

Alumnae Basketball Game

Every so often someone comes up with a good idea that revives memories of some of Huron's glory days on the courts. Monica Asher, '99, now in the high school English department and assistant girls' varsity basketball coach, thought it would be a terrific idea for her girls to experience a little stronger competition in a scrimmage to prep them for the upcoming season. Who better to provide that challenge than some of Huron's finest alumnae players from the last decade or so?

The call went out, and eleven faithful ladies returned for another couple of hours of on-the-court glory. Some dropped their kids off at grandma's, others toted them along – always plenty of babysitters in the stands – or brought grandma! Some welcomed a respite from the college books, others left their businesses or job hunting. More than one probably passed up



Here they are, the healthy looking bunch of gals who returned for the game: Seated (l. to r.) Cori Lively, '01, Kristi Taylor Schlessman, '97, Catherine Taylor, '00, Nikki Dauch, '00, and Monica Asher, '99. Standing are Kaitlyn Litten, Lydia Souter, '03, Julia Butler, '06, Adrienne Gibbs, '01, and Shannon Rasnik, '95. Lauren Gadd, '07, also played but was not present in time for the group picture.

a heavy date. At any rate, the game made for a fun filled reunion on the court and provided the present girls with some nice role models of how to balance an academic life or work load with sometimes mothering chores and still have time left for fun.

Grads from as far back as '95 up through the most recent class of '07 returned to show their stuff once more. Monica's original strategy, we think, had been simple – run the JV girls and their young legs first half against the alumnae and wear them down before bringing in the varsity gals to mop up. On paper it should have worked; on the court the plan backfired. Though Don Hardy, '83, insisted upon keeping score, the game wasn't about win or lose. It was about seeing who had retained her shooting eye, her deft touch at the line, the spring in her legs, the nifty dribbling, passing, and rebounding that had brought the past glory. And the gals did not disappoint. They had kept in shape by running a bit the week beforehand,

ran a good offense despite not playing together in years, defended when they had to, and, in short, controlled the game from tip off to final whistle. In between, everyone had good clean fun, and the only losers were those who didn't make the game for any reason, including going fishing, one as far away as Florida.

So what are these young women doing with their lives since they left their alma mater? All have extremely full platters. Lydia Souther is finishing up her Occupational Therapy degree at Firelands College and then plans on doing her master's degree at Cleveland State. Monica Asher, after obtaining her BA at BGSU, is now teaching English for her alma mater. Cori Lively, who will soon begin her MA in Sports Administration, recently went into business at The Gym here in town with her fiance, Joe Dike, '94. Nikki Dauch, a grad of BGSU and The Medical College of Ohio/UT, is now employed with Advanced Health Services through the Firelands Regional Medical Center in Sandusky. Catherine Taylor is nearer her goal of becoming a medical doctor and is presently shopping for a place to do her internship. Adrienne Gibbs decided her future was not at Pepper Ridge Farms and is now enrolled at Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing (the former Providence School of Nursing), hoping to follow in her mom's nursing footsteps. Kaitlyn Litten is at Capitol University majoring in Exercise Science and will be an athletic trainer someday. Julia Butler is studying and playing volleyball for Mercyhurst College up near Erie PA. Shannon Rasnik, after completing her degree in pre-K to grade 3 education at Firelands, is now employed in the pre-school program at the Milan Elementary School. Kristi Taylor Schlessman, a mother of two, has enough work at home.

Wouldn't you say this is a nice sampling of how our girls today are pursuing professional careers, shouldering maternal duties, and leading active social lives?

Now we need to push for more fun games such as this. What about the boys of olde setting down their beer steins long enough to crawl out on the court. Of how about a volleyball match of past state finalists against our latest crop of champions? And if that works, there are always enough tennis players, golfers, and runners around to set up some good grudge matches against the younger ones for bragging rights. Still plenty of time for one more day in the sun! Besides, we have plenty of grad EMT's on duty just in case.



Introduction of the All-Stars saw Kaitlyn Litten, Kristi Taylor Schlessman and her sister Catherine Taylor (soon to be Doctor Taylor), Cori Lively, Adrienne Gibbs, Nikki Dauch, and Julia Butler, raring to go.



“Oops! Why didn’t someone TELL me that young gal could jump so high. I’d have tried harder,” says Adrienne Gibbs. Meanwhile, up in the stands, far right, doting father Steve Schlessman, ‘88, tends to the kids.



“Whew, thank God for foul shots. We needed that break,” muses more than one alumn as Julia Butler takes aim.



The JV gals pose before they break for the court to lay a whupping in the alumsns.



Plenty of spirit abounds as the Varsity team is introduced before tip off.

A ringer or what for a ref? Alumn gals “guaranteed” themselves a win by bringing in grad Don Grieves, ‘85, as one of the zebras to keep the game close. He was; it wasn’t. The alumnns prevailed in both halves. For the most part, the refs let the girls just play, and unless a hack was heard twenty rows up, the fun continued. Great job, Don. Can we sign you up for next year?



Some of the more senior alumnns - Adrienne Gibbs and Nikki Dauch - welcome latecomer Lauren Gadd, probably as much for her fresh legs and a chance for a breather as the chance to play with the most recent grad. Catherine Taylor keeps her eyes on game business rather than on the camera.



Cori Lively goes high for a shot - she should be able to. She and her recently announced fiance, Joe Dike, '94, now own The Gym in the Plaza.



“Come on and drop so we don’t have to jump,” begs this group on a long trip down the court.



Julia Butler swishes as Cat Litten boxes out just in case.



**Shannon Rasnik brings the ball up court.
To gun or not to gun, that is the question.
Go for the trey, Shannon! No gun, no glory.**



**“Outa my way!” screams Lydia Souter on one of
her patented drives. The Varsity gals have heard
of her reputation and give ground.**

Kids' Page - Future Tiger All-Stars



Meet Huron's latest coaching addition, Ty Ray and his daughter Kylee and wife Janel. Ty, a Clyde native, handles the Varsity girls.



"Great game, Mom," says Jaden. Can you tell he's a Schlessman? Never saw a camera before, did he!