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### Evan Mickelson - SBE HS Senior *by Charity Winters*



Susan B. English Sea Otter fans will be sorry to see one of their top basketball players head off into a world without high school next year. This year, Evan Mickelson won an All Tournament award for best in region play at the 2005-2006 2A Regional Basketball Tournament in Naknek, Alaska. Getting third place at the regional tournament this year was the highlight of Evan's senior year. Out of everything, basketball is the thing Evan says he will miss the most about high school. However, let's not paint too bleak of a picture as another student says goodbye to smelly lockers, heavy textbooks, teachers and high school sports. When I asked Evan if he was looking forward to finishing high school his first response was a huge grin. "Yeah, I'm ready," he said.

17-year old Evan has grown up in Seldovia. His mother, Vivian has been working at SBE for over 20 years and his father, John makes musical instruments. Evan's 2 older siblings, Daewon and Emily, have since left Seldovia to pursue their ambitions at college. So what's on Evan's plate for next year? He talked about several options. First, he'll be continuing on in learning the carpentry trade this summer and into the fall. After that, he plans to possibly pursue an apprenticeship or attend Avtec in Seward to become an electrician. Or, he is considering trying out work on the slope. Bottom line: he'll just be glad to not have to worry about schoolwork anymore!

Evan's biggest challenge as a senior was coping with the introduction of new person in his life – little Ellie Blaine. "I was pretty

scared at first,” he says about his daughter but so far it’s been different than he expected. He’s having a lot of fun getting to know her and raising her. In fact, Ellie was one of the reasons Evan plowed through his last year of school. “I had to get through for her.”

I asked Evan if he wanted to name someone who was a big encouragement for him in high school. A name quickly came to mind – Michelle Massion. Evan said she really helped him to get through high school. “She’s always been there anytime I need someone to lighten me up or brighten my day.”

So, even though we will miss watching him out on the court, Seldovia wishes Evan the best as he faces the challenge of a new stage in life.



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