

Future Buckeye Kierstan Bell Makes History As 3-Time Ohio Ms. Basketball



An in-state signee of the Ohio State women's basketball team made history Thursday, joining LeBron James as the only three-time winners of Ohio's top high school hoops honor.

Canton McKinley's Kierstan Bell is the 2019 Ohio Ms. Basketball, the Ohio High School Athletics Association (OHSAA) announced, becoming the first three-time recipient of the girls' award.

James, who was Ohio's Mr. Basketball from 2001-03 at Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary before he embarked on his NBA career with the Cleveland Cavaliers in 2003-04 as the draft's No. 1 overall pick, is the only three-time honoree of the boys' award.

"I give it all to God," Bell told Joe Scalzo of the Canton Repository. "God put me on this earth for a reason. He gave me a good talent and a gift, so I owe it back. I put it all on the floor and tried to use that gift."

Since she committed Aug. 25 to the Buckeyes and signed Nov. 16 as the headliner for head coach Kevin McGuff's 2019 recruiting class, which finished fourth nationally in ESPN's rankings, Bell carried her scholastic squad to a 25-2 record culminated by an appearance in the regional championship game.

The 6-1 guard averaged 27.0 points, 7.9 rebounds, 4.4 blocks, 3.8 steals and 3.0 assists per game. On Bell's career, she compiled 2,833 points, passing Ohio stars Katie Smith and Semeka Randall along her climb up the state's all-time scoring list. Bell's career points finished fourth in OHSAA history.

In her time with the Bulldogs, all Bell did was win. She led McKinley to a 93-14 record with three district titles and one regional title.

Other finalists for Ohio's Ms. Basketball included Dublin Coffman's Jacy Sheldon, who joins Bell at OSU in 2019-20. Sheldon became McGuff's first commitment for the 2019 class Nov. 19, 2017.

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