

On Top of the World

By: Connor Gibson

Football Friday night was everything to the town of Mooresville. Malachi Davis, the five-star recruit going to Alabama University, was a senior and the starting quarterback that would lead the Mooresville Blue jays to the class 4A state championship. Mooresville had never won the state title and were looking at their first opportunity since the opening of the school. Davis was going to be the one to end that dreadful streak. When you're on top of the world you feel like you can never be brought down...

Malachi Davis was a great kid that couldn't ask for a better life. He had great parents, a beautiful girlfriend, and the star position on the football team.

"We're here in Indianapolis and it's 3rd down and 12. Mooresville needs a miracle to win. Malachi Davis has been phenomenal in 4th quarter comebacks this year. The score is 21-16 and the Blue Jays are on their own 18, only 34 seconds left. Here comes the snap. Davis is back to pass, he finds his receiver open at the 30, launches the ball, it's caught, Russell is wrestled down at the 33. 1st and 10 for the Blue Jays." Commentated Frank.

"Yeah, Davis had good vision on that play; to see his man open, then show off his arm strength by throwing a rocket. If that ball would've been slower, the other team could've gotten the interception." Stated Tom.

"The Blue Jays have 2nd and 5 on their own 38. Davis comes out of the huddle. Makes a few adjustments at the line. Davis drops back. He's looking for Crawford, and it seems like he may get him. His line is protecting well against the oncoming pass rush of the Orioles. Terrence Crawford is open along the sideline. Davis winds up and throws a bomb to Crawford. He catches

it at the 15 in Orioles territory and the clock is down to under 10 seconds. Coach Jeremiah Willis calls a timeout with the clock at 5.” Declared Frank.

“I don’t know how they’re going to do it. They have 15 yards to the end zone and only 5 seconds left. I think they will only have time to get one, maybe two plays off, if they run a quick out route to get out of bounds with maybe 2 or 3 seconds left.” Said Tom

“I agree with you. Malachi Davis is going to have to work some magic here. They come out of the huddle. He lines up in shotgun, with a running back at his side. Trips to the right and receiver on the left. Davis drops back, looks for Russell on the post route across the inside of the end zone. He’s pressured; he takes off for the touchdown. He’s to the 10, to the 5; there are defenders at the goal line. He jumps, meets them at the edge. The refs run in from both sides to dig through the 3 person pile. Their arms rise in unison. TOUCHDOWN! There’s no time left and the Blue Jays have won it!” Exclaimed Frank. “22-21 is the final score and the Blue Jays have won the IHSAA State Championship!”

“Hold on Frank. It looks like Malachi Davis is writhing in pain down on the field. It doesn’t look good from here.” Stated Tom.

“Welcome back from the break, we’re at the State Championship and we’re getting word from the medical unit that it is a broken leg. This may end up changing poor Malachi’s life. He won his school their first state title ever, but that also came with a painful price. I just hope he’s okay, Tom.” Said Frank.

Down on the field, Malachi was carted off. X-rays showed that he did, in fact, break his femur, but he also suffered a torn MCL. Malachi Davis was falling from the top of the world to the depths of the ocean.

The following Sunday was the day that Malachi had surgery to repair his MCL and his whole leg was wrapped in a cast to heal the MCL and the broken fibula. He was released from the hospital and his dad took him home and laid him in his bed.

“Hey Dad. Did we win? Cause if we didn’t, I’m going to be a tad bit angry” joked Malachi.

“Yeah, y’all won, but you gave your mother and me a heart attack. I told you to break a leg. I didn’t mean it literally.” Cracked Malachi’s Dad.

Malachi’s life was no longer the usual. It was hard for him to get comfortable and he hated when the gym teacher told him he couldn’t do something even though he had done it a thousand times before with his cast on. Malachi was sometimes pestered by random people at school. Malachi had Bible Study at the end of the day and he had a question for his coach.

“Hey Malachi, why are you still in here?” asked Malachi’s Biblical Studies teacher, Mr. Ladouceur, who was also his football coach.

“Well, I wanted to ask you a question sir.” Replied Malachi.

“What is it?” questioned Mr. Ladouceur.

“You know how God can protect you from certain things or help you avoid some things? Like He did Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire?” Malachi was starting to cry a little as he pointed at his leg “Why didn’t He protect me Coach? He has all of that power and I’m sitting here with a broken leg and a torn MCL!” Malachi wept

“Malachi, the Lord says not to question him, and sometimes He allows things to happen to either strengthen us for what lies ahead or to bring us back to him. We don’t always see what He sees, and he can see what will happen. We only see what is happening.” Informed Mr. Ladouceur.

“Well I don’t understand why it happened to me. Why couldn’t He have just told me that I needed to get stronger for the road ahead or told me that I needed to get closer to him instead of allowing this to happen?” Malachi asked with tears falling down his face.

“I’m not sure. But have you ever read any of Proverbs?” asked Mr. Ladouceur

“Not much, no?” inquired Malachi, unaware what Mr. Ladouceur was getting at.

“Well in Proverbs 3:5, it says ‘Trust the Lord with all your heart, and don’t depend on your own understanding.’ The Lord may have plans for you and you may not understand them, but that’s okay, because God knows what needs to happen.” Explained Mr. Ladouceur.

“Thank you for your help Coach. I really appreciate it.” Stated Malachi.

“No problem. I was a teenager that didn’t understand what He was doing with my life at one point too.” Said Mr. Ladouceur.

It turned out that life was going to be good for Malachi. He did end up going to Alabama, and led them to a national championship. He went undefeated in two seasons of football, back to back. He was drafted to the NFL and did well. He is retired and has coached the Blue Jays to 10 state championships. Sometimes when you’re on top of the world, you don’t come down.