

Dear Shatin Tsung-Tsiners,

We usually think of our own dream while friends are sharing theirs. Then we think of how to make it come true. Right? Let me ask you a question. Can a person without arms and legs have a dream? If yes, how can the person actualize his dream? Probably you will know how when you meet Dustin Carter. Dustin Carter did have a dream when he was in his junior high school. Like most of you, he wanted to be strong, outstanding and a real winner in life. At ten years of age, he took an initiative to prepare himself by running his daily routine all by himself, even taking a bus on his own. Since ten years of age, he has been building up his strength bit by bit with determination and courage. Who is Dustin? Have a look at the picture: he is the most well-received wrestler of the Hillsboro High School, in the U.S.A.

Dustin Carter loves wrestling and offers himself in many competitions. His coach, Brian Williamson, has encouraged him all the way, kicking, biting, gouging and clawing. You may say that these are common practices for all wrestlers. Nothing special. All one needs is hard work, then he may be a successful wrestler. Things are always easier said than done. For Dustin, he needs much more determination, endurance and tough courage. Indeed, Dustin is a special teen; but, like every one of you, he upholds his dream and never gives up though he has lots of physical restraints.

Dustin, at five years old, had amputations of both arms and legs after several days of a rare blood infection known as meningococemia. He flat-lined twice but was revived. He didn't take back his dream after being discharged from hospital: he wanted to be an outstanding kid!

Once, when he was ten years old, he fell three times on the sloped driveway on the way to meet a regular bus. The first time, he got up. Second time, same thing. However on the third time, out came his grandma.

"What are you doing here, grandma?" scorned Dustin.

"Need a hand?" grandma gently said in tears.

"Of course, not. I'm just being Dustin!"

He didn't give up. He bravely lived. He was building his strength.

Once, when he won a match at Amelia, lots of cheering and yelling of his name was heard. When he lost, the gym fell into complete silence. Once, at the opposing team's gym, a chant ran out from the spectators: Dustin! Dustin! Dustin! Even fans from the opposing schools didn't like seeing Dustin lose. In that match, he strove till the last second and he won! He didn't give up. Nobody wanted him to give up. He won in face of all obstacles. His strength stood.

Does he date? Of course, yes! Girls gravitate to him. He has lots of friends and supporters.

He hasn't given up his dream of being an outstanding wrestler. Practising day by day, he gracefully lives. Building up his strength, his dream comes true. Having a cheerful heart, he is outstanding among teens.

How about you? Are you taking the initiative to study? Are you revising day by day for your tests and exams? Are you equipping yourself with different life skills gracefully bit by bit every day for challenges to come?

If physical limitations and human bias seem to be unbeatable obstacles against your dream and hard work, think of Dustin Carter. Nothing is impossible, especially with the mercy of God. May God bless you all!

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