



# San Jose Ninja Class of 2023



*Keila Barton*

I always tell my mom that each Ninja girl will be a bridesmaid at my wedding. Two things my mom always tells me, 1) wait until after college friends are made, and 2) someone has to marry you. As a well-spoken teenager, I tell her "I'm not trippin". Most people do not understand the bond that exists between these Ninjas. This bond cannot be beaten. Calling it "sisterhood" even undermines our relationship. In this kinship, I found family not just in the ladies, but in their families as well. I am truly grateful to have met my bridesmaids, pookies, bookies, and "what are the odds" losers during my time as a Ninja. I love you guys so much for the emotional support you have provided me through thick and thin. You were there for me when I was struggling and I am so thankful for the laughs we have shared. You have truly become a part of my life and I know that our bond will never be broken. To my coaches, I will not lie, the practices were traumatic. Thus, the fortitude became evident in my struggles as I learned from you that persistence and mental toughness are necessary for success. I cannot express my gratitude enough. I love this team, this club and cherish each laugh, cry and smile.

Peace out,  
KB #34

I am planning on attending either the University of Oregon or UCSD, majoring in Sociology and Spanish.

My Ninja teammates, my best friends, my forever sisters. As we begin looking towards our future, I can't help but look back on all the amazing memories we've created together. All the laughs and smiles we've shared have truly become the highlight of my Ninja journey. I just want to thank you all for being the best teammates I could ever ask for. I know each and every one of us will go on to do great things because that's what this team does. I love you all so, so much ♡

Not only has Ninja basketball taught me about teamwork and working through adversity, but it has offered me an outlet to make connections throughout the Asian League community. For example, our team has become close with multiple teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Sacramento. At every tournament, you always see someone you know (or your parents know). I have created long lasting relationships with so many people through this organization that will continue beyond high school.

Undecided but majoring in Health Science



*Kiyomi Petersen*



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*Keina Shimomura*

To my Ninja sisters... words cannot describe how grateful I am for the past 6 years with you all. We have been through wins and loses, ups and downs, we've been close and we haven't, but on-top of everything...one thing that never changed was the sisterhood and family we've built with not only us but our families as well. I'm so incredibly happy because over the last year have gotten extremely close and now I can say I have 9 sisters ready to take on life together. With us going all over for college, I'm excited to visit all of you and make even more exciting and funny memories after our time as Ninjas. Our team is a big ball of fun and goofiness where we fight for each other on the court and laugh with each other off the court and are there for each other always. I have life-long relationships because of this team and cannot wait to continue to see all of us grow as we take on our next chapter of life. Love you all.

I will be attending the University of Hawaii, Manoa and will be majoring in Studio Art and Business.

From the black shirts and car rides to the losses and painful circle shooting warmups, I will always cherish the time we spent together as a team. I am grateful for the encouragement, support, and friendship that I've received from each of you throughout the years. You've all pushed me to become the best player I could be and have helped me grow both on and off the court. Its so hard to say goodbye to people ive spent most of my life playing with but I am excited to see what the future holds for each of us. No matter where our futures lead, I will always be proud to have been a part of the Ninjas. You all better not ignore my texts in college either.

Love,  
Ava

What Ive learned:

The biggest things Ninjas have taught me would be teamwork, perseverance, resilience, and discipline especially during close games and even after losses. These values I have learned has helped develop me as an individual both on and off the court in both sports and academics.

I dont have a college decision yet but im majoring in engineering either civil or environmental (i still need to hear off waitlists but as of right now probably SDSU)



*Ava Nishime*



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Becoming a Ninja six years ago has been one of the best experiences in my life. It's hard to believe our time is coming to an end after we've made so many memories together.

To my teammates - We've become so close in the past years, and I'm so proud to call you guys my sisters. While basketball is what brought us together, what I'll remember the most are all the boba runs, garage sales, Friday-night dinners, and sleepovers. Thank you for always supporting me and I know we will always be there for each other no matter what. I can't imagine a better group of girls to go through this experience with. I will love you all forever.

Thank you to my coaches, Coach Jaz and Coach Tika, for always believing in me and helping to build my confidence as a basketball player and a person. Thank you for holding us to a high standard and motivating us to improve. I have learned so much from you both, and your life lessons will stick with me far beyond high school.

Lastly, I would like to thank my family. You have all been my biggest supporters for as long as I can remember. I will forever be grateful for everything you guys have done for me between driving countless hours to recording all our games for the past six years to organizing the snack bar at Ninja Tournaments. I love you all so much.

