

## SACUNION COLUMNIST

# Star Spangled Girl

By **KELLY DAVIS**

Sacramento Union Columnist



I'd like to introduce you to 10-year-old Ellie Smith, a vocal fireball from Henderson, Nevada.

I met Ellie at the University of Nevada, Reno, where we played a preseason game against the Hornets. She and her dad, Rick, were passing time in the press lounge before she performed her rendition of the Star Spangled Banner.

At 4'6", she's a tiny little thing. She's quiet and shy, and as I talked to her I couldn't help but wonder if we'd be able to hear her sing. But put a microphone in her hand and watch out! I couldn't believe that voice could come out of that little girl.

Ellie is very natural in front of a crowd. Her parents knew they were in for a treat when she took the microphone at a family reunion and entertained the crowd while the band took a break. She was only three years old at the time. Three years later she took the stage at a regional gymnastics meet in Las Vegas, and she's been performing ever since.

She is known as the Star Spangled Girl because she regularly sings the National Anthem at sporting events, but she also enjoys Broadway and other inspirational music. Her most memorable moment was to perform at Dodger Stadium in front of 40,000 fans. A few other favorites from her resume include the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Las Vegas 51s and the NBA Summer League.

Ellie plans to pursue singing and acting, and she aspires to sing on the Disney Channel one day.

In addition to her success at local events, she has earned several awards for her talent. Her most recent accomplishment was on the CBS Early Show. She was

selected from thousands of national entries to be the First Performer in a CBS nationally televised contest.

You can hear Ellie live and in person on January 6. She'll be performing right here in Sacramento at the game against Portland. Be sure to show your support and give a very warm welcome to the Star Spangled Girl.



*Ellie Smith, the Star Spangled Girl, will be performing in Sacramento on January 6.*