

## **BCAM announces sixth group of Retro Mr. Basketball winners.**

**East Lansing, MI** – The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan – BCAM – announces the latest winners of their Retro Basketball Award. Styled after the annual Mr. Basketball Award, the Retro Award looks back at the rich history of high school basketball in the Great Lakes state to recognize the top seniors in years past.

“The modern award was first presented in 1981,” said BCAM president Tom Hursey, “but the state of Michigan has produced an amazing collection of great ballplayers since the beginning of the sport. In 2010, we launched a 10-year program designed to identify and honor the top prep athletes who played between the years 1920 and 1980. Like the current award, the selection committee focuses on the high school careers of those athletes, and not what occurred after graduation.”

The names of the winners are added to a Retro Mr. Basketball trophy created by BCAM. The list of winners, bridging the years before the current award, will be complete in 2019.

“This marks the sixth year of honoring those ballplayers,” said Ron Pesch, historian for the Michigan High School Athletic Association, who heads up research on the candidates. “The committee follows the format established in 2010. This year’s Retro winners come from the seasons ending in ‘5’ – 1925, 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965 and 1975. Like the modern award, a ballot of the top three to six ballplayers is established, and one individual is selected by the committee as the winner of the award.”

## Past winners of BCAM's Retro Mr. Basketball award: (College attended shown in parenthesis)

- 1980 Tim McCormick, Clarkston (Michigan)
- 1974 Tony Smith, Saginaw (Nevada-Las Vegas)
- 1973 Tom LaGarde, Detroit Catholic Central (North Carolina)
- 1972 Larry Fogle, Detroit Cooley (Canisius)
- 1971 Michael "Campy" Russell, Pontiac Central (Michigan)
- 1970 Rick Drewitz, Garden City West (Kentucky)
- 1964 Willie Betts, River Rouge (Bradley)
- 1963 Craig Dill, Saginaw Arthur Hill (Michigan)
- 1962 Ernie Thompson, Saginaw (Bradley)
- 1961 Reggie Harding, Detroit Eastern
- 1960 Peter Gent, Bangor (Michigan State)
- 1954 Pete Tillotson, Ludington (Michigan)
- 1953 Ron Kramer, East Detroit (Michigan)
- 1952 Frank Tanana, Sr., Detroit St. Andrew
- 1951 Webster Kirksey, Saginaw (Eastern Michigan)
- 1950 Charlie Primas, Detroit Miller (Wayne State)
- 1944 Dick Rifenburg, Saginaw Arthur Hill (Michigan)
- 1943 Don Boven, Kalamazoo Central (Western Michigan)
- 1942 Larry Savage, Saginaw (Northwestern)
- 1941 Don Osterman, Detroit St. Theresa
- 1940 Ralph Gibert, Flint Northern (Michigan)
- 1934 Earl Brown, Jr., Benton Harbor (Notre Dame)
- 1933 Lincoln Dodson Truss, Flint Northern
- 1932 Lowell Matteson, Portage
- 1931 Edward Huttenga, Grand Haven (Western Michigan)
- 1930 John Tooker, Kalamazoo St. Augustine (Michigan)
- 1924 Bennie Oosterbaan, Muskegon (Michigan)
- 1923 Henry Schrumpf, Niles (Western Michigan)
- 1922 Royal Cherry, Grand Rapids Union (Michigan)
- 1921 George Haggarty, Ypsilanti (Michigan)
- 1920 Harry Kipke, Lansing Central (Michigan)

## 2015 SELECTIONS FOR BCAM'S RETRO MR. BASKETBALL

**AWARD:** (The winner of the award is listed below in ALL CAPS. Finalists are listed alphabetically.)

1925

### JOE TRUSKOWSKI, DETROIT NORTHEASTERN

While he played guard it was the opinion of the Detroit Times that Truskowski would have made an outstanding center..."as he had the height, strength, covers the entire court knowing always where the ball is, when to expect it, where to pass and knows instantly what to do with it." The leading scorer of the Detroit City League, Truskowski shot well from both long and short range and was defensively beyond reproach. Later played at Michigan.

### OTHER FINALISTS

Birkett Duty, Detroit Southwestern, Fast on his feet...he can shoot from both long and short range....Passed the oval with marked accuracy.

