



BRIANA PEDREGON

Defending Club Volleyball

At five foot four, she had her heart set on playing basketball, the sport of choice for the majority of her middle school friends.

Briana Pedregon, president of the Texas State Women's Club Volleyball team remembers being a "normal height" for a volleyball player in her hometown.

But, along with her height, it was the technical aspects of volleyball that eventually drew her to the sport. And although she made the school's volleyball team, she admits she was terrible at the sport.

That was until she trained with a six feet tall coach, with a deep voice and a thick accent from South America.

"She was so intimidating, but she was one of the best coaches that I had, especially being a beginner. She really drilled all the techniques in your head,"

says Pedregon, partly crediting her continued success in the sport to this woman, who, over the course of a summer in a club league, taught her how to elevate her game.

Height was a factor in determining what position she would play best at each season. She started as a setter and an outside hitter, then in high school became a setter and then transitioned to a defensive specialist – her position of choice.

"To be honest, I didn't want to play after high school," she says. "I was kind of burnt out. I guess I had been playing back-to-back-to-back, club, school and summer [teams], for years at a time."

However, Pedregon couldn't walk away like she thought, deciding instead to seriously pursue trying out and joining the student-run Texas State Women's Club Volleyball team her freshman year.

Playing at Texas State is a little different than what she was used to, with most players being



considered tall, she says.

But the sense of camaraderie among the team's 10 players is apparent in the way Pedregon describes the biweekly practices in Jowers, the annual October tournament that the team hosts on campus and the preparation for the national competition next month in Reno.

"If you're going to make a commitment you need to commit." Says Pedregon, about the importance of attending volleyball practice.

This devotion has kept her on the team for five years, even though she admits she thought about not coming back from time-to-time to a six feet tall coach, with a life interests.

"I obviously can't get away from volleyball, but I would like to broaden my horizons, see what else I can do."

Texas State Women's Club Volleyball, much like the

university's 26 other sport clubs, gives students more say when it comes to the team's logistics, like deciding whether or not to hire a coach, how much dues will cost and creating an end-of-the-year budget proposal that will be discussed in front of a university board, Pedregon says.

It's these real-life skills that have helped shape her future career goals.

Having been inspired by a recent kindergarten report card find where her teacher wrote that she tired easily when using scissors, maybe Pedregon will be an occupational therapist...or, maybe she'll be a volleyball coach.

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WOMEN'S CLUB VOLLEYBALL
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