

BCAM announces second group of “Retro” Mr. Basketball winners

March 21, 2011:

Six high school basketball stars of the past, culled from a list of over 60 players mentioned on all-state and all-tournament teams from years gone by, were tagged as “Retro” Mr. Basketball winners this past weekend by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan.

Since 1981, Michigan basketball fans have eagerly awaited the announcement of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award each year. Given to the state’s top senior as voted by BCAM membership, the award is named after the late Hal Schram, a sportswriter who began his career at the Lansing State Journal, then covered athletics for the *Detroit Free Press* for more than 40 years. The award is jointly sponsored by BCAM and the *Free Press*.

The goal of the “Retro” Mr. Basketball project, which launched in 2010, is to consider who might have been named Mr. Basketball had the award existed in years past. The mission is to recognize and celebrate the history of high school basketball in Michigan by recalling some of the top talent from years past.

Designed to roll out over 10 years, the project honors the top players from 1920 to 1980. During last year’s launch, BCAM’s “Retro” committee selected seven winners from ballots for 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970 and 1980. This being 2011, selections were made for 1921, 1931, 1941, 1951, 1961 and 1971. Sam Vincent of Lansing Eastern was the winner of the first “Mr. Basketball” in 1981. The final seven winners of the award, six from years past, and one current, will be announced in 2019. At that time, Michigan list of “Mr. Basketball” winners will span 1920 through 2019 and total 100 names.

“The “Retro” committee stays focused on a player’s athletic achievements during his prep playing days,” notes historian Ron Pesch. “While the events of life after high school may be recalled in their biographies, the award is based on what they did in high school, with a spotlight on the player’s senior year.”

Meeting between sessions of the annual Michigan High School Athletic Association boys basketball tournament, the committee reduced this year’s candidates to a total of 25 nominees, then selected six winners from that group.

Below is the list of players named “Mr. Basketball” for each seasons, followed by brief biographies on this year’s nominees.

1921 Mr. Basketball

GEORGE HAGGERTY YPSILANTI, FORWARD.

A second-team All-Tournament selection for his efforts in the Class A state basketball event, hosted at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University). In the spring of 1921, Haggerty grabbed track titles in the 120-yard 42" hurdles and the 220-yard 30" low hurdles. Lettered in basketball in 1923, 1924 and 1925 at the University of Michigan.

1921 Nominees:

F. Monihan, Detroit Northern, Guard.

A near unanimous choice at guard on the Class A All-Tournament team, Monihan led Northern to runner-up honors in their title game against Grand Rapids Union.

Harley Catherman, Farmington, Guard.

All-Tournament selection in the Class B tourney held at the University of Michigan. Catherman worked as a coach and a counselor at Detroit Mackenzie High School for many years. Played football and baseball at Alma College where he was recognized with Hall of Fame honors.

1931 Mr. Basketball

EDWARD HUTTENGA GRAND HAVEN, CENTER.

Considered one of the top, if not the top, center in the state in 1931. Played four years for Grand Haven. Although Grand Haven was classified as a Class B school, Huttenga and his teammates competed in the Southwestern Conference, comprised of Class A schools. After winning the league championship, coach Gus Cohrs opted to have the Buccaneers compete for the Class A state crown. His squad knocked off Battle Creek Central, Dearborn Fordson, then trounced Lansing Central, 31-15, in the title game to earn the crown. Huttenga, an All-Conference selection, later lettered at Western State Teachers College (now Western Michigan University).

1931 Nominees:

Ford Moore, Detroit Southeastern.

"Possesses a world of speed and has a wonderful eye for the basket," noted the *Detroit Times* when announcing Moore's

selection to their All-City squad. "He makes few mistakes during the game and can lead the play on the offense."

Charles Muth, Kalamazoo St. Augustine, Guard.

The older of a pair of brothers (the other was named LeRoy) that led St. Augustine to three straight Class C crowns from 1930-32. Featured in coach Harve Freeman's famed "Rotary Offense". Scored 18 points in the semifinals, and 12 points in the title game to lead the Irish in scoring. Later played at Michigan Agricultural College (now Michigan State University).

Frank Worzniak, Hamtramck, Forward.

Led the Cosmos to 14 victories in 15 starts. "Shifty fast and an excellent passer", stated the *Detroit Free Press*, "he also excels at basket shooting as attested by the fact that he rang up 69 points in league competition to capture high scoring honors in the city." In later years, Worzniak served as longtime coach at Hamtramck.

1941 Mr. Basketball

DON OSTERMAN

DETROIT ST. THERESA, FORWARD.

Scored 221 points to lead St. Theresa to the state Class B title. A four-year veteran, he scored 705 points while at St. Theresa's.

"Unusually fast for a big man, and probably the best player in the state under the backboards. Specializes in pivot shots and tip-ins."

1941 Nominees:

Don Lund

Detroit Southeastern, Guard

At the time, the best all-around athlete seen in the Detroit City League in 10 years. A team player, Lund took few shots, scoring 78 points in 10 games, but excelled in setting up his higher-scoring teammates. "His cool aggressive floor play uncanny judgment under the backboards and fine

sportsmanship made him one of the most valuable players in Michigan," stated the *Detroit Free Press* when announcing their All-State selections for 1941. A three-sports star, Lund enjoyed a seven-year career in baseball, logging time with the Brooklyn Dodgers, the St. Louis Browns and the Detroit Tigers.