Larry Hueman, Jackson St. Mary

Scored 11 field goals and eight free throws for 30 points over three games in the annual state basketball tournament. Tallied 134 points during the regular season and district tournament. Named to the Class C All-Tournament team.

Wayne Nester, Lake Linden

The outstanding star of the Upper Peninsula tournament where he averaged 12 points over five games. According to the Ironwood Daily Globe, Nester was "the most accurate shot of the tournament, (was) probably the fastest man on the floor...(and) displayed excellent defensive qualities." His talent was recognized downstate, where he was also named to the Class B All-Tournament team.

1935

### JOHN ZWIER, HOLLAND CHRISTIAN

A 6-6 center in the days of the center jump, Zwier led Holland Christian to 37 straight victories and back- to-back Class C titles. He scored 11 points in the 1934 title win over St. Clair. Averaged 18 points per game as a senior, then dominated the 1935 tournament, averaging 17 points per game. Scored 21 points in 49-17 state championship victory over Cass City in only three quarters of play.

## OTHER FINALISTS

William Carpenter, Lansing Central. Good shooter, solid rebounder with outstanding defensive skills and a full knowledge of the game. As team captain, he led the Big Reds to the school's first ever Class A basketball title. Later played at Michigan State.

George Falkowski, Flint Northern.

Broke the Saginaw Valley Conference scoring record with 107 points, topping mark previously set by Northern's Dodson Truss. Strong defensively and a fine rebounder who was also able to hit the open man. Later played at Michigan State.

Tom McShannock, Muskegon, 5-11, 170.

Lead the Southwestern Conference in scoring with 82 points. In four tournament games he scored 39 of the team's 103 points, improving at the team advanced to the semifinals, where he scored 14 in 33-24 loss to Flint Northern. Later played football at Michigan State then returned to Muskegon High School, where he served as Athletic Director for many years.

## 1945

### BOB SWANSON, LANSING SEXTON.

Named a 1<sup>st</sup> team All-State selection by both the Detroit Free Press and UPI, the 6-4 Swanson led the Big Reds with 10 points in a 31-30 win over Benton Harbor in the Class A title game. A rebound ace, his offensive and defensive tactics played a major role in Sexton's drive to the championship. In every Sexton triumph he was a key figure, and even in defeat (the team went 16-3), Swanson was an outstanding performer.

## OTHER FINALISTS

Charles Caicedo, Detroit Holy Redeemer Named to the Free Press and UPI (Class B) all-state 1<sup>st</sup> teams. According to the Detroit Times, he "was the biggest reason the Lions marched to the division championship. His play under the basket was a prime reason the Lions went undefeated."

Don Kelly, Flint Northern.

UPI 1<sup>st</sup> team All-State selection and Detroit Free Press 3<sup>rd</sup> team selection. All Saginaw Valley selection. Leading scorer for the Vikings. Later played his college ball at Central Michigan.

Jack Mott, Saginaw Arthur Hill.

UPI 1<sup>st</sup> team selection Free Press 3<sup>rd</sup> team selections. Speedy Guard. All Saginaw Valley

selection.

Tom Petroff, Lansing Eastern.

Named to the UPI all-state 1<sup>st</sup> team and the Detroit Free Press 2<sup>nd</sup> team. Considered one of the best athletes in Eastern history. Later played six seasons of baseball in the New York Yankee and Cleveland Indian organizations, and became Director of Minor League Field Operations for the Detroit Tigers.

1955

**M.C. BURTON, JR., MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, 6-3.**

Great playmaker, rebounder, scorer and leader, Burton was the top vote getter in Free Press All-State balloting. Scored 462 points over 19 games for a 24.3 average, he set a new Heights scoring mark with 1,141 points over three seasons on varsity. Burton led the Tigers to the school's first state basketball title as a junior, and was named to the Free Press All State 2<sup>nd</sup> team selection that season. Later starred at the University of Michigan.

**OTHER FINALISTS**

Don Arend, Benton Harbor, 6-1.

"Great natural ability, which fitted him for any assignment on the court," according to the Detroit Free Press in their All-State write-up. The Free Press honored Arend with 3<sup>rd</sup> team All-State honors in his junior year.

