

Edison's Hagemann is Miss Basketball

Mick McCabe

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Damiya Hagemann was dribbling down the court like she had done oh so many times before.

But this time, as she neared the basket, she picked up her dribble with her right hand and moved the ball behind her back to her left and put in a left-handed lay-up.

The gym nearly exploded after the bucket. Very few people had seen a girl pull off that kind of move with the fluidity that Hagemann showed on the play.

When the final buzzer sounded, kids poured out of the stands and surrounded Hagemann with pens and paper in hand, asking her for her autograph.

It was a slick move all right, but there is another thing about the play you need to know: Hagemann was in the seventh grade at the time.

Initially, Hagemann was taken aback by the kids' reaction and asking for an autograph.

"I thought, wow, these kids look up to me," she said. "People really wanted to be around me."

Something like that happening to a seventh grader can go one of two ways. The youngster could think she has arrived and can start planning her shoe deal.

Or it can light a fire in someone and if you know Hagemann, a senior at Detroit Edison, you know which way that one went.

"You know how some people get big-headed and they don't feel like they shouldn't have to work?" she asked, rhetorically. "I feel like the complete opposite. It just motivated me to chase after my dreams and my goals for high school."

It motivated her to this:

Hagemann, who has signed with Michigan State, became the 40th recipient of the Mick McCabe Miss Basketball award on Tuesday, given annually by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan to the state's top senior.

The 5-foot-7 silky smooth point guard enabled Edison to complete the hat trick. Hagemann is the third consecutive Edison player to receive the award, following in the footsteps of former teammates Rickea Jackson (2019) and Gabrielle Elliott (2020).

No school has ever had repeat winners, much less three straight.

In voting by BCAM members, Hagemann compiled 2,413 points to outdistance Bree Salenbien of Adrian Lenawee Christian (2,185), East Grand Rapids' Jillian Brown (2,175), Morasha Wiggins of Kalamazoo Central (1,899) and Wayne's Alanna Micheaux (994).

Hagemann became interested in basketball watching her older sisters, Dashana and Dominique Turner, who graduated from Mount Clemens in 2012 and '13, respectively.

"I basically grew up in the gym because of my sisters playing," she said. "I really thought my sisters were good enough to be Miss Basketball or even be a candidate or mentioned in the (conversation). I felt when they graduated and not to be Miss Basketball I felt like I had to be Miss Basketball for them."

This season Hagemann, ranked the No. 5 point guard in the country, averaged 17.4 points, 9.9 assists, 5.2 rebounds and 3.7 steals. She also began the season as the Free Press' No. 1 player for the second straight year.

The most relevant stat that explains Hagemann's value to a team is this: Edison is 85-2 with two state championships with her on the court.

The only reason Hagemann hasn't won four state titles was the coronavirus; it shut down last season's tournament before the regional final and a teammate tested positive this season, forcing Edison to withdraw from the tournament just before it began.

Edison coach Monique Brown remembers seeing Hagemann when she was in the third grade playing with fifth-graders and she was impressed.

Although she was talented enough to start as a freshman, Brown had her coming off the bench her first year at Edison, which had won a state title the season before.

"Some kids come in and start right away and the ball is theirs and they get to shoot as much as they want," Brown said. "They never have to look over their shoulder. But Damiya always knew that she had to work really, really hard to stay in that spot.



2021 Miss Basketball Damiya Hagemann is the third consecutive Edison player to receive the award. JUNFU HAN/DETROIT FREE PRESS

"She was playing starting minutes, she just didn't start the game for the first eight or nine games."

While she deferred to Jackson for her first two years, Hagemann showed amazing composure as a freshman and sophomore.

"She always had an extremely high IQ," said Brown. "She always looking to pass the ball first. She wants to score, don't get me wrong, but she knows how to get people involved. She loves to 'oooh' and 'ahhh' the crowd with a no-look pass."

Because Edison had won a state title the year before and had virtually all of its players back, Hagemann almost chose to attend a different school.

But one thing about her is she isn't afraid of a challenge.

"I didn't know if I was going to fit in or I was going to get any playing time at all," she said. "That summer, I really dedicated myself. I worked out every morning to prepare for the competition at practice."

"It made me work harder, but me working harder got me more minutes. After that, I didn't care about starting."

MSU coach Suzy Merchant first saw Hagemann play while she was in the eighth grade and immediately began recruiting her.

"Her feel and vision for the game was off the charts," Merchant said. "Recruiting her, the one thing I always told her was she was the female version of Cassius Winston. She's a kid that can really, really pass the ball — set kids up — she's great in ball screens, but at the same time if you need a bucket or a free throw she can get you one."

"She and Cassius play very similar. They're winners, they make everybody around them better and yet they'll step up when needed. Very classy kid from a very classy program."

