

SHOWNOTES - Gary Keylon (15/50)

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SPEAKERS

Scott Hilton (Host), Surprise from Family, Gary Keylon (Guest)

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Scott Hilton (Host) 00:14

Welcome back to the That's My Dad Podcast. I'm here with Gary Keylon. Interesting guy, you've had quite an interesting life and an interesting story. So let's just jump right into that you spent part of your life traveling around and a lot of people will know us. Tell us about what you're doing and what you've done in the past.

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 00:34

Right now, I'm the missions evangelism and outreach pastor at redemption to the nation's church. Then on top of that, I've got the freedom to travel around and do you know I do crusades, take a lot of mission trips into Uruguay, Quito, Ecuador, Peru, the Andes Mountains, Amazon, Guatemala, Honduras, you name it, you know, you say it, and I've probably been there. So I do a lot of mission trips and do a lot of evangelistic outreaches, with churches, that kind of thing, a lot of revivals. And I love doing school assemblies, elementary school, middle school and high school, you know, I've got a secular school assembly program. And then I've also got one that if they let me preach the gospel, you know, I talk about the person of Christ. And that's why the Power team worked. Of course, I traveled for many years, with the Power Team, and the way that ministry worked is you would do a school assembly in a secular school. And then you would talk about the principles principles of Christ, and then invite them back at night. And that's where you give them the person of Christ and then give them opportunity to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. So that was part of the Power Team doing feats of strength. Yeah, that's kind of a lot of my background.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 01:45

There might be might be a couple of people that my generation, we're members of the Power Team, because you guys are worldwide, known all over the world. But for the sake of some that may not know, you did feats of physical strength, what what are some of the things you did,

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 02:04

Qe had a variety of feats of strength. And, you know, some were better than others. We all had our favorites. The one they would always want me to do it was the log lift, lifted 300 pound log overhead with handles in it. Yeah, because I've gotten Olympic style weightlifting background, so I guess, I guess he felt like I could do that lift better than the other guys. I don't know. But nobody wanted to do that. And then we would set that log on fire a lot of times, and that was kind of scary. You know, the logs burning on both sides. I mean, you're trying to lift So you lifted a 300 pound log with it on fire. Yeah, rear panel, log on fire. Another one that nobody likes to do is blow up the hot water bottle, you know, is an old school hot water bottle when you blow it up into an exploded. And you had a lot of times, it's very difficult on the cardiovascular system. And you would almost pass out just about every time you did it. And so we'd always try to pass that off to another another teammate, you know, you do this tonight. I'll wait and do it two days from now. But you do it tonight. Yeah, we've had a lot of bloopers probably make a good bloopers video from some of the stuff that happened.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 03:11

Last time you and I were together. I think you broke a baseball bat or something like that. So So you guys were tearing up phone books. Now we don't have phone books. That's right. For the generation that doesn't know a phonebook was was pretty thick, and they just rip it half into. And that was a that was a hook to bring people in so that you could share the gospel. But you traveled all over the world, I guess doing that. And we met when I took the kids from Eagle Rock ranch to Chattanooga to your church, and we did a mission project we cleaned up the you have you have a clothes closet this. So the gas and the ranch, we took them up there and spent three or four days and fixed the clothes closet and you and I became friends there. And then one day I was out mowing the grass and I look up and you're in my driveway. Yes. So that's kind of how that relationship was developed. But you know, I wanted to set the stage for the for the Power Team thing because something happened many years ago. That kind of brought to you and there's a story I want you to tell about your dad and a few minutes. But that relates to that. So I wanted to give a little bit of the background. But let me jump in right now. And let me just get get you to tell me about your childhood and your upbringing and about your dad and your relationship with him.

