

Reece 2K

Southwestern Senior Reaches Milestone In Trojans' Win Over Portville

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Southwestern's Reece Beaver is surrounded by her family after scoring career-point 2,000 against Portville on Friday night in nonleague action at Southwestern Central School

Gymnasium. Pictured, from left to right, are Emily, sister; Ashley, mother; Charlotte, sister; Reece; Braya, sister; Chad, father; and Beau, brother. Photo by Shelly Phillips

Two girls in Chautauqua County history had scored 2,000 points on the basketball court before Friday night.

Now there are three.

Southwestern senior Reece Beaver poured in 25 points, in the process eclipsing the rare milestone, as the Trojans beat Portville 58-41 in nonleague action at Southwestern Central School.

“During my freshman year, I was close to 1,000 points and my sophomore year I ended up hitting it pretty early on in the season so I thought maybe 2,000 was a possibility for me,” Beaver said postgame. “This year, I knew if I did what I could do, I would hit it pretty early on in the season. ... I’m excited about it.”

Ripley’s Sam Eimers was the first girl in the county to reach 2,000 points when she reached 2,018 in 2008. Less than two years ago, Silver Creek’s Abby Rice joined the club before eventually becoming the county’s all-time leading scorer with 2,232 points.



Southwestern's Reece Beaver poses with her 2,000-point ball and head coach Kay Sirianni during the third quarter of Friday's game against Portville at Southwestern Central School. Photo by Shelly Phillips

Now, Beaver will chase down that mark with at least 12 games remaining in her career before moving on to Daemen University in the fall.

“This is actually really amazing, something I didn’t think was going to happen when she was in seventh grade pulled up to varsity,” said Southwestern head coach Kay Sirianni, who is Reece’s aunt. “It wasn’t on my list of goals for her, but I’m super proud of her, especially because she’s such an unselfish player, and yet still could hit that 2,000 mark.”

While the Trojans’ guard scored 40 points in a 67-62 loss to Portville last month, things didn’t come as easily Friday. In fact, Beaver had just 4 points in the first quarter as Southwestern found itself trailing the previously unbeaten Panthers 13-12.

“In the first half, I just was not getting any open looks. We were running our offenses and executing them pretty well, but when I was coming off of screens, they were coming up pretty hard,” Beaver said. “The difference tonight was that the other players on our team stepped up. Bella (Sirianni) shot the ball great. Maddie (McIntyre) and Lauren (Cotter) played great. ... I didn’t have to do as much in this game.”

The daughter of Chad and Ashley Beaver scored the final 3 points of the second quarter for the Trojans, but they still trailed 21-18 at the break.



Southwestern’s Reece Beaver fires a shot against Portville in Friday’s nonleague game at Southwestern Central School. Photo by Shelly Phillips

“Portville played really good defense in the first half and didn’t give Reece the best opportunities to shoot,” Coach Sirianni said. “We knew other girls had to step up and score to take pressure off of Reece.”

After Reece’s sophomore sister Braya pulled Southwestern within a point to open the third quarter, the elder Beaver sister began to heat up. Reece scored the next 6 points for the Trojans to make it 26-25 and then buried a longer 3-pointer midway through the quarter for her 2,001st career point.

“I knew as soon as I shot the ball that it was going to be my 2,000th point,” she said. “That was exciting.”

After Portville made it 29-26, Ava Haynes was fouled on a 3-point attempt and proceeded to sink all three free throws before a timeout. During that break with 3:53 remaining in the third quarter, Beaver was presented with a celebratory ball by Sirianni.

“I am blessed to be able to coach my nieces and my daughter. They get along really well and make practice more enjoyable for me and hopefully them,” Coach Sirianni said. “I think I’m going to look back on this in the future and think that this was quite an opportunity that I was able to have here at Southwestern.”

Southwestern junior Ellie Pearson gave her team a 31-29 lead and Bella Sirianni added a 3-pointer before another bucket from Reece Beaver capped a 7-0 run to close out the period.

The Trojans would never trail again.

Sirianni opened the fourth quarter with a 3-pointer to give Southwestern a 10-point lead and Beaver closed out the game with a 7-point quarter to push her to 2,010 points in her career.

“She definitely relaxed after she got 2,000 points and started to play the way she knows how to play,” Coach Sirianni said.

Beaver will look to chase down Eimers on Tuesday when the Trojans travel to Dunkirk for their Chautauqua-Cattaraugus Athletic Association Division 1 West opener. Ironically, she reached 1,000 points during her sophomore year in a game at Dunkirk.

“I knew early on, from the time she was playing Upwards, that she was dedicated. She’s the type of player that’s practicing all summer long. She’s in the gym in the morning before school shooting,” Coach Sirianni said. ” ... Her freshman year, when her range extended outside that 3-point line, I knew she could obtain this goal.”

After catching Eimers, Beaver’s sights will be set on Rice, whom she now trails by 222 points as Chautauqua County’s all-time leader.

“I feel honored to be able to have this accomplishment. I’m so excited because my team has been so supportive along the way,” Beaver said. “I’m hoping that we can do big things this season.”

NOTES: Southwestern was 22 of 66 from the field, including 7 of 30 from 3-point range, and turned the ball over 11 times. Sirianni had 13 points and seven assists; Reece Beaver had six assists and three steals; Braya Beaver had five assists and five steals; and McIntyre had 10 rebounds. ... Portville was 15 of 41 from the field, including 1 of 10 from 3-point range, and turned the ball over 25 times. Lillian Bentley led the Panthers with 22 points and 14 rebounds, while Jackie Scanlon had 14 points and three assists. ... Southwestern won the jayvee game 52-21. Chloe Charles led the Trojans with 13 points and Marlena Cresanti scored 11.