



# SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

## KAYTE CHRISTENSEN | 2017 INDUCTEE



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Kayte played her high school basketball at Modoc High in Alturas, California. In 1998 (her senior year) Kayte was named California Division V Player of the Year after leading Modoc to the CIF Division V State Championship.

She then moved on to UCSB where she was a star player from 1999-2002. During her senior season Kayte led the Gauchos in scoring, rebounding, and steals. Her 94.1% (16 of 17) shooting performance at Arizona ranks as the seventh-best single-game field goal percentage in NCAA Division 1 history (minimum of 14 attempts). Kayte left UCSB with the 2nd highest career field goal percentage of 54.9%. In 2002 Kayte was named Big West Player of the Year, and became the first-ever Gaucho

to be awarded a spot on the prestigious Kodak District VIII All-American team. Kayte also excelled in the classroom. She was a three-time winner of All Big West Academic Honors, UCSB Golden Eagle Award winner, and two-time Verizon Academic All-American. Kayte became the first-ever student athlete to serve as a UCSB graduation keynote speaker in 2002.

After leaving UCSB, Kayte was drafted in 2002 by the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury. She spent 4 seasons with the Mercury, before moving on to play with the Houston Comets, and Chicago Sky. Kayte retired after the 2008 season. During the WNBA's off-season she played professionally in South Korea, Turkey, Russia and Greece. Kayte was twice the recipient of the WNBA Offseason Community Assist Award, in 2003 and 2004.

Since her playing days ended Kayte has pursued a career in sports broadcasting and commentating. She has worked as a women's basketball color analyst for ESPN and ESPNU, a social media correspondent for the Phoenix Suns, and a social media engagement producer for The Arizona Republic. Kayte currently works as the sideline reporter & analyst for Sacramento Kings as well as co-host of The Drive on Sports 1140 KHTK.