One of the reasons Hagemann chose MSU was Merchant and the way she reminded her of Brown. Hagemann will be the 10th Miss Basketball to play at MSU.

"Coach Suzy's doesn't look like she's trippin' that much during the games; she's not going crazy," Hagemann said. "She's calm and she trusts the plays and trusts the point guard and they play a lot in transition. I know me and Coach Suzy, as soon as I get on campus, are going to have a real close bond."

She is hoping it is the same type of bond she shares with Brown. That is why Hagemann was so disappointed when Edison had to pull out of the state tournament.

"I feel like Coach Brown is the Pat Summit of high school coaches," she said. "So the hardest part on me was not being able to be coached by a legendary coach anymore. I realized I had played my last high school game."

This is the first time 30 years that the award ceremony came after the state tournament, and Hagemann began to think that she was not going to win the most prestigious award a high school girl can receive.

"A lot of doubt came into my head," she said. "It was kind of chancy with us having won the last two in a row. I was the first one out of the tournament and I didn't hear anything, but then Coach Brown called me to tell me."

"It's overwhelming right now because I'm really excited. That was my big goal for high school."

Michigan Miss Basketball through the years

Here are the 40 winners of the Mick McCabe Miss Basketball Award:

- 2021: Damiya Hagemann**, Detroit Edison (Michigan State)
- 2020: Gabrielle Elliot**, Detroit Edison (Clemson)
- 2019: Rickea Jackson**, Detroit Edison (Mississippi State)
- 2018: Jaida Hampton**, East Lansing (Wichita State)
- 2017: Jordan Walker**, Muskegon Mona Shores (Western Michigan)
- 2016: Kysre Gondrezick**, Benton Harbor (Michigan/West Virginia)
- 2015: Tania Davis**, Goodrich (Iowa)
- 2014: Lexi Gussert**, Crystal Falls Forrest Park (Michigan State)
- 2013: Tori Jankoska**, Freeland (Michigan State)
- 2012: Madison Ristovski**, Grosse Pointe Woods University Liggett (Michigan)
- 2011: Jasmine Hines**, Central Lake (Michigan State)
- 2010: Klarissa Bell**, East Lansing (Michigan State)
- 2009: Jenny Ryan**, Saginaw Nouvel (Michigan)
- 2008: Kellie Watson**, Ionia (Notre Dame/Grand Valley State)
- 2006: Brenna Bankton**, Frankfort (Western Michigan)
- 2005: Allyssa DeHaan**, Grandville (Michigan State)
- 2004: Tiffanie Shives**, Lansing Christian (Michigan State/Gonzaga)
- 2003: Krista Clement**, St. Ignace (Michigan)
- 2002: Danielle Kamm**, Saginaw Nouvel (Marquette)
- 2001: Liz Shimek**, Maple City Glen Lake (Michigan State)
- 2000: Tabitha Pool**, Ann Arbor Huron (Michigan)
- 1999: Vicki Krapohl**, Mount Pleasant (Duke)
- 1998: Kristin Koetsier**, Grandville (Western Michigan)
- 1997: Aiysha Smith**, Redford Bishop Borgess (St. John's/LSU)
- 1996: Deanna Nolan**, Flint Northern (Georgia)
- 1995: Maxann Reese**, Redford Bishop Borgess (Michigan State)
- 1994: Kim Knuth**, St. Joseph (Toledo)
- 1993: Sally Sedlar**, Manistee (Toledo/Central Michigan)
- 1992: Erinn Reed**, Saginaw (Iowa/Kansas)
- 1991: Lisa Negri**, Flint Powers (Ohio State)
- 1990: Markita Aldridge**, Detroit King (UNC-Charlotte)
- 1989: Peggy Evans**, Birmingham Detroit Country Day (Tenn./Ohio State)
- 1988: Jennifer Shasky**, Birmingham Marian (George Washington)
- 1987: Dena Head**, Plymouth Salem (Tennessee)
- 1986: Daedra Charles**, Detroit DePorres (Tennessee)
- 1985: Franthea Price**, River Rouge (Iowa)
- 1984: Emily Wagner**, Livonia Ladywood (Stanford)
- 1983: Michele Kruty**, Manistee (Dayton)
- 1982: Sue Tucker**, Okemos (Michigan State)
- 1981: Julie Polakowski**, Leland (Michigan State)

Count 'em up

Here are the results of the 40th annual Mick McCabe Miss Basketball award, given by the Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan. Only BCAM members are permitted to vote.

RK	PLAYER	SCHOOL	PTS
1	Damiya Hagemann	Detroit Edison	2,413
2	Bree Salenbien	Lenawee Christian	2,148
3	Jillian Brown	East Grand Rapids	2,175
4	Morasha Wiggins	Kalamazoo Central	1,899
5	Alanna Micheaux	Wayne	994

Notes are awarded on a 5-3-1 basis.

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