

MAKING THE TEAM

by Gregory Medina Laico

Antioch Wolverines #78

AFTER BEGGING MY PARENTS TO LET ME PLAY FOOTBALL FOR FOUR YEARS, they finally said, "YES!"

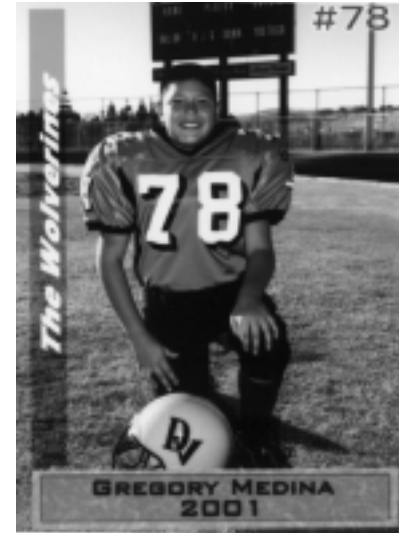
I thought that convincing them to let me play was my biggest obstacle. Then I found out that I had to go to practice 6 days a week, 3 hours a day for Boot Camp like training. We were told that out of 62 kids that were trying out, only 29 would make the team, and the weight limit was 110 lbs. That's when I knew I had to work very hard to be one of the 29 kids to make the team. I only had 3 weeks to lose 10 lbs.

This was a good experience for me because I learned, whatever my dream, if I work hard enough, I can accomplish it.

The season was a hard fight full of bruises and calls to 911...but we are one of the teams going to the playoffs!

PS.: GO WOLVERINES!!!

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Bunga ng aming pag-ibig.

PRESIDENT JACOB ALEXANDER LAICO

by Jovim Laico

HEY, C'MON, NOW TELL ME WHO WOULDN'T WANT THEIR NEW BORN TO END UP as the leader of a nation they were born in?! I am sure that thought comes to every mom and/or dad every time "Mr. Stork" makes a delivery. Anyway it's a thought and not ... *utot*.

For my wife and me, Jacob Alexander (Jay) was 7 years in the planning ... believe it or not. To *kuya* Gregory, Jay is more like 12 years in the waiting (He has always wanted to have a brother). So, on October the 4th (a day shy of my dad's B-day), 2001, Jacob made his grand entrance into the world at 7 lbs 5 oz sporting nothing but apple-red complexion and thick curly hair - lots of it, too!!!

The labor was an easy, oh, about 31 hours! Easy on my part that is -- I was having a picnic of chips and dips and sandwiches watching *Animal Planet* and *Behind the Music*. Sandra, on the other hand, hated it of course because Labor and Delivery told her that we'd have the baby before the end of the day ... of the next day as we found out. Her meals, in contrast, were just water and Jello. Hey, I was totally willing to share my hot pastrami but doctor's orders held me back! Don't worry, I later ate outside the room just to make things a little easier for my poor laboring wife.

When you're confined to a room for that long a time, you have about four shifts of nurses taking care of you. Surprisingly, those shifts felt really fast in a way -- before I knew it, there was a new nurse introducing herself to us. But with over 30 hours of continuous TV, those movies on the Lifetime Network (Sandra's favorite) took forever to finish!! I saw Shannen Doherty play in about 5 features!!!

Towards the end (which is really the beginning), reality set in like the oncoming tidal waves that hide the mighty Tsunami to follow. Emotions rose and so did the pains my wife was experiencing. It seemed the epidural's strength might also fade out. To me, the last moments of her pregnancy felt like forever, and the pain projected through her clutches on the bed rails. That expression of indescribable agony prompted me to be strong and supportive, just as she was showing strength even when the pain was unimaginably unbearable.

OH MY GOD! He finally came! "WE HAVE A BABY!"

After having a hard day, both mom and child rested in each others' warmth -- a portrait of tranquility after an intense day of strength and emotion. Me, I was just blown away staring at this little man who wore a one hour version of my face. Lots of thoughts came running. "So, you're the one who's been hiding in there!" "What next?" "How did he come to look like me...the poor thing..." Strange feeling, yet I enjoy every breath and every funny noise my baby makes. I'm still blown away... lots of thoughts still running. Who knows, 40 years down the line there may be a Laico sitting in the big chair at the White House.

Who knows?

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