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Home Run

You don't have to be a sports fan to know that some of the best athletes to walk the Earth came from cruel beginnings. Most didn't even have a home when they were growing up. They had to work extremely hard to get where they are today. That is the case for a boy named Nick Smith Jr. He was the son of the famous baseball player that played for the New York Yankees. Nick Smith Sr. was a tall fit man with broad shoulders and blond hair. Nick Jr. looked just like his father, he had blond hair and was tall for his age. Nick idolized his father. They did everything together. Jr. came to all his dad's games and even got to go on the field for warmups. Nick was a great young player as well. He and his dad had the same playing style and were both shortstops.

When Nick was twelve, his parents were going out of town and couldn't take Jr. with them because he was in the science fair. He was left with a friend while his parents were away. When he was at school and getting ready for his science fair presentation, he was called down to the office.

The moment he opened the door there were police officers talking to the principal. Nick's heart sank to the tips of his toes at the sight. They lowered their hats and told Nick the horrific news that his parents had died in an accident. The thing he loved more than life itself had been ripped from him and would never be given back.

He thought that life could never get so low and terrible. His parents had always lived by the words to plan for the worst and hope for the best. They had definitely planned for the worst when they made sure that all of the family riches would go to Nick when he was a legal adult and not to be touched until then. The only family he had left were grandparents that lived in the city too. Nick rarely got to see them because they had been abusive when his mother was younger. They were greedy, and Nick knew that his grandparents were not the nicest people to be around, but he still had to go with them.

They came and got him the next day and treated him like a king for the first 24 hours until they figured out the rules about his inheritance. They immediately treated him the same cruel and ugly way they used to treat his mother. To Nick he had one option and it was to run away from not only his grandparents, but also the grief of his parents' deaths. He decided to run to the one other place he considered home: Yankee Stadium. He left on a dark quiet night when his grandparents were out doing whatever they could to hassle others for money.

It was fairly easy for him to get in the stadium because he went there all the time with his dad. While he was wandering the long walkways he heard someone coming from the other direction. He had to think fast. That's when he saw a food stand, ducked behind it, and he watched the man walk by. He was barely able to make out the name on the name tag. It said Al. Al was a small and old man that looked quite happy.

Once Al was gone Nick walked down the hall to the locker rooms. He noticed a part of the wall was uneven. He pushed on it and it slowly opened. Inside was an office that seemed forgotten about. He looked around and made sure it was secure then put down his stuff and went to bed. For the next few

weeks he gathered supplies like food, and water. Nick also got really good at avoiding the guards. He only took things he needed to live comfortably.

One night when Nick was going back to his room he was caught by the same security guard that he had seen before, Al. Nick tried to run away but the man was standing in the way to the room. After a little bit of coaxing Nick Al got sthe story of how he got orphaned. They talked for a bit and got to know eeach other's back stories. The old man who said his name was Al invited him to come to his home, but Nick didn't completely trust him yet, but he had been lonely and needed someone to talk to so he caved and went with Al. He learned Al had been working at Yankee stadium ever since he graduated from college. Al loved the game of baseball when he was a boy and always wanted to be around a pro field. Nick had begun to trust Al and told him that he was the son of Nick Smith. That was old news to Al because he recognized the color of Nick's hair and how he ran. Nick realized that he wanted to get adopted by Al so one night after a game Nick asked Al. Al said that he would be honored and that is the place he spent the rest of the time before college. Nick also kept up with baseball and became the first draft pick. Al came to everyone of Nick's games until Al passed away. The last game that Al went to Nick hit a home run just for him. After Al passed Nick carried on with his life and refused to grieve on it. He played for a couple more years then retired and went away from everything and just stayed low key. Even though Nick was off grid he would always be remembered as one of the greats. He was able to say that his life went from a strikeout to a home run.