

## Steelers looking forward to a Big Addition

Western Port Steelers are happy to announce the signing of American Import Malika Jackson native from California; Malika joins the Steeler's after being an assistant coach for a season where before she was highly successful as a student-athlete at Texas A&M International for 2 years.

Jackson led the Dustdevils to a School high 19-9 record and first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II national tournament in 2013-14, while also earning the University's first All-American honour in women's basketball.



As a senior, Jackson averaged 16 points and 9 rebounds per game this earned Malika a number of accolades being named to the All-Heartland Conference first team, All-South Central Regional team, All-NCAA South Central Regional Tournament team and to the All-Heartland Conference Tournament team for her efforts on the court. She was recognized with the Texas A&M International Athletic Director's Award, named Team Most Valuable Player and placed on the Heartland Conference Commissioner's Honour Roll for academic and athletic achievement.



When asked about the chance to come play in the Big V Malika had the following to say. "The opportunity to play in Australia will help me grow even more as an individual and as a basketball player. I am looking forward to expanding my game and adapting to the international style of play. It will be my first time out of the country, so just that alone will be an experience! I've been in communication with Coach Andrew the past few months, and he has made me feel very comfortable and eager to get started. From the positive vibes I am getting from him I am confident that my experience will be a positive one. I am looking forward to bonding with my teammates, coaches, and the Somerville community."

As a junior in 2012-13, Jackson was named the Heartland Conference's Newcomer of the Year after averaging 10.6 points and 7.2 rebounds per game. She earned All-Heartland Conference team honourable mention and the Texas A&M International Team Coaches' Award.

Malika will look to be a nightmare for opposing coaches when asked what she will bring to the Division 1.

"I believe I can bring versatility to the team. I know in the past I have created match-up problems for opponents because of my ability to be a threat on both the inside and on the perimeter. Most importantly, I will bring my competitiveness, positive energy, strong work ethic, and coachability to Australia, and, hopefully, help bring a championship to the Western Port Steelers!"

Malika will join Coach Andrew Jacobson and her teammates during February and will be ready and on court for the start of the Big V season when round 1 kicks off March 19<sup>th</sup> 2016.