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 04:35

I grew up and I guess what some may today. term they use different terms. You know, basically, you know, I make a joke, you know, I grew up so far back in the sticks we had who dials for roosters. And you know, we back so far back in the hills of East Tennessee, you know, the sunrise and sunset would take place at the same time. You know, that's how far back Mistakes Were you know that that I grew up you know in a rural setting Reading. And but I grew up in a in a Christian home. My dad was born again at the age of 21. And he got what I call the 62nd Cure. Alcoholism seems to run in our family, but dad had a supernatural encounter with Jesus Christ. And God literally set him free. He got a 62nd Cure, and never touched it at that point, you know, and as I was growing up, I knew that testimony, you know, about my dad, and it always spoke volumes to me and kind of early on, you know, I knew that God was real. I never had a problem with atheism or agnosticism. You know, because of the bringing that I had, you know, my dad said around, read the Bible. He taught Sunday school was a deacon in a

Baptist church. And he, I can remember him, you know, sitting there on Saturday night, that was his night, and he'd sit down at recliner, and he'd have the Bible open, and he would just study and study and that he didn't get ready. He took he took that seriously, you know, and that Sunday school lesson that he was gonna teach homes on Sunday morning. You know, he just prepared for that. When you say

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:04

a 60 second cure. It was instant?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 06:08

instantaneously. You know, he was set free. And, you know, I know we have programs and I believe in programs, I believe some people it takes them a little longer, you know, to to receive the deliverance, you know, that thereafter. But thank God, you can have it in 60 seconds, if you so choose to, you know, God's God's willing, he's available. He's ready to do it. You know, if you're,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 06:31

so how about your family? Was that a generational thing in your family?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 06:34

Yes. My dad had three other brothers. And every one of them suffered from alcoholism. And matter of fact, my uncle, who was actually the best athlete in the family, had a lot of potential, never did realize his athletic potential because of alcohol. He actually died as an alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver. And other two brothers had to go into various rehabs, you know, down to the course of their life so that your daddy brothers, my dad's brothers, yes.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:07

How do you think your life would have been different if your dad had not given up alcohol?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 07:12

Well, the only thing I would have to compare it to are my cousins and how their life was, you know, with my uncle, you know, I had a stark picture of reality of what happens you know, in a family where someone is struggling with you know, life controlling problems, life controlling problem, or an issue. And I saw how their life was compared to mine, you know, and is a difference in daylight and dark, you know, as best way I can describe it. Okay,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 07:42

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SCOTT HILTON (HOST) 07:43

so what was your relationship with your dad, like, as a child? What do you remember about that?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 07:48

My dad was always real active. You know, in my life. I was we were sports people, you know. And my dad, I can remember when I was small, just out of the blue I guess I got the idea from classmates, I said that they're having a baseball tryout tonight. I'm gonna go try out. And I went out there and I was horrible. I couldn't even hold a glove couldn't even catch a ball. I had no hope of ever catching the ball or even hitting one. And I gave it my best shot. And then on the way home, I remember telling my dad I said, Dad, I really liked baseball. And Dad said you really like it? And I said, Yeah, I love it. And he said, Tell you what, if you're that serious about it. How about I help you, you know learn how to catch the ball? Well, my dad worked with me a whole year we would do drills you know, I'd have to get so many grounders, catch somebody pot flies, get so many balls that he was a pitcher and I was a catcher. We had a tree farm trees where our outfielder filters and our baseman and then we had a backstop. It was an old fold up bed frame that we used as a backstop to keep us having around the balls and homemade bed for homemade bed frame. And I take batting practice and do all that we work for a solid year by the next year. Not only did I make the team but actually made the all star team and actually ended up pitching us shut out. Suffice it to say that couldn't have never happen if my dad hadn't taken time to absolutely be, you know, he inserted himself as a coach and actually coached me. And then he decided, not only would he coach me, but he was next year, he was the actual coach of the Little League baseball team. And that's part of

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Scott Hilton (Host) 09:27

the sports interfere with more important things in your family ever. How did y'all keep that balance?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 09:34

