

# Learning to play together

Warriors avoid being a one-person team and try to succeed as a unit

By Bruce Smith  
Matchup

For many of the Weber girls players, the highlight of their high school basketball career will be the road they traveled to reach the 5A championship game at the end of the 2011-12 season.

Shortly afterward, they were asked to accept the pressure of trying to do it – or even top it – again. After losing so many players, they also needed to do it quickly and acknowledge their success wouldn't surprise anyone.

"It wasn't going to be any easier," said coach Rick Stoeckl. "They worked hard, and there was no nonsense. They were very good teammates with each other."

The Warriors also had the state's most-dominant player.

Erin Reichle was a dominant force and was named Region 1 and the state's Most Valuable Player. Against some opponents, she was a woman among girls. She also knew that everyone else had recognized her ability.

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

Transforming that into



Erin Reichle ended her career as one of the top players in Weber girls basketball history.

wins was more difficult. Coming into the season, Reichle was the only returning varsity starter and she quickly became the focus of several creative defensive plans.

Fortunately, Weber's roster was loaded with intelligent girls (three made the all-academic team). It didn't take them long to figure their only route for success was to improve as a team.

"Everybody was so

focused on Erin," said senior Candice Jensen. "She would get double- and triple-teamed, but it left us more open."

In the end, Weber finished with an 11-10 record. The Warriors started fast and were 6-1 at one point and ranked among the state's best. Region 1, however, proved to be very powerful and sent them

*Continued on next page*

# WEBER BASKETBALL: 2012-13 season recap



*Continued from previous page*

down to fifth place. They missed the state tournament, despite being the only team to defeat region champ Davis both times they played.

“It was a good year,” Stoeckl said. “Not going to state leaves a hole, but we won some games and we were in every game. We had a lot of ‘must-wins’ this year.”

Reichle led the Warriors in scoring at 22.0 points per game. She shot an amazing 53 percent from the floor, mostly from outside, and was a 40-percent shooter from three-point range. She also had a phenomenal amount of steals and assists.

She also had help. Many teammates contributed in their own ways.

Junior Hannah Charlton averaged 7.9 ppg and she and Maren Ulrich (5.2 ppg) had a fine all-around games.

Hanna Buswell was a dominant force rebounding. Alyssa Potter showed an ability to block shots, Jensen had an eye for three-point shooting and there were others.

Plus, each player had their own highlighted games.

“Each night, there were other players (beside Reichle) that elevated their game and helped us win,” Stoeckl said. “The fun part was finding out who it would be each night.”

Almost every player agreed the highlights of the season were beating Davis both times. The second victory (46-45) kept Weber alive to reach the postseason, but the Warriors’ dream of another postseason run was eliminated three days later by defending state champ Syracuse.

Despite losing Reichle and five other seniors to graduation, the cupboard isn’t bare. Weber’s tournament wins the year before over powers Brighton, Bingham and Riverton created a sense of winning that still exists and there is some talented players expected to return.

Charlton, Abbie O’Neill, Megan Bedwell and Reilly Shook played well at the lower levels. The junior varsity team finished 8-12 and the sophomores, helped by ultra-talented freshman Haley Nelson, was 16-4 and challenged for the region championship.

“It’s a good group and liked to play well together,” Stoeckl said. “We would have liked to win more games (overall), but I’ll remember it as a good year.”



**TOP LEFT: Maren Ulrich**

**TOP MIDDLE: Players gather for a huddle.**

**TOP RIGHT: McKenna Dahl**

**MIDDLE RIGHT: Hannah Charlton tries to get by a Sky View defender.**

## Varsity results (11-10, 4-6)

<u>Date</u>	<u>Opponent</u>	<u>W/L</u>	<u>Score</u>
Nov. 20	HUNTER	W	71-28
Nov. 27	HERRIMAN	W	59-52
Nov. 29	BEAR RIVER	W	59-43
Dec. 4	OGDEN	W	56-37
Dec. 5	BONNEVILLE	L	30-53
Dec. 7	at Taylorsville	W	49-37
Dec. 11	at Brighton	W	45-27
Dec. 14	BOUNTIFUL	L	56-69
Dec. 18	at Bingham	L	35-53
Dec. 20	at Lone Peak	W	49-40
Jan. 2	SKY VIEW	L	64-83
Jan. 8	LAYTON*	L	43-51
Jan. 11	at Fremont*	L	44-50
Jan. 15	DAVIS*	W	43-38
Jan. 18	at Syracuse*	L	63-64
Jan. 25	NORTHTRIDGE*	W	52-26
Jan. 29	at Layton*	L	43-47
Feb. 1	FREMONT*	L	52-66
Feb. 5	at Davis*	W	46-45
Feb. 8	SYRACUSE*	L	47-60
Feb. 12	at Northridge*	W	56-46

\* - Region 1 games. Home games in CAPS