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**Sports and a personal trainer**

*River Ridge Middle School*

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” I’ve been asked that question about 50 times, and almost every time I would come up with something new, “A vet, a cook, a journalist.” It’s hard to believe how much my ideas have changed as I’ve learned more about my interests.

I learned more about myself and my interests by growing up surrounded by sports, mostly basketball and football. Now that I’ve started to play softball, basketball, and volleyball I’m falling in love with the activity and competitiveness. I’m pretty competitive myself, and this has led me to the career I want to pursue.

I’ve always dreamed about being in the Women’s National Basketball Association (WNBA) or the National Volleyball Association (NVA), but I have a backup plan. I want to go to a Big 10 school and get my bachelor’s degree in fitness, that way I can become a personal trainer. While I’m going to college I want to participate in athletics of some kind, like basketball or softball.

After I finish college, I want to apply for a personal training job for the Wisconsin Badgers. I want to work for them because I’ve grown up watching their athletics, and they’re a big inspiration for me. I’ve recently started watching their women's basketball and volleyball more often, and even though the basketball team isn’t the greatest, the volleyball team is really good. I would like to be a trainer for those and future devoted athletes.

My brother David has always been my biggest inspiration. He is the smartest and most athletic person I know. I would give anything to work with someone like him, someone who actually wants to put in the work that is needed to get better. That’s the reason I want to become a trainer, because the athletes that I’ll be working with will all be devoted, so they won’t be wasting time.

I’ve always heard stories about athletes and their inspiration. I want to be that person for a player. Even if that player doesn’t make it into the WNBA or the NVA, I still want to be their reason to be the best they can be. Who knows, maybe they will become a point guard for the Connecticut Suns.

We all have different interests, which is a good thing. Without different interests, we would all want to do the same job. That wouldn’t be good for our country, or the people. I used to dream of being famous, but I’ve learned a lot about what I enjoy. Now I know that I don’t need to become the most famous person in the U.S. to fulfill my dreams. The things that you don’t see a lot of times matter most.