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Oshkosh's 1,000-point club very exclusive

Only 21 from area have hit scoring milestone

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As far as individual accomplishments go in high school sports, it doesn't get much better than scoring 1,000 points in a basketball career.

It's the magical number in the sport for any player, but for most it's a number that takes a lot of time to reach, if ever.

Among the four Oshkosh high schools — North, West, Lourdes and Valley Christian — 21 players have reached 1,000 points. Considering how many quality players have dribbled on the local courts, that tells you how difficult 1,000 is to reach.

This season, West's Megan Wenig became the most recent member of the 1,000-point club, and you could tell how proud she was of the accomplishment. The senior scored her magical point during a tough loss at Neenah on Jan. 30, but afterwards it was apparent how good she felt about the accomplishment.

You can't blame her. Wenig, like any player who reaches this milestone, has put in countless hours on the court, so they can be at their best.

The one thing these players have in common is they score multiple ways. Wenig is a perfect example.

"She's got more dimensions to her game, different ways she can score," West coach Niki Sutter said about how her game has developed. "She's become more knowledgeable and that's helped her. She doesn't give up when teams are beating on her.

"It's a credit to her getting in the gym and shooting and playing a lot. She has grown from year to year. She played along great scorers and had to get it done, and she did."

Wenig can see her development, also.

"From last year to this year, last year I didn't have a pull-up jumper, so I worked on that this year," said Wenig, whose 1,000-point came on a pull-up jumper. "Freshman, sophomore year, I could score, just not in all the ways I can now."

While 1,000 points is the standard for every great player to reach, not all get there. On the West girls' side, Krista Pelky, who graduated last season, finished with 926 points, while Jessie Wilcox (a 2005 graduate) had 913.

Pelky, along with Wenig, spearheaded West's run to the Division 1 state championship game last season, and Pelky is now playing at St. Norbert College. Meanwhile, Wilcox played on four teams that reached the state tournament, two that won it all. Wilcox is finishing her college career at Northern Illinois this season.

Wenig is one of four girls to ever reach 1,000 points at West.

"Knowing not many people did, it makes it a little bit sweeter," Wenig said.

"She's, what, in the top three at West?" Lourdes girls coach Alison Fett said. "That's excellent."

While Wenig just got to 1,000, Ripon's Taylor Wurtz blew by 1,000 points during her junior year last season. The University of Wisconsin recruit has 1,767 career points.

She never thought about 1,000 points when she started high school but said that four-digit number is a goal.

"I've always said I want to win games, but that number is always in the back of your head," Wurtz said.

West boys basketball coach Brad Clark reached 1,000 points twice during his career at Markesan, finishing with 2,269 points.

Although Clark was a scoring machine, he admits he needed help. He also said the situation has to be right for a player to hit 1,000 points.

"You have to be on varsity for a while and you have to credit a lot of the players that you played with," Clark said. "It doesn't happen all the time, getting great scorers. Sometimes you get teams with five really good, solid players that play well together.

"Other years, you get teams with great scorers, like Jordan (Giordana) at Kaukauna. He's a great scorer. But it takes everybody around you to do that."

Clark said his team this season, although not currently labeled with a go-to scorer, could have one. However, he said it takes a certain attitude to have that scoring mentality.

"Any of my guys here, all 12 of them, they could be scorers if they wanted to, but they're just not," Clark said. "That's not their moxie, that's not their make-up. The team has to be set up.

"Any of our guys could jack up 30 shots a game and try to score, but you have to be in the right mind-set, in the frame of the system to score points."

It hasn't been that long for West, though, to have a boys player reach 1,000 points. Andy Polka is the most recent to hit 1,000, and he did that in 2006.

Meanwhile, Dan Weisse, who went to play at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is the school's all-time leading scorer with 1,511 points.

Oshkosh North has the area's top boys scorer in Frank Seckar, with 1,662 points. Seckar obviously had the make-up to be prolific.

"He was a unique player," North coach Frank Schade said. "He could full-court press and fast break, and he could push the ball and press the entire game without coming out. Just an incredible athlete that went on to play at Vanderbilt, and he played very well there, playing for a team that made the Sweet 16."

Among North's 1,000-point scorers were brothers Pete and Ian Wade.

"The two Wade boys, they were post players who had to have people get the ball to them," Schade said. "Some years you have good guards who can get it to them, other years you struggle, so they're sort of at the mercy of the other players."

Ian Wade and Benji Raymond played together and reached 1,000 points.

"It's unusual to have two kids on the same team to be 1,000-point scorers," Schade said. "That's a pretty decent deal that usually doesn't happen. Those kids on the 1,000-point deals are kids that usually run the show. In this case, they were all kids that played freshman varsity all the way on."

While Seckar is the boys' leading scorer, Lori Goerlitz of North is the area's all-time leading scorer with 1,761 points. She wasn't just a scorer either, as she's the school's all-time assist leader with 347.

Schade said greatness like this can happen only one way.

"You have to be consistent, because other people are always trying to stop you," Schade said. "We haven't had a lot of players to go on and play in college, but those four kids went on to play at a very competitive level."

Oshkosh Lourdes has six total 1,000-point scorers — three boys and three girls — with Josh Donner leading the way with 1,288 points.

"It's a big accomplishment," Fett said. "What's even bigger is when kids attribute it to their teammates. Ultimately, scorers can't do it by themselves."

And as much as scorers want to score to help their team, sometimes points just don't do it.

Clark not only scored a ton, he played on two state championship teams. Despite that great accomplishment, he'd trade all his points away for two more gold balls.

"It's great, but you know, you look at a lot of the great scorers that have come through the state and in the history of the game, they really didn't end up winning state championships," Clark said. "Some have accomplished the main goal, winning a state championship.

"In a heartbeat, I would trade my scoring titles for four state championships instead of two."
