

What Basketball Means to Me

My love for basketball goes beyond my affection for any other sport I've ever played - and I have played *a lot* of sports. I tried everything when I was young: swimming, flag football, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, ballet, and softball. Nothing ever compared to basketball. I have and always will have an unmatched passion for basketball.

The love of basketball is shared throughout my entire family. My dad raised me on it and taught me that playing the game will teach me important life lessons and help me become a better person. And it truly has.

I learned about team work. There is no such thing as a one man team and working as a unit can produce success easier. I've learned that being athletic is not good enough. You have to work hard in order to achieve your goals as a basketball player. I've learned that although I may not agree with a call made by the referee, a negative response does not get you anywhere.

I developed friendships that lasted for years on all my teams in middle school and high school. A basketball team is about half the size of the other sports I played, so we always had special bond that didn't compare to the other sports. I met a lot of nice people through my sports, but the friendships and memories I made playing basketball are the ones that will stick with me for the rest of my life. Basketball took all the negative character traits and habits I had as a person and turned them into positives. I learned patience, selflessness and developed a hard work ethic.

During my senior year of high school I was recruited to play lacrosse in college and I came to the realization that my senior season would be my final year of basketball. It was a tough pill to swallow. We had a great season and we knew we wanted to go far in playoffs. As if it wasn't hard enough, during our playoff game versus our biggest rivals South River, I tore my ACL and lateral meniscus. I was absolutely devastated, and six months later I am still rehabbing my knee. Although I'm leaving to start my lacrosse career at LaSalle University, with the rehabilitation coming along successfully, I plan next year to attempt to walk on to LaSalle's Women's Basketball Team. I know playing two sports will not be easy, but there is nothing that would make me happier than to continue my passion at the next level.