

## **“How Optimism Has Paved My Road to Success”**

To be successful you must stay optimistic, and if you are not optimistic life gets on you really quick. I've played baseball my whole life, and baseball can get you down really quick. However, baseball has also taught me how optimism can keep the bad things at bay. From being the one kid scared to fail to being the bravest, loudest, best teammate I could possibly be didn't come easy at all. I don't come by optimism naturally, I used to be so scared to fail or disappoint someone leading to a very doubtful early years, but the people I chose to surround myself with really changed my look on my attitude. My teammates who are like a second family to me really put every bit of doubt and hate for myself far out of my mind.

Baseball has dealt me some pretty crappy cards in my life but with lessons of how to stay optimistic, it has taught me to be the man I am today. Baseball has taught me how to stay humble and let my actions speak for me. The optimism needed to play such a difficult game has really brought me to another level, I feel that the best course of action is to let the cards be dealt. No matter what, if you surround yourself with the right people and let yourself stay on a solid path you will find success. Although the people around you can help, success doesn't come easy whatsoever. The success I've had has been built by hard work and willpower: determination to not be beat, not be last, to be the best the world has ever seen.

I thank my pitching success when you have so much weight on your shoulders every single game, every single inning and even every single pitch to personal optimism. You have to stay strong in your mind and ability and let yourself just compete. The more you compete to win each pitch, the more opportunities you give yourself to succeed. Pitching has brought many roads into my life, from completing a goal I made when I was ten to start for the high school's varsity baseball team as a freshman. My pitching ability got me there, although it was a rough grind throughout the years, my optimism

instilled in me that my dream of starting on the varsity would come true. Now playing my final year on the baseball team has been nothing short of an absolute roller coaster of emotions from being the scared freshman on varsity to saying “screw it, just have fun” to a scary personal sophomore slump combined with losing some of our best athletes on the team early in the season. But those previous trials and tribulations lead to an absolute movie of a playoff junior year.

With the tough start to my junior year, our team had some doubt about how the season was going to go. We were winning, but was it going to be enough? Yes, it was - a team full of juniors willing to shock the world by force, and me especially; someone who was overlooked as a position player and pitcher. I had to step into a big role. Late in the season involving a very important game, I was called upon to pitch with a catcher I had not made a prior connection with. I was scared, but with my team behind me and my personal optimistic attitude, I found my way involving a historic year for the team.

I was counted out since I began playing baseball. I was too small, too weak and didn't throw hard enough to play college baseball. Earlier this year I was really excited to announce that I had completed another dream and committed to a 4-year university to continue playing baseball, not only pitching but hitting too. I had to stay optimistic throughout all the hate and all the frustrating times. I never gave up on the dreams a little 10-year-old me set.

Truthfully, I don't think my success wouldn't be where it is today without the unwavering support from my family. My family really had never once told me, “I couldn't do it”. Fortunately, my family also presented an optimist attitude, which also pushed me a little further. That environment put a seed of optimism into me, building me into who I am - no longer the scared little kid who was terrified to fail, but a strong confident young adult ready to take on whatever challenge I might face.