

TBI Miracles: Former Football Player and Others Continue to Improve

by [John Demas](#) on 12/14/10

After suffering a traumatic brain injury, many of us think we would keep pursuing every form of rehabilitative therapy offered to us, as long as we thought we might improve further. Yet once confronted with various setbacks and made aware of research statistics that claim we aren't likely to regain many more physical and cognitive skills, we might be tempted to give up. Fortunately, there are truly inspiring news stories and books about traumatic brain injury (TBI) patients that can encourage us to keep going. One such news story involves former high school football player Cody Lehe, now age twenty-one.

[Cody Lehe's rehabilitation journey](#) is one best characterized by the young man's determination to succeed. Four years after suffering multiple head blows while playing high school football, Lehe just keeps moving forward and achieving new rehabilitation goals. He's aware that most [TBI patients](#) stop regaining various skills after they've completed about 18 months of rehabilitative therapy. Yet that hasn't stopped him for a minute. At present, Lehe is still documenting new gains in his short-term memory and muscle strength skills.

Both Lehe and his family give considerable credit to the support group that the 21-year-old continues to attend. Cody acknowledges that when he suffers setbacks, it helps him to know that others experience them as well, even while striving to meet new goals. At present, Lehe is trying to improve both his physical and occupational therapy skills. His family stays involved to keep him further motivated.

Major Vehicular Accident Seriously Harms Woman

Like Cody Lehe, Deborah Ellen Schneider wasn't ready to give up on herself following her [catastrophic accident](#). This woman was forced to try and piece together the small remaining fragments of her life after a two-ton New York utility truck, traveling 50 miles per hour, hit her car.

Ms. Schneider shares her gripping recovery story in her 2009 book, *Wind Dancing: The Healing of [Traumatic Brain Injury](#)*. The book describes how this talented woman had to find new ways to cope when she discovered that her accident had left her with the cognitive skills of a five-year-old. While her children became her caregivers, Ms. Schneider learned to let her recovery roadblocks simply serve as motivation to achieve even more. She managed to carry on, even though dizziness, chronic pain and other challenges plagued her daily efforts to regain various skills.

Eventually, Ms. Schneider realized that though she might never become her former self again, she could become a tireless advocate for the many disabled people who are unable to speak for themselves.

A Case Worker Writes About His Brave Clients

[TBI](#) Caseworker Ed Mason has worked with many clients as determined as Ms. Schneider. In his book, *Head Cases: Stories of Brain Injury and Its Aftermath*, Mason tells the stories of some of his traumatic brain injury clients who've had to battle many challenging consequences of their injuries. Readers will learn how many of these patients keep on struggling to reach new rehabilitative goals, even while the American healthcare system often fails them. While every case doesn't feature a happy ending, each story is likely to inspire others to never give up since new treatments may just be a day away.

Our firm hopes this article will remind [traumatic brain injury patients](#) and their families that few lives suddenly end after people suffer such injuries. Although major physical battles may still loom on the horizon, the spiritual and emotional growth that can be achieved along the rehabilitative pathway can make the journey more than worthwhile.

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