

ALLEN RETURNS TO HER ROOTS

By Daniella Solares

Jenna Allen has always wanted to play in the Big Ten from the day her father placed her on the basketball court at age nine. Jenna's father, a former basketball player for DePauw University, has always loved the game. At first, Jenna said she only played for her dad. As time went by, she grew to love basketball just as much as he does.

The Hoosier left Indiana to attend Michigan State for the chance to play in the Big Ten Tournament. Coming back to play this year is like a homecoming for Allen. Winning it would be like being crowned homecoming queen. In addition, when Allen first looked at Michigan State, she wanted it to feel like home because she is a family-orientated person. "Michigan State felt like a family atmosphere," Allen recalls, "and it really stood out from other colleges." MSU has provided her with a second family for almost four years now as graduation is just around the corner.

Being a college student has added other factors to the game that can be stressful. "Basketball has taught me how to manage my time," she explained, "because I had to keep up good grades and be on a team." The basketball player reflected further and mentioned how the game has made her a disciplined and dedicated person.

After winning the Most Improved Player Award at the 2018 banquet, Allen said it felt great to be recognized. The Spartan says she has devoted herself to the game and wants

to end senior year with a bang. She hopes to take it to the next level after graduation: professional basketball. The Big Ten Tournament is just the tip of the iceberg for this prodigy.