

ELIZABETH CITY STATE'S RECORD-SETTING SCHOLAR



ELIZABETH CITY STATE PHOTO

As a freshman, Elizabeth City State's Celeste Trahan made an immediate impact on the record books with a CIAA record 28 rebounds in the 2005 women's championship game against Shaw. She also led the nation in rebounding.

Trahan looks beyond mere stats

By April Emory
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ELIZABETH CITY — One might think that an abundance of early success might spoil the average student-athlete. Or that many would love to have their names etched in the history books by the close of their collegiate careers.

The operative word here is "average" and by no means is Celeste Trahan an average student-athlete.

Trahan learned recently that the rebounding prowess she displayed during last season had landed in the Official 2006 NCAA Women's Basketball Records Book. She now ranks fourth all-time in both rebounds (398) and rebounding average (13.7 per

game) by a freshman. She also captured the second- and third-best rebounding performances in the nation last year with her CIAA record-breaking 28 rebounds in the championship game against Shaw. A month before, Trahan had turned in the nation's third-best overall performance with 24 boards.

Of the 12 individuals ranked for rebounding performances last season, she was one of three freshmen, and the only player to be listed twice.

Yet the diamond in the rough that she is (3.3 GPA), one might wonder if the 6-1 Stockton, Calif., native may have quietly set individual goals regardless to what success her team may achieve.

Yet she remains unfazed by it all.

"It's nice, it makes me feel good, but I'm not going to jump for joy," said Trahan who didn't play basketball until her freshman year in high school. "Don't get me wrong. I'm happy, especially since there are so many who don't get this type of opportunity, but I'm not going to get too excited because I'm not satisfied."

Well, what would it take to please one who is admittedly hard to satisfy? After all, she garnered every accolade imaginable last year: CIAA rookie of the year, seven-time rookie of the week, all-CIAA, 2005 CIAA All-Tournament team, South Atlantic Region second team and the list goes on.

"I want our team to win, I want to win," she answered. "I was shy when last season first started. I was trying to adjust to the level of

the college game."

Then she shrugs and added: "Then I just relaxed and played ball."

Last season Trahan took both the CIAA and the NCAA by storm. She led the nation in rebounding, ranked 35th in field-goal percentage, 48th in blocked shots and 86th in scoring. In the CIAA, she ranked in the top four in rebounding (first), field goal percentage (second) and blocked shots (fourth).

According to second-year coach Tara Owens, Trahan is a pleasure to coach.

"It is amazing to me and incredibly impressive how hard this team works. If something is not quite right, it is like they will give all of themselves to make it better," she said.

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