

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Keith Burton

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## Senior Keith Burton has outstanding career

By Steve Oliver  
PROGRESS SPORTS WRITER

For most of an outstanding high school athletic career, OTHS senior Keith Burton has done a good job of avoiding the headlines. Quietly going about his business on the gridiron and the basketball court, Burton has provided the solid foundation on which the Panther basketball and football teams have built their success over the past two seasons. An All-Conference lineman in football, the 18-year old son of Keith Sr. and Maria Burton emerged in the spotlight in last year's state tournament semi-finals, making two critical steals that, in large part, propelled the Panthers into the state title game. This year, he has continued to provide consistent offensive

and defensive production which has helped the OTHS squad to their current 15-0 start to the 2007-08 campaign. In the recent Centralia Holiday tournament championship run, Burton was a key rebounder and defender as well as providing valuable scoring in each of O'Fallon's four victories. Burton's role is one on which O'Fallon coach Rick Gibson has come to depend.

"We always know that Keith will give us 100% every time he steps onto the court," Gibson said. "He is deceiving in that he has excellent quickness combined with strength which makes him an excellent defensive player. He can also put the ball in the basket."

SEE AOW ON PAGE B2

## AOW: Important part of team

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Burton lists his experience in last year's state tournament as one of his fondest athletic memories.

"Making it to the state championship game and playing against the top talent in the state of Illinois were just incredible experiences," Burton explained. "This year

I just want to be an important part of my team and contribute in any way that I can. I wouldn't mind being named to the All-Conference team this season and I want to remain undefeated this year as long as we can - maybe even win the state championship this year."

"My dad has always pushed me in every sport that

I compete in," Burton continued. "He has helped me get involved with many different sports and has provided me with a lot of opportunities. After graduation this year, I want to attend either Howard, SIUC, Hampton or Moorhouse and major in Biology. Also, I want to continue to play either football or basketball in college."