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Port Washington's Gasser, Grafton's Eichler among former area standouts continuing to excel at next level

Former athletic standouts at local high schools have continued to excel in their sports at the collegiate level this winter.

Topping the list is Port Washington's Josh Gasser, a second-year starter on the University of Wisconsin-Madison men's basketball team.

The 6-foot-3 sophomore guard was recently named to the Big Ten Conference's All-Defensive Team.

Gasser has started all 33 games for the Badgers, averaging 7.7 points and 4.3 rebounds and a team-high 34.5 minutes per game. He is shooting .465 from the field and .781 at the free-throw line.

Gasser, who is the career scoring and rebounding leader at Port High School, will help lead Wisconsin into the NCAA Division I tournament this week. The fourth-seeded Badgers will face Montana in a first-round regional game Thursday.

Former Grafton High School standout Sarah Eichler is a key member of the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay women's basketball team.

A 5-11 junior, Eichler is a starting forward for the nationally ranked Phoenix, who have a 30-1 record and won the Horizon League regular-season and tournament titles.

Eichler is averaging 9.7 points, 2.3 rebounds and shooting .459 from the field and .820 at the foul line. She is one of the team's top defensive players.

Green Bay received a seventh seed for the NCAA Division I tournament and will open regional play Saturday against Iowa State.

Sisters Julia and Michelle Baranek, Port Washington High School graduates, have excelled as four-year members of the UW-Eau Claire women's track and field team.

They participated in the NCAA Division III National Indoor Track & Field Championships in Grinnell, Iowa, on March 9 and 10.

Julia tied for seventh place in the high jump, clearing 5 feet, 5 inches.

Michelle placed 15th in the pentathlon. In the five-event competition, she was fifth in the 800-meter run, 11th in the high jump and long jump, 12th in the shot put and 15th in the 60 hurdles.

The Baraneks, both seniors, were among seven UW-EC women who qualified for the national meet. Their team finished 12th.

Former Grafton standout Rachael Hencke is a key player on the Miami University (Ohio) women's basketball team.

Hencke, a 6-1 senior forward, has been a top reserve for the RedHawks. A four-year team member, she averages 5.1 points per game and has as .821 free-throw shooting percentage.

Hencke scored a team-high 17 points in a win over Iona in December.

Miami (21-9) will participate in the Women's National Basketball Invitational that starts this week. The RedHawks will face Richmond in a first-round game Thursday.

Vince Caradarelle, an Ozaukee High School graduate, excelled as a member of the Lakeland College wrestling team.

A freshman, he placed second at 184 pounds in the Northern Wrestling Association tournament on Feb. 18.

Caradarelle, a Saukville resident, helped the Muskies earn a share of the tournament team title with Milwaukee School of Engineering.

Key players on the UW-Stevens Point women's basketball team included former Grafton High School standout Myranda Tyler.

A 6-1 sophomore post player, Tyler averaged 6.9 points and 4.8 rebounds for the Pointers, who finished 24-5. She shot .477 from the field and .689 at the free-throw line.

Stevens Point reached the second round of the NCAA Division III tournament before losing to Calvin College, 76-71, on March 3.

Image Information: JOSH GASSER was named to Big Ten's All-Defensive Team this season. Photo by David Stluka, Wisconsin Athletic Communications