

Steve Morgan:

Diggers' assist king was real reason
For team's excitement – and success

By Bruce Smith
MatchupUT.com

When you look at all that **Steve Morgan** has accomplished at Jordan High School, you have to think that colleges would be on his doorstep with scholarship offers in hand.

All he did in football was catch 58 passes for 896 yards and 10 touchdowns. In the season finale against eventual champion Bingham, he had 12 receptions for 188 yards and two scores.

In basketball, he played point guard for coach **Rob Geertsen's** Beetdiggers. He had a huge responsibility as the team's floor general. He led all of 5A (large schools) in assists, averaging almost 6.9 per game, prompting Geertsen to assume that would be the leader in that category in the school's 100-year history.

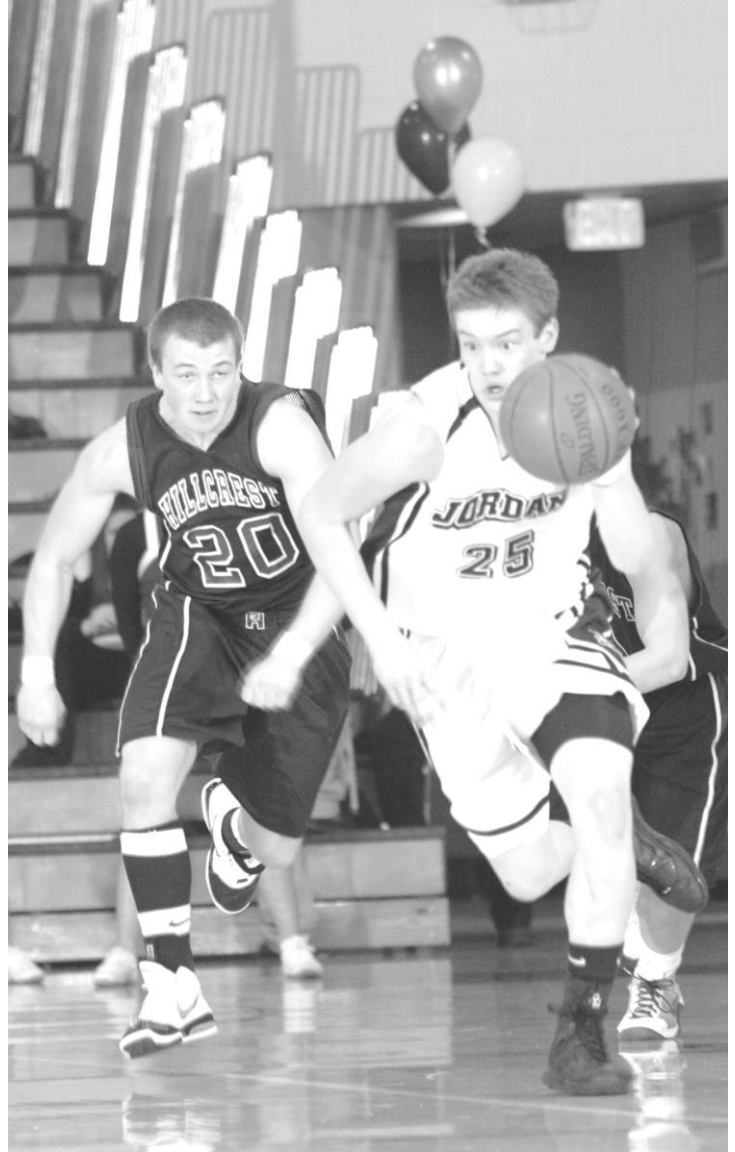
Unfortunately, that record has never been kept. But that didn't bother Morgan. To him, competing in sports is just another way to have fun.

"I will always remember how much fun we had this season, and I just have to thank my teammates for it," Morgan said. "I just looked to find other people open. That was the easiest for me. If you've got people running the lanes who can finish really good, the assists are going to come."

So far, there haven't been any offers, but Morgan is excited to go to college anyway. If high school is his best sports memory, he will have plenty of them.

During the football season, his job was to catch the ball. When the season ended, he and teammates like **Alex Hart** and **Cory Hunt** had one day off to start preparing for basketball.

In the gym, his job wasn't catching the ball as much as distributing it. Morgan's ability to find the open man made Jordan one of the state's most



Steve Morgan led Jordan's dangerous fast-breaking offense.

dangerous teams for a good portion of the season.

"We were a streaky team," he said. "We all kind of played off each other. When **Joe (Mero)** made a three-pointer, **Kevin (Goldsmith)** would play really well, and so on ..."

Jordan liked to play at a quick tempo, and ranked No. 4 in 5A in team scoring. Morgan would often lead the fast break. He said his most memorable game came when the Diggers beat Lone Peak 71-64 in

Continued on next page

JORDAN BASKETBALL: Senior profile



Jordan point guard Steve Morgan had the ball in his hands most of the time and had a flair for showing everyone all that he could do with it.

Continued from previous page

overtime.

“At the end of regulation, I had a floater to win the game and it went in and out,” he recalled. “Everyone thought I would be mad at myself for missing it, but I just got fired up. I got a few buckets in overtime and made a few free throws to win the game.”

Morgan made a difference. He had a season-high 16 points in that game. For the season, he averaged 6.5 points per game during the season. He reached double figures five times – and four of those were wins. When he had his best passing games (nine or more assists), Jordan won every time, except the season-finale at Davis.

And, in that game, even Davis coach Jay Welk said his team was lucky to win.

There were plenty of other highlights, like:

* - Beating Cottonwood at the Energy Solutions Arena. Morgan had six points, six assists and four steals on the same floor

NBA legend John Stockton made famous.

“That was a lot of fun. The size of the arena changed the whole perspective. I don’t think we shot well because of how different the stadium was. We were intimidated, but coach just said to ‘go have fun. Just remember to have fun.’”

* - Going to Logan for a three-day tournament and routing the host team, 85-58, the day after losing a heartbreaker to Bingham. Morgan had 12 points and seven assists that day, and fed teammate **Caden Sperry** several times when he had his career-best scoring game (19 points).

When the season ended, Goldsmith was named to the all-region and all-state teams, and many of his passes came from Morgan. Mero caught several of Morgan’s feeds and nailed 60 three-pointers.

Nate Monson had a lot of layups inside. And Jordan’s fans? Well, they cheered loud and strong at the exciting games.

Jordan’s success all started from the point-guard position. Is there any doubt why Morgan was smiling all season?