



Love It, Learn It, Live It, Lead It!

Choo Smith Youth Empowerment's Very Own Damian Chong Qui

Young basketball talent, Damian Chong Qui, started out training with Choo Smith when he was just 5 years old. Well, he is now 15 and a freshman at McDonough High School in Baltimore County. Damian has been training with Choo for 10 years now and was nationally ranked as the number 1 point guard in the country when he was in the 8th grade.

Damian has an amazing testimony though. His mother died when he was just 3 years old. When Damian's mother tragically passed away, it was just him and his father, China. China stuck by his sons side and their relationship grew stronger and stronger. His father was heavily involved in his basketball endeavors and connected him with Choo once he saw how much Damian loved the game.

Things were going well for them until they underwent another tragic situation when Damian's father, China was shot. Damian was 12. The shooting left his father paralyzed from the waist down. These are tragedies that have the power to mentally and emotionally destroy both an adult and a child. However, this situation didn't break Damian and that had a lot to do with the strength that his father displayed after doctor's told him that he had a 6% chance of walking again.

Damian took the love that he shared for his parents and transferred that to the game that he fell in love with at the age of 5; basketball. Thanks to a strong father figure in China who never gave up and a mentor like Choo, Damian has been able to experience successes and they are far from over for him.

Not only is Damian a class act on the basketball court, but he is also an all star in the classroom. He received an \$80,000 scholarship to McDonough because of his exceptional basketball skills and academics. Due to the importance he places on his academics, his fathers support, and Choo's educational reinforcement, Damian's been able to maintain a GPA above a 3.5 average.



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Damian's a special kid. A lot of children wouldn't be able to go through some of the things he has and still been able to do well in the classroom and on the court. He is now the starting point guard for McDonough's varsity basketball team as a freshman and we are so proud of him.

With the national rankings on the way, the basketball world should beware of this talent and educators should be on the look out for this bright young man. This is just the beginning for him. Damian's testimony is living proof that the children are truly our future and that the sky is the limit for them if they simply apply themselves.

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