Rotary Sport Essay

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Before, I used to say that sports changed who I was as a person, but now I know, sports showed me who I truly was already. Prior to moving to Sultan for my high school career, I lived in a place where if you didn’t already know how to play the sport you would be cut. Leading to a spiral of negative thinking that I wasn’t good enough for sports. I desired to be apart of a team.

Then in the summer of 2020, the summer before my freshman year, my family packed up and moved to a small town near the mountains. Sultan. At first, I was devastated that we had moved, but it happened to be a blessing in disguise. Moving from a 4A school to a 1A also meant the size difference was huge. But my opportunities were even bigger.

I had no intentions of trying out for volleyball, considering the last time I did, I was in the first round of cuts. But at Sultan there was no cut policy in this school. I had no idea what I was doing, and I loved every part of it. When teams came out, I was over the moon that I made JV (the lowest team possible). Excited for my journey to improve and grow. I was taught disciple, court awareness, and what it means to be a team player. The year after that I went into tryouts just wanting to try my best. And to my surprise, that year I made varsity and not only that but a varsity starter. I was thrilled to be on varsity but struggled to see why I made the team. I couldn’t see what my coach could. It terrified me to think that I might let the team down because I was still learning. Then my coach told me straight to my face, “You would not be on that court, if you were not good enough to be there”. Though that didn’t immediately cure my self doubts it was my first step of seeing my self-worth. Volleyball continued to be that growth for me. Volleyball taught me how to believe in myself, take chances and that growth never stops. These are revelations I learned because of the amazing coaching I received from Sultan High School.

Basketball was also a sport I had no intention of playing. I loved being a part of a team where you win together, and you lose together so I tried out. And to no surprise again I made JV. I enjoyed my time playing and it proved to be more challenging but just as rewarding. But being active and playing was still fun to say the least. My sophomore year was when my participation in the sport looked different. In volleyball, the season prior, I broke my ankle. But it didn’t mean that I couldn’t participate. This is where I learned a love for basketball from a different perspective. I became a basketball manager and I fell in love with it. Resulting in me managing from then till my senior year. I was still a part of a team despite not playing physically. These experience created lifelong memories and bonds, as well as giving me another definition of what being on a Sultan team looks like.

Track and Field was that outlet for me. Though it was great to have a small school for some things. Not so much for track. I found myself without a coach my first two years. Where I had to learn to be resourceful and crafty. With that my integrity was also tested. I made it to state and earned all-conference in multiple events. But even without a coach for those first couple years, I had a team and a few advisors from Sultan that aided this growth.

I have participated in different sports here at Sultan. But they all yield the same results of community, growth, and fulfillment at the end of the day.