

Aiden Sullivan – What Being Tall Means to Me.

Being tall throughout my life has been an interesting roller coaster. Any visit to a clothing store has always been a frustrating adventure. Just as there are all different shapes and sizes of people, there are also different types of tall bodies. In my case, I have an “extended torso” which is extra-long, which goes along nicely with my extra-long legs. However, when I go to buy clothing, many times the shirts and the pants are too short. I am unable to walk in to any store and pick clothes off the rack...I am relegated to online shopping to order long and tall outfits. Luckily my career choice in construction management will allow me to wear jeans and boots often so my arsenal of clothing is a little bit more forgiving at least on the bottom half.

Despite the challenges that go along with being tall, my height has also afforded me some incredible opportunities and helped me form lasting friendships. In my high school, I am a two-sport varsity athlete and have served as captain on both teams. My height has allowed me to excel.

As goalie, height is a must-have in the job description. My ability to “climb the ladder” on crosses or high shots are one of my strongest attributes as a goalie. Saves where shorter goalies might have to jump 2 feet in the air to barely tip the ball over the net are simple catches for me. It might seem insignificant, but catching the save as opposed to tipping it out of bounds saves the defense from needing to defend a corner kick which gives the offense the advantage. Similarly, my height in goal led my team to a Regional Championship in soccer this year where I made countless saves coming out of the face of the net and soaring over kids heads and catching or batting the ball away before they were able to head it in for a goal. My quality of play resulted in being named a First-Team All-County Goalie.

Once the seasons change from soccer to baseball, my height once again allows me to stand tall above the competition as a first baseman and pitcher on the baseball diamond. As a youth baseball player up until now in high school, kids are notorious for making bad throws from the infield to the first baseman. Whether it be throws far from the base or really high, they both require my added length and athleticism to make the play. Throws that would normally cost the team an out I catch with a little extra stretching to save the play from becoming an error. As a pitcher as well, being tall has a few upsides. First, it helps me throw harder as my long body acts as a rubber band to create more kinetic energy when releasing the pitch and as a result giving my ball more velocity. Second, it allows me to change my arm angle and point of releasing the ball in order to make the pitch have different spin or appear to the batter in a different way throwing off their timing.

Sports has filled my life with so many memories and accomplishments and friendships that will last a lifetime. As I turn my attention to the next phase of my schooling and career, I look forward to standing “tall” as I serve our country through the Army ROTC program at my college and as an officer in the Army for years to come. This scholarship would help that dream become a reality.