



Shaping Talent
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THAT EXTRA 2 PERCENT

CARDINGTON, OHIO – Derek Goodman knows the value of hard work. Combine that with exceptional coordination. And God’s favor. And it’s easy to see why he’s been a standout athlete.

“I would say some people are just more naturally athletic than others,” he explained. “And I believe God blessed me with athletic ability. However, most of my talent came from practice and training. I had to work hard for most of what I achieved.”

Derek, now 18, grew up on a farm near Cardington. He’s helped raise beef cattle and sheep as long as he can remember.

But his parents, Lynn and Diane Goodman, also have fond memories of Derek as a small child, constantly throwing or kicking a ball.

“He was always very competitive, loved challenges and always gave 100 percent,” they recalled.

“Dad,” Derek remembered, “put up a basketball hoop and poured a slab of concrete when I was about four years old, which definitely encouraged my basketball career.”

He also ran track and cross-country. He played baseball and soccer. But, Derek added, “It became clear to me throughout junior high school my main focus was going to be basketball. I had a genuine love for the game. And I had a desire to push myself to be the best player I could possibly be.”

He went to Gilead Christian School in Mt. Gilead. When Tyler Wall, the basketball coach there, saw him, he was amazed to see Derek’s abilities.

“He averaged over 30 points a game as a point guard!” Wall exclaimed. “And he was very unselfish. He was passing the ball to his teammates to make sure everyone got a chance to shoot and I had to tell him, ‘Derek, there are very few individuals who can score like you. Go ahead and shoot the ball!’”

After his sophomore year, Derek transferred to Cardington-Lincoln High School where, he conceded, “The atmosphere on and off the court was completely different going from a private to a public school. But I had to trust God to guide me in the right direction and give me the wisdom to navigate the journey.”

The school’s basketball coach, to put it mildly, thought he did just fine.

“He came to us after scoring 30 points a game,” said Coach Rod Brown. “But he put that aside to be part of the team to make us successful. He works hard every day, all the time. Derek’s a great, great young man.”

“I’ve always had a heart for competitiveness,” Derek responded, “and a love to challenge myself to new limits. I believe no matter how talented you are, the quality of your athletics is primarily from the heart.”

Off the court, between his junior and senior years he founded the FCA huddle at Cardington-Lincoln High School.

“I can honestly say,” he said, “God has been watching over my life for as long as I can remember.”

“Plus,” he continued, “I’ve been blessed to be surrounded by family and friends who encourage and assist me every step of the way. Mom and dad have done so much for me. I can’t think back to a time throughout my sports career filled with probably over 1,000 basketball, soccer and baseball games, or cross country and track meets, that at least one of them was not there. They were always there to support me.”

“They’ve also set great examples for me and constantly tell me to follow the Lord and pray. They always push me to give more than 100 percent and constantly strive to do better and serve others better. I have learned to be humble, show respect and give it my all for the Lord because of their direction and guidance.”

His parents responded by saying they’ve always tried to encourage their son. They tried to show him the importance of hard work, to “always give that extra 2 percent in all you do.”



They credited coaches and teachers who pushed their son to reach his full potential because they always knew “he was capable of more.”

First and foremost, however, the Goodmans said they tried to show their son “the importance of putting God first, and He will take you in the right direction.”

Shaping Talent focuses on the influences that lead athletes to succeed. The people who helped them. Their work ethic. How and why they turned something they like into something they do. In other words, how God shaped their growth. If you have a suggestion for a future profile, contact Rye D’Orazio at Central Ohio Fellowship of Christian Athletes at 614-682-6551 or email rdorazio@fca.org.