

A girl with goals

**Brittany
Godsey**

By Jill Oliver

Photography by Daniel Giles

Remember this scene from the 1991 movie, *Father of the Bride*: Steve Martin and Kimberly Williams are George and Annie Banks, a father and daughter who are cementing their already close relationship with a game of basketball. The montage depicts the passing of two decades spent by the pair building this very special relationship by playing basketball together. That scene has been a reality of life for one young woman from Rogersville.

Brittney Godsey literally grew up on the basketball court with her dad.

"He taught me everything about basketball and helped me to develop a love for the game. I started playing organized ball when I was in the first grade, and I've played every year since. I just come from a very sports-oriented family," she says.

Her 13-year-old brother, Connor is her biggest fan. He comes to all her games, as long as they don't conflict with his own team sports.

Brittney is a member of the University of North Alabama women's basketball team. She is No. 22, a guard for the Lady Lions. As a sophomore at UNA, Brittney majors in English and dreams about a career that revolves around basketball. She has considered a profession outside of sports, but just doesn't think she could stay away from the game.

"I love everything about it. So, I keep coming back to some sort of coaching career. It would keep me on the court and active, which is what I want."

Sports has had a positive impact on her life.

She played every summer for years with the AAU (a nationwide league). As a member of that highly competitive league, Brittney was part of three national competitions and drew the interest of the women's basketball coach at UNA.

At UNA on a four-year basketball scholarship and a partial academic scholarship, Brittney is already living a dream. But that's not the only benefit of being involved in team sports.

"Every time I get the chance, I encourage young girls to get involved with some sort of athletics. The benefits are endless and touch every facet of your life. I've made friends on the court that I will have forever. The camaraderie that we share as a team is great, too. When you are thrown together with many different people from equally diverse backgrounds, you are forced to learn to deal with one another and get along together."

She has dedication and steel determination when it comes to reaching her goals.