Persevere, Overcome, and Keep Moving

One of the biggest challenges I have had to overcome happened recently, and it also affected everyone else on the planet. The coronavirus pandemic brought all activities, schooling, and sports to a sudden stop - My favorite sport, soccer, included. The pandemic quickly became frustrating to everyone, but soon society started to think outside of the box to overcome uncertain times. Schools transitioned to online classes, some activities were adjusted to be held under safe conditions, and coaches even sent at-home workout drills for players to practice while still being in quarantine. Spring turned to summer, summer turned to fall, and I was finally able to appear back on the field again. Although during the first game, everything changed again.

Midway through my first game back, everything seemed to take another turn for the worse. A collision with an opponent led me to fall back onto my wrist. I pushed through until the end of the game, despite knowing something was wrong. The following afternoon, my dad took me to stat care where they confirmed my fears and told us I had fractured a small bone in my left wrist. The expected yet somewhat sudden news was disappointing, but I knew I would overcome the challenge.

Having the cast on for weeks truly taught me something. What it taught me was to appreciate everything. As kids, we often make the mistake of taking certain items or even gifts from God for granted, but all it takes is one moment, at the right place, at the right time to understand we have gifts that some people don’t have. The small inconvenience of having a cast on for a couple of weeks led me to discover no one should ever take anything for granted. Learning to be grateful has helped me ever since to conquer any problem or challenge that happened to come my way.

One major way my broken wrist affected me was the way I did my school work. Nowadays, most, if not all schoolwork is online, which means I needed to type in almost every class. Typing with only one hand for so many weeks posed a challenge, mostly because everything that needed to be typed took much longer, setting me back from the rest of the class. I kept moving forward by always looking from a new perspective. For example, if I felt as though I was so unlucky, I would think about how my situation could be worse. If I took a moment to be glad I didn’t have to wear a cast for a month, then I would suddenly feel lucky in a certain sense, for not having to wear the cast as long. Without having maintained a positive attitude, I probably would have not been able to ever accept the fact we as people can’t control everything. Also, sometimes we’ll have some poor luck come our way but we have to keep moving forward by overcoming obstacles with positivity.

While some might think no good could come from an unlucky or unfortunate event, I now know that’s untrue. Having a negative experience will more times than not teach a person something they didn’t know before, which is why I am now able to look at certain life circumstances from a different perspective. Wearing a cast came with countless frustrations, but I was able to learn and grow, to push through whatever annoyance I was facing. Moving past obstacles has been most famously accomplished by Dr. Martin Luther King. He was a social rights activist, a leader, and an inspiration to all. Although, sharing his captivating words was a great challenge for him, as was for numerous other famous inspirational figures. As Dr. King proclaimed to us 60 years ago, "If you can't fly, run; if you can't run, walk; if you can't walk, crawl; but by all means keep moving." Dr. King’s quotation tells us we all need to face our challenges, big or small, and conquer them, even if we only take one step at a time. We will have setbacks pop up in our lives, but they shouldn’t stop us from doing our best, they shouldn’t stop us from being kind, and most importantly, they shouldn’t stop us from moving forward.

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