

February 3, 2023

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SportsTone.net

RAMSEUR - Sibling rivalry can have a positive or negative impact for players. For Eastern Randolph High School senior Brecken Snotherly, it has had a most positive effect.

Ever since she was very young, Snotherly said she was fueled by the desire to beat her older brother on the basketball court. Cade Snotherly, three years older than Brecken, was a hard-working versatile athlete at ER while Brecken was developing her game in middle school, in travel ball and then as a freshman at ER. She said she remembers competing against Cade.

"When I was younger, I always wanted to beat my brother," said Snotherly of Cade, who graduated from ER in 2020. "Everything I did was to beat him. Ever since then, I decided I was going to work for it."

That work had paid off quite well for Snotherly, whose hard work, dedication and a desire to excel has made her one of the top overall basketball talents in the state.

Heading into Friday night's Piedmont Athletic Conference game with Uwharrie Charter, Snotherly has led the Wildcats to a 6-3 league record and a 12-6 record overall. The Wildcats have won eight of their past nine games, and for the season, Snotherly is scoring at a 29.6 points per game clip, one of the highest scoring averages by an individual in Randolph County history. She is also averaging 10 rebounds a game and her ball handling skills compare with any player in the region. Simply put, there are very few individuals in the state with the overall skills Snotherly possesses.

"Brecken's work ethic is out of this world," said ER first-year head coach Jeff Davis, who said he was expecting to be the assistant coach this year before the head position unexpectedly opened. "There is not a kid in this conference, in this state and I want to go further than that, who works as hard as she does. This kid doesn't stop. She is perfecting her craft every day." Her love for the game is quite evident as well. As a freshman at ER, she averaged 18 points and 6.1 rebounds per game. Her head coach that season was her father, Brett.

"A lot of college coaches have asked me about that," Brecken said of having her father coach her at the high school level. "I have been coached by my dad since I was a young kid and that is one of the best experiences I ever had. That is something me and my dad will have forever.



*Eastern Randolph senior Brecken Snotherly. Photo provided.*

He was my father, but on the court he was my coach and when he had to get on my butt, I respected him as a coach."

Snotherly said her goal quickly became to play collegiately, but because of Covid, ERHS had just 14 games scheduled for her sophomore season. She said she knew she needed as many games as possible to continue her development and decided to transfer to Winston-Salem Christian, where her travel ball coach was coaching.

There, the Lions finished 27-2 and Snotherly continued her development. But she said the traveling to Winston-Salem every day began to wear her down.

She started her junior year at Winston-Salem Christian, but moved back to ERHS in the middle of the season.

"I knew I was coming back my senior year," Snotherly said. "It was an hour drive and me being 16 years old, it wasn't the ideal situation. I felt I needed to come home for my mental state. It was a lot of traveling back and forth."



*Snotherly driving against Chatham Central. Photo provided.*



*Snotherly has signed with East Tennessee State University. Photo provided.*

Snotherly averaged 20.5 points and 8.1 rebounds in 15 games at ER as a junior and she entered her senior season with a new head coach. Davis admitted knowing little about the team, but quickly found a player to build around.

"When I got to practice and saw Brecken, I said this is big," said Davis. "I knew I had to do something with that talent. I knew I had some shooters and I had a ball handler, but I didn't know I had everything in one player. She is a true team player and she's spoiling me right now."

Snotherly said she has studied Kobe Bryant's Mamba Mentality, where the late NBA superstar detailed his approach and the steps he took to prepare mentally and physically to not just succeed in basketball but to excel. Those lessons have been learned quite well.

"I listened a lot to Kobe Bryant's Mamba Mentality," Snotherly said. "I learned a lot from that, like there isn't anyone who can guard me."

There haven't been many able to accomplish that her entire career.

Snotherly said there are still things to accomplish before she takes her talents to East Tennessee State in the fall. Goals include recording a victory over PAC powerhouse Randleman, which the Wildcats could face again in the PAC Tournament, and to be selected for the annual East-West All-Star Game, which features the top talent in the entire state.

If it truly is a game which features the top talent in the state, it shouldn't be played without Snotherly.