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Melton has a Blast on way to master's

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Dominick Melton took the roundabout way to the Holland Blast.

The 2000 Muskegon High graduate has moved into the starting lineup for the International Basketball League team while continuing his education at Grand Valley State University.

A 6-foot-6 forward, he scored a season-high 29 points in the team's June 9 win over the Lansing Capitals.

"That's one of the best games I've had shooting from the floor," Melton said. "For me to have a good game like that, I've got to give credit to my teammates. They help to boost my confidence out there. They picked me up and they found me when I was open."

Melton made 12-of-15 field goals, including 2-of-2 from 3-point range. He also made all three free-throw attempts, dished out six assists and grabbed eight rebounds in that game.

And his team attitude is nothing new, according to Blast coach Mike Ahrens, who has known Melton since his high school days when he was a four-year varsity player for the Big Reds.

When Ahrens got the head position coaching the Blast, he didn't hesitate to call Melton.

Early in this inaugural IBL season in Holland, it wasn't going so well. Coming off the bench, Melton was averaging about six points per game.

During mid-season evaluations, Ahrens said they had a heart-to-heart meeting about turning things around.

Since then, Melton's rebounds, assists and scoring averages all have improved. He has started four consecutive games.

Melton took a year off from playing competitively after finishing his eligibility at Division II Wisconsin-Parkside and completed his bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

He jumped at the chance to play for the Blast while also pursuing his graduate degree in education from GVSU.

Ahrens also picked Melton to represent the Blast during the IBL dunk contest on July 15 in Elkhart, Ind. It's part of the all-star event and playoffs that are from July 13-16 in Elkhart, Ind.