



2021 Lady Barons

Reflections

Alyssa Archuleta
C.K. McClatchy High School

I remember when I first joined Barons I wasn't sure how I would like it, I had always played church ball growing up but I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue on to play in Asian league. I gave it a try just to see how I'd like it and I'm so grateful I chose to stick with it. When I first joined the team I was nervous, I only knew a few girls and I was playing with a brand new team. As practices went on I got to know my teammates and the more and more tournaments we did the closer we got. I can't believe 8th grade us were running around the hotel lobby over 4 years ago when it just feels like yesterday. My team has become some of my best friends and I am forever thankful. I'm so glad I was given such a strong group of girls that are there for each other on and off the court. These past 6 years on the team have been amazing.



Everything from practices, to tournaments, parties and more I have really made some of my best memories with them.



Being a part of Barons and learning all the values has taught me so much. The importance of discipline and commitment not only helped me on the court but also in my academic life. And of course one of the biggest lessons the Barons has taught me is the importance of family. The family I

experience within the Barons community is unreal, I'm so lucky to be a part of something like this. Not only have I been given some of my best friends from my team but I've also formed so many relationships within the community. Being given the opportunity to attend Barons camp and just be with everyone was an experience I'll always be grateful for. Having everyone together and seeing all the teamwork and effort put into it all the events just shows how much the organization cares about us and the family it has created.

Lastly I'd like to say thank you to everyone who has made my Barons experience unforgettable to all the parents, my coaches, my teammates and the Barons organization. Our team was blessed to have Mirann and Marisa as coaches, they have been such great coaches and have taught me what leadership is. I look up to both of them in so many ways, they are both such great influences and I'm grateful



for all the work, time, and effort that they have contributed to the team. My experience wouldn't be the same without them. And of course thank you to my mom and dad and all the parents for working the concessions and doing all the behind-the-scenes work, it means so much. The Barons organization has been so good to me these past years and I'd like to thank everyone for bringing us all together. And lastly thank you to my teammates for such an unforgettable experience and for bonds that will last a lifetime. My experience as a Baron is something I'll cherish forever.

Lauren Archuleta

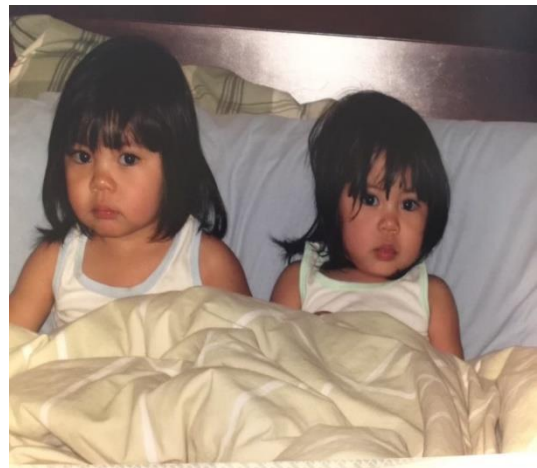
C.K. McClatchy High School



Growing up playing basketball I had always heard about the Asian league teams. I wasn't sure if I wanted to play, but when I was asked to play for Barons I decided to give it a try. From joining this team I gained more than just teammates, but friendships that would last me my whole lifetime.

I remember going to my first few practices and awaiting the tournaments, because I was so excited to hang out with my team at night. Over the years we made so many memories and traditions I won't forget. Barons camp was always one of my favorite activities and I looked forward to it each year. From being a "baby baron" to now it's crazy to think my first year was four years ago. I remember right before my first camp I was extremely nervous and didn't know what to expect. But by the end of camp I was sad it was all ending and had already started thinking about what it'd be like to be a senior. Now that I'm here and looking back on my experience I'm grateful. Being a part of this organization I learned what it was to be a baron which is way more than just basketball. I learned the importance of integrity, humility, work ethic and others.

To my coaches, I want to say thank you for all you have done for us. You taught me so much on and off the court. You guys provide me with two excellent role models that I aspire to be like. Lastly a big thanks goes out to Rod and Merv if it weren't for all you do I wouldn't have been able to have such an amazing experience being a baron.



Kaylin Isbell

Cosumnes Oaks High School

My love for basketball began in 5th grade when one of my best friends had asked me to join the ‘She’s got game’ program at CSD with her. Since then I started to get into school ball, and competitive AAU teams.

However, my Barons experience had all started during 7th grade, when Uncle Denis came up to my parents and asked if I would like to join the 7th grade pre-barons (Lady Knights) team. I had known who most of the girls were already from AAU. My family was a bit hesitant at first, as we didn’t know what “Asian League” really was.

