

HC ROOTS: ELIJAH BROTHERNS

Elijah Brothorns is a talented athlete with a full ride scholarship to play football at CSU Pueblo this fall. As a high schooler, he spent four years participating in varsity track, basketball, and football, serving as a captain on each team since his sophomore year. Elijah's contributions and hard work were recognized by local media, where KKTU spotlit how his leadership and talent ushered in a slew of successful sports seasons at Sand Creek High School.

Elijah leads by example, his unique style and confidence built over a lifetime of gritty sports practices and grueling workouts. A pivotal moment in his sports career was developing his confidence as a teammate and leader at Hillside Connection. When Elijah joined Hillside Connection in sixth grade, he was a reserved 12-year-old eager to grow his passion for basketball. Playing with new students helped him become more outgoing.



Elijah's mom, Melinda, recalls how she saw Hillside Connection develop Elijah's leadership skills. "Back when he was younger he was shy," says Melinda. "Having to go and open up to other kids helped him grow into himself."

Elijah observed his coaches build trust and cohesion amongst team members at Hillside, qualities that facilitated growth on and off the court. "I had to work through getting on a team with people I don't know," says Elijah. "I saw how to build that teamwork and chemistry at Hillside. It enables teams to win and be good." These life lessons paid off in high school, where Elijah headed three teams for three seasons, using his confidence built at Hillside to empower his teammates to excel in sports and in school.

Elijah plans to study business at CSU Pueblo, with the goal of becoming a professional football player. Hillside Connection always encouraged Elijah to dream big, supporting his aspirations from an early age. "I hope to return to Hillside as a mentor one day, so I can pay forward the lessons that they taught me," says Elijah.

