Marli Huddleston

Melanie Crider

South Side High School

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“Snap. Crackle. Pop.” No, that is not the sound of Rice Krispies cereal. These are the sounds that a sports chiropractor will hear on a typical day of work. A sports chiropractor is always there for an athlete in need, whether cereal sounds are in the picture or not. As an athlete myself, becoming a sports chiropractor is one of the highest goals that I want to achieve. My passion for all things sports drives my desire to be around them in every aspect of my life. Caring for my type one diabetes everyday also causes me to want to help others with their health. With hard work and dedication, I can reach my goal of becoming a sports chiropractor.

So, what really is a sports chiropractor? A sports chiropractor specializes in treating all types of athletes. Not only would I be treating injured athletes, but I would also help athletes improve in their performance. Not just anyone can be a sports chiropractor. I will be using a variety of skills that I will learn to efficiently help my patients be the best they can possibly be. These skills can range anywhere from manually adjusting a patient to practicing acupuncture. In addition to these skills, there are special tasks I will also perform when having this career. This includes the day-to-day tasks of understanding patients, the ability to remain calm in stressful situations, customer service, reasoning, and the ability to work well with others. It is vital for professional athletes to maintain proper health throughout the stint of their careers, and being right by their side to aid them is my ambition.

Becoming a sports chiropractor doesn’t just take a bachelor’s degree. I must keep pushing forward and earn a Doctor of Chiropractic degree as well. This is an estimated total of eight years of schooling. Once my education is completed, I will be able to start making an income. According to *Salary.com*, the average salary for a sports chiropractor is $77,682, but this number can vary. In like manner, there is a significant variation of job locations. I can practice my career anywhere I want. I can choose to work along with other sports chiropractors, open my own private practice, or even travel with a sports team. A career as a sports chiropractor gives me the freedom to do what I want.

I have given this information about my chosen career, but what is the real reason as to why I want to be a sports chiropractor? The answer traces back to having a chronic illness called type one diabetes. Countless numbers of doctors and nurses help me better manage my blood glucose levels. Due to the guidance they have given me over the years, I likewise want to aid others with maintaining proper health. The reason why I want to be a sports chiropractor can also be found in my passion for sports. My earliest memory of my favorite sport, softball, is in my front yard when I was just three years old. I crave the excitement that overwhelms my body after hitting a home run. I have experienced competing in softball and basketball my entire life, so it would not be easy for me to leave that feeling found in competing behind. With a career as a sports chiropractor, that will not happen. Helping other athletes overcome injuries is similar to the same joy that comes with competing. Using skills that I have learned from caring for my type one diabetes and from competing in sports, I can succeed as a sports chiropractor.

I can picture my future clearly: examining athletes, diagnosing muscle problems, using my knowledge to heal sports-related injuries, and even preventing athletes from harming themselves in the first place. Before I can perform these actions as a sports chiropractor though, I must acquire an education. I plan to attend college and earn a degree in Exercise Science. I will then further my education at a chiropractic school and receive my Doctor of Chiropractic degree. After I complete my training, I will go on to become a sports chiropractor for any college sports team. Once I gain experience, I would like to move up to professional sports and continue my practice there. If I keep my focus and stay committed, my strong connection with sports will push me through my studies.

Growing up involved in softball and basketball fuels my love of sports and the atmosphere that comes with it. They are a part of every element in my life. When adding in the skills I’ve learned from controlling my type one diabetes, a career as a sports chiropractor is the right fit for me. If I stay fixated on my goals, one day I will be the one hearing, “Snap. Crackle. Pop,” on a daily basis.