



BRYCE MENENDEZ
NVHS BOOSTER CLUB FEATURED ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
BASKETBALL PROGRAM

The NVHS Athletic Booster Club is proud to present the featured athlete of this week, basketball player BRYCE MENENDEZ. According to coach Williams, Bryce is the most engaging athlete he has had the pleasure of coaching”, because she continuously excels on and off the court. He tells us that she is a highly skilled athlete, but it is the intangible attributes that elevate her beyond just being called a talented basketball player!”

Booster Club Reporter: *For how long have you played basketball? Do you do other sports? Which? What are your other hobbies? Why did you choose them?*

Bryce: I have been playing basketball since the first grade. Up to my sophomore year of high school I played volleyball in addition to basketball. I had a great experience playing because I met so many wonderful people and grew as a competitor. Also, I love to volunteer for the booster club with my mom. Volunteering gives me a sense of purpose, because I'm giving back to my community.

Booster Club Reporter: *What made you decide to play this specific sport over anything else?*

Bryce: When I was younger I played basketball just because it was something I was good at, I had always been the tall athletic girl. But over time my love for the game grew beyond just being good at it. As I put years of practice and competition under my belt I soon realized basketball was so much more than putting a ball through a hoop. It was about finding your inner drive to accomplish a goal you could have never done alone. Being a part of a team with common goals is something a person can't quite explain. Its not just the competitor in me that wants to win every game, but scoring, rebounding, blocking shots so that my team can succeed. I don't just play for myself, but for a family away from my own.

Booster Club Reporter: *Have you ever questioned or second-guessed your decision to stay in the team? Why? How did you overcome them?*

Bryce: With any sport, an athlete always has times when they have felt defeated. This is what I call a rut. This is when I feel I can't do anything right on the court or every time I try to pick myself up, I seem to fall deeper into the hole I have dug myself in my head. My AAU travel season going into my sophomore year was when I experienced the worst rut I had had so far in my basketball career. There were selfish players that only cared about scoring the most points over the overall idea of winning games. I had never questioned my loyalty to a team up until this point, but then I realized if I quit I would be going against my word. In the end of the day I felt that staying with this team would be less painful than going against my word. The support I received from my family was the only other reason I decided to tough it out.

Booster Club Reporter: *What have you learned from the coaches that you think is worth sharing with your peers?*

Bryce: Over the years I have had many coaches and thankfully I have had more great coaches than bad. But overall, they are not just coaches but life teachers. The greatest lesson I have learned is to always put your best foot forward and that everyday is a new day filled with opportunities to better yourself.

Booster Club Reporter: *What have you learned from all the years in sports that you think will serve you well in your adult life?*

Bryce: Sports have taught me perseverance; to never give up on the idea of reaching perfection. Everyone faces adversity and it is how a person gets over the wall placed in front of her that defines who she is. You are not the mistakes you've made but the fight you present.

Booster Club Reporter: *What are your likes and dislikes about being part of a team? How do you deal with different personalities, different visions for the team, etc?*

Bryce: I love the camaraderie a team possesses and how we are thrown into the fire together and have to find a way to fight it. Everyone has a different role, but the amazing thing is how those pieces fit together. I've been very blessed with some of the teams I have been apart of and have rarely had to face unwanted characteristics. The only character I find difficult to deal with is selfishness, but selfish people end up being self-destructive and the issue is normally takes care of itself.

Booster Club Reporter: *What is your recipe for keeping up with good grades while practicing sports?*

Bryce: People most of the time overlook the fact that we are student athletes. That's right, students first. Having a busy schedule teaches time management and the importance of establishing priorities. It is perseverance, staying up as long as needed to accomplish an assignment thoroughly, or study for a test. It is about conquering the day no matter how many things you have to do.

Booster Club Reporter: *Do you have a favorite quote, a motto, a verse, which inspires you when things get hard?*

Bryce: My favorite quote is my Winston Churchill, "Success is not final, failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts". Never giving up is one of the important qualities I value.

Booster Club Reporter: *Who is your role model? Why?*

Bryce: My role model will forever be my mother. She is the most caring, patient, devoted woman I know; she is my best friend. She has raised me to be the strong independent woman she sees in the mirror everyday. I could never begin to thank her for the continuous love and support she showers me with every moment of everyday. She knows how to get under my skin, but she also knows how to lift me up even when I feel as though I can't stand. We have the best time together because we are a team. She will always be my favorite hello, but my hardest goodbye when I leave for college.

Booster Club Reporter: *What makes you a winner?*

Bryce: I'm a winner because I have a win or go home mind set that causes me to push myself past what even I thought was possible. I'm extremely competitive in whatever I do because I feel as though everything in life is more fun with competition.