

# this is A REALITY check

Denver Nuggets presents \$500 donation to high school unified athletics

**WHO**

Unified Athletic Coaches Rosalee Zaragoza, Nicole McClay and Jennifer Rutherford

**WHAT**

Denver Nuggets and Special Olympics presented a \$500 check to the high school unified team.

**THE HONOR**

"The Special Olympics and Denver Nuggets chose us as one of the schools to host an event that supported our kids. The check was a nice surprise to us all. With the money, we hope to purchase new equipment or new warm-up gear," Paula Hogg, unified coach, said.



photo by a. slanis

**SAY CHEESE.** Holding up her cell phone, Principal Shelly Geneux takes photos of the Denver Nuggets presenting the unified athletic coaches a check to their program. Geneux graduated from the high school in 1987 and came back as a social studies teacher. "I have witnessed a lot of great things happen at Brighton as a student, as a teacher, as an administrator and now as a principal. Having the Denver Nuggets support our athletes and our student body is what makes Brighton so special," Geneux said. photo by j. bishop

**I'M A LUCKY GUY.** Isaiah Maez '23 stands in the middle of Denver Nuggets cheerleaders and dancers as his coaches take a photo of him at the end of the unified basketball game against Mead. "I love that I get to play basketball for my school but I thought it was pretty cool that the Denver Nuggets came to our school to support us. I loved that Rocky was there and cheering us on," Maez said. photo by a. slanis



**DOWN THE COURT.** Levi Tucker '21 prepares to do a lay up while dribbling down the basketball court during the third quarter of the game. "There was so much energy in the gym with the crowd and the Denver Nuggets. It motivated us to play even better," Tucker said. photo by j. bishop

**LET ME HEAR YOU BULLDOGS.** The Bulldog mascot runs in front of the high school crowd high-fiving the first row as the unified basketball game begins. "If we are going to have Rocky the mascot in the house, we have to have the Bulldog mascot there," Jennifer Minor, assistant principal, said. photo by a. slanis



"WE WERE HONORED THAT THE DENVER NUGGETS AND SPECIAL OLYMPICS CHOSE OUR SCHOOL TO HOST A BASKETBALL GAME TO SUPPORT OUR ATHLETES. IT WAS AN EVENT TO REMEMBER."  
NICOLE MCCLAY, UNIFIED COACH

## let's play some Mile High BASKETBALL

Denver Nuggets host unified basketball game against Mead High School  
stories by s. rolfs & design by j. bishop

On March 10, students walked into the Bill Gamble Gymnasium as the DENVER NUGGETS welcomed them to a unified basketball game. During sixth and part of seventh hour, the Denver Nuggets mascot Rocky, select cheerleaders and spirit squad members hosted the high school unified team's game against the Mead Mavericks.

"This was a huge honor for us to have the Nuggets host an event at BHS. We were super excited and wanted to make sure that our school was part of this moment while cheering on our amazing unified athletes," Ty Gordon, Athletic Director, said.

The Nuggets spirit squad interacted with the crowd by playing music with drums. After the first period Rocky entertained the crowd by leading cheers and throwing out Nuggets souvenirs.

While the teams were playing basketball, Rocky stood off to the side next to the Bulldog mascot and the cheerleaders who danced to the music that the disc jockey hired by the Nuggets was playing during breaks.

"What was so cool about it all was that the Denver Nuggets came and supported our unified team," Nylah Nevarez '21 said. "The energy of the

room was so electric. Everyone was cheering for our team."

Between the third and fourth period, Rocky went to the middle of the floor and attempted to shoot a basketball facing away from the hoop. He missed the shot.

The high school team beat the Mavericks 39-26. At the end of the game, the Nuggets drummers came out and played a number right before the students were dismissed and the unified teams took group photos.

"We loved that the high school and Denver Nuggets supported us. I love playing basketball with my friends," Dominic Zamora '21 said.

you can ALWAYS come Home

Ashley McDonald '13 returns as Nuggets Dancer

photo by j. bishop

**DENVER NUGGETS DANCER**  
Ashley McDonald '13

**HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WITH THE DENVER NUGGETS?**  
"I just finished my third season as a dancer with the Nuggets."

**WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO RETURN TO YOUR HIGH SCHOOL?**  
"I love that I was able to come back to the place where it all started. I remember performing for the first time in the gamble gym back in 2009. I remember the passion I felt through dance. Being able to see my two worlds collide is an experience."

**WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A DENVER NUGGETS DANCER?**  
"I knew when I graduated that I wanted to be apart of the NBA and Nuggets. I never thought I would be able to be apart of an organization that supports the community along with my hometown, the bulldogs."