

Maren Ulrich:

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Going in the season, Weber coach Rick Stoeckl didn't know what to expect from his team – other than Erin Reichle.

It didn't take long to figure Maren Ulrich's role.

"She was another of our captains. Maren was a quiet one," Stoeckl said. "I asked her one day at practice if she was the ring leader. She absolutely said 'no way' but I still think she was."

Ulrich, a 5-foot-4 guard, played – and practiced – like she was, too. She played both volleyball and basketball at Weber and was a model of consistency. As a senior, she averaged 5.2 points per game in basketball and was among the team leaders in almost every category.

"Never too high and never too low," is how Stoeckl described her at the team's post-season banquet. "She went all out every day. We will miss her."

Ulrich had a lot of good memories from Weber's junior season, when the Warriors won three straight games in the 5A state tournament before falling to Syracuse in the title game, and had high hopes for this year.

"We felt we could compete against everyone, even though we didn't have a lot of experience on varsity," she said. "I'm glad we had a winning season, but I thought we had the potential to do more. I got to play a lot this season, and it felt better to play."

Ulrich also had a lot of good memories came off the court. She liked sledding and snowmobiling, but not playing cards. Still, those events offered the players chances to get to know each other. They became good friends and had lively discussions about how to prepare for opponents, whom they knew would try to defend Reichle in various ways.

"We had a lot of fun, but we also tried to



Ulrich's highlights

- * - **TEAM CAPTAIN** and started every Weber game as a senior.
- * - **THIRD OF FOUR KIDS** in her family, she was the lone child active in sports.
- * - **SCORED 122 POINTS** in her Weber basketball career. Reached double figures three times. Grabbed five rebounds in four different games.
- * - **HER MOM** and grandma were teachers and she hopes to follow in their footsteps.



figure out what they would do and then figure how to beat them," she said.

Ulrich was viewed primarily as a defensive standout. She was often asked to guard the opponent's best perimeter player, but she also had several offensive highlights.

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WEBER BASKETBALL: Senior profile



ABOVE: Maren Ulrich cheers on her teammates during Weber's championship run last year.
TOP RIGHT: Ulrich celebrates graduation with XXXXX and XXXXXX.
LOWER RIGHT: Ulrich XXX.

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She had a high game of 12 points (twice – vs. Fremont and the season finale at Northridge) and an 11-point effort vs. Lone Peak. Another interesting detail was the fact that, if she had a poor offensive game, she often came back with a vengeance the next time she got on the floor.

Ulrich was a two-year varsity letterwinner in basketball. She played occasionally as a junior during Weber's run in the 5A state tournament, but ended her career with another visit to the state championship game when she joined teammates Hanna Buswell and McKenna Dahl as members of the all-academic team.

"Being out there was a really good accomplishment, and it was kind of a thrill to be out there (on the court)," she recalled. "We would have liked to be out there playing again, but it wasn't to be this year."

What was to be was a difficult preseason schedule that was stacked with top teams and tough Region 1 opponents where almost every team had a standout player for Ulrich to defend.

Ulrich said her favorite game was Weber's first contest against Fremont, a 50-44 loss but the Warriors held a six-point lead going into the fourth quarter. In that game, she guarded Shelby Molen. The Silverwolves' second-leading scorer during the season, Molen got into foul trouble and had just six points.

"I felt really good about that," Ulrich said.

Ulrich had her career-high, 12 points, in Weber's second game against Fremont, as well as the season finale at Northridge. She said another favorite game was at Davis.

"A lot of games, we would do good but we would not be able to finish," she said. "They were in first place and we beat them both times."

Those wins were proof of what might have been for the Warriors. The season might not have been as successful as the previous year, but there were still plenty of thrills. Ulrich will likely have more after graduation. She said she planned to attend Utah State, major in elementary education and be active in (intramural) sports.