

## LaVigne: Swanton's top dog

### Senior a fierce competitor, great example for Bulldogs

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SWANTON — Northwest Ohio is full of talented young men and women who have excelled as athletes, and Swanton's Abby LaVigne is certainly no exception.

"Abby is just a fun-loving player off the floor," said LaVigne's head coach, Frank Onweller.

"She's always kidding with her teammates and joking around and having fun.

"But when she steps between the lines on the court she's a fierce competitor who does not like to lose," he continued. "She works extremely hard and goes at it as hard as anybody else out there. I'll always remember her athleticism and her ability to grab a defensive rebound, take off out of the pack on the dribble and beat the other nine players down the floor for a layup."

From the time she was a freshman, LaVigne has showed her coach that he had someone special, especially when she scored 20 points as the team's point-guard in the district finals against Archbold.

"She never played point-guard in junior high and I threw her into it at the varsity level," recalled Onweller. "It was just an amazing accomplishment for a freshman to come into that atmosphere and succeed against such an outstanding team. That game took her to the next level. For her to accomplish what she's accomplished over the next three years, with people focusing on her, I think is a true testimony to how athletic and skilled she really is."

Currently, this prolific scorer is only the eighth Lady Bulldog to score over 1,000 points, standing fourth all-time with 1,264 points and only 85 points out of third which is held by Leslie Mugg (1990-93).

While she's also added 767 rebounds and 316 assists, her numbers aren't the most amazing thing about her in the eyes of Onweller. Aside from being a starter and having a very successful freshman campaign, LaVigne has shown a tremendous amount of durability.

"It's kind of amazing because counting the games she's played this year, she's played in all 87 possible games and has started 85 of them," noted Onweller. "We have a ritual of starting all the seniors the last game of the year, but we had six her



Swanton senior  
Abby LaVigne

sophomore year, so it was done over the course of two games.

"The other amazing thing about her is with as hard as she's played, she's never missed a game with injury, she's just a very well-conditioned athlete."

LaVigne isn't concerned about her statistics either. In fact, the only number she cares about adding to is the one that falls under the "W" column.

"No, not at all," LaVigne said when asked if personal stats mattered to her. "Obviously it's important for me to do my part in games for the sake of the team, but if I scored two points and grabbed two rebounds, it would be fine with me as long as the team wins."

Onweller feels that her work ethic is just as big a part of the team's success as any points and rebounds she gets come gametime.

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