

Brownsburg basketball, softball star senior gets comeback award



Alexandra Shipley will attend Grace College in Winona Lake, Ind., this fall to continue playing softball. She plans to become an athletic trainer. / Submitted photo



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Alexandra Shipley, a senior and a basketball and softball athlete at Brownsburg High School, has been given the December Comeback Athlete Award by Methodist Sports Medicine / The Orthopedic Specialists.

Shipley tore her anterior cruciate ligament in a basketball game during her sophomore year, had surgery in December 2009 and missed the rest of the season as well as the school softball season in the spring. After rehabilitation, she was able to play, with a brace, some softball beginning in June 2010 and for the school basketball season.

She helped her basketball team advance to the Class 4A Indianapolis Tech Sectional in 2011. The team won 20 games that season, a feat matched by only four other squads in Brownsburg girls' basketball history. After

that, she was able to shed the brace.

"She has become a stronger, more confident person and has overcome the obstacle of having a torn ACL," said her mother, Tonia Sampson.

Shipley will attend Grace College in Winona Lake, Ind., this fall to continue playing softball. She plans to become an athletic trainer.

The Comeback Athlete Award is given monthly to an Indiana high school or college athlete who has overcome adversity or injury and returned to excel beyond expectations in his or her respective sport.

Student athletes must compete in designated seasons of boys tennis, cross country, football, girls golf, soccer, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, swimming, baseball, boys golf, girls tennis, softball or track.

To nominate a comeback athlete from Indiana, visit www.comebackathlete.com. Nominations should include one to two sentences describing why the student should win and the nature of the injury or adversity that the student athlete overcame.

Comeback Athletes of the Month receive an Under Armour workout shirt and recognition at the Thomas A. Brady, MD Comeback Scholarship Award ceremony in the spring. Monthly recipients also are invited to apply for the annual scholarship award.