

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY MATCH SUCCESS STORY



“Quamaine & John Paul”

Little Brother Quamaine’s journey with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lowcountry has been nothing short of incredible thanks to the support and friendship provided by his Big Brother, John Paul (JP.) When Quamaine’s mother first reached out to BBBSL in 2017, she hoped for a mentor who could help her son not only academically but also in building confidence and exploring new experiences.

Described as shy, lovable, and intelligent, Quamaine found in JP not just a mentor, but a true friend. The two initially spent time together playing basketball, cooking meals, and tackling landscaping projects but Quamaine’s passion for football quickly became a pivotal point of connection for this match.

Quamaine’s middle school did not have a football team, so he played for a city league that unfortunately was not able to provide equipment. Rallying friends and colleagues to raise funds and then spending a full day with Quamaine going to every sporting goods store in town to find the right sized equipment, JP ensured that Quamaine had the resources he needed to pursue his passion.

The impact was profound as just two years later, Quamaine’s dedication to the sport, coupled with JP’s unwavering support, allowed him to excel as the starting left tackle at Phillips Simmons High School. JP was proud to report that Quamaine’s confidence experienced a boost by being the sole freshman in the starting lineup! JP supports Quamaine by attending his games, cheering him on, taking photos and videos of Quamaine during the game, and discussing his achievements on the field after the game. JP has become more than just a mentor – he is a cheerleader, a motivator, and alongside Quamaine’s mother, his biggest fan.

Beyond the gridiron, Quamaine’s social circle has also expanded as he has found a sense of belonging within the team. His newfound confidence and work ethic, instilled by his passion for football, has opened doors to a brighter future. The once reserved young boy had blossomed into a self-assured, outgoing individual with dreams of playing college football.

Quamaine’s mother has witnessed the transformation, and marvels at how he came out of his shell and gained confidence with JP’s support. "JP has been amazing. They bond and do a lot together. He was able to take the quietness out of him," she said.

Quamaine is also grateful to JP for being by his side throughout this time. "JP is really a cool guy. He has taught me a lot of things, and he always makes sure that I am doing my best. I have had so much fun with him, and I am thankful that he cares about being here for me," Quamaine shared.

Quamaine’s journey from a shy fourth grader to a confident, driven high school student is a true testament to the transformative power of genuine connection and a caring mentor's influence on a young person’s life. As Quamaine continues to navigate high school and pursue his aspirations, he is grateful to have a role model like JP on the sidelines, cheering him on.