Joey Smith

Detroit St. Theresa, Forward.

A first-team All-State selection by the *Detroit Times*. Paced St. Theresa to the Class B title with 16 points in a win over Sturgis. Scored 102 points during the 1941 season.

Dick Walterhouse, Ann Arbor, Forward.

"Lead the 5-A League in scoring for the second straight year with 91 points in eight games and made 176 points in 15 games all season," said the *Detroit Free Press*, "very fast player, a quick shot and an excellent ball handler."

1951 Mr. Basketball

WEBSTER KIRKSEY,

SAGINAW, 17, 5-10, 148.

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, "The hustling Kirkesy could out-jump many six-footers when he uncoiled." Piled up 298 points 15 games for Saginaw, earning first-team All-State honor in the *Free Press*, *Detroit News* and *Detroit Times*. Attended Michigan Normal College (now Eastern Michigan University)

1951 Nominees:

Jerry Armstrong

Port Huron, 6-6

Led Big Reds to the MHSAA state finals in 1950, his junior year. Averaged nearly 20 points per game before the team was upset

by Grosse Pointe in the regional round of the 1951 tournament.

Ron Jackson

Kalamazoo Central, 17, 6-5, 207.

Lone holdover from Kazoo's title team of 1950, he scored 269 points in 15 games. Controlled both backboards as the Maroons Giants picked up their third consecutive Class A title.

Esmo Woods

Pontiac Central, 18, 6-2, 165.

Woods poured in 220 points in 15 games as a senior. "Kept Pontiac in the thick of the Saginaw Valley race after his running mate, Ty Sparrow, graduated at mid-term," noted the *Free Press* when honoring Woods with a spot on their first-team All-State squad.

1961 Mr. Basketball

REGGIE HARDING, DETROIT EASTERN, 18, 6-11½, 235.

Only repeater on the *Detroit News* All-State squad. Blessed with exceptional mobility, Harding "scored 407 points in 14 games this season, averaging 29.1 per game. His three-year output was 1,079 or 25.2 per game. Board control was Harding's great asset. He had 330 rebounds of which almost two-thirds were on defense. He also blocked numerous shots and picked off many passes while pressing and converted them into quick scores." Later played pro ball with the Detroit Pistons and Chicago Bulls.

1961 Nominees:

Tim Bullock

Marquette Graveraet, 18, 6-0, 168.

A three-year standout, Bullock earned first-team Class B All-State honors from the *Detroit Free Press*. Scored 1,033 points in 50 games. Also earned All-State honors in football. Following graduation he played four-years of basketball at Northern Michigan University, then coached high school basketball teams at Republic and Sault Ste. Marie.

Bobby Joe Hill

Highland Park, 17, 5-9, 150.

"Has been the most amazing dribbler and ball handler in Detroit suburbs this year..." wrote the *Detroit News* after naming Hill to their Class A All-State team. "Exceptional on defense, halting fast breaks and stealing on presses...Bobby has scored 423 points for an average of 20.2 per game. While outstanding all season, he has been particularly brilliant since January when he took up the scoring slack of two graduates." Was a member of the 1965-66 Texas Western squad that defeated Kentucky to win the NCAA title.

Jim Manning

Trout Creek, 18, 6-1, 190.

Manning piled up 757 points in 22 contests for an incredible 34.4 average. Totaled 2,137 during his four-seasons of prep ball. "Manning had it all," former Ewen-Trout Creek boys' coach Tom Caudill recalled. "He was only about 6-foot-1 but could really get up, up in the air. And he had all the moves, inside or outside."

Larry Tregoning

Ferndale, 18, 6-4, 180.

According to the *Free Press*, "most probable collegiate star on either peninsula. Played every position for Ferndale and owned a tremendous outside shot." Three-year letterman at Michigan

1971 Mr. Basketball

MICHAEL "CAMPY" RUSSELL, PONTIAC CENTRAL, 18, 6-7, 190.

All-state as a junior and senior, Russell totaled 1,454 in his three-year prep career. Hailed at the time by his future University of Michigan coach, Johnny Orr, as the "best offensive high school player in the country." Earned 1st team All-America honors from *Parade Magazine*.

1971 Nominees:

Eartha Faust Inkster, 17, 6-3, 170.

According to the *Detroit News*, who named Faust to their Class B All-State squad: "Totalled 711 points as he made good on 58.4 percent of his shots from the field and 82.5 from the free throw line. Inkster bowed in the regional finals to River Rouge. Rouge held him to 26 points, one of only six times he scored less than 30 points." Played college ball at Vincennes Junior College and West Virginia.

Lindsay Hairston

Detroit Kettering, 17, 6-9, 200.

Grew an inch and added 10 pounds since being named to All-State teams as a junior, Hairston became even more formidable under the boards, blocking an average of five shots a game. He averaged 21.2 rebounds and 23.5 points per contest, finishing his three-year prep career with 1,390 points. Played college ball at Michigan State.

Tom Kangas

Escanaba, 18, 6-4, 195.

A four-year veteran with a career total of 1,190 points. Broke Great Northern Conference records previously established by Menominee's Pat Miller, (who later played at Michigan State). Averaged 27.1 points a game.

Tom McGill

Flint Northern, 18, 6-3, 185.

Totalled 1,038 points, averaging 22.9 points and 14 rebounds a game. Scored 24 points in the Class A championship game to finish with 553 for the season.
