

Merriman, Natalie

Natalie Lynn Merriman, 19, went to be with the Lord on Jan. 9, 2001, after a long and courageous battle with cancer. She was born on June 23, 1981. Natalie fought against cancer with the same intensity that she lived life. No one could have kept the spirit the way Natalie did. She never gave up. Natalie was a talented and competitive athlete. No matter what sport or level of competition, she always drove herself to excel. She had a special love for basketball but appreciated all sports. While attending Deckerville Schools, she participated in girls basketball, volleyball, softball and track. She was a member of the National Honor Society, Students Against Drunk Driving and the student council. She was a student aide, class officer and she was a member of the St. Clair Lady Skippers Amateur Athletic Union basketball team. After graduating from high school, she attended Saginaw Valley State University. She was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Palms. Natalie will be sadly missed by her parents, Randy and Dora Merriman; brothers, Eric and Michael; special family member, Heather, all of Deckerville; grandparents, Kathryn Cleland of St. Clair and Willis and Ilene Merriman, of Deckerville; special cousins, Kelly Cleland and Christie Brown; special friends, Shelly Park, Jessie Kolar, Sister Theresa Carlow; many aunts, uncles, cousins and other friends. Natalie was preceded in death by her grandfather, Howard Cleland; aunt Gladys. Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 12, 2001, at the St. Patrick Parish Center in Palms. Fr. Steven Gavit and sister Theresa Carlow will officiate. Burial will be in Downing Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5 to 9 p.m. today and 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday at the Bradley D. Apsey Funeral Home in Deckerville. Memorials may be made to the Natalie Merriman Scholarship Fund, the St. Patrick's Building Fund or to the family's discretion.