

My whole life I have been told to be careful and have been treated specially just because of my health issues. Being told that I could not participate in certain events after watching my friends participate caused me to feel angry and stressed. Since then I have been determined to show others that kids can do whatever they put their heart to.

Since I was diagnosed at four years old, I have found trouble with being cleared to play sports. Doctors always worried about my blood counts and my disease being a danger playing football. I would watch my friends play football at recess and would be crushed knowing that I might not be able to ever join them. Finally my mom was fed up with the doctors and let me play little league football starting in third grade. Nine years later and I am getting ready to play college football this coming fall and I am grateful for the chances I have been given. I have met other kids that have been diagnosed with Dyskeratosis Congenita that have been affected way more than I have. I personally have met someone from Beaumont, Texas who has told me that his dream is to play college football but his doctors have interfered. I want to show kids like him that you can do whatever you put your heart to no matter what anyone else says.

I also want to show anyone with an eye disability that it is still possible to achieve your dream even when people constantly tell you it's impossible. When I was thirteen years old I had a parasite partially eat my left cornea which caused me to become legally blind in that eye. I thought I would never be able to play sports again like all my friends. Although I have major depth problems, I still try to do anything a normal kid could do. There is a little girl at my school who is partially blind which my mom has tried to help her mom through everything. I want to show her and other kids that it is okay to feel discouraged and that it doesn't matter what everyone else says.