

December 29, 2002

It's been 4 days since the last time you practiced, 4 days since the last time you ran, bicycled or went to the gym. The Supercross season starts next week and your mind is flooded with doubt. You have the flu and you're not recovering because you're over trained. Despite what you believe, your hard work will not go away in a week. The best thing you can do right now is rest.

A group of your friends will show up later today to ride. A film producer named Gregg Godfrey will also be there. Don't try and be tough. The cold medicine you're taking will slow down your reflexes. Don't let Gregg's cameras give you false courage. You will have plenty of opportunities to film with him in the future.

If you ride today, it will be the last day you wake up with a realistic chance of fulfilling your childhood dream of becoming a Supercross champion. You will never be able to jog, jump on a trampoline or do anything that impacts your right leg without swelling and pain. If you ride today, you'll go against your better judgment and attempt a 180-foot-long jump over two barbed wire fences. You will end up lying on the side of a hill with a broken leg and a right knee that makes RGIII's look perfect. (You'll get that reference in 10 years.)

But there's a catch. The hurt and depression you experience over the next two years will show you who your real friends are. These friends will pick you up and lead you to something greater than you ever dreamed possible. You will tour the world doing crazy, fun stunts with those friends. You'll meet your future wife on this tour. She won the X Games when she was younger than you are now. She's cute, talented, passionate and your best friend. In ten years, she will be pregnant with your first child.

Today is the day that changes your life. For better or worse, I'm not sure. I only know the outcome you were destined for - not what could have been. I guess it's only fair to tell you that if you ride today, your racing career won't end. But instead of two wheels, you'll race on four. Rally cars, monster trucks, and even NASCAR are on the horizon if you ride today. So what will it be? Knowing what I know now, I would leave everything the same. I would ride. But knowing how much winning that title means to you on this day, I think you'll stay in bed.

Whatever you do, always follow your passion.

PS: DON'T GET A CORVETTE

Sincerely,
You in ten years

 60 ← Things change.