



February 7, 2017

To: Dr. Riggle, Superintendent
Board of Education

Fr: Karen Geddeis

Re: Glenbrook Stories - February 13, 2017

MEMO

Glenbrook North senior makes miraculous recovery after severe spinal injury
Returns to his first Swimming and Diving meet since the accident for "Senior Night"

Glenbrook North High School senior Tural Erel returned to the water on Friday, February 3, to swim in his first meet since suffering a severe spinal injury in August 2016.

Tural was a member of the Central Suburban League (CSL) North Division All Conference team in 2016, and worked hard during the offseason in hopes of leading his team and qualifying for state during his senior year. Instead, Tural found himself merely hopeful that he would walk again, after suffering a debilitating injury that left him quadriplegic and resulted in surgery and hundreds of hours of physical therapy.

After a long road to recovery, assisted by family, friends, coaches and teachers, Erel is making great strides to full mobility. And yes, on Friday, Tural, surrounded by hundreds of cheering spectators and the encouragement of an entire school community, he swam the 50 freestyle - and completed it!

"Tural is a leader on the team, and his absence was felt deeply this season," said Head Swimming and Diving Coach Kirk Ziemke. "He was extremely focused and determined to make it back into the water this year - it was a goal that kept him motivated and progressing forward in his recovery."