My dad had, he saw how interest I wasn't athletics. As a matter of fact, I was small for my age at the time, I was a late bloomer, and dad saw that and he said, I'll tell you what, son, you're gonna have to work out. And he said, humbled by a set of weights. So at 11 years old. He basically was the one that got me a set of weights and we had Bob Hoffman. He had a training regime and then he had supplements and so My dad would actually work out with me and we documented. As we get bigger, we measure our arms and our chairs, really document it. So he bought me a set of weights. And he said, Son, if you're going to be successful in athletics, you got to be faster than the next person, you got to be stronger the next person and quicker than the next person. He said, You're gonna have to work out, you know, so, you know, I got addicted basically to working out at that point. And so he started me on that journey. You know, we had an, we lived in a trailer growing up, and my dad had built an extra room on on that trailer. And he actually built a basement to go with it to to expand and have more room. And so I had my training facility, if you will, down in the basement, where we had an old or furnace and you'd had as back in the days you'd call an old furnace truck, and they'd come out until your your tank up. And then you know, that fuel would would be what was used to supply the old

furnace in the trailer. While my dad was a self starter, he didn't believe in Colin, somebody, he wanted to work on it himself, we were having problems that furnace. And it was in during the wintertime. And my dad was home, we live so far out, you know, there was no, if your house caught fire, forget it, there's no fire truck gonna show up and no fire department. So sure enough, my dad got to work on that old furnace and something happened. And the the igniter some way a fuel line ruptured, and the fuel went everywhere. And then fire was small, and it started. And my dad was trying to put the fire out, and we didn't have insurance. So he's trying to put this fire out and it got out of control. And I remember at the elementary school, actually, we live about two miles from the elementary school where I went, I remember being outside on the playground and seeing smoke go up in the air from the you know, from the playground, I was playing on it, it was in the direction of our house. Little did I know that my dad was battling a full blown blaze that was gonna take our whole you know, gonna take everything I was in, you know, I was in eighth grade back then was going to actually destroy everything he'd built, you know, and my dad course, he realized, I'm not gonna be able to put this fire out, you know, so I'm just gonna start carrying out everything on carry out. And obviously, you know, in a fire, the first thing you're gonna go for is you're gonna go for your pictures, you know, so he went got all of our family pictures he could get before, you know, it got too bad. But the second thing he went and got was my weights, you know, actually went down into a basement. And it was on fire up above, you know, and he knew those weights, you know, kind of, he knew those weights had importance, you know, to me, and, and the relationship he and I had was kind of built around athletics, you know. And so, you know, we didn't have money to go buy a bunch of equipment, and he, you know, worked real hard and had extra money, just by that set of weightlifting equipment, he went down in there and carried all that out. And then headed outside. And in April, we lost everything and, you know, but my dad to actually when I, when I saw that I submitted my dad really, you know, risk is on life, just get, you know, you might die, and what a crazy person. But, you know, my dad knew the importance of it, you know, with respect to our relationship, and it's just a material thing. But, you know, I couldn't have got whites again, you know, so ran

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:14

into a burning house. Yeah. To the basement of America falling in good.

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 13:18

Uh, yeah, could have been bad on him. You know. And so, you know, that that type of thing is what I grew up around, you know, seeing watching my dad basically, lay down his priorities, his life and his goals, you know, for to help his kids, you know, be everything they could be in Christ, you know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 13:39

and as a grown man, now, that probably means you realize the significance of that. Yeah, you know, you might have when you were

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 13:48

Yeah, I mean, obviously, I didn't know anything about Power team didn't even exist when I was growing up, you know, you just don't know the small things, how God's going to use that. And years later, I'm on the Power Team and evangelizing and, and leading people to Christ. Well, at the time, you know, what seemed insignificant like it don't really matter, let those things burn up. Little did I know that that was going to be the thing that God used to help me you know, reach the loss because I sure can't sing. You know, I tell people all the time, I sing like jailbird behind a few bars can't find the key or are saying, you know, my brother in law tells me he said, Gary kealan couldn't hold a note that had a handle on it, you know, so you don't want to hear me sing or play an instrument. So kind of my view was just use what God puts puts in you your natural abilities and use that to bring Him glory.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 14:38

