



MISS BASKETBALL DEANA NOLAN Flint Northern High School

Deana Nolan is the 16th recipient of the Miss Basketball Award, given annually to the state's top senior high school player by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan, in conjunction with the Detroit Free Press. Nolan received 598 points, easily outdistancing Ludington's Mandy Stowe, who finished second with 465 and Grand Rapids Christian's Katie Dykhouse who was third with 411.

Nolan averages 13 points, six rebounds, three assists and four steals, making her the lowest scorer among the top ten candidates. "I think Deana won the award because of the impact she has on a game," said Flint Powers coach, Kathy McGee, who represented the coaches association and presented the award to Nolan.

Her team has won two straight Class A State Championships, and the Vikings had a 71-game winning streak. "I don't have to score a lot of points," Nolan said. "I feel I can step up when I have to. It's all about being a good leader, playing good basketball and having a love for the game."

Nolan is a 5-foot-10 guard/forward who fits in nicely anywhere on the floor. She doesn't score more points because scoring is not a priority. "Really, I just go out and be a leader and play good defense," she said. "I don't think about scoring points unless we're down."

Case in point: Nolan's season-high 23 points came in the Vikings' four-point victory over Birmingham Marian, their closest game of the season.

Nolan was embarrassed when Northern officials made a school-wide announcement of her honor Monday during second hour. "It put me on the spot," she said. "I'd rather just blend in with everybody. I don't like people who brag and stuff." So, Saturday night after learning she was Miss Basketball, Deana stayed home and played Monopoly with Tawana McDonald and some of her other teammates.

Even though team goals come first, Nolan did admit that winning Miss Basketball was special. "You can only win Miss Basketball once," she said. "You can always win another state championship."

(Information and photo courtesy of the Detroit Free Press & Mick McCabe)