

Wilson named National Player of Year

Written by Jim Ecker

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Doug Wilson of Kirkwood has hit the national jackpot again.

Wilson was named the MVP of the NJCAA Division II national tournament last month when he led the Eagles to their second national title in four years.

Now the talented 6-foot-7 center from Des Moines has been honored as the National Player of the Year as well.

Wilson had a sensational game in the national finals when he collected 30 points, 15 rebounds, five blocks and four assists in the victory over Johnson County at Danville, Ill.

Wilson averaged 21 points, 8.7 rebounds and shot 67 percent from the field. He led the ICCAC conference in points per game, rebounds per game, field goal percentage, rebounds and blocks. For his efforts, he was named the conference MVP and the regional MVP to sweep all four major MVP awards this season.

Wilson thanked Kirkwood Coach Bryan Petersen and his staff for holding him accountable during his two years with the Eagles, both on the court and off the court. "Not every coach would do that," he said.

Wilson was a poor free throw shooter when he arrived at Kirkwood and shot 46 percent as a freshman, but he raised his accuracy to 70 percent as a sophomore with lots of practice.

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Wilson also showed vast improvement in his ballhandling and passing skills during his career at Kirkwood, in addition to his sweet moves around the basket and rebounding skills. He also served as a quietly effective leader on the ballclub.

Wilson has signed to play at South Dakota State, an NCAA Division I school that competes in the Summit Conference.