

Teen finds purpose through aftermath of car accident

TIM GETTING

Many are familiar with the saying, "If life gives you lemons, make a lemonade stand." Isaiah Krull has taken that meaning to new heights.

The 18-year-old Waverly, Iowa native has tried to make the most out of a life-changing car accident that occurred over two years ago. And despite helping pass a new Iowa seat belt law and recovering from injuries that should have killed him, Krull still feels his purpose has yet to be fulfilled.

"I'm not finished yet," he said.

Krull and some friends were involved in a serious accident during the summer of 2008 as their car rear-ended a school bus at a high speed. Krull sustained a brain injury as he was catapulted head first from the back seat to the front of the vehicle. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Krull was taken to the Covenant Medical Center in Waterloo then was scheduled to be helicoptered to the University of Iowa Hospital. Before taking off, officials waited for Isaiah's parents, Renee and Randy Krull, to see him.

"My thought was that he was not going to be alive when I came there," said Renee.

Although given a five percent chance of surviving, Isaiah held on to life and eventually came home after overcoming a ten-day coma as well as intense recovery and therapy at the renowned Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago.

Doctors told Krull that football, more or less, saved his life. Not only did Isaiah possess a physique that improved his chances of recovering, but it was his high school football coach, Mark Hubbard, who prevented Krull from choking on his own blood by tipping him upright.

Hubbard is the head football coach at Waverly-Shell Rock High School and was Krull's leader for the detasseling crew with whom he was working that day.

Although Isaiah's condition leaves him unable to play football, he continues to use his competitive and goal-oriented attitude. Krull is currently studying physical therapy at Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo, Iowa, and speaking at area grade schools as part of *Think First Iowa*, an organization committed to educating youth about injury prevention.

Krull was approached by *Think First Iowa* as he teamed up with state senators Daryl Beal and Bill Heckroth to push for a new law that would require minors to wear a seat belt in the back seat of a vehicle. That law was eventually passed and nicknamed, "Isaiah's Law."

Other organizations like Blank Children's Hospital had tried for nearly nine years to get such a law passed but did not succeed. After "Isaiah's Law" was signed by Governor Chet Culver, Blank honored Krull with their "People who make a Difference Award."

"They needed a face to the issue," said Krull.

"I could have died, so God must have wanted me here for something."