

## 2000-2001 MR BASKETBALL BALLOTING

<b>KELVIN TORBERT * Flint Northwestern</b>	<b>773</b>
JAUAN HART * Flint Northern	256
BEN REED * Battle Creek Central	149
ANTHONY PARKER * Muskegon Mona Shores	110
NATE LOERLIKE * Mattawan	103
RICKY MORGAN * Pontiac Northern	95
GREG JENNINGS * Kalamazoo Central	92
CORY SANTEE * Flint Southwestern	67
ROBERT STRICKLAND * Detroit Denby	65
CHUCK BAILEY * Detroit Martin Luther King	40



## MR. BASKETBALL

# KELVIN TORBERT

## Flint Northwestern

Kelvin Torbert of Flint Northwestern was the overwhelming choice of BCAM members in the voting for the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award. Kelvin, a 6-foot-4 guard, received 773 points to outdistance the other nominees. JaQuan Hart (Flint Northern) was runner-up and Ben Reed (Battle Creek Central) was third.

Torbert averaged 26 points per game and became Flint Northwestern's all-time leading scorer with 1,978, topping Glen Rice's mark of 1,654.

Torbert follows Marcus Taylor (2000) and Jason Richardson (1999) as Mr. Basketball Award winners to play at MSU.

# BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN

## 2000-2001 MR BASKETBALL VOTE TOTALS

<u>NAME - SCHOOL</u>	<u>5 PTS</u>	<u>3 PTS</u>	<u>1 PT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>KELVIN TORBERT - Flint Northwestern</b>	<b>(141) 705</b>	<b>(19) 57</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>773</b>
JAUAN HART - Flint Northern	(10) 50	(58) 174	32	<b>256</b>
BEN REED - Battle Creek Central	(13) 65	(21) 63	21	<b>149</b>
ANTHONY PARKER - Muskegon Mona Shores	(11) 55	(14) 42	13	<b>110</b>
NATE LOERLIKE - Mattawan	(7) 35	(15) 45	23	<b>103</b>
RICKY MORGAN - Pontiac Northern	(1) 5	(21) 63	27	<b>95</b>
GREG JENNINGS - Kalamazoo Central	(5) 25	(14) 42	25	<b>92</b>
CORY SANTEE - Flint Southwestern	(1) 5	(15) 45	17	<b>67</b>
ROBERT STRICKLAND - Detroit Denby	(5) 25	(10) 30	10	<b>65</b>
CHUCK BAILEY - Detroit Martin Luther King	(1) 5	(8) 24	11	<b>40</b>

# Torbert named Mr. Basketball

*Hopes for more good news  
as father awaits transplant*

By MICK McCABE  
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Forgive Kelvin Torbert if he hopes being named the 21st recipient of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award Monday afternoon isn't the highlight of his week.

No, Torbert is not competing for a state championship this week. His season ended when Flint Northwestern lost to Flint Northern in a Class A regional semifinal.

The best news Torbert can hear this week is that his father, Climmie, will receive a kidney transplant. His father was in the hos-

## THE VOTES ARE IN

Top five vote getters for Mr. Basketball (with points):

1. Kelvin Torbert, Flint Northwestern .....773
2. JaQuan Hart, Flint Northern .....256
3. Ben Reed, Battle Creek Central .....149
4. Anthony Parker, Mona Shores .....110
5. Nathan Loehrke, Mattawan .....103

More on Mr. Basketball and Son of Swami's quarterfinal predictions, **Page 4E**.

pital Monday and was unable to see his son receive the trophy.

"He's had trouble all four years I was in high school," Torbert said. "I think he's at the

top of the list for a transplant. We're hoping to hear by Wednesday."

Until then, Torbert, a 6-foot-4 senior guard who signed early with Michigan State and was named a McDonald's All-America, will bask in the glory of being named the state's best player by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Torbert, a 3.1 student who did well enough on the ACT that he will be eligible to play at MSU next season, won in a landslide.

Only BCAM members are permitted to vote for the award, and they can vote for three candidates. Of the 200 ballots cast, Torbert received 141 first-place votes. Torbert totaled 773 points. Flint Northern's Ja-

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# MR. BASKETBALL | Torbert wins big

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## MR. BASKETBALL VOTING

Quan Hart was second with 256 points and Battle Creek Central's Ben Reed was third with 149.

"When I came into high school I had two goals," Torbert said. "One was to win a state championship and the other was to be named Mr. Basketball. I am really grateful to the coaches who voted for me. Moments like this don't happen to everyone every day."

