Alexa Middleton’s long journey to Iowa State

BY JACK.SHOVER
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All her life, Alexa Middleton has had one dream — to play the sport she loves, basketball, professionally.

As a high school phenom and blue chip recruit that committed to Tennessee, Middleton’s ascent to the WNBA seemed inevitable, until her future in basketball was clouded. Through the cloud, Middleton found clarity in the fact she needed to make a change.

Record breaking snowfall hits Ames

BY DEVYN.LEESON
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Levels of snowfall were near record lows for the winter season until mid-January when weather patterns changed significantly. Now — just one month later — records for the most snowfall in central Iowa over a 35 to 40 day period could be broken.

More than nine inches of snow was recorded in the Ames area from Saturday through Sunday, and National Weather Service Meteorologist Craig Cogil said a second snow storm is forecasted to hit Ames on Tuesday, bringing up to seven inches with it.

Constant snowfall seems to keep the pressure on Ames snow operators said Justin Clausen, Public Works operations manager.

“What has happened now over the last four, five weeks is that we just get done piling up the snow before the next snowfall occurs,” Clausen said. “Typically we have time to haul away those snow piles, but when we get four-to-five inches of snow every three-to-four days, then we have these situations where the more we push, the harder it becomes to clear the streets and to find spaces to park off the street.”

Clausen said during an 80 hour period, the city of Ames had at least one person working at all times. This brings up a second issue, Clausen said. Making sure people working on snow removal get the time they need. If snow patterns continue, these problems could become worse.

To help snow plow operators in the mean-time, Clausen and city of Ames Public Relations Officer Susan Gwiasda recommend people follow the snow ordinance, which requires people with vehicles parked along designated snow routes — designated by red and white signs — to move their vehicles to routes not used by the plows.

If possible, the city also recommends people clear cars from streets not designated as snow routes and stay patient while plows move through the city.

“We do ask people to be patient because we do focus on the main arterial roads first and the residential areas second,” Gwiasda said. “So the idea would be to free up those streets for CyRide buses to drive on, for emergency vehicles to get through and, then the neighborhoods and residential areas are not the top priority when we’re starting to plow.”

Cars not in compliance with the snow ordinance can be ticketed and towed.

“After recent snow events, I would say we have seen an average of 30 cars or so towed, which is a lot but also not unusual,” Clausen said.

Emiley Birch contributed reporting to this article.
Twenty-two individuals who identify as women got on stage Thursday and Friday to perform "The Vagina Monologues" to speak about identity and experience.

The monologues cover topics such as body image, genital mutilation and reproduction. This is done through personal monologues performed by women of various ages, races and sexualities.

The performers wore all black with a piece of rope featured in their outfit. The rope was to represent the national Vagina Monologues' theme of the year, incarcerated women, and the chains that are imposed on women.

"During the show I ask you to think about a couple of things. Think about the identities that are represented and how they are represented," said Natasha Hill, one of the directors. "And think about the identities that are missing."

The performers included "My Vagina Was My Village," "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and "I Was There In The Room." "The Woman who Loved to Make Vaginas Happy," the introduction piece for the monologues.

After the introduction piece, 16 other monologues were performed including "My Vagina Was My Village," "The Little Coochi Snorcher That Could" and "I Was There In The Room."

Remaining events to celebrate Black History Month at ISU

As February wraps up, there are still a few Black History Month events being featured at Iowa State.

There will be a performance of the "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" as part of the Youth Matinee Series. The performance will take place at 10 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. in Stephens Auditorium.

This stirring drama is an accurate and deeply moving musical history lesson and a classic tribute to the courageous American who freed herself and hundreds of others from slavery," according to the Iowa State Center. The suggested grade levels for audience members is three to eight.

"A Day in the Life of a Rural African Woman" will take place in 2030 Morrill Hall from 12:10 to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Dorothy Maisine, a senior lecturer in horticulture and global resource systems, will present the lecture. "(Dorothy Maisine) has 30 years inspiring learners of all ages and cultural backgrounds," according to the event page. "Examples from a variety of learning situations in both traditional and non-traditional classrooms will be presented," according to the event page.

On Wednesday there will also be a screening of "Souls of Black Girls" in 198 Parks Library from 6 to 8 p.m. The film is made by Daphne Valerius, doctoral student at the University of Missouri in their department of communication.

