



Are YOU Ready to Climb the Tallest Mountain Imaginable?

Inspirational

Dynamic

Passionate

Enthusiastic



There are always going to be opportunities and failures in life, the key is to see the possible and overcome the obstacles.

At the young age of 39 years old, JJ O'Connor is a young man of inspirational, courage and determination who has demonstrated how to overcome life's obstacles.

When he was a senior in high school at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois in October of 1995, JJ was injured playing in his first hockey game of the season. After the injury, JJ was diagnosed as an incomplete quadriplegic, meaning he is paralyzed from the neck down.

After nine months of rehabilitation, he repeated his senior year in high school, taking three steps to receive his diploma. He received the Chicago Blackhawks Alumni Scholarship award in 1997 along with a full scholarship to Lake Forest College. After two years at college, JJ moved into the dorms and graduated Cum Laude with a major in business and a minor in communications. Not only did JJ receive the Tamara Lee Wefler Senior Award for inspiration, he gave the commencement address before three thousand people, which was aired on Good Morning America.

Since his graduation from Lake Forest, JJ has pursued a career in public speaking and has spoken to numerous business, civic, educational and sports groups. He has traveled across the United States and to several countries including Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy and Mexico spreading his message of overcoming obstacles and achieving one's goals.

In addition, JJ has implemented a rigorous daily workout schedule that includes assisted walking on a specialized treadmill, electro-stim therapy, acupuncture, and massage therapy.

JJ's entrepreneurial spirit includes being the Marketing Manager and Webmaster for the Amateur Hockey Association Illinois, Inc. and an owner of several SportClips hair cutting salons.

JJ is the chair of the Disabled Sports Section for USA Hockey nationwide. His responsibilities include working with the various disciplines within the Disabled Section (*Special Hockey, Sled Hockey, Amputee Hockey, Blind, Warrior and Hearing Impaired Hockey*) as well as interfacing with the United States Olympic Committee to promote additional activities for these disciplines under the Para-Olympic umbrella. JJ also finds time to visit and offer hope to kids with recent spinal cord injuries at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

JJ has also started a new youth sled hockey team in Illinois, called the Hornets, which brings disabled kids into the game of ice hockey by playing the game on specially made sleds. He recently started the Blackhawks Warriors, a hockey team comprised of injured veterans.

In addition, JJ was the General Manager of the 2010 USA National Sled Hockey Team which won the gold medal in Vancouver, Canada and was the parent liaison for the 2014 and 2018 USA National Sled Hockey Teams which won the gold medal in Sochi, Russia and PyeongChang, South Korea. JJ is also a player for the Chicago Fire power soccer team which won the National Championship in 2011.

“ JJ has an incredibly powerful message. Those who have heard his story come away with a new perspective on life. ”

Joseph W. Smith - CEO, Woogl Corporation

What Others are Saying...

“JJ O'Connor's powerful message remains with the audience's heart long after the speaking engagement.”

Dr. Don Grossnickle
Deacon, High School Administrator

“JJ has a strong and uplifting message that inspires people who hear it to do more with their lives.”

Mr. Jim Smith
President - USA Hockey

“JJ's message of overcoming personal obstacles was a true inspiration. It has made a difference in my staff's overall performance.”

Mr. Anthony R. Rossi
CEO - RMK Management Company

“JJ O'Connor's personal speaking style and strong message inspires those both young and old to focus on the important things in life.”

Mr. Jerry Bergler
Vice President
Allegra Print & Imaging Network

