

DAILY JOURNAL'S 2005-06 ALL-COUNTY GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

Huffman top player

All-Stars candidate helped turn around struggling program

By JOHN GROTH

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Fire, energy and passion.

Jessica Huffman brought all of those qualities to the Whiteland Community High School girls basketball team during her distinguished four-year career.

But the senior point guard hasn't only influenced how the team plays; she's also transformed the perception of the long-struggling program.

"These past few years have made people realize that Whiteland basketball is becoming one of the top teams," said Huffman, who helped the Warriors enjoy their two best seasons in team history. "I love the fact that we're more successful and people fear playing us."

Huffman led the Warriors to a 17-4 record this season, averaging a county-high 19.9 points and 4.48 assists per game. And her steal average (2.9 per game) and field-goal percentage (.489 percent) were third among county players.

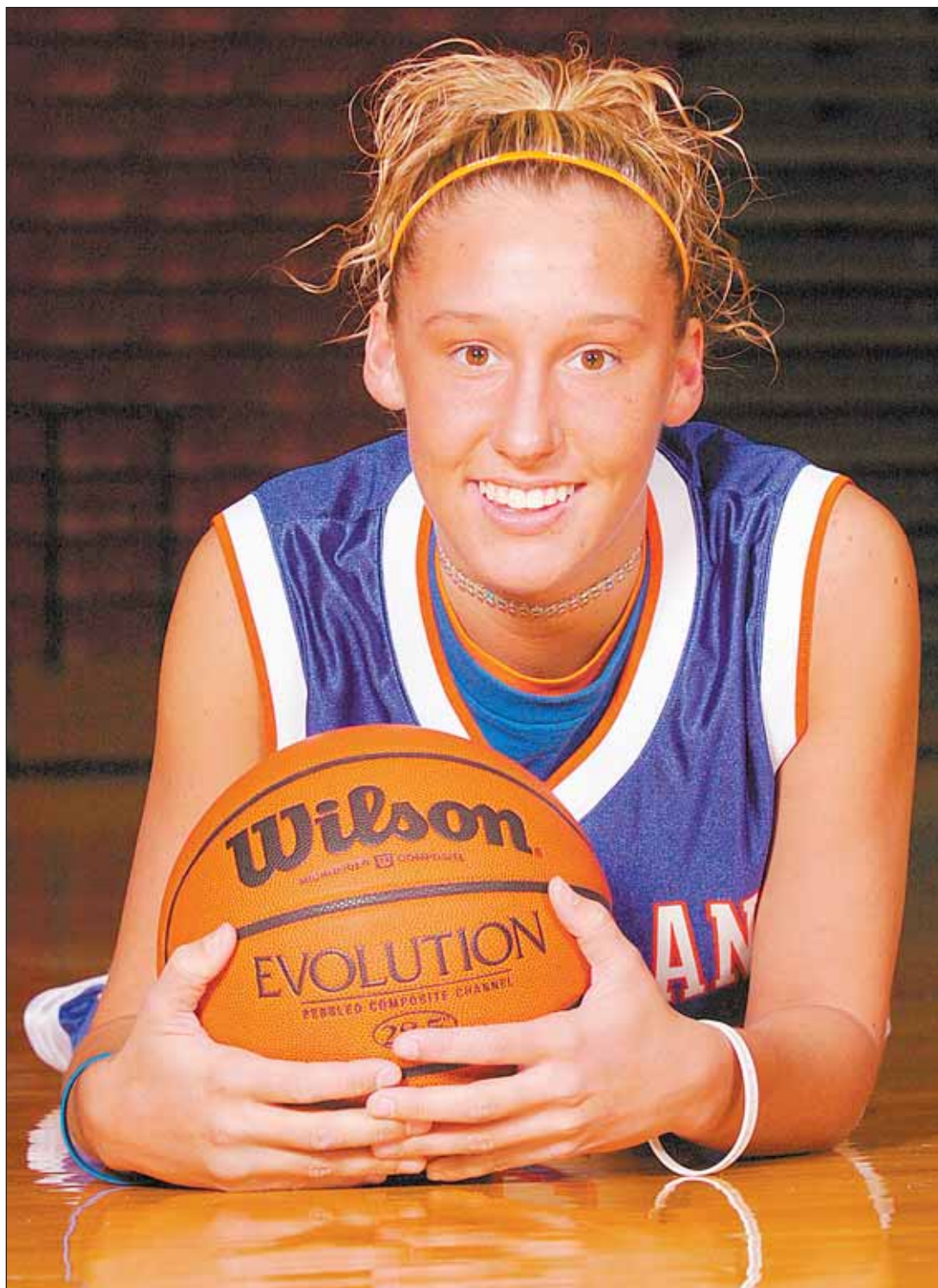
In recognition of her achievements, Huffman is the Daily Journal's 2005-06 Johnson County Player of the Year.

