

**BASKETBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN  
2001-2002 MR BASKETBALL VOTE TOTALS**

<u>NAME - SCHOOL</u>	<u># VOTES / 5 PTS</u>	<u># / 3 PTS</u>	<u>1 PT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
PAUL DAVIS - Rochester	(126) 630	(37) 111	19	760
ANTHONY ROBERSON - Saginaw	(42) 210	(51) 153	19	382
LESTER ABRAM - Pontiac Northern	(23) 115	(39) 117	37	269
ZACH INGLES - Greenville	(21) 105	(19) 57	35	197
BRIAN SNIDER - Cadillac	(11) 55	(20) 60	13	128
MATT TRANNON - Flint Northern	(1) 5	(22) 66	28	99
MAURICE AGER - Detroit Crockett	(1) 5	(18) 54	23	82
CHRIS GRIMM - Brighton	(6) 30	(8) 24	13	67
GRAHAM BROWN - Mio AuSable	(3) 15	(9) 27	24	66
RICARDO BILLINGS - Detroit Rogers Academy	(2) 10	(9) 27	14	51
CALVIN WOOTEN - Detroit Mackenzie	(6) 30	(1) 3	5	38
KEVIN NELSON - Detroit Country Day	(1) 5	(6) 18	3	26
MARCUS MOORE - Mt. Clemens	(1) 5	(4) 12	6	23
CLIFF BROWN - Ferndale	(1) 5	(2) 6	3	14
JAMES DOUGLAS - Harper Woods	(0) 0	(1) 3	3	6

A little more than three years ago, Rochester basketball coach Hal Commerson handed a freshman named Paul Davis a video to watch.

The tape showed highlights of Jason Richardson, who was beginning his senior season at Saginaw Arthur Hill.

"It showed things from his sophomore year and junior year," Davis recalled. "At the end he said: 'I'm a candidate for Mr. Basketball.' After I watched it, I said: 'That's what I want to be.'"

And now he is.

Davis is the 22nd recipient of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award, given annually to the state's top senior by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan in conjunction with the Free Press.

The award, presented Monday, is the most prestigious a high school athlete can win in Michigan, and Davis won by a landslide in voting by coaches association members. Davis received 126 of the 249 first-place votes, three times as many as runner-up Anthony Roberson of Saginaw.

Davis, the fourth straight Michigan State signee to be named Mr. Basketball, compiled 760 points. Roberson, who signed with Florida, was second with 382 points. Pontiac Northern's Lester Abram, who signed with Michigan, was third (269).

Earlier this season, Bob Gibbons of All Star Sports Publica-

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## **RIISING ABOVE THE REST**

The top 10 vote-getters for the 22nd annual Hal Schram Mr. Basketball Award:

<b>RK</b>	<b>PLAYER/SCHOOL</b>	<b>PTS</b>
1.	Paul Davis, Rochester .....	760
2.	Anthony Roberson, Saginaw .....	382
3.	Lester Abram, Pontiac Northern ...	269
4.	Zach Ingles, Greenville .....	197
5.	Brian Snider, Cadillac .....	128
6.	Matt Trannon, Flint Northern .....	99
7.	Maurice Ager, Detroit Crockett .....	82
8.	Chris Grimm, Brighton .....	67
9.	Graham Brown, Mio .....	66
10.	Ricardo Billings, Detroit Rogers .....	51

# MR. | Davis + wins award by landslide

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tions named Davis the top senior in the country.

Although his senior season was cut short when he suffered a fractured right ankle in Rochester's 16th game, Davis averaged 29.7 points, 13.8 rebounds and 3.5 blocked shots. He expects to resume playing in two months.

Although Davis began thinking about the Mr. Basketball award his freshman season, Commerson thought the youngster might have a chance at it two years earlier.

"Fran Scislowicz was his coach in the seventh grade, and he called me and told me I had to come and take a look at him because he was coming to Rochester," Commerson said. "He was 6-4, and he was something special. I remember thinking, yeah, if we're ever going to have a kid with a chance to be Mr. Basketball, he was it."

Long before Davis knew the award existed, he was a kid playing ball in the neighborhood with buddies Marc Fornell and Eric Smith. Davis always was the best player, they said, because he was taller than everyone else. But they noticed a dramatic change in his game just before he entered high school.

"In the summer after eighth grade he came back from camps and started playing with the varsity," Fornell said. "That's when we knew he was going to be bigger than we ever thought."

Davis became bigger in several ways. He grew to 6-foot-11 and became more than a post player. He can shoot three-point shots effortlessly and runs the floor well for a big man.

"He's got a game," Commerson said. "He's still growing. He's only 17, and he barely shaves. He was a Punt, Pass and Kick national champ when he was 12. He's the whole package."

Tom Izzo learned that Davis had won, he called Sunday night to congratulate him — and became emotional while doing it.

“Coach Izzo can get all riled up and stuff,” said Davis, who committed to MSU before his junior season. “He was happy as a clam, or as happy as he could be after losing in the tournament. Me and him have a relationship. We talk once a week or so. He’s going to be my dad when I get up there, and he was glad I’m continuing the tradition of Mr. Basketball going to State.”

Kathie Davis, Paul’s mother, is an MSU grad, and she could tell the award meant the world to her son.

“Paul’s very quiet, and he doesn’t share his feelings with his family,” she said. “But he knows what this represents, and it told him he’s taken his play to the level it needed to be.”

Three years ago, Davis watched Jason Richardson’s highlight film three or four times before he handed it back to Comerson, and he never forgot how impressive it looked.

Before Monday’s news conference, he spent several minutes admiring the Mr. Basketball trophy and was quite taken with the names of some of the previous winners — Richardson, Shane Battier, Chris Webber, Marcus Taylor, Terry Mills, Glen Rice and Sam Vincent.

“Seeing my name with all those others and the careers they’ve had, it’s pretty cool,” said Davis, who is a finalist for the Naismith award as the national player of the year and was named to play in the McDonald’s All-America game. “Everybody likes the icing on the cake, and this is the icing. This tops everything off. This is *the* award.”

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