

Queen of the Court - Kaitlyn Mileto

In 2010, LeBron James shocked the basketball world by “taking his talents to South Beach,” leaving his home state of Ohio to join the Miami Heat. In 2016, former Mesa Ridge basketball star Kaitlyn Mileto pulled off a similar move, this time taking her talents to the southern hemisphere! Kaitlyn, class of 2011, pursued a professional basketball career in Australia, where she played for two seasons with the Southern Peninsula Sharks. “It was really awesome - a great experience, definitely a bucket list place to visit.”



Today, Kaitlyn is a kindergarten teacher at Webster Elementary and is currently in her 4th year as the Mesa Ridge girls' varsity basketball coach. She also coaches girls' C-team volleyball and a traveling club basketball team that serves Mesa Ridge athletes, as well others from the surrounding area. Even after an outstanding basketball career at the high school, college, and professional level, Kaitlyn has brought her talents back home and, through it all, has exemplified what it truly means to be a Grizzly Great.

Kaitlyn was an excellent Mesa Ridge student and athlete. She still holds the school record for points scored in a single season (710) and career (2,042). She was also the first Grizzly to score 1,000 points in a career and was named MVP of the team her senior year. Kaitlyn attended the University of Wyoming where she continued her dominance on the court. She holds the UW record for most 3-pointers in a career and scored 1,424 points during her career. She started and played in all 122 games from her freshman year through her senior year.

Kaitlyn's advice to Grizzly athletes: “If you want it, go get it.” Whether it's having a successful high school career or playing beyond, “make that choice and go after it.” Kaitlyn pursued her dream of playing at college and professionally because she really wanted it. When she ruptured her Achilles tendon after just four games during her second season in Australia, however, she faced an unexpected and painful setback. Even though her playing career had ended, Kaitlyn didn't let that stop her from doing what she loved. Kaitlyn believes that sports teaches you to “handle hard better” meaning “things don't always get easier but you learn how to handle hard things better.”

Today, Kaitlyn remains grateful to be able to give back to Mesa Ridge. “I just really want these kids to have a good time and to know that someone is in their court. I want to be a role model for these young women and help them to become powerful, strong, and confident.” As a Mesa Ridge student, world-class athlete, high school coach, and trusted mentor, Kaitlyn Mileto has made Grizzly Nation proud and our community is better because she has brought her talents back home.