Ralph Coleman, Lansing St. Mary, 6-5.

Two-time All-State selection, earning honors in both his junior and senior seasons. Finished with a total of 1,305 points over three years, averaging 21.8 per contest and collected 928 rebounds. Set a Lansing area single game mark with 51 points against Battle Creek St. Philip.

Blanche Martin, River Rouge, 6-0.

Totaled 398 points in 19 games as a senior to establish a school single season mark, including a single game scoring mark with 35 against Romulus. Exceled with a picture jump shot from around the circle and an impossible to stop driving layup. One of the state's top rebounders.

Joe Quarles, Flint Central, 6-2.

MVP of the Central team, scored 400 points over 19 games, including a single game-high of 43 against Saginaw.

1965

**L.C. BOWEN, BENTON HARBOR, 6-4.**

Carried a 30.4 average to lead the Tigers. Shot 62 percent from the floor and 80 percent from the free throw line, topping school scoring marks established by Chet Walker. Led Benton Harbor to back-to-back Class A state titles in 1964 and 1965. Later starred at Bradley. His daughter, Letitia Bowen, was a finalist for Michigan's Miss Basketball award in 1990-91.

#### OTHER FINALISTS

John Brisker, Hamtramck, 6-4. Outstanding rebounder, averaged 24 point and led the Cosmos in assists. Good speed.

Dom Jacobetti, Negaunee St. Paul. Prolific outside shooter. Set an Upper Peninsula record for career points with 2,140 points that still stands today. Led team to state quarterfinals as a senior. Named all-conference four years in a row, Jacobetti earned All-State recognition as a sophomore, junior and senior.

Richie Jordan, Fennville 5-7 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Renowned across the state for his ability to dunk the basketball despite his size. Amassed 888 in 20 games for a state record 44.4 per-game average. Scored 60 points in a Class C regional championship loss to Bridgman. An outstanding all-around athlete. Recruited by 55 colleges, before enrolling at Michigan State.

Lee Lafayette, Grand Rapids South, 6-5.

Averaged 30.6 points per game over 19 contests. Set a city scoring mark with 54 points against Grand Rapids West Catholic.

1975

**BRUCE FLOWERS, BERKLEY, 6-8 $\frac{1}{2}$  .** Named a Parade 1<sup>st</sup> team All-America, he was unanimously selected to the Associated Press Class A All- State team, the Detroit News Dream Team and was the top vote getter on Detroit Free Press All State team. Averaged 28 points and 18 rebounds. Shot an amazing 72 percent from the floor. According to the News, he could "break a press, key a fast break with his lightning outlet passes, play defense and shoot accurately from 20 feet out." Played college ball at Notre Dame.

## OTHER FINALISTS

Terry Duerod, Highland Park, 6-2. Unanimous Associated Press Class A, Detroit News Dream Team and 3<sup>rd</sup> team Detroit Free Press selection. A deadly shooter. Averaged 27.9 points and 13.6 rebounds in leading Highland Park to the Class A final. Had one of his finest games in the quarterfinals, where he made 20 of 27 long-range shots in a 43-point effort in powering Highland Park to victory over previously unbeaten Berkley.

Rick Leach, Flint Southwestern 6-1. AP Class A, Detroit News Dream Team and 2<sup>nd</sup> team Detroit Free Press selection. Football, baseball and basketball all-stater. Averaged 16 points, six assists and six steals a game as a senior. Won the Flint basketball scoring title as a junior with an 18.1 average. Held the school single game scoring mark with 42 points.

Greg Lloyd, Lansing Eastern, 6-1. AP Class A, Detroit Free Press Class A 1<sup>st</sup> team and Detroit News Class A 1<sup>st</sup> team selection. Held Lansing records for points in a season with 629, and a career total of 1,463. His top scoring effort was 51 points versus Lansing Catholic Central.

Tom Staton, Ferndale, 6-3.

AP Class A, Detroit News Dream Team and 1<sup>st</sup> team Detroit Free Press selection. "Finest All-around performer in the Detroit area," according to the Free Press. "Super defensive player, led the fast break and had the knack of hitting the open man. He was accused of passing up good shots in favor of his teammates yet he averaged 18 points and 14 rebounds a game."