



is a program of
Advocates for Injured Athletes



ASA Ambassador: Will James

Hometown: Little Rock, Arkansas

ASA Focus: Helping to educate student athletes about the signs and symptoms of heat illness

Message: “Heat illness is 100% preventable. The quick actions of properly trained responders saved my life.”

Will’s Story

On the afternoon of August 13, 2010—a hot Arkansas day when the heat index topped 112 degrees—16-year-old Will James suffered a heatstroke following football practice.

Will arrived at Children’s Hospital in Little Rock comatose, on a ventilator, and fighting for his life. His parents were out of the country at the time of his injury and called home to learn that their son was in the intensive care unit in critical condition. Will was in renal failure and would spend one week in a medically induced coma. He spent a total of three weeks in the hospital with liver damage and on kidney dialysis.

Will’s parents credit his recovery to the fast response of his athletic trainer and the excellent care he received in the hospital. Unfortunately, another 16-year-old football player from Little Rock had not been so fortunate. Two days earlier

than Will, Tyler Davenport had collapsed from heatstroke and never made it out of the hospital. Tyler did not have access to the same care Will had on the day he collapsed. Tyler’s coach had tried to cool his overheating body, but it was not enough to save him. When he reached the hospital, his core temperature was 108.5 degrees. He could not recover.

Will is lucky to be alive and serves as a voice for Tyler and other athletes who have died due to heat illness, helping to save other student athletes by telling his story of survival.

Will is now a freshman at the University of Arkansas. As a founding ambassador of “Athletes Saving Athletes,” he shares his message of heat illness prevention with athletes, parents, and coaches. Will helped to create a heat illness video that is part of the ASA curriculum, and his story has been featured on PBS “Frontline”.

Website
www.injuredathletes.org

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Advocates for Injured Athletes is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.