own."

Dayton is also recruiting another Wayne junior, 6-foot-6 Markus Crider, who has the same offer list as Trice except for Butler, Missouri State and Valpo.

"It's not that those (other) schools don't want him," Trice Sr. said. "They just don't believe they can get him."

Trice Sr. said Crider is listed in recruiting rankings as a high-major or high-major-minus prospect, which means he's projected to play at a mid-level BCS program or above. But that won't deter the Flyers.

"They are only recruiting high-major Division I players," Trice Sr. said of the Flyers. "Coach Gregory said, 'We only want high-major Division I players, and we think both of those kids are at that level.' That really made me feel good. With two years of high school left, the sky really is the limit. But Dayton is absolutely in the mix."

The Flyers have made appearances in the Top 25 each of the last two years, and they'll likely go into this season as a Top-25 team. And Gregory's strength as a recruiter is that he always has a high target list.

The Atlantic 10 may not get much national exposure, but he believes UD's tradition, fan base, facilities and academic reputation put him in a good position to do battle with BCS programs.

"If they're trying to get to the elite teams and stay in the Top 25 consistently, you have to go after those (high-major) players," Trice Sr. said. "You can't recruit the mid-majors and think they're going to come in and make a difference in your program. You have to shoot for that high list and convince them you're on the winning track. Over the last several years, I think Dayton without question has done that."