

KIMIKO MITCHELL (MARYKNOLL HIGH SCHOOL – CLASS OF 2011)



The Ikaika Basketball Club has been my second family since my sophomore year. Initially, I was supposed to join Ikaika in seventh grade, and to this day, I regret not joining earlier. I say this because the things I've gotten out of this team has helped shape me into the person I am today in so many ways that I wonder what more could have happened if I played for Coach Clay longer. The team and program Coach Clay has built is centered around so much more than just the game of basketball. In some magical way, he has been able to smoothly connect life lessons with a ball and a court. Coach Clay has a no half-ass, no give up attitude about everything we do. He invests so much time into bettering our skills on the court and our values off the court that it's hard not to appreciate everything he does for us. From the countless number of dribbling skills to the

innumerable hours he spends organizing fundraisers, Coach Clay has been behind all of his players all the way.

The time spent on the team consisted of constant hardwork but everything paid off in the end. Not only could I see myself progress as a player, I could also feel myself growing into an adult. With the little things, such as fundraisers, Coach Clay was able to teach us lessons that we wouldn't be able to attain in a classroom. He has showed us the importance of money by giving us the opportunity to fundraise all funds to travel. He has taught us how to communicate with other people our opinions if we wanted anything to happen. He has taught us to take responsibility for our actions and choices. Among many other lessons, Ikaika has taught me perseverance, discipline, loyalty, leadership, and teamwork.

This three-year journey has left me with cramped muscles, bumps and bruises, a few tears here and there, many laughs, long-lasting friendships, a family, and a better handle on things. I am so thankful for everything the club has given me and left me with.

