

Volleyball has impacted my life in more ways than I can count. I started playing in 7th grade with a couple of friends. The first time I ever played was during a private lesson on my birthday. I didn't really enjoy it at first, but I stayed consistent with lessons and kept showing up.

Eventually, I entered my first club season, and it was an amazing experience. More than just the sport, the people were what kept me involved. As I grew in the game, I transitioned from middle to setter and made the decision that I wanted to play in college. From that point on, I became more focused, and volleyball turned into a major part of my life. Now, halfway through my senior year, I am grateful I dedicated so much time and effort to it.

Volleyball is a breath of fresh air for me. At the same time, I value academics even more. Even in a world where I could play professionally and not have to work, I don't think I would choose that path. I want to contribute in a meaningful way and build something beyond athletics.

My grades in high school have not always reflected my ability, but rather my circumstances. Around sophomore year, they declined as I went through a difficult period mentally while also working three jobs to help support my family. Now, I am in a better position and more focused on my future, which is reflected in my senior-year performance.

My goals in college are to continue playing volleyball and major in Marketing or pursue a career that allows me to work remotely. I plan to attend Orange Coast College, a community college in California known as a Division I pipeline, for one year before transferring to a Division I school such as UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, or Jessup University. I am already in conversations with programs at that level.

I believe I am deserving of this scholarship because of my situation and the work I have put in. I come from a large family with five siblings, and the cost of college places a significant burden on us. Despite that, I have done everything I can to build the best path forward. The only thing holding me back now is financial support.

I have dedicated myself to this journey and want to prove to my family that their support since I started playing in 7th grade was the right decision. I believe I can achieve whatever I set my mind to, and I am committed to making the most of every opportunity. That is why I believe I deserve this scholarship.

