

## How a Kid with Autism is Defying the Odds

Zachary Blake is from the small town of Mitchell, Indiana. He plays JV football and is training hard to make varsity.



**At 18 months old Zack was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome.** The doctor told his mom, April, he would never be able to do what “normal” kids do. Since that moment Zach’s life has been about defying the odds.

Growing up Zach had difficulty making friends and faced bullying. In middle school he sat on the bench because his coach did not understand his condition.

**Against all the odds Zach never gave up on football.** He worked hard every practice and always believed in himself.

Zach’s hard work paid off when he made the JV team and became a starter! His teammates say, “He is the hardest working player on the field”.

**Zach’s “it” is to play college football for Purdue and win the Heisman.** Zach is an inspiration to his teammates, friends and anyone else who hears his story. He hopes that by working hard and never giving up he can make it easier for kids coming up behind him.

**Zach’s advice is, “To keep working on your dream until you succeed”.**