



Abby Conklin

“Lady Pirate - Great!”

Two decades of Lady Pirates’ hoops had come and gone when the prolific, 6-foot-3 Abby Conklin would thoroughly dominate the ball on the floor at Charlestown.

Conklin, playing high-level intense push backs at the rim for Lady Pirate coach Rhonda Smith, mastered a sport she began to grow in love with in the third grade. Now, fully bloomed, she was an incessant dose of points for the Lady Blue in her final prep season.

Abby’s ascendancy stretched from 1989-1993 seasons. She played alongside all-star athlete Kristin Mattox during her tenure and brought Pirate Pride Blue country to the heights of glory in school’s hoops history.

She holds the all-time record for the girl’s highest single-game performance of 52 points against Pekin Eastern during the season of 1992-93. She *is* the all-time leading scorer at Charlestown, boy or girl!

Abby’s stats are awesome. She practically owns every category. Her scoring average was 36.6 points per game; the highest ever for any Lady Pirate, and her amazing 2,616 career points, that’s *still* tops, surpassed the 1988 all-time state scoring record (2,421) set by North Judson’s Debbie Bolen! In all, she holds 12 school records; rebounding, blocked shots and field goal percentage.

Conklin’s career points (2,616) currently rank ninth in the state and her single-season record (956) points ranks fourth in Indiana girls’ basketball history. During her enormous presence on the hardwood, she led the Lady Pirates 85-15 with a string of post-season championships: four sectionals, three regionals, two Mid-Southern Conference titles and one semistate crown, and a Final Four appearance. In 1993, her prep achievements reached a pinnacle; she was named “Miss Basketball” in the state.

Abby’s four year collegiate career at the University of Tennessee for Lady Volunteers Head Women’s Basketball Coach Pat Summitt, continued to wield immense prowess on the floor. She led the Lady Vols to back-to-back NCAA titles, beating Georgia, 83-56 (1995-96) and Old Dominion, 68-59 (1996-97).

Abby Conklin’s story represents a delicious part of the Lady Pirates tradition since the high school’s promising spirit of hoops began in earnest with the birthright of the girls basketball program that’s almost 45 years old this season.



Abby Conklin (Courtesy of University of Tennessee Athletics Photography)