Delaney Walker

TCIF Scholarship Essay

“What Being Tall Means to Me”

“Hey, Delaney, can I borrow your height?” my grandma shouts from the kitchen. This question isn’t uncommon, considering that my grandma is five feet two. However, I get asked this question everywhere I go, whether it's reaching something on the top shelf at a store or hanging up decorations instead of using a ladder. For me, though, my height has always enhanced my athletic prowess in the sports world. Being five feet eleven has always given me the edge in sports; whether pulling down a rebound or jumping up for a header, I have always been one of the best at these tasks.

Since I was old enough to walk, I have played basketball and soccer. Everyone always asked why I didn’t play volleyball, but basketball and soccer have just always been my passion. For basketball, I was never the best scorer on the team, but my height has helped me pull down rebounds and block shots. What I lacked in offensive scoring, I made up for on the defensive end by not allowing the other team to get rebounds or shots off. I led my team in blocks and rebounds for the last two years I played basketball. In all honesty, snagging rebounds out of the air and closing out on a jump shooter with my wingspan to block shots have always been my favorite things about playing basketball. No one was ever surprised when I told them that I played basketball, but when the next words that came out of my mouth were “and soccer,” everyone was shocked.

For me, soccer has always been my ride or die, the sport I started playing when I was just three years old. I have always said that soccer was my first love, but people always wonder what benefit my height can bring to soccer. Well, my favorite thing to do is to outjump all of the girls on the field to score a header goal. I already have a few inches, and sometimes a whole head, advantage on almost all of the girls I play against, so when I fly through the air to get to a ball no one else can, it gives me a sense of pride. For the last three years, I have led the varsity soccer team at my school in scoring the most header goals, which gives both my teammates and me an advantage, as I can score goals with both my head and my feet. My height has played to my advantage throughout the years I have played sports. Even though I won't be participating in collegiate or professional sports, I do plan to pursue club sports and intramurals in college, where I will continue to let my height be a problem for the opposing team.

Over the years, I have come to realize my height has given me an immeasurable amount of confidence and pride. Being tall is such an important part of who I am, and I feel so blessed to have been born to a Dad who is six feet seven and a Mom who is five feet ten. Growing up with tall parents, I never felt awkward or embarrassed by my height; I simply saw it as an advantage that would help me throughout life. Knowing that not everyone is as fortunate as I am in terms of height, like my grandma, I will continue to lend my height to others in need because I realize that not everyone is as lucky as I am to be a tall girl.