

[Ms. Basketball State Player of Year finalists](#)

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There is even one less finalist among the girls than for the boys, but that's mainly because of obvious choices surrounding one team and one county. The Cal-Hi Sports Ms. Basketball award extends back to 1972 and includes previous winners such as Ann Meyers, Cheryl Miller, Lisa Leslie and Diana Taurasi.

Here are the five finalists for this year's Ms. Basketball State Player of the Year award. These were pared down based on numerous criteria, including performances in the most important games, overall season accomplishments, leading a team to a championship, career accomplishments and more.

Brittany Boyd (Berkeley)

Individually, if there was one player who gained the most in the last two weeks of the season, it was Boyd. After leading Berkeley to the CIF North Coast Section title, the 5-foot-9 junior guard pushed the Yellowjackets to the NorCal Div. I final against Oak Ridge of El Dorado Hills. Boyd stole the ball three times against Oak Ridge standout Sara James and drove for layups. She also carries an ESPN player ranking just one point lower than James and among the best of all juniors in the nation. James clearly had an easier time against Long Beach Poly's backcourt players than against Boyd. Boyd, who fouled out with just less than four minutes left in Berkeley's loss to Oak Ridge, averaged nearly 20 points per game in the postseason.

Chelsea Gray (St. Mary's, Stockton)

She's a no-brainer to be a finalist for Ms. Basketball in the state since she's already been named the Gatorade State Player of the Year and the Parade Magazine Co-Player of the Year for the nation. Still, it's no guarantee for Ms. Basketball as the criteria for those other honors is a bit different and in the past the Cal-Hi Sports honors have often been different from Gatorade and Parade. Gray had 20 points and eight assists when St. Mary's wrapped up its 33-1 season by topping Bishop Amat of La Puente in the CIF Division III state title. She averaged 18 points and seven assists per game and is one of the best at stealing the ball we've ever seen. Chelsea is a cousin of Cal's Alexis Gray-Lawson, who was named the MVP of the Women's NIT on Saturday. But even though teammate Afure Jemerigbe also is going to Cal, Chelsea is headed to Duke. Note: Jemerigbe as a player also is arguably at the same level as some others on this finalist list, but was not included because Gray would obviously be No. 1 from the St. Mary's team.

Sara James (Oak Ridge, El Dorado Hills)

In the CIF Division I state final, James enjoyed a signature game with 26 points and was the catalyst for her team's 55-42 win over heavily favored Long Beach Poly. But while the result was viewed as a huge upset considering the entire rosters of the two teams, James herself was showed during the summers that she could out-play just about any other guard. She finished the season with averages of 22 points, 10 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 3.5 steals per game. James also carries a 4.0 GPA and has signed with national power Stanford. In addition to the Poly outing, James had 22 points in a win vs. Brea Olinda and had 25 points and 22 rebounds when the Trojans won their own tourney with a victory against St. Francis of Sacramento.

Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis (Mater Dei, Santa Ana)

The best argument for Mosqueda-Lewis to be the Ms. Basketball State Player of the Year is similar to the head-to-head reason why Mater Dei passed St. Mary's of Stockton in the final rankings. When the Monarchs beat St. Mary's in that Nike TOC final in Arizona, Mosqueda-Lewis scored a game-high 27 points. The State Sophomore Player of the Year for 2009 and a finalist for Ms. Basketball as well, Mosqueda-Lewis pumped in 23.9 points with eight rebounds and 2.3 assists per game for Mater Dei. Her 3-point shooting percentage of 52.6 percent is perhaps her most impressive stat. Other notable individual outings include 30 points in a win against Harvard-Westlake and 21 in the CIF Division II state championship triumph against Carondelet. Note: Since Mosqueda-Lewis was a rather obvious pick as Orange County Player of the Year, we did not include any other Orange County players as a Ms. Basketball finalist. Remember, this finalist list is not a ranking of top players. If Brea Olinda's Kelsey Harris or Santa Margarita's Melissa Zornig were from some other part of the state, they'd likely be finalists as well.

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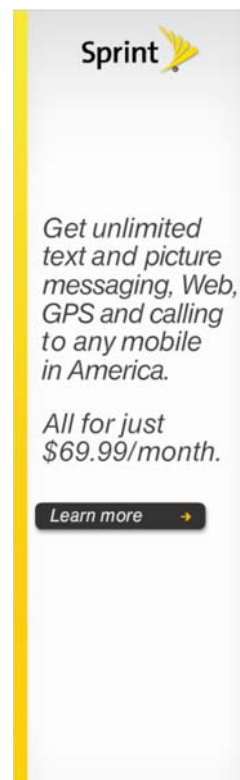
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Lindsay Sherbert (Great Oak, Temecula)

At the McDonald's All-American Game earlier this week, Sherbert scored seven points, which was more than the other two California players who were there. A 6-foot-1 forward who can stroke shots from the outside, Sherbert also already has been named a Parade Magazine All-American and the Riverside Press-Enterprise Player of the Year. She put up averages of 27.4 points, 4.5 rebounds and 2.1 steals per game with a single-game high of 40 points against Colony of Ontario. Sherbert was stellar last summer as well and was the No. 29 ranked player in the Hoopgurlz ESPNU 100. She has signed with Cal.

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