

Locals excelling on court for Fighting Irish

By Tasha Pope
Sentinel-Voice

How far can remaining focused, being determined and continually working hard get you in life? Well, if you glance at Breona Gray's path you see it gets you exactly where you want to be.

She started at Bishop Gorman High School, where she played three sports: track, volleyball and basketball. Now she resides in Indiana where she's a starting guard for the highly esteemed University of Notre Dame. Not missing a step since she made the transformation from high school standout to college student athlete, Gray will have earned two degrees at the close of spring semester.

And let her mother tell it, Gray's grown from a shy young lady into a strong woman.

"She's doing really well there. At first she felt she wouldn't fit in because of the mystique [of Notre Dame] but she loves it," said Dedra Edmond, Breona's mother.

"I decided to come to Notre Dame because of the academics. And I wanted to go to a school that had a good basketball program," said Gray.

Gray isn't the only Nevada sporting the familiar dark navy, gold and green. Tulyah Gaines, a former Cheyenne High school guard, joined the squad this season. Gaines averaged 20 points and 4 assists for Cheyenne last season. She has already made some noise in the Big East in her rookie term.



BREONA GRAY

"I played in the Adidas Top Ten camp with her," Gray said when I asked her about Gaines.

The dynamic duo is back in effect, but this time they're sporting the same tag on their jerseys. The ladies will be participating in the "Duel in the Desert," which takes place this Saturday and Sunday at the Cox Pavilion next to the Thomas & Mack located on the campus of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

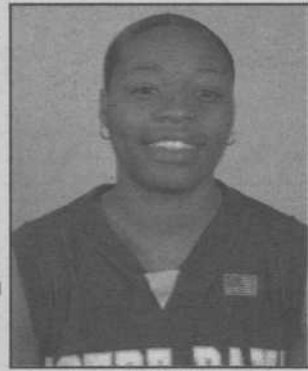
The Irish, who only have one loss this season, will be up against Arkansas State Saturday and, depending on the outcome, will continue on to the final day of competition on Sunday.

"We have a lot of fans in Vegas," Gray said.

Gray's extremely excited to get back to the valley. Her family and friends will be piled in the stands supplying all the support she could need.

Of course our conversation veered to the children in Vegas who may look up to her and admire her accomplishments.

She offered advice for



TULYAH GAINES

young, aspiring athletes.

"Always keep your grades up. There are always different scholarships. There's a lot of money out there, but people don't know how to

reach it," Gray said.

Gray has plans to come back to Vegas one day and make a difference in her community.

"I'd like to come back and talk to the kids and give them insight on what college is like. Tell them they can make it," Gray said.

So look for the ladies that are sporting Irish on their chest.

And know that no matter where you come from, it's where you're going that counts. Gaines and Gray prove, again, through faith and works the sky is the limit.



Tulyah Gaines elevates for a shot over an Iona defender.



Breona Gray surveys the floor and shouts instructions as a defender from West Virginia crouches down and digs in.

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