My Ninja experience will stay with me for the rest of my life, and I'm so incredibly grateful to be part of this family. Being a Ninja has shaped me into the person I've become, and I am excited to continue my academic and basketball career at George Fox University while pursuing a degree in nursing.



Tara Ushiro

I want to say thank you to each and every girl who has been by my side through these last 6 years. We have been with each other through a lot, the gruesome conditioning at practice, boba runs, and late night chats in the hotel lobby's, and I couldn't ask for a better group of girls to end this with. We have all pushed each other to not only be better basketball players but also people. I can confidently say I could count on each and every one of you to be there if I needed someone, and for that I love you all.

I will be attending Washington State University, Majoring in Pre Law



Katie Moriwaki



# San Jose Ninja Class of 2023



Ashlyn Morales

Being a Ninja throughout the years has taught me sisterhood and what it means to be a part of a second family. I could not imagine spending the last 5 years with a different group of girls and I am truly grateful to have met every single one of them. They are the best support system anyone could ask for and they have always been there for everything, through tough losses and even through breakups. However, it has also taught me mental toughness and pushing through when things get tough. Coach Jaz, KI, and Tika all pushed me during practice so that when it came to the games, it came way easier. Being a Ninja also taught me how to socialize, especially whenever the parents would force us to have dinner with our guys' team and take away our phones. I definitely hated it at the time, but looking back on it now, it was a blessing in disguise. Even though my time as a Ninja was short-lived, I will forever cherish the memories I have made over this time and the bonds I have made with these girls.

I am currently undecided where I will attend, but will be majoring in Psychology.

When I joined the Ninjas last year, I never could have imagined finding such a supportive and loving second family. Despite having known these girls for years, it wasn't until then that we were finally able to truly connect and form close bonds. As we practiced and played tournaments together, we faced numerous challenges that strengthened our connection. We grew even closer through countless boba runs and dinners after practices and games. The memories of our fun activities like spoofing and playing "what are the odds" will always be remembered. I am grateful for my teammates and hope to never lose the friendships we've formed. Even though I've only been with the Ninjas for a year, I have never felt as close to a group as I do with them. They will always be here by my side, and I can't wait to go through life with them. I wish them all the best of luck in college, and I know they will do so well in life.

I love you guys forever and always <3

I am currently undecided but I will be majoring in Kinesiology



Cidra Jasmine Lu



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To 2023 Ninja 12G:

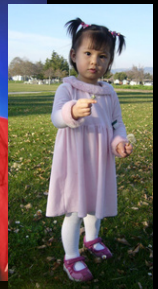
Though I haven't been a part of the team for as long as many of you have, I have curated memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life. As a player and athlete, I have created meaningful connections with compassionate, warm-hearted people I will keep in touch with as I begin the next chapter of my life. The past year has been an absolute fever dream, and I can't thank the team and families enough for welcoming me with open arms. We have won, lost, struggled, and persevered through various challenges and obstacles but ultimately, overcame the unforeseen together. We celebrate each others' accomplishments and successes while also coming together to push the limits of our mental and physical boundaries. As a Ninja, I am fortunate to have been provided a space to connect and build relationships with many accomplished individuals while also expanding my skillset as a basketball player. Being a part of this team has instilled in me the value of persistence and hard work; I am grateful to have spent time practicing and playing with some of the most talented, considerate people I know. The Ninja Organization has imbued in me a mindset by which my faults and weaknesses do not define me, but rather, the hardships I face provide me with the opportunity to become a better person than I was before. Thank you so much for making the last two years the most memorable. Much love to 2023!!



*Alexis Nishimura*

As a Ninja, I have learned a lot about what it takes to be a successful athlete and teammate. One of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of hard work and dedication. I have also learned about the power of teamwork and communication. Basketball is a team sport, and everyone must work together in order to succeed. By participating in drills, scrimmages, and games, I learned to communicate well with my teammates and rely on their support when needed. Finally, being a Ninja has taught me about the importance of perseverance. Of course there will be times when we face setbacks, whether it's losing a game or struggling through a difficult practice. However, I have learned that it's important to keep pushing forward and never give up on our goals. By working hard, we can get through any challenge and grow stronger as a team. Overall, my experience as a Ninja has taught me valuable lessons about hard work, teamwork, and resilience. I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of such an amazing team.

College: UC Merced



*Nicole Lukito*



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ninja seniors ♡💛



# Thank you for the memories