

Your Contribution

South athlete honored alongside sports stars



South High School senior and volleyball player Alexus Castaneda, center, was recognized alongside former NBA player Keith Van Horn, left, and Scott Blackman, CEO of the United States Olympic Committee. *Provided by Cori Pope*

By Cori Pope
YourHub Contributor

South High School senior and volleyball player Alexus Castaneda was recognized alongside former NBA player Keith Van Horn at an event honoring outstanding high school student-athletes recently. Castaneda was awarded a Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship, given each year by the Positive Coaching Alliance Colorado Chapter.

Castaneda was one of 10 finalists and four scholarship winners honored for impacting their sport on three levels: improving themselves, their teammates and their sport as a whole. Applicants from across the state submitted essays illustrating how they exhibit those traits, along with testimonials from coaches, administrators and peers.

Castaneda was selected as a scholarship recipient because she leads with extraordinary character and discipline both on and off the court, and because of her commitment to carrying the life lessons learned through volleyball throughout her life.

"I make myself better by turning my weaknesses into my strengths

and making sure that my mind stays in a positive state," she said. "I have also learned the valuable life lesson of taking the time to learn what others are willing to teach me."

Van Horn was the recipient of the Excellence in Leadership Award for his work developing better athletes and better people through his Colorado Premier Basketball Club. Scott Blackman, CEO of the United States Olympic Committee, was honored with the Triple-Impact Professional award in recognition of his extraordinary example of using life lessons gained through sports to propel himself professionally.

The Positive Coaching Alliance is a nonprofit organization that works with coaches, students and parents to help provide positive, character-building youth sports experiences. The Colorado chapter is accepting nominations for next year's Triple Impact Competitor Scholarship program. Interested students can apply through May 31 at bit.ly/1AoIKOa.

Cori Pope is a public relations professional with Denver-based Keeton PR.

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