

I'm Almost There

Freshman year comes with a lot of new beginnings, first Homecoming, first football game and first pep rally, all of which are fun memories that will never be forgotten. But it didn't start the same way for junior Jesse Salinas as he began with a troubling break up that would alter his entire lifestyle.

"It all started because of a heartbreak," Salinas said. "I [would] try to find a distraction, but no distraction was good enough. Unfortunately I turned to drugs."

Salinas desperately sought attention, and the only attention he got was from the drugs he started to use. He



started to develop new habits and personalities that eventually affected his social interactions at school. His world started to fall apart as he began his depression at an early age.

"The drugs [were] a three-month thing," Salinas said. "It changed my attitude toward the coaches and the teachers [as I would] disrespect them and talk back."

Salinas said he wouldn't express sadness or happiness. All of his anger would just build up within him as he searched for an outlet to let it all out.

"I would let out the frustration that I would feel in sports, [but] some of these coaches [wouldn't] understand me," Salinas said. "The coaches don't understand that our personal problems motivate us in the field."

Salinas tried everything to clear his mind from the break up - including thoughts of suicide.

"I would sit at home thinking about what I could have [done] to better the relationship," Salinas said. "This chick was basically my everything, so I thought [if] I'm not good enough for her then I'm not good enough to set foot on the world that she lives in. I [wanted] to kill myself."

His loneliness grew into a deeper depression as his mind would process the thoughts of suicide. He was planning to go through with his decision.

"I wanted somebody to love me," Salinas said. "Maybe if I were dead I could hear one person regret not telling how they felt [about me]. I wanted to make people regret being mean to me."

As Salinas was in the act of committing suicide, he really didn't have it in him to go through with the actual attempt. It was hard for him to cope with this decision.

"I couldn't do it," Salinas said. "I called the police [to turn myself in], and I was taken to the hospital."

Even after Salinas didn't follow through, he still felt empty hearted. Until he found a solution.

"I've heard there is only one love that is ever good enough for you," Salinas said. "I guess not killing myself is because I was gonna give this love a shot, the love of Jesus."

Salinas goes through this scarring memory everyday. He gives credit to his salvation and especially for his passion toward baseball, for standing strong the way he is now.

"Baseball helps keep me away from the past," Salinas said. "I keep my mind on the game."

Story by Jeffrey Ruiz

(The full version of this story is at www.raiderecho.com)