



COURTESY PHOTO

Texoma Christian's Blaise Bentsen has been named the Herald Democrat 2015-16 All-Texomaland Boys Basketball Newcomer of the Year.

— Newcomer of the Year —

Bentsen's blazing start

BY JASON DELLA ROSA
HERALD DEMOCRAT

There couldn't have been a much better start for Blaise Bentsen.

The freshman forward jumped right on to Texoma Christian's varsity during the program's best season in five years.

Bentsen was in the middle of the success, averaging 17.5 points, 10.3 rebounds, 2.1 assists, 1.8 blocks and 1.6 blocks while shooting 51.2 percent from the field.

"I didn't think I would come in and be as successful as I was as a freshman," he said. "I realized I was able to contribute at this level."

With Bentsen at the forefront of the Eagles' young core, it took TCS some time to jell.

The Eagles did just that on the way to claiming the TAPPS District 2-2A title reached reach the state tournament for the first time since 2011.

Texoma Christian finished 20-14 after los-

ing to eventual champ Austin Waldorf in the semifinals.

"We had some talent but we didn't know how we would fit together," he said. "We started to play our best ball of the year."

Bentsen, a TAPPS second-team all-state selection, all-state tournament choice and first-team all-district pick, has been named the *Herald Democrat* All-Texomaland Boys Basketball Newcomer of the Year for the 2015-16 season.