Some of the girls and their parents had pushed my family to join as they were excited to have us be a part of the team. Nonetheless, joining Barons was one of the best decisions that I ever made.

In the past 6 years of playing with my team I was able to experience so many great things. From traveling down to the Bay area every spring for tournaments, to meeting new people during Barons events like Barons Camp or pizza night, to making a ton of memories with my team during our team bondings and dinners. These unforgettable moments that happen throughout our childhood will last us a lifetime, and

I’m so grateful for the experience that Barons have given me throughout all these years.

Although this past year wasn’t what we all expected as a Senior year or any year at all, it is up to us to make the best out of the worst situations. The virtual Barons Camp is one to



remember. I am grateful for the Barons Organization for putting on an online camp for us players even through the worst of times. Thank you to those who spent their time and energy to create this camp and every past event for us. Your work is what creates memorable moments for players like me, and I am so grateful for all of you.

I would like to thank all the moms and dads on our team. We truly have some of the best parents, and I'm so grateful to have all of them. From running the snack bar, working fundraisers, driving us from place to place, I truly can't express my gratitude for each and every one of them. They do so much to make sure us girls are able to get the best experience that we can have.



To our team manager, Uncle Denis, I want to thank you for everything you do. The organization, effort, and time you put into making sure us girls are taken care of to the fullest extent does not go unnoticed. I appreciate everything you do for us girls. You always make sure that we have the best of the best, and I can't express how thankful I am to have you managing our team.

To my teammates, thank you for sticking by my side through thick and thin. You guys have been there for me when I needed, and although we weren't the best on the court, I had so many fun times and memories with all of you off the court. I couldn't imagine going through the Barons experience with anyone other than you.

To Coach Marsia, thank you for being someone I am able to look up to. You are such a strong and intelligent woman, that inspires me to be a better person. I'm so glad I am able to come to you for guidance and advice as I navigate my way through this world. You have taught me so many things that I will keep with me throughout my life. I

am so appreciative to have such a role model like you to look up to.

To Coach Mirann, thank you for being another role model in my life. Although short in height, you have such a great amount of kindness and knowledge within you. Your strive to do the things that YOU want to do in life, motivates me to follow my dreams and passions. Your activism and strength are what I strive to accomplish. I can't thank you enough for everything you have done for me.



To my mom and dad, who have been my greatest supporters, thank you for everything. I would not have been able to accomplish anything without you. Thank you for sticking by my side through the highs and lows, thank you for supporting me even through my lowest of times, and thank you for giving me one of the greatest lives I ever could've asked for. Words can't express how grateful I am for you two.

Cara Ishisaka

C.K. McClatchy High School



It's incredibly surreal how quickly a wonderful sense of fulfillment and experience has gone by in just a matter of years. I can honestly say that my time as a Baron was anything but a waste. Barons has helped me realize basketball is more than "just a game", it's also a celebration of community, a benchmark of achievement, and a teacher of core life values. I cannot understate the appreciation and gratitude I feel toward everyone involved in this one-of-a-kind organization, for helping me become the person I am today.

To my team: The long-lasting friendships I've made with all of you are the most priceless gifts I could take away from this experience. Thank you for the goofiness at practices, team sleepovers, and of course, all the shenanigans we've gotten into. There is no other team that I would rather be a part of. Good luck to all of you as you embark on your next journey.

Coach Mirann and Coach Marisa, your leadership and dedication to the team are beyond compare. I'm fortunate I had the opportunity to experience your high-caliber and moral coaching. Your persistence in pushing us to our absolute limits, and having pride in the work we put in every day was absolutely crucial to the development of not only our athletic ability but our ability to be genuine human as well. You taught us not only how to be excellent athletes but also how to be better people and what it means to care about something with every ounce of our being. Most importantly, you instilled upon us the importance of controlling what we can control, encouraging us to use adversity as our fuel for success. Thank you for teaching me lessons far beyond the game.

Dad, saying thank you hardly seems enough after all you have done for this team. This experience has been remarkable because of your endless investment, always going above and beyond the call of duty. Your diligence, motivation as well as dedication have been a source of inspiration for the team and I. If anyone on our team deserves to be MVP, it's you!

Class of 2021 Parents, thank you for your ongoing support, enthusiasm, and commitment. From being our chauffeurs and a nonstop ATM to running a successful concession stand and fundraisers—all of your efforts have not gone unnoticed or unappreciated.

