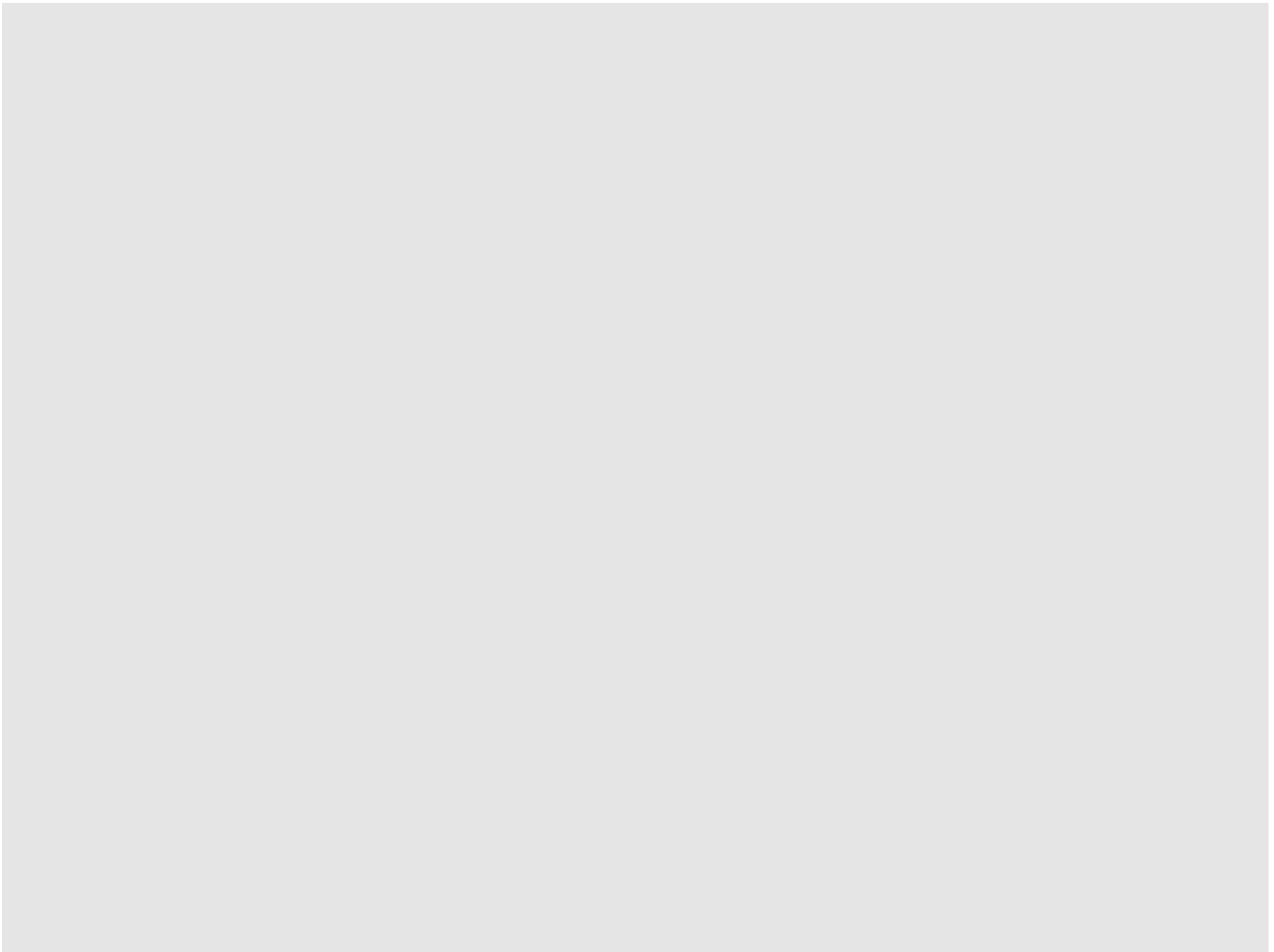


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# MCC women's basketball, with 5 Native American players, is recognized by Nike!

Joe Pequeno

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The tight squad has an unparalleled ancestral bond with five players representing several tribal nations from across the USA.

(Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

**MESA, AZ (3TV/CBS 5)** - The Native American doesn't get the respect it deserves, but, it is a proud culture of people.

The Mesa Community College women's basketball team has tremendous cohesion rarely found. The tight squad has an unparalleled ancestral bond with five players representing several tribal nations from across the USA.

"I think it's awesome, having five games from the same team, native girls like, it's really like very rare," said MCC guard Iris Domebo.

"They bring a sense of mental toughness and passion," said MCC coach Kori Stephenson.

Connecting and giving their all, the fabulous five learned how to play hoops reservation style!

"Run and gun I guess," said MCC guard Cheyenne Begay.

"Having this good connection with all your teammates," said Domebo.

They're more than teammates with relatable upbringings. They're paving the way for their next generations to follow.

"I've become a role model not just for my young siblings but others students in my community and I can use this opportunity to better our culture," said Domebo.

"Most of our elders, they didn't have a chance to go to school and experience things. So, I think like the younger generations, they have many opportunities," said Begay.



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(Source: 3TV/CBS 5)

Building pride for themselves and the squad, their calendars are marked with anticipation, suiting up at home in the sixth annual American Indian Recognition Day basketball game on Dec. 1 against Phoenix College.

"I'm just thankful, thankful for like everything," said Domebo.

"Native Americans don't get noticed a lot, so I think it will be a special day to show who we really are," said Begay.

The uniforms the ladies will be wearing for that special game are part of Nike's N7 program. It recognizes American Indian Heritage Month at college programs across the nation. And MCC is the first junior college to be a part of it.

"I'm like, wow. I can't believe this is happening. I feel like we get recognized more, so that's exciting," said Domebo

"My assistant Sam Stevens is also Native American, half Navajo. I have to give him all the credit. He works in the Native American Department and he is the one who spurred this," said Stephenson.

A piece of history, these teammates will remember forever and stand proud for their heritage.

"You're really trying to open like the doors for everybody else who's behind you," said Domebo.

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Sports Reporter/Anchor

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