

Miss Basketball

Grandville's DeHaan breaks all the molds

By MICK McCABE
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

The scenario was usually the same for the first 24 winners of the Miss Basketball Award. They began playing the game in the driveway with their dads.

Allyssa DeHaan of Grandville broke the mold in at least two ways.

At 6-feet-8, she is easily the tallest winner of the award, given to the state's top senior by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, in conjunction with the Free Press.

And her mother, Tracie, first taught her the game.

"She was great," Allyssa DeHaan said. "She started me in gymnastics and ballet when I was in elementary school. When I started playing basketball in the fifth grade, she worked with me, showing me drills."

Tracie, 6-4, knew a thing or two about the game. She was a two-time all-state player at East Kentwood and played at Northwestern.

"I heard she got 30 rebounds in a game once," Allyssa said. "Aw, man, that's a lot of rebounds."

DeHaan, who has signed with Michigan State and wants to become a medical doctor, was the runaway winner of the award, voted on by coaches association members. She received more first-place votes than the second-, third- and fourth-place finishers combined.

Kalyn McPherson of Traverse City West was second in the voting and China Threatt of Auburn Hills Avondale third.

This season, DeHaan has led Grandville to a 24-1 record entering tonight's Class A quarterfinal game against Benton Harbor. She is averaging 25.6 points, 9.2 rebounds and 8.3 blocked shots, and shooting 68% from the field and 72% from the free-throw line. DeHaan has shattered the state record for blocked shots in a season (236) and career (466).

When she accepted the award, DeHaan went out of her way to thank her teammates for passing up shots and passing her the ball.

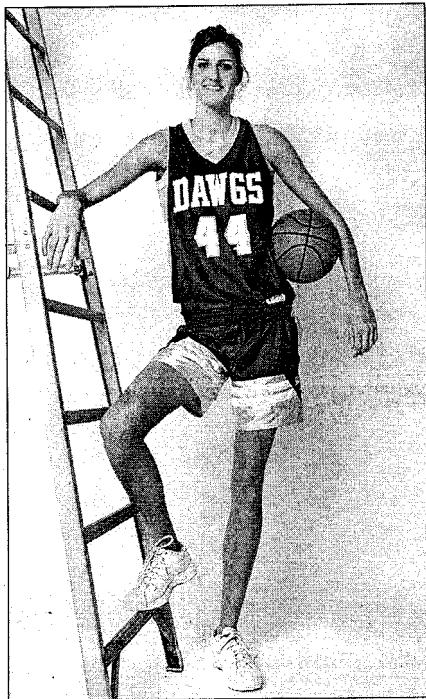
"Without them, I'd be nothing but a post taking up space on the court," she said.

Another difference with this Miss Basketball: She didn't spend her summers playing AAU basketball. Last summer, she accompanied her church group to Juarez, Mexico, where she helped build a house for a family whose home burned.

"I have many loves in my life — my family, my church and basketball," she said. "I had time for all three of them this summer."

DeHaan said she was humbled to be named Miss Basketball, the highest honor a high school female athlete in Michigan can receive.

"I was totally blown away by this," she said. "I was astonished, I'm still amazed. I mean, this is Miss Basketball! It's an amazing award that on-



KIRTHMON F. DOZIER/Detroit Free Press

Grandville senior Allyssa DeHaan, 6-8, is easily the tallest recipient of the Miss Basketball Award.

Head and shoulders above the rest

The top vote-getters for the Miss Basketball award in balloting by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. Votes are awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

| PLAYER | SCHOOL | PTS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Allyssa DeHaan | Grandville | 816 |
| 2. Kalyn McPherson | Traverse City West | 502 |
| 3. China Threatt | Auburn Hills Avondale | 254 |
| 4. Jareica Hughes | Southfield-Lathrup | 244 |
| 5. Kelly Kohn | Adrian | 226 |
| 6. Lauren Buresh | Morley-Stanwood | 203 |
| 7. Britni Houghton | Lansing Waverly | 194 |
| 8. Sireece Bass | Detroit Pershing | 155 |
| 9. Laquisha Whitfield | Detroit King | 84 |
| 10. Shavelle Little | Ann Arbor Huron | 80 |

ly one person gets in the whole state of Michigan."

Tracie and her husband, Brandon, 6-6, credit Grandville coach Charlie DeRyke for their daughter's development as a player. But when it all began, it was just Allyssa and Tracie in the driveway playing one-on-one.

"I think I can still beat her in horse," Tracie said. "But back in her freshman year she killed me in one-on-one. It was 8-1. That was a sad day. It was time for her to get some tougher competition."

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MISS BASKETBALL

ALLYSSA

DeHAHN

GRANDVILLE



2005-2006

MISS BASKETBALL BALLOTING

NAME - SCHOOL

TOTAL

| | |
|--|------------|
| ALLYSSA DeHAAN | 816 |
| KALYN McPHERSON * Traverse City West | 502 |
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| SHAVELLE LITTEL * Ann Arbor Huron | 80 |