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Fryer: And the league players of the year in basketball are ...

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In the next few days, boys basketball coaches will meet to select their league's all-league team and player of the year.

Predicting each Orange County league's boys basketball player of the year, with some opinion thrown in . . .

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Academy League: Maximus Bo, Crean Lutheran. This 5-foot-8 junior point guard has his hands on the wheel and his foot on the gas pedal for the league-champion Saints. Bo made a school-record 14 3-pointers in a league win over Whitney of Cerritos and scored 24 points with seven 3-pointers in a crucial league win over second-place St. Margaret's.

Crestview League: AJ Perry, Canyon. He is the leading scorer for the league-champion Comanches at 17 points a game. He is a 5-8 junior point guard. College coaches who think Perry is too short should be aware that UC Davis junior guard TJ Shorts, 5-9, the other day scored 31 points including a 3-point game-winner in overtime in his team's win over Long Beach State ... and a bunch of coaches who saw Shorts play at Tustin thought Shorts was too short.

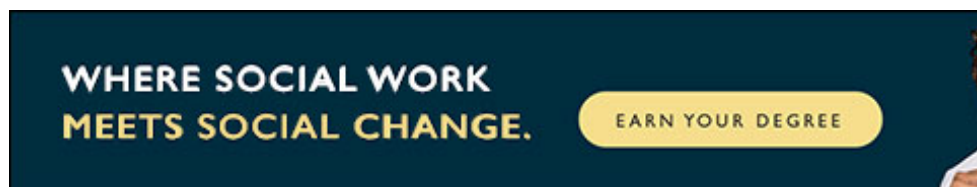
Empire League: Jared Brown, Cypress. League-champion Cypress often is a balanced-scoring group, so picking the Empire's player of the year from its roster is a challenge. Brown, a junior guard, might be the Centurions' most-consistent player.

Freeway League: Alec Sinek, Troy. With few exceptions, a league's player of the year is the best player from that league's championship team. Sinek, a senior guard, is the player of the year if Troy emerges as the league champ. La Habra senior guard Noah Desatoff deserves consideration.

Garden Grove League: Sebastian Castro, Garden Grove. The junior forward is the best player in the league at both ends of the floor. He has immense leadership qualities, too.

Golden West League: Mehkel Harvey, Ocean View. He fills the stat sheet in scoring, rebounds and blocked shots every night. Ocean View's Paul Head is terrific, too, but the all-around play of Harvey, a 6-9 senior, gives him the edge.

North Hills League: Julien Franklin, Villa Park. By a large margin this 6-6 junior guard, who committed to Oregon State, is the choice.



Orange League: Joseph Ramirez, Katella. Ramirez and Edward Williams have been terrific for the league-champion Knights. Williams is a junior. When a league champion coach nominates a player for league player of the year, and all factors being fairly equal, the coach usually goes with the senior. Ramirez is a senior.

Orange Coast League: Blake Burzell, Laguna Beach. Burzell, a versatile senior scorer, also will be, if he remains healthy, the Orange Coast League's baseball player of the year and a candidate for All-Orange County in both sports.

Pacific Coast League: Jacob Huynh, Northwood. The senior guard has been excellent in the Timberwolves' biggest games. He scored 42 points over two victories against the league's second-best team, Corona del Mar.

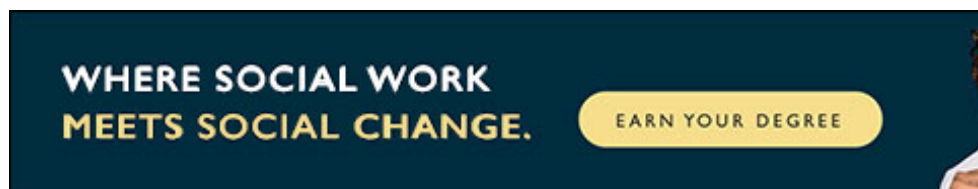
San Joaquin League: Jonah Tolmarie, Saddleback Valley Christian. The senior guard has been the Warriors' best player in league games and nonleague games.

Sea View League: Dawson Baker, Capistrano Valley. The senior guard is a very consistent scorer and is among the county's more difficult-to-guard players. He will be a top candidate for All-Orange County first team.

South Coast League: Harminder Dhaliwal, Aliso Niguel. This is the county's most interesting and most entertaining league. Aliso's Dylan Dickerson probably will get some player of the year support in the league meeting, but the choice here would be Dhaliwal, a 6-9 senior post who is averaging 18 points and nine rebounds a game and is an automatic two points if he gets the ball within 7 feet of the hoop.

Sunset League: David Atencio, Edison. He is the Chargers' most dependable player. The senior guard, who was All-County first team in football, stands out on his team more than anyone stands out at Newport Harbor, which is a balanced unit.

Trinity League: Spencer Freedman, Mater Dei. He is a mistakes-free player in a sport in which mistakes can be abundant even for good players. Freedman, a senior guard on his way to Harvard, is the leader for O.C. player of the year.



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