

Meet Keannu

I wish to be a football player again

Keannu was a 4.0 student, a quarterback for his high school football team and a star wrestling athlete. He was the big man on campus. But a brain tumor and subsequent stroke from surgery turned Keannu's life upside-down.

Keannu underwent weeks of chemotherapy and yet another surgery before the tumor was fully removed. He was also in a coma for several weeks. He woke up with short-term memory loss, an inability to walk and speech difficulties.

All Keannu wanted through everything he endured was a chance to play football with his friends again.

Make-A-Wish and virtual reality company EmergeXR teamed up to create a football game experience that could bring Keannu back onto the field and grant his one true wish.

When that became a reality, Keannu's classmates, football teammates and community surrounded him on his school's football field as he entered a virtual world, starring in a football game with his best friends. He even threw a scoring pass as the crowd around him cheered!

In that virtual game, as his one true wish came to life, Keannu was reminded that he is a hero in so many people's eyes.



I wish to be a football player again

Keannu, 17
brain tumor

“For him to be able to experience it again, sometimes there are no words that can explain it. He’s been aching for this. Eventually, he’s going to walk again, and then he’s going to run, one way or another. He won’t let anything stand in his way.”

– Keannu’s mom



Sample Workout:

Keannu's Medical Journey

Workout difficulty level: Hard

50-minute workout to honor 50 times on respiratory support

Repeat run/walk once; repeat remaining exercises until time, take recoveries as needed

| Exercise | Reps |
|--|--|
| Run/jog/power walk | 7 minutes for 7 chemo rounds |
| Walking Recovery | 2 minutes for 2 transfusions |
| Jumping Jacks | 50 for # of times on respiratory support |
| Plank Jacks (high plank position, jump the feet out and back in for one rep) | 5 for 5 months of treatment |
| Push Ups | 10 push-ups for 10 sedations |
| Mountain Climbers (high plank position, drive the knees to chest) | 16 for 16 chest tube replacements |
| Plank Hold | 27 seconds for total # of times fed through parenteral nutrition |
| Jumping Squats | 14 for 14 hours spent in longest surgery |