

Inspiration

Troubled army brat, Atticus John-Joe Washington the 3rd sat looking out of the window onto the vast playing field. It was a place where he longed to be, playing the game of base ball that he was really good at. This was his third school in 6 months. New rules, boring, classroom, boring, 20 other class students boring, teachers boring. His widowed father gave him very little opportunity to settle anywhere and find his own pathway.

What was the point of thinking about anything he wanted to do!

He'd tuned out the moment he walked in through the gates that morning. It was for that very reason he didn't know that a baseball scout was visiting the campus. Along with the scout was someone he admired, one of the sport's biggest modern stars, Hank Bagwell. Very famous for his elite two way ability as both a pitcher and a hitter. They were looking for students who displayed raw talent and showed potential.

Some time later, now changed into his sports gear and sitting along side the other students in the dugout. Atticus John-Joe Washington the 3rd, was not listening and didn't focus ... until he heard his name being called.

Hank Bagwell was talking directly to him.

"It makes total sense that your feeling this way right now. What you've been dealing with is genuinely heavy, and you don't have to pretend to be okay.. I know that you feel helpless. But I look and I see you here, you have survived 100% of your hardest days. That is your track record of resilience that you can absolutely trust. Right now your brain is telling you, you can't handle this, but you found the strength in the past and that same strength is still inside you now".

Hank continued talking, his tone was gentle, patient, grounded and sincere. He was trying to make him realise that a difficult moment or a failure doesn't define who he is or diminish his potential.

"I saw you play baseball I think it was about 7 months ago at the University of Southern California. I believe in you, even when you are struggling to believe in yourself. I know what you are capable of, and I'm not going anywhere. So let's get out there and show me what you've got."

Inspired by those words, Atticus John-Joe Washington the 3rd the stepped up to the mound, taking a number of deep breathes, he loosened his shoulders. Then with laser focused execution he proceeded to throw a pre-scripted sequence of fast balls to different corners, he also included curve balls.

Back in the dugout after the trials, Atticus John-Joe Washington the 3rd held the card Hank Bagwell had given him.

“Son we can offer you a full scholarship, you’ve got what it takes”.

Then for the very first time, he knew in an instance that he could lift up his head and have the courage to follow his own dream.

By Norma Powell