

## First Quarter



*Every jump ball in the beginning of my basketball games is equal to the beginning of my day. My life, my love, is basketball. The first possession favored the home team it was time to do what I was born to do.*

My name is Damika and I was born on June 7, 1992 at 6:36 a.m. at the Wallingford Hospital ready for this game called life. Growing up, I was born to be an athlete. I was always running around, climbing trees, playing basketball, and bike riding. I was the average active kid. I also had a dog that I took care of and often took walks with. My family and I occasionally went ice-skating, and it was fun. This is the beginning of my life, and it is also the beginning of my game.

This was the best game I ever played in my life. I was doing a little bit of everything, a true all around player, like scoring, rebounding, assists, and also playing that type of defense that wins games. No one could stop me. I could not even stop myself.

## Second Quarter

I lived in a big house on Crown Street. I had a pool, a basketball court, pool table and nine dogs. I also had my own room. I was about seven years old when my sister died from crib death at two months and seven days old. My mother settled into a depressive state and it was hard to get her out of it. During these tough times I met my best friend, Ryan. He helped me get through these times by just being there for me. This game I was playing in is parallel to my life; things were not going well. My team was up by five points and there was only one thirty left on the clock. The other team started to fall by fouling. This kept us going to the free through line but this also hurt us.

## Third Quarter

My father went to jail for some things that I am not proud of. My life took a drastic change; everything went wrong. My mother was not working at the time. My family lost everything, and we had to sell some of our property to make a way. That was the hardest time of my life and it was also the hardest quarter I ever played.

My game started going down little by little and then they caught up. Time was not on our side; we were losing by two points. I knew that I had to do something.

#### Fourth Quarter

My father finally got out of jail after three years. He got his old job back and my mother was working as well. Things started getting better and we were back to the family that I knew. We decided to move to start over. All of our tough times got easier and life got a little easier. I was winning the game again and I felt that my family coming back together was a victory.

I came down the court and with only three seconds remaining on the clock I shot a three pointer and it went in. We won by one point and the whole crowd rushed to me and congratulated me on the winning shot. That was the happiest day of my life and also my best game of my life as well.