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She sets the bar high

Isabella Vazquez is the first girls' player to score 1,000 points at George Washington.

By Corey Sharp
STAFF WRITER

Isabella Vazquez received congratulatory texts and calls on Jan. 31 for something she hadn't done yet. The next day, she did it.

When she woke up on Feb. 1, the 5-foot-9 senior forward at George Washington High knew she needed nine points to eclipse the 1,000-point mark for her career and become the first girl in school history to reach the milestone.

Vazquez ended up soaring past 1,000 by scoring 27 points in Washington's win over School of the Future. She scored her 1,000th point on a foul shot in the first quarter. For Vazquez, that was fitting.

"It was always a joke because the year before I wasn't a good foul shooter," Vazquez said. "I worked my butt off all summer to have the same form for every shot. It was the first shot and I said [to myself] I better make this right now. Then I shot the ball and I knew it was going in. I started walking off, walking back. Everyone just went crazy."

"That whole day, I'm just going to remember it step-by-step. It's one of my favorite days."

Reaching 1,000 points was something that Vazquez had thought about for a long time. She went into the

season knowing she had a chance after she sat down with her parents and figured out her point total.

But her path to the milestone wasn't straight. She transferred to Washington from Archbishop Ryan as a sophomore. Vazquez said she didn't fit in at Ryan after two years there. But ...

"I'm one of those people who sticks things out and says, 'Let's see,'" Vazquez said. "I knew I needed something else. I knew I needed a new fit, a new home."

But where would Vazquez go? Her mother, Joan Dimeo, played basketball and graduated from Northeast, and her older brother, Isaac, graduated from Northeast. She could have followed in their footsteps. But she chose to attend her mother's rival school.

"It kind of came down to me wanting to start my own thing and be different, be separate from my mom," Vazquez said. "So I felt like if I would have went to Northeast, it would have been all about me following up with my mom. It's kind of cool to be at Washington because I'm in a competition with my mom from another school."

Vazquez will go down as one of the best players in the history of Washington's program. She helped the team climb two divisions during her tenure. In Vazquez's sophomore year, the Eagles won the Public League's American Divi-



George Washington's Isabella Vazquez has made the All-Public first team three times. STEVEN M. FALK / Staff Photographer

sion and this season, they won the National Division. After losing to Palumbo, 68-44, on Tuesday in the Public League playoffs, Washington will compete in the Liberty Division next season.

Vazquez has been named first-team All-Public in each of the last three seasons. Last year, she was also named to the All-Southeastern Pa. third team and was a 2018 Miss Pennsylvania Basketball nominee.

Coach Chris Reid said the school will make a banner that will be displayed

in the gym for 1,000-point scorers in the girls' program. Right now, the only name that will appear on the list: Isabella Vazquez's, with 1,057 career points. She hopes she won't be alone for long.

"It's going to feel good, but later on, I'm going to want to see other girls on there. I want to see the program do well and have other girls make it," she said. "Hopefully, I can be a role model for anyone that goes there that's like 'I want to be like Bella, who's up on the banner.'"

Just call Lancer

Bishop McDevitt has only gotten better since a blowout defeat to La Salle.

By Aaron Carter
STAFF WRITER

It wasn't funny, but McDevitt coach Wil Chavis couldn't help but laugh.

His Lancers were in the first quarter of an old-fashioned thumping at La Salle, a loss punctuated by ESPN later that night when La Salle senior Korrad Kiszka's spectacular dunk finished No. 5 on *SportsCenter's* top plays.

McDevitt trailed, 18-2, after the first quarter and 32-13 at halftime, and lost 58-35.

So, what on that Jan. night was so funny? An how did it lead to the Lancers' earning the Catholic League's No. 3 seed and hosting Archbishop Wood at 7 p.m. Friday?

"I just started laughing Chavis said of his reaction during that fateful first quarter timeout, "because I knew what it was. I knew we didn't really have a chance to win that game because I know that feeling."

In the three seasons before Chavis arrived, McDevitt was 2-37 in PCL play and 12-54 overall.

When they played La Salle in January, the Lancers were undefeated in PCL play. The Explorers were undefeated, period.

The gym was packed, steamy, and hostile, an atmosphere to which the Lancers (17-5, 11-3) were