

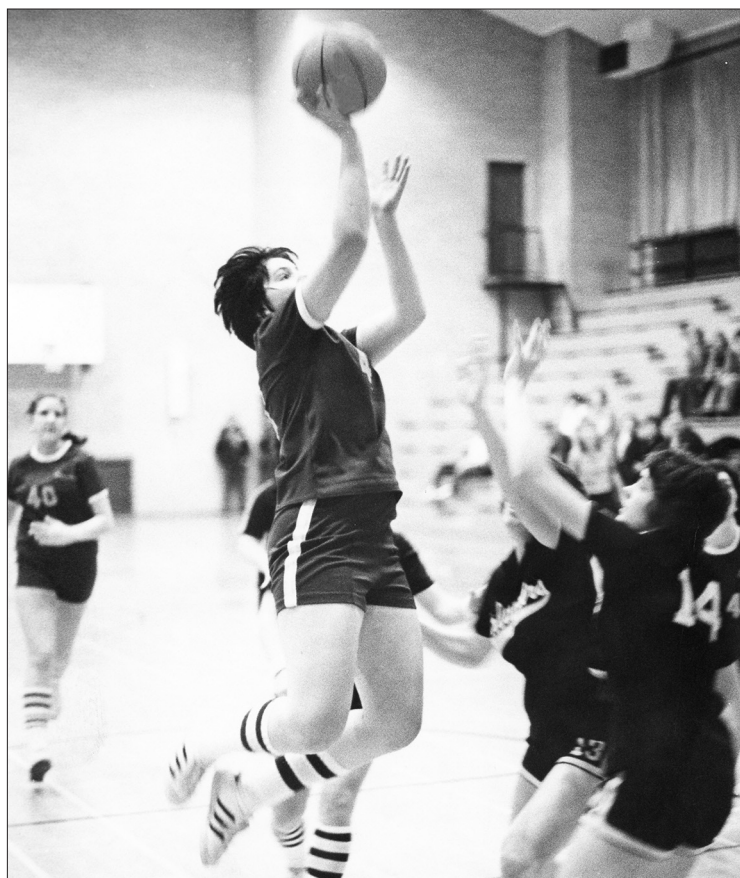
50 Years of Nelson Fieldhouse

Robert Dunkelberger, 2005H and Ed Coar, 1978



Throughout the 2022-23 basketball season, program inserts for each conference game will mark the 50th anniversary of the opening of the E. H. Nelson Fieldhouse. These inserts will feature various aspects of the histories of the five longest running sports housed by the fieldhouse: men's and women's basketball, men's and women's swimming, and wrestling. Today's installment features a summary of the careers of a number of the top scorers in the history of the Bloomsburg women's basketball program.

The first varsity women's basketball game was played 60 years ago on February 1, 1963, even though official statistics were not kept until a decade later. By then, thanks to Title IX, the number of games had increased with consistent schedules. It was during the 1970s the program featured its first top scorer, Ellen French. Starting her career in 1973,



Ellen French going up for a shot, February 4, 1976

four years later she became the first to reach 500 points (finishing with 542) and in 41 career games averaged 13.2 a contest, still the seventh highest all-time. In 1978 her teammate Julie Ludrof, broke French's scoring mark with 595 and averaged 12.7 per game, ninth best in program history.

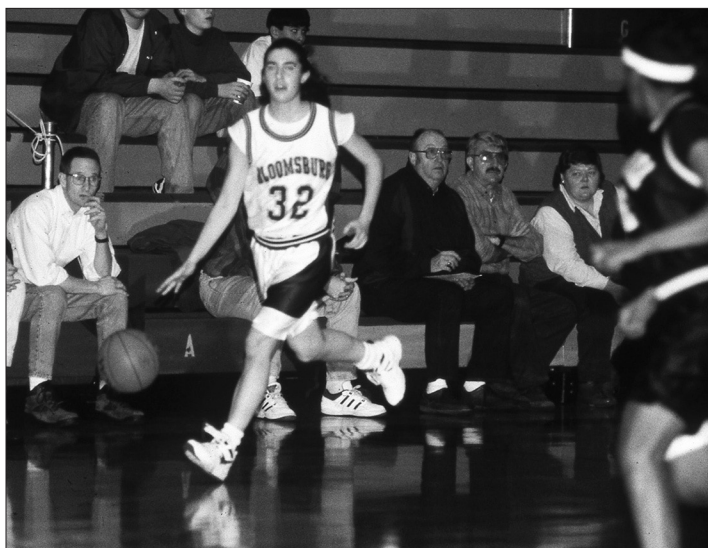
It was in the decade of the 1980s that two of the top scoring threats in program history played for the Huskies. The first was Jean Millen, dominant not only in scoring points but also rebounding. One of the top players in the country from 1982 to 1984, as a sophomore she already had nearly every Bloomsburg scoring record. Although a knee injury as a junior interrupted her career, Millen came back to become the program's first 1,000-point scorer with 1,113 and her 16.9 points per game ranks third all-time.

More talent came into the program in 1985 with the arrival of Theresa Lorenzi. Her four years were outstanding, as she reached 1,000 points at the end of her sophomore year, 2,000 in 1989 as a senior, and finished with 2,171. That total and her 21.7 per game average are both the top marks in school history. Her career overlapped with two other Top 10 players, #7 Barb Hall (1987-90) with 1,357 and #5 Michelle Simons (1988-92), who finished with 1,661. Their offensive output translated into wins, as Bloomsburg posted a record of 139-31 from 1987-1993, 64-7 in division play.

In the fall of 1993 another efficient scoring machine, Jen German, joined the Huskies. She proved to be nearly as



Michelle Simons making a move, 1989



Jen German heading down the court during a 59-51 win over Millersville, February 21, 1996

adept as Lorenzi, putting in 32 her very first game. German reached 1,000 early in her junior year and ended her career with 1,853 points, third all-time and with the second highest scoring average at 17.2. She was followed in 1998 by Megan LaBuda, who would go on to score 1,375 points in her four years, #6 in program history.

The largest group of outstanding players came during the tenure of Bill Cleary, who coached the Huskies from 2008-16. During his eight seasons he had eight players



Dana Wieller taking a shot in an 85-62 victory over Wilmington, November 30, 2009



Kelsey Gallagher against Cheyney, January 14, 2009

who would reach 1,000 points during their careers. One of them, who joined Bloomsburg in 2008, was Kelsey Gallagher, who during her four years scored 1,714 points, #4 on the all-time list with a 15.6 per game average, the fifth highest. Then Gallagher's sophomore season she was joined by Dana Wieller. They formed a potent one-

two combination that averaged just under 33 points per game over the course of three seasons, during which time the Huskies went 64-23. Wieller would surpass Jen German to move into the #2 spot all-time with 1,883 and fourth in average at 16.4.

The most recent to reach 1,000 points and break into the top 10 all-time was Emma Saxton, who last year completed her career with 1,335, #8 all-time. The women whose accomplishments have been documented in this insert represent just some of the exceptional basketball players who have represented Bloomsburg over the past 50 years, making theirs one of the top athletic programs in school history.