

# BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN 2007-2008 MR BASKETBALL BALLOTING

<u>NAME - SCHOOL</u>		<u>5 PTS</u>		<u>3 PTS</u>	<u>1 PT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<b>BRAD REDFORD - Frankenmuth</b>	(212)	<b>1060</b>	(94)	<b>282</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>1402</b>
DRAYMOND GREEN - Saginaw	(137)	685	(168)	504	56	1245
PAUL WILLIAMS - Detroit Renaissance	(29)	145	(81)	243	159	547
DOMINIQUE BUCKLEY - Romulus	(14)	70	(56)	168	111	349
Blake Cushingberry					36	
Eric Evans					12	
J J Randall					6	

# Mr. Basketball Redford earns Class B player of year award

MONROE (AP) — When Brad Redford joined the Frankenmuth varsity basketball team as a freshman, someone asked coach Tim Crawford how good the kid could be.

"I don't know, but he's the best free-throw shooter in the world," Crawford replied.

It may have sounded like an outlandish statement at the time, but it wasn't far from the truth.

Redford, now a senior, made a state-record 102 consecutive free throws this season. He averaged better than 37 points per game and smashed the state record for 3-pointers in a season.

He is an unanimous choice as the Class B player of the year on the Associated Press All-State team chosen by a 10-member panel of writers from around the state. Redford also earned Michigan's Mr. Basketball award this week.

Crawford has coached Redford for his entire career and marvels at the way he was able to handle the pressure

and elevate Frankenmuth's program. The Eagles were 82-14 with him in the lineup. They had a 24-2 record this season and won the school's first regional title in 20 years.

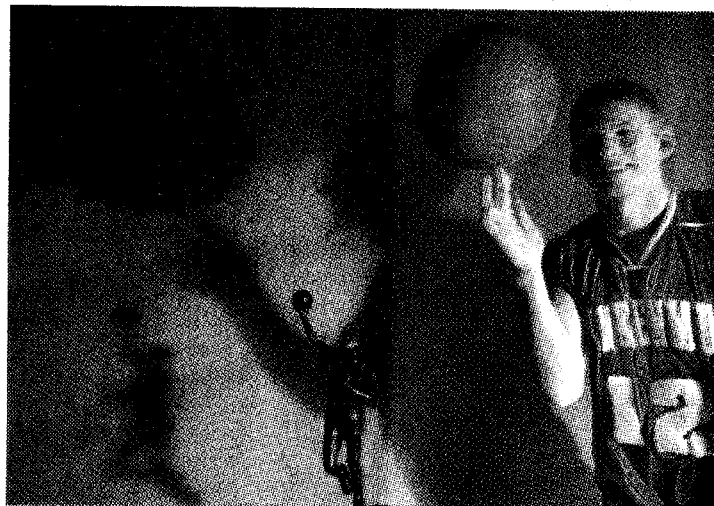
"He's only 6-foot, but he's our tallest starter," Crawford said. "We didn't have an inside game. It was all on the perimeter. He faced every gimmick defense you could imagine."

It didn't matter. The Xavier recruit still was able to score. He had 929 points this season and 2,122 for his career through the regional.

He set a state record for the highest career free-throw percentage at 93.4, sinking 466 of 499 attempts. He barely missed the national record for the highest percentage.

"Some clown (in the stands) had an air horn and set it off just before Brad shot. He missed. If he had made that free throw, he would have set the national record," Crawford said.

Joining Redford on the All-State team are Marquis Brew-



AP Photo

**Frankenmuth's Brad Redford, seen here with the Mr. Basketball Trophy he won Monday, is the Associated Press Class B Player of the Year.**

er of Muskegon Heights, Nic Jobe of Ida, Darnell Brown of Detroit Country Day, Paul Williams of Detroit Renaissance, Zach Saylor of Lansing Waverly, Troy Peter of Stevensville-Lakeshore, Shane Moreland of Flint Powers, Dustin Dibble

of Pestokey, Ronald Bates of Grand Rapids Central and Korey VanDussen of Zeeland East.

Brewer averaged 16.4 points per game and was an impressive passer with a six-per game assist average. He scored 24

points against Saginaw Arthur Hill, one of the state's top Class A teams.

Jobe, a junior, averaged a double-double with 20 points and 10 rebounds as Ida tied its school record with 20 wins.

Brown will continue his career at Bowling Green. He supplied 16.1 points and connected on 85 percent of his free throws for Country Day, the state's top-ranked Class B team.

