

MISS BASKETBALL KRISTA CLEMENT

ST IGNACE



2003-2004 MISS BASKETBALL BALLOTING

<u>NAME - SCHOOL</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
KRISTA CLEMENT * St Ignace	745
SAMANTHA MAHONEY * West Bloomfield	414
MAGGIE DWYER * Grand Haven	293
LARISHA FREEMAN * Saginaw Arthur Hill	259
LEHSA JONES * Detroit Martin Luther King	254
ERIN CARNEY * Traverse City St Francis	237
SARAH STREAM * Ishpeming Westwood	224
LAURA HALL * Temperance Bedford	206
JENNA SCHROEDER * Clio	152
TAMARAH RILEY * Detroit St Martin dePorres	99

St. Ignace guard Krista Clement's ever-increasing basketball talents helped her break through as the state's first Miss Basketball from the Upper Peninsula.

By MICK McCABE
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

THE BALLOTING

Top vote-getters for the Miss Basketball Award (points awarded on a 5-3-1 basis):

PLAYER	PTS
1. Krista Clement, St. Ignace	745
2. Samantha Mahoney, West Bloomfield	414
3. Maggie Dwyer, Grand Haven	293
4. Lakisha Freeman, Saginaw Arthur Hill	259
5. Leshia Jones, Detroit King	254
6. Erin Carney, Traverse City St. Francis	237
7. Sarah Stream, Ishpeming Westwood	224
8. Laura Hall, Temperance Bedford	206
9. Jenna Schroeder, Clio	152
10. Tamarah Riley, Detroit DePorres	99



A few years ago, Krista Clement heard that people were talking about her.

All around her hometown of St. Ignace, folks were buzzing about her exploits on the basketball court.

"Somehow this rumor got started," Clement said Monday. "I heard people saying: 'Krista Clement is great at basketball. She's awesome. Blah, blah, blah.' I don't know how

it got started. I guess I started to believe it after a while, and it helped my confidence.

"I just need to thank that person who started that rumor."

Today it is no rumor. Clement is not only great at basketball, she is Miss Basketball.

Clement became the 23rd recipient of the most prestigious award a high school female in Michigan can receive. She is also the first player from the Upper Peninsula to win the award, which is given to the

state's top senior and is sponsored by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, in conjunction with the Detroit Free Press.

And the voting wasn't close. Clement received 745 points, followed by Samantha Mahoney of West Bloomfield with 414 and Maggie Dwyer of Grand Haven with 293.

Clement, a 4.0 student who is president of the St. Ignace student

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MISS | Clement, Saints on hoops map

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council and a member of the National Honor Society and Students Against Destructive Decisions, was dumbfounded when she was told she had won.

"A lot of my goals are geared toward the team and winning and individual improvement," she said. "I just thought it would be someone else."

But Clement, a 5-foot-9 guard, has been front and center her entire four-year career. As a freshman she scored 16 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and made four assists and four steals in the Class C state championship game, which St. Ignace won.

As a sophomore she led St. Ignace to the semifinals, and last year the Saints advanced to the championship game.

This season she averaged 24 points, 6.7 rebounds, 7.4 assists and 4.2 steals before St. Ignace lost in overtime to Ishpeming Westwood in the regional final.

For her career, Clement scored 2,060 points, and St. Ignace posted a 99-5 record. She has not chosen a college, but is considering Duke, Northern Michigan, Marquette and Indiana, among others.

During her acceptance speech, Clement became emotional when she thanked her coaches, Dorene and Doug Ingalls, as well as her parents, Diggy and Scott. She also thanked the school officials and her teammates who made the trip to the Free Press from the foot of the Mackinac Bridge.

"We had three carloads of people make a five-hour trip just to see me accept this, eat some sandwiches and then get back in the car and drive five hours back," she said. "I've had great support. I had the easy job. The only thing I did was play the game

HONOR ROLL

Past Miss Basketball winners and where they went to college:

- 1981:** Julie Polakowski, Leland (Michigan State)
- 1982:** Sue Tucker, Okemos (Michigan State)
- 1983:** Michele Kruty, Manistee (Dayton)
- 1984:** Emily Wagner, Livonia Ladywood (Stanford)
- 1985:** Franthea Price, River Rouge (Iowa)
- 1986:** Daedra Charles, Detroit DePorres (Tennessee)
- 1987:** Dena Head, Plymouth Salem (Tennessee)
- 1988:** Jennifer Shasky, Birmingham Marian (George Washington)
- 1989:** Peggy Evans, Country Day (Tennessee/Ohio State)
- 1990:** Markita Aldridge, Detroit King (North Carolina-Charlotte)
- 1991:** Lisa Negri, Flint Powers (Ohio State)
- 1992:** Erinn Reed, Saginaw (Iowa/Kansas)
- 1993:** Sally Sedlar, Manistee (Toledo/Central Michigan)
- 1994:** Kim Knuth, St. Joseph (Toledo)
- 1995:** Maxann Reese, Redford Bishop Borgess (Michigan State)
- 1996:** Deanna Nolan, Flint Northern (Georgia)
- 1997:** Aiysha Smith, Redford Bishop Borgess (St. John's)
- 1998:** Kristen Koetsier, Grandville (Western Michigan)
- 1999:** Vicki Krapohl, Mt. Pleasant (Duke)
- 2000:** Tabitha Pool, Ann Arbor Huron (Michigan)
- 2001:** Liz Shimek, Maple City Glen Lake (Michigan State)
- 2002:** Danielle Kamm, Saginaw Nouvel (Marquette)

I love."

Playing basketball was easy because Clement had excellent role models. Among them were four St. Ignace players now at Lake Superior State — her brother Jimmy and his friend Steve

MacDonald, and sisters Randi and Mandi Johnson.

"We played in the summer all the time," Clement said. "And it was not just goofing around taking crazy shots. We'd take good shots and get lots of things done and work hard."

"I remember being in the seventh grade and instead of going to a New Year's Eve party my dad opened the gym and we played basketball. My dad brought pop and candy to the gym, and that's how we brought in the new year — playing basketball."

Clement seemed most pleased to win the award because of what it will mean to St. Ignace and the UP in general.

"If you could see the way our community loves basketball," she said with a twinkle in her eye. "It's more than just a high school program. I was in the gym a couple of days after we lost, and there were these little girls in there playing and you see it in their eyes that they loved playing, they want to win a state championship someday."

"Maybe me winning this will tell people: 'We're good up here.'"

Clement became aware of the award when she was in the eighth grade and accompanied the Saints to Mt. Pleasant for the state semifinals and finals. Vicki Krapohl of Mt. Pleasant had been named Miss Basketball that week.

"We were in Fazoli's, and somebody said that was Vicki Krapohl and she was Miss Basketball," Clement said. "I was so impressed I couldn't say a thing. I thought that would be the coolest thing in the world. I thought: 'Wow! She's special.'"

Now Krista Clement is special.

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