DETERMINATION

SPEECH FOR

ELVIS CROSS

Have you ever had that moment in life where you’re faced with a challenge or a task or any kind of situation in which you **KNOW** you need to push yourself harder than you’ve done in the past? … And you let your mind give you creative considerations why you shouldn’t… but you did it anyway and conquered those considerations? **THAT** is **DETERMINATION**. The dictionary definition of determination is “**firmness of purpose**.” (**Since this is being delivered in a sports club, we can make a little pun/joke about “firmness” related to working out- IF you want to keep the speech fun and interesting**). **FIRMNESS OF PURPOSE**…. Isn’t that **really** why we’re all here? (**Wait for the laugh**). Actually the determination you tap into right here at (**Name the sports club**) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the same spark that you can use to motivate yourself in every area of your life.

The legendary baseball manager Tommy Lasorda said, “The difference between the possible and the impossible lies in a person’s **determination**.” As human beings we have unlimited potential once we are committed and determined to focus our intentions on going further than we had gone in the past. The ability to have determination lives within each one of us and it’s a fine line between believing in **YOU** and accepting a challenge… **ANY** challenge, and taking your **best shot** to succeed or sitting on the sidelines wondering what might have been as others around you achieve their goals. Today **I’M** determined to share my thoughts with you on this topic and **together** we will explore what it means to focus on a goal. Isn’t it time to have the satisfaction of being a winner?

Thomas Alva Edison may not have been an athlete but he had a brilliant mind. We can learn something from him. “I am not discouraged,” he said, “because every wrong attempt discarded is **another step forward**.” This can also be applied to any area of life experience. Determination is an incredibly powerful characteristic when you are in touch with the motivation and will to persevere and succeed. We all have the ability; we all have the tools it takes to demonstrate the discipline needed. We just have to be true to our goals and our commitment to succeed. We must believe that **we are worthy** of winning- whether it’s a small interim goal or a big one, **WE ARE WORTH THE WIN**.

That’s the **GOOD** news. The **OTHER** news is that it takes hard work and discipline to **FOCUS** on what you want to achieve. It takes **COMMITMEN**T to thank your “lazier side” for being that little devil on your shoulder that tells you, “Nahhhhhh… maybe tomorrow.” It takes **DETERMINATION** to conquer those voices inside that would rather watch TV or go to the beach or do just about **ANYTHING** rather than supporting you in experiencing the **SUCCESS** you **really** want to achieve.

No one just wakes up one morning knowledgeable, trained, and capable of achieving all of his or her dreams. No one is born a skilled surgeon or a gifted artist or a super human athlete. It takes education, practice, desire, and most of all **DETERMINATION** to achieve those worthwhile goals in life. Of course everyone wants to shine, but we need to **MAKE THE TIME** to learn what is needed and to sharpen our skills in order to **SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY**. Working towards greatness is **NOT COMFORTABLE**. It’s actually the opposite.

Determination comes from **WITHIN**. We must be our own greatest cheerleaders. We can’t expect others to do our work for us, as there would be no true satisfaction without the investment **you** make in reaching for **your** goals. I think many of the greatest athletes in the world would agree. Take Michael Jordan for instance. He is the living and breathing embodiment of what it means to be determined and where that focus can take you. As a young man, Jordan was told he was not good enough for the basketball team and would never make it. He went home and locked himself in his room and cried, but he did **NOT** let this bump in his journey get him down. He was **DETERMINED** to succeed. Every night before he went home he shot hoops… **HUNDREDS** of them… **MORE AND** **MORE** each day and he did not stop until he sunk **ONE THOUSAND HOOPS**. He was **RELENTLESS**. And as we now know his determination paid off. In 1981 he received a basketball scholarship and in 1984 he was selected in the NBA draft to play for the Chicago Bulls. … And the rest is **HISTORY**.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is **DETERMINATION** that transforms the average into the **EXTRAORDINARY**. This is not a super human power. We all have the ability to focus on the goal- just like Michael Jordan did. We all have the tools within us to experience success… on **OUR** terms. Think of what **YOUR** goals are. Think of what it will take to achieve them. Think of where you might need support in **REALIZING** your own determination and practice, **FOCUS**, and **DO THE WORK**. Start with smaller steps and as you get stronger build and build and **BUILD** and soon those baby steps become considerable accomplishments…. but **DON’T REST**!! As you build momentum accept the steeper climb and push to get to the top…. keep going. It’s worth it!! Determination has the ability to change your life…. but **YOU** are the one who determines your future.

No matter the situation in which you find yourself, whether it is here at this club, at work, or in life, remember this: "It will hurt, It will take time, It will require dedication, It will require will power, It will require sacrifice, There will be temptation but, I promise you when you reach your goal it will be **WORTH IT**". Thank you all!