The film is an "award-winning provocative news documentary that raises the question of whether or not women of color may be suffering from a self-image disorder as a result of trying to attain the standards of beauty that are celebrated in media images," according to the Souls of Black Girls website.

Also on Wednesday, ISU Jazz I will present "the 1917 riot in east St. Louis that started the civil rights movement," in the Marth-Ellen Tye Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.

"Presented in recognition of Black History Month, this concert will combine live jazz, spoken remarks, and visual presentations," according to the event page.

The summit aims at increasing students' awareness surrounding inclusion issues and developing action plans for being "agents of change" on campus.
Cloud engineering team.

The week is sponsored by a variety of companies such as Kent Nutrition Group, MidAmerican Energy, Nexteer Automotive, DPR construction and others.

Madison Kriege, a junior and executive member, has been involved with the last three Engineers’ Weeks and is one of many students who helped plan out the events throughout the week.

“E-week is all about celebrating engineers,” Kriege said. “The biggest part or most important part of that is recognizing how much work we put into all of our projects, into our research, all of the the things we showcase throughout the week. [it’s] kind of a motivational boost in the spring.”

Kriege also said she has learned a variety of things about the engineering department by being a part of the events and is excited to see all of her months of planning unfold this week.

Kathryn Paszkiewicz, a junior and co-president of Engineers’ Week, spends nearly the entire year planning for the week with other students on the committee.

“We try to make our team have a fun atmosphere, so we get a lot of work done, but we also have fun together,” Paszkiewicz said. “It’s a very good way to be involved with the college and meet a lot of different people.”

David Bane, a senior and co-president of Engineers’ Week, was the resource manager last year and said he has been taking a more active role and contributed to a lot of the planning that goes into preparing for Engineers’ Week as co-president.

“When you’re in the co-president role you have to be aware of everything that is going on with each committee,” Bane said. “So you’re kind of making sure that everyone does their job and communicating each role to each individual.”

Both Bane and Paszkiewicz said the awareness and attendance has grown every year for Engineers’ Week, and the week has established itself as an annual event at Iowa State.
Cost creates barrier to education

States need regulations to avoid cost discrimination

BY BENJAMIN WHITTINGTON
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It’s no secret the cost of higher education is one of the main barriers of entry to higher education in the United States. Many solutions to this problem have been suggested including making higher education free or encouraging students to go to other institutions like a trade school instead of a 4-year University.

While that debate rages on I think before doing either we should look first into ending the unfair price discrimination against our out of state students.

According to the university as of fall 2018, the average in-state student paid $8,870 per semester for tuition, which is one of the lowest in the nation for a school of our size and caliber. Great for in-state students but for an out-of-state student like me, the picture isn’t nearly so pretty.

In the same year, an out-of-state student pays around $11,072 a semester — a few hundred bucks less than an international student — but almost three times more than an in-state student. Now I can expect to be asked why is this a problem? According to University Statistics from September 2018 "Iowa State University’s fall 2018 enrollment is a robust 34,992. Of that number, 29,621 are undergraduates." The report also states that Iowa State has 12,279 out-of-state students and of those 10,289 are undergraduates. These insane differences in tuition costs discourage students from diverse backgrounds from attending Iowa State and universities across the nation.

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Second, CyRide should recognize that CyRide was operating on prior #25 Gold, #6 Brown, #11 Cherry, #9 Plum, #14 Peach and #25 Gold, #6 Brown, #11 Cherry, #12 Licke and #25 Gold. Before moving forward, however, CyRide needs to take a step back and recognize a additional few things.

First, CyRide 2.0 was needed. The old set of routes and policies that CyRide was operating on prior to CyRide 2.0 were not designed to handle the capacity that CyRide has grown to provide.

With that said, a year-long study may seem like a long time, but it may not have provided the clear-cut picture of how CyRide is actually utilized. A longer and broader study should have been done to best evaluate the changes that needed to happen.

Second, CyRide should recognize that negative opinions of 492 of the 7 million passengers they transport annually does not warrant changes.

