

Sims stands tall in Class A

■ Detroit Pershing senior 'had a dominant year,' coach says.

The Associated Press

Detroit Pershing senior De-Shawn Sims finished third in the Mr. Basketball voting.

But the state's media agree: Sims was

Basketball

Michigan's top player in Class A this winter.

Sims is this season's Associated Press Class A player of the year.

A 6-foot-8 forward who will play at Michigan, Sims averaged 25 points, 12 rebounds and three blocked shots per game for the No. 8-ranked Doughboys.

"He's had a dominant year,"

Pershing coach A.W. Canada said. "Every time we've asked him to step up he did. He's taken on the leadership role, too. He's making more and-ones. He's constantly working to improve."

Sims also was a member of the All-State team as a junior. His high school career ended with a double-overtime regional semifinal loss to No. 2 Detroit Redford.

Three more seniors and three juniors joined Sims as unanimous choices on this season's All-State team.

Grand Blanc forward K'Len Morris, who will play at Michigan, was selected after averaging 20.9 points, 7.9 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game. Belleville guard Leon Freeman averaged 26.1 points and 10.1 rebounds, and Okemos guard Johnathon Jones averaged 21 points, 6.5 assists and four rebounds.

Orchard Lake St. Mary junior

guard Kalin Lucas, who has verbally committed to Michigan State, averaged 24.9 points, 5.8 assists and 5.8 rebounds. Saginaw Arthur Hill forward Darquavis Tucker averaged 23 points, 13 rebounds and seven assists, and Detroit Redford guard Corperryale Harris averaged 22.3 points, 7.5 rebounds and 4.5 assists.

Tucker and Harris are two of the most highly-touted college prospects in the state's junior class.

Three others seniors and a junior round out this season's All-State squad.

Detroit King senior guard Ramar Smith, another of the state's most highly-touted prospects, averaged 23.4 points, 6.5 rebounds and 5.5 assists this season. Saginaw senior guard Larry Wright, who has verbally committed to St. John's, averaged 21 points and

Class A All-State list

The 2006 Associated Press Class A All-State basketball team as selected by Michigan sports writers and broadcasters: DeShawn Sims, Detroit Pershing, 6-8, Sr. (player of the year)

Johnathon Jones, Okemos, 6-0, Sr.
K'Len Morris, Grand Blanc, 6-5, Sr.
Darquavis Tucker, Saginaw Arthur Hill, 6-5, Jr.
Leon Freeman, Belleville, 6-4, Sr.
Corperryale Harris, Detroit Redford, 6-4, Jr.
Kalin Lucas, Orchard Lake St. Mary, 5-11, Jr.
Larry Wright, Saginaw, 6-3, Sr.
Paul Crosby, Holt, 6-7, Jr.
David Thompson, Grandville, 5-8, Sr.
Ramar Smith, Detroit King, 6-3, Sr.
Coach of the year: Dan Stolz, Okemos.

SPECIAL MENTION (nominees receiving two or more votes from the 10-member panel): Joshua Southern, Saginaw; Lendyn Davis, Lansing Sexton. Coach: Dale Clyde, Bay City John Glenn.

HONORABLE MENTION (nominees receiving one or no

votes from the 10-member panel): Robb McPhillips, Midland; Jovonne Augustus, Grand Rapids Creston; Derek Brooks, Grand Rapids Northview; Robbie Harman, Traverse City Central; Eric Puls, Alpena; **Dex Battista, Utica; T.J. Gore, Macomb Dakota; Blake Cushingberry, Romeo;** Tony Bowles, Port Huron Northern; John Lierman, Holt; Gerald Busby, East Lansing; Devino Williams, Benton Harbor; Marc Larson, Mattawan; Jeremy Allen, Detroit Cass Tech; Tremaine Butler, Detroit Mackenzie; DeAndre Nealy, Detroit Central; Eulis Stephens, Detroit Southeastern; Woody Payne, Ypsilanti; Devin Searcy, Romulus; Brian Christian, Detroit Mumford; Brandon Bowdry, Taylor Truman; Tim Williams, Pontiac Northern; Jon Tassin, Orchard Lake St. Mary; Dion Sims, U-D Jesuit; Damien Abram, Pontiac Central; Zach Nichols, Brighton; Rob Boss, Brighton; Marcus Monroe, Ann Arbor Pioneer; Denard Branch, Walled Lake Western; Alvin Storrs, Northville; Jerome Hutchins, Detroit Redford.

Coach: Mike Kapustka, Grand Rapids Northview; **Bill Snyder, Macomb Dakota;** Dan Hoff, Mattawan; George Ward, Detroit Central; Denny Butcher, Walled Lake Central; Josh Tropea, Howell.

seven rebounds. And Grandville senior guard David Thompson, who signed with Grand Valley State, averaged 23 points and six assists per game this season.

Holt junior center Paul Crosby, a star of the Rams' 2005 Class A state championship run, averaged 15.6 points, 11.1 rebounds and 3.7 blocked shots per game.

Okemos' Dan Stolz is this sea-

son's Class A coach of the year. The Chieftains won the Capital Area Activities Conference Division 1 championship for the first time — in the third year of the league — and finished the regular season ranked No. 1 in Class A. Stolz' career record at the start of district tournaments was 319-64 in 17 seasons — good for an average of nearly 19 wins per.