

## A year full of January

### Key women's basketball player takes her place in Sun Devil history

If it's impressive to be a part of great tradition, it's equally impressive to start a new one. In the 2007-2008 season, Brianne January did both.

January took her place among a long and distinguished roster of great Pac-10 basketball players when she was named to the all-conference second team. She also made history by being named the first ever Pac-10 Defensive Player of the Year.

She doesn't make a big deal of the accolades, insisting that individual numbers rarely have much to do with wins and losses, but she does feel proud to be a part of the school's basketball history.

"I recognize the people that were here before me, such as [my former teammates] Emily Westenberg and Aubree Johnson, who had a huge role in bringing the program up. Just to be a part of that elite group is something special," January said.

January, who often has the assignment of defending the opposing team's top player, led the Pac-10 in steals last season, averaging 2.4 per game. Before her career at ASU is over, she will likely be in the top five all-time in steals. And she could conceivably take over the school record in assists as well.

She gives much of the credit for both the recent awards and her overall success to her coaches and teammates.

"When your teammates get better, you get better, because that's who you're going up against everyday in practice," she says.

To this end, several of her teammates joined January with year-end honors. Lauren Lacey was also named Second-Team All-Pac-10 while guard Jill Noe earned All-Pac-10 Honorable Mention honors and senior Reagan Pariseau and junior Sybil Dosty were both named Pac-10 Defensive Honorable Mention.

"They deserve it," says January. "They've put in the work and it's great to see it pay off."

Of the team's overall performance last season, she says, "It took us a little longer to get to where we should be. But I'm really satisfied about how our team came together. We haven't reached our potential yet but we're getting closer."

This year, the women's team went 22-11 overall and ended their run just shy of the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament, losing to Duke 67-59 in the second round.

But with a final year ahead to stack up great performances, January is getting closer as well—to ASU history.

*By Michael Green, a Tempe-based freelance writer.*

