

Marty McHone Female Athlete of the Year

The award was re-named in 2003 after former Iowa Games Athlete of the Year Marty McHone, who died of cancer in 2002.

Four Games....11 Hours....Gold Medal

Heather Ezell, a member of the 2008 Summer Iowa Games adult women's basketball gold medal winning team, "Twister Sisters," has been named the Iowa Games 2008 Marty McHone Female Athlete of the Year. Ezell was much more than a player during the 2008 Summer Iowa Games. She volunteered her time as a basketball venue coordinator during the regional competitions in June as well as during the finals in July.

The Iowa Games competition offered her team an opportunity to play against some talented women's basketball teams while testing the team's endurance. The team had its first of three games for the day at 9:00 am and didn't play for the Gold Medal until 8:00 pm. The "Twister Sisters" were pleasantly surprised by the high level of competition that played in the tournament. The team had to overcome a tight game with an overtime win to earn their gold medals.

Ezell isn't new to the State Games although it has been awhile since she competed. Her first State Games appearance was in the Show-Me State Games when she was ten years old. Ezell is originally from Springfield, Missouri where she was named 2005 Miss Show-Me basketball. Her high school highlights include winning two state championships, four district titles and an impressive 113-7 record during her four-year career.

Heather decided to make the move north to attend school where she is majoring in Management and Marketing at Iowa State University. She has become a standout for the Cyclone Women's basketball team and a team leader both on and off the court. Iowa State University head women's basketball coach Bill Fennelly stated, "Heather is the kind of young person that draws people to the sport of women's basketball. She is always giving it her all and performs to the highest standards. Sports have allowed her to impact the lives of others."

Entering the upcoming season she already has several collegiate awards and honors to her name. Among her college highlights are two NCAA Tournament appearances, being named to the 2008 Big 12 All-Tournament Team, being named to the Big 12 All-Freshman team and was a member of the 2006 Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll. Ezell has her sights set on adding additional honors to her name as she enters her senior season.

Ezell is optimistic about continuing her basketball career beyond "Cyclone Country". Her goal is to compete in the women's basketball league overseas.

Heather Ezell's commitment and accomplishments in the sport of basketball as well as her volunteerism for the sport have earned her the Iowa Games 2008 Marty McHone Female Athlete of the Year and our nomination for 2008 National Female Athlete of the Year.