

## Hard Work and Perseverance

This is Marve Nyembo. I met Marve in the second grade shortly after he moved here from the Congo. We attended the same school ever since he moved here so I got to know him pretty well. When we were in elementary school he told us where he was from because lots of people were curious due to him being a new student, but all he would tell us is he was from the Congo. I never learned much about his past. But we never really got farther than that when it came to family history. However, 10 years later, we finally had that conversation.

Marve was six years old when he moved to the United States from the Congo with his family fled due to the violence that surrounded them. The area was plagued with war and his father ended up being attacked and was shot, right near where they lived. As his Father healed, Marve, his Mother, and his siblings had to move somewhere else for a short time so there wouldn't be any retaliation from the people who his father the first time. His father ended up recovering and then they came to the U.S. to better their lives after the trauma they went through.

Marve was soon enrolled in school and began his new life in the United States. At first, he felt very different. He was one of the only African American kids in the school and he was placed in ESL due to the language barrier. But he was a very friendly kid so he quickly gained many friends.

Marve has always been a very hard-working kid, no matter the subject. He told me the biggest difference between the Congo and the United States was school. "The only culture shock I experienced was in the school system. School is held to a very serious standard in the DRC so when I started to see kids act out and lose focus in class I was baffled. Since I could remember, school was not something that should be joked around with and that was the opposite here in the States," he says.

His work ethic is on another level. Ever since I've known Marve, he's always had the reputation for being an incredibly smart kid. When it comes to school and sports, he's been excelling ever since he started. He had never even touched an American football in the Congo, but after he started playing, his love for the game expanded and he quickly became one of the best in our school. When it comes to school, he's always tried his hardest, never taking it for granted.

In the future, Marve plans on attending Oregon State University next year and eventually ending up in the sports marketing field. He hopes to achieve these goals of his in the most honorable fashion, and always put that incredible work ethic to good use.