

Wayne star OK with not playing more sports

By [Greg Billing](#), Staff Writer

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HUBER HEIGHTS — Looking at his past, Travis Trice regrets not playing high school football his senior season.

Looking to his future, Travis Trice Jr., his son, doesn't anticipate having those same feelings.

Trice Jr., a junior at Wayne High School, dropped football and baseball in order to excel at basketball. He's among a growing trend of high school boys and girls who specialize in one sport.

"I love basketball so much it carries me year-round," said Trice Jr., the only underclassmen on the Greater Western Ohio Conference's all-conference team last season.

"Baseball started conflicting with AAU basketball, so I knew it was time to give it up because I wanted to play basketball. I never get burned out on basketball."

As a coveted football recruit, Wayne junior Braxton Miller thought specialization was the way to go. A football injury kept him out of basketball last season, and he didn't plan on playing this year.

"I went to the first game last week and I was in the stands watching. I was like, man, I need to be out there. I just made a decision that night that I'm playing," said Miller, who along with fellow football player Tre Moore joined late and saw their first game action Tuesday, Dec. 15.

"It takes up some time, but I still get (football) workouts in. That's why I was thinking about not playing so I can work out for football. It still fits with my schedule to get enough rest and sleep."

Coach Trice, who split his college basketball career between Purdue and Butler, gave up baseball to run track in high school and passed on football to focus on his basketball visits and recruiting.

"My thinking is if you don't love it, then you have to question doing it," Coach Trice said of athletes focusing on one sport. "I've taught (Travis) to evaluate the situation and think things through. That's what he's done.

"Probably the biggest thing I see in this is if you have two- or three-sport athletes that can make your programs better, it's a pride thing for your school. It's about what's on the front of your chest. Those two guys being added to our basketball team makes our basketball program better."

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