

Kandice Jensen:

Her boisterous attitude and sweet shot gave Weber what it needed at times

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Kandice Jensen has dozens of good memories of her Weber High School sports career.

Everyone else will remember her expressive attitude and sweet jump shot. Both were evident that December evening at Taylorsville when she had a game like no other.

“In the first quarter, I couldn’t miss,” she recalled.

Indeed. As Weber’s shooting guard, Jensen had 12 of her career-high 17 points in the opening period as the Warriors went on to post a 49-37 victory. She nailed two three-pointers in that opening quarter and almost outscored Taylorsville by herself.

For the game, Weber had a season-high eight threes and her play really forced Taylorsville to adjust its defense. Still, she nailed another important trey in the fourth quarter.

Her outing came at an important time because the Warriors had suffered their first loss just two days prior.

“She had many other good games but that one stands out to me and she can be very proud of her accomplishments,” said coach Rick Stoeckl.

Jensen said one of her favorite accomplishments was joining Erin Reichle and Maren Ulrich in being named team captains. She said the responsibility she was given gave her added momentum.

“We would try to get the team excited,” she said. “We would find and give memorable quotes.”

Coming into the season, Stoeckl felt other players had to step up for Weber to fare well. He said he learned quickly to count on Jensen.

“One thing you might not know about her is



Kandice Jensen’s attitude made her an integral part of the team.

Jensen’s highlights

- * - **TWO-YEAR** letterwinner and team captain as a senior.
- * - **YOUNGEST OF FIVE** children (all girls) in her family.
- * - **HIGH GAME** was amazing 17-point effort at Taylorsville that all Weber fans will recall forever.
- * - **FELT LAYTON** was the team best team Weber played all season.



that she is so competitive,” Stoeckl said. “She had an incredible desire to work hard and to do well. She did not fear anyone and she did whatever we asked.”

Jensen started playing competitive basketball in fifth grade, joining many of her friends in a local recreation league. She also was an avid soccer

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player. She said sports was always an integral part of her life.

“It taught me a lot how to be really dedicated and committed,” she said. “It makes you think about others ... not just yourself.”

Jensen was a two-year varsity letterwinner. She played sparingly in last year’s state championship run, but loved the experience of cheering on her team as the Warriors made it all the way to the 5A state championship game.

“I think people expected us to make state, but not to get as far as we did,” she said. “It was great to surprise everyone the way we did.”

Weber hoped to do it again this season. During the offseason, Jensen saw her importance grow and that showed in her play, too. As a senior, she ended up averaging 3.2 points per game and 1.6 rebounds. Stoeckl and her teammates felt, however, that her effort was noticeable in other ways.

“I depended on her so much and she was always there,” said Stoeckl. “She was instrumental in getting the girls information of the camps where we participated.”

Jensen said one of her other favorite memories was when she made a three-pointer at the buzzer during a summer-league victory over much-heralded Bonneville.

“I didn’t celebrate,” she recalled. “I just knew the clock was winding down and knew we needed a clutch shot.”

“Everybody (opponents) was so focused on Erin,” she added. “I was really confident early in the year, but kind of faded at the end.”

Jensen started the high-school season playing an important part of Weber’s success. She had a pair of 11-point efforts against Bear River and Ogden, leading up to the Taylorsville game. Afterward, Stoeckl said he couldn’t remember her missing a shot the entire first half.

The memory of those games will be with her forever. Jensen said high school would likely be the end of her athletic career. She planned to continue her education at either Weber State or Utah State, majoring in nursing.



TOP LEFT: Kandice Jensen joins her friends – Maren Ulrich, XXXX and XXXXX at a Utah Jazz basketball game.

TOP RIGHT: Jensen watches the action.

LOWER RIGHT: Jensen applies some defense.