That was one of those moments. You know, I've talked about on the on the podcast where my dad stepped down to the, to the stage that I keep in my heart. It's where we keep all of our heroes like that. Yeah. And so your dad stepped onto that stage many times, but that's been 40 years ago now. I think since this this happened to you. Yeah, mom. Math is right. Yeah. And I see you tearing up still today. Yeah, just like I do. Every time I tell the story about the day my dad came out and, and ran a touchdown against me and say, Guys, it's those little things you do with your kids that have such a impact on us for life. And March broken for guys, little guys that are growing up without that. They don't know how to experience that. So, Gary, I want to take a minute. You've talked with lots of kids 1000s of kids all across, really through across the world. And you've met these young guys who grew up without a dad, they don't have what were you? And what do you say to them? What what what is it that they need to know that will help them to flip that script and to, to change the trajectory of their family?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 15:51

Yeah. You know, my heart does go out, you know, to those, cuz there's numerous stories, you know, from being in ministry. There's absolutely, and it's, it's horrible, that there's more stories, I think these days about kids growing up without a father than then than even when I was growing up, you know, and I believe I could solve the majority of our society's problems if we could put a legitimate father, in every home in America are legitimate father, I think we would solve a lot of our problems because, you know, the Bible says in the God's gonna pour His spirit out upon all flesh, and he's gonna turn the hearts of the fathers, back to the children, hearts of the children back to the fathers, they smacked the earth with a curse. But the hope I would tell and give anybody is that your heavenly Father, if you turn to your heavenly Father, you know, he'll, he won't abuse you, he'll never leave you, He'll never forsake you. And the big change in your life can and will occur, you know, when you put your trust in a heavenly Father, that that's always gonna be there for you, you know, it begins with that. And then after that, you know, life's basically one big choice, you know, I tell them in school assemblies, you're not born a winner or a loser, you're born a chooser. Okay? And every human being does have the power of choice, God created us with the ability to make choices, the choices you make today determines where you end up in the future, in spite of the fact that your past has been horrible. Okay, but to tomorrow's a new day, it's a dawning of a new day, be it be cognizant of who God's put in your path. He might be sin in some way to you, to help you mentor you and be a spiritual father. And you might not even recognize that person. So always be looking out for who God's sin in your hand in your life to help you. If you grew up without a father, we had

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Scott Hilton (Host) 17:47

one guy who's who said, he said, I looked at all the guy, he grew up without a dad never never noticed that he said, but I looked at all the men in the community and I picked the best parts of each one of them. He said one of them, kept his grass cut and washed his car. The other one was committed to his wife. And the other one was when I'm played with his kids, and he said, I watched everything that all those guys are doing. And I picked the little, the best part of all of them. And I said, that's who I want to be. Wow. So. So I think that that's a key or country has some serious problems. And I don't you know, I don't want to get into the political part of it. But we blame it on everything that we can think of. But really, that they're at the root of the problem is that we don't hold men accountable to be fathers. Men are not stepping up and being the fathers they need to be we've made it so easy to have a kid walk away. Yes, you know, there's no accountability. And we've made it so easy to walk away from marriage. Marriage is tough. Yes. And and there have been times where all of us have one to walk away from that. If we're honest. Most of us would say, there have been one or two times where my kids kept me in it. Yeah. You know, because tough. Yeah. And our wives would understand that because they felt that way, too. Yes. Speaking of that, tell us about your wife. And your How y'all met?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 19:09

