

Florida basketball star is world's tallest teenager

Vocabulary

to be declared 7'5.33" to be verified to hail from to be concerned

Article

A Florida high school's star basketball player was declared to be the tallest teenager in the world when his 7-foot, 5.33-inch height was verified by Guinness World Records.

Olivier Rioux, 15, who hails from Quebec, told WFTS-TV, "My mom is 6 foot 2 and my dad is 6 foot 8. When I was 10, 11, 12, I started growing and it was getting fast. Every week, I was getting taller. I was taller than every kid in my school."

Rioux's coach, Jeremy Schiller, said the teenager's basketball skills aren't just about his height.

"The biggest thing when you meet him, you're concerned, is he skilled, can he move, what's his motor like, does he like basketball? Those are the things you're concerned about when you meet a 7-foot, 5-inch kid and start to work with him. The first thing is he loves basketball. That's huge, some kids are tall and people make them do it," Schiller said.

Quiz

1. Why do you think Olivier is so tall?
2. Why is Olivier better at basketball than other tall children?

Conversation

A: Mum, it's not fair! All the other kids are bigger than me. I want to be taller!

B: Don't be in such a rush to grow up, Timmy. Your time will come.

A: I don't think so, mum. You and dad are both so short!

B: Hmm, yes, well... if you're lucky, you'll inherit our good looks as well!

Discussion

1. How tall are you in feet and inches? Who's the tallest person you've ever met?
2. What are some advantages and disadvantages of being tall?
3. Which sports suit taller people, and which sports suit shorter people?
4. In what ways are you similar to your parents?