

In the News...

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**Xceleration
Volleyball Club**

John B. David, Editor

Congratulating Xceleration's Class of 2015

Special College Edition: 18 Student-Athletes Select Schools of Choice

At about this time of the year, every year, thousands and thousands of high school students participate in the procession to accept their diplomas with great pride on graduation day. At Xceleration, the club also sees a commencement of sorts from its players who will begin a new chapter in their life's journey and will move on to colleges and universities near and far. The club is extremely proud of all its players and their families who have worked tirelessly over the years to fulfill their lifelong dreams on or off the court.

In this special collegiate issue of **XcelentNews**, we feature players on the 17Blue, 18Blue, and 18White who will soon be graduating from Xcel. They have sacrificed plenty of time and resources to do what they love to do, and they have so much to be proud of for their accomplishments and achievements to date. Xceleration knows that these student-athletes have more work to do and have many more mountains to reach. The entire club is highly confident that their accolades will continue to be exceptional.



2015 Xceleration Wall of Fame - Congratulations Graduates!



Michaela Ahlenslager
Feather River College



Dora Beilin
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



Malia Bolko
UC Davis



Natalie Brooker
Hofstra University



Lauren Budde
Whitworth University



Molly Dalziel
UC San Diego



Spencer Elam
UC Santa Barbara



Eden Fukushima
Sonoma State University



Morgan Giraud
U.S. Naval Academy



Haley Glass
Grand Canyon University



Hailey Lindberg
Santa Clara University



Jordan Minney
University of San Diego



Lucy Moradian
Georgetown University



Dana Pineda
San Diego State



Sierra Stratton
Boise State University



Left to right:
Lauren "Lo" Utchen
San Diego State



Kelley Wirth
Yale University



Andie Zaharias-Kern
Gonzaga University

Xcel's Class of 2015

A Look Back...



Top row to bottom:
Kelley Wirth during her Campo days and early-age club teams.

Dana Pineda shows her platform and enthusiasm for the Pilots.



Eden Fukushima poses for her 12U team and serves it up for Benicia.



Dora Beilin and the Berkeley High Yellowjackets ham it up, on her favorite trail at Stinson Beach, and as a youth counselor for Camp Winnarainbow.

Throwbacks...



Top row to bottom:

Spencer Elam #5 in her early days and with the PHAA Cougars and Pittsburg Pirates.

Lucy Moradian also donning #5 since Day One.

Natalie Brooker acknowledges a Monte Vista fan, with **Lo Utchen** looking on.

Haley Glass proudly flashes the title banner with the Las Lomas Knights.



Those Were the Days...



Hailey Lindberg flexes, **Lo Utchen** winces and “posterizes” the AVP leap, **Lauren Budde** blocks and kills for Campo, and **Jordan Minney** says goodbye to Dougherty Valley on Senior Night.

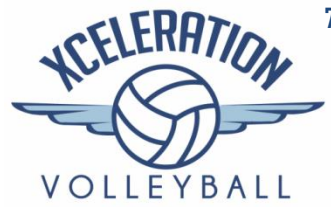


Yesteryears...



Thank you parents and Tomas Pineda for capturing great memories of our athletes.

Sierra Stratton and her College Park teammates on Senior Night, **Malia Bolko** on signing day at St. Patrick-St. Vincent with Coach **Jeremy Swann** and Coach **Andy Schroeder**, and **Michaela Ahlenslager** in her Freshman year at Salesian HS.



MICHAELA AHLENSLAGER, Feather River College

Michaela prepped at Salesian HS and was a Tri-Counties League-Rock Division All-League Honorable Mention. In 2013 she was named Salesian's Best Defensive Player and an ACVA Phenom. Michaela also is a member of the National Honors Society.

Feather River College is a junior college located in the Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains in the town of Quincy, in Plumas County, approximately 83 miles west of Reno, NV. Full-time enrollment was over 1,600 students. Feather River College is built on the site of a once thriving Mountain Maidu Indian village. The beautiful Black Oak trees, growing in the hills surrounding the site, provided the acorns that were the primary source of sustenance for the early Mountain Maidu. Today, members of the Mountain Maidu tribe continue to gather acorns and other natural resources that the forest, surrounding the college, provides. Feather River College was established in 1968 to support the need for higher education in rural Plumas County. Presently, Feather River College is a community leader in green energy and sustainability and the college has implemented programs which aide in the success of these and other ecologically-minded endeavors.

Michaela,

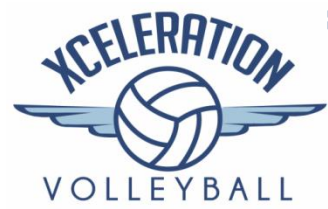
It has been an honor and a privilege watching you grow up. Never could I have imagined the amazing young woman you have become. I'm so proud of you. Even when faced with adversity you kept going, when most would've given up.

I have loved watching you play volleyball for the last four years. Those early morning and late night drives, and nights in cheap hotels have created memories with you I will hold forever.

I have spent the last 17 years just waiting to see what you'll do next. You never cease to amaze or entertain me. I know you're ready for college and playing volleyball at the next level. I still can't wait to see what you'll do next. I know you'll succeed at whatever you put your mind to. You always have.

**I love you,
Mom**





MALIA BOLKO, UC Davis

Malia was a four-year starter on St. Patrick-St. Vincent's varsity team where the Bruins captured the North Coast Section Division IV title in 2012. In 2014, Malia returned to the 18Blue for the second year before committing to the UC Davis Aggies during the early signing period. Malia earned a First Team selection on the Tri-County Athletic League-Rock Division in 2014.

