

AT THE WPIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**Academy senior performs at Palumbo Ctr.****By Matt Grubba***Sports editor*

Sewickley Academy didn't have a team in last weekend's WPIAL basketball championships, but the school was still well-represented on the court.

Jordan Welch, a senior at SA, began the proceedings at Duquesne University's A.J. Palumbo Center by singing the national anthem before Friday night's opening game between North Catholic's and Vincentian's girls teams.

It was the second time Welch sang The Star-Spangled Banner before a WPIAL title game. She also performed before the Duquesne-Clairton game in 2006, as well as before a number of Sewickley Academy events.

"I've been singing since I was five years old," Welch said. "I sing at church, at school and any other opportunities I get."

Despite her ability, which drew a loud ovation from the crowd at the Palumbo Center, singing isn't what Welch has in mind for her future. She plans to enter a field that is a



JORDAN WELCH on the court at Duquesne University before the start of the WPIAL Championships
Photo by Matt Grubba

little more practical – and possibly more lucrative.

"I'm going to study chemical engineering," she said. "I'd like to go to Case Western Reserve."

But while she hits the

books in pursuit of an engineering degree, Welch still wants to make use of her vocal talent, given the opportunity.

"I'll always keep music with me, it's my passion."