

Olson of Benilde-SM is Miss Basketball

By Bruce Strand

Olivia Olson, leader of Benilde-St. Margaret's back-to-back state championship teams, and a prep All-America pick, was named Miss Basketball last week.

The 6-foot-1 guard signed by Michigan was named to Naismith and McDonald's All-America teams and Gatorade state Player of the Year before becoming the first Miss Basketball from her school. She's also been selected for the Nike Hoops Summit in Portland, Oregon, on April 13.

The Miss Basketball announcement was made Friday during the coaches association's all-star weekend at Carleton College. Olson did not play in the state all-star games, having played in the McDonald's All-America game the week before in Houston, but was present to receive the award.

Olson averaged 25.5 points this season and 21.9 as a junior. In six state wins the past two seasons, she averaged 29 points, 11.7 rebounds and 3.7 assists. She amassed 2,619 career points and 1,076 rebounds. She had a 40-point game in eighth grade and scored 219 in eight state games the last three years.

Olson also won a state title in soccer as the goalie for a 19-0-3 team, allowing just one goal in three state tournament games.

The other Miss Basketball finalists were the following:

Jordan Zubich, Mountain Iron-Buhl guard who averaged 27.6 points and 6.4 assists and led the state with

132 three-pointers (with 45 percent accuracy). The North Carolina recruit totaled 3,490 career points, 220 of them in four state tournaments, leading the Rangers to a state title and state runner-up finish.

Liv McGill, Hopkins guard who averaged 22 points this year and showcased her remarkable all-around game in three state tournaments, averaging 17.4 points, 4.8 rebounds, 5.0 assists and 2.8 assists in nine games. The

Florida recruit helped the Royals earn a state title and two runner-up finishes. She scored 1,404 career points

Tori McKinney, 6-foot-1 guard who contributed to Minnetonka's 29-2, state championship season with stellar one-on-one defense and 14.9 points per game. In the state tournament, the future Minnesota Gopher averaged 14.3 points, 10.8 rebounds and 3.7 steals in the state tournament. She missed her junior year with injury.

Elizabeth Gadiant, floor leader for state Class 1A champion

Goodhue who capped her career with a brilliant state finals performance (31 points, nine rebounds, five assists and four steals) and averaged 22.8 points for the season. Signed by Division II national champion Minnesota-Mankato, she scored 2,036 career points.

Alyssa Sand, 6-foot-3 post who led Albany to the state Class 2A finals past two seasons, averaging 18.8 points and 12 this season. In three state games this year, the St. Thomas recruit averaged 23 points and 15.3 rebounds, shooting 63 percent. She played in four state tournaments and three state finals with one title as a freshman.



Olivia Olson is Benilde-St. Margaret's first Miss Basketball. Her next team will be Michigan.

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