The **University of California, Davis** is a public research university located in Davis, CA, just west of Sacramento. The campus covers 7,309 acres, making it the largest within the 10-campus UC system. UC Davis also has the third-largest enrollment of over 34,100 students in the UC System after UCLA and UC Berkeley. In their book on U.S. universities, Howard and Matthew Greene classified UC Davis as a Public Ivy, a publicly funded university considered as providing a quality of education comparable to those of the Ivy League. The 2015 *U.S. News & World Report* college rankings named UC Davis as the 9th-best public university and 38th among all universities in the U.S.

Malia,

Your club volleyball career has been unbelievable! It began with you being on a 14-3s team, with us praying that your overhand serve makes it over the net. It ends with the last three years helping your team make it to Junior Nationals and being on one of the best 18-1s team in Northern California the past two years.

When you started club, we had no idea what we were getting into – waking up before the sunrise on countless weekends... plane flights to Las Vegas, Dallas, Minnesota, Colorado, Baltimore, and upcoming to New Orleans... hours and hours of trips in the car driving thousands of miles... the countless private lessons... the dedication to sand volleyball to improve your indoor game... the stress of tryout weekends wondering what teams you would make... the friends that you have made and the families that we rooted with. Even when you are not with your parents, your volleyball is a huge topic in our everyday lives. These are memories that will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

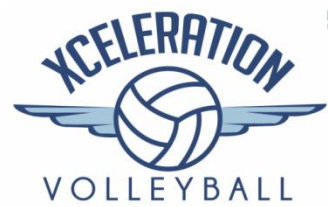
Malia, you have made your family incredibly proud as we've watched your games over the years, but that should not compare to how proud you should be of yourself. The work, the dedication, the sacrifice and the commitment that you put into volleyball has paid off as you start the next step in your volleyball life. Go Aggies!

*Love,
Mom, Dad and Makahla*



UC DAVIS





NATALIE BROOKER, Hofstra University

A three-year letter winner at Monte Vista HS, the 2014 North Coast Division I champions, Natalie was an East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) First Team selection, Contra Costa Times All-East Bay Second Team selection, and two-time Scholar Athlete. She has been on the Academic Honor Roll since her Freshman year and head of Student Government's Spirit Committee at Monte Vista. Additionally, she was invited and attended the California Association of Directors of Activities, served as President of Kids 4 Kids Club, and acted as club treasurer, vice president, and president of the American Cancer Society Club. Natalie has been an intern at Diablo Magazine since 2011. Natalie will major in Mass Communication at Hofstra.

Hofstra University is a private, non-profit, nonsectarian institution of higher learning located in the Village of Hempstead, New York, about 7 miles east of New York City. It originated in 1935 as an extension of New York University (NYU) called "Nassau College – Hofstra Memorial of New York University at Hempstead, Long Island." In 1937, the institution separated from NYU and gained independence as Hofstra College, and in 1963, Hofstra gained university status. There are 7,631 full-time undergraduates, and a total of approximately 12,400 students overall, a figure which includes part-time undergraduates, graduates and law students.

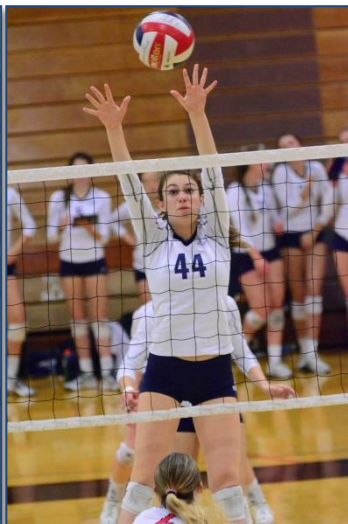
Hey Natalie!

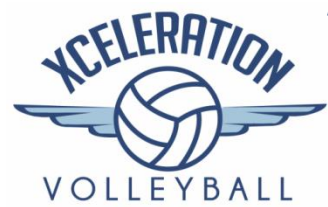
It doesn't seem it was that long ago that we came to your sixth grade game at Los Cerros and your coach kept encouraging the team to "keep the ball off the floor!" A year later, you joined your first volleyball club in 7th grade. Your first club match was on a cold and dreary day in Stockton – when the parents would cheer loudly when you or your teammates were actually able to serve the ball over the net!

It has been a wonderful experience watching you grow from that skinny middle blocker who could not do a single pushup to being a starting middle blocker for Monte Vista High – winning the high school league title in your senior year and being named all-league. And of course the final year of club volleyball playing for the great Xceleration team has been a fantastic experience as well. Can't wait for the Junior Olympics in New Orleans!

And now Natalie – you are off to Hofstra in New York to study mass communication and play division one volleyball for the Hofstra Pride! Who could have known way back in 7th grade that your volleyball journey would take you to the outskirts of New York City just 5 years later! We are very proud of you Natalie – and are looking forward to your next great adventure!

Love - Mom and Dad





DORA BEILIN, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Dora prepped at Berkeley HS and received numerous accolades: 2014 MaxPreps California All-State Team Division I, West Alameda County Conference League First Team and MVP, Contra Costa Times All-East Bay First Team, Berkeley HS Volleyball MVP, and Captain in her Junior and Senior seasons. She has played in Junior Nationals (2014-Xceleration 17-1; 2013 Red Rock 15-1, placed 18th in Open Division). Dora was selected for the 2014 NCVA Regional Beach volleyball team, attended Phenom Program in Seattle WA, and selected for the USAV Youth National A3/Alt A2 Training Program in 2013. Dora also is a certified Lifeguard/First Aid/CPR and a Teen Camp Counselor at Camp Winnarainbow.

