

McClymonds to Celts to Politics Mileposts for Lean Jim Hadnot

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By SCOTTY STIRLING

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Jim Hadnot, the 6-10 former McClymonds high boy who came east to carve out a brilliant college basketball career, has stretched out in another direction — politics.

Hadnot, who as a senior last year led Providence College to a major basketball ranking and a berth in the NIT, is a Democratic candidate for the Rhode Island Legislature and is now preparing for this state's general election in November.

Although he will join the professional Boston Celtics this season, Hadnot feels he has more to offer than just his considerable basketball skills and is convinced there is a place for him in politics.

An economic major (he graduated last June) Hadnot points out that he won't have any more conflict between his basketball profession and politics than a practicing doctor or lawyer who also holds a seat in the legislature.

"The legislature meets for 60 days a year, four hours a day, and I have gone over the

Celtics' schedule thoroughly and I don't see where the conflict would prevent me from doing a good job as a representative," he said.

What turned the former West Oakland youth to politics?

"I just looked around and saw some things I didn't think were right and felt that I had something to offer and contribute to the happiness and well-being of people here.

"I've had a marvelous experience in Providence. I love this place and the people and, although I miss California, I intend to spend my life here."

Hadnot's affection for Providence has been returned by the people of this city with a population of nearly 230,000.

"Jim is one of the most popular athletes and boys we've had at Providence," says the sports editor of the local paper.

Hadnot's battles with Holy Cross' famed Jack (The Shot) Foley are becoming local legends (Jim outscored Foley in every meeting) and he ranks as a real hero in this old New England community.

Hadnot, whose mother,

brother and grandparents live in Oakland, was interested in the success of Paul Silas, another ex-McClymonds player who starred last year for Creighton University.

"I also saw that Castlemont High kid, Ray Saddler, on TV during the U.S.-Russia track meet at Stanford," Hadnot said.

"Like I said, I miss Oakland. I think I've just spent a little over two months there since I came to Providence in 1959. But I belong here now.

"I left Oakland with some people doubting that I could do anything more than play basketball, even had some tell me I'd never get a degree. I worked hard on my major and pulled C's or better in all my courses.

"I'm going into the politics thing with all my energy and I think hard work can do a lot for this area.

Some political observers here feel Hadnot has an excellent chance to win.

Because he is unopposed on the Democratic ticket, Hadnot won't have to campaign in the primary here next month.