

## An Inspirational Teacher

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Award Winner

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Trousdale County



Of all of the teachers I have had in my life, there is one that stood out above all the others. He wasn't a math teacher or an English teacher. He was my football coach and PE teacher. Coach Jackson taught me a lot about staying in shape, how to play football, and even encouraged me to play high school football. Some people may talk trash about him or not like him, but he is really a good coach.

In sixth grade, I was really overweight--even worse than I am now. I have improved upon my weight since then. He got me Will in good shape through his advanced PE classes. At times it seemed rough, but he taught me not to give up. He knew I could do it, and he knew most times I wouldn't want to. If you need proof how he has gotten me in good shape, in fifth grade my mile time was about 15 minutes. That is a terrible time. Now it is anywhere between 7 1/2 and eight minutes. He is a great gym teacher.

When I joined the football team in seventh grade I did not have a clue on how to play football. I was terrible. He was still our coach then, but I never gave effort so I never got better. This year or last season I decided I wanted to play--even start. So I paid attention to everything he had to say and I tried everything I could. After all the times he chewed us out, made us run, or made us do up downs, I finally have gotten better. I had earned the starting position at left tackle. I think if coach Jackson had not pushed me in class and in practice, I would never have gotten any better.

When I started playing football, I knew how hard high school football would be and I did not think I wanted to play. I did not think I was going to change my mind either. But Coach Jackson told us that if we all stayed through it, we would be a great team in high school.

You could say that he inspired me, but that was not the main reason. He said to me that he knew that I would be able to do it and that after sophomore year, I would be good. Being able to eventually be good was not the reason I wanted to play. It's because he had confidence in me and knew that I could do it. That is what really encouraged me.

Through it all, I'll have to say Coach Jackson was my favorite teacher. He may not have taught math or anything like that, but he did teach me a lot. If it had not been for him I would never have gotten in shape. I would never have played high school football, and I probably would not have been even played it down last season he has inspired me a lot.