

2018 PLAYER HIGHLIGHT

Julien Garcia



After playing three years in Dodgers RBI at Belvedere Park, Julien Garcia's next step is a dream realized. Baseball has always been a positive outlet for Julien. Growing up across the street from the park in the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community, baseball was an accessible and safe place for Julien to be active.

When asked about how playing the sport has helped him, Julien replied,

“When I’m playing, I feel like I’m ignoring everything that’s out there. It doesn’t even come to your head.”

JULIEN HAS FOUND A TALENT AND PASSION WHEN IT COMES TO BASEBALL.

He began playing at his local park at the age of eight and realized that his talent could have an impact on his life at 12 years old. Julien credits his father as a major inspiration. “My dad would always encourage me and made me believe that I can be the best player on the field.” A standout pitcher, Julien has contributed to the Dodgers RBI Regional Senior Team in two consecutive years. However, it is bigger than baseball for Julien. “I learned to be disciplined. That has followed me in my education, it’s made me want to further my education and it’s made me a better person.” Highlighting education as a goal, Julien has successfully fulfilled his vision as not only being a great baseball player but using discipline and hard work to earn a scholarship to pitch for the Cal State Los Angeles Golden Eagles. Sharing his experience has become very important for Julien and he hopes to serve as an inspiration for youngsters in his community.

Recently on a Dodgers RBI College Tour at Cal State LA, he joined a panel to share his experience. “I’m glad to be here today because I was where you were, and if I can make it to college so can you.” He added, “Seeing that kids were motivated by me, and that a kid from the same area can be something big. It’s special, man.” To be seated amongst college coaches, faculty, trainers, doctors, and counselors as an expert is an opportunity that would not have come without the dedication and discipline that was fostered during recreational sports participation as a youth. Julien will continue to use these skills and has set new goals for himself: to pitch in the Golden Eagles’ rotation, and to maintain a 3.0 GPA.

LADF is rooting for Julien as he is currently in his freshman year at Cal State LA and hopes that more successes like Julien will be willing to engage current Dodgers RBI Players to inspire them and help make their dreams a tangible reality.