

## My Friend Brigl

The news and people on the outside are saying that we are mourning the loss of an exceptional student athlete- Brittney Gigl – who would have gone so far.

But my friends and I are mourning the loss of someone different. In fact I almost never even called her Brittney. Today I am crying for Brigl. I'm remembering my friend Brigl who I got to know the many sides of beyond the super student athlete. Brigl talked about boys and clothes just as much as three pointers and biology tests.

For my birthday she gave me a quote book where she wrote some of her favorite quotes. The following quote and her introduction show the fun and girly side of Brigl her friends got to know.

"This is like my favorite quote ever - I don't have it written down, but I'm almost positive this is how it goes, 'I ran up the door and closed the stairs – said my pajamas and put on my prayers – turned off the bed and hopped into the light – all just because you kissed me goodnight."

It seems this summer she was lucky enough to find that boy who made her so giddy and happy that she turned off the bed and ran up the door.

Brigl was the person I could always count on to actually try to do something like run up the door. I think what we loved most about each other was that we could be kids together. We could be immature and have the greatest laughs. One day we came into basketball practice fake fighting. We were screaming and laughing at the top of our lungs when we threw each other to the floor before removing our backpacks. We ended up bruising her calculator, which we continued to laugh about for the rest of the year.

Brigl was a great friend – always willing to listen and always tolerant and forgiving. I know she touched many people in this room. We shared many special bonds, as I am sure she did with many of you. In fact for mole day we were required to be elements. Brigl and I chose hydrogen and oxygen so we could bond as water.

Freshman year basketball Brigl and I realized we both liked the number 3. She won and got the number 33 jersey but it became something special for us, from the number 33 symbolizing our threes together to the jokes about her stealing my number 3 necklace I lost.

The memories we have of Brigl are endless – from little things to moments to her personality.

- The way she flew forward after shooting three pointers
- How she couldn't sing
- She hated dirt
- She loved colored pens and highlighters
- Her almost non-existent strike zone
- She hated her chick in biology

- Her dedication and determination in everything she did
- The what did you just look at incident up north
- Everyone's favorite baby story about her rolls and cheerios
- The way she hated to dress up for games
- The little chair she sat in at Gus's
- Her questions in biology
- Her bright colored shirts
- And most of all her strength, confidence, and determination that made her seem not so small after all

Everyone is saying you must keep Brittney alive – keep a part of her with you. There is so much to Brittney, so many talents and qualities; it is hard to know where to start. But the one lesson I know that will stick with me from Brigl is to never let go of your inner child, to laugh and smile and have fun. That it is ok to be immature now and then. As hurt and sad as we all are, I know Brittney would want us to smile and laugh as we share and think about our happy and unforgettable memories of her. In the book of her favorite quotes she included this one,

“The most wasted day of all is that during which we have not laughed.”

When you mourn and cry for Brittney in the time to come please don't forget to also laugh and smile for her and all the wonderful memories.

