

Haylett embracing new leadership role

NOVEMBER 24, 2009 - 2:40AM

[Nathan Liewicki](#), Sports Staff



[PETE YEE](#)

EDUCATED OFFENCE A fourth-year education student, Marisa Haylett has led the way this season for the Pandas, averaging 14.8 points per game.

Basketball star Marisa Haylett has been almost unstoppable offensively this season for the Pandas and her strong play has greatly contributed to the team's 5-3 Canada West record.

A fourth-year student from Vancouver, Marisa's game has steadily improved during her time in the City of Champions to the point where she's now an instrumental member of the Pandas basketball squad. To this point in the season, she's led the Pandas in scoring five times and is averaging 14.7 points per game, which is tops on the squad.

"Marisa is a player who has waited until it was her opportunity to become a leader. She's come back this season really fit and is very committed to her game while playing at a high level both offensively and defensively," head coach Scott Edwards stated.

When asked about why she chose to come to the University of Alberta and not attend a school on the West Coast, Haylett said, "I wanted to go away from home and when I came here on visits the girls were awesome. It was a perfect match."

On the academic side, Haylett is studying to become an elementary school teacher and is currently completing her five-week student teacher internship.

"I chose elementary education because I love kids and I think it's an amazing age to be able to teach. There's no way I could do secondary education," Haylett noted.

Although she would love to have more free time outside of being extremely busy with basketball and school, Marisa enjoys spending her spare time keeping in touch with her friends back in Vancouver and sleeping in whenever she gets a chance to.

When asked what her favourite memory during her three-plus years here at the University of Alberta has been, Haylett said that it was 10 days ago when the Pandas travelled out west to play Victoria and UBC.

“We swept UVic and UBC, and it was awesome playing back at home with my parents and all my friends watching. I hadn't been home in a long time, so it was special being able to spend time at home with my parents.”

Ten years down the road she sees herself graduated with her education degree, hopefully having taken the time to travel to various global destinations, and working in a field she loves.

“I would really love to go back to Vancouver because it's beautiful there, but a place with a warm climate would be just as nice,” Haylett stated.

As Marisa Haylett's basketball game continues to improve and she continues to establish herself as one of Canada West's best offensive threats, the play of the Pandas will only continue to get better. If Haylett has it her way, the Pandas will finish the 2009/10 season with a chance to take home a national championship.