

Overcoming Challenge, Cadwell Finds A Home At Daytona State College



Durey Cadwell, Class of 2019
DSC Athletic Scholarship Recipient

Durey is a freshman guard on the Daytona State College Men's Basketball team. He comes to DSC from Houston, Texas, where he attended Klein Forrest High School, graduating Summa Cum Laude with a 5.3 GPA and 24 hours of college credits already completed. Despite his academic success, Durey faced more than his fair share of adversity before arriving at Daytona State College. Durey explains, "This is a story about goals and ambitions, resiliency, opportunity and why the Falcon Family is important to me." Read more about Durey and his path to DSC.

Durey Cadwell gave this inspiring speech at the Daytona State College Foundation's 2018 Annual Gala, the primary fund-raising function of the year, from which proceeds support scholarships and programs.

"Greetings Falcon Family! What a blessing it is to be here tonight. My name is Durey Cadwell and I came to Daytona State from Houston, TX. Tonight I would like to share with you a story of pain, disappointment, frustration, fear and second chances. This is a story about goals and ambitions, resiliency, opportunity and why the Falcon Family is important to me.

Growing up in Houston I had two goals. One, to play college basketball at the highest level. Two, to achieve the highest level of academic success possible. As I grew up it seemed like all of my dreams would come true. As a sophomore, college coaches began recruiting me. Schools like Princeton, Cornell, Texas Tech are some of the few that heavily pursued me. Academically, I was at the top of my class. During my junior season things were on a roll. I was a starter on one of the best teams in Texas, we finished with a 34-1 record and made a deep run into the state playoffs. After a successful high school season, I was ecstatic and just knew that summer was going to be my time to solidify myself as one of the best high school basketball players in the nation. I was selected to play on one of the top Adidas sponsored teams in America. Then, adversity struck and turned everything 180 degrees.

Early on the summer basketball tour, I sustained a major injury. How could this happen?! I had worked so hard, and did everything right. I had given so much of my life to reaching my goals, I had overachieved in the classroom, vigorously worked on my craft and I always treated people right. How could I now not be able to play the game I loved at my full potential? The injury devastated me both physically and mentally. All of the schools who once recruited me so hard stopped calling. It was as if I had become the plague. To say I was frustrated, hurt, confused, and angry was an understatement, I was lost.

I attempted to come back from my injury, honestly too quickly, and I just wasn't the same player. My dreams seemed to come crashing down in a moment, it truly felt like I had hit rock bottom. To be frank, I had given up. I had let adversity and failure get the best of me.

After sitting on the disappointment of the summer I made a decision, I was going to fight, not give up on my dreams, and make a comeback. I worked harder than ever, had a good senior year. But, nothing happened. The offers for basketball scholarships didn't come back.

It is one thing to have your dreams deferred, but to give everything and not see any success can be paralyzing. So, I decided to turn away from my dreams with basketball and take the academic route. This seemed like the only option and what my destiny had become. I finished high school with a 5.3 GPA and was the 19th graduate of 933. I had received an academic scholarship to the Red McCombs Business School at the University of Texas in Austin. I was satisfied that my hard work in the classroom had provided this prestigious opportunity to learn at one of the world's top business schools. However, I didn't feel complete. Yes, I wanted to get my education. Yes, Texas was an amazing opportunity for my future. But, I felt like something was missing. Deep down, I knew I could play at the highest level, I just needed an opportunity to prove it.

On May 17th 2018, when I had given up all hope that my true passion wasn't meant to be, my phone rang. It was the first ever college coach to recruit me when I was a sophomore in high school, Coach Brock Morris. He told me about this place called Daytona State and explained that we were going to be the best junior college basketball program in the world. He told me that it wouldn't be easy, he would push me every day to overachieve in all aspects of life, and he would challenge me daily to dream bigger. I accepted his challenge and joined the Daytona State Family.

Once I got to campus I realized why he felt this was a great place to be. Coach Morris and the staff here at Daytona State created a vision, implemented a plan, and made sure we have the discipline to execute that plan daily to not only become great basketball players, but the best people we can be.

My teammates and I are extremely happy to have the opportunity to play for and represent this school. Daytona State has given us all the opportunity to continue to live out our dreams and do great things. I promise you that we will represent this amazing College and do everything in our power to make you proud, on and off the court.

Thank you for the opportunity to become part of the Falcon Family. All Gas No Breaks!!”

Durey intends to pursue a degree in Business Finance, and already has scholarship offers to transfer to the University of Buffalo, University of New Mexico, Bowling Green University and Texas State University after earning his associate of arts degree from DSC.