A four-year starter, Huffman finished her career as the second-leading scorer in Whiteland history with 1,478 points. She trails only Megan Liffick (1,873), the leading

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THE HUFFMAN FILE

Name: Jessica Huffman
High school: Whiteland Community
Year: Senior
Age: 18
Position: Point guard
Height: 5-foot-6
Accomplishments: Daily Journal's 2005-06 Johnson County Player of the Year; selected as a 2006 East/West All-Stars as member of District 3; 2004-05 Junior Indiana All-Star; three-time all-Mid-State Conference selection (2004-06); three-time all-Johnson County selection (2004-06); three-time Top 100 Indiana selection (2004-06)
High school experience: Four-year varsity starter
College: Will attend Eastern Illinois University on a full basketball scholarship; plans to major in education and history
Other interests: Playing softball, listening to her iPod



Whiteland Community High School senior Jessica Huffman has been named the Daily Journal's Player of the Year. Now Huffman, who led the Warriors to a 17-4 record, hopes to be named an Indiana All-Star.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SCOTT ROBERSON/roberson@thejournalnet.com

Versatility, determination key traits of players on all-county team



The Daily Journal's 2005-06 All-County Girls Basketball Team is, from left, Abby Collier of Greenwood, Jenny Gray of Center Grove, Player of the Year Jessica Huffman of Whiteland, Traci Lippold of Center Grove, Amy Orender of Whiteland and Molly Lauck of Center Grove.

By JOHN GROTH

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They score, rebound, hustle and play aggressive defense.

Members of the Daily Journal's 2005-06 All-County Girls Basketball Team can do it all.

The team includes an Indiana All-Stars candidate, four of the county's top six scorers and four of its leading rebounders.

Here's a look at the first team:

- **Jessica Huffman, senior, Whiteland:** Huffman is a 5-foot-6 guard who can score, pass, rebound and defend with equal ability.

- **An Indiana All-Stars candidate,** she led the county in scoring (19.9 points per game) and assists (4.48 apg). She was also third in steals (2.9 spg) and field-goal percentage (48.9).

"Her responsibility (was) not only to score, but to get other people involved," Warriors coach Bill Hogue said. "She makes other kids better."

- **Amy Orender, junior, Whiteland:** A 5-7 guard, she was the Warriors' third-leading scorer at 9.5 points per game. She was also the county's seventh-leading rebounder at 5.4 per game.

But her value as a low-post defender is what truly made her stand out for the Warriors.

"Amy's just a gut-check player," Hogue said. "She's (5-7) and playing post for us. That's asking a lot. (She's) always guarding the other team's bigger players. She's a hard-nosed, scrappy kid."

- **Traci Lippold, senior, Center Grove:** A 5-7 guard, she averaged 10.7 points per game. She also finished as

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IU coach to speak at annual banquet

County athletes will be honored June 13

By RICK MORWICK

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Indiana University football coach Terry Hooppner, a former player and assistant coach at Franklin College, will be the guest speaker at the 2006 Johnson County Athlete of the Year Banquet.



Sponsored by the Daily Journal, Johnson County athletic directors and Domino's Pizza, the eighth annual event honors 24 of the county's top senior high school athletes for excellence in athletic achievement and sportsmanship.

A male and female Athlete of the Year are determined by the Daily Journal sports staff from a pool of nominees selected by each of the county's six high schools.

Hooppner, a 1969 Franklin College graduate, will speak at the June 13 event in the Branigan Room of the campus center at Franklin College. The banquet will start at 6 p.m.

A limited number of tickets will be available to the public on June 2. They can be purchased at the Daily Journal office in Franklin. Cost is \$25 per person.

Proceeds from public ticket sales, along with a donation by county athletic directors, will benefit construction of Jill's House in Bloomington.

Named in memory of slain IU student Jill Berhman and patterned after the Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis, Jill's House will provide temporary, home-like residence for cancer patients undergoing outpatient therapy at the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute in Bloomington.

Construction cost is expected to exceed \$5 million. From each banquet ticket sold to the public, \$10 will be donated to Jill's House.

Hooppner, who re-energized interest in IU football during his

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IF YOU GO

What: 2006 Johnson County Athlete of the Year banquet

When: 6 p.m. June 13

Where: The Branigan Room of the campus center at Franklin College

Sponsors: The Daily Journal, Johnson County athletic directors and Domino's Pizza

Guest speaker: Indiana University football coach Terry Hooppner, a Franklin College graduate

Tickets: A limited number of tickets will be made available to the public and can be purchased at the Daily Journal office, 2575 N. Morton St. in Franklin on June 2. Proceeds from ticket sales and a donation from the county athletic directors will be made to Jill's House in Bloomington.

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