Written by Steve Ostermann
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Record-setting senior guard named Gatorade Wisconsin Boys' Basketball Player of Year

The top player in the history of Port Washington High School boys' basketball can add another prestigious honor to his resumé.

Josh Gasser, a senior who led the Pirates to a share of the North Shore Conference title and the WIAA Division 2 regional finals, has been named Gatorade Wisconsin Boys' Basketball Player of the Year for the 2009-10 season.

A 6-foot-4-inch, 190-pound guard, Gasser is the first Port player to receive the award, which recognizes academic excellence and exemplary character as well as athletic achievement.

Gasser averaged 23.9 points, 9.6 rebounds, 4.6 assists and 2.7 steals per game during his last season, capping a career in which he finished as the Pirates' all-time leader in scoring and most other statistical categories.

He shot 50.3% from the field and 84.5% at the free-throw line.

"I'm really excited for Josh and our program," said Port boys' coach John Bunyan. "He's definitely a kid with great athletic ability who's outstanding academically and is someone of high character."

Gasser was also named to the Associated Press All-State First Team and the

Division 2 All-State First Team selected by the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association and has been nominated for the 2010 McDonald's High School All-American Game.

He has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball on scholarship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison this fall.

"Josh is a real tough guard," said Tyler Selk, head coach of Wisconsin Swing, Gasser's AAU club team.

"As a coach who prepares high school kids, I wouldn't want to prepare them to go against Gasser. He's a 6-4 guard that can dominate in the post and on the perimeter.

"Beyond that, he's an unbelievable kid. He's worked to get where he is, and he's earned it."

Gasser has a 3.58 grade-point average. In addition to donating his time on behalf of Special Olympics and as a youth basketball instructor, he has been a volunteer for an elementary school literacy-outreach program, in a grounds-keeping effort at a local nature preserve and in a
holiday gift-giving campaign for underprivileged children.

As the Wisconsin award winner, Gasser is a finalist for the Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year honor. Previous national honorees include NBA standouts Chris Paul, Kevin Garnett, Chauncey Billups, Jason Kidd, Paul Pierce and Chris Bosh.

Among recent state honorees, Gasser joins Ben Averkamp of Germantown, Kwamain Mitchell of Whitefish Bay Dominican and Tim Jarmusz of Oshkosh West.

Josh Gasser