

# Senior Spotlight

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ROAR Editor

Rockford senior Anna Glynn understands what it's like to be a team player. When she plays a sport, she dedicates her whole being in becoming the best she can be for the team. At the end of her junior school year, she had made the decision to dedicate herself solely to the sport of lacrosse, and not play basketball her senior year. She let the Ram basketball staff know of her decision and tackled her final summer as a high schooler.

"My decision to not go out for basketball was made at the end of the school year because I couldn't figure out what I wanted to do for college – whether I wanted to play lacrosse or not," Anna shares. "It was a big decision and I thought that I needed the summer to focus on myself and what I wanted to do. The only way I could do that was to focus strictly on lacrosse and doing that I felt like it wouldn't be fair for me to not play summer basketball and try out without putting in the work in the off season."

She was okay with her decision, until she stepped into the RHS gym one day at the end of summer and shot some baskets. Her love of the game came flooding back. She didn't want to miss the excitement of playing on a Friday night in front of a cheering Ram crowd. She didn't want to miss the game she had played most of her life. She didn't want to miss her senior year of playing a sport she loved. She listened to her gut, and was now faced with going back to her basketball coaches, once again, only this time with a different message. She wanted a shot at making the team.

Anna reached out to varsity head coach Brad Wilson.

"Last spring she told us she wanted to focus on lacrosse," explains Wilson. "It was tough to hear, but we understood and supported her decision. I did not expect her to come out this winter. Her efforts over the summer earned her a scholarship to play at Davenport University next fall in lacrosse. We learned in the fall she had a change of heart. She missed basketball and her teammates."

But, Anna didn't know the day she headed in to talk to the coaches about trying out, she would also be facing her team. It's always tough to face your peers and teammates when you're unsure.

"When I went and asked the coaches I walked into the gym and realized that all the basketball players were there and I didn't know that they were going to be," she explains. "Which, at first, was intimidating because nobody knew I was even thinking about playing again. But, it felt good to be there with everyone again. When I talked to the coaches, I felt confident in my decision knowing that I would have to work for my spot."

Wilson remembers Anna coming in that day. "We, of course, were thrilled. Since that day she has been 100% dedicated to the team."

As a welcome back present the team voted her team captain.

"My teammates voting me to be a captain is a huge honor," Anna shares. "I knew my decision was right when I stopped worrying about if I should play or not. I'm glad my teammates welcomed me and respected my decision."

Anna has paid Coach Wilson and her teammates back for



**Anna goes up for a shot against some tough coverage.** ~ Photo by "Papa" Razzi Sports Photography

allowing her to make the transition back on the court.

"So far, her senior year could not have gone better," says Wilson. "She is considered not only the best defender on our team, but one of the best in the area. We always put her on the opposing team's best player and she consistently shuts them down. Offensively, she has also been one of our best scorers. Her 3-point shooting has really taken off, and her ability to take it to the basket is second to none."

Anna is following her promise to do her best. "I have learned so much from my experience overall of playing high school basketball, believing in yourself is the number one thing in any sport. If you have the confidence and drive to get better and always go 100% you can achieve any goal you set. When I know I've had off games, I go in working harder the next day and learning from my mistakes."

"I love every second of being on the court, and every second of being with the team. Getting to play the sport we all love is special."

It's also not hard to tell that Wilson is equally content with Anna's decision to return to basketball.

"Anna has been a tremendous leader for us," Wilson concludes. "She is an incredible kid on and off the court. She exemplifies everything it means to be a Ram. I am so proud of her and feel blessed to have her in the program."