

The Dynamic Duo: Mitch Evans and Trevor King

By Jake Orban

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Inside a team of eleven stemmed a connection between two: junior Mitch Evans and sophomore Trevor King.

Off the pitch, Evans and King are good friends. They're often seen in the hallways cracking jokes, and outside of school they're seen hanging out with their group of friends, but on the pitch it's a whole other story. They play as if they are the same person. Without even looking, they can pinpoint where the other will be.

"We played together all of last year, so it's easy to know where he will be," says Evans. King used to play the same position as Evans, but he made the switch from forward to midfield last year, and this arguably accounts for the connection they have on the pitch.

Coach Tim Benson has noticed this connection, saying, "Their skills and styles are different, but they play unselfishly with each other and the rest of the team. The effort and skills are there."

Not only do they get praise from their coach, but they have high praise for each other.

"My favorite trait in Mitch's game is how much power he can kick with," says King. The majority of the time that powerful shot is set up by a pass from King.

"Trevor's great field vision and ability to put the ball where I need it helps me get off a good shot on goal," says Evans.

In only their second year together, both have a combined 18 goals: Mitch 11, Trevor 7. King added an impressive 3 assists to his Freshman year stats. Both hope to continue this success into their next campaign.



Photo Courtesy: Payton Roth

They each played great in starting roles last year as underclassmen. This year they are being counted on to be some of the leaders as they have the most varsity experience, but it will take more than these two playing well together to be successful as a team.

-Tim Benson,
Head Coach, CCA Boy's Soccer

"Live it up" CCA

An interview by Amelia Keller

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AJ Quinlan lives on a farm in Oxford, Iowa and attended CCA all the way through to graduation. His personality is bright and performative, a gravitational force that draws people towards his charismatic humor.

AJ attended Mount Mercy University and Kirkwood Community College. He now works as a surgical nurse at the University of Iowa Hospital.

"When I was in high school I wanted to be a neurosurgeon. Then I bumped it down to nurse practitioner. Then I bumped it down to nurse. And here I am! Did it! #winning!"

I met AJ at Starbucks in Coralville where the first thing he said was that his grandmother told him to only say good things about CCA and to use big words so he seems smart.

Quinlan was involved in the fine arts in high school. He played the trumpet and has a respect for Mr. Smith, the band director, saying he's hard core and doesn't mess around. One of the best moments of his high school career was the band winning five awards in one night. He also notes that he has memories of band kids making out in the back of the bus and wrinkles his nose, adding an "ew" at the end of the sentence.

He tells me Mr. Huch was the funniest teacher, easily and wants to give a shout out to Dave the cook for his cookies. AJ is shocked when I tell him that Dave no longer serves cookies at lunch.

"Before Michelle took away junk food, Dave made giant cookies and he wrote the recipe in my yearbook. It doesn't have any eggs."

Honorable mentions also include Mrs. Morlan and Mrs. Hayes. "Morlan is an absolute legend. I loved her class. Mrs. Hayes was my advisor, and I really enjoyed her. She yelled at me a lot, but it's whatever."

Quinlan's favorite class was Spanish, although he says he never actually learned Spanish because all he did was talk to Meister about her cat. Meister gave him an award for being the comedic relief.

I ask AJ about his best memory at CCA and he immediately says, "Definitely not prom, it was dumb. [...] Senior year homecoming was pretty good. We got a hayrack, stole some artificial turf from the school and called it good. Don't

tell Ashton Kutcher I stole from the school, he'd be so disappointed. Crispito day was always good too."

AJ tells me he was infamous for "having the tea" and the conversation takes a turn for the serious. He shares that drama never completely goes away, even in the workplace.

Finally, I ask what advice he has for CCA students and he takes a deep breath.

"Oh God, do you have time? Stay on top of grades. Live it up, that's what they say at the Riverside [Casino] or whatever. I tell that to my grandma when she goes to the casino. Don't get in trouble with the law. Be nice to your teachers; they don't get paid enough for what they have to put up with."



CCA's Biggest Mystery: The Life Of Mr. McCue

By Dylan Sheely

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Like many other high schools, rumors run rampant through the halls of CCA. While many die off, there's one topic of discussion that is always popular with students: business teacher Mike McCue. During my four years here, I have heard wide-spread guesses as to how McCue made it to the point he is at in his life. These include things like, "He sold his business to a major clothing line," and, "It's all a lie, he's just a regular person." I myself have always been fascinated by the truth behind the life of Mr. McCue. That is why I decided to sit down with him to get his version of his own life story.

After graduating high school in 1970 from Regis in Cedar Rapids, McCue went on to study business and education at Northwestern for a year, followed by finishing his education at Colorado State University. McCue finished college in five years after jumping around between a couple different majors. After graduating college, McCue returned home to teach social studies at his alma mater, Regis. This, however, wouldn't last as McCue would accept a teaching and varsity football coaching job back in Colo-

rado after just one year.

McCue packed his bags, married his girlfriend, and headed back out west. Little did he know, this would also be another very short stretch of time in his life. At the end of his first school year, Prairie High School in Cedar Rapids offered him the opportunity to teach business, be a varsity football coach and a girls basketball coach. He would go on to spend three more years at Prairie and was given the opportunity to be the girl's head varsity basketball coach in his final year.

Five years removed from college, after experiencing teaching, McCue life faced a turning point. He and his wife went on to open Michael J's, a retail clothing store. McCue describes the selection of store as, "Better but not expensive," and, "Casual opposed to formal." He also pointed out a lot of similarities with teaching that helped him when owning and operating his own business. McCue and his wife started with one store and grew their business to seven different locations in seven years, ranging from the local area to one location in South Dakota.

After running his business for thirteen years, McCue then had the opportunity to go into business with his father in law and they purchased fifty stores. He described to me working with his father-in-law and brother in law for four years before saying with that classic McCue smile, "After four years of that, [we] decided that there were other things in life than a family business."

McCue then went on to be the operations director for Goodwill Industries for a year. This meant that he oversaw the ten Goodwill stores in eastern Iowa. He describes Goodwill Industries as an, "Amazing business." Within a year of being at Goodwill, McCue was able to lead many changes within the business and was able to increase sales by about \$800,000.

Following Goodwill, McCue explains going to work for The Rouse Company; the tenth largest shopping center developer in the country. He describes this as being on the other end of the spectrum when it comes to business.

"[I was] the landlord instead of the tenant, which I had been in the previous years."



After a brief stint in the insurance business, McCue returned to teaching. He accepted a business position at our very own Clear Creek Amana High School in 2007 and has been here ever since. McCue compared coming CCA to as being part of a growing business, "I was aware of the growth here... In my businesses we grew things; I liked that aspect and that got me hooked."

After learning about McCue's past life, we began to look toward the future. McCue admitted that he could retire if he wanted to but doesn't because in his words, "I like it here. I like the people...I feel like I'm running my own business as I run these particular classes."

If you ask me, that's definitely something the Monopoly man would say.