

Heather Buck

2022 Spotlight Recipient

Heather Buck grew up in the town of Stonington. She discovered her love of basketball playing in recreational leagues, learning from volunteer coaches and by regularly watching UConn women's games. She went on to play at Stonington High School, graduating in 2008 with a program record 2,205 points and 1,406 rebounds.

During her freshman year, the team was Class M runner's up. Fueled by that loss the team returned to the championship game in her sophomore year, winning the 2006 Class M State Championship. During her high school career, Heather was a four-time All-State selection and twice chosen as the CHSCA State Player of the Year, first in 2006 and again in 2008. She was also the Gatorade Connecticut Girls' Basketball Player of the year in 2007 and 2008.

Heather continued her playing career at UConn. After an early season illness required her to sit out the first month of games, she took a medical redshirt, competing with the team only in practice for the remainder of her freshman season. She was part of the program's 90-game win streak from 2008-2010 which, at the time, established an NCAA record for both men's and women's basketball. In the midst of that streak, Heather memorably took the floor during her junior season as the team trailed Baylor and their 6'8" star Brittney Griner. She defended Griner mightily in the final eight minutes as the Huskies came back and won 65-64.

During the course of her five years at UConn, the team competed in five straight Final Fours and won the National Championship in each of their appearances in 2009, 2010 and 2013. Heather was named the Outstanding Senior Scholar Athlete in 2013 prior to graduating with her Nursing degree with Honors. After graduation, she began working as a bedside nurse in the Emergency Department at Connecticut Children's in Hartford and is now in nursing leadership in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. She has also enjoyed her time working and volunteering at The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Whenever possible, she can be found passing on her basketball knowledge as a volunteer assistant with the Conard girls' basketball team in her hometown of West Hartford.