Williams made better than half of his field-goal attempts (51 percent) and had a 23.8 scoring average for Renaissance.

Saylor, the tallest member of the team at 6-foot-8, is headed for Central Michigan. His averages included 15.8 points, 8.7 rebounds and 3.2 blocked shots against a predominantly Class A schedule.

This is the third time Peter has been named to an All-State team. His first award came when he was a sophomore living in Iowa. After transferring to Stevensville-Lakeshore, he

has made the All-State list each of the last two years. The 6-4 guard averaged 23.2 points and 8.4 rebounds this season.

Dibble is another transfer student. He began his career at Charlevoix, moved to Petoskey, and averaged 21.5 this season while going over the 1,400-point mark for his career.

Moreland, a junior, led Flint Powers with an 18.3 scoring average and hit 42 three-pointers. Bates is a leader on and off the court. He is president of the student body and averaged 21 points per game.

VanDussen is a free-throw deadeye at 89 percent and made 42 percent of his 3-point attempts while averaging 21.6 points.

The coach of the year is Scott Soodisma. He coached the boys and the girls varsity teams at Hudsonville Unity Christian this season and had a 22-2 record with the boys after winning a regional title. He coached the Unity Christian girls to the state championship in the fall of 2006.



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## Dream life - Mr. Basketball Brad Redford follows Drew Neitzel's inspiration to the top

*BY MICK McCABE*  
*FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER*

Four years ago, Mike Redford read a story about Drew Neitzel's selection as Mr. Basketball.

"You remind me a lot of Drew Neitzel," Redford told his son, Brad, an eighth-grader. "I want to you to read this article."

Late Sunday night, Brad Redford received a call from Neitzel.

"Congratulations," Neitzel said. "You worked hard for this award."

Welcome to the club.

Redford became the 28th winner of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award, given annually to the state's top senior by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, in conjunction with the Free Press.

Mr. Basketball is the most prestigious award a Michigan high school male athlete can receive. It is named for the former Free Press reporter who covered high school athletics for more than 40 years.

Frankenmuth's Redford, a 6-foot guard who signed with Xavier, totaled 1,402 points in voting by BCAM members. Draymond Green, who led Saginaw to the Class A title last season and signed with Michigan State, was second with 1,245 points. Paul Williams of Detroit Renaissance was third (547) and Romulus' Dominique Buckley fourth (349).

Entering the season, Redford was not the favorite for the award. He was ranked No. 3 in the Free Press preseason ratings, behind Green and Buckley.

And Frankenmuth, whose tallest starter is Redford, wasn't even listed among the top 25 teams in the state. But the 23-2 Eagles are playing in tonight's Class B quarterfinal against Menominee at Houghton Lake.

Redford began with a bang, scoring 47 points against Class A regional finalist Flint Southwestern Academy in the opener.

"It really set the tone for me and my team," Redford said Monday. "It wasn't just me that played well that night. Everybody shot the ball well. When our team gets it going, we're tough to beat."

The Eagles won their first 18 games as Redford continued his scoring assault, averaging 37.2 points. Along the way he made 102 consecutive free throws, a state record and second-best nationally.

His 929 points this season are third-most in state history. He owns the state record for free-throw shooting in a season (201-for-207, 97.1%), career free-throw shooting (467-for-500, 93.4%) and three-point baskets in a season (140).

As word of his accomplishments spread, Redford became a Mr. Basketball contender. It didn't hurt that his highlight video featuring him shooting from far beyond the three-point line has attracted more

than 41,000 hits on YouTube.

"That Flint Southwestern game was a statement game for him," coach Tim Crawford said. "We never really thought about Mr. Basketball, but when the ballots came out, we were sitting at 14-0, ranked high, and he's putting up 40 points a game."

Crawford expected to learn by Saturday if Redford was Mr. Basketball. He didn't get word until Sunday and drove to tell Redford.

"I was coming back from the gym and saw him drive by," Redford said. "He did a U-ey (U-turn) and I said: 'He knows. I know he knows.' He wouldn't pick up his phone because he said he wouldn't tell me over the phone."

When they got out of their respective cars, no words were needed. "Just the look on his face, I knew," Redford said.

It led to a restless night's sleep for the kid who became Mr. Basketball four years after Neitzel.

"I remember reading that article on him," Redford said. "It's hard to put in perspective. It's something you kind of dream about. I've kind of had trouble sleeping the last couple of weeks. I just can't wait to play. It's been fun. I don't want it to end yet."

Mr. Basketball never ends. Just ask Neitzel.

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