

NEXUS CHAMPION

OLIVIA GUINDON



On October 28, 2016, Olivia and her older sister Emma were in a serious car accident, causing Olivia to suffer a massive brain injury. Although she was given a very low chance to live, Olivia proved the odds wrong with her characteristic tenacity and determination.

After a life flight from The Woodlands to a children's hospital in Houston's Medical Center, Olivia overcame surgery and coma. After waking up, she was transferred to Nexus Children's Hospital.

"After being in a coma for 21 days, she had to relearn everything again from writing and talking to eating and reading," explained Brandon, Olivia's father.

Once at Nexus Children's Hospital, Olivia participated in intense physical and occupational therapy as well as speech-language pathology. As one of the top softball players in the nation for her age, redeveloping the skills necessary to play was a primary goal.

Nexus Occupational Therapist David Layfield remembers Olivia's grit when it came to rehabilitation. **"She would always say, 'I will play softball again.'"**

"The therapy team was amazing," said Brandon. **"Her recovery is a miracle and the team played a huge part in that. With Olivia, everything had to be a competition. She would even race them in her wheelchair."**

"I can't imagine going anywhere else," shared Olivia. **"I made such great connections with the nurses and therapists and I was beyond blessed. They related to me and I enjoyed working with them, and while it was frustrating, they were only positive."**

As her rehabilitation progressed, Olivia was able to get back in her catcher's stance for the first time with help from Nexus Physical Therapist Brenda Salas. She remembers Olivia's **"incredible determination,**

enthusiasm, and will to overcome was admirable and played an important role in her rehabilitation."

"Brenda helped me get back in my catcher's stance for the first time and David helped me work on hitting and upper body strength," explained Olivia. **"They pushed me to work on my strength and I loved it. I loved feeling like I was getting better."**

Today, Olivia is once again playing softball and being recruited by colleges from all over the country.

"Since I first played softball, I wanted to play in college and win a National World Series Championship," said Olivia. **"No matter what I went through, my goal is still to play at a D1 school and win a National Championship."**

She is also using this experience to have an impact of other people on a similar journey. **"At times I felt alone and that no one could understand what I went through or comprehend how hard it was,"** explained Olivia. **"If there are people that need help or comfort, I want to share my story to make a positive impact, not only for Jesus Christ, but for others as well."**

"Olivia is an inspiration to me because she kept an internal focus of what she hoped to attain and then it became a reality," said Dorothy Johnson, Nexus' Director of Rehabilitation. **"And what an awesome support system of her parents, family, friends, and new friends at Nexus Children's Hospital."**

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CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
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