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AP Lang & Comp

### Ditzlete

I was at soccer practice the day before the big game against Calvert. Taking a water break after a shooting drill, we were all talking about the normal stuff: school, boys, and weekend plans. During the conversation, one freshman, Becca Ryder, seemed to have no idea what was going on. In fact, Becca never quite seemed to know what was going on. But at the Calvert game the next night, after taking a hard fall, Becca, her uniform muddy and stained, played the best game I had ever seen. She carried the whole team, playing as an outside back. And that was when I knew: Becca Ryder is a ditzlete.

We all have one in our lives whether they are our sibling, our friend, the person that sits next to us on the bus or the kid that sits in front of us in math. They are the soccer players, the football players, the basketball players, the tennis players, the cheerleaders, or the runners. They pass their classes by one percentage point--just enough to stay on the school team. Ditzletes are the people that aren't smart in school that don't have common sense, but if you put them on a field, a court or a track, they will always be at the top of the class.

You won't find a ditzlete in the library, studying for the test they will probably fail. You won't find them getting help at lunch. You won't find them in the list of names on honor roll. You won't find them in National Honors Society or any extra-curricular activity that has to do with academics. And you certainly won't find them within a ten

foot radius of any textbook unless they're using it as a goal post in a mini soccer game at lunch.

They are the people that spend every waking minute playing, watching, and talking about sports. They are the people that fail tests because they went to the pick-up football game at Dunkirk Park instead of studying. They are the people that rely solely on athletics for their shot into college. They are the people that have no clue what you're talking about when you say "factoring a polynomial equation", but if you say "blue 42 hike" they will know exactly what to do and how to do it. They are not logical; their minds are designed to comprehend sports.

Ditzletes are the stereotypical football players in movies. They are labeled stupid, or air-heads, or just plain dumb. But in reality, they are no less important than you and I. Ditzletes are dismissed as the "dumb jock" just because they are better at something else. The irony is that the same people dismissing the Ditzletes probably watch that "dumb jock" on TV every Sunday. It is assumed that you have to be smart in order to be worth something. There is truth in that assumption, but everyone is their own kind of smart. A person doesn't have to get all A's to be smart. Artists are smart because they can see things that other people can't. Musicians are smart because they can hear things that other people can't. Ditzletes are smart because they can see things on a field, a court, or a track, that no other person can. I could see that in Becca when she was playing against Calvert. Make no doubt about it: ditzletes are just as smart as the genius in your math class. Ditzletes are their own kind of genius.