



The NOODLE

Open up and say AHHHH!!!



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Welcome to the August 2020 edition of *The Noodle*, written and published by the FYC. For this issue of *The Noodle*, members of the FYC were asked “who was there idol growing?” This topic allowed members to share their thoughts on who they idolized, and why. We hope you will take a few minutes out of your busy schedule to learn about our experiences and enjoy our thoughts and opinions in this edition of *The Noodle*!


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My Idol Growing Up

Idols. I had to think about this one for a minute. I don't know if I would call him a full-fledged idol but I finally did think of someone I looked up to and liked listening to when I was young and honestly still do. It is former Florida State University Head Football Coach Bobby Bowden. I've loved football since I was young but it was more than just that. He would talk football in interviews and in his press conferences but he was also never afraid to talk about his faith on the public stage. That stood out and as a person of



faith too, I always found that admirable because sadly a lot of people these days don't seem to go around publicly proclaiming as well as he used to. He had his priorities right, wasn't afraid to tell people and recruits, and I think that's part of why I always looked up to him. It was faith, family, football—in that order! That's how it should be for everyone; faith, family, their chosen profession, and then everything else. He followed that order and still won us two crystal balls. Sorry, I just had to throw that in there. I never have cared for the term idol but these are just a few thoughts and reasons I did look up to Bobby Bowden growing up.

By Derek Carraway

My Childhood Idol Growing Up


My childhood idol when I was growing up was Selena Gomez. I used to watch Selena Gomez on television all the time, but it was fifth grade when I really looked up to her because I was constantly getting bullied in school. I remember always wanting to be like her because I thought she had the most perfect life. Just listening to her music inspired me to never give up on my hopes and dreams.

Her song, “Who Says” is such a powerful song because it's reminding someone that just because they have imperfections about themselves it does not define their true beauty and worth on the inside or outside. I used to come home and listen to that song every single day after school just so I did not give up and lose hope. Things got a lot worse when I reached middle school—sixth grade to be exact. In sixth grade I got picked on a lot for my small height and for not being able to understand math. The term—to be more specific—is dyscalculia, which is a disability in comprehending math. It took a lot of hard work to pass all my math classes but nonetheless I did it.



I think it is important that every person in the world has someone or something they look up to in life. It can really make all the difference, because whether it be a hard day or tough situation, at the end of the day these celebrities, singers, or role models make all the difference and can change someone's life for the better whether they realize it or not.

By Emma Massey



Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant

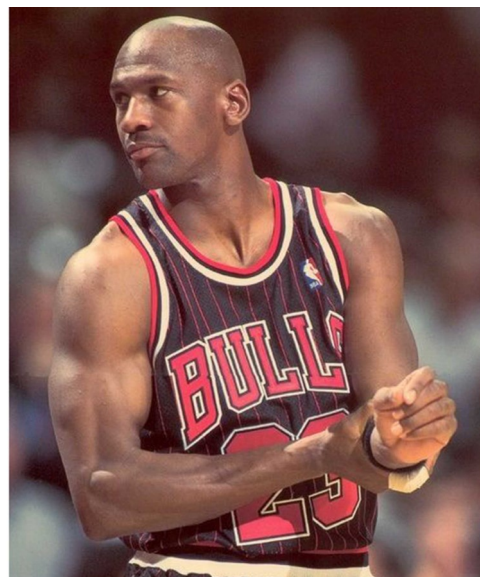
Kobe Bryant was a wonderful role model to my generation. I respect him a lot. He and M.J were my childhood role models. Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant, AKA “The Black Mamba” both taught me the value of friendship as well as sportsmanship. As I reflect back, I can only wonder why a legend like Kobe would inspire me to play basketball, and M.J inspired me to take every shot I was given and not give up because I’m afraid. Fear to fail is just as bad as giving up or never trying to chase your dreams. Two legends, one six-year-old dreamer trying to be just like them all through my basketball career in Special Olympics, but after Kobe died I choked in basketball and then vowed not to play again till I was ready. But I will get back up because that is who I am—I don’t stay down when I feel defeated. The loss of The Black Mamba affected more than me; it affected a lot of people including Air Jordan himself. It was sad to see an icon go but the day he died reminded me all life is fragile and we don’t live forever on this Earth. I can’t stop thinking about the lesson I was taught that day or forget the day I found out Kobe died. I was heartbroken and so were the millions of his fans along with his family. If there is one thing that stuck with me that Kobe taught me was when life knocks you down you’ve got two choices: stay down and feel sorry for yourself or take shots at achieving your dreams. I believe he learned from Michael Jordan’s two quotes which I will end with. It’s very inspiring to me and I hope it inspires you too.

