

CHARLIE CROKER

An insight to senior Charlie Croker's journey in high school long jumping

DESCRIBE YOUR INJURY.

I was playing basketball, and then [an opponent] ran into me, and I fell over. Then, [he] took a cheap shot at me when I was down, and I dislocated my kneecap, broke my kneecap and tore my MPFL, so they had to do reconstruction surgery. The first three months of when I was hurt, they got the diagnosis wrong, and they told me I didn't need surgery. Fast forward three months, we went back to the doctors. Then we ended up, going to a different doctor, and then told me I needed surgery. It was about total time, 13 month recovery.

WHAT KEPT YOU MOTIVATED?

Motivation was hard to keep, and especially just being down and out of your sports. So having your teammates and your friends and family and coaches all really rallying around you and helping you out and supporting you. It definitely helped out a lot.

JUMPING TO THE GOAL...

Charlie's current long jump statistics

**CURRENT
PERSONAL RECORD**
23 feet

WHY DID YOU START LONG JUMP?

I played basketball my freshman year, and my coach, coaches long jump for East, so then he came up to me, and said, 'I think you'll be good at long jump and you should come out and do it.' I was pretty hesitant at first, but then he eventually, wrote me saying 'You don't have to do it, just come to a few practices.' And when I signed up for track and I started doing some practices, and then he wrote me again, to do some meets and the first meet was OK for a freshmen, it was a pretty good jump. And then from there I just steadily started progressing pretty well and then eventually by the end of my freshman year, I was on varsity and I competed at regionals for long jump.

WHAT IS THE ENVIRONMENT LIKE?

It's great. I really like KT. He's really taking me under his wing and he saw the potential in me and he's really just believed in me, which is really helpful and the whole track community is just really good. Everyone's very supportive of each other, super kind. It's just a really good environment to be in, and if you really want to get better you can with the coaches and your teammates.

THE GOAL

Charlie's record goals for this season

**SCHOOL
RECORD**
23 feet 9
inches

**STATE
RECORD**
25 feet 8
inches

