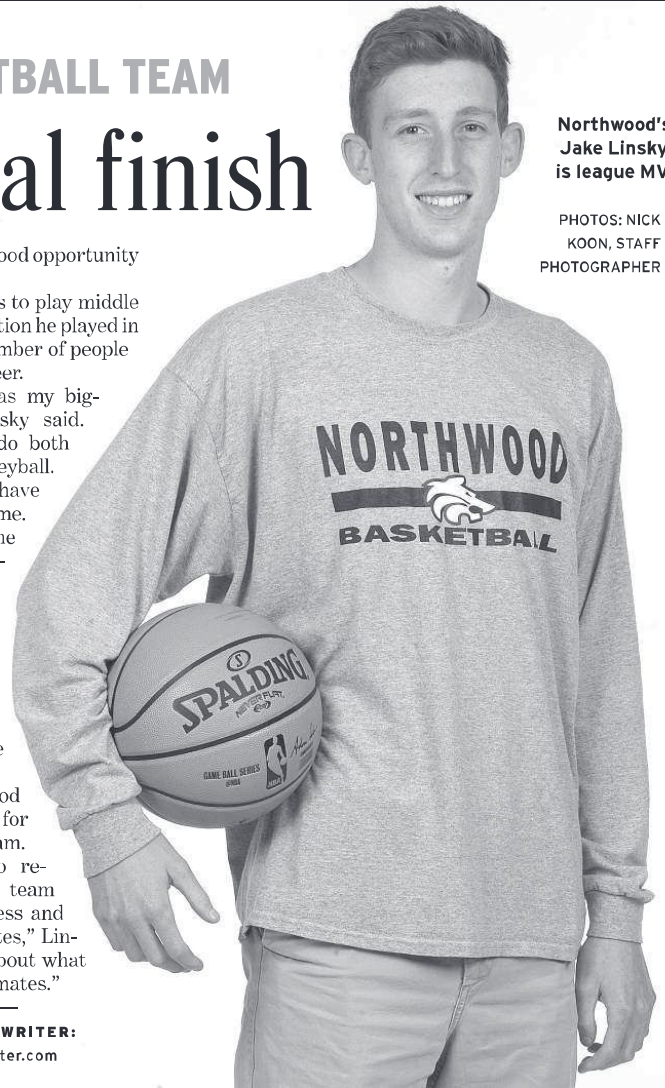


ALL-CITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

# Linsky had a sensational finish

Northwood's Jake Linsky is league MVP.

PHOTOS: NICK KOON, STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



By **TIM BURT**  
STAFF WRITER

Northwood High senior Jake Linsky made his final year of competitive basketball a memorable one. The 6-foot-7 forward committed to Loyola University of Chicago to play volleyball next season, so he knew this would likely be his last opportunity to shine on the basketball court.

Linsky did just that, earning All-CIF 2A honors while averaging 22 points and 11 rebounds. Linsky, the MVP of the Irvine all-city team, was also named MVP of the PCL after leading the Timberwolves to the league title.

"It was a great season; 10-0 in league is something very special and winning the Irvine World News Tournament was big. We did a lot of things for our school and it kind of put us on the map," said Linsky. "These guys are a great group of guys, and I was happy to play for all of them and Coach (I'm) O'Brien.

"It was a great high school experience for me and I'm glad I could end on that positive note."

The league title stands out, he said. "It was always a goal of mine," he said. "My dad played at Newport Harbor and he hung a banner. It was kind of a challenge. I wanted to hang one for us. It's something we always work

for."

O'Brien learned to expect outstanding performances every night from Linsky.

"Jake Linsky is a game changer at both ends," O'Brien said. "Jake could dominate at both ends of the court. His ability to protect the rim helped on penetration and made him a real defensive presence. On offense, he was a

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**JAKE LINSKY**  
ON WINNING A LEAGUE TITLE

tough matchup. He developed a nice touch from the perimeter over the years. It wasn't just the scripted points he got, but the ones he got on his own just through his feel for the game. He was very active and moved well without the ball, (which wasn't often by design)."

Linsky, who is currently playing club volleyball, is now looking forward to gearing up for college volleyball.

"I'm excited; Cole Murray, who played at Northwood, is there right now, so I know him and it's a great team," Linsky said. "It's very exciting

and it's going to be a good opportunity for me."

Linsky, who expects to play middle blocker, the same position he played in high school, said a number of people helped him in his career.

"Coach O'Brien was my biggest supporter," Linsky said. "He allowed me to do both basketball and volleyball. My mom and my dad have always supported me. They've always put me in a position to succeed and Phil Roh, the athletic director, has always been a big supporter, and all the parents and the kids on the team always support you and I'm very fortunate for that."

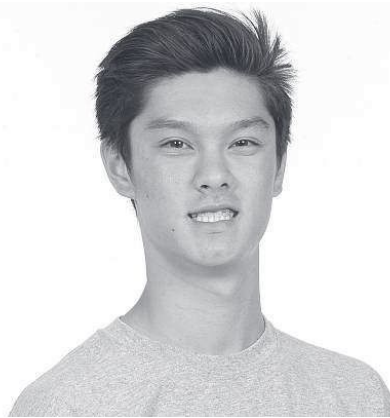
He hopes Northwood fans remember him for his devotion to the team.

"I want people to remember me as a team player, who was selfless and did it for his teammates," Linsky said. "It's more about what you do for your teammates."

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**EVEN KITTELSEN, CREAN LUTHERAN:** The senior forward averaged 16 points and six rebounds a game. He was named first team All-Academy League. "Even is the best shooter I have ever coached," said coach Josh Beatty. "He made huge shots for us all year, including the playoffs. He is a great competitor, has a tremendous work ethic and is a great teammate."



**JACOB HUYNH, NORTHWOOD:** The sophomore guard was first team all-league. He averaged 14.5 points and four assists a game. "Jacob came into his own as a sophomore and is relentless at both ends," said coach Tim O'Brien. "He plays as hard as anyone. ... (He) is capable of scoring in bunches and his better days are still ahead for him."



**MICHAEL BAGATOURIAN, CREAN LUTHERAN:** The junior forward averaged 20 points and 10 rebounds a game and was MVP of the Academy League. "He's our best and most talented player but cares deeply about his teammates and winning much more than his own numbers or performance," coach Josh Beatty. "He has set the tone for our program at Crean Lutheran."

