



PROFILES

Destiny Ball

By Alex Perl

Destiny Ball has her own definition of success.

"To have success, you must be dedicated to an idea and have a passion for it instead of focusing on money, and you must have fun and strive for what you want to do to be a success in not only your field of work but in life," she said.

Destiny, 17, is from Oklahoma but resides in Louisville. She attends Seneca High School, where she is involved in the Diversity Core and Big Sisters. She is the secretary of her senior class. Destiny describes herself as energetic, outgoing, and non-judgmental.

She plans to attend the University of Kentucky where she wants to major in chemistry and minor in journalism. She isn't sure what she wants to do with a chemistry degree. She said she is really interested in science.

Destiny enjoys writing because she likes to get her



point across and get her feelings on paper. But that can be difficult at times, she said.

"Wording is a big issue, because it's harder to get your feelings onto paper, and also getting the public to relate to and understand your words and visualize what you're trying to say and trying to get through to the public," Destiny said.

Destiny said that her mother, Velma, is her biggest motivator. Destiny wants to make her mother proud by earning a college degree. Her mother earned a master's degree from the University of Louisville. Destiny said she wants to make sure her mother's hard work and dedication to her children do not go unrewarded.

Alex Perl

By Destiny Rose Ball

All teenagers face obstacles, from peer pressure to falling grades, but Alex Perl has endured more than that. His father died when he was 8.

Alex, his identical twin Scott and their younger brother Brandon have made it through because of his mother's motivation.

"She told us to stay positive," Alex said.

His father was coach and cheerleader as the boys played baseball and basketball. And when he died, Alex's mother took on the roles of both mom and dad.

Alex, 17, was born in Los Angeles and moved to Frankfort when he was 10 years old. He attends Frankfort High School, where he plays basketball. He plays point guard and averages 10 points a game. He's about 6 feet tall. Alex doesn't plan to play professional basketball, but he wants to pursue a career buying and selling stock.

In Los Angeles, he played shortstop and was named to an all-star team,



but he hasn't played since moving to Frankfort. He plans to go out for the team during his senior year.

He maintains better than a 3.0 grade point average. It was in his English class that his teachers noticed his writing abilities.

He enjoys writing essays. Alex isn't sure where he wants to go to college or what his major will be. But he wants to minor in journalism.

"I just like to express my feelings," he said.

Alex credits his mother, Sharon, with keeping him on the right path.

"If I really don't want to do something, she tries to motivate me to do it," Alex said. "Sometimes it gets on my nerves, but it helps me in the long run. I appreciate her. She knows what's best for me."

Banetta Stenson

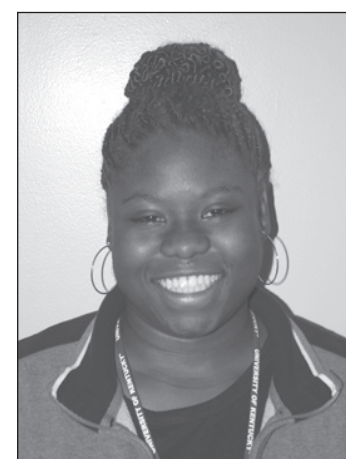
By Cyra Irving

Life is hard enough as is, but being thrown tremendous obstacles makes life even harder.

Banetta Stenson has faced and overcome obstacles that most teenagers don't face. She said these trials and tribulations have strengthened her and made her fight harder.

Banetta will be a junior at the Hughes Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Education is important to her, and a college degree is high on her list of goals. As a dedicated student she participates in many extracurricular activities, including softball and student government, where she served as a sophomore class representative. While studying hard, she tries to maintain an A/B average.

Her main reason for dreaming big and working hard is to please her mother, who has been her rock for the past 17 years. At a young age Banetta has lost two of her three brothers and her father. Because Banetta doesn't have many relatives,



she was influenced mainly by her mother and friends. Her mother has stood by Banetta, comforting and advising her.

That has convinced Banetta she wants to be a daughter her mother can be proud of.

Banetta finds a way to have an optimistic view of life in general, and the drive to never give up on her goals. Banetta said, "Faith has given me the strength to overcome the trials and tribulations I have faced."

The future is uncertain, but Banetta is determined. "I don't know exactly what I will be doing in college but I want to be the best."

Donedra Montgomery

By Asia Payne

Although she is 4 feet 9 inches tall, 17-year old Donedra Montgomery feels as though she is the tallest woman in the world.

Donedra believes that so far she has been successful. For her, success is "taking advantage of opportunities that are presented in front of you in order to achieve what you desire."

Growing up in Dayton, Ohio, she had two older brothers. She learned to participate with them in many sports -- track, basketball and even sometimes daring to play football in the backyard.

