

PREP BASKETBALL

## Father-son duo earn top Class 3A honors



Scott Morse and his father Brian pose after beating defending 3A state champion Regis in the semifinals of the 2008/2009 state tournament in Salem. (Photo by Max Brown)

### Scott Morse named player of the year and Brian Morse coach of the year

By Kris Henry

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Coming out of the Class 3A boys basketball state tournament, the Morse family couldn't imagine a better story line after Cascade Christian won the state title. But it did get better Tuesday.

Cascade Christian senior forward Scott Morse was named 3A player of the year, and his father, Brian Morse, 3A coach of the year in voting by his peers.

"It's very cool," Scott Morse said. "I think one of the coolest parts of it was winning along with my dad. It was a great way for me to go out, combining something like that."



Challenger senior Scott Morse (5) has now won 5 state championships, 2 in basketball and 3 in tennis. (Photo by Max Brown)

The 6-foot-7 standout averaged 18.5 points, 10.6 rebounds, 5.4 steals and three blocks for the Challengers (27-3), who earned their second state title in three years.

Both player and coach said work in the offseason helped propel Scott Morse to the 3A honor, especially since the award could have gone to any number of outstanding players this season. Four of the five first-team all-state picks last year, including Scott Morse, were juniors.

"I'm glad the other coaches thought enough of me to say I was the best player in my class," said Scott Morse, who has signed to play basketball and tennis next season at California Baptist University. "It was definitely my goal at the beginning of the year."

Scott Morse played for the Oregon Rebels AAU basketball team last summer and worked hard to hone his skills on the court.

"That really made a huge impact on how much better he became," said Brian Morse.

#### All-State Locals

##### CLASS 3A BOYS:

**Scott Morse**, Cascade Christian, first team; **Dustin Hutley**, Cascade Christian, second team; **Jarrod Hess**, Cascade Christian, honorable mention.

Likely giving the younger Morse a boost to the top honor was his play at the state tournament. He was one of the team's top scorers while also playing stifling defense on the opponents' top players.



Challenger senior Dustin Hutley (11) was named to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State squad on Tuesday. (Photo by Max Brown)

"He played his best ball in the tournament and his last game he played the best game of his career," Brian Morse said of the Challengers' 48-37 win over Horizon Christian. "As a dad, it's like the ultimate because you're always thinking of your kid winning a state championship in his last year and being named player of the year. It was a picture-perfect ending and I couldn't put a price tag on how it ended up."

Joining Scott Morse on the 3A all-state team were senior teammates Dustin Hutley (second team) and Jarrod Hess (honorable mention). Hutley, a transfer from North Medford High, averaged 10.7 points and 7.2 rebounds, and Hess contributed 10.3 points, 7.2 assists and 4.1 rebounds per game.



Cascade Christian guard Jerrod Hess (15) was honored on Tuesday (3/31) by be chosen Honorable Mention All-State. (Photo by Max Brown)

"Those three seniors, obviously, are going to be missed a lot because of the leadership and skills they provided for us," said Brian Morse, who was the 2A coach of the year in 2007 after another state-title run. "In many ways, they were the heart and soul of our team."

"Jarrod's just a real gutsy kid that never stopped working hard," added the coach. "And with Dustin, we don't normally get very many transfers, but he just fit in so well with the guys. It was like he'd been there for four years."

## 2008/2009 Oregon All-State Basketball CLASS 3A BOYS

### Name - School - Yr. First Team

**Scott Morse Cascade Christian Sr.**  
Jordan Tebutt Horizon Christian Fr.  
Joe Jaeger Regis Sr.  
Brandon Cataldo Rainier Jr.  
Cory DeKruyf Santiam Christian Sr.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR — **Scott Morse, Cascade Christian.**  
COACH OF THE YEAR — **Brian Morse, Cascade Christian.**

### Second Team

Jordan Buhler Harrisburg Sr.  
**Dustin Hutley Cascade Christian Sr.**  
Steve Williams Umatilla Sr.  
Niko Rentsch Sheridan Sr.  
C.J. Mitchell Horizon Christian Jr.

### Third Team

Jeremiah Leos, Jr., Nyssa; Ryan Polk, Sr., Portland Adventist; Russ Seals, Sr., Vale; Derek Piete, Sr., Regis; Justin Smucker, Sr., Harrisburg.

### Honorable Mention

Michael Lyon, Sr., Valley Catholic; Tre Hale-Edmerson, So., Sheridan; **Jarrod Hess, Sr., Cascade Christian**; K.C. Taylor, Sr., Clatskanie; A.J. Beltran, Sr., Creswell; Juan Hernandez, Jr., Oregon Episcopal; Max DeVillers, Sr., Bandon; Chris Keifer, Sr., Valley Catholic; Travis Bernards, So., Dayton.



Brian Morse has won 372 games in his 21 year coaching career including 2 of the last 3 state championships. In 1984, he was an all-league player who helped lead the Challengers to their first state playoff berth. (Photo by Max Brown)