

Target: Two Birds with One Stone

Never underestimate the power of a student-athlete. People tend to generalize them as they focus only to their own fields, their own grounds, but unknown to many, they can be so much better. As Jude Michael Andrei Padoa's name rise to the top of the charts when it comes to sports, with the strong grip of his racket, he turned his tennis ball into numbers as he was appointed as one of the few Grade 7 participants that will represent Cor Jesu College in the Metrobank-MTAP-DepEd Math Challenge.

"I was four years old when I held my first racket when my mom brought me to one of her games and I played with the spare balls on the tennis court..." Padoa shared the start of his love for lawn tennis influenced by his mother who also was a tennis player. After a year, he started officially training at the Digos City Tennis Court. But like any other, he is still a student of his academe. He is still like all the other learners that wanted to achieve their goals for the future.

He studies Monday to Friday and trains during the weekends. Despite this hectic schedule he has, he still owns the spotlight when it comes to playing with numbers. As one of the math achievers of his class, he was applauded with his dedication to excel in his studies.

These hard works and sacrifices that he offers both in his academics and his passion towards sports reached the start of his victory. Aside from his success as the representative in the MTAP challenge, in maroon and orange, as the Region XI Eagles soared high in the 61st Palarong Pambansa, a multi-sports national event held in Vigan, Ilocos Sur last April 15 to 21, 2018, Padoa scored the gold medal in lawn tennis, doubles category. These trophies and medals he reached even motivated him to take another step towards clasping his dreams.

Padoa still continues to hustle as both student and athlete, but it did not caused him to stop. As long as he enjoys living as a student, slowly stepping his dreams and slowly seeing his parents proud at him, it is worth more than just any trophies.

"I am aiming to be ranked 1st to 3rd in my category in the Philippines to be able to play internationally and follow the footsteps of my favorite player, Roger Federer"; as Padoa pulled these words from his mouth, he is slowly climbing towards his target. With his racket, he dismiss into thin air with all the force, power, compassion and perseverance as the birds are nearer to his aim. As he stands in his acre, he held his passion, both target on being the good student and being the top athlete. This stone is him.