

Kayla Keshmeshian '22

By Coach Will Burr, Viewpoint Girls' Basketball

I want to take the opportunity to introduce you to Kayla Keshmeshian '22. Kayla, now a junior, has been a member of the Viewpoint community since Kindergarten. I cannot say this enough nor do I say it lightly – she is a very special person. In my more than 20 years of coaching, I have never experienced a player with such an extraordinary work ethic. One of the things I respect so highly about her is that she not only expresses that she wants to be a better basketball player, but more importantly she wants to be a better person. Kayla puts in the work to improve and her dedication and commitment are unmatched. She is the epitome of a "gym rat"; always the first in the gym and the last to leave – and by last, I mean three hours later she is still trying to continue working out. Her positive attitude towards putting in the necessary work to become a better player and person never waivers and when faced with adversity, she rises to the occasion. Whether it is in the classroom or on the basketball court, Kayla shows up prepared and ready to work.

Her academic record is one place her work ethic clearly shines. Kayla finished her freshman year with a 4.41 GPA, with a class schedule that consisted of Geometry Honors, Biology Honors, and French 3 Honors. She continued her academic excellence sophomore year with a 4.58 GPA enduring a schedule that consisted of English 2 Honors, French 4 Honors, Algebra 2/Trigonometry Honors, and Chemistry Honors. Kayla understands the importance of education and aspires to continue her academic studies at a high-caliber academic university.

Kayla not only excels in the classroom, but on the basketball court as well. Her freshman year she was placed in a high-pressure situation, as our Varsity team was rebuilding after graduating two prominent seniors. She had to carry the majority of the scoring load right from the start. To say she rose to the challenge is an understatement. Kayla was one of the nation's top scorers, where she ranked 5th in the nation among all freshman in the United States. Furthermore, she ranked 96th in scoring among all players, freshman to senior, in the United States. She was also in the top 5 ranking in free throw percentage with a 91% average.

Leading into her sophomore year, summer of 2019, Kayla was able to gain incredible international experience as she represented her nation of Armenia in the FIBA Games in Andorra. She led her 18U team to a gold medal and was named tournament MVP. She led the tournament with an efficiency rating of 17.3, Kayla averaged 17.5 PPG, and 6 Assists Per Game. She also led the tournament in free throw percentage of 86.7% and shot 40% from the 3-point line.

Kayla's international experience was followed by a sophomore year basketball season that proved to be an excellent learning experience. With more assistance on the offensive side of the court, Kayla learned how to facilitate the ball and make her teammates better. She was able to balance facilitating with scoring and led the team in scoring, averaging 18 points per game. She also averaged 7 assists and led her team to the semifinals of playoffs and state semifinals.

After displaying strong performances her freshman and sophomore years, Kayla was named All-League her freshman and sophomore years in one of the most difficult leagues in Southern California. Furthermore, she received All-CIF honors both years, showing that she can balance the rigorous requirements of a demanding athletic and academic schedule.

Kayla embodies the excellence of a Viewpoint student-athlete. With her work ethic and desire to become the best person, student, and athlete she can be, the sky's the limit for Kayla. ■

