

SPICING IT UP WITH PEPPER

Articles By MARCELA NOGUERA

From hard-won games to special team bonding experiences, Anya Peper ('24) can claim an amazing last high school season as the girls' varsity captain. Peper's basketball journey began when she was 5 years old. Basketball was her favorite sport when she was young, and her love for it grew with her. Her early start of club and school basketball in 7th grade, where she played shooting guard and point guard, helped Peper become one of the captains for this year's varsity team.

Peper acknowledged that her love of her team and spectators helped make games fun throughout her high school career.

"There's always so much energy during games, and it's fun to cheer on teammates," Peper said.

Although her team's success on the court was very memorable, including an exciting buzzer beater from Caroline Phillips ('25) against Eaton, Peper's favorite memories were off the court, like "all the bus rides with [her] teammates, and just spending time together."

Throughout Peper's basketball experience at Kent Denver, she has gained new experiences she can use not only at KDS, but throughout her life. Peper specifically remembers the CA whiteout game her sophomore year as a transformative experience that taught her grit and perseverance.

"It was the most fans we've had at one of our games," she said. "And we came back in the second half to win."

From fun team bonding trips to remarkable coaches and memorable games, Peper's basketball experience at KDS was full of excitement.

"We had a really similar team to last year, and I've been playing with some of the seniors since middle school," Peper said. "So, it was a lot of fun to have this last season with everyone, and it was great getting to know the new coaches."





CLAIRE MURPHY SHOWS NO MERCY

Claire Murphy ('24), one of the Varsity Girls' Basketball Team captains, had a long and successful KDS basketball experience full of memorable games, fun practices and enough experiences to last for a lifetime. She and the team have grown their friendships and played successful games and tournaments throughout her time at KDS.

From starting basketball around the age of five and playing on both her middle school and high school teams, Murphy has had many experiences that she is fond of today.

When asked her favorite memory of basketball at Kent, she responded the "CA white out game [her] sophomore year" because of the high energy of the crowd and the support from her teammates.

Although the high intensity experiences are memorable, Murphy's favorite part about the 2023-2024 season was her team.

"Everyone is so close and there is so much care and love within the team as a whole," Murphy said.

Murphy's teammate Avni Shah ('24) loves the team as much as Murphy does. In Shah's eyes, the best part of the season was not the games or number of points scored, but "the team and the community we created."

Trips to Basalt, games, tournaments and other moments especially helped the team's camaraderie. Lauren Azuara's ('24) favorite team memory from this season "was singing the national anthem together when the speaker wasn't working. The audience joined in with us and it was awesome."

Although her team's chemistry was extra special to her, Murphy also acknowledged that her favorite part of basketball as a sport is "the quick pace of the game!"

One player Murphy enjoys watching is quick footed Caitlin Clark, the NCAA Division I all time leading scorer. Both Murphy and Clark share a deep appreciation for a fast-paced game.

As point guard, Murphy works hard every game—both on and off the court. Inspired by her sisters and her grandpa, Murphy has had an extremely successful season and was able to show her love for the sport. Memorable games, special and exciting tournaments, fun practices and special team-bonding experiences truly helped make the 2023-2024 season one to remember.

Photos By Carol MacKay