



1999-2000

***MISS BASKETBALL***  
***VICKI KRAPOHL***

**MT. PLEASANT HIGH SCHOOL**

Vicki Krapohl, 5-foot-4 guard from Mt. Pleasant HS, was the 19th recipient of the Miss Basketball award. This award is voted on by the coaching members of BCAM in conjunction with the Detroit Free Press.

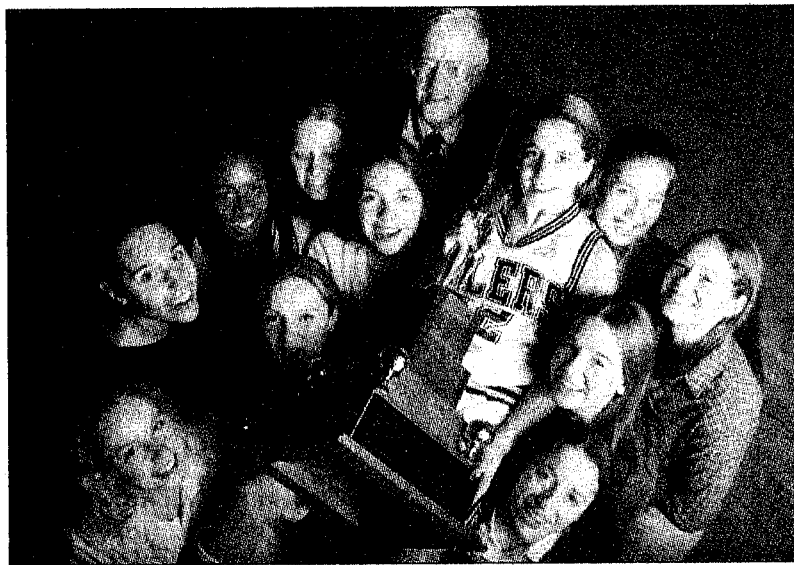
This season, Krapohl averaged 25.6 points and 5.6 assists. She started 85 career games, missing only one because of illness. She set nine school records.

Vicki is the shortest person to win the award. She has signed with Duke, which lists her as 5-3. Duke coach Gail Goestenkers, a Waterford native, says, "Her size isn't an issue when her heart's so big. I really like her leadership. She's a true coach on the floor."

A 3.98 student (she received a B-plus in honors geometry as a freshman) with a 28 on the ACT, Krapohl intends to major in engineering.

**BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN**  
**1999-2000 MISS BASKETBALL BALLOTING**

<u>NAME - SCHOOL</u>	<u>5 PTS</u>	<u>3 PTS</u>	<u>1 PT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
VICKI KRAPOHL - Mt Pleasant	(84) 420	(55) 165	30	615
CHRISTIE SCHUMACHER - Highland Milford	(69) 345	(46) 138	25	508
CRYSTAL WEAVER - East Kentwood	(35) 175	(16) 48	16	239
JULIE PAGEL - Shelby Twp Utica	(24) 120	(32) 96	18	234
SHAKERA McREYNOLDS - Lansing Everett	(21) 105	(26) 78	48	231
JENNIFER SMITH - DeWitt	(11) 55	(42) 126	35	216
OVLINA LEWIS - Detroit Martin Luther King	(13) 65	(17) 51	31	147
RYANN KILGORE - Belleville	(13) 65	(17) 51	19	135
CRYSTAL WHITE - Mount Clemens	(9) 45	(16) 48	21	114
LIZ HOLBROOK - Oxford	(8) 40	(15) 45	19	104
NAOMI NICKLEBERRY - Saginaw Arthur Hill	(8) 40	(12) 36	22	98
PAIGE HARRIS - Rochester Hills Rochester	(9) 45	(10) 30	21	96



ERIC SEALS/Detroit Free Press

**New Miss Basketball Vicki Krapohl (in uniform) is surrounded Monday by Mt. Pleasant teammates and coach Buck Buchanan. "They are the reason I won the award," she said.**

# Miss Basketball: Krapohl

*Mt. Pleasant star short on stature, big on heart*

BY MICK McCABE  
FREE PRESS SPORTS WRITER

Nine years ago, a third-grader was playing basketball at the student activities center at Central Michigan when a college player struck up a conversation.

"Where did you learn to dribble?" the player asked the youngster, who shrugged. "Do you want to play?"

Did she ever.

The Central player was Suzy Merchant, and the third-grader was Vicki Krapohl.

