

Growing up I hated being one of the taller kids in my grade, I was taller than everyone else even the tallest boy. I was on the ninety-ninth percentile for height and weight and my doctor declared I would be at least 6'0" when I was done growing. His statement did not bother me at first but once I started growing and being taller than everyone else I grew self-conscious of my height. This resulted in constant slouching and getting told by my doctor that I would look like my great grandma in 60 years. His comments did not scare me into not slouching though. I was a big introvert as a child and always feared standing out, especially for things I considered embarrassing. When I was noticed for being tall and heard comments about sticking out from my peers this embarrassed me. These factors resulted in me continuing to slouch, however, I never stopped sticking out. It always seemed that no matter what I did I was always known as the really tall girl. Even though I am only 6'0" now, in sixth grade I was the height that all my peers now are. Many saw me as a giant and felt the need to point it out, this resulted in my insecurity about my height growing and getting worse.

In 2021 I got the opportunity to play in the Little League Softball World Series which was broadcasted on ESPN. I was playing against lots of great competition, every girl there was known as a great player in their area who would likely dominate in high school. We all stuck out for many different things but what I stuck out for was not only my stellar pitching from our first game but my abnormal height. Before our

games started all the players and coaches competing in the World Series were given gear. At the time they did not have my shoe size and I had to wear a size larger than I normally did. The announcers in our first game right away noticed those big shoes. They claimed that with feet as big as mine I would definitely continue to grow and get taller. I knew at the time that I would still grow but did not realize that the shoes that were a size too big on me at the time would later fit my feet perfectly. When these announcers could have looked at anything else, the first thing they noticed was my height. This helped to set me apart from all the other pitchers because to everyone else I wasn't just a great pitcher I was also the tallest pitcher there.

My insecurity stuck with me all through elementary school and late into middle school before I realized how much my height helped me. When I stepped into my comfort zone I would always set my shoulders back and relish in the moment. My height became evident when I did so and started helping me to stick out at college softball camps. Many coaches began to notice me just for being as tall as their college players. What was once something I considered a bad thing gave me an advantage over my peers. My confidence began to grow and I stopped sticking out just for being tall but because I was confident while being tall now.

My height is not a definition of who I am but it does help to set me apart from others. I now view my height as something special that I am lucky to have.