

Miss Basketball Award named after ex-Free Press writer Mick McCabe

By Chris Thomas, Detroit Free Press March 9, 2018

Mick McCabe forever will be synonymous with girls basketball in the state of Michigan.

The Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan has renamed its Miss Basketball Award after McCabe, who spent nearly 47 years as a Free Press sports writer, mainly covering high schools, before retiring in December 2016.

The news was announced Friday, when [East Lansing's Jaida Hampton received the 2018 Mick McCabe Miss Basketball Award](#), given annually to the state's top senior.

McCabe still is a freelance contributor for the Free Press. The Mr. Basketball award, named after the late Hal Schram, who preceded McCabe on the Free Press sports staff before retiring in 1983, will be announced March 19.

"It was just perfect timing — Hal on the boys award, Mick on the girls," BCAM assistant executive director Dan Young said Friday. "At our meeting in the summer, we just started talking about what he meant to all athletes in the state of Michigan, and so we're like, 'Maybe it's time.' "

McCabe covered everything from Bo Schembechler's first Rose Bowl victory in 1981 to the Fab Five to the MHSAA's annual state championships during his time at the Free Press. He was a champion for girls athletics at the high school level, which is the main reason why BCAM made him the namesake of its marquee girls basketball award.

"He picked up girls sports and gave us our own spot before any other paper did, said Dorene Ingalls, the St. Ignace girls basketball coach and one of BCAM's board of directors. "He was a trailblazer."