

## JENNIFER CHAMPNEY

Jennifer Champney '06 learned to multi-task at a young age. During her middle school years, she recalled, "My summers were pretty crazy." She was a year-round figure skater, competed for the Wedgewood Club in both swimming and tennis, and played AAU basketball.

So she was well-prepared for the challenges of high school and collegiate interscholastic athletics. And she more than met those challenges, compiling an impressive record of success.

"I've pretty much always been involved in sports," she said. The figure skating covered Grades 1-8, she played basketball and softball growing up, then moved onto the AAU team in middle school.

Jen credits her father George Champney with special influence on her athletic development. "He was always my coach," she said, and when he wasn't he made sure she got to practices and away games, "driving me all over the place." She remembered one year in middle school when she failed to make the first team. "He never let me give up on my dream of playing basket ball."

At Bedford High Jenny was a four-year student-athlete, and a three-sport captain as a senior (field hockey, basketball and track). She led the Lady Bucs in scoring for three years, totaling 1,037 career points. Jen was a three-year Dual County League basketball all-star and was honored for two seasons by The *Lowell Sun*. In 2005 she was chosen for the state Basketball Coaches Association Best 80 All- Star Game.

"Jenny a major factor in turning a four-win season in her freshman year into a 14-win season and a state tournament berth, followed by two more trips to the states and a total of 46 wins for Bedford," John Cody, her high school coach, reflected. "She was dedicated to Bedford girls' basketball at all times."

Jenny also led the field hockey team in scoring as a sophomore, junior and senior and was a DCL all- star twice and *Sun* all-star once. She played junior varsity softball as a freshman (her only sub-varsity experience in any sport), varsity softball as a sophomore, then switched to track, where she qualified for the state meet in the high jump twice and was a league all-star.

Over four seasons at Wheaton College, Jenny played 114 games, tied for the all-time career lead. Her 148 career blocks are second all-time, and her 1,240 points are good for sixth place all-time. She is seventh all-time in free throws made (247) eighth in free throw percentage (71.8) and ninth in career rebounds. As a senior, Jenny was captain of the Lyons and was recognized by her school and her league: Coaches' Award, Scholar-Athlete Award, conference all-star.

"Jenny -- or Champ, as we affectionately called her -- came to Wheaton to help us win a championship. And as a sophomore we won the first ever NEWMAC championship for men or women," said her college coach, Melissa Hodgdon.

“Champ was an integral part of that. A four-year starter, she could score but also would anchor our defense with dynamic shot blocking and rebounding. We won a lot of games while she was here.”

After graduating from Wheaton, Jen was back on the Lady Buccaneer sideline for a year as an assistant coach. She earned a master of education degree, specializing in elementary education and special education, from Wheelock College. Jenny teaches Grade 5 in the Melrose schools and is still playing in adult leagues.