Donedra looked to her mother for the guidance and energy to focus on school. Donedra was quiet during

elementary school and did not have many friends. But when she transferred to a private middle school, she was forced to break out of her shell and make friends. She switched back to a public high school, where she will be a senior in the fall.

While attending Dunbar High School, Donedra has participated in the select ensemble. She uses this activity as practice for fulfilling her dream of becoming a professional singer. Donedra believes that singing is her outlet for releasing her everyday pressures.

The most important person in her life is God, and with this strong faith she attends church almost every day. Although there is



no choir at her church, she still sings on a regular basis at her church.

Donedra wants to attend Howard University or Ohio University. She plans to major in either journalism or music. She aspires to write for a major magazine and eventually own her own magazine. She wants to be known and remembered one day for "the positive impact her voice has had on other people around the world."

Brittany Hughes

By Tahnee Taylor

Brittany Hughes is anything but a typical high school junior. She's disciplined, creative and passionate.

"I value love the most. It's very important to me," said the 16-year-old from Independence High School in Charlotte, N.C.

She has a strong mind; her first passion is writing. Her second passion is music. Everything she does is as abstract as possible when she's in her creative mode.

She's a dreamer who takes pride in her individuality.

One of her role models is Alicia Keys, a pianist and singer. Brittany is already emulating Keys by writing her own music and playing the keyboard.

Brittany described herself as a poet and a novelist and hopes people will remember her for her words.

Being a Navy brat in North Carolina wasn't always easy, but it was always simple. As a result, family and respect are important to Brittany. She followed the rules and earned the highest grades. Because of this, her social life revolves around her grades. She is usually looked upon as "the smart kid who got straight A's."

She's a down-to-earth girl driven by dreams of success with her writing. A go-for-it-all type of person, Brittany doesn't want to look back and have regrets. The best times for her are when she's not worried about what people are saying.



"Being the eldest child taught me to be responsible and take charge of my surroundings," she explained. She has a younger brother and sister.

Brittany is writing a novel about teens. "I am destined for success," she said.

"I will have reached success when I can see all my hard work and dedication have paid off, and when there is nothing else to be done," she said.

Anya Maksymova

By Bennie Mills

From wanting to be the next singing sensation to finding her calling in the field of journalism, Anya Maksymova visits the University of Kentucky from Ukraine as a student in the Dow Jones Workshop.

Anya, 15, is a trilingual high school student who has aspirations to become an international journalist. "I look up to the idea of journalism as a public service," she said.

Although Anya is from Ukraine, her primary language is Russian. Ukraine was formerly part of the Soviet Union, and as a result, 90 percent of Ukrainians speak Russian. Furthering her linguistic skills, she was required by

the eastern Ukraine school curriculum to study English for five hours each week.

Looking back on her life's events, Anya is most proud of is her acceptance in the FSA FLEX, the foreign exchange program. She found out about the exchange program when she was 10 and worked to become a part of it.

"It was a huge blessing to be chosen for the exchange program," Anya said.

As she looks forward to the future, she sees more rigorous work as she plans to return home and join the local paper as a correspondent. Shortly afterward, she hopes to earn a scholarship to a university in Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. After college, she



sees herself as a prominent figure in the newspaper and magazine arena of Kyiv.

Anya Maksymova doesn't have to look beyond the home front for an inspirational role model. Anya, born July 15, 1989, as an only child, comes from educated parents. Anya said failure is not an option. Through hard work and a righteous mission in life, she plans to sing for democracy in three languages.

Danielle McCoy

By LaToya Harris

Danielle McCoy's dream is to be a serious journalist. Her dream is to be a well-known newscaster, eventually own a news station and become a journalism professor.

Danielle is a 16-year-old junior who lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She goes to the Hughes Center, a communication high school, where she makes good grades that improve each year. She also serves as a class representative and participates in student government.

After high school, Danielle would like to attend Ohio State University. She would like to marry and have children. At the same time she wants to start her

career in broadcasting.

Dreaming and wanting to be something is easy compared to the obstacles that you have to go through while working toward your goal. An obstacle that Danielle has to go through is coping with her teachers and her attitude. She has a lot of long-term goals but one of her short-term goals before leaving high school is to have a better attitude on things.

Her values in life are God and religion because if it weren't for him she wouldn't be here. She also values her life because she is happy to be alive every day and cherishes her life with family and friends.

Success is all that she has ever wanted. Her definition of success is



something that you earn out of life. It's not given to you; you have to earn it to get it. To have success means that you have reached your goals and are going further than you have expected to go in life.

Danielle wants to be remembered as someone who strives for what she wants, has strong feelings about becoming a serious journalist and never gives up until her goals were met.

