

Daniella Ciccarone: Basking in the Quakertown record books

By Brandt Hale, QCHS Senior
Photo by Shannon Smith, QCHS Senior

One thousand points is no easy feat for a high school basketball player, but Quakertown star senior Daniella Ciccarone surpassed that mark in her 2nd game of the season. The numbers? Well, she is still racking them up. After breaking an 80-year-old Quakertown High School women's basketball points record, Daniella now has her eyes set on the men's points record, at 1,303.



Miriam Afflerbach scored 1,144 points between 1927 and 1930, when women still played the old 6-on-6 game in which the offense and defense did not cross half court. Daniella broke the record Jan. 12 in a game at North Penn. The overall school record of 1,303 points was set by Rob Gluck back in the 1980s.

"I am very happy for Daniella," said QCHS women's coach Greg Swavely. "She has given so much to our program over the last four years and nobody deserves it more than her. She has made her footprint in the Quakertown High School Girls Basketball Program landscape. This is a milestone in her career that she can always look back at and be proud of."

The Ciccarone family grew up in Brooklyn, New York, but moved to Quakertown in 2005, Daniella's last year of middle school. She first picked up a basketball at the age of five, receiving it from the hands of her father. He spent his athletic career as an accomplished softball player, and Daniella's mother spent hers as an accomplished swimmer. As they began to introduce Dani to youth athletics, they chose basketball.

This was the natural decision growing up in Brooklyn. "Basketball is everything there," stated Daniella. "I may be missing out on some larger opportunities by living in Quakertown, but I am still grateful for having so many great coaches in this area."

Daniella's three younger siblings, Mike and twins Phil and Lil (who Dani named after the Rugrats TV show), have all followed in her footsteps and play basketball competitively. They all support Daniella to the fullest extent.

"During my 1,000 point game, Phil and Lil were in the crowd holding a sign for me and cheering me on. Unfortunately Mike had a game of his own, but he gave me a big congratulations after the game," she said.

After a childhood devotion to basketball, Daniella said she feels that she should look for other experiences after graduation. Currently, she does not want to play Division 1 Basketball in college because she feels it would be too time-consuming. She wishes to study-abroad in Europe, and that is not an option for Division 1 athletes. This is influenced by her choice of career path.

"I would like to become a European History teacher, thanks to Mr. Anderson... [He] molded me into becoming a European Scholar," said Daniella of her junior year. After attending Jason Anderson's European History class as a student last year, she helps his class this year as an educational intern.

When Daniella is not on the court or in the classroom, she spends time volunteering at A Woman's Place. She feels it is of great importance to "raise awareness about domestic violence. It is a well-kept secret and people do not realize the alarming level of it in our community." Daniella organized a charitable competition between the PRIDE classes at QCHS last year, asking all students to donate canned food, household items, and toys for the organization.

Regardless of her poise on the court, her energy and excitement is still noticeable on and off the court. During her senior year, she made another notable appearance on the court, unrelated to basketball. She and fellow teammate Kristine Jackiewicz led the 2010 Pep Rally as Masters of Ceremony, once again showcasing her enthusiastic personality.

"I am a loud, outgoing, outspoken individual, a people person."

She looks forward to the rest of the season, fighting through a tie for third place alongside North Penn in the Continental Conference of Suburban One Sports.