

Roberts, Jordan
Challenges that have shaped my life

"It appears to be a torn ACL. I'm afraid to say you can't play the rest of the season." These words are not exactly what a freshmen athlete wants to hear at the start of their high school soccer career. In the beginning, I only remember feeling defeated and angry as I sat the bench and slowly pushed through recovery. However, I understand that this season ending injury presented me with a challenge that has greatly influenced who I am today.

The recovery process after my surgery proved to be quite a learning experience. In order to improve, I realized it was up to me to take responsibility and stay the course of rehabilitation whether it was inconvenient or painful. I vividly remember squeezing my eyes shut and clenching my fists as the therapists pressured my leg to work and regain full mobility. Despite the pain and frustration, I knew I had to persevere and push through all the obstacles. I discovered a kind of work ethic I never knew I possessed and learned the value of having goals and striving for them despite the many hardships. First hand experience has helped me truly understand a valuable life lesson: "What you get from something is determined by how much effort you put forth." This diligent mentality has stuck with me ever since. I now apply these lessons to all aspects of my life whether on the soccer field or in the classroom. Making my dreams a reality is dependent on my best effort and I now realize that.

A large part of who I am today and who I would like to become in the future is focused on becoming an athletic trainer. My knee injury experience greatly influenced this interest. Towards the end of my recovery, I joined an athlete's performance program to help further prepare myself for the upcoming season-I soon fell in love with every aspect of athletic training. The trainers were always involved and willing to do whatever it took to help me improve. Their actions and generosity have inspired me greatly to pursue a career in athletic training and I hope to show that same enthusiasm and dedication to my work someday. I feel that passion is a virtue that is gradually being lost in many careers today, and I am so proud to be able to admit my devotion and love to something. The motivation, passion, and interest I have to attain for my future goals are qualities that distinguish me.

September 11, 2007. Exactly one hundred and eighty-eight days after my surgery. It was the day that I stepped back on the soccer field, physically as well as mentally stronger. In that period of time, I summoned the passion needed to overcome obstacles and practiced a level of determination to ensure that I would achieve my goal of returning to soccer. I know I can rely on these qualities to sustain me throughout my life and make the most of all opportunities.