

For Immediate Release: April 8, 2009
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Brandon Knight Named 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Basketball

GAINESVILLE (April 8) --- Ft. Lauderdale Pine Crest High School's Brandon Knight has been named the 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Mr. Basketball and will be honored later this month with a ceremony at his high school in Ft. Lauderdale.

Knight averaged 31.2 points, 8.2 rebounds and 5.6 assists per game while shooting 81 percent from the free throw line in leading his team to a 28-4 record and the Class 3A state title. In his four years on the varsity, he holds school records for most points in a season and career (968/2,589), 3-pointers in a season and career (127/259) and career assists (594). Knight is only the fourth junior to be named Florida Mr. Basketball in the 27-year history of the award, joining Chris Corchiani, Steve Edwards and Nick Calathes.

The winner of the Mr. Basketball Award, sponsored by Florida Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association, was determined in voting by a statewide panel of high school basketball coaches and prep media representatives.

"Florida's dairy farmers congratulate Brandon for a job well done and we salute him with a milk toast," said Matt Lussier, a Gainesville area dairy farmer. "We take a lot of pride in watching a winner such as Brandon represent our industry and this award in such a positive manner and we wish him continued success."

Knight, who was earlier chosen as the Class 3A Player-of-the-Year, finished ahead of Class 5A Player-of-the-Year Greg Gantt of Gainesville, as well as winners in the four other state classifications. Knight received 13 of the 19 first-place votes and totaled 159 points to Gantt's 84 points.

Charles Hankerson Jr. of Miami Coral Reef, the Class 6A Player-of-the-Year, finished third with 79 points followed by Wally Judge of Arlington Country Day (Class 2A) with 72 points, Rakeem Buckles of Monsignor Pace (Class 4A) with 65 points, and Keith Clanton of Orlando Christian Prep (Class 1A) with 64 points.

The Florida Dairy Farmers Sports Awards program exemplifies Dairy Farmers Inc.'s commitment to the state's youth. While honoring the state's top athletes and coaches in all 25 FHSAA-sanctioned sports, the program also emphasizes to young people the importance of keeping dairy products a primary part of their diet in their overall nutrition plan.

Mr. Basketball Voting Breakdown

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Knight	13	2	2	1	1	0	159
Gantt	1	6	1	7	2	2	84
Hankerson Jr.	1	4	3	5	5	1	79
Judge	2	0	5	6	3	3	72
Buckles	2	0	3	7	2	5	65
Clanton	0	4	2	4	5	4	64

Totals based on a 10-7-5-3-2-1 point system

All-time Mr. Basketball Winners

1983 - Frank Ford, Kissimmee Osceola
1984 - Vernon Maxwell, Gainesville Buchholz
1985 - Toney Mack, Brandon
1986 - Chris Corchiani, Hialeah Miami Lakes
1987 - Chris Corchiani, Hialeah Miami Lakes
1988 - Johnny Walker, Quincy Shanks
1989 - Douglas Edwards, Miami Senior
1990 - Clifford Rozier, Bradenton Southeast
1991 - Steve Edwards, Miami Senior
1992 - Steve Edwards, Miami Senior
1993 - James Collins, Jacksonville Jackson
1994 - LeRon Williams, Bradenton Southeast
1995 - Vince Carter, Daytona Beach Mainland
1996 - Luke Barnes, South Miami
1997 - Jason Pryor, Fort Walton Beach
1998 - Teddy Dupay, Cape Coral Mariner
1999 - Casey Sanders, Tampa Plant
2000 - Orien Greene, Gainesville
2001 - Adrian McPherson, Bradenton Southeast
2002 - Amare Stoudemire, Orlando Cypress Creek
2003 - Chris Richard, Lakeland Kathleen
2004 - Darius Washington, Orlando Edgewater

2005 - Keith Brumbaugh, Deland
2006 - Nick Calathes, Winter Park Lake Howell
2007 - Nick Calathes, Winter Park Lake Howell
2008 – Ray Shipman, Monsignor Pace
2009 – Brandon Knight, Ft. Lauderdale Pine Crest

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Kelly Beckham Named 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Coach-of-the-Year

GAINESVILLE (April 8) --- Gainesville High School basketball coach Kelly Beckham has been named the 2009 Florida Dairy Farmers Boys' Basketball Coach-of-the-Year.

Beckham is the 17th winner of the annual award, sponsored by Florida Dairy Farmers, Inc. and the Florida Athletic Coaches Association. A statewide panel of high school coaches and prep media representatives voted on the award honoring the top high school coach for the 2008-09 season.

In his first year at Gainesville, coach Beckham led his team to a 29-3 record and the Class 5A state championship. He has a career record of 559-234.

"Florida's dairy farmers congratulate coach Beckham for a job well done and we salute him with a milk toast," said Matt Lussier, a Gainesville area dairy farmer. "We take a lot of pride in watching a winner such as coach Beckham represent our industry and this award in such a positive manner and we wish him continued success."

Beckham, who was earlier chosen as the Class 5A Coach-of-the-Year, finished ahead of Class 6A Coach-of-the-Year Gaston Rodriguez of Miami Coral Reef as well as winners from the four other state classifications. Beckham received nine of the 18 first-place votes and totaled 126 points to Rodriguez's 101 points.

David Beckerman of Ft. Lauderdale Pine Crest, the Class 3A Coach-of-the-Year, finished third with 85 points followed by James Rowe of Cocoa (Class 4A) with 71 points, Rex Morgan of

Arlington Country Day (Class 2A) with 62 points and Reggie Kohn of Orlando Christian Prep (Class 1A) with 50 points.

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Coach-of-the-Year Voting Breakdown

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total
Beckham	9	2	2	3	1	1	126
Rodriguez	3	5	5	2	2	1	101
Beckerman	2	3	3	9	1	0	85
Rowe	1	3	2	6	6	0	71
Morgan	3	0	2	4	1	8	62
Kohn	0	2	1	5	6	4	50

Totals based on a 10-7-5-3-2-1 point system

Basketball Coach-of-the-Year award winners:

- 1993 – Bernard Wilkes, Jacksonville Ribault
- 1994 – John Ellerbee, Malone
- 1995 – Bob Carroll, Bradenton Southeast
- 1996 – Wade Edmond, Pompano Beach Ely
- 1997 – Joey Pons, Fort Walton Beach
- 1998 – Bruce Rosebrock, Jacksonville Wolfson
- 1999 – Vernon Eppinette, Port St. Joe

2000 – Anthony Long, Gainesville
2001 – Mark Rickman, Orlando Boone
2002 – Ricky McCullough, Chipley
2003 – Mark Lieberman, Miami Pace
2004 – Mike Gaudy, Cocoa Beach
2005 – Danny Wright, Lakewood
2006 – Matt Hixenbaugh, Winter Park
2007 – Steve Kohn, Winter Park Lake Howell
2008 – Lawton Williams, Miami Norland
2009 – Kelly Beckham, Gainesville