

Work hard. And have patience. Because no matter who you are, you're going to get hurt in your career and you have to be patient to get through the injuries.

-Randy Johnson

Injuries and obstacles are a part of life. It is very easy to give up on goals when unfortunate incidents happen; it is a lot harder to continue on with patience. Oliver during his rehabilitation from Tommy John has done a great job helping teach others while at the same improving on his own personal growth. Congratulations to Oliver Boyce, our July Athlete of the Month.

I first met Oliver Boyce when he was 12 years old. He was no more than 5'6", and was so skinny that the ball would actually stop the bat when he hit it. However, on the mound, he was a machine, throwing the ball low and hard; he filled the zone with strikes. At 15, Oliver, a little taller, not much heavier or stronger, was asked to play on the Braintree Baseball Club 18u college prospect team. Since then he has done nothing but compete as a Braintree Bandit.

Early on after attending the club, it became clear that Oliver would need to rehab a Tommy John procedure. Oliver spent 18 months in physical therapy first trying to prevent having Tommy John and then recovering from Tommy John surgery. Rehabbing a baseball arm injury can be tedious and frustrating yet Oliver has taken the process very serious throughout. As Oliver's Strength Coach it is my job to make sure we stick to the plan and follow the calendar. He may have wavered and been frustrated at times, but he kept at it. During his rehab this spring, when he still wasn't cleared to play, Oliver helped me coach the 12U Bandits AAU team. He was great with the players and they absolutely loved him soaking up all his knowledge about pitching and the game at the high school level.

This summer Oliver was cleared to play, but not pitch, and so I moved him to 3rd base. Oliver played great defense in this very unfamiliar position. He showed signs of being a top corner defender because he has such soft hands. Most impressively, Oliver led the team in RBIs, tied for the team lead in runs and walks and over 16 games, was second on the team in batting average, hitting .384. This summer team was made up of athletes going into and already playing college baseball at schools ranging from Brandeis to University of Miami

Once he was cleared for the mound things became even more exciting for Oliver. His arm strength has developed and his stamina is improving. Before Oliver received Tommy John two years ago he was throwing 86-88 mph, Oliver has shown his velocity will one day soon surpass where he left off.

Now, through his rehabilitation, work ethic and patience, Oliver is 6'4" and weighs 190 pounds. In a year, my guess is that he is 6'5" 210 pounds at least; making him valuable on the mound and potentially at 3rd base as well. He is currently finishing his high school career at Milton Academy and will be applying to Duke University in the fall. I believe Oliver will compete at a high level and he currently holds one of the highest GPA's at the club, well over 3.0, which will help him into many schools.

Whether he does a Post Grad year to maximize this potential in baseball or whether he considers going straight to college and redshirting, Oliver has turned himself into a kid that coaches see and say 'he has no ceiling'. The sky is truly the limit for Oliver and he is proof that when you combine natural talent with the willingness to put in the hours, you can and will achieve greatness.

That's the culture we are trying to create here and Oliver, I am proud of you and I can't wait to see where your career takes you.

Jay Schnabel