Thank you alumni and coaches for your unconditional generosity and support, which has cultivated a pleasurable experience. For all the friendships I've made, all the opportunities and advantages granted to me, the culture I've been submerged in, the close family bond I've grown, the incredible basketball experience I've endured, and the feeling of belonging—I owe it all to you. From your compassion and integrity, I understand what it means to be a true team player.



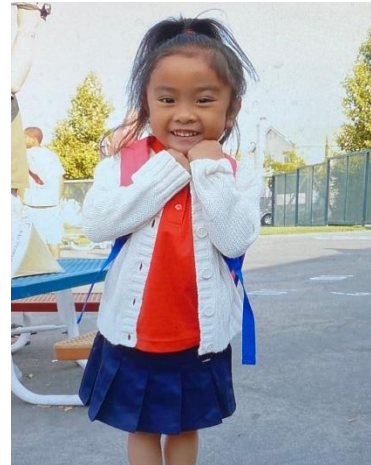
And lastly, Coach Rod and Coach Marvin, you've given me so much in these past years, and I really don't know if I can ever thank you enough. You're unparalleled in your ability to create a caring environment in which you help each and every player reach their full athletic potential. Perhaps most importantly, you've instilled in all of us the value of striving to become high-character members of the community. Your efforts have fostered not only impressive teams but also a close-knit family. I'm forever thankful, indebted to the passion, enthusiasm, and love you've bestowed upon me and my team.

As Barons journey ends rather abruptly, it's not the wins or losses I'll remember down the line, it's the people by my side and precious memories that have made this such a special experience. I am now, and always will be Baron proud. Thank you.

Melanie Mar Cosumnes Oaks High School



Although it's pretty sad that we were unable to play in any tournaments during our senior year and had to have a virtual barons camp instead of an in - person one due to this weird covid year, these past years of being a part of an organization like the barons has been a real pleasure as it has been quite an experience that holds lots of memories that I will forever be grateful for. When my dad first talked to me about joining the Barons, I just thought it was going to be another basketball team I get to play for and of course I was still pretty happy about it because of my love for the game. However, what I didn't know was how much of an impact this organization would have on me and how memorable this journey would be. The time we have together during Barons really does fly by and it's crazy to think that this chapter is already coming to an end. I remember listening to all these senior speeches during barons camp and would say that's a long time from now and here I am about to graduate high school. The feeling is surreal but I am very thankful to be a part of this big barons family and being able to make all these memories along the way from all of the tournaments, barons camps, pizza nights, and fundraisers as well as the bonds, friendships, and mentors I gained. This experience as a whole has truly been a blessing and something that has become very special to me. I want to give a huge thanks to all of my teammates, coaches, and everyone who has made these past years so memorable. Once a baron, always a baron. ♡ ♡



Talia Medalle

Dixon High School

I joined Barons my 8th grade year with the assumption that it would be like any other travel team. Boy was I proven wrong. From these 3 short years with the organization I've learned that Barons is way more than basketball, but an outlet to friendship and family. I'm so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet such amazing people, and hold such an impactful piece of my life with me forever.

To all of our parents: Thank you for your constant efforts to make this experience unforgettable. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, but I think at times we forget to say thank you. I would think that after so many years of watching us play that you would get sick of it, but you consistently show your love and support. You should honestly get a raise...

To Coaches Marisa and Mirann: Not only have you coached me and girls on the court, but you



coach us through life. Just the little talks to check in before practice were refreshing, and a nice reminder of your genuine care for all of us. Thank you for pushing me in games and during practice to do my ultimate best. You literally gave me the opportunity to partake in this amazing experience, and I'm so glad that you did. I love you guys, and thank you so much once again.

To my team: Although I did not have the privilege of knowing you ladies for as long as you've known each other, I thank you for accepting me and being such great role models.

You've unknowingly taught me how to be a better person and player as I looked up to you from being the youngest of the bunch. I'm sorry for not being able to make it to many team bonding stuff because I had to play AAU basketball, but thank you for not resenting me for it. I'm so proud of each and every one of you for this journey you're about to embark on, college. I believe that every single one of you will be able to achieve your dreams because of your hard work and dedication. While I'm in my senior year next year I'll be rooting for y'all! I love you and good luck on anything you seek out to accomplish.

To future Barons: Never be afraid to be yourself! You will enjoy this if you just let go of "being cool", and not be intimidated by embarrassment. It's a part of life, but as I learned quickly at Barons camp, being outgoing is what makes everything memorable. You're going to want to

look back on this time as a Baron and remember how much fun you had, not how much you worried about your looks. Have fun! Enjoy the team you have by your side and embrace the new people you will meet. You can do it! You all were chosen to be a Baron for far more than your basketball talents.

