

Girls lacrosse: Wilsonville's Abby Chase ends career as state's all-time points leader (season review)

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by: GREG ARTMAN - Senior midfielder Abby Chase finished her Wilsonville girls lacrosse career with a state-record 387 points, including 236 goals and 151 assists. Her father, coach Scott Chase, is stepping down after five years at the helm.

Scott Chase seems hesitant to be the father who generously praises his daughter for her athletic accomplishments.

But when he looks at the statistics from his role as the Wilsonville girls lacrosse coach, he can't help but arrive at one conclusion: Abby Chase was one of the best four-year players in Oregon history.

The star midfielder recently received first-team all-league honors for the fourth time in her career after leading Wilsonville to its second-consecutive conference title with a perfect record in the regular season.

She started every game for four seasons, earned all-state recognition twice and represented Oregon on the national tournament team before her junior campaign.

Her career numbers are jaw-dropping: a state-record 387 points, including 236 goals and 151 assists; a 55-14 record over four years; and 42-8 mark in league action.

The senior, who is planning to join the University of Portland women's club lacrosse program next year, also led the state this year in points, points per game and draws controlled.

“And she’s consistently getting a double- or triple-team,” Scott Chase said of his daughter, who starting playing in third grade. “She’s worked really, really hard.”

Abby Chase and five other players received all-league attention this season after carrying the Wildcats to the state quarterfinals, where they fell to Oregon Episcopal.

Sophomore midfielder Alex Monello and sophomore attacker Jocelyn Welberg joined her on the first team, senior attacker Alexa Dube and defender Sarah Johnson made the second team and senior goalkeeper Olivia Chase garnered honorable mention.

Dube and the Chase sisters also earned academic all-America honors for the second year in a row while setting a precedent for Monello, Welberg and the rest of the team.

“(The non-seniors) got to see great players ahead of them and learn from that,” Scott Chase said. “That’s going to carry over. When our graduating girls started, there was nobody there. But that’s what you need: the girls ahead to push the younger girls to build the program.”

The team’s ascent has also been due in part to the efforts of the coach, who took the helm in 2010 to rejuvenate a squad that was in danger of going extinct.

In five seasons, Scott Chase compiled an overall record of 64-22, including a 50-16 mark in league games, and guided Wilsonville to three playoff berths.

He recently announced that he is stepping down from his position as head coach, although he plans to continue assisting the team as a volunteer.

“It’s been a dream come true,” he said. “We knew the youth program was going to be fantastic, and in five years we’ve really grown. We’re super-proud of the kids who hung with us in the beginning. They helped us restart the program.”

Scott Chase said he expects either Brett Monello or DeeAnne Welberg to take the reins for the Wildcats. Both have served as assistant coaches in recent years.

“Our team is only going to get stronger,” he said.

AT A GLANCE

WILSONVILLE GIRLS LACROSSE 2014

Record: 14-2 (12-0 in the Northwest League)

Playoffs: Lost to Oregon Episcopal in the state quarterfinals, 12-5

Key facts: Went undefeated in conference play for the second year in a row; outscored league opponents 219-23; earned a second-straight trip to the state quarterfinals

Best win: 16-4 over Beaverton in the first round of the playoffs May 14

Toughest loss: 18-8 to top-ranked West Linn at home April 22

All-league first team: senior midfielder Abby Chase (second-team all-state), sophomore midfielder Alex Monello, sophomore attacker Jocelyn Welberg

All-league second team: senior attacker Alexa Dube, defender Sarah Johnson

Honorable mention: senior goalkeeper Olivia Chase

WILSONVILLE UNDER SCOTT CHASE

2010 9-8 8-8 (5th) No playoffs

2011 11-6 9-5 (4th) No playoffs

2012 11-4 9-3 (2nd) First round; lost to Southridge, 14-7

2013 19-2 12-0 (1st) Semifinals; lost to Lake Oswego, 15-7

2014 14-2 12-0 (1st) Quarterfinals; lost to OES, 12-5

Totals: 64-22 (50-16 in league play); three playoff appearances; two quarterfinals; one semifinal

ABBY CHASE: CAREER STATS

2011: 77 points (51 goals, 26 assists)

2012: 101 points (63 goals, 38 assists)

2013: 119 points (69 goals, 50 assists)

2014: 90 points (53 goals, 37 assists)

Totals: 387 points (236 goals, 151 assists)

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