

Freshman of the Week Leads Northwestern to a Spectacular Win

By Katelyn Kim

Jillian Brown played high school basketball for East Grand Rapids as a Pioneer. During her time there, she earned more than 1,000 career points and many awards. Some of those include State Champs Net Player of the Year and Prep Girls Hoops Player of the Year. Jillian's influence on the team was very important; the overall record the Pioneers had during Jillian Brown's seasons was 63-6. Jillian was a finalist in Michigan Ms. Basketball while she was a senior at East Grand Rapids. As a graduating senior, Jillian received many offers to play basketball at various colleges. However, Jillian decided to choose Northwestern over Michigan, Penn State and Rutgers, all schools with great basketball programs.

Jillian Brown scored a three pointer as her first career points at Northwestern against Illinois Chicago on November 10, 2021. She has continued to play well throughout this season and has played at least ten minutes in each game. One game that Jillian Brown especially excelled in was the double overtime win against the No. 4 ranked Michigan team. The Wildcats had not beaten a team ranked that high since 1982. Jillian Brown was essential to Northwestern's win as the top scorer with a career high of 18 points. During the game, Jillian had an amazing performance making several season highs in just one game: Points (18), Minutes (46), Field Goals Made (7), Blocks (2), and Steals (3). Jillian was also chosen as the Big Ten Freshman of the Week on February 14, 2022. There hasn't been a Northwestern Freshman of the Week since February 26, 2018 when Lindsey Pulliam was chosen.

Jillian comes from a family of basketball stars. Olivia Brown is her older sister, who is playing basketball at Valparaiso University. They also have a younger sister, Macy Brown, who has verbally committed to playing basketball at Michigan. That will make next year interesting since those sisters will be playing on opposite sides in their Big Ten matchups. We look forward to seeing Jillian earning more awards and leading Northwestern to many more spectacular victories!