

# Leticia Lewis:

Multi-sport athlete was recognized for her knowledge, as well as her skills

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

When Leticia Lewis walked on the basketball court during Bingham High girls basketball games, one of the first things she would do was look across the court.

Know thy enemy? Of course. In Lewis' case, she already did.

Lewis was a team captain and an encyclopedia of knowledge about an opponent, mostly because she knew so many other athletes around Utah. By competing in softball and basketball, she got to know her competition.

"I knew a lot of people at different schools," she said. "Because I played softball, I have a lot of friends who've l've played against, and they would introduce me to basketball players."

They also knew Lewis, a multi-year player at Bingham who coach Rand Rasmussen recognized as a freshmen, when she saw varsity action in two games. During her senior year, Lewis started in 21 of the Miners' 23 games. She averaged 4.7 points per game, but was second on the team in assists (45), steals (46) and three-pointers (18). Her best game came at the right time, when she poured in 11 points in Bingham's 78-48 victory over Hunter in the first round of the 5A state tournament.

Lewis said she was sad when the season ended.

"This was my favorite year," she said. "Being a senior, it was a whole different perspective and everyone is looking up to you. I thought we did really well, especially for how young we were."

Lewis said there were too parts of the season she will remember the most. The first came



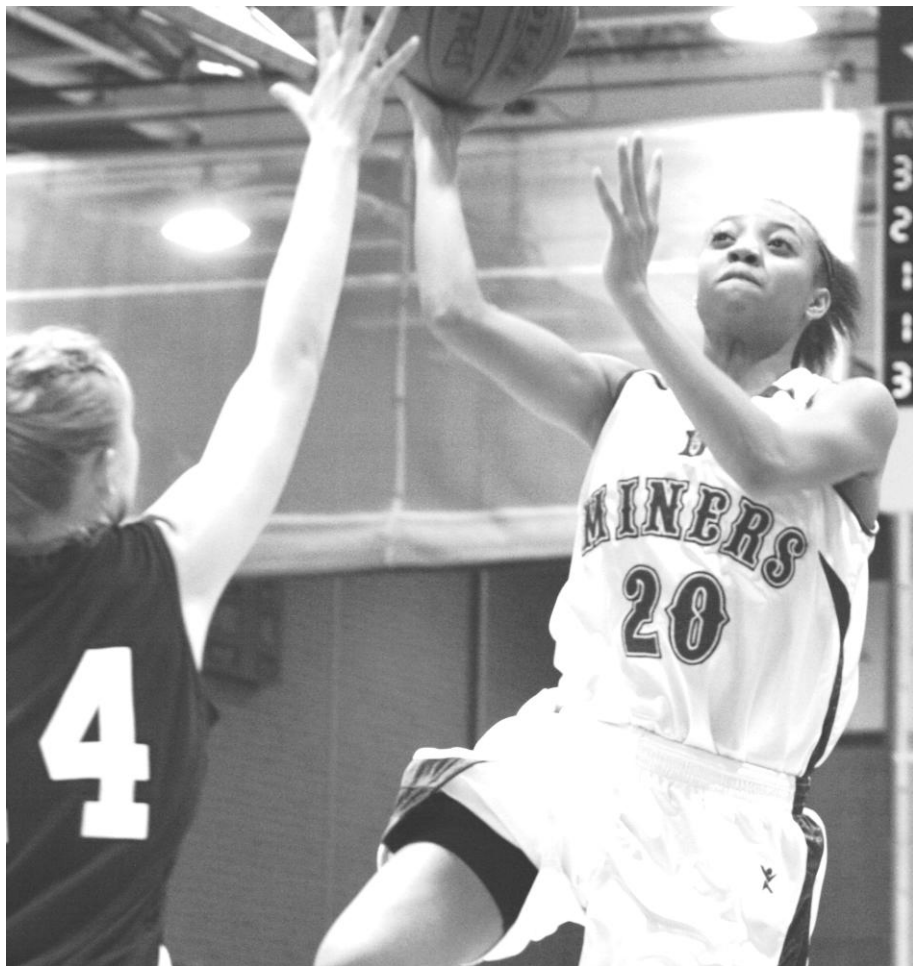
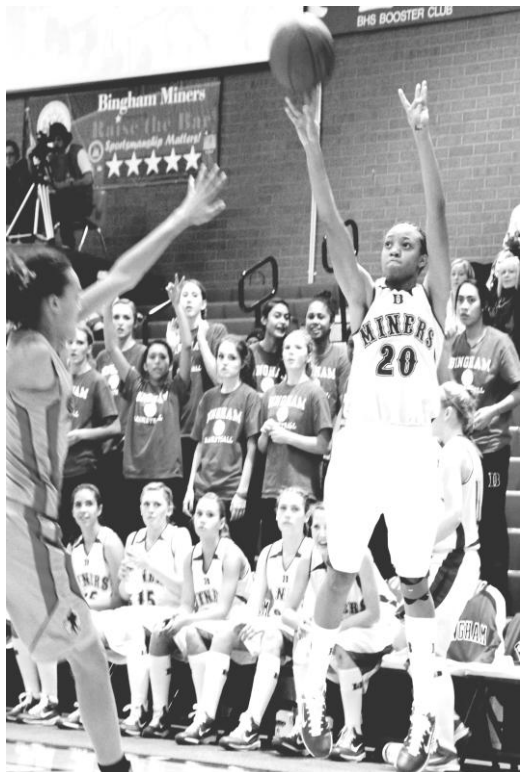
**Leticia Lewis liked to lead by example. She started in every Bingham game, except for two she missed due to injury.**

during midseason, when Bingham had a week off in their schedule. Rasmussen felt the Miners had not been competing as hard as they could, so he set aside a day in practice where the players competed against each other.

"We did nothing but compete and that helped. It was the funnest week of the season," she said. "We did all kinds of drills, all basketball-related. We were fighting one another, but when we were done we were friends again."

The other part of the season she enjoyed was the state tourney at Salt Lake Community College. Bingham finished in second place in Region

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3 and drew a first-round game against Hunter, the No. 3 seed from Region 2, which featured Dezz Ramos, who had played the previous season at Bingham.

Lewis had just returned from a two-game absence because she had been hit in the head in a game against Riverton two weeks prior. She felt groggy afterward and didn't return. Her parents took her to a hospital later that night, where they determined she had suffered a concussion.

It was apparent Lewis was OK. Entering the game in the second quarter, she scored a basket and then nailed a three-pointer as the Miners raced to a 36-22 lead. She added another trey in the third period when Bingham blew the game open.

"We were all so pumped up to go out and play that game," she said. "Everyone was having so much fun against Hunter."

Lewis said the Riverton game was the low point. In fact, she didn't like playing the Silverwolves at all.

"It's mostly mental," she said. "I had a lot of friends at Riverton and Kylee Hogue and I knew each other from playing softball."

Lewis, however, said she had no desire to go there. She had lived in Utah all of her life and was proud to claim that she was a Lady Miner – and always will be.

"Being a senior, it was a whole different perspective and everyone is looking up to you."

- Leticia Lewis

