MOTIVATIONAL SPEECH

FOR

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(Possible title: “The Right Stuff”)

We all have it…. some of us ignore it… some of us avoid it… some of us have seen glimpses of it within ourselves yet we pretend it’s elusive or might not exist. Most of us try to run and hide from it… The dictionary definition of **POTENTIAL** is “Having or showing the capacity to become or develop into something in the future.” It is up to each one of us to explore our own unique potential. What’s yours? Potential lies at the epicenter of your being. Part of being alive and being an adult is being aware that you have the ability to stretch further than you thought and knowing that you have what it takes to be **exceptional**. With that kind of potential, do you **REALLY** want to choose to be **exceptionally** mediocre? …**Exceptionally** timid? …**Exceptionally** indifferent? If you are sitting here and can hear this then the answer is obviously **NO**.

There is no road map that leads to the fulfillment of potential without **hard work**. There is no path to success without struggle. There is no shortcut to the “payoff” without knowing what it’s like to do without, to want and need success more than you accept failure, or to feel the empty hole inside you that can only be filled with a true experience of accomplishment. You may think you want the “**stuff**” that outwardly screams “**SUCCESS!!”** but if you’ve never had it, how do you know that’s the answer? And what gave you the notion of “entitlement?” Who named you the winner of the **GIMME AWARD**? The condition has been referred to as “The **poverty** of **ambition**.” Someone sold you a bill of goods and you bought it. SORRY FOLKS… ya gotta WORK for a worthwhile life. You have to figure out what success means to YOU.. What is YOUR **RIGHT STUFF**?

The true rewards of success are far more priceless than fancy cars and wild apartments and more and more and more “stuff.” The real measure of accomplishment is the feeling you get inside, that no one can take from you, like a well-earned exhaustion from a job well done. (**Since you said you want to use this when speaking to athletes you can also say**) … or like a good sweat from a workout or practice that pushed you further than you thought was possible. And if you haven’t experienced that, it’s time to put down whatever it is that you’re doing and (**Can you say this**?) **KICK YOUR OWN ASS INTO GEAR**!! **(If not you can say PICK YOURSELF UP AND MOVE!)**

We all have dreams and we all think, “Yeah… sounds great… maybe tomorrow… I don’t feel like it today…. I’d rather… Or… Or do anything other than challenge myself. Let me tell you something…. if there was ever a way I achieved **MY** potential, it was earlier in my life when I thought…. **NO**. It was **beyond** thought… I had **PROOF**… that I just could **NOT** get my life together… I **DEFINITELY** reached my **FULL POTENTIAL** with **THAT ONE!!!** (**Wait for the laugh**)… Of course it wasn’t so funny at the time. I didn’t complete school on time because it was more fun to play than to do school work. I’ve lost dream jobs because I didn’t apply myself. What was I thinking? …That the work would get done by itself??? (**Wait for the laugh**). I almost destroyed my marriage by “checking out” … fortunately I didn’t totally fulfill **THAT** potential because I had a little bit of conscience left and didn’t want my family broken…as I had grown up in a broken home and then… as I was coasting along, one day, out of the blue…. **(Make a loud clap or striking sound and if you are in a room, make everything go black and then say**). BAM!!! My mother had a massive stroke. **WOW**…. That stuff is **REA**L.

Everything changed the day my mother fell ill. Nothing was ever the same after that one brief moment that altered all of our lives forever. I woke up and saw just how short life really is, and I gained perspective. I saw that we all have a choice. I had a deep sense that I could either sit on my backside playing games, goofing off at work or eventually on the street, lose my family, and most of all, lose my **SELF**, or I could be **UNCOMFORTABLE.** I could get up and face reality… and struggle… and push myself further than I ever wanted to go… way, **WAY** beyond my comfort zone… which by the way keeps magically growing and expanding… to get **YOU** to grow and expand.

I know that each one of you that hears my voice will probably think… “Nah… that’s not me… I’m gonna be famous!!” I know that you will only hear what you are capable of hearing, as we all are. And I also want you to know that I am speaking to the **YOU** deep inside. The part of you that **knows** what you have to do…. the place inside you that really **ISN’T** satisfied with being a follower…. the winner **WITHIN** you that **KNOWS YOU** want to make a difference in this world… the soul that realizes that this world is really hard but if we all work with each other, we can achieve greatness. And remember one more thing…. **WEALTH** does not necessarily mean **STUFF**. It also means giving of yourself to your family, friends, and community in such a way that **EVERYONE** wins. AND **IF EVERYONE** wins, you do as well. The struggle is real and it is **WORTH IT**.

Thank you!