

## **Respect Is The Key**

In my life, I have made good choices. I have also made some bad choices. Having respect for myself and others has helped to make the right choice. In my first year of travel volleyball, I learned respect is very important. There was a girl on my team who had all of her friends on our team too. She didn't like me at all and made it very clear by excluding me from activities. I didn't know anyone, and no one wanted to get to know me because of this one girl. She made me look like I was some sort of monster.

At first, I wanted to quit volleyball. I told my parents I didn't enjoy it and I just couldn't do it. My parents kept telling me that I would be fine and try and to forget about it.

After thinking about quitting, I realized that one girl shouldn't affect me this negatively. I told myself that I should be nice to her even when she is mean to me. She barely gave me respect, but if I gave her respect along with her friends, she would see that I'm not a bad person. That's what I did. I said hello to her when I saw her, I caught her ball for her when it was rolling away and out of her reach, and I gave her smiles when she would give me glares. Giving myself and others respect has really helped me in making the right choices. By giving this girl respect, I made some friends, and got to play a sport I love. It's hard to be the bigger person in situations, but in the end, that's making the right choice.