

Evan Wade

I am the first child, nephew, son, and grandson to be welcomed into my family this generation. The day I was born, my 5'8" Irish grandpa, my dad's dad, said in his funny, cheeky way, "My boy married into a family of giants. And my grandson right here, Evan Thomas, is going to be bigger than all of you Piskulic's!" I was 24" and 9lbs 11oz at birth.

My two uncles are 6'5 "and 6'6" and in their mid-40s. They didn't finish growing until they were in their early 20s. I am currently standing at 6'3". If history follows itself, I plan on beating them somewhere around my 21st birthday and making my grandpa proud.

To answer the question, there are both good and bad things about being tall. My mom tells me stories about taking me to the playground. Since I've always been tall for my age, she said I looked like I was five, but I was two. And people at the playground would give her dirty looks like, "why is this five-year-old acting that way?" when in fact I was only two and acting totally appropriate for a two-year-old. I was so tall that I was always wearing clothes that were 2-3 years ahead of what my size should be. My mom says I came out of the womb wearing 3-month-old clothes and just leapfrogged the infant size. Then, as a 2-year-old, instead of wearing 2T size clothes, I wore 5T. By the time I was 8, I was wearing a lot of adult smalls.

There are the obvious perks: getting stuff off the top shelf, being able to wash the top of my car, and changing lightbulbs. And now that I am older and used to the size, I have really learned to love it. Everyone calls me a "gentle giant." This holds, except when I'm playing sports. Then I'm ready to get after it. But in my life, I'm the one to step in to break up fights. I'm the one to go stand behind a girl if she's being treated badly by a boy to show by my physical presence that his actions aren't ok. And I'm the one who coaches turn to and be a leader to call the coin flip or take ground rules at the plate to show physicality for my fellow Rockwood Summit Falcon teammates and make an impression on our opponent.

Being tall also comes in handy when we're on vacation together. My family takes a big trip to Branson in early December every year. We go with all my cousins, aunts, and uncles on my mom's side of the family. There are about 20-25 of us who make the trip every year. We all spend a day at the theme park Silver Dollar City. My 6'5" uncle (Uncle David) and I are always the "leader and caboose." We both wear a funny hat that's easy to spot. So, if my shorter 7, 8, 9, or 10-year-old cousins need to find us, we're easy to spot.

While being tall made me uncomfortable when I was younger, I have gotten used to it and enjoy the world from this view. I consider myself a quiet leader, and I appreciate being looked up to both literally and figuratively by friends, family, and teammates.