

There's no doubt about her -- Romberg is T-S choice for girls' MVP

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When it came to selecting the prep boys' MVP, the four Times-Standard sportswriters had several lengthy, spirited discussions and disagreements. When it came to the girls' MVP, however, there were blank looks and a moment of silence. No, not because we couldn't think of one, but rather, because we could think of only one. It was a unanimous selection: Sage Romberg.

Had College of the Redwoods' illustrious Coach Bill "Tregs" Treglown -- a fanatical Boston Celtics fan -- lived to see Romberg play, he probably would have agreed that her skills reminded him of three legendary Celtics: Nate "Tiny" Archibald, Larry Bird and Bill Russell.

Archibald, a 6-foot-1 left-handed guard, had great ability to penetrate, pass, shoot, and led the NBA in scoring and assists in the same season.

Romberg, a 6-foot-1 left-handed guard/forward, replicated the process by leading the H-DNC in scoring and assists. Her shooting from a variety of distances, combined with controlled dribbling and unselfish passing, are part of what made her 2007-08 season so excellent. And like Archibald, Romberg is a highly accurate free-throw shooter.

Larry Bird was renowned for his ability to see the whole court, to make accurate passes and to nail clutch shots in the biggest games.

Romberg's court vision is remarkable, and she consistently drew defenders to her and then delivered soft assists to her teammates. After his team lost to Romberg's Panthers on Wednesday, Sacred Heart's head coach Rich Hata said, "We don't have anyone in our league (Bay Counties -- West League) who can drive the lane and pass like that."

And as for stepping up under pressure, as a freshman last year Romberg tossed in 26 points as Mack won the Dick Nicolai Tournament's title game; this year she scored 22 in the final.

You may think, "Well, OK, it sounds like this girl's pretty good on offense, but how is she on defense?" If so, think of Bill Russell.

Like Russell, on defense Romberg guards tightly, but also slides over to help teammates and hustles back on fast breaks. She blocked 118 shots -- an unbelievable average of 4.4 shots per game -- this season.

The best player on the Big 5's undefeated champion is also the best player on the North Coast. And she's just finishing her sophomore season.