

## **Nick Caudill**

Scoring average: **7 points a game**

3-pointers (makes/attempts/pct.): 22/58- 37.9% from 3 point line

Averages 1.5 steals and 2.6 assists a game

OK, tell me what makes Nick a special player. Why is he deserving of a feature?

**Nick Caudill is a young man who does not possess the god given athletic ability some people do. He instead must outsmart and outwork people to get the job done. He relies on positioning over quickness to play outstanding defense, he relies on box outs not jumping ability to get rebounds, and he relies on taking charges not blocking shots to get stops.**

**Nick was cut as a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grader, but rather than complain and blame the coaches for making a mistake, Nick took a long hard look in the mirror and examined what he had to do to improve himself because he knew that the coaches were looking for specific skills players could bring to the team and that they would keep the best players.**

**Between his 8<sup>th</sup> grade and freshman years Nick lost twenty pounds due to a strict regimen of running and lifting. He began to look more like an athlete although he still couldn't play a lick.**

**He was kept as the last man on the team his freshmen year, because as Coach Scott Morrison said "I cannot cut a kid who works that hard every single day." He had ups and downs that year and mostly sat the bench.**

**His sophomore year brought more of the same. He was kept on the team because of his overall dedication to the program and his own personal improvement, not just showing up to the lifting, open gyms and running but the tenacity he approached everything we did with. He played five minutes a game on JV as a sophomore.**

**The End of sophomore year is typically decision time for high school athletes. They either cash it in and consider other ways to spend their time or they decide they are going to try to do something to leave a mark.**

**Nick Caudill decided he was going to do the best job he could to leave a mark. The first day after the season ended his sophomore year he asked me to open up the gym for him so he could shoot. This is not something that is unusual, as kids want to show the coach that they love their sport and want to remain focused for the offseason. It was unusual though that he asked me to do the same thing the following 200 days.**

**The type of work that went into the changes in Nick Caudill's game, that occurred the summer between his sophomore and junior years, gives me chills when I think about it. A slow, pudgy kid who didn't play much on the JV team a year earlier now was beginning to look like a basketball player by September. His jump shot now was more fluid and he could get it off quickly now. He had turned himself into a shooter! His work in the weight room had paid off as well and he was not so slow afoot, although he was not a speed demon by any means. He appeared much more graceful running and began to make all of our timed runs well-before the mandated time.**

**More importantly it was during this time, that he began to see the light. And by the light I am not talking about a light in reference to basketball. I am talking about seeing what you can get out of life if you are willing to pay the price for it. For Nick, it wasn't stardom or the spotlight; it was a spot on the varsity roster. And that was the greatest success story that occurred during our 2008-2009 basketball season. Again, Nick sat the bench on varsity without complaint, played some JV and grinded out the season. His hard work had earned him his first varsity letter.**

**Spring 2009- Nick had already emerged as a leader late into the 2008-2009 season, not for his play, but for his consistency and his dependability. Nick had earned that right of respect. He carried that over into our morning and afternoon spring/fall conditioning which begins in late March every year.**

**Nick began a normal day by waking up at 4:30 or so and getting everything ready for the day. He then would drive around Delaware picking up other players who did not have a ride. This usually was four to five kids. He knew he had to get the kids to workouts on time because if you are late you get locked out. If he was late, 5 to 6 guys got locked out, so it was large responsibility.**

**Once he got to school Nick had to take care of his own studies and also “tend the flock.” During his study halls and even during lunch, Nick tutors our other players, several of whom struggle mightily with school. After school, Nick has the driving responsibilities again taking several players home, coupled with practice, his homework, and potentially study sessions with our other players.**

**How valuable is he to this year’s team? You’ve got Bingaya’s all-around game and running the show, you’ve got Coleman’s scoring and rebounding, Yogi’s defense and Potters scoring and rebounding. Then there’s Parsons’ shooting (and Butts’ defense). What does Nick give you that none of those players can give you?.**

**His Leadership and his ability to get everyone to buy into the team concept might be the most important thing a young team needs. These boys care about winning above all else and that is a tribute to him and the type of young man he is.**

**A first time attendee to our practice could easily figure out who our senior captain is. He shouts instruction, provides praise when needed, and gets on kids whose effort is not up to par. Simply put he is a leader. At practice, Nick has always given his all and even though he is an extremely shy and quiet kid by nature, when he speaks our boys are silent.**

**Nick Caudill is a 3.8 student taking several advanced placement courses, is a member of the National Honor Society, and also a peer tutor. He**

**has not missed a practice in his four years at Hayes, and has only missed one workout out of over 1, 000. (Had a 103 degree temperature)**

**4 players currently playing in our program were ineligible due to grades this past spring. With his help they are all currently eligible and more than one of them are key varsity players.**

**Nick is our glue guy who keeps everything together. The reason why our chemistry is so good and why our boys play so unselfishly can be directly attributed to him. He counsels, listens and prepares a very young team to compete every day in practice**

**He has turned himself into a player and he currently is in the top 5 in central Ohio in 3 point field goals made with 22.**

**In closing this is one of the finest young people I have ever been afforded the opportunity to work with. He does things right on and off the court every single day, whether someone is looking or not. Nick's story was a success story well before this season ever started because he turned himself into a basketball player.**

**But, now people are starting to see the fruits of his labor. This young man will be successful in life. He wants to be a Doctor one day and I have no doubt if that's what he wants to do, he will do it. He knows how to pay the price. He learned it through basketball.**

**I hope you see now why I wanted someone to notice all he has been through and all he has accomplished.**