

Taylor stays positive while living with cerebral palsy

Alyssa Dean
News Editor

"When I was born, doctors told my mom that I wouldn't be able to do anything, and that I would be a vegetable,"



photo/ Alyssa Dean

'Focus on the good'- Senior Ethan Taylor has achieved many things during his high school career. He is the baseball team's manager, he has nearly perfect attendance and he makes excellent grades in all of his classes.

senior Ethan Taylor said. "They said I would never be able to walk or talk."

Taylor has a condition called cerebral palsy. Cerebral palsy is a disorder that impairs muscle coordination and affects movement and posture. It is caused by damage or injury to

the developing brain. He has had multiple surgeries. When he was a child, he spent six months in a hospital due to his hip surgery.

"The six months spent there was one of the saddest points in my life," Taylor said. "It wasn't necessarily that I couldn't take being in the hospital; it was just that I wanted to be home in my own bed and not surrounded by the hospital atmosphere. The hardest part was taking a shower or bath because my muscles would tense up to the point where it would be painful. It wasn't a pleasant experience."

Through his faith and positivity, Taylor has been able to accomplish many things. He is the baseball team's manager, he has nearly perfect attendance and he makes excellent grades.

"Just to be able to come to school everyday and to make the grades I am making is a blessing from God," Taylor said. "The opportunities that I have been handed are nothing but the Lord putting them in front of me. If you would have told me in middle school that I would be a member of the baseball team and making the grades I am now, I

would have called you a flat out liar because I never expected any of it."

Taylor enjoys being apart of the baseball team. The team is very special to him.

"I got a really good group of guys, and it is just really special for me considering this is my last year," Taylor said. "These are the guys that I started from the beginning with. Coach Davis is a blessing in my life, and I am so grateful that he gave me the opportunity to be apart of the team."

Along with being apart of the baseball team, making good grades is imperative to Taylor. According to him, good grades are one of the foundations of a good life.

"Grades determine your future, what college you go to, what job you will have and really what house you will be able to afford," Taylor said. "Education is really the foundation of all existence."

One of Taylor's ultimate dreams is to work for ESPN as a sports broadcaster. He hopes to one day be put in the Hall of Fame for sports broadcasting.

"My biggest dream would be to call a World Series game or a col-

lege football national championship," Taylor said. "I want to just enjoy the job I have. There is an old saying if you enjoy what you do you really never work a day in your life, and I'm a strong believer of that. I want to do what I love to do and that's sports."

Through the negatives and positives in his life, Taylor manages to stay happy. He believes he is nice to everyone he meets to spread the positivity.

"My life is full of ups and downs, but through it all I have tried to stay positive," Taylor said. "I just have a positive outlook on life. That's all we really can have in this world, especially the one we live in now that has so many problems. Stay positive and just enjoy your life while you have it. Don't do anything that would jeopardize the quality of your life. Rejoice in the fact that you even have life, and remember who gave you that life and that is Jesus Christ. Keep your eye on the goal of eternal life that God gives you and that will help you get through this life, and remember that there is another life when this one is over."

Players risk injury by playing sports

Anna Persons
Staff Reporter

"There's always a risk in anything you do. Don't let it stop you from playing the game as hard as you can," said Junior Raegan Havard.

This was Havard's advice to future athletes after having received two concussions herself.

It is said there are between 1.6 to 3.8 million head injuries yearly in sports.

There is always backlash to this with the parents and sometimes the athletes.

There has always been controversy about sports and the injuries that come with them, but the recent rise in injuries has parents of today concerned.

"We try to coach and teach them the right way," said Athletic Director Matt Caldwell.

Brain injuries have been a problem with athletic programs previously. Although, many coaches take the time to coach and teach

their athletes properly.

In recent studies, it has been recorded that football has the highest rate of head injuries due to such a high collision and contact sport with soccer coming in at a close second.

Some concerns have been raised about athletes having serious issues much later in their lives after receiving head injuries in high school sports. It is said reason for parental alarm about having students in high school sports.

While the safety precautions for

sports have developed over the past few years, it has yet to rid of the hesitation to put adolescents in high contact sports. The media is bombarded with the dangers and warnings of sports-related injuries, but it is truly circumstantial to the athlete and his or her situation.

"Don't let it stop you from playing the game as hard as you can," said Havard. This just an opinion from an athlete that has experienced the risk of head injuries.



photo/ Chloe Russell

3.5 million- There are more than 3.5 million head injuries in sports yearly.

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