



Thank you for using our printer friendly story page.

[Return to story](#)

## WSJ All-Area girls basketball: Versatile Zastrow a 'perfect' fit for Badgers

**NICK ZIZZO**

608-252-6167

March 24, 2007

Growing up together, Caitlin Gibson played basketball against Lin Zastrow in middle school. They later became teammates at Jefferson High School and won a WIAA Division 2 state title in 2005.

Suffice to say, Gibson is as close as it gets as an authority on Zastrow's development over the years.

"She was a shrimp back then," Gibson said of Zastrow's middle school days.

"I think the summer coming into her freshman year is when she really started playing her best in summer league and tournaments. She really showed that she had mature abilities for her age."

The two will be reunited next season as teammates for the University of Wisconsin women's basketball team. But not before Zastrow finds suitable packing material for the constant arrival of postseason awards. Zastrow, a 6-foot-4 forward, followed up her Associated Press and Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Year honors by becoming the Wisconsin State Journal All-Area Player of the Year for girls basketball.

"She's worked hard at it and that's the bottom line," Gibson added. "She's not one of these players that just sloughs off." Indeed, Zastrow, who fancied herself a perimeter player, was used inside and out this season for the Eagles (22-2). She feels she's a better player for it.

"I never liked being a post (before), I never liked having people around me. But this year I had to get used to it because I'm the tallest person," said Zastrow, who averaged 20.3 points and 10.9 rebounds per game this season. "I got used to triple teams and stuff like that so now I'm more comfortable with both positions."

UW coach Lisa Stone must feel like a laboratory scientist, devising ways to incorporate Zastrow's diverse talents.

"You look at her size and her length and her abilities, she's Brian Butch-like and Alando Tucker combined," Stone said, referencing the starting forwards on the UW men's basketball team. "She can step out and shoot the 3, she's athletic enough to play inside. Because we run the swing offense, I can post her up, I can stretch her to (small forward), I can get her on a slash with her backcut. She's a great passer, has great feel for the game.

"She's a *perfect* fit for our system."

Zastrow burst onto the state scene during a WIAA state semifinal victory over Holmen.

The then-sophomore posted a triple-double with 16 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocked shots and concluded the tournament run with an all-divisions record 17 blocks.

"I just go out there and play my game," Zastrow said. "Play all positions as best as I can and wherever they need me."

See PDFs of the Wisconsin State Journal All-Area girls basketball teams:  
[Page 1](#) [Page 3](#)

### Return to story

[madison.com](#) is operated by Capital Newspapers, publishers of the Wisconsin State Journal, The Capital Times, Agri-View and Apartment Showcase. All contents Copyright ©2007, Capital Newspapers. All rights reserved.