

22 October, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I write this letter of recommendation for Addison (Addie) Seymour as she seeks further opportunities in both sports and education. I hope it may inform your view of her, and that she finds the best possible fit for her goals.

I was one of Addie's club coaches for her 14u season, playing at Roots Volleyball Club in Austin, Texas. In nine years of coaching club volleyball, this was my best team by a significant degree. Addie was a key part of our success on the court. She quickly proved herself to be an outstanding athlete, playing all around for us much of the season. Coming to us from 13u as an outside hitter, Addie quickly made her name as a solid back-row defender. She learned back-row defense quickly and naturally, making critical digs and outstanding defensive plays for us in match after match. Since that year, I believe she has transitioned full time to back-row defense, and was the libero on her 15u team last season (2023-2024). Growth and change happen fast in these early high school years, and I'm sure Addie is even more of an asset in that regard today.

As a coach, I place a strong emphasis on the mental aspects of the game. The so-called intangibles: work ethic, self confidence, and a 'team-first' mindset. I can affirm from experience that these are particular strengths with Addie. She is easy-going and very friendly with her team-mates, and respectful to her coaches. She shows up to work hard in practice, knowing that she has that responsibility to herself and to her team-mates. This is a responsibility she bears gladly, with the joy of the game visible in her efforts. All of this work pays off on game-day, rightly so. At the outset of every season, I ask my players to take a good look at their new team. I ask them to show up to practices and matches with a sense of obligation, something owed to every other team member. I then remind them that every other team member is paying that debt also, and in that way their investment is returned tenfold or more. If they worry less about what they're getting out of the process, and more about what they're putting into it, what they get out of it will take care of itself. This is not something I ever had to remind Addie of. This is how she showed up on Day One.

I know when you are recruiting potential players for a volleyball program, you're not just recruiting the player. To some extent you are also recruiting a family. I can assure you that the values and character that I describe in Addie are those modeled and expected of her by her parents Dan and Jen. They are hard working, caring people with an outward focus on their community and the world at large. What you see in Addie is as they raised her: a young lady with great skills as both an athlete and a leader. I wish her all the best, always!

Thank you,
Tom Langdon
Assistant Coach, 14-3 Maple
Roots Volleyball Club