4/9/26

Dear Coach Sandy and Coach Brooke,

We just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much we truly appreciate the time and commitment you've been pouring into working with Harper.

She is all in and absolutely loving this new adventure in her basketball journey. It has been so special to watch her grow, and we know that is a direct reflection of the energy, guidance, and encouragement you both bring.

Chris and I are incredibly grateful that you are investing in our girl. It means more to us than you know.

Thank you again for everything you do! Have the best day!

Ashley, Chris and Harper Echols

12 April 2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to support Colorado Lady Lightning and its exceptional basketball program. Our daughter Nella is a very competitive athlete with a natural athletic ability who has gravitated to multiple team sports. To our delight, it quickly became evident basketball and soccer were going to be her focus.

We nurtured her commitment and passion, and she excelled as a dual-sport athlete. Over the years, including many coaches, clubs, and games, she pursued basketball as her primary sport. I was Nella's Jr year of high school when her passion waned, and she became dissatisfied with the game. The coaching and club we had joined did not provide Nella with a high-quality program.

Then we heard of Sandy Zimmerman and her family of coaches. We found a basketball club that put our daughter first. Nella, and our family as a whole, were no longer a number. We could not have been happier. Once under the wing of Sandy, Nella's energy, passion, and devotion to basketball returned. The young lady who had become disheartened and happy with 'being present' was now alive and talking about 'crushing it.' Sandy brought a much-needed balance of coaching to improve her skills and tough love to get her focused. I can say without hesitation CLL breathed life back into her. We also found welcomed support from the extended family of players and their parents, with whom we bonded and became friends.

Nella was now looking forward to playing basketball at the collegiate level. As parents, we did not know what to expect or where to start. Then, along comes Gerry Zimmerman, who guided us as a family into a situation we could not have ever imagined. He quickly became her (our) off-court coach. Starting with understanding Nella's academic and athletic expectations, we soon went from a blank sheet of paper to a professional highlight reel(s). Gerry became a great advocate and champion, opening communications (and ultimately opportunities) to coaches across the US. He mentored her along the way, instructing her on dealing with coaches and presenting herself as a player. He also educated us, as parents, on what to look for and how to get the "best offer" for Nella.

Before we knew it, and after many school visits, Nella had multiple offers (8) to NCAA DIII and NAIA schools accompanied by high-dollar scholarships. Ultimately, the most challenging part was deciding on which to choose. We proudly announce that Nella will attend and play for Luther College in Iowa starting in 2023, and plans to study Nursing (BSN).

It's hard to express how indebted we are to Sandy, Gerry, and the extended CLL family. We, without reservation, highly recommend this program to everyone we meet.

Sincerely,
David and Liinu Castaneda

Bert Murphy
7801 Windwood Way
Parker, CO 80134
11/19/19

Colorado Lady Lightening
Coach Sandy Zimmerman
President Gerry Zimmerman
RE: Kate Murphy

Dear Colorado Lady Lightening:

I wanted to touch base and pass along our sincere appreciation for all that your club has extended to our daughter, Kate Murphy, this past summer and fall seasons. Kate has recently signed her letter of intent to begin playing for the Regis University Rangers starting in her freshman year of 2020. It has been Kate's dream to play at the collegiate level for years. She has played for a variety of different clubs over this time but really found a home with you guys at CLL. The leadership and mentoring from Coach Sandy resonated very early in the season for Kate and she strove to work hard and was determined to be both a team leader as well as part of the family culture embraced by your club. The strong leadership and determined spirit helped Kate step up to the level necessary to be recognized by the college recruiters she wanted to make an impression upon.

Additionally, Gerry, President and recruiting manager professionally recorded and developed footage of Kate's performance on the court and reached out to a broad selection of Universities to distribute this and ignite the necessary interest to get the ball rolling. Gerry, tirelessly worked toward the goal of identifying the schools we felt were a good fit for Kate and was able to get many of these recruiters to attend the showcase tournaments that we participated in during the season. The ultimate goal was to secure a verbal commitment before the end of the summer season which was accomplished. The efforts extended by Gerry afforded Kate the opportunity to not only receive an offer but literally a multitude of them and allowed us as a family to find the very best fit for Kate.

Kate will be pursuing her degree in nursing at Regis University and will be part of what we feel is another excellent family environment within the women basketball program. The goal of having the opportunity to play basketball at the collegiate level as well as achieving her dreams of becoming a registered nurse are immensely rewarding and we feel that the coaching and management of the Colorado Lady Lightening played an integral role in helping Kate achieve this lifelong dream.

Sincerely,

Bert Murphy