

## Brent Coming Back

Written by Christian McCollum

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[Justin Brent](#) didn't want to come to Notre Dame this weekend, but the 2014 Irish wide receiver commit isn't complaining.

He'll make the most of it, but the 6-foot-3, 195-pounder from Indianapolis was hoping he'd be playing with his Speedway High School basketball squad at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse in the Indiana Class 2A State Championship on Saturday afternoon rather than at the Irish's Junior Day.

"Of course you want to be playing for a state championship, but at the same time, I get to go up there to the place I'm going to live in the future," Brent said. "I get to go up there for the first time in a long time."

The Sparkplugs fell just short to Linton-Stockton, 76-75 in overtime, in front of a packed house last week in the state semifinals.

"It was a tough one, very tough," Brent said.

That came a week after Speedway edged Broad Ripple, 43-41, in the quarters.

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“Everything was pretty exciting,” Brent said of the last few weeks. “Of course when you’re one game away and one point away, it makes things a little bittersweet, but you can’t hang your head too much.”

Brent had 15 points, 11 rebounds and a pair of key free throws in the quarterfinal win before putting in 17 in the semifinal loss. That could have been Brent’s final high school basketball game.

“That’s the thing, I don’t if I’m going to play next year,” he said. “I’ve got some decisions to make. I don’t know yet. I’ll just have to decide on what I want to do, it’s a big decision I have to make.”

Brent had been leaning toward not playing, but admitted it’s tempting after getting so close this season.

“I’d say it makes it more likely,” he said. “I feel like if we would have lost earlier, I definitely wouldn’t have played. If we would have won it all, I probably wouldn’t have play. One point makes it kind of tempting, but there’s still a chance I might not play. It’s a big decision we have to make as a family. I’m not sure yet.”

Brent might end up in a game this weekend after all as he’s been challenged by his fellow 2014 commit Jay Hayes.

“I heard about that,” Brent laughed. “If he finds a court, I’ll play him.”

But Brent’s main focus this weekend will be on growing the class.

“I’ve seen so much already, that’s why I’m committed,” he said. “I just want to see the rest of the

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recruits. I know everybody is on us heavily to try to reel in some more recruits, even the coaching staff. That's what I'm looking forward to, seeing all of the guys and telling them why Notre Dame is such a great place and why they should come there."

And he knows what he'll tell them.

"It's always education first because the NFL is far-fetched," he said. "I know a lot of people like to think that, but it is far-fetched. If you graduate from a place like Notre Dame, the number one business school or whatever you might want to major in, you're going to be successful after college.

"There are a lot of places like that, but at Notre Dame you can play in the national championship *and* you can graduate with a good degree if the NFL is not there. That's what definitely attracted me, so hopefully it'll attract the others."