

Brett
Jackson

The past several years have been hard. My parents divorced and there were custody issues. At first I was with my mom and then I went back with my Dad. My Dad had a lot of anger towards my Mom and I was not allowed to see her or even talk to her without my Dad getting angry.

I lived with my Dad for four years. He did not push me to complete homework and it really seemed like he did not care how I did in school. As I got older, I did not care about school either. I began not caring about much of anything and was making poor choices. Then my Dad sent me to live with my Mom because he did not know what to do to help me.

So now I have moved here and things are very different for me. The weather is even different. I had to change the way I dress and I even needed a winter coat. When my Mom asked me about homework and school, I basically ignored her. I told her that I had things under control. I thought that I could handle what I needed to do on my own. I was wrong. I had not been in a routine of homework and studying for years. I quickly found out that I was in over my head and too embarrassed or proud to ask for help. I did not want to admit that I could not do it on my own.

I have now admitted that I need help and guidance and they are going to help me stay on track. I am going to make a greater effort in learning and getting better grades. I will put more importance on homework and studying.

I realize that I messed up and as a result I may lose my opportunity to play baseball. I am trying to fit into a new home, a new town, a new routine, a new school and make new friends. It has been overwhelming. I have always felt comfortable when playing sports. I have felt included and a part of something important. I feel that if I were allowed to play, it could be the first "normal" thing for me to do in a while. It would help me get back on track because I would be working towards the goal of improving so that I could remain on the team.

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