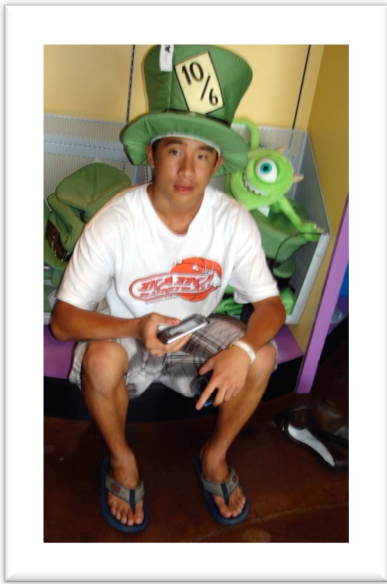


BRYCE WONG (MARYKNOLL SCHOOL - Class of 2007)



I was very privileged to play for Ikaika basketball and Coach Clayton Tang. When I started playing for Ikaika, I was 6th grade and I was not the best player in the world. Not only was I the youngest but I was the shortest player. Coach Clay has helped me become a part of who I am today, on and off the court. He dedicates his time to help us kids out to make us a better person on and off the court. He would even work with me on days we didn't have practice and take me to a court to practice my shooting. He has somewhat created me into the person I am today, and taught me about everything I currently know about basketball.

Playing for Ikaika was a very good experience for me because without it, I would be a totally different person. Playing for this team helped me learn a lot of things like responsibility, communication, and leadership. Ikaika has helped me become a more mature person on and off the court and I am very thankful for the opportunity to have played on this team. Ikaika has taught me responsibility by being able to do things on my own. If I didn't do things correctly then I would have to be responsible for my actions and learn from it. This team has also taught me communication is a main key in life because without communication, nothing would happen. We all need to communicate in life whether it is a good thing or not. Ikaika has also

taught me leadership skills. During my final year of Ikaika, I was one of the oldest ones there and I felt that I needed to step up and take leadership.

I think the most memorable times of this Ikaika experience were all the games we would play. Coach Clay would always get us into a league somehow, whether it was on the island or not. The experience these games provided were things that we would not be able to learn from just practice. It allowed us to learn game time situations, like what to do when and how to accomplish it. It didn't mean always coming out with a win, but I honestly think you can learn more with a loss than a win. Losses help you realize what you did wrong so that you can do it right the next time.

I was very privileged to have Coach Clay enter my life because he was not only a coach for me but he was also a true friend. If I had problems with anything I could go to him and he would give his input on what he thinks I should do. He would help me with any problems ranging from school ball to girlfriend problems. He would always be there for me no matter what the situation was and I am very thankful for that.

Coach Clay would always emphasize the importance of one possession. He made us read a poem that a man named Jeff Smith wrote. It taught me the importance of that one possession when I turned the ball over or I made a bad shot. With that one possession, the game could have come out a totally different way. It has taught us to value each possession that we have because at the end of the game, it could come down to that one possession.

Overall, I am very glad to have played for this team because I would be a totally different person I didn't. Without the opportunity to play on this team, I would not have picked up important skills in life like leadership, communication, responsibility, and much more. Ikaika is definitely one of the bright parts of my life and I would not exchange it for anything. Even though Coach Clay got on my ass for a lot of things, it helped me a lot to become who I am today, and I am glad he did so. Ikaika and Coach Clay have helped me become a better person on and off the court, and I would not trade this experience for a single thing.