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What Drives Me

What drives me is the experience of losing the dad I once knew after he suffered a traumatic brain injury in an automobile accident when I was seven years old. Although he survived, the injury changed him in ways that changed my life as well. My dad had always been my biggest supporter, especially in my athletic pursuits. Even at a young age, he believed in my potential long before I understood it myself. After his accident, I made a promise to keep pursuing my dreams in his honor and to carry forward the strength he showed throughout his recovery.

That promise has guided me through the sport of cheerleading, where I have learned discipline, resilience, and the power of teamwork. I am a four-time State Champion, a two-time National Champion, and recently earned a place on the U.S.A. National Junior All-Girl Team.

Representing my country is an honor I do not take lightly. Every time I step onto the mat, I feel connected to my dad, knowing he would be proud of how far I have come and how hard I have worked to get here. Next year, I will continue my athletic journey by cheering for the University of Oklahoma, a dream I have worked toward for many years.

My drive extends beyond athletics. I believe that success means using your abilities to help others, and that belief has pushed me academically as well. I maintain straight A's in my concurrent college courses at Tulsa Community College, and at OU I plan to pursue a degree in sonography. The medical field inspires me because it allows me to support people during vulnerable moments in their lives. I want to be someone who brings comfort and care, qualities I learned from the people who supported my family after my dad's injury.

Growing up with a parent affected by a traumatic brain injury taught me that life can change instantly, but it also taught me to appreciate every opportunity I am given. It taught me to work hard, stay focused, and never take my goals for granted. Most importantly, it taught me to live in a way that honors the people who helped shape me.

My dad's journey is the foundation of my motivation, but my drive now comes from the person I want to become: a dedicated student, a committed athlete, and a compassionate future healthcare professional. I strive to make him proud, and I strive to make a positive impact on the world around me. That is what drives me every day, in everything I do.