DENISE NOLEROTH BUNGER

A four-year varsity starter at Moreau Catholic High School, Denise Noleroth helped lead the Mariners to the Division II state championship in 1992 after finishing runner-up the previous year. In one memorable game during her senior season, Denise and teammates Kim Manifesto (Castro Valley Hall of Fame, 2012) and Jennifer Kennedy all reached 1,000 career points on the same night.

Noleroth was named first team All-Northern California and All-East Bay her senior season, All-East Bay second team as a junior and was a first team All-Mission Valley Athletic League selection for three years (the only year she missed was her sophomore season when she was injured.)

Finishing her Moreau career with 1,100 points, Noleroth was selected to the San Francisco Examiner All-Metro team and the Alameda Newspaper Group’s first team as a senior. The summer after high school graduation she joined a group of All-Stars on a basketball-playing tour to Hong Kong and mainland China.

Noleroth accepted a basketball scholarship to the University of San Francisco and played two years for the Dons, but a bad back – an injury that first flared up in high school – shortened her college career. She transferred to UC Davis and played one year for the Aggies but the injury forced her to forego her senior season.

Denise pointed out that her injury – an internal disc disruption – sparked an interest in sports medicine. She worked professionally in that field for 10 years after graduating from Davis. Although Noleroth enjoyed her sports medicine career, it didn’t lend itself to raising a family so she switched to a career in teaching. She’s been a teacher for 13 years and loves it.

Noleroth Bunger (her married name) currently teaches physical education and leadership at Wells Middle School in Dublin. Her previous teaching positions include Ralston Middle School in Belmont, where she coached basketball and volleyball, and Woodland High School where she was the girls’ varsity basketball coach for three years.

Noleroth Bunger has a 6-year-old daughter, Kiran, and a 2-year-old son, D.J.