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## [Banker becomes Vikings' all-time leading scorer](#)

By Brandon Koch [Niagara Gazette](#)

NIAGARA FALLS — Grand Island's Kallie Banker admittedly doesn't know much about Viking great Carlin Hartman.

After all it's been more than 20 years since Hartman finished his illustrious career with 1,518 points, the most by any Vikings basketball player ever.

Until Thursday night.

Banker hit a layup at 6:01 of the third quarter, registering her 1,519th career point to surpass Hartman (1988-90) and become Grand Island's all-time leader scorer — both boys and girls — while leading her Lady Vikings to a 42-16 win over host Niagara Falls.

Grand Island athletic director Jon Roth, who coached Hartman, presented Banker with a commemorative basketball marking the achievement during a timeout in which each team congratulated the Vikings standout.

“Obviously they're two different players. Kallie is the best female player we've ever had and Carlin is no question the greatest Grand Island Viking male player ever. It's exciting, it really is, to see two careers like that,” Roth said. “But Kallie, when she was in seventh grade as a starter, I said it right then that she's going to have all the records once she leaves. And here we are today with the all-time scoring record. She really deserved it.”

Banker finished with 15 points and five assists, and now has 1,526 total points in her career. Teammate Cassie Oursler led the way with 16 points and 10 rebounds.

“I'm really proud. She's worked really hard over the years. She's put in a lot of time and effort,” Grand Island coach Jenepher Banker said. “I know Carlin, he's great and he's always made a point of calling and telling her great job. I know that Jon (Roth) forwarded an e-mail the other day to me that said, 'Records are meant to be broken. He's glad it's lasted that long.' He's been real nice.”

Kallie Banker said she received a surprising heads-up prior to the game about the record.

“Well I wasn't aware of it until like right before the game,” she said. “One of my friends from back at school was like, 'hey, you have eight points until you break the record.' And I was like, 'what?' Then I came here and I was so nervous. I was like, 'oh my God, I'm going to score three points.' ... Thankfully I got it.”

The Lady Vikings (8-3, 7-1 NFL) got off to a slow start, leading just 16-8 after the break. Banker scored just six points in the first half, but the opening bucket in the third quarter was all she needed to get over a few jitters.

The historic bucket also helped out her teammates, too, as Grand Island went on a 28-4 run before pulling its starters.

“I think that after that everyone was like, ‘OK, now let’s play basketball, let’s not worry about that,’” Kallie said.

Coach Banker said she tried not to talk about the record all too much.

“I didn’t even know she knew,” Jen Banker said. “I know some people had told her before the game because we didn’t really talk about that stuff very much.”

Kallie said she’s yet to see the e-mail for Hartman.

“She definitely kept it a secret,” she said with a laugh. “If he did e-mail me, she wouldn’t have told me because I tend to get a little nervous about stuff like that.”