

Katie Lloyd:

She felt she barely made the team, and ended playing a valuable role

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Katie Lloyd braved tryouts for the Bingham High School girls varsity basketball team three times.

The first two seasons, she received minimal playing time. Going into her senior year, she saw the huge group of talented girls in the gym and wondered if she would make it.

“Tryouts were difficult,” she said. “You’re not even talking to anyone. (Coach) Rand (Rasmussen) said that he sometimes cuts seniors and I didn’t want to be one of them.”

She made the team, however. She ended up being a captain and played one of the team’s biggest – and most important roles.

“My role as captain was to be the ‘Mom,’” she explained. “I wasn’t an outstanding player, so I took this full on. I also ended up playing more than I thought.”

Lloyd is the youngest of seven children in her family. She didn’t make all-state or even all-region, but she was an all-star to her teammates. On the court, she played in all 23 contests and was in the starting lineup seven times. Rasmussen made her a starter in the last four games, including at the all-important state tournament.

Lloyd averaged 3.0 points per game. Her best-scoring contest was 11 points against Kearns. She also made four three-pointers.

“I remember all of those,” she said, smiling. “Those were fun.”

When she wasn’t on the court, she was involving herself with all of the other players.

“Rand explained to me the importance of my role as the mother and I wasn’t sure I could



Katie Lloyd’s senior season was filled with accomplishments both on and off the basketball court.

handle it.”

It wasn’t long before that doubt disappeared. By the end of the season, both Lloyd and Rasmussen were proud of her accomplishments, which went mostly unnoticed to people not associated with the team.

“We all want to win, of course, but mostly all the girls want from playing basketball is to have a positive experience,” Rasmussen said. “What makes me proud is that I have so many role models for young kids.”

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On top of that list is his team “Mom,” who didn’t take long to install some creative ideas to facilitate team chemistry and camaraderie, as well as take advantage of the annual events involving Bingham’s players, like dinners, sleepovers and the team’s basketball clinic for young kids.

There was one idea that made Lloyd particularly proud.

“I would write a letter to each of the players before every game,” she said. “A lot of the parents would talk to my parents and they told me how important that was to them.”

Rasmussen said there was little – or no – drama on the squad this year, and that helped the varsity, junior varsity and sophomore squads combine for an amazing 54-9 record. He said the

team seemed happy, and all the coach’s said their groups played well together.

Lloyd said the Kearns game was her personal favorite. She was pretty proud knowing that she was the team’s top scorer until the fourth quarter.

But she felt best about the team following wins over Brighton and Riverton (both road contests), as well as the state tournament win over Hunter. She said there was a lot of cheering from the players, and laughing at silly things that happened in the locker rooms.

With basketball season over, and graduation nearing, Lloyd she planned to attend Southern Utah University, where she had earned an academic scholarship.