

Alivia Webinger

Laurel High School

Grade 12

Montana

“What are your plans now?” This is a question that teachers, parents, coaches, and family members ask every student who is in their final year of high school. It can get a little repetitive over time and can seem exhausting attempting to figure out what “*drives you*” into the next chapters of your life. With that being said, “*What Drives ME*” is a constant reminder of the person I hope to become and continue to have fought for.

My name is Alivia Webinger, I am 18 years old and live in Laurel Montana. I attend Laurel High School and will be graduating this spring. I am hardworking, passionate, loving, patient, amiable, bubbly and determined. Over the past four years I have not had your typical high school experience. I have found myself in several doctors offices and surgery tables. My freshman year playing basketball I tore my ACL, MCL, and both Mensi. As an athlete who had always loved the game, it was devastating to learn my career for basketball was more than likely over. I spent countless hours doing physical therapy, relearning to run, walk, and feel like myself again. A year and a half later I found myself sitting in the same doctor's office being told the same news that my Mensi was torn again. I was upset and angered. All my hard work was shot to nothing at that moment. To hear the words that officially your days of contact sports were over and you would have no Mensi was shocking. I still put in the hours of physical therapy, lifting, and eventually I felt stronger than ever. Of course it took thousands of tears, moments of despair and depression but I finally saw a light at the end of the tunnel... Passion... A passion for young

athletes like myself who have undergone the hard road to recovery, who chose to wake up and fight another day. This event has led me to the desire to undergrad in Health and Human Performance and graduate as a Sports Orthopedic PA (Physicians Assistant). So the question is, “What Drives Me”, well it is that scared 15 year old girl who has shaped her entire life around sports sitting on the surgery table about to undergo her first surgery. It is the same girl almost two years later on that exact surgery table being told her knee would be bone on bone. It is the woman I am today, helping young athletes cope through traumatic injuries. It is the woman I hope to become in 10 years who is empathetic with her patient who is about to undergo the same knee surgery she once had. A desire to change the persona of medicine and fill it with hope, love, and kindness is what drives me. It is the goal and dream to help shape the future of Sports Orthopedics and change the mindsets of patients experiencing a traumatic injury. This is “*What Drives Me*”, and my hope for the future.