

Hayden wins Metro Spotlight Award

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Sydney Hayden of Cedar Rapids Kennedy is the winner of the Metro Spotlight Award for high school girls this week, the Metro Sports Report announced Sunday.

Hayden, a 5-foot-5 senior, has been a major factor for the Kennedy basketball team this season with her outside shooting, ballhandling and defense. She is averaging 13.9 points and leads Class 5A with 38 3-pointers in 10 games.

The Cougars are ranked No. 4 in the state with a 9-1 record.

Hayden has made 42.2 percent of her 3-pointers (38 of 90) and leads Class 5A in triples by a wide margin. She ranks second overall in the state in 3-pointers behind Janey Botkins of Durant, who has 40.

Hayden has made at least two 3-pointers in every game this season. She hit six triples against Waterloo East and Dubuque Hempstead, and she had five 3-pointers against Ames and Fairfield. She's enjoyed scoring outputs this season of 20, 19, 18 (twice), 17, 15 and 12.

Hayden is averaging 2.4 assists and 1.3 steals and has made 71.4 percent of her free throws.

Hayden hit a clutch 3-pointer with seven seconds left in the fourth quarter to force overtime in a victory at Washington this year. She averaged 9.2 points and had 43 3-pointers last season.

Hayden has been an all-state soccer player at Kennedy and has signed to play soccer at the University of Northern Iowa.