

Jacob Daly

Class of 2015

Consultant / Student



Jacob's Story

There's a certain amount of regret in Jacob Daly's voice when we catch up with him in early 2024. Diagnosed with early onset arthritis and having recently undergone hip surgery at the ripe young age of 26 has given him a new perspective on life, finding balance and recognising opportunities.

His high school years were dominated by sport commitments and a lot of travelling. As a gifted and avid soccer player, Jacob played senior football from Y9 onwards, was in the Hamilton Wanderers squad which resulted in many weekends playing in Auckland. He fondly remembers a soccer trip to Spain in his last year at St John's.

But those commitments, combined with long hours bussing into school from Te Awamutu and not putting enough time into the academic side of things, created somewhat of a storm for Jacob.

He remembers being constantly tired. Homework didn't get done and eventually he gave up on studying. Jacob recalls "I was pretty good at maths and interested in biology, but writing let me down. I didn't pass level 3 and I wasn't able to get a college scholarship in the United States because of my academic results. That was difficult to accept; I didn't really know where to go from there."

After high school, Jacob worked to fund his soccer ambitions, as a carpet layer in summer, then moving into landscaping. He started a Sport Science course but did not enjoy pushing concepts and thoughts on other people instead

of mentoring them. He eventually landed on accounting and feels he has found his place in that sector.

Jacob did well with football here in New Zealand. He played for the Wellington Olympic and Miramar Rangers and won the Central League three times and National League twice with those teams. He has since retired from football due to injuries. He had to realise he wasn't bullet proof after all.

He credits his mentor to help him through these difficult times and supporting him to find a solid pathway and something he enjoys doing. His mentor has helped him with a job and remains an important person in his life. Says Jacob "having a person to talk to is one of the most valuable relationships you can have. In a positive mentoring relationship, you can disagree and still come back and move on from that. You have a person to talk to who really understands you, brings in a wealth of expertise and can add different points of view." He regrets that he didn't take up the offer of mentorship when he was still at St John's, but recalls that was just overwhelming; "there were too many people meaning well, giving advice."

These days, he works as a consultant for Deloitte in Wellington and is in his final year of study to become a Chartered Accountant. His experience working in various small businesses and trades now comes in very handy. What he enjoys most about his work is his ability to assist people and businesses and fix problems for them.

"Be a sponge - learn as much as you can. Look after yourself and put yourself first."