

Spotlight On: Scotts Valley alumna Liz Munger faces tall competition in NAIA basketball

By Ryan Moses

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At 6-feet tall, Liz Munger has never had trouble getting the shot she wants on the basketball court, especially last year when she won the Santa Cruz Coast Athletic League MVP award for leading Scotts Valley High to a share of the league title.

Now as a freshman at Biola University, a small Christian school in La Mirada, Munger is finding some of the shots that served her so well in high school just aren't there at the NAIA level.

"In high school, I was definitely -- well, I wasn't considered a short post," Munger said. "In college, everyone is a lot taller. It's definitely different having to tweak and adjust my post games, and learn how to handle the height I'm going up again. I have to learn to protect the ball more and shot-fake so they don't block my shot every time I go to the basket."

Munger is already getting playing time on an Eagles team that features six freshmen. She's come off the bench in each of the team's first six games to help Biola to a 3-1 start. Munger led the team with 10 rebounds and scored nine points in Saturday's 58-32 home win over Whittier.

Munger said it didn't take her long to adapt to being a role player after playing nearly every minute for Scotts Valley last year.

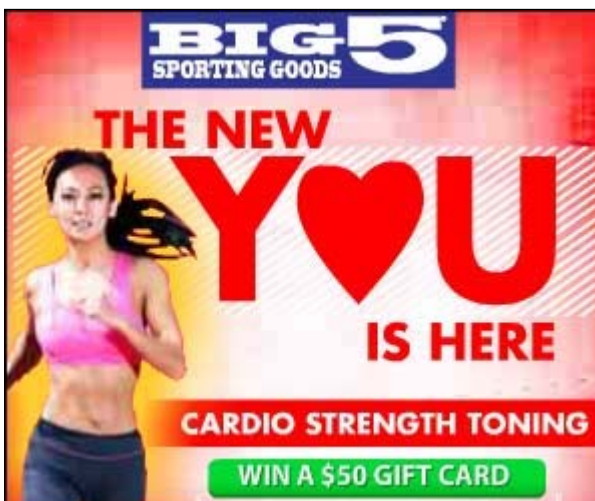
"I was so used to starting every game and getting most of the playing time, but it's to be

expected. I wasn't expecting to come in here and start every game," Munger said, "I'm privileged to be getting the time I have been. As the years on the

team go by, I'll earn my playing time."

Munger is balancing extra work in the gym and in the classroom. She is attending Biola on both athletic and academic scholarships, and studying physical education and kinesiology with the hopes of becoming an elementary school physical education teacher.

"It's going great. I love it," Munger said of life as a student athlete. "It's definitely a lot more work and a lot more competitive."



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