Third, CyRide should also account for the personal aspect of transportation. There is more to providing a good system than offering the most routes at the cheapest price. CyRide 2.0 was an improvement on the last system. But it’s not perfect, and CyRide should continue to analyze its services and routes to ensure that it is offering the best possible transportation to Ames and Iowa State.

We should start to consider getting rid of our-out-of-state tuition altogether. This would lead to more diverse schools which could lead to more diverse states ultimately leading to a more diverse nation.

If Iowa State in particular really cares about creating and maintaining a community that is diverse both economically and racially (which we really need to work on!) then it and other universities like it, should consider supporting policies that move toward that goal.

While that debate rages on I think before doing either we should look first into ending the unfair price discrimination against our out of state students.

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**ISU golf heads to Prestige at PGA West**

**BY MATT.BELINSON**
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On Monday, Iowa State golf will head west, this time to participate in The Prestige at PGA West. Held in La Quinta, California, this will be the 19th annual Prestige at the PGA West. Iowa State finished 10th out of 16 teams the last time they were in The Prestige.

Junior Tripp Kinney tied for 52nd in the tournament (74-77) and sophomore Lachlan Barker tied for 28th in /T_h  e Prestige. Iowa State /f_i  nished 10th /f_i irst round.

Earned a 2-seed in the NCAA Tournament before losing to 15-seeded Hampton in the first round.

“The course is a strong one and I think patience on our behalf is going to be key,” Barker said. “It’s not going to be one where birdies are flying around everywhere and I think it’s a venue for a team like ours where our discipline gives us a chance to shine through.”

**Cyclones defeat No. 18 K-State to stay in title race**

**BY AARON.MARNER**
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Iowa State entered Saturday’s matchup with No. 18 Kansas State needing a win to stay in the Big 12 title race.

The Cyclones took care of business, improving to 19-6 (8-4 Big 12) on the season and keeping pace in the conference standings.

**FINISHING STRONG**

When the Cyclones lost their first matchup of the season with Kansas State, it was largely due to a cold spell to end the game. Iowa State blew a 55-48 lead with five minutes remaining, scoring two points down the stretch en route to a 58-57 loss.

Once again, Iowa State led at the game came to a close.

This time, however, Iowa State slammed the book shut.

Leading 77-76 with seven minutes to play, Iowa State slowly increased its lead.

Shayok drove in for a layup, took a foul and hit a free throw for a 3-point play. Redshirt sophomore Cameron Lard slammed home a dunk. Horton-Tucker nailed a 3-pointer.

When it was all said and done, the Cyclones had reeled off a 17-4 run that lasted until the final two minutes of the game when Kansas State finally stopped the bleeding.

Iowa State went 5-of-7 to end the game and held Kansas State without a field goal for the final 5:03.

Looking Ahead

Iowa State’s win keeps the Cyclones (8-4) locked in for the Big 12 race. Kansas State’s 9-3 record leads the league with six games to go.

Along with Iowa State and Kansas State at the top are Kansas and Texas Tech (both 9-4). Having already played one more game than Iowa State and Kansas State, those two teams each have byes this week before facing each other Saturday in Lubbock, Texas.

Iowa State has split the season series with Kansas and Kansas State.

With its win over Texas Tech in January, the Cyclones are guaranteed a spot or a sweep of Texas Tech, which could benefit the Cyclones in a tiebreaker scenario for the Big 12 Tournament.

Iowa State closes with a favorable schedule, as the Cyclones have a 75 percent chance or better in three of the final six games, per KenPom.

Additionally, the Cyclones have a 57 percent chance to win at Texas Christian (TCU) and 58 percent chance to beat Texas Tech on senior night. The March 2 matchup at Texas is a 50-50 toss-up, according to KenPom.

Iowa State hasn't won the Big 12 regular season title — in a tie or outright — since the 2000-01 season. That year, Iowa State earned a 2-seed in the NCAA Tournament before losing to 15-seeded Hampton in the first round.

