



AIA FEATURE STORY By: Don Ketchum

CAREY'S MOVE BENEFITS CANYON DEL ORO GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

PHOENIX, AZ (January 14, 2009) – Nadi Carey has made a lot of moves on the basketball court, but it was an off-the-court move that tested her character and will to succeed.

Due to family issues, she left a Tucson Flowing Wells program that won last year's Class 4A Division I championship to Tucson Canyon del Oro.

Carey admitted it was a difficult adjustment at first, but has fit in nicely as CdO has developed into one of the state's powers. The team had won 16 of its first 17 games through Jan. 11.

"She has been a good fit for our team," said CdO Coach Keri Brown. "We have some other good players such as (guards) Nicole Ruiz and Charde Mayne, and everyone seems to work well together."

At Flowing Wells, Carey was a point guard, but at CdO, she is more of a shooting guard. She, Ruiz and Mayne all average near 12 points per game.

"It was my job to distribute the ball to the bigger players at Flowing Wells, but CdO is more of a fast-paced team," said Carey, a 5-foot-6 senior. "I didn't think I would like it, but I do. It has been very good. My teammates have welcomed me and we are doing very well."

Brown said Carey brings a lot to the table.

"She is a good athlete, the best player I've ever coached," Brown said.

Carey now lives with her grandmother, and goes to the same school as her brother, Ka'deem, a sophomore who is one of the state's top running backs in football.

"I got to see him play a lot more in football, but he isn't able to see me much because he plays basketball, too, and we play our games at different locations," Carey said. "But we support each other."

And it's only natural for a brother and sister to play a little on-on-one. How did those backyard duels turn out?

"He only beat me once, but not again," Carey said, laughing.

She has been encouraged by how well her team has played thus far, but knows a lot more work lies ahead.

Carey hopes her tournament experience with Flowing Wells last season, will help carry over to her new team.

"Your skills are a big part of it, but I tell them (teammates) that it's about heart," she said. "I know how these teams are when it comes time for the playoffs. The records don't mean much. It's about who wants it more."

Have a Story Idea:

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