



BP Educational Consultation

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The American Athlete

Episode #2221

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Participants: **Bethany Hamilton – Surf Icon and Author**

Cole Custer – Xfinity Driver #00

Dan O'Brien – Olympic Decathlete

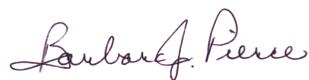
General Synopsis for Episode #2221

In this episode committed and talented 'American Athletes' share their stories of success and challenges. Each guest shares their personal side of their journey from their first thoughts of seeking a professional career to reaching their goals and beyond. **Bethany Hamilton** parents were surfers and she grew up on the beach and in the water. She has learned that the ocean is always new and to be a good surfer you must become good at reading the ocean, always trying to master new waves and maneuvers. Bethany faced diversity when she lost her arm from a shark attack as a teenager. She didn't let self-doubt get the best of her. '*Unstoppable*', is a documentary of the journey of her life. Xfinity Driver **Cole Custer** thinks about the competition side of racing and beating the guy next to him more than the speed of the race. His dad worked in NASCAR and helped him get started at the age of 5 stating, "with the more laps you get, the more practice you get, the better you will be." He says he can't worry about getting hurt when he is driving, he has to make the moves, he has to be aggressive. **Dan O'Brien** credits his adopted family to help him find out what sports he was good at. As a decathlete he competed in 10 events. He shares his experience at the New Orleans trials and not making the Olympics. That experience helped him prepare for his gold medal in the decathlon at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics by years of hard work and being part of a special team.

Observation and Conclusion

In episode #2221 questions are asked between segments to challenge viewers to research and learn facts related to sports. Athletes provide encouragement and advice to their fans to work hard, define goals, and have fun in your chosen field. **Cole Custer** states, "Having success early is awesome but also puts pressure on you to keep performing and doing things, making noise, finding ways to push yourself to get better and better every day." This episode inspires, educates, informs and empowers children 13 years of age and up.

Sincerely,



Barbara J. Pierce, MA Ed.

Educational Consultant