

Erin Reichle:

She overshadowed every other player, but also made her teammates better

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Weber High School has been around since 1926 and the girls basketball program since the 1970s. It may take that long again before a talented player comes as long again as Erin Reichle.

You could see it years ago and, as Weber's lone returning varsity starter this year, she felt a lot of pressure to carry the team. She did it well enough to be named the state's best 5A player.

"I had a conversation with Erin before the season started and we talked about our team and our expectations," recalled Weber coach Rick Stoeckl. "She had to have a big year, and she did. She was not only a complete player, but a team player."

She had to be. After last year ended and the Warriors graduated their four other starters, that was the only way Weber could continue to win.

"I definitely had more of a role to play," she said. "I had to score more. I had wished for it and knew that I wanted to be a [20-point] scorer, but I didn't quite know it would become a reality. It was pretty cool."

The 5-foot-6 senior did it from long distance — her 42 three-pointers were fourth in 5A and her accuracy among the best — and she did it on a nightly basis. She scored in double figures in every game, starting with a career-high 29 points in a season-opening victory against Hunter.

She played a big role in Weber's rise to the state championship game her junior season, and was among the top players on the school's softball team, which won state in 2012.

In her four-year basketball career, she scored 861 points and was consistent. This season, she scored at least 22 points in nine of the Warriors' 10



Erin Reichle was a four-year varsity letterwinner in basketball and graduated as one of the top players in school history.

Reichle's highlights

- * - **PLAYED BASKETBALL AND SOFTBALL** and was basketball team captain for two years.
- * - **SCORED** 861 points, which was probably a career record at Weber if records were kept.
- * - **OPPOSING COACHES** planned special defenses for her and called her the most dangerous player in 5A.
- * - **EARNED** scholarship to Mesa State (Colo.).



Region 1 games, and she scored a combined 47 points as Weber swept region champ Davis.

"I faced a lot of double teams, sometimes triple teams," Reichle said. "The defenses, especially as we got deeper into the season, got a lot harder to go up against."

About the only thing Reichle was unable to

Continued on next page

WEBER BASKETBALL: Senior profile



TOP LEFT: Erin Reichle drives to the basket .
TOP RIGHT: Reichle shoots by two defenders.
LOWER LEFT: Reichle celebrates a win at the 2011-12 state tournament.
LOWER MIDDLE: Reichle poses for a 5A MVP photo.

Continued from previous page

do was carry the Warriors (11-10) to the postseason. Though she would have traded in some of the gaudy statistics for one last crack at the state tournament, Reichle has no regrets after the work she put in to raise her game.

"This was the year I worked the hardest because it's the year I felt I would have the most impact for my team."

Perhaps what made her stand out most was how she directed the team. Reichle was a two-year captain and every other senior followed her lead. As her teammates gained more confidence, she felt the same way about them.

"She made everybody comfortable with their roles," Stoeckl said. "We stopped standing around watching Erin play."

"Erin was really hard to prepare for," said Davis coach Anne Jones. The ball was always in her hands. She was very dangerous, but she made everyone around her better.

"All of the Region 1 coaches, nobody could stop her. When it got tight, you knew what was going to happen. You tried to prepare, but she's just so tough mentally and has such great fundamental basketball skills, she'd still beat you."

Surprisingly, not everyone noticed. Despite her 5A MVP, all-state selection, all-league pick, 22 points per game (as a senior), assist leader, supernatural free-throw shooting (89 percent), achievements on the Weber softball team, honor-roll status and more, she didn't much attract attention of Division 1 schools.

She signed with Dixie State, but after its coach was fired, accepted an offer at Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo. Mesa finished 31-2 the previous year and reached the quarterfinals of the Division 2 national tournament.

"She deserves her accolades," said Stoeckl. "I've never seen a kid that's worked as hard as she does at this age."