Kiana Duncan

San Marcos, CA 92078

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To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Samantha Coleman to receive a Don Diego Employee Scholarship. I work part time as the varsity field hockey coach at Canyon Crest Academy, where Sam attends high school. I first met Sam as a sophomore and have since watched her grow into a confident young leader on and off the field hockey field through both individual training and high school and club field hockey seasons. It is my hope that by the end of this letter, you are able to see a small glimpse of the wonderful person she is.

Sam is an exceptional team player and a hard worker who maintains a team-first attitude while still unwaveringly recognizing and reaching her own personal goals. This is best exemplified by her accomplishments in her time on the CCA field hockey team. Sam started playing field hockey as a sophomore – a few years later than most – and became our Junior Varsity goalkeeper. Throughout her first season on the team, she repeatedly surprised her coaches with her outstanding work ethic and commitment to making herself the best player she could possibly be for her team. After making huge improvements in her sophomore year, Sam was a swing player her junior season, meaning she split time between the JV and Varsity rosters. She spent the year as a leader for the Junior Varsity team, pushing her teammates to play at a faster pace and improve their skills, while learning and honing her skills on the varsity team where she was challenged by her older teammates and a senior goalkeeper. In her weeks on varsity, Sam spent a lot of her time training and learning from her teammates, but very little time actually on the playing field. Still, she practiced her hardest every day to improve her own skills and challenge her teammates. As the season went on, I watched as Sam turned into a confident and capable player and a leader on the field. She set goals each week, and each week she worked to hit them. She has never been afraid to ask for help or feedback to make it to the next level of her game. Above all, she has always been determined, yet patient, when it came to earning her time on the field. Fast-forward to this year and Sam is one of our most important and dependable players; one that younger teammates consistently look to for advice and encouragement, and who I as a coach depend on to lead by example.

As this scholarship is geared towards students who demonstrate organization and leadership qualities through their work and extracurricular activities, I find it imperative to note the time commitment required to play a varsity sport at a top-tier high school, while also working a part-time job and excelling academically. Sam is fully present in her fifteen-plus hours on the field and does the rest with ease. She is prompt, focused, and fully dedicated to the task in front of her. The example she sets for her teammates is unmatched; while the extra time commitments might overwhelm most high-schoolers, Sam does it all with a smile on her face.

I hope this letter has provided a glimpse into the outstanding student-athlete I have been so lucky to work with over the past three years. I strongly recommend Sam as a recipient of your scholarship. Please reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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