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Rich Stetler Scholarship Application Essay

Starting from an early age, I have loved sports. I played as often as kid whether it was outside in the street or back yard with my friends or something in the house with my sister. When you listen as parents talk amongst themselves about how they usually just let their child win because they just want him to be happy. In reality, they just don't want to deal with him being upset and crying. That was not the case in my household.

Ever since I was six years old and in first grade I had to win fair and square on my own. I would race my dad home from the bus stop and I would lose every time. I would walk into the house crying because I had lost and my mother would say to my dad, "Why can't you just let him win once?" and my father would respond, "Because no one else at any point in his life is ever going to let him win, no matter what it is whether he is playing sports or in the workplace. That is life." I am very grateful for my father and his ways of raising me because they have allowed me to become a better person, but more importantly they have given me a chance to be more successful earlier in life because I know that I will have to earn everything that I want. I carried this mindset with me into sports.

In my 18 years of life, I have played sports in 14 of them (if you count tee ball). In all those years I have tried out for many different teams and have made most of them but have also been cut as well. Getting cut, for me was more of a positive learning experience because it made me realize that next time I need to be more prepared and to try harder. I didn't sit around my room and sulk because I had been cut. I went out and practiced and worked at whatever it was that I was trying to get better at.

Throughout my life and career in sports, I have never been looked upon as the star athlete. Time and time again, I would make the team because of my hard work, but I'd have to earn a starting spot by playing flawlessly and proving myself year in and year out. In a way I am grateful for having to prove myself every year. It has allowed me to see that nothing great in life comes easy. Sports have shown me that I have to work to earn everything that I want to achieve in life and that there will always be someone else competing for the same spot/job/position. Sports, for me, have been a great provider or simulator for challenges that I will face in life.