California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, also known as **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** or **Cal Poly**, is a public university founded in 1901 as a vocational high school. It is currently one of only two polytechnic universities in the 23-member California State University system. Cal Poly is known for its “learn by doing” educational philosophy that encourages students to solve real-world problems by combining classroom theory with experiential laboratory exercise. Cal Poly is one of four California State Universities that participate in the Big West Conference in athletics.

Wow Dora!

Your Dad and I cannot put into words how proud we are of you. From singing on the steps of the ‘Ospedale degli Innocenti’ in Florence, Italy in your choir – to stepping up to embrace your campers at Camp Winnarainbow – you have always showed talent, leadership and compassion to all. We are stunned at what a beautiful, and amazing young woman you have become.

Volleyball? Being named to 2014 MaxPreps California All-State Team Division I, 2014 West Alameda County Conference League First Team and MVP, and Contra Costa Times All-East Bay First Team. All icing on the cake – Your High school team will miss your unending encouragement as Team Captain; coaching the girls and boys teams at King Middle School; leading your 13’s club team to the Silver championship at the Far Westerns... and attending the JN’s three years in a row - it’s been a crazy but great ride, and we’ve enjoyed watching you in every second of it.

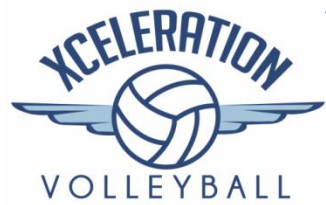
Looking forward to the new chapter in your life at Cal Poly in September. Si se puede! We are behind and love everything you do.

Love, Your Mom and Dad (and Pace) and entire family...



CAL POLY
SAN LUIS OBISPO





LAUREN BUDDE, Whitworth University

Lauren was a three-year letter winner at perennial volleyball powerhouse Campolindo HS, where she earned all-league honors with the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) in 2014.

Whitworth University is a private, residential, liberal arts institution founded in 1890 and affiliated with the Presbyterian church. The university, located in Spokane, WA, has an enrollment of nearly 3,000 students, offers 60 undergraduate and graduate programs. Formerly Whitworth College, it voted to change the institution's name to Whitworth University in 2006. Whitworth's mission is to provide its diverse student body an education of mind and heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity. Whitworth's community of teacher-scholars is committed to rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and to the integration of Christian faith and learning.

Dear Lauren,

It will be hard for us to let go but you are more than ready for college and playing at the next level! We will miss going to tournaments with you and spending that one on one time with you, watching our 'Bourne' series, late night deep philosophical discussions and seeing your faith lived out. The LORD is doing a great work in you, a light in a dark world. We are so very proud of the young woman you have become and the direction you are headed!

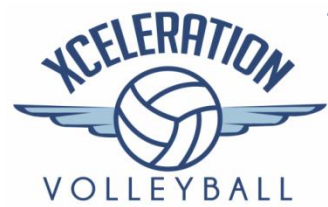
As for volleyball, you were always a natural athlete and excelled in swimming and soccer but we are so glad you chose volleyball because it tested and strengthened you in many areas; plus it's so fun to watch! We knew you were strong, physical and powerful but you also showed us you are cool under pressure, confident in who you are and have the determination to win. Now go own the net, have lots of block parties, swing hard and you will be a force to be reckoned with when you play for the Pirates next year!

"Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." – Proverbs 4:13 NIV

Go Buudddeee!!!

Forever, Dad, Mom, Krystal, Kelsey and Summer





MOLLY DALZIEL, University of California, San Diego

A three-year varsity letter winner and four-year starter at Acalanes HS, Molly helped the Dons in 2014 to their highest ever win total in the last 10 years. For Acalanes Volleyball, she was co-captain in her Junior and Senior seasons. Additionally, Molly was selected as Best Defensive Player in her Junior Year and MVP her Senior Year for Acalanes. Molly was a First Team All League selection for the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) as a Junior and Senior, and a Contra Costa Times All-East Bay Volleyball Team honoree as a Senior. She is a four-time California Scholar-Athlete Award winner and a California Scholarship Federation (CSF) Lifetime Member. Molly signed on with the UC San Diego Tritons during the early signing period. There she will major in Pre-Human Development (Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy).

The **University of California, San Diego** is a public research university located in the La Jolla area of San Diego, CA. The university occupies 2,141 acres near the coast of the Pacific Ocean. Established in 1960 near the pre-existing Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego is the seventh oldest of the 10 UC campuses and offers over 200 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, enrolling about 23,800 undergraduate and 6,500 graduate students. UC San Diego is one of America's Public Ivy universities, which recognizes top public research universities in the U.S. UC San Diego was ranked 8th among public universities and 37th among all universities in the U.S., and rated the 18th Top World University by *U.S. News & World Report's* 2015 rankings.

Dear Molly,

What a journey. From watching your older sister play Volleyball to starting off as a 4th grader playing with 6th graders, we have had so much fun watching you rise to the challenges and thrive in this sport that you love. Your passion and skills quickly outpaced what your LMYA coach (your father) could give to you. We will miss the conversations during our road trips to exotic lands like Clovis, Yuba City and Reno. You have worked hard and given a tremendous amount of effort in the pursuit of Volleyball. That same hard work will serve you well in the future, not just at UCSD, but in life. You are a true friend, a loyal teammate, a wonderful daughter and sister, a leader and a compassionate person. We could not be more proud of the young woman you have become.

