



Ever since she was in kindergarten, Katie Lacefield has been the girl my daughter has looked up to in a big way for many reasons. Katie was a very good basketball player and in 6th grade. My daughter, Karsen, was in kindergarten and would be drug around to the gym with me for all my practices and games. Karsen was forced to watch basketball and play on the side at a very young age to spend her time in the gym while practices were going on. Katie moved into 7th grade and began playing on our 7th grade girls basketball team, Karsen continued to watch and idolize her on the court as Katie and her awesome teammates enjoyed a perfect 17-0 7th grade basketball season. When Katie moved into 8th grade, and I became her head coach, Karsen was now in 2nd grade, and again, was at every practice and game watching Katie and her teammates continue to have success and accomplish a rare 22-0 undefeated Conference Championship season. Katie ended her 8th grade season owning 4 of our school records, one of them being the most 3-pointers made in a season. When we needed babysitters at our home, Katie was Karsens #1 option and spent many nights with both of my girls. Coincidentally, Katie's uniform was also #1 on the court. Katie moved on from Columbia Middle School and continued to have much success at Incarnate Word Academy in St. Louis where she won 3 state championships on the basketball court. After graduating from IWA, Katie moved on to the University of Indiana to play softball, where she is now the starting the 3rd baseman. Karsen and Katie never lost contact.

Karsen continued to play basketball and softball as she entered 5th grade and of course, her uniform had to be #1 in every sport...because of Katie Lacefield. Karsen wanted to be like Katie and kept working hard to hopefully enjoy some of her success someday. Finally, Karsens own 8th grade season had begun in 2018. Karsen loves the game of basketball, mainly because of Katie's influence on and off the court. On the day of Friday, November 2, I got a text from Katie Lacefield. She said she was leaving softball practice in Indiana at 1:30 and should be at our home basketball game that night. She had heard that Karsen was 1 3-pointer away from tying her record and wanted to be there to see it. Toward the end of the 7th grade game, Katie walked into the gym, Karsen noticed her and sprinted down to see her, she was so excited. In the 3rd quarter of the game, Karsen made a 3-pointer to tie Katies record and of course, Katie got this on video and was so excited for Karsen. A few minutes later, Karsen made another to break the record.

This is just an example of some of the individuals that leave Columbia Middle School. Not many people would leave Indiana on a Friday afternoon to make an 8th grade girls basketball game in Columbia, IL, but Katie Lacefield would.....just to be there for someone who she is so special to. Not only was Katie's number #1 on the court at Columbia Middle School, she will always be #1 to our family and especially my daughter!! Thank you Katie for being such a great role model to my daughters!!!

