My drive to play basketball in college has ultimately been the main motivator to further my education after high school. I had a very successful basketball career and was ready to start talking to colleges and got invited to some practices this spring. While at a track meet, I tore my hamstring stopping me from going to these practices and workouts. This experience has really opened my eyes to how important education is. I have always relied on my physical ability to get me to college. I realized that freak accidents could happen at any moment, and I can’t just rely on sports to take me places. My desire to attend a college has grown extremely this year. Before this year I knew I needed to further my education but I looked at it almost as a chore. Now I’m excited and ready to push my self and grow as a person. When older I want to be financially stable and satisfied with my career choice. The only way for this to be achieved is through a higher-level of education. Throughout my childhood I always felt that my identity was just basketball. I struggled especially growing up with this ideal. I didn’t believe I was valued as a person if I wasn’t a good player. When this injury occurred it really opened my eyes to this reality. I struggled a lot when it first happened, because what was I now? I couldn’t play sports, I felt like I couldn’t be myself. I still struggle with the concept but knowing that I will be attending a school, finding a career and my morals, decisions, and experiences will never be touched gives me peace. I will always be a hardworking and determined individual, no matter what I put my mind too. I know that for me to be “successful” I need to go to college. This personal experience really pushed my desire to reach a higher education and strive for excellence. I believe that everything happens for a reason. At the time I didn’t know what the reason could be. Now it is clear to me, I needed this reality check. I’m very excited and ready to attend a college, and I hope I can still play sports in college.