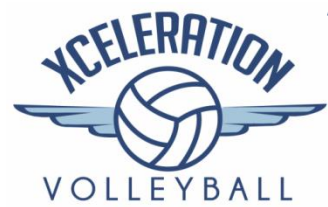
Thank you for bringing fun and happiness to the many experiences we've shared together as a family. We will be here for you every step of the way as you begin this new journey. Being your mom and dad is a joy and a privilege. We look forward to seeing you tackle this next phase of your life. In the past, whether things have gone your way or not, you have always persevered and looked towards the big picture. You've been fortunate to learn from great coaches and teammates and you've worked hard to absorb all that they've had to offer. Continue to carry these attitudes with you, continue to do your best, have fun and the sky's the limit! You are ready. Go get 'em Mols!

*With love and pride,
Mom and Dad*



UC San Diego





SPENCER ELAM, University of California, Santa Barbara

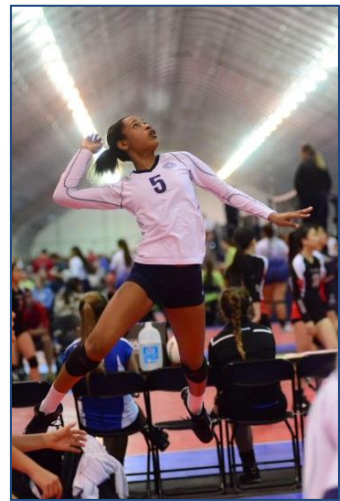
Spencer prepped at Pittsburg HS and was consistently in the Honor Roll. She was a two-time varsity player and earned Bay Valley Athletic league honors. Spencer will be following her Dad's footsteps on becoming an attorney and will be majoring in Political Science and minoring in Sociology at UCSB.

The **University of California, Santa Barbara** (commonly referred to as **UC Santa Barbara** or **UCSB**) is a public research university and one of the 10 general campuses of the University of California system. The main campus is located on a 1,022-acre site near Goleta, CA, 8 miles from Santa Barbara and 100 miles northwest of Los Angeles. Tracing its roots back to 1891 as an independent teachers' college, UCSB joined the UC system in 1944 and is the third-oldest general-education campus in the system. UCSB is one of America's Public Ivy universities, which recognizes top public research universities in the U.S. UCSB was ranked 40th among "National Universities", 10th among U.S. public universities and 28th among Best Global Universities by *U.S. News & World Report's* 2015 rankings. The university was also ranked 37th worldwide by the *Times Higher Education* World University Rankings.

Spencer,

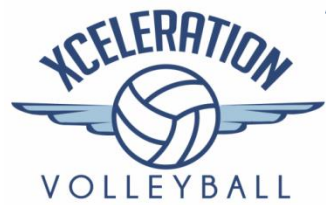
We are so proud of the young lady that you have become. We have watched to grow from that 6th grade volleyball player to the fantastic player you are today. You have inspired so many to play the game and to push to be the best! We will miss you as you head to UC Santa Barbara to begin your new adventures. Love you so much,

Dad, Mom and Kelsey



SANTA BARBARA

UCSB



EDEN FUKUSHIMA, Sonoma State University

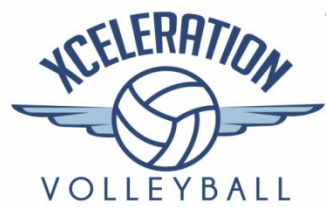
Eden was a three-year varsity player for Benicia HS, where she helped the team to three consecutive undefeated seasons. Prior to her senior year, Eden was All-Solano County Athletic Conference Honorable Mention and team MVPs in varsity, junior varsity, and club seasons. Eden has been on her High School Academic Honor Roll since her Freshman year and has earned the Senior Girl Scout Silver Award. Eden plans to major in Kinesiology at Sonoma State.

Sonoma State University (Sonoma State, and Sonoma) is a public comprehensive university which is part of the 23-campus California State University system. The main campus is located east of Rohnert Park, CA, approximately 10 miles south of Santa Rosa. Sonoma State College, was established by the California State Legislature in 1960 to be part of the CSU system. Classes offered by the university first opened to 250 students in June 1961 in leased buildings in Rohnert Park where the college offered its first four-year Bachelor of Arts. The college moved to its permanent campus of 215 acres in 1966 where the first graduating class received their degrees.

Eden,
We could say how we are so very proud of you and all your accomplishments. And we could mention how you have grown into such a beautiful young woman and what a wonderful role model you are for your younger siblings. We could also mention how much we will miss you when you go away to college, and that we hope you will continue to work hard and strive to be the best person you could possibly be. No, we won't do that. All we want to say is how much we love you, and how special you are to us. Now, get out there, do your thing, and make us even prouder! The world needs to be ready for you, Eden Fukushima.

We love you!
Mom & Dad



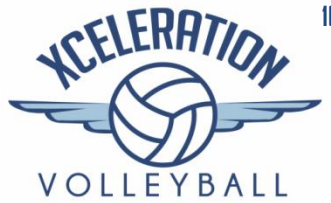


MORGAN GIRAUD, U.S. Naval Academy

Morgan will graduate from Petaluma HS where she was a two-time all-leaguer in the Solano County Athletic League.

The **United States Naval Academy** (also known as **USNA, Annapolis, or Navy**) is a four-year coeducational federal service academy located in Annapolis, MD. Established in 1845 under Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft, it is the second-oldest of the United States' five service academies, and educates officers for commissioning primarily into the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. The entire campus is a National Historic Landmark and home to many historic sites, buildings, and monuments. Candidates for admission generally must both apply directly to the academy and receive a nomination, usually from a Member of Congress. Students are officers-in-training and are referred to as midshipmen. Tuition for midshipmen is fully funded by the Navy in exchange for an active duty service obligation upon graduation. Graduates are usually commissioned as ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps, but a small number can also be commissioned as officers in other U.S. services, and the services of allied nations.





