JENNIFER HARRIS

From the time she was in sixth grade, Jennifer Harris was recruited by scores of colleges and universities in recognition of her exceptional athletic talent. Harris graduated in 2003 as the most decorated player in Central Dauphin High School history, and still holds the school record as all time leading scorer of 2,191 points. At Central Dauphin, Harris garnered a host of basketball honors, including recognition as a McDonald's All-American, WBCA All-American, two-time *Parade Magazine* All-American, four-time Nike All-American, *USA Today* All-American, Blue Chip All-American, and Gatorade 2003 Pennsylvania High School Player of the Year. She was a four year member of the National Honor Society and President's Academic Award recipient.

In choosing a college, Harris and her parents sought an institution that would permit her to fulfill her dream of attending medical school and becoming a pediatrician, and give her an opportunity to play on a leading intercollegiate women's basketball team for four years. On November 13, 2002, Penn State offered Harris a full scholarship to attend Penn State and play for the Lady Lions, the university's women's intercollegiate basketball team.

Harris was among the Lady Lion's leading players in points scored, assists, and steals during her 2005 sophomore season. She played in every game during her freshman and sophomore years at Penn State, and started 22 of the 30 games played during the 2004-2005 season. Of the players eligible to return this year, Harris led the team in points scored, three-point shots, free throws, assists, and steals. While still a sophomore, Harris was the 22nd highest scoring player in the Big Ten Conference in 2004-2005.

Throughout her time at Penn State, Harris maintained a winning athletic performance and met all academic requirements. Despite her accomplishments, Harris was dismissed from the team in March 2005. Harris has filed an action in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania asserting that she was expelled from the team and forced to leave Penn State because Portland discriminated against her because of race, gender, and perceived sexual orientation.

Harris transferred to James Madison University in the fall of 2005 so that she could continue playing basketball. Under NCAA rules, a player who transfers to another school typically must skip a year before they are eligible to compete again. Harris' complaint alleges that Penn State withheld the permission she needed to play for James Madison this year until it was too late to obtain a waiver from the NCAA. She will be eligible to play her final two seasons beginning in the fall of 2006.

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