

in the  
huddle

“ With such a good start, I’m anxious to see what the rest of the season brings. ”

- Junior Riley Akers

## Living up to EX-SPIKE-TATIONS

### Albrecht aims to make her mark as a Bulldog

BY ALAA ABDELDAIEM  
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It was the type of performance that she had dreamed of since she was a child. It's 6 p.m. on a Tuesday night, and Hannah Albrecht is playing in her first sectional game as a Bulldog. For the past 11 years, the sophomore point guard watched her brother, 2012 Crown Point High School alum Spike Albrecht, from the stands. She watched him contribute to the Bulldog's success before he left to join the Michigan Wolverines. Now, she too could contribute to her team, and after scoring 20 points that night against Michigan City, Albrecht said she finally had the realization. Now, she could build her own legacy.

Growing up in the Albrecht family was basketball frenzy. Basketball has played a significant role in Albrecht's life starting at a very young age.

Her father, Chuck Albrecht, coached AAU basketball in Crown Point. All three of her older brothers played in high school with Stephen and Spike continuing through college. Basketball took up most of Albrecht's time, and she never regretted a second.

"I was always the ball girl at Spike's games, and when my dad was coaching, I'd sit on the bench with him and copy what he was saying," Albrecht said. "I've been watching my brothers play since I was a little kid, so it really was just instinct. Life is basketball. That's all I do, and I love every second of it. If I'm not playing in a game or at Spike's games, I feel like something's off."

Albrecht's time around the game has paid off in her own performances on the court. Such basketball roots are what head coach Anne Equihua believes makes Albrecht the player she is.

"(Hannah) does not just play, but she understands the game," Equihua said. "She's a great student of the game. You can tell she's the type of kid that actually watches the game, watches other players and learns from them. She carries that over into her own game. That's helped her develop into the player she is today."

When Spike returns from Michigan, Hannah is sure to spend some time alone with him. It's only a matter of time before the two get on the court.

"We've always been really close. He's only home for a couple of days at a time so we try to have time for each other before he leaves," Albrecht said. "We get on the court at least once, and it gets really intense. Someone always ends up with a bloody nose. It's a challenge. I love playing with him though."

Growing up with Spike draws much attention towards Albrecht, especially after her brother's recent success.

Since Spike's 17 point first-half performance in the NCAA National Championship game, Hannah was under the spotlight more than she already was. Everywhere she went she was "Spike's sister."

"I'm always going to be Spike's little sister, and there's nothing I can do about that," Albrecht said. "It adds some pressure because it feels like I have to live up to what he did. At the same time, being his sister motivates me. He started

off small. His hard work made him grow up to this. It makes me want to be like that."

Albrecht's motivation has led to a more confident presence on the court, an emotion that Equihua believes has helped the team so far this season.

"Having her to be able to maintain her composure and run the offense has helped the team on the court," Equihua said. "The confidence she has and displays this year carries over to the team and helps us maintain that kind of mentality."

Albrecht is averaging 10 points and 4.7 assists per game and has a total of 60 points, 15 rebounds, 28 assists and 19 steals so far this season.

After a 57-42 win against Valparaiso last Friday, Equihua is sure the girls will need more than just the right mentality for a victory today against the 8-1 Lake Central Indians.

With two strong outside shooters in Gina Rubino and Tara Zlotkowski and a six foot center in Lindsay Kusbel, the girls will have to make some impact on defense for a win. Equihua believes the 6-1 Bulldogs can get it done.

"Lake Central is a very aggressive, in-your-face team. We need to play that way," Equihua said. "We need to pressure and press Lake Central and make them commit some turnovers so that we can create some success for us offensively. We've been killing each other all week to get ready. I am confident that if our girls play like I know they know how to play, I think we'll be okay."

A win at Lake Central would make the girls one step closer to their ultimate goal of postseason success, one step closer to helping Albrecht do what her brothers did before her.

It would help Albrecht make her mark in Crown Point basketball history.

"Crown Point girls basketball hasn't won a sectional title in too long," Albrecht said. "I'm really hoping that I can help make that happen. By winning a sectional title and going further, I can definitely make a name for myself and be known for someone other than just 'Spike's sister.' I'm confident that, together, we can get it done."



PHOTOS BY AMY SCHUCH

In her second year as a Lady Bulldog, sophomore point guard Hannah Albrecht looks to lead the team to winning their first sectional title in 12 years.