



KAZ KITANI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT



Kendall Kikkawa

Kendall Kikkawa is the quintessential scholar-athlete with outstanding academic accolades and a long record of athletic achievements. He garnered CIF-SS Academic Champion honors in both basketball and baseball. With a weighted GPA of 4.2, the Flintridge Preparatory School senior was awarded with the JP Blecksmith Memorial Award for leadership, scholarship, athletic commitment, and public service. He is the winner of the Rising Stars Andrew Murase Memorial Award, Christopher A. Burrows Community Foundation of the Verdugos Award, La Canada Thursday Club, Japanese American Scholarship Fund and Yonsei AMNET Scholarships. Kendall was selected as one of 20 Foot Locker Scholar Athletes from a nationwide pool of over 37,000 high school seniors. He was also named as the 2016 Wendy's High School Heisman winner and has been a member of the Dean's List and California Scholarship Federation since 9th grade.

The son of Ken and Karen Kikkawa, and grandson of Bruins co-founders Robert & Alice Kikkawa, Kendall has been an active member of the Bruins organization for 13 years. He has played on the original Bruins Thunders team since Kindergarten, and continues to play with them at the prep level. He is a volunteer coach at the Pee Wee clinics and served as an assistant coach for the Bruins Rising Starz.

Kendall has demonstrated his athletic prowess throughout his high school career. As a leader, he was chosen as co-captain of both of his varsity football and varsity basketball teams. As a CIF champion, he also gained honors as the ACL Athlete of the Year on his varsity baseball team. As a sophomore, he earned recognition as the Most Inspirational Player of the varsity basketball team and the Offensive MVP on the JV football team. To cap off his senior year, he was selected to the All-CIF 1st team for football, 2nd team All-Area for football, and won the Dan Lewis Award for courage, dedication and leadership in varsity football, where he also established a school record of 8 touchdowns in a single game. He was also selected 1st team All-Prep League for basketball and was named as team co-MVP. At his recent high school graduation, Kendall was awarded the Male Athlete of the Year of his senior class.

He shares his commitment to service through a range of other school and community activities. Through his participation in Yonsei Basketball, Kendall co-founded a philanthropic group called Changing the Community that has raised nearly \$45,000 to support local Asian organizations such as the Terasaki Budokan and Go For Broke, Little Tokyo Service Center and Tanaka Farms. He has also volunteered at the Pasadena Homeless Shelter, the Special Olympics, Boys & Girls Club, and for SPARC (Student Philanthropists Advancing Real Change). In his junior and senior years, he traveled to Nicaragua to work with pediatric cancer patients and help build stoves for underprivileged families. Utilizing his interest in sports, he gives back to the youth in his community by volunteering as an assistant coach in local basketball and baseball sports programs. Kendall also serves as a referee for CYC basketball.

Kendall will be attending college at UC Berkeley as a bioengineering major. In the future, he would like to establish an alumni/mentor program in the Bruins to provide a network for players to connect with fellow or past Bruins families in their prospective fields and explore potential career and internship opportunities.



Linus Jen

Whether on the hard court or in calculus class, Linus Jen has consistently shown integrity, kindness, and generosity. Bruins Advisor Dan Nakauchi stated that Linus “embodies the spirit of the Bruin ideals and passes these beliefs down to the boys he coaches.”

Linus has been with the Bruins organization since 1st grade, first playing with the Bruins Thunder team to 10th grade and then devoting his time as an assistant coach for the Bruins Lightning 6th grade boys team for the past 3 years. He has also volunteered at both the Pee Wee and Power Up clinics.

The son of Henry and Eliza Jen, Linus achieved a weighted

GPA of 4.33 at Flintridge Preparatory School and received honors such as AP Scholar with Distinction Award and the National Merit Scholarship commendation in his junior year. He was named to the Dean’s List and California Scholarship Federation in each of his high school years.

He participated in his high school basketball and volleyball teams where he was distinguished with a Coach’s Award and a MVP award in in sophomore year. His other school activities include serving as the Junior ambassador for visiting college representatives and as a Senior Leader in his Pre-Calculus and Algebra classes.

His experience traveling to Nicaragua through a student exchange program opened his eyes to other cultures and traditions. He volunteered at local learning centers for both children and adults and assisted in offering sports camps to aspiring players. He hopes to have more opportunities to study abroad to get a better sense and appreciation of other environments and to help those less fortunate.

