

My Passion

By Mr. Devora

7th and 8th Grade P.E. Teacher

My name is Javier Devora and I am 32 years old. I was born in Matias Ramos Zacatecas, Mexico. My parents brought our entire family over to the United States when I was 4 years old. My father is Manuel Devora, my mother is Maria Devora, oldest brother Jose Devora, oldest sister Daniela Cortez, older brother Reynaldo Devora, Javier Devora (Me) and youngest sister Claudia Lira. We were raised in the small farming town of Mettler, California which is near the Grapevine and 25 minutes south of Bakersfield. It was in the small farming town of Mettler where my passion for sports grew. My family and I learned and played sports together in the fields of Mettler, CA while growing up.

At the young age of 8 years old, my brother Reynaldo and I were invited to join a soccer team made up of kids that attended our school and lived in Mettler. I still remember the first day of practice when my oldest brother (Jose) had woken me up from an afternoon nap and said, "Wake up Javy, you are going to soccer practice." I was startled because I had woken up by his voice and the excitement that was going through my mind that I was going to join the soccer team. In addition, I was extremely happy that my father had allowed my brother and me to join the soccer team. It was a tough decision for my mother and father because their concern was how were they going to pay for the soccer uniforms. I was extremely blessed that they allowed my brother and I to join the soccer team because that is where I learned how to

become part of a team which includes-communication, collaboration, effort, hard work, determination, respect, and good sportsmanship. We went on to play 8 years of soccer with the Mettler Stars and won multiple championships in the Bakersfield soccer league. I developed long-lasting relationships through soccer and still communicate with them as of today.

At the age of 10 years old in 5th grade, I had a teacher by the name of Sandra Price at General Shafter School. The K-8 small school has an enrollment of 200 students and is located near Highway 223 and Highway 99 near Bakersfield. Mrs. Price had a passion for sports and she demonstrated that through her teaching in the classroom and outside the classroom when she taught us Physical Education. One day, Mrs. Price was going to teach us how to play golf during a P.E. lesson. She did an amazing job demonstrating the proper techniques, explaining what each golf club was for and allowed us ample time to hit the wiffle balls towards the empty field. It was that exact lesson, where I knew that I was never going to stop playing the game of golf in my lifetime. I started to look into ways on how to buy or borrow golf clubs to practice my game. My cousins that lived in Mettler had extra golf clubs and gave me a few golf clubs and golf balls to practice at home. I would practice hitting the golf balls into the dirt fields in the ranch (Opal Fry and Son) where I grew up. I would practice hitting the golf balls in the middle of the day in the middle of the summer. As everyone

knows, the summers in Kern County can get extremely hot during the day. But I didn't mind the heat or sweat because I knew I was improving my golf game every single day that I would practice.

During my High school years, I played Football, Basketball, and Baseball. During my Junior year (11th grade) we won a Football CIF championship vs Kings County. The championship game was amazing because the stands were at full capacity. My parents, brothers, and sisters were in the stands watching me play an unforgettable game. I still have the championship ring that was awarded to all the players that were on that team that year. During my high school years, we also joined a baseball team on the weekends (Sundays) in Los Angeles with my cousins. My brothers and father were on that baseball team. Baseball is my father's favorite sport and he is extremely good at it. We played competitively in that league for 5 years. It was tough at times because some of the games would begin at 9 am and we would have to leave our house at 5:30 am to drive out to L.A.

After I graduated high school, I wasn't sure what career path I wanted to take but I knew that I wanted to attend college and receive an education. I took the first year off after high school and focused on working. It was that powerful year that I knew I had to follow my passion for sports. I researched ways on how to become a Physical Education Teacher. A few months later, I enrolled at Bakersfield College and completed the majority of my general education courses. I then transferred to CSUB after 3 years at BC and focused on my major (Physical Education). I took

multiple classes that taught students how to teach a P.E. class and I also learned how to play Badminton and Archery. I graduated CSUB in 2012 with my Bachelors of Science in Physical Education. I took a few years off of education due to the lack of employment in Kern County. I found my way back to the education field in 2016 where once again the passion of sports was a calling. I researched ways on how to apply to a credential program and after a tough and hard-working two years in the credential program at CSUB, I completed the program. I was in the hunt for a school district to accept me and I looked into Grimmway Academy Shafter. I received an interview and received a position as an Instructional Assistant in 1st grade. I was at the Shafter campus for a short time (2 months). I was transferred to Grimmway Academy Arvin where my first assignment on the campus was a 4-6 Instructional Assistant in the learning lab. After 3 months in that position, my passion for sports was calling again, I was offered an opportunity of a lifetime to teach Physical Education. I have been teaching P.E. at Grimmway Academy Arvin for 2.5 years and I love every single minute because I am teaching and changing lives on a daily basis. I am teaching my passion for sports to the students of Grimmway Academy Arvin.

As time passes by, I understand that everyone wants to win the game, score the goal, make the basket, hit the home run but I have learned multiple valuable lessons through sports that the harder you practice every day you can become better at what you do. In addition, the harder you work on a daily basis the more opportunities will flourish because of the hard work and dedication that you input. Never give up on

your dreams or aspirations because by
failing comes great success.