

MARTIN

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more able now to realize life is about more than just himself.

One way he has been others-focused is by helping Barry Bowers, husband of IHS track coach Heidi Bowers, as an assistant coach on the junior high basketball team last season, which his mom said helped teach him patience and was “a real learning instrument.”

BACK ON THE TRACK

In early 2016 — following Calvin’s recovery from an additional surgery to put the piece of his skull back in place, further consultation and an OK from his parents — he was released to compete in certain high school sports. Contact sports including football, basketball and baseball were, and always will be, off the list, though he admits he does at times play a pick-up game of hoops. Snowboarding is also a sport he’s no longer able to do.

Track, though, in which he’s competed since middle school, was still an option.

Calvin admits that, especially early, he struggled with the “Why?” question that anyone would likely ask after a major health scare, but he said that since then he has accepted what he still has.

“I made peace realizing God has still given me the ability to do track, and I’m thankful for that. Good things still come out of that.”

Getting back into the groove with track took time as he recovered. According to the Imbler track record on track and field database www.athletic.net, Calvin competed in most of Imbler’s meets during that freshman year, but he had challenges.

“I tried to take it easy at first. I only ran (in the 1,500) in three track meets, but then I was having horrible migraines,” he said. “That was really hard for me. I had to take a step back and realize I wasn’t ready for everything.”

Kelly added the time it took for him to get back into being physically active was the main challenge for her son.

“As far as physical activity, that’s what bothered him the most. He’s been physical since the day he could walk,” she said.

He began to see, however, the hand of the divine at work in the midst of the struggle.

“God really humbled me through that season,” he said. “I had to sit back and encourage everyone else. (The message from God was) ‘You need to encourage other people to compete better.’”

Even when he couldn’t compete, he attended the meets and sought to be an encouragement to his teammates. While he couldn’t rejoin the football team, he carried that attitude back onto the field in the fall as he continued to improve.

“My sophomore year I helped out with football. I was there the whole season,” he said. “That was kind of fun, but I struggled with migraines during those football games because I would yell so much. That was a challenge. After that I haven’t been part of any other sport than track.”

He has gradually improved on the track and has become one of the key pieces of the Imbler track team.

“Calvin has been a great leader for our team,” Heidi Bowers said. “He is a hard-working young man that makes his teammates better.”

At last week’s Baker Invitational, Calvin set ei-

ther a season best or personal best in three events, including a PR of 146 feet even in the javelin, which he says may be the event in which he has the best chance of making it to next week’s state track meet.

He entered today’s 1A Special District 4 meet in Baker City seeded sixth in the district in the 800 — the event in which he placed seventh at state a year ago — and third in the javelin. The top two finishers from each district are guaranteed a spot at state, but three wildcards will also be given out to the next top three performances across the state.

“The district is a lot harder this year. A lot more competitors. A lot faster. But I’m going to go out and compete, do my best, and try and leave it all out on the line. If I go, I go,” he said.

Regardless of what happens in Baker, the fact he is on the track and living a

full life is a testament, he said, of God’s grace.

“When I tell people my story and what has happened, I tell them I’m thankful for my accident,” Calvin said. “I realize if I had it my way from the beginning, if this hadn’t happened, I wouldn’t be where I am today, and I wouldn’t be in this posi-

tion. I wouldn’t be in love with this awesome woman. I had to take a step back, and my life became not just about me. It became better. I realized God is going to use me in different ways. Some of the ways were telling my story. I was able to (recover) because God was with me the whole time.” ■

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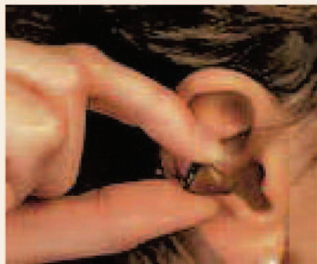
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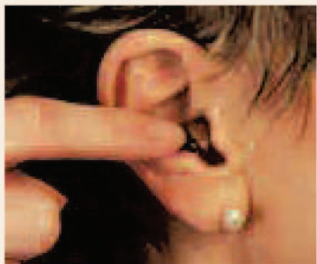
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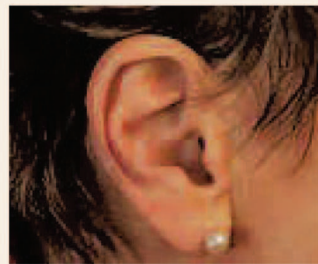
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