

2025 Michigan Miss Basketball: Meet the 5 finalists

Mick McCabe Special to Detroit Free Press

The five finalists for the 2024 award are **Colleena Bryant, Olivia Flynn, Isis Johnson-Musah, Anna Wypych, and Alli Zajac**. The winner will be announced on March 17th at the Detroit Free Press.

Dorene Ingalls doesn't take her obligation casually.

Quite the contrary. She thinks of her job as chairperson of the Mick McCabe Miss Basketball Award as something of an assignment from "Mission Impossible."

She isn't far off.

Each year, her task is to find a way to narrow the list of Miss Basketball possibilities to a workable number for the ballot.

This is the 44th year for the award, given annually to the top senior in the state by the Basketball Coaches Association and the Detroit Free Press.

It has evolved into the most prestigious award a high school female in Michigan can attain. This year there are five finalists: Colleena Bryant of Wayne, Olivia Flynn of Harbor Springs, Isis Johnson Musah of Detroit Edison, Rockford's Anna Wypych and Tecumseh's Alli Zajac.

Ingalls' undertaking is so daunting because there are about 705 schools that play basketball, which means there are at least 8,400 girls that play varsity basketball.

You can narrow that number down to about 5,000 in those who are seniors, but it is still a whole lot of players competing for the award.

Once the season begins, Ingalls is in contact with coaches from all parts of the state, who share their views of players in their areas.

That is where Ingalls begins compiling a list of possible candidates.

“We began with a large list of different tiers of players,” Ingalls said. “There were well over 60 kids that were considered and that was reduced down to 20 and that was reduced to five.”

LAST YEAR'S FINALISTS: [2024 Michigan Miss Basketball: Meet the 5 finalists](#)

Those numbers are not set in stone each year. A year ago, there were also five finalists, but there have been years when there were only four finalists and some years when there were six.

“Those are arbitrary numbers,” she said. “It all depends on where that cutline ends up being.”

Each year a natural cutline emerges that separates the finalists from those just a bit behind.

There is a difference between being a Miss Basketball candidate and being an All-State candidate.

“There are some very high quality players and we’ve got a great list of final candidates,” Ingalls said. “They’ve come from highly successful teams and they’re the top players of their teams. These kids were the cream of the crop.”

Once the field was narrowed to 20 candidates, Ingalls contacted the coaches on her committee and asked them to vote for their top five players.

“It was a great job done by the committee,” Ingalls said. “It’s a well-rounded committee from various parts of the state and these coaches have played against and seen many of these young ladies play. I felt we had good coverage this year again.”

Voting will be conducted from March 5-9 and only BCAM members are permitted to vote. The Miss Basketball presentation will be March 17 at 1 p.m. at the Free Press.

Here is an alphabetical look at the finalists.

Colleena Bryant, Wayne



Vitals: 5 feet 7, guard.

College: Drexel.

Averages: 18.4 points, 8.1 assists, 6.2 rebounds.

Biggest area of improvement: Shooting off screens.

Best move: Uses an in-and-out hesitation move to get to the basket.

Favorite athlete: Skyler Diggins-Smith.

Top opponent: Isis Johnson Musah, Detroit Edison.

Favorite book: “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” series, by Jeff Kinney.

When my basketball career is finished I will: “Be an athletic trainer.”

Overview: She is an old-fashioned pass-first point guard, but she has always been capable of getting to the basket and scoring. She made her mark as a freshman when she started and helped Wayne reach the D-1 semifinals. She competes hard night in and night out and plays with poise in the biggest games. She had 14 points with nine assists in engineering an upset of No. 1 Belleville.

Olivia Flynn, Harbor Springs



Vitals: 5-8, guard.

College: Western Michigan.

Averages: 25.2 points, 7.5 rebounds, 4.9 assists, 4.2 steals.

Biggest area of improvement: Defense.

Best move: Step-back 3-point shot.

Favorite athlete: Caitlin Clark.

Top opponent: Kendall Standfest, Elk Rapids, (Michigan Tech).

Favorite book: “One of Us is Lying” by Karen M. McManus.

When my basketball career is finished I will: “Become a successful businesswoman.”

Overview: The leading scorer and best player in school history. Her presence has completely changed the complexion of the program. Once a doormat of the league, Harbor Springs has evolved into the best program in the league. She has scored over 2,000 career points and she accomplishes it from the perimeter as well as inside. She is able to isolate a defender and use a spinning up-and-under move to score in the paint and she has a vicious jump shot.

Isis Johnson Musah, Detroit Edison



Vitals: 5-8, guard.

College: Cal.

Averages: 16. 2 points, 7 rebounds, 4.3 assists, 4.1 steals.

Biggest area of improvement: Point guard skills.

Best move: Driving to the basket from the left side and scores from the right hand with a jelly finish spin.

Favorite athlete: Simone Biles.

Top opponent: Ruby Whitehorn, Edison (Clemson/Tennessee).

Favorite book: “Diary of a Wimpy Kid” series by Jeff Kinney.

When my basketball career is finished I will: “Become a screenwriter.”

Overview: After sitting out her sophomore season following a transfer, she made her presence felt at Edison by winning the Division 2 state championship, and was the best player on the court. The highest-recruited player in this class, she turned down Big Ten offers to sign with California. Over the course of the spring and summer, she worked hard to develop into a top-notch point guard and showed signs in last year’s semifinal when she had 16 points and 7 assists.

Anna Wypych, Rockford



Vitals: 6-0, point guard.

College: Butler.

Averages: 22.6 points, 3.6 rebounds, 2.7 assists, 4.5 steals.

Biggest area of improvement: Consistent perimeter shooting.

Best move: Comes off a ball screen, uses a hesitation in-and-out dribble and explodes to the basket.

Favorite athlete: Caitlin Clark.

Top opponent: Gabby Reynolds, Holland West Ottawa (George Washington).

Favorite book: “The Mamba Mentality: How I Play” by Kobe Bryant.

When my basketball career is finished I will: “Be a successful businesswoman with a family and surrounded by a good community.”

Overview: The best player in school history. She established herself as a player of consequence as a freshman in the D-1 semis. As a sophomore, she scored a game-high 20 points in helping Rockford win the state title. She had another 20-point game last season in an overtime semifinal loss. She plays big in the biggest games. She is hitting 44% of her 3-point shots and is able to finish strong at the basket when she is isolated in the paint against guards.

Alli Zajac, Tecumseh



ALL IN THE FAMILY:Alli Zajac thrills at Tecumseh under 'bad cop' mom as coach

Vitals: 6-2, forward.

College: Eastern Michigan.

Averages: 14 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.6 assists, 1.5 steals.

Biggest area of improvement: Defense and shot selection.

Best move: Gets the ball in the post, takes one or two dribbles to the middle and spins back for a layup.

Favorite athlete: Michael Jordan.

Top opponent: Sydney Savoury, Belleville.

Favorite book: “The Mamba Mentality: How I Play” by Kobe Bryant.

When my basketball career is finished I will: “Be an architect.”

Overview: She has been the team’s leading scorer all four seasons, breaking the school record each year. She has scored over 1,500 career points and established herself as the best player in program history. She is also more of a point-forward and one of the state’s best passers from the high post. She demands double-coverage from opponents. She has an excellent 3-point shot, and is difficult to stop when she catches the ball in the post.

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press.

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