

Numbers won't define North Jersey's next girls basketball star | Cooper

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RIDGEFIELD PARK – There were a couple of catch-and-shoot 3-pointers, a few put-backs and one nifty up-and-under drive for a lay-up.

Rylie Theuerkauf only played about 15 minutes in Tenafly's season-opening win over Ridgefield Park on Friday night, but she showed her full potential. Afterwards, she didn't know how many points she scored. She said she didn't care.

"Not at all," she laughed.

But it may be time for the rest of North Jersey to start caring.

For the record, Theuerkauf, a 5-foot-8 junior, scored 31 points against the Scarlets, raising her career total to 1,098. At this pace, averaging more than 27 per game in her career, she looks like the next 2,000-point scorer in North Jersey. At the moment, there are only 14 Bergen County players who have reached that milestone.

When we add up her career numbers, we'll also have to note that one of her seasons was shortened thanks to COVID-19.



The daughter of one of North Jersey's most respected track coaches, Demarest's Mike Theuerkauf, Rylie brings a team-first, everything-else-second approach to the court.

"She does everything," Tenafly girls' basketball coach Devin Feeney said. "She rebounds. She plays defense. She is such a hard worker. She is the first one at practice, the last one to leave. She just loves basketball and it shows."