



Good News

Ramirez Makes Dean's List

From Baseball Diamonds to Pulitzer Prizes Story by Joe Thorsen

Michael Ramirez, Grover Cleveland Class of 2008, once dreamed of a career as a professional baseball player on the sandlot ball fields of the Dominican republic. This Fall Semester 2010, he will begin his junior year at SUNY Purchase. Though he isn't pitching with an ERA of less than 2.0, or slugging away with a 300 plus batting average, he is having a perfect season, making the Dean's list with a straight A average.

Born in Brooklyn, Michael returned to DR before he completed elementary school there, only to return later when he was in high school. Finding himself at Grover Cleveland, Michael was placed in ESL classes. After trying out for the baseball team, he realized he would not follow in the path of Pedro Martinez, Jose Reyes, or Robinson Cano. Despite this setback, Michael ferociously clung to a second dream: to be a great writer. Painstakingly, he worked on his academics, turning C's into B's, and B's into some A's. In class what he didn't understand, he would ask his teachers for clearer explanations. When he struggled in a subject, he wouldn't give up on it until achieving an acceptable score. What he advanced in—writing—he augmented, going beyond class assignments by reading numerous authors. In his senior year at Cleveland, Michael won first place in the highly competitive Theodore Roosevelt Speaking Contest, defeating competitors from New York City's elite high schools. "Champions," Michael mused, "are not born. They are forged by desire and hard work."

Where's Michael now? Already a junior reporter for major internet news outlets, Michael is diversifying his writing talent his writing talent into broadcast journalism and novel writing.

Who does Michael attribute his success to? He is extremely modest about his many accomplishments, preferring to thank his parents and teachers for their belief in him and their continued support. What is amazing is that although Michael had to give up on one dream of stardom in the big leagues, he never quit pursuing his second goal. Yes, we won't catch Michael on TV playing baseball, nor reading about him on the pages of People magazine; however, what is guaranteed is that someday we will be reading what Michael writes as he continues pursuing his other dream of being a great author.

Grover Cleveland is looking for the next few "Michaels." Why can't you be the next rising star to pursue your dream?



Michael Ramirez