



Home News Features A&E Op-Ed Sports

Staff

# Bella Burrelli is Edinboro's latest two-sport star

MAR 24 WRITTEN BY NATE STEIS





Home News Features A&E Op-Ed Sports  
Staff



Photo courtesy of Sean Gallagher

**EDINBORO** - Over time, the Edinboro University Fighting Scots have had a solid collection of dual-sport athletes.

Technically speaking, all the cross-country runners and track and field runners are dual-sport athletes. They are all amazing in their own way and, frankly; they are a little crazy for running that kind of distance all year long. However, this story is not about a runner, but someone who could be called the enforcer of the Fighting Scots women's basketball and volleyball teams.

Outside of sports, people would likely never expect the "goofy" as she would describe herself, Bella Burrelli, to be such a gamer. The switch just flips for her, and she instantly enters assassin mode. Few athletes in the Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference are like her as she can pack a punch on a volleyball that makes a beeline right at the opponent's face and hit her defender with a hook shot over her left shoulder that is sound.

Maybe for people in the Greater Pittsburgh area from 2015 to 2019, they knew this was coming for Burrelli as she was amongst the best athletes in the Western Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) from the time she was a freshman all the way up through her senior year at Neshannock High School in New Castle.

Burrelli scored 1,440 points and grabbed 886 boards in her high school hoops career while leading the Neshannock Lancers to a section title, a WPIAL title, and a 25 win season in her senior year. She was also named WPIAL Class AAA Player of the Year as a senior and also became a three-time All-Section and All-County performer. While her play in basketball was impressive, she had her mind made up that she was going to pursue college volleyball.

With three All-Section selections, a sectional title as a senior, and All-State honors as both a junior and senior, nobody could really argue with whatever sport Burrelli pursued past her



Home News Features A&E Op-Ed Sports  
Staff

Certainly, Burrelli has, as she eventually decided, she was not quite ready to depart from basketball. She joined the women's basketball program, a decision that came after her first year of college volleyball had wrapped up.

“Coach Wheeler and Coach Bess never addressed me during the volleyball season, Burrelli said. “After the season ended, they told me they had a spot for me on the team if I wanted it. I felt like if I didn't take it, it may never come around again. I am thrilled with the decision I made to be a part of both programs.”

As far as balance, Burrelli has become a starter for both teams, but more than that, she has become a First-Team All-Pennsylvania State Athletic Conference (PSAC) West performer and an American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) First-Team All-Region performer in a season in which she accumulated 418 points 359 kills, good for third and fourth in the PSAC respectfully.

Even greater than her individual statistics and accolades was what the team was able to do in the 2021 campaign. She helped the Fighting Scots to 22 wins, the number two seed in the PSAC West for the conference tournament, a place in the NCAA Tournament, and to wins over some of the best teams in the country, including Gannon who was a national semifinalist in 2021.

With the season going into December, Burrelli did not make her 2021-22 season debut in basketball until December 16, 2021. It did not take her long to get in the groove of things as in her first game; she scored 12 points and grabbed 7 rebounds against PSAC East foe, Bloomsburg. Her 2021-22 season would see her in the starting lineup for the final 12 games of the year and 16 games overall.

She ended up with averages of 9.1 points and 8.6 rebounds for the season for a team that won 14 games, qualified for the PSAC playoffs, and won their first round game in the PSAC Tournament over the IUP Crimson Hawks.

With the offseason here, it is time for Burrelli to unwind, go to some workouts, focus on student teaching, and get back into the gym to keep her body right. After about eight straight months of intense training, workouts, and games, Burrelli has her sights set on being the best second grade student-teacher she can be for her second-graders in the North East School District.



Home News Features A&E Op-Ed Sports  
Staff

available at all times, even during workouts and practices.

“If we lose when I have a certain one, I have to get rid of them and try a fresh pack,” said Burrelli of the juice box superstition she continues today.

While it’s taken much more than juice boxes to continue to perform as well as she had, it is best not to break the tradition and as she said on her Instagram, for others to bring the juice to McComb Fieldhouse for the rest of her career. Burrelli is not the only two-sport standout the Fighting Scots have now or have had over the years, but she is one of the latest ones who has impacted two winning programs in a big way.

**Nate Steis, Sports Editor and Graduate Assistant | @EdinboroNow**

**NEWS EDINBORO EDINBORO UNIVERSITY WOMEN IN SPORTS  
BASKETBALL VOLLEYBALL DUAL-SPORT ATHLETE COLLEGE ATHLETICS  
COLLEGE ATHLETE EDINBORO VOLLEYBALL EDINBORO WOMEN'S  
BASKETBALL**

Nate Steis

## Comments (0)

Newest First

< Youthful Edinboro Women's Basketball Team Showcase Leadership On and Off the Court

Time as college athlete introduced Kristen Gordon to future career as personal and group trainer >