

# ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**HANNAH SHAFFER**

Apollo-Ridge  
Basketball

**Age:** 17. **Grade:** 11

**Parents:** Mark and Sue Shaffer

A first-time starter, Hannah Shaffer is making the most of her opportunity. Shaffer, a junior point guard for Ray Bartha's Apollo-Ridge girls' basketball team, has been a key component of the Vikings' 3-0 start in two games over the weekend at the Springdale tournament. Shaffer poured in 33 points and recorded five steals as Apollo-Ridge won the games by an average of 17.5 points and captured the tournament title. Shaffer earned the tournament MVP honors.

Here's a look at this week's athlete of the week, Hannah Shaffer.

**On winning the Springdale tournament?**

It was a great feeling to win both games. It gives us the confidence to go into our first section game on Thursday at West Shamokin with some solid wins under our belt.

**Were you surprised to win MVP of the tournament?**

Yes, as a junior and a first-year starter I wasn't expecting it. I was surprised and I was glad to see that our seniors, Ellen Reilly and Jessica Fatta, were, named 'All Tournament Champs.'

**What do you expect out of yourself with a greater role on the team?**

I think there is more pressure in doing a good job. Playing the point guard position, it is my responsibility to control the speed of the game. I expect that we will play hard and be in contention.

**With only two seniors on the team do you need to become a leader this season? Do you see yourself as a leader?**

Absolutely. With only two seniors, it creates an exciting opportunity for me. I see myself as a member of the team in a position to contribute to our success.

**How far can your team go?**

We have a strong team that has the experience and the skills to be a section contender. Our goal is to win a playoff game and go as far as possible. If we play smart and stay healthy, I am confident we can achieve this.

**What has coach Bartha meant to you as a person? As a basketball player?**

Coach Bartha certainly has his ways to motivate. I think anyone would like the opportunity to play for a coach who has a record of 500-plus wins. He has given me the confidence to grow as a person and a leader.