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Sports

## Sports

Posted on Sun, Mar. 25, 2007

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### Freshman shines for Lady Marauders

By Gordon Brunskill - [gbrunski@centredaily.com](mailto:gbrunski@centredaily.com)

UNIVERSITY PARK Bishop Guilfoyle senior Mary Forr is usually very reliable at the foul line.

She missed a key one with 12.7 seconds left in Saturday's PIAA Class A championship game, but freshman Alli Williams, having perhaps the biggest game of her career thus far, made the play to save the day.

She battled a pair of Pittsburgh North Catholic players for the rebound and tipped the ball out to sister Dani. The elder Williams fell to the floor while corraling the ball, but she still passed the ball back to teammate Courtney Carroll, who drew a foul and iced the game with her free throws.

"That was huge," Forr said. "For her to get that rebound was amazing. I kind of felt redeemed a little bit."

It was the last of many big plays for the 5-foot-11 freshman, who led the team to its fourth state championship with a 43-38 win at the Bryce Jordan Center.

Williams posted 13 points, 10 rebounds and a pair of blocks, holding her own against a team with 6-2 Caitlin Jordan and 6-0 Lauren Savulchak towering over every Lady Marauder.

"I always think that I'm the tall one," Williams said. "But they were taller than me. It didn't really intimidate me. I just had to play my game."

Getting that last rebound was big for Williams, and the play epitomized the hustle she and her teammates needed to win the state title.

"I had to step it up and give it my all because we're not losing this game," Williams said.

Williams, who averaged 7.5 points a game this season, was 5-for-11 from the floor and 3 of 4 from the foul line for her points, with seven points and six rebounds coming in the final eight minutes.

"Alli has so much poise and confidence," Forr said. "She's going to be an amazing player and she already is."

She had a spin and scoop shot in the low post to give her team a one-point lead with 5:36 left, and did the same thing off an Ashley Helsel pass with 2:36 left, again for a one-point lead.

Not long after that, after the Trojanettes had retaken the lead and had the ball again, Helsel was off on a 3-point attempt, but Williams outfought a pair of defenders for the rebound.

"She's just a kid that keeps getting smarter," Moschella said. "She's a kid that is very difficult to stop."

And, she did it all with a blown tire.

"I was going up for a layup and it just ripped," Williams said of one of her shoes. "Then I kept rolling my ankle because it was so loose."

The incident left Moschella scrambling on the team's bench.

"We were asking everyone down the bench if there was a size 11 available," he said. "Everyone wasn't even close to a size 11."

Still, the coach did see the silver lining.

"I told her I wanted her to penetrate," Moschella said. "She blew her sneaker out so at least I knew she was listening to me."

You would not have known it the way the freshman played in the final minutes of her first state title game.

"My first year here we go for a state championship," Williams said. "It's such a thrill."

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