Yeah, she's awesome. She, we met in a, I started, I was born again, man, I got on fire for the Lord. And we started an all night prayer meeting on Friday nights for I guess, the age range that was, you know, early 20s, early 30 year old age range, and we, you know, we'd pray all night long, well, different people would come, you know, and then all of a sudden, 111 night, my wife showed up, you know, my current wife, you know, now, at the time, and I thought wonder who that is, you know, she showed up and I watched her, you know, to see if she's really, you know, there for the right reasons, you know, talking to the Lord, you know, we're gonna have all that prayer meeting. And so that's how I met her was in a in an all night prayer meeting, you know? And then first, you know, we were just friends. You know, we were just hanging out and that kind of thing. But, you know, it grew into us getting married. And now we have three kids. I've got an older son, Seth, he's at Texas a&m. He'll be a junior next year. And then my daughter's graduated from high school, Jordan, and she's turned, she just turned 18. And then I got a younger son, Elijah, and he's just turned 13. So I've got a 20 and 18 and 13 year old,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 20:25

how do you spend time with three kids? Yeah, you're traveling all the time. Yeah, as well.

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 20:31

It's very difficult. And my wife really helps me with that. She's got the motherly instinct, I think, you know, the two shall be one flesh, she, she's got a set of qualities that you know, me as a male, I don't possess the ability to nurture and she's very discerning with the kids. And she'll come to me, and she'll say, it's time for you to spend time, and I'll get the signal. It's time for

you to spend time with Elijah, he needs you. For whatever reason, God's put in her the ability to pick up on this. And, you know, Jordan needs you. You don't know that. What's always went on, but she needs you. You know, and she might not even give me a whole lot of information. But it's my cue. As for the wife can help the husband. A, it's your time to step in here. You know, I've done what I've been doing, it's to your time. And then same thing when my oldest son, you know. So that's why marriage is so important, you know, it takes to really together that's why it's important to stay together, no matter what.

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Scott Hilton (Host) 21:31

I think that's a good piece of advice. If you could sum up in one sentence, what does it take to be a great dad? How would you sum that up?

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 21:44

If I could sum it up in one sentence is be present, when you're present. You know, when you're with them, be really with them. You know, you can be in the same room as somebody but not be in the room. You know,

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Scott Hilton (Host) 22:02

your dad ran into a burning house and pulled out all your weight equipment. When he could there's a lot of things he could have gotten. Yeah. I mean, he could have, he could have spared some things that were more valuable. monetarily. Yeah. But he, you think he was maybe able to he didn't have time to think about it. But I almost think that he was painting a picture for you. That they have none of this stuff is important. But you're important. Exactly. He sent you a picture your dad is still living in Yes, he's in an assisted living program, I believe. Yeah. And y'all have a good relationship, I want to do something that may be hard for you to buy, but I know you and your dad are close. And I want to give you an opportunity to, to just say what you want to say to your dad, that's this is a forum where anybody in the world with with internet can hear it. And I want to look into that camera right there. And I just want to say, Just say what you want to say,

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Gary Keylon (Guest) 23:10

Dad, you know, I've often said this, besides Jesus Christ, in my view, you're the greatest man ever walked the planet Earth, sides, Jesus Christ, and you're leaving a legacy, even though you might not know it or might not think so. Because a lot of the traits and a lot of things you taught me I'm passing on to my kids, you know, and they're putting it in practice. And you really showed me how to, because you laid your life down, I felt like I did without a lot of things so that I could, you know, play sports or you worked. You taught me work ethic. You know, I remember the time you know, your motto was I don't feel good. It's time for us to go do some work. We'll feel better. We'd release some endorphins. You know, I still to this day, believe that, you know, as crazy as that seems? Do you allowed God to work through you to give me what I needed as I was growing up and provide a home where I could be proud to say that I got the greatest father in the world. And I'm proud to say that and you're gonna turn 80 years old. And

I'm just proud proud of you proud of what you did. Proud of what you what you have done and what you're, you know, what, what, what life holds in future for you. And so thank you. Thank you what, you know, words Absolutely, at this point don't seem adequate. Thank you. I love you. And I'm so thankful that God gave you to me and gave gave me to you, you know?

