



Iowa America 250 Student Contest

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Essay/Poem

Prompt 2: People

Nile Kinnick and Bob Feller: Two Iowa Sports Legends

Do you know of any really awesome sports legends that came from Iowa? In this essay, I will tell you about Nile Kinnick and Bob Feller. I will tell you where they grew up, some interesting facts, and why they inspire me.

First, Nile Kinnick grew up in Adel. He was an all-state athlete in 2 different sports in two states, Nebraska and Iowa. He went out for 3 sports at the State University of Iowa that included football, baseball, and basketball. After a little while he gave up baseball and mainly tried out for football and basketball. His grandfather - Governor George Clarke - served as Governor from 1913 to 1917 which is 4 years.

Next, Bob Feller grew up in Van Meter, my hometown and graduated from high school at the same school. He learned how to pitch in his own barn which some people called the original "Field of Dreams." He attended no college because at the age of 17 he signed with the Cleveland Indians. He had some pretty cool nicknames that included "Bullet Bob", "The Heater from Van Meter" and "Rapid Robert."

These two legends inspired me to play the sports that I play today. Another reason why they inspired me to not just sit around all day and actually practice if you want to get better. One reason why they inspired me is because they helped the nation and their love for this country was truly amazing. Nile Kinnick was a U.S. Navy aviator pilot. Bob Feller left his baseball dreams to join the U.S. Navy as a gun captain. Someday I would love to follow in their footsteps in sports, and I am very happy to live in the same towns that they did. And the last reason why they inspired me is because they really lived up to their legacy and someday, I want to live up to mine.

In conclusion, their leadership and legacy are something I admire and strive to be. In this text I showed you some cool facts about Bob Feller and Nile Kinnick. And at the end of it I told you why they inspired me to do what they do.