

Super all-star Glenn Rivers

Glenn Rivers, all-star MVP

By GILBERT BROWN

Back when Glen Rivers was just another kid on the block and couldn't dunk without a step ladder, he and his friends carried a shovel when they went to play basketball. They needed it to shovel the snow off the court.

Maywood, Illinois, had one gym with one useless hoop which was falling off.

Now many call Rivers the top high school guard in the country and Maywood still doesn't have a decent place for kids to shoot basketball.

Rivers has two goals in life. One is being a champion. The other is going back to Maywood and building a gym. He wants success and he wants to share it.

"I want to see kids grow up and be good at a sport. Now they never have anything," he said. "If they don't play ball they will be out there hanging around on the street."

But for now Rivers concentrates on being the best basketball player around and his first commitment is to winning a state high school basketball championship. "I play ball for about three hours a day and I jump a lot of rope and run in a weight jacket and go through my drills."

Rivers was named the Most Valuable Player in the June session of the B-C all-stars camp, and he gave a spectacular slam dunk exhibition which brought the campers to their feet and earned him the slam dunk award.

Rivers, a 6-foot-3 guard, out-dunked players almost a foot taller and he did it with a confidence rarely seen in a 17-year-old rising senior.

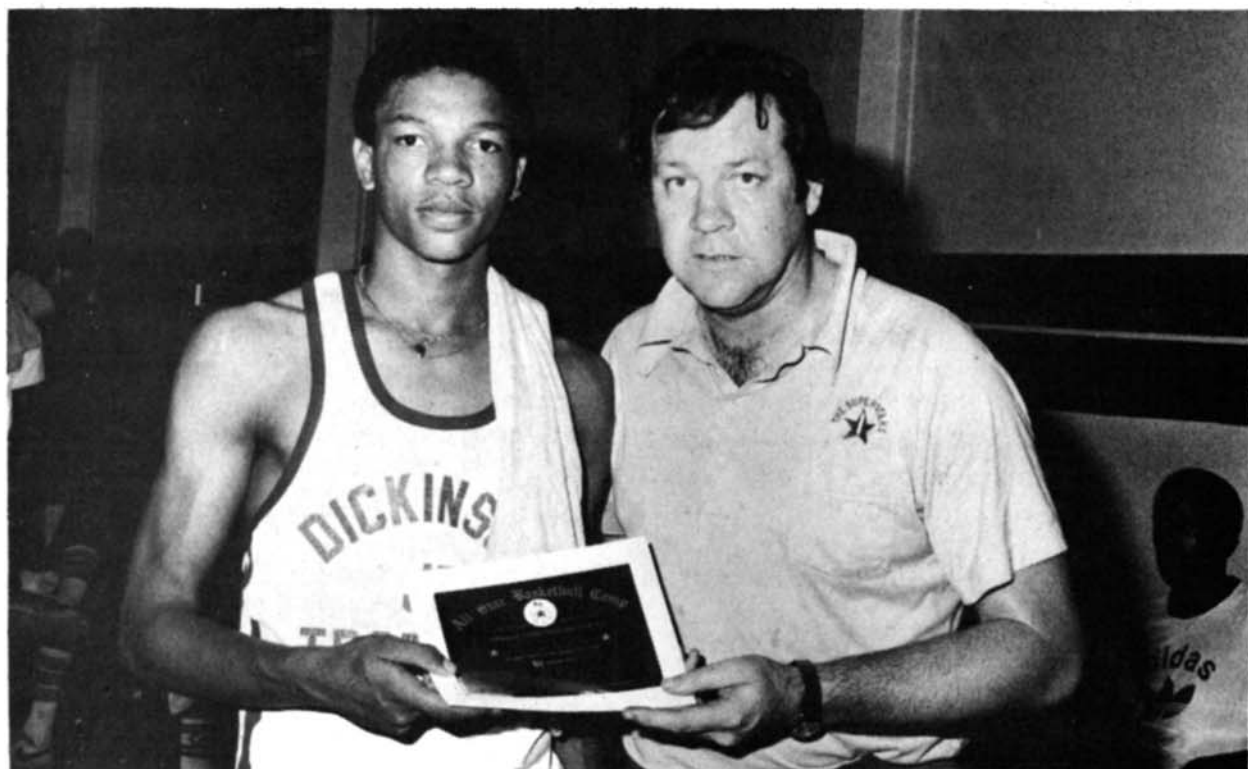
His notoriety is an incentive. "It adds some pressure but it will help me. Last year I relaxed too much didn't have a good year. This year I'm not going to hold back anything." Nonetheless his team went 26-2 and advanced to the sectional playoffs.

Rivers committed to the camp at the last minute, 24 hours before it started to be exact. "I decided that the competition was there. I was planning on going to the Five-Star camp but I looked around and saw that the competition would be at the B-C camp. I was surprised that I did so well. I thought I'd be a rookie compared to the competition. This is the best camp I've ever been to. But I wasn't really in shape or I think I could have done better."

Rivers will attend one more camp this summer. But his second trip will be as a counselor at the Medalist junior high camp. He holds a camp of sorts in his own back yard every day.

"Sometimes I have 10 or 15 kids playing in the back yard. They are anywhere from the eighth grade on down. There are always five or six playing ball there. When I see a kid who is doing something bad, I tell them. I guess I have kept a lot of kids off the street."

He hopes to translate his relationship with younger players into a coaching career when he finishes playing.



First week's top player - Glenn Rivers