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Paralyzed H.S. Football Player Tackles Recovery



LAKE MILLS, Iowa (WCCO) — A high school football player who broke his neck at one of his first games of the season got a much-needed break from a Minnesota hospital.

Reporting
Liz Collin

Tyler Olson made a tackle on the first play of the game for his Lake Mills, Iowa team. That move put him in a wheelchair. When WCCO talked to him two months ago he was cracking jokes from his hospital room in Rochester, even though it was two months earlier he'd lost all movement from the neck down.

"At first, I could barely move my arms. Now I can move 'em pretty good, especially my right one," Olson said.

He was proud to show off his progress on Wednesday at the place he wishes he still was: high school. He didn't want an assembly and too much attention, but he got that anyway.

Tyler's mother said they've heard from so many people and are so thankful.

"All the overwhelming support it's just nice to be able tell people thank you in person," Medara Winter said.

Tyler has feeling throughout his body though he still can't move anything below his waist. He knows he might not make it back on the field and it's a new game ahead of him now.

"I've never been a patient person. I'm the guy who snaps his fingers and wants to it now but I've learned that it's not going be like that so, it's gonna take time," Olson said.

"We celebrate every little baby step it's just a huge victory. It's a really slow process but just hope every day that we see something different," Tyler's mother said.

Tyler admits there are bad days but he's decided not to dwell on them, especially for the few hours he was able to just be a high school junior again.

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