

# Hoops for the Future

By: Dylen Conklin

From an early age, Sophie Davidson and Nicole Ramirez knew that they loved and had a passion for basketball. Now they have taken that love for basketball and put it into coaching the 4-5th grade girls' CYO basketball team. They have impacted those girls' lives and given them life-long experiences.

I had asked Sophie and Nicole what inspired them to coach the basketball team this year and Nicole explained: "I always wanted to coach girls and we've been wanting to get a team together and this year finally did it and I think what is inspiring for me is to pass on the love I have for the game to younger people." They had been trying for years to start a girl basketball team and they hoped that coaching the girls would make them love it for the rest of their lives. They hope that the girls keep on playing and help them build more self-confidence.

I asked them how coaching the basketball team would impact the girls and the team's future and Sophie responded: "I just want to continue to get the girls more competitive and get that fight back in them." Nicole also explains "Also the impact I hope is building self-confidence because I think that's key for young girls to feel secure and have the confidence to go out there and be like I got this and I can win." They both wanted to inspire and pass on their love for basketball to younger people. They also want their future to keep on playing sports and feel more confident doing it.

Has basketball impacted your lives? Nicole responded, "For me it has, it showed me how to be a team player, how to work in groups, and how to communicate so it's impacted my work and everyday life." Sophie also said, "Getting back into the coaching side of it made me re-love the sport." Basketball has been in both Sophie's and Nicole's lives since elementary school. They have both coached basketball before and they just really wanted a team to coach again and that's what they did. I also asked them what advice they have for kids who want to join basketball and they said that you need determination and you have to put in effort, also going out and trying your best.

I asked them what the best part of their job was and Nicole said, "Seeing their growth and development, just seeing their joy they were just so happy, we didn't win any of the games but they were happy every single game." Sophie also explains, "Seeing the accomplishment that we felt and how the girls every time they made a basket they would stop and all the parents would cheer, it was the greatest cheer I've ever experienced." Basketball made all of them more confident and they all were just so happy. The girls on the team always tried their best in games and have grown so much from their first practice.

Nicole and Sophie have helped our community in so many different ways and they are just amazing people. They tried so hard for there to be a girls CYO team and it happened and now the girls know how to play basketball and be more confident in how they play. Nicole Ramirez and Sophie Davidson are not just the teams' heroes but my heroes.