

# **Autobiography of James Neathway Brown**

## **Introduction**

My name is James Neathway Brown, and I am a Year 12 graduate student in 2024 from Central Coast Sports College. I grew up in Port Macquarie, where I was born. I have two older sisters, a set of loving parents, and one crazy dog called Marley. I have played nearly every sport under the sun, but the main ones I have stuck with over the years are soccer, basketball, cricket, and mountain biking. I grew up always being told to put others in front of me, which are values that I still look up to. I am writing this autobiography because I plan to use it to reflect on my time being alive, as well as my time in Big Picture, which has been the last four years.

## **Involvement in Sports**

Throughout the years, I have played many different sports, never really excelling at any of them. With all of the sports that I have played, I have always been in the average to above-average category. The sport that I have had the most success in is soccer, having played it my whole life. While being one of the more average players on the team has its positives and negatives, some positives are that not much is expected of you, and you can use that sport as more of a social activity. However, this can also be annoying, as you may not be trusted with the ball or spend as much time playing as you thought you would. I believe playing sports my whole life has helped improve my personality, as it has shown me that to become the best in a field, you have to truly work yourself.

I have played every sport offered to me and am not afraid to try something new and put myself out of my comfort zone. Some achievements that I have earned come from multiple sports; I have played in numerous grand finals and have never won any. From awards, I have received many Coach's Awards and Players' Player awards, with one soccer season earning Best Player and another where I got Most Improved. In every sport, I have participated in mainly local tournaments, with a couple of higher tournaments in soccer and basketball. I have played in HRIS tournaments in both sports, with both schools I have attended: St. Columba Anglican School and Central Coast Sports College. Over the past two years, I have begun to take basketball more seriously and have played in various tournaments from regional to national levels.

I believe that sports have had a massive impact on my personal growth. I have learned to put others in front of me on the field and court and try my best to make sure that everybody is having a fair and fun time. I have had the pleasure of captaining many sports teams, mainly in soccer, touch football, and cricket. In these roles, I have taken a very vocal and facilitator-like

approach, ensuring that others have the ball. This pass-first mentality allows me to enjoy seeing other people succeed more than myself. I think these roles as sports captain have helped with my role as school vice-captain.

## **Hobbies, Travel, and Experiences**

Away from sports and school, I spend most of my time with friends and family, whether face-to-face or playing video games, which hold a special place in my heart. I enjoy camping and travel, even though I have done very little of it. The most memorable travel experience I've had comes from when I traveled to America with my school back in 2022. This was a two-week trip where we looked at different colleges and universities in America and how they manage sports and student life. This was my first time on a plane and leaving the country, making it a great experience, especially since I could do it with friends.

My hobbies have shaped me into a more compassionate and calm person while also teaching me the values of teamwork and cooperation. However, I have not participated in any significant competitions related to my hobbies.

## **Upbringing**

My upbringing was quite simple. I lived in a house with my whole family for the first 13 and a half years, going to the school where my dad worked with my siblings and playing with kids around my street. My father grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney, while my mother grew up on a dairy farm milking cattle in a little town called Gloucester. As far as I am concerned, my family is from Australia, and we don't have any different cultures in us.

I have three main values instilled in me: always use your manners and be polite to others, always put others in front of yourself, and always be the bigger person and walk away from a situation if needed. My upbringing has taught me many ways to make fun and not rely on forms of entertainment such as devices to have enjoyment. I've also grown to be confident in making friends, which is quite a handy life skill. I did not face significant challenges as a child; I was always healthy and did not cause trouble at school.

## **Family**

My immediate family includes my middle sister Emily, my eldest sister Maddy, and my parents, Mark and Tanya. Each family member has taught me important life lessons, such as how to deal with difficult people, patience, how to make fun, and how to handle sadness and stress. One of my favorite family stories is when one of my favorite aunts was sick with cancer, and my whole

immediate and extended family from my mother's side spent Christmas together, the first time everyone had been together in a long time. This experience taught me the importance of spending time with loved ones because you never know how much time they may have left. Another cherished memory was a six-week camping trip from Port Macquarie to Townsville when I was six. Although I don't remember much from this trip, it was the first time I spent an extended time away from home, and I loved it.

My family doesn't have many traditions, but the only one is that males in the Brown family receive the middle name "Neathway." My family has influenced my growth significantly, teaching me everything I know in life. I hope they continue to impart lessons while I am still young so I can pass on the same wisdom to my children one day.

## **Conclusion**

In this autobiography, I have covered all aspects of my time on the planet and have demonstrated how I have become who I am today. My hopes for the future are to go to university and study Media and Communications, ultimately pursuing a career in content creation, filming, and editing videos, as that is where my passions lie. My family has influenced my goals because they are very creative and have shown me how to express myself. I have already created YouTube videos about my hobbies, such as mountain biking and video games, which have further sparked my passion for content creation.

For the readers of this autobiography, I would like to quote Eliud Kipchoge, who said, "No human is limited." This quote resonates with me because it conveys that regardless of how average you may feel, you can still reach for the stars and become the best version of yourself.