



# 'GUARD 21'

## Joseph Charter School's rising star

By Steve Tool  
Wallowa County Chieftain

Anyone watching the Joseph Charter School girls basketball team is familiar with the distinctive play of Sabrina Albee, no. 21. Albee's presence is unavoidable, sinking shot after shot to help propel an already talented squad toward the state 1A basketball championship series. JCS sophomore Albee wears the number 21 for the Eagles. Albee's hard work and dedication to the sport earned her the distinction of unanimous choice for the Old Oregon League's "Player of the Year" award.

Albee, 16, doesn't remember when she first started shooting hoops. She does remember when she started realizing she has a talent for the sport: "When I was in fifth or six grade playing on the junior high "A" team." She started on the vaunted Eagles varsity team as a freshman, where she plays shooting guard or point guard. Her family all plays the game with one aunt even playing for the University of Oregon squad.

"She inspired my sister (Satori Albee) and me as well," Albee said.

A three-sport athlete, including volleyball and track, basketball is her first love.

"I love the competition, and I can go outside my box and trust others," she said. "I don't just have to count on myself; I can count on other people."

Perhaps not surprisingly, Albee doesn't have a problem balancing her academic work and her athletic life.

"I get as much done as I can during school, and I have a lot of late nights doing homework," she said with a laugh. She is a constant presence in the upper reaches of the honor roll, undoubtedly helping the Eagles girls earn a cumulative GPA of 3.74.

The young star hopes to play college basketball. She hasn't decided on where, although she has a keen interest in interior design. Her family is helping her put together a video resume of her court play when the colleges come calling.

Players don't get as good as Albee by confining practice to school. The sophomore spends her spare time picking out court spots and shooting until she makes it and then shooting some more. She also practices moves for attacking the basket and has a basket on the side of her home where she practices daily in the summer time. In eighth grade she played for La Grande's AAU team and last year went to Sunday Clinics in the Tri-Cities, Washington area. She also chucks

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*'I'm really competitive. I want to win.'*



### Sabrina Albee

Unanimous selection as the Old Oregon League's Player of the Year award.



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