

Katelyn Cahill - Perseverance

In the winter of Katelyn's freshman year (Jan. 2005) of high school she was in a car accident that paralyzed her from the chest down. As a freshman Katelyn was a varsity softball player in the fall and was playing JV basketball when the accident occurred. Although she was paralyzed Katelyn maintained an active role in the LSHS softball and basketball programs throughout the rest of her career and graduated from LSHS in 2008.

During Katelyn's freshman year of college she found a new sport: wheelchair basketball. In the winter of her sophomore year of college Katelyn volunteered to coach a youth wheelchair basketball team. Her love of athletics, natural leadership skills and enthusiasm made her a natural.

This year Katelyn has gone away to MU for school to join the men's MU wheelchair basketball team. Katelyn has trained all summer and this fall to prepare for the 2010-2011 season. Through this experience I have seen her overcome a lot of obstacles since joining the team: grueling workouts, living on her own for the first time, meeting the academic demands of a division I school and the day to day challenge of being the only female on the basketball team.

Katelyn's attitude about her many challenges is impressive to say the least. She approaches new situations with a willingness to learn, sometimes failing but always perseveres. In August she spoke to the entire LSHS softball program at a team function. She was truly inspirational to the players and parents who listened to her speak about the twists and turns that she has encountered but has always been able to come out a winner. Katelyn is an inspiration!