

Lynch receives Trester Mental Attitude Award

Written by George Browning
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Winning a state title is enough to make anyone's year, but for Borden senior Michael Lynch it was a day filled with double the excitement.

Not only did he play 26 minutes in his team's win in the state championship over Triton, he played very well. Besides the success on the court, Lynch was also awarded the Trester Mental Attitude Award.

Lynch, who had obvious stage fright as he faced a room full of media members, said the award means a lot and will likely help with college.

"My family is trying to help me go to college and the award is going to help pay for it," he said. "It really does help."

As for why he was nominated by Head Coach Doc Nash, the list is long.

"You can't ask for a better student than Michael," Nash said. "You can't ask for a better person in terms of community service and leadership. He is just great. He is great with our biddy-ball kids and works his tail off academically. He is a great representative of what that award stands for."

In the championship game, Lynch scored 13 points and hit five of seven shots from the floor. The only criticism offered by the coach after the game was the fact that he had just one rebound.

"I'd like to see Michael Lynch block somebody out," Nash said with a smile.

Lynch's mom, Nancy, searched for words when asked what seeing her son receive the award meant to her.

"I am just so proud," she said. "I couldn't be more proud of him. It's overwhelming, but it is a wonderful feeling."

His dad, Joe Lynch, said the award could have gone to a number of players on this Borden team.

"We have a group of special boys and we've known that for a while," he said. "It's one thing to be chosen for the award, but to be chosen out of that group makes it even more special. We thank God for it."

Joe said he wasn't thinking state championship at the beginning of the year, but he knew it was going to be a lot of fun after starting off the year with a double over-time win at Eastern.

Lynch is one of four seniors Nash and the Borden program must replace.

Arthur L. Trester Award
for Mental Attitude

At the state finals, members of the IHSAA Executive Committee present the Trester Award to the outstanding senior participant in each classification of the boys' basketball state finals. The recipients of this award, who were nominated by their principals and coaches, must excel in mental attitude, scholarship, leadership and athletic ability in basketball. Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, IHSAA corporate partner, presents a \$1,000 scholarship to each school in the name of the recipient.

From 1917 to 1943 the award was known as "The Gimbel Medal for Mental Attitude" in honor of Mr. Jake Gimbel of Vincennes, who awarded the medal each of those years until his passing prior to the 1943 tournament. In 1944, the award became known as the "IHSAA Medal for Mental Attitude". In 1945, the IHSAA board officially named the award "The Arthur L. Trester Medal for Mental Attitude" in honor of the man who served as first commissioner of the Association from 1929 to 1944.

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Recipients were given a medal each year from 1945 through 1964, hence “The Arthur L. Trester Medal for Mental Attitude.” Since 1965, the award has been made in the form of a plaque with a copy of the original medal incorporated on the face of the plaque, hence “The Arthur L. Trester Award for Mental Attitude.”

For a complete list of former winners, visit IHSAA.org.