It was a terrific day for an outstanding player, who has not had many terrific days in his life.

Torbert's earliest memories are of his mother, Florine Green, whom he rarely let out of his sight.

"She was the only person I used to be with," said Torbert, the youngest of four children. "Everywhere she was, that's where I went."

But when Torbert was 5, his mother died of breast cancer.

"The day she died she sent me to see my brother play baseball," Torbert said of Lamont Green Torbert. "Ever since then me and him have been together."

Lamont, 25, played at Northwestern with Morris Peterson and took Torbert everywhere with him.

Often they would wind up at Berston, a rec center in Flint where many of the city's finest players met to play.

Torbert watched and eventually earned his way onto the court. The older players used and abused Torbert until he showed he could hold his own and, on his good days, even beat them.

By the time Torbert reached Northwestern he was being compared to Northwestern's 1985 Mr. Basketball — Glen Rice.

"The difference between them is when Glen came we didn't have ninth-graders in our building," Northwestern coach Grover Kirkland said. "When Glen was in the 10th grade he said he wanted to play on the junior varsity. When Kelvin came in as a freshman he told me: 'I think I'm ready to start for you.'"

Torbert did start on the varsity as a freshman and averaged 15.5 points. He improved that to 18 points as a sophomore, 25 as a junior and 26 as a senior. The only downer was that Northwestern didn't win a state championship with Torbert.

He finished his career with 1,978 points, the second-highest total in Flint history, behind only

Results of the voting for the 21st annual Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award, given by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan in conjunction with the Free Press. BCAM members voted, and points were awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

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Southwestern's Charlie Bell, whom Torbert may help replace next season at MSU.

It was during Torbert's freshman year that his father began developing kidney problems and Torbert assumed more responsibility than most high school freshmen.

"He had to do the cooking," Kirkland said. "He had to wake his dad up, make sure he took his shots and made sure he got to the doctor.

"He's a special kid."

That is still pretty much Torbert's daily routine.

"It's really kind of hard that after practice you have to go home and change your focus from school and basketball to do all of the things that have to be done around the house," he said. "There's cooking, the laundry, the cleaning and the vacuuming."

For the last four years Torbert has been a wonderful player for Kirkland, who also coached Rice, Trent Tucker, Jeff Grayer, Barry Stevens, Desmon Farmer and Anthony Pendleton.

Kirkland has always maintained that Rice was his best player, and Torbert never challenged him on that.

"I may have to pop the question this week," he said just before Kirkland was asked to compare Torbert and Rice.

"Well, Glen could play only one position," Kirkland said. "Kelvin can play a lot of them."

That is why he was such a highly recruited player and why some people suggested he go directly from Northwestern to the NBA, bypassing MSU.

"I didn't give that much thought at all," Torbert said. "I want to go to Michigan State and be there for four years. I'm going there and getting my degree. I really think it will happen. When

## PAST WINNERS

The 20 former winners of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award:

- 1981: Sam Vincent, Lansing Eastern (Michigan State).
- 1982: Robert Henderson, Lansing Eastern (Michigan).
- 1983: Antoine Joubert, Detroit Southwestern (Michigan).
- 1984: Demetreus Gore, Detroit Chadsey (Pittsburgh).
- 1985: Glen Rice, Flint Northwestern (Michigan).
- 1986: Terry Mills, Romulus (Michigan).
- 1987: Mark Macon, Saginaw Buena Vista (Temple).
- 1988: Matt Steigenga, Grand Rapids So. Christian (Michigan State).
- 1989: Michael Talley, Detroit Cooley (Michigan).
- 1990: Anthony Miller, Benton Harbor (Michigan State).
- 1991: Chris Webber, Birmingham Detroit Country Day (Michigan).
- 1992: Kenyon Murray, Battle Creek Central (Iowa).
- 1993: Jon Garavaglia, Southgate Aquinas (Michigan State).
- 1994: Willie Mitchell, Detroit Pershing (Michigan, Alabama-Birmingham).
- 1995: Robert Traylor, Detroit Murray-Wright (Michigan).
- 1996: Winfred Walton, Detroit Pershing (Syracuse, Fresno State).
- 1997: Shane Battier, Birmingham Detroit Country Day (Duke).
- 1998: Dane Fife, Clarkston (Indiana).
- 1999: Jason Richardson, Saginaw Arthur Hill (Michigan State).
- 2000: Marcus Taylor, Lansing Everett (Michigan State).

you start something you should stick to it and finish what you start."

Now he can hope for good news on that transplant.

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