



Maria Mayhew
Girls Volleyball

When did you start playing your sport and how did you get introduced to it?

I have been playing volleyball since 7th Grade. After playing my first season in middle school, I fell in love with the game and decided to try out for club. Club is very competitive and luckily we live very close to one of the best clubs in the nation, I have been playing for Sports Performance Volleyball ever since.

Do you play any other sports?

Prior to focusing on volleyball, I swam for 6 years and played basketball for 3. Occasionally I play competitive beach volleyball at North Avenue beach in Chicago.

What has your sport taught you and what lessons have you pulled from it?

I have learned many lessons on and off the court playing volleyball but the most prevalent in my life would be that you have to be willing to sacrifice and work hard in to be successful at something. I give up my weeknights and weekends to practice and go to tournaments, in the end I believe it will all be worth it. The sport continues to challenge me and test my character but it has taught me perseverance.

What do you wish you knew when you were just starting?

I wish I knew how much I would love the sport of volleyball so I could have started it earlier in life.

What quote/inspiration do you resort to when things get hard?

The quote "Fall seven times, stand up eight" inspires me, it reminds me no matter the obstacles I am faced with, I must persevere and keep pushing forward to overcome them on and off the court.

Share something about you that isn't well known.

Apart from volleyball, I am passionate about the arts as well, I spend some of my free time drawing and singing.

Where do you go from here? College plans?

I will be continuing my volleyball and academic career at the University of California San Diego.

Do you have a role model?

There have been so many people who have been influential to me in this sport. Of course I have had many great coaches at Sports Performance including Troy Gilb who coached me for two years and really taught me the fundamentals of the game as well as what it takes to play at an elite level. Also, I really have a special relationship with my high school coach, Kelly Simon, who gave me leadership opportunities as a sophomore. I look up to her as a role model. She is not only dedicated to the sport, but to her players as well.