



Overcoming Backstory

Adam Bender is an amazing example of the value of "overcoming." In his own words he says, "My name is Adam Bender. I am a 10 year old cancer survivor, and also a sports enthusiast.

When I was born, I had a large tumor in my left thigh and had to have my leg amputated at the hip when I was a year old. Because of this, my parents didn't know if I would ever be able to participate in sports. At an early age, I began to show an interest in sports and chose to start with soccer. I quickly learned to adapt my style of play with my crutches and never looked back! Next I decided to give baseball a try, and thanks to some wonderful coaches, I found another sport I loved. These two sports helped me make many friends and learn to be part of a team. The desire to try new things led me to challenge myself with flag football, where I played quarterback for two seasons. I've also started wrestling, and just this winter, I won the state championship for my age and weight. I love playing on a team and I am thankful that my parents have allowed me to go after my dreams.

I hope that when others see me play, they will be aware that a physical challenge can be overcome when you have the desire and you believe in yourself. My wish is that all children, no matter what their ability, who want to play sports be given the chance. With the help of my family, I want to start an organization that will help kids with physical challenges be able to participate in sports. In my own words "Let us play!"

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