HALEY GLASS, Grand Canyon University

Haley prepped at Las Lomas HS and was a 2014 Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) First Team All-League honoree. In 2012, she was a DFAL Second Team All-League and recipient of the Coaches Award. She also had the distinction of seeing her “play” as Cal Hi Sports #4 Play of the Year. Haley will enter GCU’s nursing program.

Grand Canyon University (GCU) is a private Christian university located in Phoenix, AZ. GCU was founded in 1949 as a non-profit liberal arts college, and was purchased by Grand Canyon Education, Inc. in February 2004. The college was founded as a non-profit institution in 1949 in Prescott, AZ. Arizona Southern Baptists felt the need to establish a faith-based institution that would allow local Baptists the opportunity to obtain a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree without going east to one of the Baptist colleges in Texas or Oklahoma. On October 8, 1951, Grand Canyon College relocated to its current location in Phoenix and was renamed Grand Canyon University in 1989.

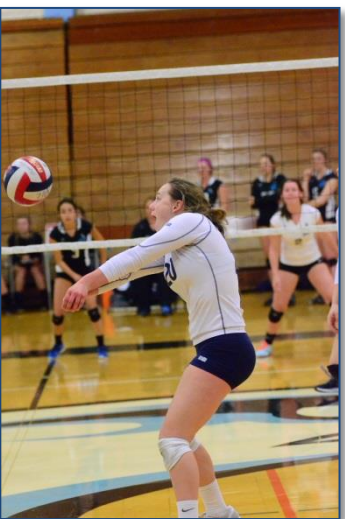
Haley,

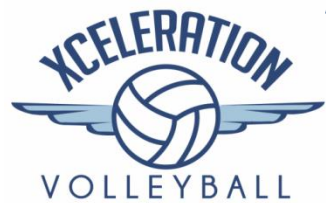
Life is filled with ups and downs. Good times and bad times. Happy moments and sad passing’s. You have certainly filled our lives with joy, laughter, tears and triumphs. It has been wondrous to see you grow into the amazing young lady you are today. We could not be more proud of you.

When you started on this journey, none of us knew the rollercoaster ride we were in for. From watching you run around the entire court in 7th & 8th grade, getting every ball (even if you weren’t suppose to), to spring boarding from Freshman volleyball to Varsity volleyball and winning the NCS Championship that year with “The Dream Team.” Showing spunk and spirit to earn a spot on your fabulous Xcel 18Blue team. Spending hours in the gym honing your skills, even practicing with the guys teams to give you more experience getting the hard and fast volleyballs flying your way. You have fought for every moment on the court and we know you will continue forward with that same drive and determination.

We can’t wait to see you thrive in college, both on the court and in the classroom. Your dedication and can-do spirit will serve you well. Just remember to be true to yourself, be a great teammate and friend, and never let a ball drop! Go Lopes!!

**We love you!!
Mom, Dad, Kyra, Taylor & Wyatt**





HAILEY LINDBERG, Santa Clara University

The four-year varsity letter winner at Monte Vista HS helped the Mustangs to their first East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) title in 18 years and their first North Coast Section Division I crown in 19 years, en route to reaching the CIF Championship semifinals and being an Academic All American. Along the way, she was named on the EBAL's All-League team and on the Contra Costa Times' All-East Bay Volleyball team. Additionally, Hailey is on the USA A1 Indoor Team, team captain at Monte Vista, and president of the volleyball club. Hailey's 2014 club team finished Bronze in the Open Division at Junior Nationals and won Colorado Crossroads Open Division. In 2015, Xceleration won Gold at SoCal Qualifier in the USA Division. Hailey will be a Business major at Santa Clara.

Santa Clara University is a private non-profit Jesuit university located in Santa Clara, CA. It has over 5,400 full-time undergraduate students, and 3,300 graduate students. Founded in 1851, Santa Clara University is the oldest operating institution of higher learning in California, and has remained in its original location for 162 years. The University's campus surrounds the historic Mission Santa Clara de Asis, which traces its founding to 1776. The Campus mirrors the Mission's architectural style, and provides a fine early example of Mission Revival Architecture.

Hailey,

When you decided to play volleyball six years ago, we could not have imagined the profound impact that your decision would have on our lives. It has been such a joy watching you develop into the special person and talented player that you are today.

Your dedication and hard work, your passion for the game, and the special friendships you have enjoyed with your many teammates are remarkable. You have great sportsmanship and fun-loving enthusiasm on the court, which is contagious and serves as a reminder about what is really important in life. Your success on the court has only been matched by your achievements and accomplishments in your personal and academic life, where, once again you have "Xcel-ed." You lead by example, and enrich the lives of those around you, including your volleyball-obsessed parents.

We have lived and breathed volleyball for the past six years with you and that is something we will treasure forever. We could not be more proud of you, Hailey, as you transition your game to the Santa Clara court and start your life as a college student. You have prepared all your life for this moment and you are so deserving of this opportunity. Come game time at Santa Clara, your biggest fans (us!) will be there to cheer you on.

**Love,
Mom & Dad**



**Hailey's Signature Move –
The Lindberg Slide**





JORDAN MINNEY, University of San Diego

Jordan was a three-year varsity letter winner at Dougherty Valley HS. In 2014, Jordan was named the girls' volleyball team captain and received the team's Wildcat Award. She earned Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) First Team All-League honors in her Senior year and Second Team in the year prior. Academically, in each of her four years at Dougherty Valley, she received the California Interscholastic Federation's North Coast Section Scholar-Athlete Award and the Principal's Excellence Award. Jordan served as Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, a member of the Student Government leadership team, and a California Scholarship Federation Lifetime Member. Jordan was a Youth-to-Youth Conference Group Leader at an anti-drug conference against substance abuse. Jordan will enter the University of San Diego undeclared.