Spurred by his work experience as a lab assistant at California Institute of Technology, Linus developed an interest in doing research in chemistry or chemical engineering in college. He will attend UCLA this fall with an undeclared major.

Linus noticed during his volunteer time at the Bruins clinics that individual players became friends with those they had never met before. His idea to foster a greater sense of community within the Bruins organization is to hold coed scrimmages throughout the year. These events would allow players from different teams and ages to interact and bring their families together both socially and in friendly competition.



Nick Fong

Nicholas Fong joined the Pasadena Bruins organization in 9th grade. The son of Tony and Christina Fong, Nick plays for the Bruins Elite team and volunteered as a coach at the annual Pee Wee clinics. He recently took the reins as head coach of the Bruins Vipers 3rd grade boys' team.

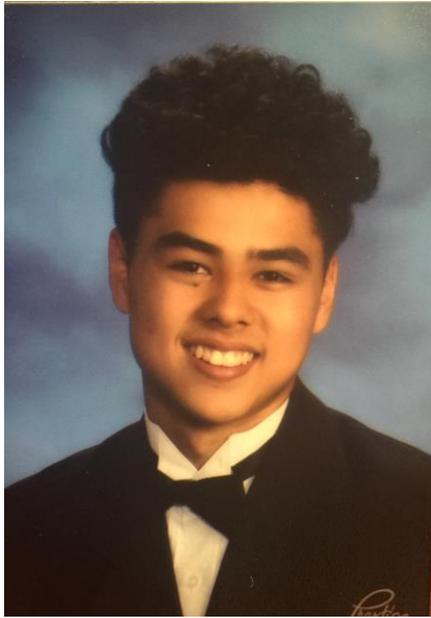
His passion for basketball is evident throughout his high school career at Mark Keppel High School where he garnered honors as the MVP his freshman year and was elected by his teammates as the team captain of his varsity team. His senior year culminated in receiving 1st team Almont League and 2nd team all-area honors. He was one of the few seniors selected to play in this year's Tribute vs. Star News All Stars game. Nick also played competitively for SGV through 8th

grade. He has volunteered his time at the Tigger Clinic and as an Assistant Coach for the Tigers Youth Club.

Outside of basketball, Nick co-founded a social club called the Humans of Mark Keppel whose goal is to unite the school community by sharing the personal stories and life experiences of students, faculty, and staff. He is an active member of the Coastside Fishing Club and the Soo Yuen Fraternal Association Youth Group.

He also serves as a Teacher Aide in a World History class where advisor Michael Gonzales describes him as having a strong sense of self-confidence, character, and integrity. Gonzales stated that Nick distinguishes himself through his "perseverance, and academic and athletic competitiveness." Nick upholds a 3.4 GPA and will attend UC Riverside as a business major. He hopes to combine his business knowledge and interest in technology in his future career.

He would like to implement a summer internship program for graduating Bruin athletes to explore possible careers related to sports science and to encourage players to remain active participants in the Bruins organization by giving back to its youth.



Jake Luna

During his sophomore year at Temple City High School, Jake Luna made a lasting impression on his English Teacher. She wrote that Jake developed a rare strength of character by challenging himself "to be greater than what he believed." Now a senior, Jake maintains a 3.5 GPA and plans on majoring in business in college.

His loyalty and commitment are evidenced by his 12 years of active participation in the Bruins. In addition to playing on the same Bruins Elite team since kindergarten, he volunteered at both the Pee Wee and Power Up Clinics, helping kids to gain valuable basketball skills.

Jake's love of hoops translated to playing for the Pressure Basketball Club for 6 years and on his high school basketball

his varsity squad. Last year, he took his athletic skills to the volleyball court and earned Most Improved Player award on his high school team.

In the community, Jake serves as an assistant coach for an AYSO girls' soccer team and volunteers in local youth sports programs. The son of Antonio and Mayuri Luna, Jake also helps at this local church events and volunteers as a WEB leader to help incoming Freshmen transition to high school. When he is not on the courts, Jake has an interest in fashion and outdoor activities with his friends and family. Jake plans to major in business at California State University Northridge this Fall.

His idea to strengthen the Bruins program would be to make the Pee Wee clinic year-round so that younger players will learn to build relationships with role models and develop both their basketball and lifelong skills.