

**Mini Feature: Talk to someone about one of their favorite past-times or hobbies: Eiycess Richburg**



Ericess Richburg has found community bonding through her favorite hobby, volleyball. Being on her high school's volleyball team gave Richburg an activity to be passionate about throughout her schooling while she lived in New York, before moving to North Carolina to go to UNC Charlotte. Richburg values being social with others, which was an aspect of volleyball that she appreciated. "I enjoyed spending time with my teammates and bonding with them," Richburg said. "It made high school a lot better."

The volleyball team usually met for an hour to two hours every day after school, and Richburg enjoyed doing drills with her teammates during practice. Drills consisted of playing against a few of your teammates, and practicing different passes over the net, as Richburg recalled butterfly drills, where three people are on each side of the net.

Richburg recalled the tryout process of the volleyball team, and how long the days were. The week before the school year started, tryouts would happen for eight hours a day, every day. Even when talking about such a strenuous process, Richburg stayed positive and had a lighthearted tone about the situation. "We had to stay there for a while," Richburg said. "We had lunch together. It was a long day. But it was worth it. It was fun."

Richburg enjoys working around people who are driven and have similar goals as her, just like her teammates did on the volleyball team. While the sport requires hardworking people, Richburg believes that in order to succeed in such a sport, enjoyment and passion should be involved. "I'd say to make sure that [volleyball is] fun for you, and you're not just doing it because you're forced to do it, because you'll actually enjoy it, and it'll be fun," Richburg said. She does not play volleyball anymore, but still watches the UNC Charlotte volleyball teams play while she is attending the university, and is still passionate about the sport.