

Hanna Buswell:

Her smarts and athletic ability proved to be a big boost for Weber's hopes

By Bruce Smith
Matchup

Hanna Buswell was the biggest surprise of the Weber girls basketball team ... to everyone except, perhaps, her teammates.

"If you were to not know Hanna, and you saw her and were to guess what position she played, you would never guess it was power forward," said coach Rick Stoeckl. "She was tough and strong; an amazing rebounder and did it with guts and desire."

Buswell was just 5-foot-6, and was a two-sport athlete (volleyball and basketball). She also had a rare combination of athletic ability and smarts that made her a valuable part of the team. She ended up making the state all-academic team in both sports. In basketball, she was also among 5A's top rebounders.

Afterward, she was voted on to the Ogden Standard-Examiner's all-area team and was honorable mention all-state.

Buswell said that when the Warriors needed someone to back Erin Reichle, she tried to do it anyway she could.

"I rebounded and screened," she said. "Last year, I played the '3' position, but this year, I played the '4.' I had never played it before, but I got a lot of rebounds.

"It was a good year," she added. "We never gave up and always played hard."

Buswell's athletic career started a long time. She was the youngest of eight children, and all of them were athletes, she said.

"My parents put me in everything," she said.

Her favorite sport growing up was softball, and she also had great memories competing in dance and soccer.

"I started playing volleyball and was a better



Hannah Buswell's efforts made her Weber's top rebounder, and among the best in 5A.

player," she said. "I could jump for the ball and that really helped in basketball."

She played sparingly as a junior in Weber's exciting run through the 5A state tournament last season, but improved dramatically as the team played in summer tournaments in Ephraim, Preston (Idaho) and Weber State. She teamed with Alyssa Potter this year to give Weber more of an inside presence, and did it while primarily going up against much taller opponents.

Buswell averaged 3.9 points per game, but 6.9 rebounds. She had a high game of eight points at Brighton, but said her best games came against Lone Peak and Northridge, when she netted 13 rebounds each.

Another favorite moment came when she

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

made a three-pointer at Layton. She also nailed a trey against Davis earlier in the season – the same night she came home with a black eye, thanks to an elbow from an opponent.

“I remember the day I told her she had the ‘green light’ to shoot threes (vs. Layton),” recalled Stoeckl. “They pretty much left her alone and her eyes just lit up when she made it.”

“They were playing off me, and this girl just says, ‘shoot it.’ So I did,” Buswell said. “I banked it in, but that counts.

“Those were great memories,” added Buswell. “It was a great season. I wish we could have gone further. We should have won more games.”

Buswell is the youngest of eight children in her family and used her combination of athletic ability and smarts to make a difference, and it was evident in more ways than one.

Besides making the region an state all-academic teams, she was a Sterling Scholar candidate and earned an ambassador (college) scholarship.

Besides that, as soon as basketball ended, Buswell started training to compete in the Ogden Half-Marathon. On May 17, she finished the 13-mile race in 2:10.04.

After high school, Buswell planned to attend Snow College and, soon after, go on an LDS Church mission.

Buswell’s highlights

- * - **BORN IN** Topeka, Kan., her family moved a lot when she was little.
- * - **SCORED** 78 points in her Weber career.
- * - **HAD FIVE GAMES** where she recorded four steals.
- * - **ANOTHER THRILL** was playing at WSU’s Dee Events Center in a summer tourney.



TOP LEFT:
Weber’s seniors pose for a photo.

TOP RIGHT:
Hanna Buswell watches a play nearby.

LOWER RIGHT:
Buswell talks to Kandice Jensen.