A major thankyou to everyone from the Barons organization! I was given the opportunity of a lifetime to be a part of this family, and it is something I will cherish forever. I can't believe how many amazing people I have come to meet over these 3 years, and the fun memories that I will hold onto for the rest of my life.



Kaley Poon
C.K. McClatchy High School

Although I only played basketball with my Barons team for two years, I was always welcomed with open arms to all the social events associated with the organization. I attended Barons Camp three times, as an eighth grader, a freshman and a senior. I had



an amazing time at camp and felt that I was able to connect with players no matter their age. The Barons teams and adults linked with the organization always made me feel like I was a part of the team whether or not I was actually playing basketball. I remember going to one of my team's tournaments, after I had stopped playing, and it was like I had never left. To reflect on this one specific tournament, I remember sitting on the bench with Alyssa and we could not stop laughing. Mia had passed Lauren the ball, which she clearly was not ready for, and as a result, it hit her in the face. KK's brother had recorded this entire incident and it's always something that the team brings up to have a good laugh. I even went to all the Christmas parties and participated in the white elephant exchange. Last fall, I attended virtual Baron's camp as a senior and although it was not the same as in-person camp, the coaches and everyone involved in developing a virtual camp for us, made it a memorable event. I hadn't gone to camp in two or



three years but as a senior, the players still looked up to me as if I had been there the whole time. My time as a player on my Barons team was short. However, the memories I made will last a lifetime.

Mia Waki

C.K. McClatchy High School

As my time with the Barons organization is coming to an end, I would like to thank everyone who has made my experience with the organization one I will never forget. First, I would like to



thank Mirann and Marisa for coaching our team. Not only did you play the important role of a coach, but you also gave us people to look up to in life. Even though we may complain during practice, you inspired us to work hard and compete. Thank you for making yourself available to me whenever I needed your help or advice and being someone I could always count on.

Next, I would like to thank Rod and Merv. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Barons organization. Without you, I would have never been able to create the memories and friendships I've made that will last forever. I appreciate all the time and effort you put into tournaments, camp, and scavenger hunts. Barons camp was always something I looked forward to and was the place where I made some of my favorite memories as a Baron.



To my teammates, Alyssa, Lauren, Kaley, KK, Lily, Talia, Mel, Lindsey, and Cara...thank you for being a group of girls that never failed to make me laugh and smile. Although we weren't the typical barons team (one that won all the time lol) we still managed to make unforgettable memories together: boba runs, sleepover at Mirann's house, Yamashiro pool parties, shopping for Marisa's clubbing outfit at Ross. However, as we part our different ways this year, I'm excited to see what the future holds for everyone. You girls are some of the brightest people I know and I expect nothing but success from each and every one of you.



Lasty, thank you to the parents for all the time, money, love, and dedication you put into our team. We appreciate all the fundraisers and concession stands you worked for us and the mother's days spent in the bay. I'd like to give a special shout out to Denis for always giving us pep talks, buying us boba, and putting together all the team dinners. Overall, my barons experience is one I will cherish for life and will forever be

thankful to be apart of this organization.

Lily Yamashiro Pleasant Grove High School



I am so thankful for my time as a Baron. Starting my first year in 6th grade with the girls was intimidating. Everyone already knew each other and had played basketball together for some time. I remember feeling like I made a mistake joining the team. However, after talks with my dad, I realized that this team was bigger than basketball. It would be my family.

My teammates have become some of my best friends. We work together on the court, but more importantly off the court. Our team took basketball seriously, but it was not our intention to win championships. Our intentions were always to have fun and enjoy our years as barons together. I loved going to tournaments with my team, not to play basketball, but rather to have long nights in the hotels with my teammates. I have made irreplaceable memories with the girls. My teammates have always encouraged me even though everyone knows I am not that good at basketball. I definitely was the best cheerleader for them though. I feel as though I can't thank them enough for the wonderful memories and bonds I created with them all.



I also want to thank my coaches. They have been amazing role models in my life. I look up to both of them for inspiration. They always put our team first even with such a busy lifestyle. So much time was dedicated to making us better basketball players, but also better women. They helped shape me into the woman I have become today. I thank both of them so much for everything they've done for my team and I. We love you both so much!

Lastly, to the parents. I am so thankful for all of the parents on my team. They are always so supportive and willing to help in any form. I will always be grateful for their time and energy to make our Barons experience so much fun. Even though this past year was crazy, our families stayed the same and kept the same values. Thank you barons for such a great basketball experience.