The **University of San Diego (USD)** is a private Roman Catholic university that offers 40 baccalaureate degrees, and several degrees in law, nursing, and other doctorate programs. The university comprises seven different academic colleges. USD's total enrollment is approximately 8,105 undergraduate, graduate, and law students.

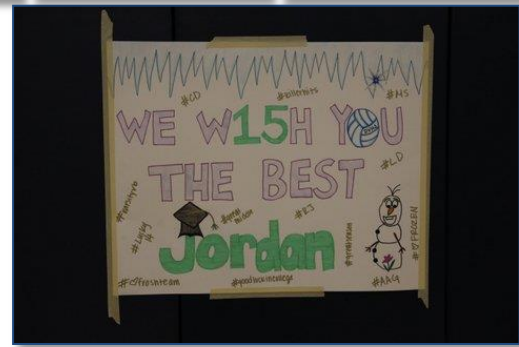
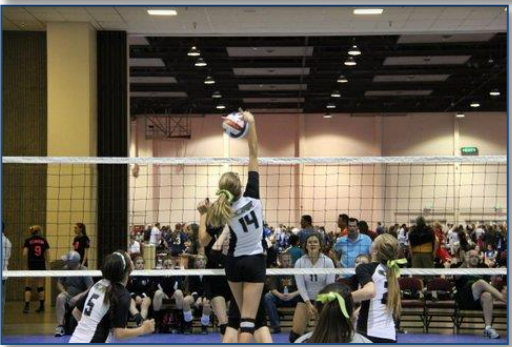
Dear Jordan,

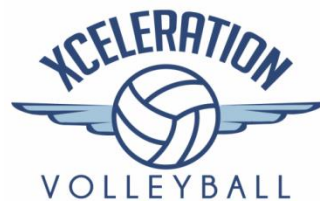
We could not be prouder of the young lady you have become. The four years that you have been playing volleyball have flown by and as we stand on the brink of a new adventure and another stage in our lives we know that we will miss the early mornings, long drives, and endless hours of sitting in noisy gyms. It has been fun watching you make friends, as we have enjoyed making new friends as well, and we hope that those friendships will last through college and beyond.

We are very proud of what you have accomplished as both a student and an athlete. You are a hard-working, kind-hearted, fun loving, devoted daughter and a loyal teammate and friend. These qualities will serve you well in college and for the rest of your life. Don't change who you are – you are amazing. We hold you close in our hearts every day, and while we look forward to watching your journey through college, we will miss you terribly. Know that you have our love and support always and forever.

Congratulations on becoming a USD Torero!

**Love,
Mom & Dad**





LUCY MORADIAN, Georgetown University

Lucy was a four-year letter winner at College Preparatory School, where she was the girls volleyball team captain and three-time MVP, a Bay Counties League-East (BCL-East) First Team selection, and BCL-East All-Tournament Team and MVP selection. Lucy is a National Merit Scholar and a member of the Cum Laude Society (Top 10%). Lucy serves as an Assistant Teacher Leader for the six-week "Partners" Summer Program, tutoring inner-city teens. She also is a Tutor Leader at local middle schools, tutoring middle school students during the winter, Head of Volunteering for teens at the Oakland Elizabeth House, and Assistant Coach for Corpus Christi 6th Grade CYO volleyball teams. Lucy will be attending Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

Georgetown University is a private research university in Washington, D.C. Founded in 1789, it is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher education in the U.S. John Carroll, America's first Catholic bishop founded Georgetown. The university expanded after the American Civil War under the leadership of Patrick Francis Healy, who came to be known as Georgetown's "second founder." Jesuits have participated in the university's administration since 1805, a heritage Georgetown celebrates, but the university has always been governed independently of the Society of Jesus and of church authorities. The university has about 7,000 undergraduate and over 10,000 post-graduate students from a wide variety of religious, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds, including 130 foreign countries.

Lucy,

We are honored to be your parents. You have grown into a truly beautiful young woman, who we are extremely proud of. You are hard working, persistent, and a quiet leader. We can't wait to watch you continue to grow in college.

Always remember:

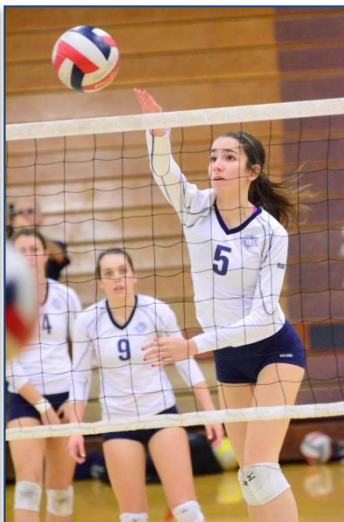
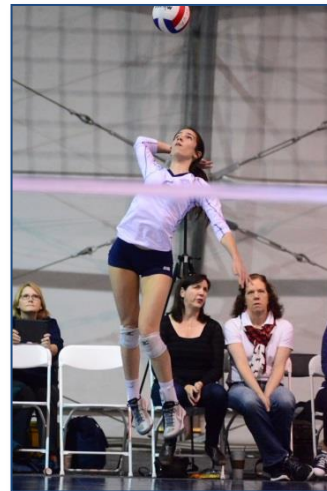
You are Braver Than You Believe

Stronger Than You Seem

Smarter Than You Think

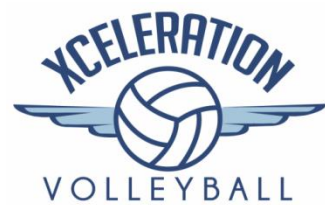
And Loved More Than You Know...