**Staying alive in the Big 12**

Cyclones defeat No. 18 K-State to stay in title race
Criticism increases appreciation for art

BY TREvor.BABCOCK
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Have you ever seen a movie, loved it, then saw it panned online by critics and felt defection in your enjoyment? Did you watch a new movie, loved it, and then start to question if art you appreciate is in fact good? A common misunderstanding in the conversation of criticism is the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them, the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them, the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them, the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them, the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them, the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like them. Sometimes it can be hard to keep your cool when something you love such as a favorite movie or favorite artist’s quality is criticized. You might think the critics just like to be negative or they’re trying to hurt a favorite artist or their loved ones. A common misunderstanding in the conversation of criticism, is the critic is trying to persuade an audience into thinking just like you, they may not think it’s the right thing to do. The purpose of criticism, as I see it, is to help the audience to think deeply about the subject.

When you react to a negative review of art you appreciate, you reinforce in your mind why you appreciate the art or maybe you start to question if art you appreciate is in fact good. The greater understanding of your enjoyment begins to affect all the things we enjoy, the overall quality and creativity of art and the entertainment we seek out is furthered. Whether you wind up agreeing or disagreeing with the critic is irrelevant, as long as you thought deeply about the subject.

LIMELIGHT picks the top events for the semester

BY TANA.GAM-AD
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The weather may still be miserable outside, but that doesn’t mean you should stay inside for the rest of the semester. From Argentine tango classes, multiple Maintenance Shop shows, The Beach Boys and various conferences, Iowa State plays host to plenty of performances and events to keep students entertained and occupied. Here are some events you should keep your eye on.

GILIAN HOOLE/ IOWA STATE DAILY

Members perform their musical “A Trip Down Memory Lane” The 2019 Varieties semi-finals day took place in the Great Hall of the Memorial Union on Feb. 22.

GLOBAL GALA — MARCH 27

An event that celebrates diversity and the multiple cultures here at Iowa State, the Global Gala is one of Iowa State’s largest multicultural celebrations. The gala will feature student organizations showcasing their cultural heritage in fun and entertaining ways. Dance will be a prominent in this year’s program with performances from clubs and teams like the Bollywood Dance Club.

ISU AFTERDARK — MARCH 5, APRIL 5

A sort-of singing counterpart to Varieties, this competition features the vocal talents of Iowa State students. Traditionally, music personalities have been invited to host and perform at the event. Last year’s host was Skylar Grey, who recently featured on Macklemore’s song “Glorious.”

THE CYCLONE VOICE — APRIL 11

A sort-of singing counterpart to Varieties, this competition features the vocal talents of Iowa State students. Traditionally, music personalities have been invited to host and perform at the event. Last year’s host was Skylar Grey, who recently featured on Macklemore’s song “Glorious.”

THE SOUND OF MUSIC — MARCH 28

On March 28, the Von Trapp family will be gracing the stage of Stephens Auditorium. A beloved classic, the performance is sure to have you singing along. Tickets start at $35.

SAN FRANCISCO SYMPHONY — MARCH 29

One of the most innovative and critically acclaimed art institutions in the country, the San Francisco Symphony will be performing on March 29. The program will be a stop that you should not miss. San Francisco Symphony will be the highlight of the 50th anniversary of Stephens on March 2.

RENT” — APRIL 27

Another Stephen’s show, the popular Broadway musical will be put on as part of their 20th anniversary touring program. Seat to the production will start at $35 and the show will be here for one night only, April 27. Rent’s message of creativity and hope in the face of struggle is sure to resonate with many college students, so go out to enjoy the show and an annual competition that has been taking place since 1991.

GLOBAL GALA — MARCH 27

First up is the long-awaited finale to the long-standing Varieties tradition, which will be taking place from Feb. 22 to 23. For those who don’t know, Varieties is Iowa State’s student talent show and an annual competition that has been taking place since 1991.

Megan Petzold/ Iowa State Daily

The Iowa State Bhangra club performed a Punjabi folk dance during the Global Gala on March 23, 2018.

The Iowa State Bhangra club performed a Punjabi folk dance during the Global Gala on March 23, 2018.

DEREK HOUGH — MAY 16

The Derek Hough Live! Tour will be making a stop in Ames on May 16. Emmy Award-winning dancer Hough’s fort dance production will be sure to mesmerize as he takes the stage to perform multiple dance styles. From classical ballroom, ballet and top to more modern hip-hop and contemporary dances, Hough’s moves will be worth watching at $79.50 a ticket.

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Iowa State Daily - Monday, February 18, 2019

GROWING UP IN TENNESSEE

Despite being a native to Tennessee and later attending the school, Middleton’s allegiance didn’t always lie with the Volunteers.

