

## Who Says That You are Not Good Enough?

### **Ready:**

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." - Jeremiah 29:11

### **Set**

After watching the movie, *Eddie the Eagle* I was reminded of my own journey in athletics. I was not considered much of an athlete, even by my father. In fact, I was more comfortable hanging around the house than playing ball with the guys in the neighborhood. And while I was among the fastest kids in school, it was never applied toward organized sports.

My first foray into organized sports left much to be desired after I went out for baseball. The coach noted my lateness in joining the team and he assigned me to the sub-taxi squad. Although I didn't immediately understand, I found that it meant that even in practice I didn't play.

As a freshman I went out for football to follow up a threat to my father, insisting that I would go out for football and get maimed in this unknown and brutish sport. And that was proceeded by the coach running the summer sports program who assured me that I would never play at that school. That school referred to his competitive rival.

The first day of football camp I joined the crowd of kids as the coach organized us by position. When he came to me, I smartly asked him which positions were available (since I truly didn't know football). The first that he shared was *guard* and so I became a third (or last) string guard.

By the third game of that inaugural season I was shifted to running back (I was still fast), after a couple of devastating injuries to other players. And for the next four years, I would lead my high school team as the star running back for the school.

I would go on to college based on academics but continued my football career setting school records that are still intact. After graduation I was inducted into our college hall of fame both as a Defensive Back and a member of the school's Centennial team.

Although I never believed that I would be great in sports, it was apparent that there was another plan for me. Injuries prevented me from playing at the next level even though I was contacted by several pro-teams.

Today it is apparent that there are intangible skills that I developed playing sports that proved there were greater reasons for my success. These skills have allowed me to have greater success both in life and ministry.

## Go

1. How many times of hearing "no" does it take for you to walk away from something that you want to do?
2. What intangible skills have you developed that are directly a result of your sports career? [Skills such as "leadership, determination...]
3. Why would God use playing sports as an arena to develop you for the things you may do in your future?

## Workout

Ecclesiastes 9:11

### Bible Reference:

Jeremiah 29:11

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