

LAVIGNE

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Said Onweller: "I think her play is an example of leadership without having to say anything. In the game, she competes so hard and plays so hard that she elevates the level of play of those players around her. They just all try to match her high intensity. I think one of the big strengths Abby has is the ability to make players around her better."

Swanton currently boasts a 16-1 overall record and has also managed to put together a 7-1 league record which coupled with a recent win over Bryan, has allowed the Lady Bulldogs to win the NWOAL crown.

While already successful by a record standpoint, LaVigne has enjoyed this season even more because of the relationship she has with the players around her.

"I'm really close with everybody on the team," LaVigne said. "When we're not playing basketball, we all hang out and have a good time together. I've been playing with the same group of girls since fifth grade and we've all stuck it out the entire time, nobody's moved away or given up."

"We've gotten really close throughout the years, and they're all like family to me," added LaVigne. "This is our last year and we have to make the best of it. We're not taking anything for granted and just playing every day like we don't want it to end."

When the season finally does come to an end, no matter at what stage of the tournament, the final buzzer will signify the end of her basketball career, and not just at the high-school level.

LaVigne has already agreed to continue her athletic career as a member of the Ball State Cardinals' volleyball squad,

"Obviously it's important for me to do my part in games for the sake of the team, but if I scored two points and grabbed two rebounds, it would be fine with me as long as the team wins."

Abby LaVigne
Swanton senior

giving up her dream of playing college basketball.

"It was a very hard decision to make because basketball's been my love," said LaVigne. "Ever since I was little I dreamed about playing at Tennessee and my dad has always encouraged me to play basketball. I just love playing."

"I'm not disappointed at all about not going on to play basketball," she continued. "I committed myself my junior year to playing volleyball and everything's really worked out for me. I just felt like I was more physically capable of playing volleyball at the Division I level."

"It became a matter of a time commitment, where was she going to focus her efforts," said Onweller. "She needed to go one way or another with her AAU activities and she chose to no longer play AAU basketball and focus on the volleyball."

"I believe her skill level would have risen to the point where she could play Division I college basketball, but in the end, I believe it turned out that it was what she wanted and I think things worked out well for her," added the Swanton mentor.

Onweller also believes that LaVigne will see continued success based on what he has had the pleasure of seeing out of his senior player, not only because of her ability, but also because of the success she has had as an athlete in several sports.

"Her hard work in general

her for the pressure of college volleyball."

There is still a little time, however, until LaVigne moves on from Swanton basketball and she knows there is a great deal yet to be accomplished.

"Winning the league was a big accomplishment," concluded LaVigne. "But if we get to state, that'd be the

first time in a long time for this school, so that would be accomplishment enough for me, just to be a part of that team.

"I don't need the personal credit, I'd rather be remembered as someone who was part of team that had a successful season ... and someone who had fun while doing it."

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