

LAUREN DUMSDAY

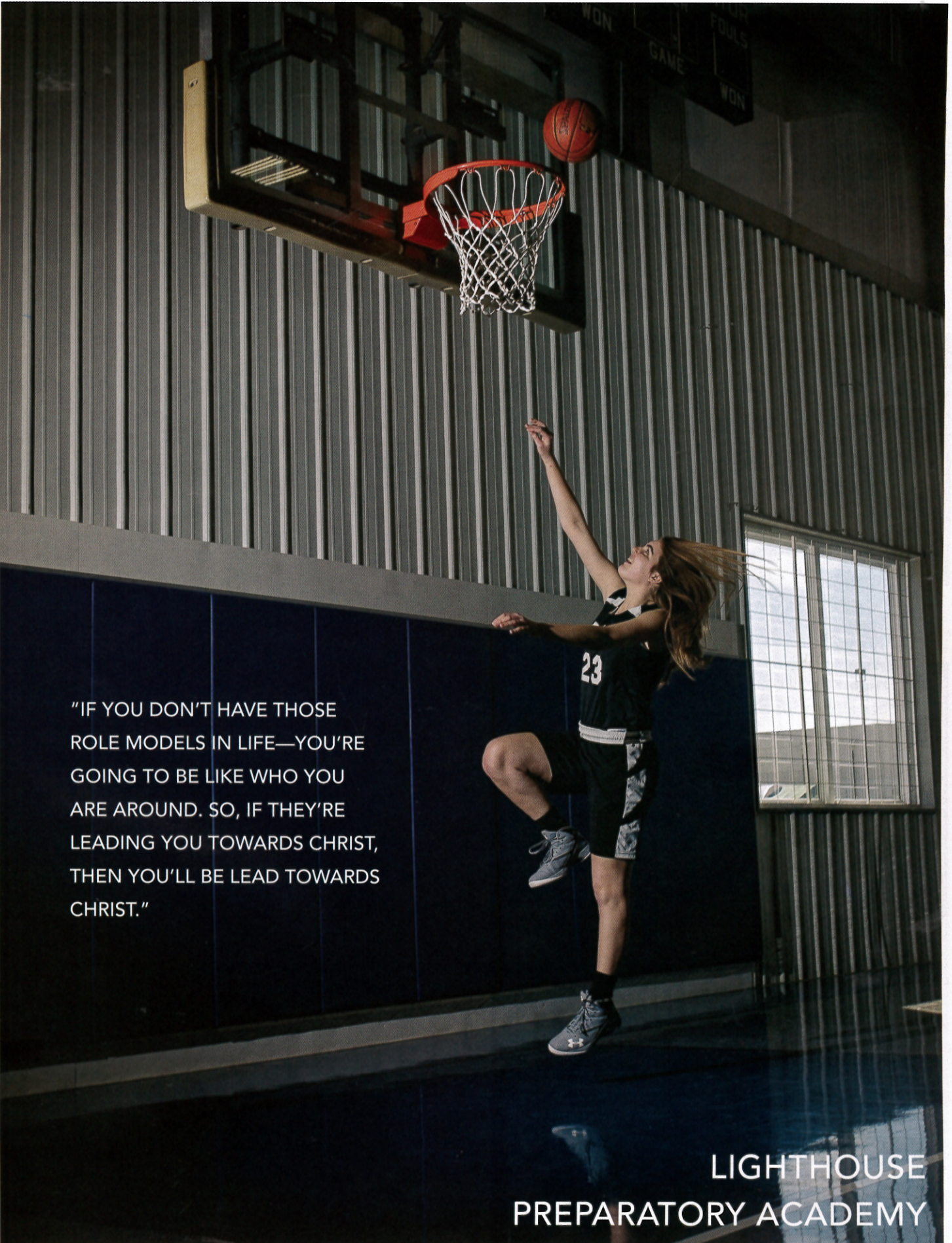
PLAYING A POSITIVE POSITION

By Lisa Kaitlyn | Photos by Kiley Hartzler

There is something to be said about being a part of a team. The community it builds is more than just a group of people brought together by having something in common. It is that group brought together by a common love of the game committing to each other to train together and collectively pursue set goals. Lighthouse Preparatory Academy junior Lauren Dumsday knows what it means to be a part of a team three times over, playing on the school's basketball, volleyball, and soccer teams.

To say that Lauren Dumsday stays active would be an understatement. Lauren stays on her toes between basketball, soccer, volleyball, school, babysitting, and photography (when she gets the chance). We sat down with Lauren to talk about being a part of the LPA girls' basketball team, starting with what draws her to the sport. The post position player put it simply, "It's fun!"

Beyond the joy that comes from playing the game, Lauren expressed that her favorite part about it all is being a part of the team. She loves hanging out with the girls on her team and has the upmost admiration for the



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LIGHTHOUSE
PREPARATORY ACADEMY



LAUREN HOPES TO CONTINUE PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE IN THE LIVES OF YOUNGER ONES AS AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER, AFTER ATTAINING AN ELEMENTARY EDUCATION DEGREE IN COLLEGE.

LPA girls' basketball coach, Beth Alexander. She enthused, "My coach is amazing and she's just fun to be around." Lauren appreciates Coach Beth's qualities of being fun and relatable for her and her teammates. Above the skills she teaches the Lady Eagles on the court, Coach Beth is teaching Lauren and her teammates about godly character. Lauren said, "She's just a really good godly example for us, as well as a role model." From the perspective of a player looking up to her coach, Lauren could not say enough about the importance of having such exemplary leaders like Coach Beth. She continued, "If you don't have those role models in life—you're going to be like who you are around. So, if they're leading you towards Christ, then you'll be lead towards Christ."

Lauren enjoys attending LPA for the teachers and the overall positivity that play into the makeup of school's environment. She, herself, strives to be a positive role model in everything she does; as a teammate, student, babysitter, and especially a friend. As a part of a tight-knit team, for Lauren, being a good friend and being a good teammate coincide. To be a good friend, for her, means being ready to listen, as well as constantly encouraging and offering advice to one another. She emphasized

the importance of listening to her friends. "Sometimes they just want to get things off their chest. Even if they don't want a response, they just want to know that somebody is there for them." Like Coach Beth is there for her, Lauren hopes that her fellow students see her as a positive encourager and godly example. She cites her parents as being good godly examples for her and her three siblings as well. They have taught her about being confident in who she is.

In her free time, Lauren loves babysitting. She shared, "Children are so fun. They are just like little joys! They're always so happy, usually." When she is around them, she always wants to set a good example, always being positive and encouraging. Lauren hopes to continue playing a positive role in the lives of younger ones as an elementary school teacher, after attaining an elementary education degree in college. She is not sure where her journey will take her, though she has considered College of the Ozarks in Point Lookout, Missouri. Wherever she ends up, we know she will continue to play a positive role, no matter what position she is in, be it babysitter, teammate, teacher, or friend.