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Athlete of the Week" Richard Azure, Jr., Lincoln

By Dennis Knight
dknight@mercurynews.com
Posted: 01/19/2010 07:36:00 PM PST
Updated: 01/20/2010 08:36:59 AM PST

RICHARD AZURE, JR., LINCOLN

Sport: Basketball.

Position: Guard. Class: Senior.

Azure continued his hot play last week by scoring 26 points in a win over Prospect and adding 20 points in a loss to Lick. He stands just 5-foot-4, but Azure has been a standout on the Lincoln varsity since he was a freshman. "He is small but he plays with the heart of a 7-footer," Lincoln coach Joe Mentillo said. "Richard always gives 100 percent up and down the court on offense and defense. He puts a lot of pressure on defenses and distributes the ball well to his teammates. He does whatever we ask him to do whether it's taking charges on defense or pulling up and hit the jump shot." The Lions are 10-4 and 2-2 in the West Valley Division, the team's best start in his eight years as head coach, Mentillo said. Azure is averaging 16.9 points, 5.9 assists and 3.6 steals per game. Azure has been the freshman, sophomore and junior of the year in the West Valley Division the last three seasons.

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