**Love,
Mom & Dad**



**GEORGETOWN
UNIVERSITY**
McDonough
SCHOOL of BUSINESS





DANA PINEDA, San Diego State University

Dana was a three-year varsity letter winner and, this year, was co-captain for the 2014 Tri-County Athletic League (TCAL) champions, St. Joseph Notre Dame HS, where she also earned TCAL All-League Second Team honors. Prior to her Senior year, Dana was on the Alameda HS Tournament All-Tournament Team and a TCAL All-League Honorable Mention. Additionally, Dana is an assistant coach for Assumption School CYO volleyball team, a member of the SJND Link Crew, and volunteers for Alameda Meals on Wheels. Dana has been accepted into SDSU's Honors Program and plans to major in Kinesiology.

San Diego State University (SDSU) is a public research university in San Diego, and is the largest and oldest higher-education facility in San Diego County. Founded in 1897 as San Diego Normal School, it is the third-oldest university in the 23-member California State University. SDSU has a student body of more than 35,000 and an alumni base of more than 260,000. The Carnegie Foundation has designated San Diego State University a "Research University with high research activity," placing it among the top 200 higher education institutions in the country conducting research.

Dear Dana,

GETTING READY FOR VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENTS IN THE MORNING BE LIKE.



... a scene repeated countless times during your club career, Dana. Always a bit groggy as you forced yourself to eat your breakfast. Always a bit grumpy as we quizzed you about your gear bag ... "kneepads?" ... "water bottle?" ... "all jerseys? ". Yet you were always ready to leave on time. Always ready to go. You always, every single time, knew what you had to do. Six seasons of club volleyball and you never complained.

Your attitude toward your sport has been nothing short of admirable. You bring a solid work ethic and you understand your role in the team and fulfill that role in every way possible. You've embraced your teams, and your approach to your

game has always been to make your teammate look better. Everything you've done has been to support your team.

Four seasons of CYO, four seasons of high school, six seasons of club. That's a lot of matches and we loved watching you and your team at every match. We can't even begin to tell you how proud we felt every time we saw you in a team huddle, every time we heard your name announced, at practically every moment that you played the game you love.

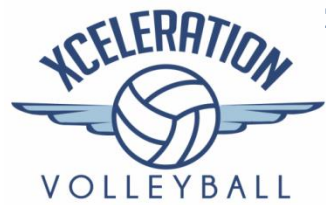
And now we come to the end of your club career. I hope you are as proud of yourself, for everything you've accomplished, as we and so many other people are proud of you. Please take all the lessons you've learned through playing the game and continue to WANT to make a difference. Please take your love for a team and continue to WANT to make your teammate look good. Please always WANT to take on adventures with passion and pride. Most importantly, always understand that choosing to do the right thing needs no other reason to do so, other than it's the right thing to do – that's how you've conducted yourself during your entire athletic career. And that, our Dear Dana is the best gift you could possibly offer.

We wish you lots of great adventures, lots of reasons to raise your fist in celebration, lots of meaningful friendships, lots of the very best.

*With all our love and admiration,
Mama & Papa*



SAN DIEGO STATE



SIERRA STRATTON, Boise State University

Sierra was a four-year letter winner at College Park HS where she was three-time captain and First Team All-League selection since her Sophomore year for College Park and the Diablo Valley Athletic League, respectively. She helped to lead the Falcons to the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs for the last three years. This is the first time that College Park has made NCS in almost 10 years. She has played multiple positions – middle, opposite and outside hitter for her high school and club teams. Sierra will play club volleyball and plans to major in a health-related field at Boise State.

Boise State University is a public research institution founded in 1932 by the Episcopal Church, and it became an independent junior college in 1934. With nearly 23,000 students, Boise State has the largest enrollment of higher education institutions in the state of Idaho. The university’s athletic teams, the Broncos, participate in Division I athletics as a member of the Mountain West Conference for most sports.

Sierra,

Since you could walk (at 8 months!) you have wanted to get your hands on any sport that you could and you made them all look easy. We remember vividly telling you that you could not play every sport and your answer/question was “WHY NOT?”

In 7th grade you let us know that you were going to try volleyball and that was it, your love for this sport was born... No turning back from there. In high school you decided volleyball was the only sport you would play and you did. Time flies.... you are now moving on to college and pursuing your degree and career in something that you are passionate about as well, the health field. It seems so obvious to say that we are proud of you, you are an extraordinary young woman, and we can't wait for the many extraordinary things to come.

*Love you high as the sky, deep as the ocean,
and as wide as the world.
Mom, Dad and Zach*





LAUREN "LO" UTCHEN, San Diego State University

Lo was a four-year letter winner for the 2014 North Coast Division I champion Monte Vista HS. She was All-American Setter at Junior Nationals (All-Tournament Setter), Junior Nationals quarterfinalists, and Phenom Top 50 (#3 agility, #31 overall). In 2014, Lo was honored by both MaxPreps and PrepVolleyball.com as an All-American, earned All-East San Francisco Bay Area Player of the Year honors (out of 170 varsity volleyball programs in all divisions), All-Section First Team setter for the North Coast Section, and the East Bay Athletic League MVP and First Team setter. MaxPreps also had Lo on their First Team Division I All-State team.

Lo was admitted to SDSU's Social Science department and hopes to progress into their Speech and Communicative Disorders program. SDSU is researching how physical activity in autistic youth can help grow their brains and increase their ability to talk. As Lo said, "I can get anyone to talk. This is the perfect major for me."

