

PRACTICE

Building Character Through Soccer



PRACTICE

Commitment:

The act of pledging or engaging oneself

Synonyms: responsibility, pledge, guarantee, promise

Commitment Story

In the 27th round of the 2002 MLB draft the Tampa Bay Devil Rays took a left-handed pitcher named Brandon Mann, a 17 year-old aspiring pitcher from Tacoma, Washington. It didn't matter that he was a late round pick he was now a professional baseball player. As is the case with most baseball players he was going to start in the minor leagues and work his way up.

Fast forward to Sunday May 13, 2018 and Mann made his first Major League Baseball appearance for the Texas Rangers against the Houston Astros. Mann did bounce around the minors, just a lot longer than he thought. It took him 17 years to realize his big-league dream. "It means everything. Lots of reflecting on the journey of where it's been. This is pretty awesome," Mann said. And what a journey it was. In the 17 seasons he was in the minors he played for 17 different teams in 5 major league organizations including stops in the independent leagues and a season in Japan.

However, Brandon never gave up on his dream of playing in the MLB. He said, "I always told myself I was a big leaguer. To keep grinding for that opportunity, you have to believe that you are." When he finally made his debut he performed well. Getting the final 5 outs of the game while only allowing 1 hit and no runs. Brandon was committed to his goal of reaching the Majors even if it took 17 years.

Sometimes the path to success is short and other times the path is longer and winding. Desire to achieve a goal without commitment will not be enough. Only those, like Brandon Mann, who demonstrate an unwavering dedication and commitment, have a chance to succeed when the odds are long or adversity comes.

