



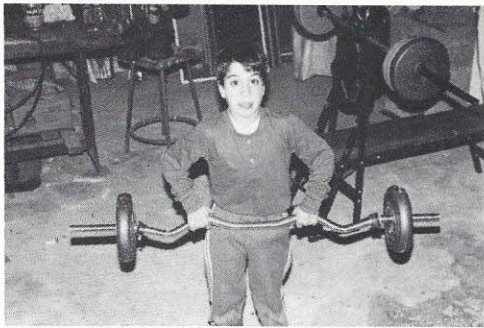
... hit a few home runs



... gave it your best shot



Sam, you ... tried to fit in



... carried a lot of weight



... whipped up a few surprises (or made a mess of things?)



... climbed out of some tough situations



... took your punishments like a man

Dear Sam,

From the moment we learned of your conception we loved you. We were awed at the possibilities the future may hold for you, and we felt a sense of and fulfillment.

We were determined to fill your life with love, proper guidance and opportunities. Being involved parents and listening to all the right advice would certainly prevent any mistakes in raising you. What we discovered along the way was that we had little to do with who you are and what you become. Two huge factors, your relationship with God and a vigorous gene pool, have taken you down your own road.

God has certainly taken you places that we would have felt too risky. He knows what you are made of; that you will not only survive but be better off for the experience. We've watched you through your life working hard, fighting the odds, never giving up. You never settle for second best in yourself or in others. That is what makes you a leader, why as terrifying as it is to fall from the top, you are able to climb right back up. Jesus invites us all to be like children, to trust God without question. It is your ability to do so that brings you success..

We see in you so many traits prevalent in our family tree. There is determination and the will to overcome and endure, a vulnerability and a sensitivity that makes you touchable, always there for a friend or one in need. You often comment that we are a family of survivors; that we use our love and our strength to pull together and solve problems. In every generation of our family there has been a dominant male that has kept the family together and has brought it to new depths. We see that quality in you. Perhaps you will be the first to graduate college. Perhaps you will lead us to unimaginable great places. In any event, the world will be better because of you.

Your Camden experience has by far been your greatest accomplishment. We are so glad that you hold it dearly in your heart and recognize so lovingly your Camden mothers and fathers and the many friends that you will keep for life. We realize that this experience has enabled you find yourself and develop with confidence. We hope your experience at the Citadel will be equally rewarding.

We wish you God's blessing always and the strength to keep on going. "Knock and it shall be opened unto you." (Matthew 7:7) Never take for granted the gifts God gave you. Use them wisely and to please him. We will always love you, be proud of you, and stand behind you.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mom and Dad



... traveled the hard road



... climbed to the top of the peak only to see higher ones ahead