



## **2014 Holy Family CYO Role Model**

### **Courtney Breen**

At the tender age of seven, Courtney Breen put her hair in a ponytail, laced up her sneakers and donned the blue and gold of Holy Family CYO for the first time. By the time her CYO career was over, Courtney had established herself as the best player to ever wear that blue and gold uniform. For six consecutive years Courtney led her CYO travel team to the A division final four. On two occasions she sparked her team to the Long Island championship. Courtney's CYO success carried over to her high school career where in her junior and senior years she led Hicksville HS to back to back Nassau County championships. In the latter championship game she garnered the MVP award. Of course a bevy of college coaches attempted to lure Courtney to their school. Courtney did eventually accept a full scholarship to Hofstra, to play not basketball but soccer, for despite her incredible hardwood success, basketball was Courtney's second best sport.

Obviously Courtney is a very unique and gifted athlete. Her athleticism combined with her dedication and work ethic enabled her to perform at levels few other athletes can match. What made her truly unique, however, was her unselfishness on both the basketball court and soccer field and her rare ability to raise her teammates' level of play. Courtney has garnered numerous individual awards but the true measure of her greatness as an athlete is found in the success realized by both her school and travel teams. All of her teams won championships. Despite all of her individual and team accomplishments, Courtney is a genuinely humble individual, reticent to discuss her achievements or awards. Her talents, good sportsmanship and humility earned her the respect and admiration of coaches, teammates, opponents and spectators.

Courtney is more than a great athlete. She is a tough competitor with a kind and gentle spirit. That spirit has motivated Courtney to participate in myriad community service activities. For example, on several occasions she has helped organize fundraisers for needy families in our community. She has completed several walkathons, raising money for causes such as Ronald McDonald House and March of Dimes. For the past ten years Courtney has served as a volunteer at the Empire State Games for the Physically Challenged. For the past six years Courtney has participated in our CYO's annual Car Wash for Cancer, raising money for families with children battling cancer. In 2008, one of our CYO coaches was killed in a tragic accident. To honor his memory our CYO established an annual basketball tournament to fund a scholarship that bears the fallen coach's name. Courtney was among the first to volunteer for this endeavor and played a vital role in its success. From 2008-2013, Courtney coached a boys CYO basketball team.

This is an impressive resume for someone just 24 years young. Some people spend their entire lives wondering if they have made a difference. Not Courtney as she has been a difference maker both on and off the court. At an early age Courtney recognized the importance of sharing her time and talents with those less fortunate and has done so ever since. Isaiah Thomas, a Hall of Fame basketball player, once said; 'If all I'm remembered for is being a great basketball player, then I've done a bad job with the rest of my life.' Courtney will be remembered not just as a great basketball player, but more importantly for her kindness and compassion.