

## Personal Letter

Saying that volleyball has had an impact on my life would be an understatement. It has not only been just a sport in my life, but a foundation for personal growth, determination, and sense of belonging. I have been playing volleyball since third grade and over time it extended far beyond the game itself and began to shape who I am as a person.

Volleyball has impacted my life in a way I would have never expected. What started as just another sport I do, turned into something much deeper, a place where I've grown, struggled, and discovered strength in myself I did not know I had. It showed me how to handle failure without letting it define me, and how to find pride in simply not giving up. Volleyball has also given me confidence, which is something that I struggled with growing up. I was always timid and unsure of myself in every aspect of my life. Volleyball has taught me to have confidence, but not in a loud obnoxious way. It is a quiet confidence that comes from knowing I've worked hard, faced challenges, and kept going.

It has taught me to believe in myself in situations outside of sports, and to embrace the uncomfortable situations that I might have otherwise avoided. I am a setter, so it has pushed me to become a leader not only on the court, but also off the court as well. It made me want to run for my student body class election, which I did end up winning. Not only that but the gym has become a safe place for me. It has become a place where when I step into the gym all my other worries at that moment disappear and I can go and just simply play volleyball.

All that aside, it has given me some of my most precious relationships and memories that I will have with me for the rest of my life. I met two of my best friends all because I signed up to be a part of a club volleyball team. I have had countless coaches throughout my life who have been a huge part of my life and helped me through many different life events. If it were not for my high school volleyball coach, I may have never played volleyball in college. Volleyball is not just something I do, it is something that has changed me. It has taught me self belief, resilience, and determination in a way nothing else has. And for that it will forever hold a special place in my heart.

For my education goals, I plan on going to the University of Mary to play volleyball and also to get a major in exercise science. I plan to attend chiropractic school after I graduate to go on and hopefully open my own chiropractic clinic. What inspires me most is that I will be having a meaningful and direct impact on someone's life. Through athletics I've seen how important proper care, recovery, and body awareness are and how easily injuries can hold someone back. Being able to help relieve that can change a person's life and I want to be someone who helps them become confident in their bodies again. I also love the personal connections the job will allow you to make, and that I will be able to be a constant source of support in someone's health care journey.

I think that I'm deserving of this scholarship, because I have committed countless hours improving my skills. Not only do I build my physical strength, refine my technique, and build my game awareness, I also continuously push myself to grow as an athlete and teammate. But

beyond my physical abilities, I strive to always elevate others around me and contribute to team success through leadership and communication. I also pride myself in balancing and maintaining my athletics and schoolwork, showing that I can balance the demands of being a student athlete. With my passion for volleyball, my work ethic, and commitment to be excellent I am prepared to make a meaningful impact in the world and I would use this scholarship money to help me do that.