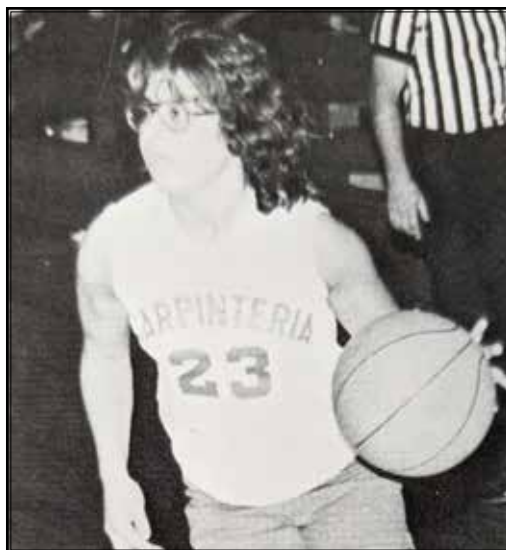


Cathy Caudillo



Basketball shaped my life more than almost anything else. "The Game" instilled in me strength, confidence and the persistence to achieve my Goals in life. Many of my life-long friendships were made in and around the game of Basketball. It's also provided me with a strong work ethic "That nothing comes easy and if you want something, you have to work hard to get it". Those that know me know I am a shy person but being the team captain taught me to be a good communicator. I learned to interact with different personalities, I was responsible to be a uniter and that everyone has an opinion and deserves to be heard. Each one of us is different and that's okay! "Basketball added FUN to my life".

One of my favorite stories I love to reflect on and share are my carefree childhood days living in Carpinteria, playing basketball at my grandma and grandpa Franco's house. Jesus & Baudelia Franco and their next door neighbors: my grandma's sister Jennie Franco and my grandpa's brother Joseph Franco, and the little neighbor in the back my great grandmother my grandpa's mother Cresncia / Chenchu Franco. How beautiful is that!! I was so loved and spoiled..anyways: I think before I was even born my grandpa Jess put up a basketball hoop in the perfect 2 car driveway just the perfect size of 1/2 court. For his 2 sons Robert (Budgie) Franco, and Richard (Dicky) (Boston) Franco. Little did my grandpa know that this basketball hoop was going to shape his first-born grandchild's life. So not only was it the perfect court size, it had perfect lighting that my grandpa installed that way we could play at night. I started off by playing HORSE with my cousins and my 2 uncles Uncle Budge and Uncle Ritche. I was allowed to play with the big boys once my uncles critiqued my shot.

My uncles told me if I was going to play & wanted to be good like them, "I had to stop shooting like a girl" let us show you...so lots of lessons on perfecting my shot from the free throw line, my lay-ups and my jump shot, But think about it, what was so fantastic was that my

uncles were about ten to twelve years older than me and they took the time and patience to teach me their skills & help me with my game. And on top of that, once they felt I had it down I was allowed to play with the big guys. They gave me no preferential treatment, if I wanted to play with them, I had to endure the bumps and bruises as well. It was fantastic!! So, needless to say.... all of those endless days and nights with my cousin Bobby's stereo speakers blasting out music from my poor great grandmother's windows while shooting hoops is a priceless memory.

Caudillo was a four-sport athlete at Carpinteria High School, earning varsity letters in track & field, basketball, softball and volleyball. She earned 9 varsity letters and was awarded the Henry B. Beldon sportsmanship trophy her senior year for demonstrating outstanding sportsmanlike conduct both on and off the field. She is considered a pioneer in girls' athletics at Carpinteria High School, in helping change the landscape of girls' sports from recreational to competitive.

Caudillo was a member of the first Carpinteria girls' basketball team to enter CIF competition in 1976. She earned Honorable Mention honors that season and went on to be First Team All Tri-Valley League in both 1977 and 1978. Caudillo was captain of the basketball teams both her junior and senior years and earned MVP honors in her senior year.