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Dr. Adams

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Athlete to Doctor

John is a 19-year-old student from Amite, Louisiana, pursuing his bachelor’s degree at University of Louisiana at Monroe. He loves playing sports, especially baseball and football. He has been playing in many sports tournaments since he was a child. However, he does not dream of being an athlete. Instead, he dreams of being an Orthopedic surgeon, and helping other athletes pursue their dreams. This thought came to him when a doctor performed surgery on his knees after an accident and gave him the ability to play sports once again.

During one of John’s high school football games, his opponent tackled him resulting in his knee injury. The injury caused him a lot of pain, but he did not give up. He continued till the end despite the agony. The reason he didn’t stop was because he was raised that way. His father taught him to never give up, but give his best at everything, no matter what the circumstance is. His father always said, “If you do something in life, it’s worth doing it right.” That is the quote John lives by. Even with the pain in his knees, he continued to play two more games in the tournament right after his injury. When I asked him why he had to go to such extreme, he replied,” If you are not giving it all, what’s the point of doing it?” Unfortunately, he was injured again at the next game and broke two bones in his hand. He went to visit the doctor to treat his hand where he found out that the meniscus in his knees was also torn. The doctor told him that he would not be able to play sports for some time. The news terrified him; he was scared that he would not be able to continue his passion any more. However, after spending four weeks on crutches, he gradually started to recover from therapy and then after some time, he was back to his form. He is still very grateful to his doctor who treated him. The very reason that he chose his current career path is because of the doctor. He said, “I want to be an orthopedic surgeon because the doctor who performed surgery on my knee gave me the ability to continue playing my favorite sport. I want to give young athletes who think their career is over, another shot at playing the sport they love.” Today, he is studying biology with hopes of getting in a medical school and be the doctor that he aspires to be.

Another thing about John is that he is very competitive in nature. May be his consistent involvement in sports has shaped him that way. For instance, when I was interviewing him for the profile essay, I asked him if he knew how to play basketball. He said that he was not very good at it. So, just for fun, I asked him to play it with me. I thought he would try to escape from it, but I was shocked when he said,” I do not know much basketball, but I will give my all and win against you.” He did not back down a bit. That moment, I realized how serious he is about his father’s teachings.

No matter what the challenge is, he never backs down. No matter how hard it is, he never gives up. Although he was injured severely, he followed his father’s lesson and continued the game. Because of that, he was unable to play sports anymore. But his doctor gave him second chance to do what he loves to do. Today, he is working hard to do the same thing for other athletes. I believe that his ‘not giving up’ attitude along with his passion to help other athletes will greatly help him achieve his dreams in the future.