

MR. BASKETBALL WILLIE MITCHELL



Willie Mitchell remembers getting laughed at for staying indoors and out of trouble when other neighborhood kids were running the streets. His willpower and his family's concern paid off when he received the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award.

Mitchell, a 6-foot-8 swing player from Detroit Pershing, was the 14th recipient of the award, receiving 615 of the votes cast by B.C.A.M. members.

"I want to thank God for giving me the talent to play basketball," Mitchell said. "I want to thank my mother, my grandmother and my auntie. They've always been there for me. Keeping me in line."

His mother, Evelyn Wimerly, his grandmother, Irene Wimberly, and his aunt, Angela Wimberly, have kept a close watch over Mitchell.

Mitchell is the fourth player from a Detroit public school, and the first from Pershing, to be selected Mr. Basketball.

Mitchell, a four-year starter, helped lead the Doughboys to the Class A titles in 1992 and 1993. He is averaging 21.5 points, 11 rebounds, four steals, three assists, four blocks and is shooting 68 percent from the free-throw line.