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## Sedlock reaches milestone in win

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POSTED: March 10, 2008

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SLIPPERY ROCK — Ignorance was bliss for Northern Cambria's Brittany Sedlock ... for as long as it lasted.

The Lady Colts senior forward knew she was closing in on 1,000 career points as the team headed into the playoffs. She just didn't know exactly how many she needed, nor did she want to.

Then, before NC's PIAA Class AA quarterfinal game Sunday at Slippery Rock University's Morrow Field House, she found out she needed just 10 points for the milestone.

"I knew, but it was unwillingly," Sedlock said. "I didn't want to know, but somebody just like accidentally told me."

Sedlock surpassed the mark on a breakaway layup pass from Breanna Kochinsky after Ariel Rocco's steal with 1:15 left in the third quarter of the Lady Colts' 41-30 win over Girard. While Sedlock was happy to get to 1,000, she was more pleased with what she felt was the greater significance of her bucket: It put Northern Cambria ahead by five as part of a pivotal 17-0 run that turned the game completely in her team's favor.

Sedlock scored five of the first seven points of that flurry, finishing the game with 11 points.

"Before the game, I was a little bit nervous, just because I knew. But I knew the most important thing was getting the win," Sedlock said. "If we would get the win, I would have had another game to get my thousand, so that's what I tried to focus on."

Ironically, Sedlock's 1,000th point was part of Lady Colts coach Eric Thomas' focus since late in the regular season. Northern Cambria had a Heritage Conference game with Ligonier Valley postponed and eventually canceled. Thomas had hoped to get that contest in because Sedlock had scored 17 in an earlier meeting with the Lady Mounties.

When the game wasn't made up, Thomas realized the Lady Colts would have to make a deep run into the playoffs for Sedlock to reach the mark.

"Oh, wow. She is so dedicated as a player. She's a player that always stays after practice 10-to-15 minutes shooting and working on her game," Thomas said. "She started out playing a guard for me her freshman year. We had no posts. She said, 'I'm willing to try it.'"

The PIAA doesn't allow for game stoppages in the playoffs to recognize individual accomplishments, but Thomas called a 30-second timeout to celebrate Sedlock's landmark bucket. It was a risky move because it could have stunted the Lady Colts' growing momentum. He thought it was worth it.

"She's a great player, great girl, great athlete," Thomas said.

Afterward, Thomas presented Sedlock a plaque in commemoration of the achievement.

Sedlock has come a long way since being a little-used freshman guard for the Lady Colts. The cousin of teammates Rocco and Jen Valeria as well as former NC hoops greats Jess Valeria and Joe Rocco, Sedlock has always enjoyed the game of basketball. However, it took a move to forward to let her game blossom.

Despite being outsized at 5-foot-8, Sedlock entered Sunday's game as the Lady Colts' leader in scoring (14.3), rebounding (10.4), assists (4.2) and steals (4.0). She's only made five 3-pointers all year, but two of them came in Northern Cambria's PIAA first-round win over Beaver when the Lady Colts were struggling in their first interdistrict encounter.

"She can do pretty much anything we need her to. She can score inside. She can rebound. She can hit the big 3s when we need her to, like she did in the Beaver game," said Jen Valeria, who scored her 1,000th career point earlier this season. "She's awesome. We have so much chemistry on and off the court."

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Thomas said Sedlock and the other two NC seniors — Valeria and Olivia Dumm — have been a huge positive influence on the younger Lady Colts. Players like sophomore Janae Dunchack seem to appreciate Sedlock's presence and her contributions.

"It's great to know Brittany had a good game," Dunchack said. "We're really going to miss her next year."

Sedlock's not ready to move on just yet, though, even with the 1,000 points now on her resume.

"It's obviously an accomplishment that I thought about, but it really wasn't my top priority," Sedlock said. "My top priority has always been to the team. I wanted to win the Heritage [Conference], win districts and, now, win states. We're really excited about that."

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