



**If** there's a big window in heaven, Kim Perrot has probably spent a lot of time with her nose pressed against the glass, watching the Ragin' Cajuns women's basketball team soar this season.

Perrot was the No. 1 scorer in the nation for the 1989-90 season – with a 30-point per game average – when she played at USL, now UL Lafayette. She was ranked second in the nation for steals.

If anyone told Perrot that a woman who's only 5-foot-3 inches couldn't play great basketball, she didn't listen. If anyone told her that she couldn't be one of the best college players in the country because she didn't attend a big name basketball school, she didn't hear. She just kept making baskets.

Despite her college stats, Perrot wasn't recruited for the WNBA when it was created in 1996. After she relentlessly hounded Houston Comets Coach Van Chancellor, he finally took a chance on her. She quickly proved herself and became the team's point guard.

Perrot was all heart and hustle. She was the spark plug who ignited the fire in her teammates if they started to flag during a game and her energy kept fans stoked.

The Comets won the WNBA's first two national championships, in 1997 and 1998.

And then Perrot, a nonsmoker, developed lung cancer and died. Just like that. A fireball extinguished in a matter of months. She did not live long enough to see the Comets win their third national championship.

So, in March, when UL Lafayette's women's basketball team competed in its first-ever NCAA Division 1 Tournament, I kept thinking: if only Kim Perrot could have played on a team like this. Like her, this team refused to be defined by its limitations.

We hope you enjoy the photos of the Ragin' Cajuns on pages 26-27 that were taken during the tournament.

And we hope you enjoy this issue of *La Louisiane*.

— Kathleen Thames