By Dakota Smoot

Michael Jordan’s Motivational quotes

I can accept failure,
everyone fails at something,
But
I can’t accept not trying.

You miss 100% of the Shots you don’t take.





My “Big Brother”


When I was three years old, I met a new neighbor who was about 5 years older than me. We bonded because he didn't have a little sister and I didn't have any siblings. We would get together and play and he would make movies for me. One day we made “Serena Strikes Back,” a retelling of Star Wars with Barbie's and Star Wars figures, and I got to do some voices. It was special because he spent so much time and effort into making the video and being patient with me. This was entertaining for me, and him as well. As we grew up, I found he was a good source of information and advice because he was just a few years older and I knew I could trust his judgement. When I was about to enter middle school, I was scared of leaving my friends behind, but he assured me that old friends would be replaced by new ones. When I was going into high school, his advice became more detailed. He advised me to join a club that piqued my interest, so that I could make friends and really enjoy the high school experience. Because of his advice, I ended up being the vice president of Rays of Hope, an organization that brings regular education and special education together to help students adjust and socialize throughout life. I also loved being in Psychology Club, which helped me to know I wanted to pursue a degree in psychology. My “big brother” taught me a lot about life and how to enjoy it. I hope to pass his teachings on to my own “little brother” or “sister” one day. Thank you, Jason, for all the life lessons you taught me.

By Serena Wetmore

My Idol is My Grandfather

An idol is someone who is greatly admired, loved, or revered. My grandfather, Nicholas G. Baldino or “Pop Pop,” as I called him, was my idol when I was growing up and still is today. I loved him because he always did fun things with me. I admired him because he was a kind man to everyone and especially to me. I revered him because he was a successful family man, businessman, and sports enthusiast. We were very close because he spent a lot of time with me when I visited his home state of New Jersey. He also came to visit me every year in Florida.

I loved hanging out with him when we were in New Jersey and really enjoyed going to Giants games with him. We cheered on the team and rooted hard for our favorite player, Eli Manning. We would go to home games, watch away games on TV, and I even joined him at the Super Bowl in Indianapolis when the Giants played New England. I am a Giants fan just like my grandfather! He was such a



big fan that he was recognized by Frank Gifford, Harry Carson, and George Martin on the 50-yard line when the Football Giants opened the new MetLife Stadium in 2010. He was one of the longest season ticket holders.

When I was very young, he always took me to Long Branch to see the trains. Every morning when I slept at his house in West End, I could hear the train whistle blow. That was my signal to get up and go with him to the station. We would watch them change engines and one day we rode one to Point Pleasant Beach. It was a double decker. It was so much fun, and I really wish I could do it again!

He also took me to the Deal Casino Beach club with all of my cousins. The club had a huge saltwater swimming pool and when the water was nice, we would also swim in the ocean. The best part of the day was eating lunch with all of my cousins at the little café which was right next to the swimming pool.

I still go up to New Jersey to see my father's brother Tom, and if the Giants are playing, we will always go to see them play. It reminds me of the times I went with my grandfather. He was such a wonderful man and was always good to me. I think of him often, feel his spirit, carry him in my heart, and will always idolize him.

By John Howard Baldino





How Do I Become Part of The Florida Youth Council?

The Florida Youth Council is a group of youth (between the ages of 15 and 17) and emerging leaders (between the ages of 18 and 30) with disabilities or special health care needs that live in Florida.

The Florida Youth Council is all about getting youth and emerging leaders involved in self-advocacy, peer mentoring and other activities that will improve the quality of life for youth and emerging leaders with disabilities in Florida. The program empowers youth and emerging leaders to decide what issues are important to their generation, to discuss those issues in their state and local communities, and to develop strategies to address them.

We are seeking a group of enthusiastic, motivated youth and emerging leaders to participate. If you would like to take a leadership role in advocating for youth and emerging leaders in Florida, please visit The Florida Youth Council website at www.floridayouthcouncil.com. The program is open to application year round. We hope to hear from you soon!



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