San Diego State University (SDSU) is a public research university in San Diego, and is the largest and oldest higher-education facility in San Diego County. Founded in 1897 as San Diego Normal School, it is the third-oldest university in the 23-member California State University. SDSU has a student body of more than 35,000 and an alumni base of more than 260,000. The Carnegie Foundation has designated San Diego State University a "Research University with high research activity," placing it among the top 200 higher education institutions in the country conducting research.

Lo,

Like I've always said, watching you is worth the price of admission—regardless of what the price is! You are a fantastic volleyball player, and it's no surprise SDSU recruited you. Your volleyball career has really just started, and no one except you can set any limits on how far you can go now—word of advice: never set any limits.

*Love,
Dad*

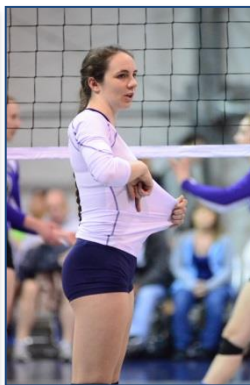
Lo,

When you were born, I couldn't take my eyes off of you. You were so perfect, so fat.

I dreamed about you being a musician, a dancer, and a comedienne, but when you started playing volleyball, it was clear to me we had inherited the same adrenaline junkie gene. Not many mothers and daughters get to share the journey we have taken over the past four years, and coaching you has been a highlight of my life, even if you felt my eyes were always on you. For many reasons, it's hard to let you go: even to your dream school, even to play for a favorite competitor and collegiate opponent of mine, even to watch you soar to new heights. The Aztecs are lucky to have you.

You're beautiful, inside and out, Lo. I look into your eyes and see what I want to become. You will always be my "baby girl."

*Blessings and love,
from "yo momma."*





KELLEY WIRTH, Yale University

Kelley was a four-year starter at perennial volleyball powerhouse Campolindo HS. She was named all-Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) four times, DFAL MVP twice, Cal-Hi Sports NCS Player of the Year twice, MaxPreps All-California twice, and MaxPreps All-America as a senior. She led her team to three consecutive NCS championship games, and one California D3 state championship game. She is a four-time California Scholar Athlete Award winner and PrepVolleyball.com Academic All American. In 2014 she also earned a medal in the Open Division of Junior Nationals as a member of FiveStarz volleyball club.

Yale University is a private Ivy League research university in New Haven, Connecticut. Founded in 1701, the university is the third-oldest institution of higher education in the United States. Its 11,000 students come from all fifty states and 108 countries around the world. Yale has graduated many notable alumni, including five U.S. Presidents, 19 Supreme Court Justices and hundreds of members of Congress. Some 52 Nobel laureates have been affiliated with Yale, and 230 Rhodes Scholars graduated from the University. Yale Women's Volleyball finished 18-8 in 2014, and for the fifth year in a row were Ivy League Champions and competed in the NCAA Division I Tournament.

Dear Kelley,

As the youngest of four siblings, and with three older brothers, you've grown up in a busy family where there was no choice but to learn how to run, throw, kick, shoot and do most other things "like a boy." But it was ballet where you first showed your tenacity, work ethic and ability to perform under pressure. Every performance was like Bolshoi for us. You were (and still are) our prima ballerina. There are still many pairs of pointe shoes hanging in your closet, reminding us of Clara in The Nutcracker and many other special moments.

Eventually, a new interest came on the scene. At your first volleyball tryouts, we held our breath to see whether or not you could get an underhand serve all the way to the net (forget about going over). And now just a few short years later, you've experienced so much joy in both club and high-school volleyball, and blossomed into a terrific student, teammate, friend and leader.

Now it's your time. As you take forward the lessons you've learned both on and off the court, remember how truly blessed you are. You've played for terrific coaches, had talented teammates, made so many good friends and now are headed to one of the world's great universities. The next chapter of your life will be the most exciting one yet, and we look forward to watching you continue to blossom into a very special young woman.

*Love Always xoxoxo,
Mom, Dad, David, Patrick, Robbie*



Yale



ANDIE ZAHARIAS-KERN, Gonzaga University

Andie (aka AZ-K) was a three-year varsity letter winner at Carondelet HS and was a Second Team All-League selection for the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL). Andie is a National Charity League member and volunteers for numerous causes, including Father Frank's Kids at an orphanage in Guatemala. She has completed an Outward Bound course in North Carolina.

Gonzaga University is a private Roman Catholic university located in Spokane, WA. Founded in 1887 by the Society of Jesus, it is one of 28 member institutions of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. It is named for the young Jesuit saint Aloysius Gonzaga. The campus houses 105 buildings on 131 acres of grassland along the Spokane River, in a residential setting one-half-mile from downtown Spokane. The university was founded by Father Joseph Cataldo, an Italian-born priest and missionary. He established the Catholic school for local Native Americans whom he served.

Andie:

Volleyball has provided you and our family a tremendous journey over the past 6 years. It is hard to believe it is the end of this era, but we are excited for the next chapter in your life to begin. Your volleyball experiences will benefit you as your journey continues, having taught you many core values essential for happiness and success: work ethic, commitment, dedication, teamwork. Most importantly, cherish and nourish the relationships you have developed with your wonderful teammates and coaches – they have all been tremendous influences on the young woman you have become.

We are so very proud of you, we admire your sensitive nature and caring personality, and we are confident that you will be happy and successful in whatever path you decide to pursue. Have a wonderful experience at Gonzaga, be thankful for the many blessings in your life, and never settle for less than what you can achieve. And always remember how much we love you!

“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.”

“Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don't matter, and those that matter don't mind.”

**Love,
Mom and Dad**