Today, Merchant is the coach at Eastern Michigan, and Krapohl is the 19th recipient of the Miss Basketball award, given annually to the state's top senior by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan in conjunction with the Free Press.

Krapohl, a 5-foot-4 guard at Mt. Pleasant, beat out Christie Schumacher of Milford, who was second in voting by coaches.

Krapohl received 615 points on 84 first-place votes, 55 for second and 30 for third. Schumacher had 508 points, and Crystal Weaver of East Kentwood was third with 239.

This season, Krapohl averaged 25.6 points and 5.6 assists.

## THE BALLOT BOX

The top five vote-getters for the Miss Basketball Award, given by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan in conjunction with the Detroit Free Press. Points are awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

PLAYER, SCHOOL	POINTS
1. Vicki Krapohl, Mt. Pleasant	615
2. Christie Schumacher, Milford	508
3. Crystal Weaver, East Kentwood	239
4. Julie Pagel, Utica	234
5. Shakera McReynolds, Lansing Everett	231

She started 85 career games, missing only one because of illness. She set nine school records.

Krapohl could have been over-

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# AWARD | Krapohl big on heart

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looked in the voting, because Mt. Pleasant never made a serious state tournament run in her career. But she was noticed, partly because of Merchant, who interceded so Krapohl could be a ball girl for Central's games.

"She played with me every day until she graduated," Krapohl said. "She taught me drills, and then she would race me in them. She asked me if I wanted to go with her when she spoke at summer camps. She'd speak, and then I'd do the drills."

Krapohl is the shortest person to win the award. She has signed with Duke, which lists her as 5-3.

"On a good day I'd say she's 5-4 with her hair all frizzy," said Duke coach Gail Goesten Kors, a Waterford native. "Her size isn't an issue when her heart's so big. I really like her leadership. She's a true coach on the floor."

"She's the smallest player we've ever signed. Vicki's going to take us to a new level."

A 3.98 student (she received a B-plus in honors geometry as a freshman) with a 28 on the ACT, Krapohl intends to major in engineering. She committed to Duke last spring and signed this month.

Krapohl had her pick of colleges, but turned down every one in Michigan, including Eastern. "That was a hard one," she said. "I was going on academics a lot. If you met Coach G, you'd understand why I'm going to Duke."

Those ball-handling drills done with Merchant made Krapohl the state's top point guard. She also has an excellent perimeter shot.

"In the last two years she hasn't played in a game where she wasn't double- or triple-teamed," said Mt. Pleasant coach Buck Buchanan. "She does things I have to

## PAST WINNERS

**1998:** Kristin Koetsier, Grandville (Western Michigan)

**1997:** Aiysha Smith, Redford Bishop Borgess (St. John's)

**1996:** Deana Nolan, Flint Northern (Georgia)

**1995:** Maxann Reese, Redford Bishop Borgess (Michigan State)

**1994:** Kim Knuth, St. Joseph (Toledo)

**1993:** Sally Sedlar, Manistee (Toledo/Central Michigan)

**1992:** Erinn Reed, Saginaw (Iowa/Kansas)

**1991:** Lisa Negri, Flint Powers (Ohio State)

**1990:** Markita Aldridge, Detroit King (North Carolina-Charlotte)

**1989:** Peggy Evans, Country Day (Tennessee/Ohio State)

**1988:** Jennifer Shasky, Birmingham Marian (George Washington)

**1987:** Dena Head, Plymouth Salem (Tennessee)

**1986:** Daedra Charles, Detroit DePorres (Tennessee)

**1985:** Franthea Price, River Rouge (Iowa)

**1984:** Emily Wagner, Livonia Ladywood (Stanford)

**1983:** Michele Kruty, Manistee (Dayton)

**1982:** Sue Tucker, Okemos (Michigan State)

**1981:** Julie Polakowski, Leland (Michigan State)

close my eyes and ask myself if I really saw that."

In accepting the award Monday, Krapohl thanked her parents and coach and introduced her 10 teammates at the ceremony. She also went out of her way to mention Merchant, whom she has tried to emulate on the court.

"She worked hard all of the time," Krapohl said. "She played tough defense. She got her teammates the ball, and if you didn't guard her she could score."

That sounds like Krapohl's style, and that is why Merchant, whose team is at Kansas State tonight, was the first person she called when she won the award.

"She was ecstatic," Krapohl said. "I wish I could have seen her face. But I could almost see it over the phone."