



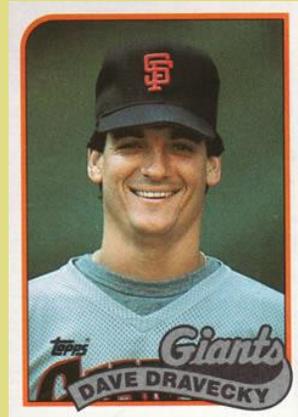
Monday Matters

April 20, 2015

What Would You Give Up?

Have you ever wanted something so bad you would give up anything for it? Maybe you wanted that new car and were willing to sacrifice all your savings to get it. Maybe it was a dream home and were willing to work two jobs and sacrifice your family in the process.

Dave Dravecky was a star pitcher for the San Francisco Giants baseball team back in the 1980's when it was discovered he had a cancerous desmoid tumor on his pitching arm, the left arm. On October 7, 1988, he underwent surgery, which removed half of the deltoid muscle in his arm and froze the humerus bone in an effort to eliminate all of the cancerous cells. In 1989 he made a comeback, first going to the Minor Leagues to get back in shape and then returning to the Majors.



In his first start with San Francisco, he pitched 8 innings, defeating the St. Louis Cardinals. Five days later he was pitching again. He allowed no hits for 3 innings. In the fifth he felt a tingling in his arm. The next inning was a disaster. He allowed a home run and hit the next batter with a pitch. The first pitch to the third batter, his humerus bone in his left arm snapped so loud it was heard all over the stadium. His bone broke clear through. His season was ended. The doctors eventually discovered a malignant mass in his arm. Two surgeries later and two years after his comeback his left arm had deteriorated considerably. On June 18, 1991, Dravecky's left arm and shoulder were amputated.

While most people would see this as a tragedy, Dave sees it quite differently. In one of his books he writes, "When I look back over all I've learned from other people who have suffered, all I've experienced of their love and all God has shown me of his mercy, I think: if I'd continued as a ballplayer and missed that, now that would have been a tragedy."

At one time or another we have all had disappointments in our lives. It might have been considered a calamity or even tragedy. It might have been a relationship, a physical situation or a financial issue. It is what we do at these times that is the key to our success. We can simply just give up. Or we can put our faith and trust in God knowing that His ways are above our ways. Then we start again.

Today Dave Dravecky is a motivational speaker delivering messages straight from his own experiences with loss and suffering. He seeks to powerfully inspire others through the encouragement and hope that he has discovered along the way and his faith in God.



Lord I Give You My Heart - Hillsong

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