

Cimador breaking records, keeping Fairfield Ludlowe in FCIAC girls basketball postseason chase

By Daniel Gardella, *Staff writer* Feb 13, 2025



Kate Cimador, of Fairfield Ludlowe is photographed during a girls high school basketball game against Fairfield Warde on January 31, 2025.

Arnold Gold/Hearst Connecticut Media

As the Fairfield Ludlowe girls basketball team heads into the stretch run of the regular season, the Falcons (11-6, 7-5 FCIAC) have found themselves in a four-team battle for the final three FCIAC playoff berths thanks to a four-game losing streak after jumping out to a 9-2 start to the season.

“I think we have a lot of girls who haven’t played a lot of varsity yet. That takes time to gel, find roles,” Ludlowe head coach Greg Roderick said. “You’re almost resetting to get the chemistry going. It’s been challenging, but I still have faith.”

Amid the slide, Falcon senior Kate Cimador has established herself as one of the premier scorers in the state. The Bentley-bound guard became the school’s record-holder for both points in a single game as well as points in her high school career.

Cimador scored a team-record 40 points along with six three-pointers against Danbury on Jan. 7. Against St. Joseph on Jan. 23, Cimador set the school record with nine three-pointers while becoming the program's all-time leading scorer. Earlier this week she became the first in the girls program to surpass 1,000 points. These scoring outburst are a handful of many this season, and teams are beginning to take notice.

“With some of her crazy scoring games it has been really impressive. Now what’s happening is teams are watching the tape. Everyone’s got HUDL,” Roderick said. “They see that we don’t have a lot of scoring options, so they are really squeezing her.”

Rather than shying away from the double teaming, face-guarding, and extensive pressure, she welcomes the challenge, a test she often saw while playing AAU.

“In AAU it was really good because we played some really great teams. I played against tons of Division I girls and their defense is amazing,” Cimador said. “That pressure definitely helped me for these types of situations. I think that level of intensity has helped me here. I’m happy I got to experience that first.”

Roderick believes that Cimador’s game will transition well to the college level given the extra attention she has garnered this season.

Along with her duties as a scorer, Cimador has risen to one of the leaders on the team, hoping to guide the underclassmen with the same energy she recalls in her early days at Ludlowe, which resulted in an FCIAC championship and an appearance in a state championship game.

“The [upperclassmen] brought me in, they would explain things that I was confused about as a freshman and a sophomore,” Cimador said. “They were there as a friend and as a teammate so I could always lean on them.”

Cimador’s leadership role further took a step forward following the loss of junior guard Paige Killbride to a knee injury early in the season.

“It was such a terrible loss. She was our point guard, she sees the floor well, so it was a hard adjustment,” Cimador said. “But I think we were able to get through it, but we have to keep pushing. The young girls have really been able to step up, so it’s been amazing. When Cimador isn’t setting school records, the guard, along with several of her friends, help run “Full Court Peace,” a community-based initiative in which money is raised to help support communities with basketball equipment.

“We hosted a three-on-three tournament in the gym at Ludlowe. It was five dollars per person, and we used that as a way to make money,” Cimador said. “We did one last year, it was a lot of fun. We had music playing and the kids had a lot of fun. We are trying to figure some other stuff out, like running a shoe drive so I’m really excited about that.”

Once her time at Ludlowe concludes, Cimador will head to Bentley to study either marketing or management. She credited her instant connection to the coaching staff as one of the main selling points during her recruitment.

“I loved the players and the coaching staff, and you want to go somewhere where you are wanted,” Cimador said. “The coach showed interest in me, and I really clicked with her and the rest of the team.”

As the season winds down, it's difficult for Cimador to not look at her team's placement in the conference standings and hope she has an opportunity to add another FCAIC title to her Ludlowe legacy.

"I want to say I don't, but it's my senior season and I would love to make FCIACs," Cimador said, "It's something that's definitely been on my mind and I really think we can."