As a child, Middleton said she grew up a huge Kentucky men’s basketball fan because her Dad’s side of the family is from Kentucky. Middleton first started basketball early on in life. At the age of four, Middleton played in a church-based league.

Aside from battling older kids on the church court, Middleton said she would play her older brother, Killien, who also played basketball, using their house’s hoop. At the time, Middleton said she thought she could beat Killien, but the older and bigger Killien would dominate the competitions.

Occasionally, Middleton said the competitions would turn into fights between herself and Killien.

Fast forward to her freshman year of high school, and Middleton had already received her first offer from then-North Carolina State head coach Kerrie Harper, who is now Missouri State’s head coach.

Middleton said Harper had been watching one of her team’s games when she received the offer.

“I try to think about this, I can’t think of a time where it was like it hit me like ‘Oh, I can play college basketball,’ it was like that was always the expectation, like there was never a time that I doubted that I could play college basketball,” Middleton said.

As Middleton continued to play AAU basketball, more and more attention and letters from coaches and programs began to pour in.

Coupled with her success on the AAU circuit, Middleton also started all four years at Riverdale High School.

In her sophomore year, Middleton said Riverdale had such a talented roster that the starting five and the first two players off of the bench went to Division I schools. Over the course of her high school career, Middleton felt her confidence and leadership skills grow from being around such talented players.

BECOMING A LADY VOL

Middleton averaged 17 points, 4.2 rebounds and 3.4 assists her senior year and ranked as Tennessee’s No. 29 recruit in the nation and No. 4 guard by ESPN.

As such a coveted recruit, Middleton said it proved to be a hard decision on what college she would be attending.

In the end, Middleton narrowed her decision down to LSU, Ole Miss and Tennessee.

With her decision down to three teams, Middleton said she made a hard decision and chose Tennessee.

She said some of the reasons she chose the Lady Vols over the other schools was the fact she wanted to win a national championship, it was her home state’s college and she felt her best opportunity would come in Knoxville.

Ultimately, Middleton said she is a team player and felt the opportunity to be part of a solid team was too strong.

“Basically, I’m saying there is where I could be the go-to scorer, but that’s never really been who I am,” Middleton said.

Being a blue-chip recruit allowed Middleton to participate in the McDonald’s All-American game in Chicago. Middleton won the 3-point contest during the weekend.

“Just was so much fun, all of the great players there. I laugh now because like I’m still in college, but the guys that were there in the same age group they’ve been in the NBA for three, four years now,” Middleton said.

Some notable male attendees were Karl-Anthony Towns, D’Angelo Russell, Myles Turner and Devin Booker.

Coming into her inaugural season at Tennessee, Middleton had high expectations for herself.

“I felt like I had a lot to prove. I felt like I could be a lot of help right off the bat. I felt like I could bring a lot from a hockey upbringing, to know how to win and I felt like I could add that to the team,” Middleton said.

After two seasons of her own personal expectations, Middleton said people expected her to be on the floor and make an impact as an true freshman.

During her freshman year, Middleton said she didn’t feel any pressure because of her strong support system and senior class.

Initially, Middleton said she loved basketball and it brought her joy, but her experience at Tennessee didn’t turn out how she thought it would and her love for the game began to fade.

At Tennessee, Middleton appeared in 97 games, but only started 13 of them and averaged 4.9 points, 1.7 rebounds, 1.6 assists during her three years there.

Her sophomore year was her most accomplished year, having made a team best 42 3-pointers while shooting at a 38.9 clip, which was the team’s best percentage from three. She averaged eight points on the season.

MOVING ON

Middleton said she has mixed feelings on whether she made the right choice in Tennessee.

“That’s a hard question and I think about that a lot,” Middleton said. “Yes and no because I feel like I wouldn’t be who I am today if I hadn’t done that and went there. There was a lot of hard things there, so that’s probably the no.”

The said the reason her experience soured is that she didn’t have the opportunity to be the player she expected and saw herself becoming.

Middleton said she thought she could have done more and wishes the team asked more of her.

Middleton said the part which weighed on her mind was she knew what she could be, but she couldn’t be that at Tennessee.

