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NEWS - O'FALLON PROGRESS - O'FALLON SPORTS

Thursday, Jan. 05, 2012 0 comments

Basketball star makes Mascoutah All-Tourney team

By Steve Oliver - Progress Sports Writer

When the All-Tournament team was announced at the conclusion of the Mascoutah Girls' Invitational tournament last week, it came as no surprise that O'Fallon's Taylor Klingelhoefler was included on the roster.

The senior Panther guard, the daughter of Rick and Patty Klingelhoefler, has made a habit of being recognized for her efforts on the hardwood over the past three varsity seasons. The heart and soul of the OTHS squad, Klingelhoefler has proved her role as leader of the O'Fallon girls' basketball program in every aspect of the game.

From directing the offense, to spearheading the defensive effort, to providing consistent scoring, the senior Panther playmaker has led the team as an underclassmen in previous seasons and continues to fill that role on the current squad.



Her stats during O'Fallon's recent 3-1 effort in the Mascoutah tourney testify to the fact that she has provided solid leadership on both ends of the floor. Averaging double figures while leading the team in steals and assists, Klingelhoefler has provided the total package for the Panthers and coach Ryan Massey.

"Taylor is a great competitor and possesses great basketball instincts to go with her aggressiveness and determination," Massey said. "She has been the catalyst for our successes

over the past three years and continues to play with passion and skill."

"I play basketball because it is my passion," Klingelhoefler said. "It is a part of me, and I don't know how my life would be without it. I started playing basketball when I was five years old in the O'Fallon Booster program. I actually didn't realize my interest in basketball at first, but when I made my first basket, I got this 'rush' and right then I knew I wanted to play. It took me three years to make my first shot, but that's what basketball taught me — to never give up. My success has definitely been attributed to my family, friends, teachers and coaches who have supported me throughout it all"

"Participating in basketball has not only shaped me as a person but also has affected the way I approach things in life," added the senior Panther standout. "It has taught me valuable lessons on and off the court. But most importantly, it has taught me to never give up."

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