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Scott Hilton (Host) 24:54

Awesome. That's great. You're well isn't. As it turns out, you're passing down that legacy. See the next generation and we found little evidence of that. We want to share that with you as we're close.

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Surprise from Family 25:10

So it's really hard to find one thing I love about my dad because I really love everything about him. All of his qualities are some that I myself am so much like him. And I think that's why I relate to him so much. But LF has passion for people, his Tinder spirit, a lot of people look at my dad and like, oh man, like being men. And yes, he's super strong and protective and things, but also, there's a side to him that's human and real and honest, and loving. And a lot of dads I think lack the emotional side, especially to their children. I don't know I've always felt loved and appreciated by him. He's one of my biggest supporters, biggest cheerleaders, anything I do he is there supporting me 100%. And I know if nobody else is there, my dad would be there to support me. And I just love his president is in my wife. He cares. He really cares about what's going on my life what I'm doing. He's a very intentional person. And he's just a very loving person. Again, people look at him as like, oh, man, he's scared. I'm like, what? How was he scary, he that's become his lap, and sit and talk and chat. And I just love him so much. That's just a couple of my favorite things about him. My favorite story is really hard, because my dad is pretty funny, unintentionally, which makes it even more funny. I remember one thing, that vacation, we were at the beach, I think and he like hit his toe or something, something like that. And he broke his toe. But knowing my dad being very strong willed, slightly stubborn. He's like, I'm not gonna be a doctor, I'm gonna enjoy my vacation. So the whole vacation, he walked around his broken toe, constantly telling it to work worked out work in his little country of accent. And it just shows his persistence and his stubbornness, in a good way, though, that he was willing to fight to that whole vacation to that broken toe. It's really funny story. And honestly, just anytime that at night, he'll come in our room and check on me or talk to me or anytime he lets me like, Come snuggle on his lap. I know it sounds silly, because I'm literally 18. But he always makes me feel like a special little girl in his heart. And reminds me that he loves me, no matter my age, no matter what happens, what I do. He's always there for me. And then another little story is he has been kind of like a two coaches. So he's where my coaches for track. And he tried to do the spin I do discuss in the ring. And that was pretty comical, because he's never done this case before. And he really tried even if it was there, the potential is there. The actual outcome was not but that's okay. It was really funny. And it just goes to show that hard work can pay off. So that's just many stories about my dad, I've so many, but that's just some. And some things I want to thank my dad about just simply being there being real with me, loving me truly, never doubted, like coming home and my father being mad at me or not loving me or anything like that. Like he is just the most special person in my life. And I just audit him so much, and I love him so much. And I know if he would do anything for me, and I will do anything for him. And I know if I mess up if something happens, nobody else is there. He will always be there no matter what. Loving me forgetting me. And it's just truly impacted

my life in a crazy crazy way. And I'm so so thankful for him. The thing I love most about my dad is that when he says he's my biggest fan, I know for a fact he means he's been almost every single one of my track meets and swim meets. Even though I can't hear him underwater. Soon as I come up, I can tell that he's been cheering for me this whole time. In fact, one of my favorite memories is him showing me a video he took of a track race I ran, where in the second half of the race, I went all the way from fifth to second. Even though I didn't win the race, he was still screaming his heart out and was loving every moment of seeing me on the track. And I've always really appreciated how dedicated he is to keeping up with my life. When I do good in school, he's always there to congratulate me. But even when I mess up, he never tears me down. I'm very lucky to have a father who is supportive and loving us. Yes, they can so much for that. I want to thank my dad for like always being there with me because I mean, he wants me to do football but he she's fine with me do any other sports and a lot of other dads would, you know not their son pursue what they want and know liberty with the bad wants, but that's really just willing to let me do whatever I want. Well, within reason of course he's he's willing to let me be creative. The best thing I like about my dad is how like I always feel safe near him. You know, he's a big guy. So like whenever I'm around him I just feel super safe, which I think is super nice to have a better father figure