“Once I realized I wasn’t happy mentally, I knew I needed to make some changes because it’s not in this right place,” Middleton said.

Overall, Middleton said she felt there were a lot of moments that lead to her transfer decision.

Of all the moments, Middleton said there is one she remembers more than the others.

She said an employee of the University of Tennessee, a person Middleton was close to and valued the opinion of, sat her down and told her she should “probably start thinking about other career options” aside from basketball.

Middleton said playing professional basketball had always been her goal and she felt that it was achievable, so what she was told was something she thought she would never hear.

After the sit-down, Middleton felt like she was challenged more to believe in herself.

After announcing she was transferring, Middleton visited the likes of Florida State, Florida Gulf Coast, Belmont University and Iowa State, which was her final visit.

When team members did explore Middleton’s desire to transfer, head coach Bill Fennelly was present. Fennelly said his assistant coach Billy Fennelly was on the phone in 20 minutes and he tried to get ahold of someone to contact Middleton.

Eventually, Fennelly said Iowa State was able to get connected with Middleton’s coach and parents.

In an effort to get Middleton to Iowa State, the coaching staff laid out a plan from the day she arrived to Ames and she has enjoyed it and pitched it to Middleton and her parents.

On the visit, Fennelly said Middleton’s parents, Celeste and Michael, felt Ames would be a good place for her.

“(Middleton’s parents) get it,” Fennelly said.

“They think differently than some parents. I mean they want her to be successful, but they want her to be pushed but also feel like she’s being treated fairly, but they understand the coaches are going to demand things of you.”

Middleton said the comfort level with the University, coaching staff and how the team would take care of Middleton.

In her new home, Middleton said she looked forward to having a team of close friends and members and for a genuine relationship with the coaches, which she felt she didn’t have at Tennessee.

On Middleton’s visit, now teammate and friend Meredith Burkhalter hosted her. Burkhalter, a senior from Urbandale, Iowa, said it was difficult to get to know each other but began to get to know each other and bond.

“I found she was mentally relieved, I think she was ready to come here, settle down, be somewhere where she wanted to be, be happy and be comfortable with us,” Burkhalter said. “I think once she got here it was a big weight lifted off of her shoulders.”

Middleton said Iowa State snagged the former McDonald’s All-American.

“We got lucky. Sometimes in recruiting you get lucky, sometimes you get unlucky, sometimes you catch a break and we caught a big break,” Fennelly said.

THE FINAL SEASON

Since coming to Iowa State, Middleton said mentally she feels a “thousand times better” than the feel of Tennessee.

Even though Middleton sat out a year, Fennelly said he thought the team could have gotten a waiver to make Middleton immediately eligible.

Instead, he sat down with her and made it clear she is the point guard for the team of the next year, and Middleton trusted that part.

“Even just last year playing on the practice team like I just had so much fun, it was like I look forward to practice every single day on the court,” Middleton said. “It made me happy again, like it was what I wanted [basketball] to be.”

Even though she began to regain her love for the game, Middleton said it was still hard sitting on the bench during games when she felt she could help the team out and she felt like she was living the same day over and over.

Eventually, she said she was thinking about her sitting out since she had been competing at such a high level for such a long time, but those worries were alleviated.

Fennelly said the sit-out year allowed Middleton to just play and display her skill set and toughness to her new teammates. In addition, Middleton was tasked on the scout team to play as the opposing team’s best player.

During those practices, Middleton said she was able to gain back her confidence and work on shooting off the dribble and dribbling.

Middleton visited Tennessee as a recruiting prospect with the expectation of potentially getting a waiver to make Middleton immediately eligible.

“Middleton was primarily used as a spot-up shooter and Middleton said she had to get used to playing the point position at such a high level for such a long time, but those worries were alleviated.

Fennelly said the sit-out year allowed Middleton to just play and display her skill set and toughness to her new teammates. In addition, Middleton was tasked on the scout team to play as the opposing team’s best player.

During those practices, Middleton said she was able to regain back her confidence and work on shooting off the dribble and dribbling. At Tennessee, Middleton was primarily used as a spot-up shooter and Middleton said she had to get used to playing the point position. In her new home, Middleton said she looked forward to having a team of close friends and members and for a genuine relationship with the coaches, which she felt she didn’t have at Tennessee.