

Victoria Timm finishes basketball career

Written by Kyle Arnoldy

Few athletes achieve the type of success at the high school level that allows them to carry their skills to the collegiate stage. Of those who are talented enough to don a college jersey, many spend the majority of their playing days on the bench, never really getting a chance to contribute.

This was not the case for 2008 HHS graduate Victoria Timm, who spent five years at the University of Northern Colorado as a member of the Bears basketball team.

After redshirting her freshman year, Timm proved to be a valuable asset to the Bears on both ends of the court. Her consistent play made it impossible not to have her on the floor. Timm's 126 games played, 67 of which she started in, ranks as the second highest total in UNC history.

She has helped shape the UNC program, which has been competing at the DI level since 2006, into a contender that has been one win away from advancing to the NCAA Women's Division I Basketball Tournament the past two seasons.



Whether she was looking to knock down a shot from deep or doling

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out assists to her teammates, Victoria Timm established herself as an offensive threat for the Bears.

□—UNC photo

Becoming a Bear

The transition from high school basketball to Division I had its ups and downs for Timm. Self-doubt and uncertainty made her question if she was good enough to compete at such a high level. After opting to spend off-seasons in high school playing with her Dragon teammates instead of joining a club team that could have exposed her to some tougher competition, Timm worried that she may be in over her head.

Timm, daughter of Tom and Tammie Timm, said she is proud of coming from a small town, but at times it was intimidating, noting that some players on the team came from high schools with an enrollment larger than the entire city of Holyoke.

Ultimately Timm decided the best move for her was to redshirt her freshman year. The move also made it possible for her to pursue a master's degree after acquiring her undergrad degree with one year of eligibility left. Looking back, Timm is thankful for her year she redshirted. She was able to spend time building muscle and felt like she was more prepared by the end of the season.

While in Greeley, Timm continued to seek guidance from Arlan Scholl, the HHS girls' basketball coach. The two spoke after almost every game and when she was considering quitting the team, her mentor was there to encourage her and insure her that she had what it took to succeed.

"He has been a huge part of my success at UNC," Timm explained. "He stayed with me at high school every day and shot for hours after practice and just really helped me."

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The support from home didn't stop with old coaches. Friends and family would make the trip to Greeley to support her, Holyoke girls would attend the UNC camp because she was there and several people would congratulate her on good games they saw on television.

"I can't thank the community enough for being supportive and just being there for me, whether it was through Facebook or coming to my games. There were some games where I had 60 people there."

Walking away

Timm will be leaving behind a lasting impression at UNC. Her 189 career steals ranks as the third best mark at UNC, her 236 assists was good enough for 13th all time and her 85 3-pointers made ranks as the 18th best in school history. During the 2010-11 season she accumulated 60 steals for the third highest total in a season in school history. She also racked up nearly 700 points in her time as a Bear.

In 2012 she was chosen as a Big Sky All-Academic player as well as being named to the Big Sky Conference Championship All-Tournament Team.

With her career coming to a close, Timm is ready to move on to the next chapter of her life. Although tryouts for overseas professional teams is an option, she is happy with what she has accomplished and is ready to walk away. She may be done with college basketball, but she is definitely not done with sports.

Her undergrad degree is in communications with a minor in coaching and her master's degree is in sports administration. She plans to pursue a job in sports marketing and possibly represent a professional team or work in the professional rodeo world. She also admitted that she may try her hand at coaching later on in life.

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While she may not miss the early morning work-outs, there are plenty of good times she treasures. She laughs when recalling the time the entire team, coaches included, jumped into a locker room-adjacent pool while still in game attire after beating Portland State with a last-second shot.

“I think I am going to miss my teammates and the time with them the most,” Timm said. “I couldn’t have been blessed with a better group of girls. We got along every single year. We never had drama or anything like that on our team. Everyone was really supportive.”

The closeness of the team helped the women make three postseason appearances during Timm’s tenure. The Bears played in the past two Big Sky Conference championship games and picked up their first postseason win this year as they knocked off the Wyoming Cowgirls in the first round of the Women’s National Invitation Tournament.

“Every year we got better and accomplished more than we did the year before,” Timm explained. “I am just proud of taking a program that hadn’t made it to the conference tournament to going to back-to-back championship games.”

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