

a dream come true for David Goswick

Playing under the lights has always been senior David Goswick's dream. "I have never been allowed to play football, never in my whole life," Goswick said. "It's the only sport I've ever wanted to play."

Goswick was born with a disability that prevents him from playing the sport he loves. "It's called severe clubfeet," Goswick said. "It's when your feet are pretty much born backwards. The only way to correct it is to break your feet and put them back the right way."

The disability caused many challenges in Goswick's life, including seven major surgeries, permanent braces, and several injuries. "Two years ago, I started breaking my foot," Goswick explained. Following that year, he had three stress fractures in the same foot. "It got to the point where we were all praying that it would stop breaking because we couldn't do anything. There's nothing that you can do!" Goswick said.

Although he was limited with his physical abilities, Goswick still found a way to be a part of the football team. "I started officially managing football in seventh grade. I enjoy it because it's the closest I'll ever get to the field," Goswick said.

Goswick had been a manager at Dawson County High School for over five years, but his hope for actually playing the game never faded. "I got to be close to the field. I got to be part of the team. I got to do everything the guys did," Goswick said. "That was fun, but it was still my biggest dream to actually go on the field and play," Goswick said.

On November 7th, Goswick's dream began to unfold. "Coach Jeff Lee said I could go out there

as an honorary captain, so that's what we agreed upon," Goswick said. "Before the game started, he handed me my pads. Then he introduced me to the guys as their new team member for the night," Goswick said. "Then, at halftime, Coach Lee pointed at me and said, 'You better be ready this half!'"

With 1:48 seconds left in the game, Goswick got his chance. "Coach Lee pulled me up and said, 'All right, you see the 40 yard line? You do not leave the 40 yard line. You do not go past the 40 yard line. Stay on it,'" Goswick said.

His dream became a reality. "So I went on the 40 and all I could think is, 'I'm going in,'" Goswick said. "I was ecstatic."

Goswick's teammates also helped aid in his excitement by continually supporting him. "It was everything I had hoped for," Goswick said. "Not just stepping on the field, but that I had a team there that even though I'm different because I can't run, stood up and clapped for me and hugged me as I left the field. That's really something."

Although he achieved what he had desired, Goswick plans on continuing to stay close to the football field throughout the duration of his life. He also shares his personal experiences with other kids who also have his disability. "It's kind of hard to talk to kids with this disability because each one of us goes through something differently, but I would love to try to help them," Goswick said. His story helps to encourage these kids to not let their physical challenges get in the way of doing what they love.

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