

Small Risks Equal Big Results

If you go up to almost any successful person in the whole world, and ask them if they took risks to get to the position that they are standing in now, the answer will almost always be “yes”. It doesn’t matter what profession it is either. Go up to a successful doctor, an all-star athlete, and a popular singer, and ask them that question. Again, the answer will most likely be “yes”. There may not be a better example of this, though, than the high school fireball pitcher, whose life changed forever when he was asked to try hitting.

As I just said, he was a fireballer, which means he could blow batters away with the velocity of his pitches. He was also shredding apart the whole league. Batters claimed that they felt the wind from his pitches fly by them, while in the batters box. To say that he was going to be a star was an understatement.

One day the hitting coach came up to him. He told him that his strength was unbelievable, but then asked him to do something so ridiculous that you would think he was fooling around to ask such a question. The hitting coach asked him to become a hitter. Of course, the pitcher’s obvious reaction was that he thought the coach was joking. Then he saw the look on the face of the coach, and realized he wasn’t. The coach gave the pitcher a speech about taking risks. He told him that you never know how good you are at something until you try it. He also said that if hitting didn’t work out, he could go back to pitching.

The pitcher decided to take the coach’s advice, and fortunately for him, no truer words were spoken. He hit buckets of gopher balls that year, and went to college and played baseball there. He was so good there, that he set the Pac Ten Conference record in homeruns with thirty-two. He also went on to play for USA in the 1984 Olympics. Later that year, he was drafted in the first year of the free agent draft by the Oakland Athletics. In 1987 he also won the American League Rookie of the Year award. His 49 homers that year set the franchise record for the A’s, and the all-time record for rookies. In 1998 he broke the Major League Baseball legendary single season homerun record, and ended the season with 70 long balls. He hit his 500th homerun in 1999, and ended his career in 2001 with 583 homeruns, 6th on the all time homerun list. Today we know this player as Mark McGwire. All he did was take a simple risk, and look where he stands now. Although his record was broken in 2001 by Barry Bonds, he is still Hall of Fame bound, and is still considered one of the greatest legends to play the game of baseball.

It does take a lot of courage to take risks as big as that, but just see where Mr. McGwire went with it. Even the small risks count. If you are making a choice, try to go out of the ordinary. You will usually benefit from it, as you can see what happened in the story. I think that this is an unbelievable law of life, which is overlooked at times. The thing people don’t realize though, is that taking risks can decide some of your biggest decisions in life.

This just goes to show, that to be successful in life, you might have to take risks. Some people don’t realize it, but God has already paved a great path for all of us. Sometimes we just have to take chances, and dig a little further than we are willing to.