

## Alexander breaks Syracuse scoring record

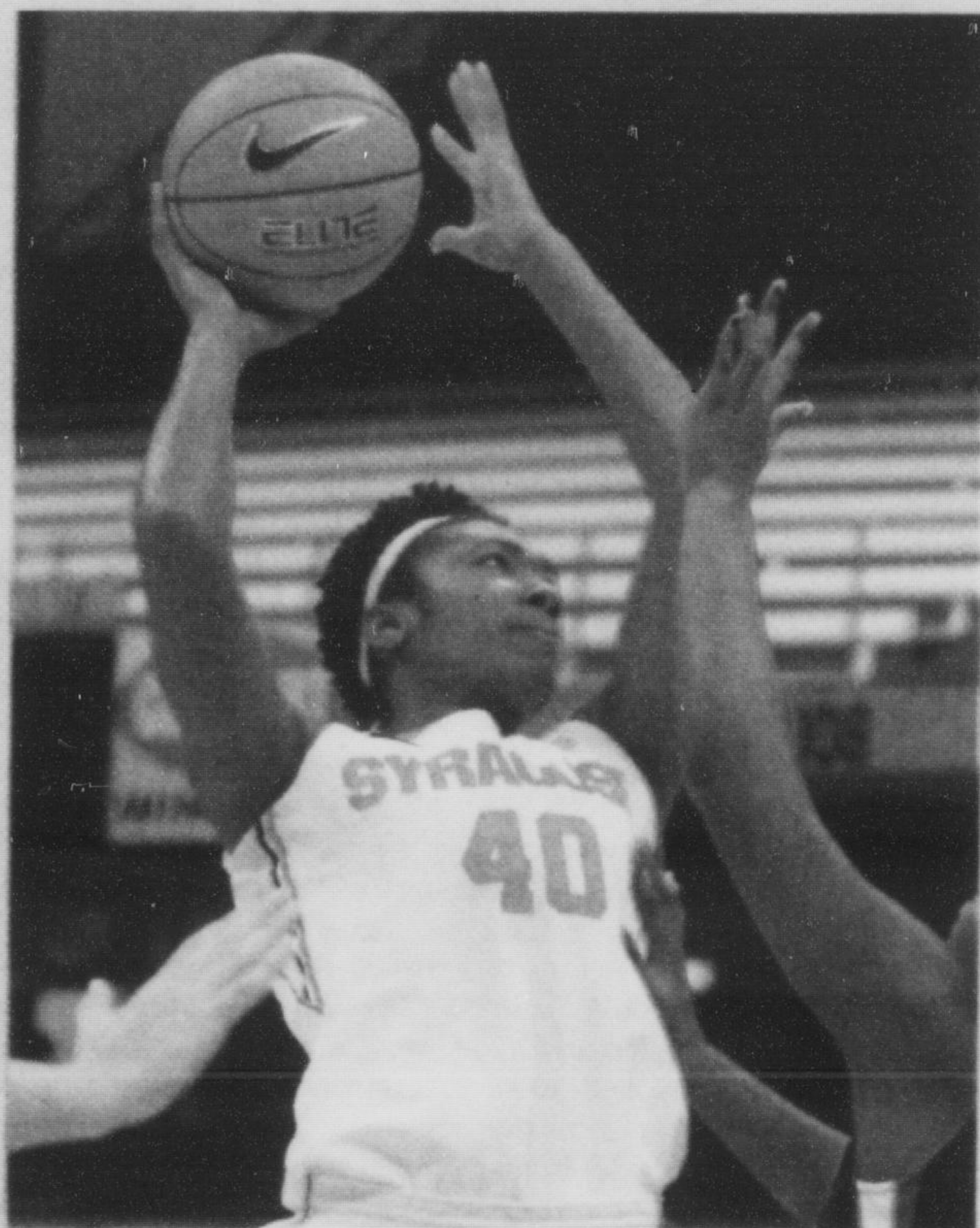
NCAA veteran proud of achievement, but glad to have it behind her

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

What's the best part of becoming the Syracuse University women's basketball team's all-time career scoring leader? The fact that it's now behind her.

While in no way downplaying the accomplishment, Kayla Alexander hinted that the buzz about surpassing Nicole Michael's 1,787-point mark might have been a distraction in recent weeks, as the gap narrowed and breaking the record became imminent.

"People kept talking about it (record). I've never played to break records. I play to get floor time and try to contribute to a successful team," the 22-year-old Miltonian told the *Champion* Sunday morning, on the heels of an uncharacteristically-modest six-point game against Villanova (in 64-59 loss) the night



Kayla Alexander has high hopes for Syracuse Orange's post-season, and feels she's now in the second chapter of her senior year after breaking the school's scoring record this past weekend.  
*Photo courtesy of Syracuse University Athletic Communications*

before — with a routine lay-up late in the first half serving as the record-breaking basket. "I didn't want to get caught up in the record. But on the other hand, I feel blessed that this has happened." With plenty of 2012/13 remaining and her 16-3 Orange showing about as much playoff promise as they have during her time in the NCAA Division 1 ranks, Alexander figures the scoring record is something she'll appreciate more once the season is over.

"I think that's when it'll hit me. Right now I'm not really thinking about it. Now that it's broken, this feels like a second chapter of my season because there's still a lot of big games ahead." Leading Syracuse in every major offensive category once again this year — including a team-high average of 17.9 points a game — the six-foot-four-inch senior centre is no stranger to the university's record book. In season-opening play, she

## Filion claims O'Brien Driver of Year award

First Standardbred Canada title for native Quebec reinsman

At the forefront of a prosperous night for Quebec, Sylvain Filion laid claim to his first O'Brien award as Standardbred Canada's Driver of the Year Saturday night at the annual black tie gala at the Delta Meadowvale Hotel. The 43-year-old Milton reinsman — a Lachute native, whose home province had connections to three O'Brien winners — beat out two-time nominee Scott Zeron of Oakville for the 2012 title after putting together a 434-win season.

He amassed a career-best \$8.6 million in purse earnings last year and was the regular driver of undefeated Wheeling N Dealin, voted Canada's Two-Year-old Trotting Colt of the Year following a perfect 9-for-9 season that was highlighted with a victory in the Breeders' Crown Final. But Wheeling N Dealin lost out in the Horse of the Year voting to Three-Year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year Michaels Power, whose Little Brown Jug triumph highlighted a spectacular 2012.

Coming from a highly accomplished harness racing family, Filion was one of the dominant drivers at Hippodrome de Montreal in its final years before relocating to Ontario when the track closed in 2008.

His 2012 campaign included wins in the Golden Girls with Rebeka Bayama, the Masters Stakes with Sparky Mark and numerous Ontario Sires Stakes events with Prestidigitator.



Sylvain Filion proudly poses with his first O'Brien award.  
*Photo courtesy of Iron Horse Photo*

The O'Brien award follows another memorable first for Filion.

Closing a three-win gap on New Year's Eve at Woodbine, he tied fellow Miltonian and 2011 O'Brien winner Jody Jamieson for the Woodbine Entertainment Group driving title. Each collected 284 victories at Woodbine and Mohawk tracks, with Filion pulling even in the very last race, prevailing with Long Fight Hanover.



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