

Student Spotlight on Jordan Whitchurch

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Nominated by: Greg McCarthy – FRC Athletic Advisor

Born and raised in the small town of Thornton, Australia, Jordan Whitchurch is currently in his second and final year at Feather River College. Pursuing an Associates Degree in Studio Arts while playing soccer for the college, Jordan has maintained a 3.8 GPA while averaging 21 units a semester. Originally drawn to Feather River College for soccer and the possibility to study exercise sports

sciences, the prospect of other fields of study quickly guided Jordan to the arts.

“Art is a big passion of mine... I never really thought of



it as a career option until I came over here,” says Jordan. Currently in the last semester of his A.A. at FRC, Jordan is yet to establish an area of specialty in the arts stating, “At the moment I’m trying to do a bit of everything, painting, drawing, 3-D and sculptures...”

When asked about his plans for the future, Jordan says that he is looking to transfer to a school that offers him the best soccer and art programs while keeping the financials in mind. As of right now, Jordan is looking at several schools all over the United States.

His inspiration for the arts comes from a natural passion that was encouraged by Professor Rafael Lopez Blanco. Jordan says, “Had I not had Rafael as an instructor, I don’t think I would

have gone down that career path.” Jordan went on to say that Professor Rafael has been a huge inspiration and continues to push and challenge him to better his art skills every day. “Every time I think that I’ve completed a work, Professor Rafael will take a look at it and give me advice,



making me take the extra steps to make sure things are fully completed.”

While talented in the art studio, Jordan also actively strives to better his skills on the soccer field. Inspired by his father to pursue soccer at a higher level, Jordan was found by FRC’s men’s soccer program. Having played soccer for almost all his life, the chance to continue to play led Jordan away from home. “Family is my main inspiration. My dad has always been my soccer idol; he’s always telling me about the things he used to do and where he used to play and I’ve always strived to accomplish those similar goals.” Jordan goes on to say that his father was his soccer coach when he was younger and continues to assist with his training when he can. “Everything that I’ve learned has been from him.”

As a freshman at Feather River, Jordan was part of the team, but quickly realized that he would have to work very hard to earn a starting position. Having played the role of the substitute in his first season for the Golden Eagles, Jordan returned home determined to refine his skills and work harder than ever before to earn a starting position. Returning to Feather River last fall, Jordan was able to show the coaches that he had earned his spot on the starting roster. Unfortunately, Jordan only played the first five games of the season before injury ended his season. The road to recovery has tough, but Jordan was able to still support his team and knows that his soccer journey is not over.

Traveling so far away from home has not been without struggles, but Jordan has a great support system. “My family is totally supportive of me; I stay in contact with them as much as I can. I keep them updated with what I’m doing.” As well as family, Jordan also has made a network of friends at the college and in the community which helped make the transition easier. While at FRC, Jordan has also participated in



several volunteer projects. One of his most memorable was the Quincy Star Follies. Jordan says, “Building a connection with people within the community has been very rewarding.”

When asked to give one piece of advice to incoming freshman, Jordan had this to say, “Don’t take things for granted; there’s so much support and help here at FRC. If you get stuck with anything like academics, there are tutors or even with athletics, there are different coaches you can go talk to, and there’s also the community. I’ve found making friends in the community to be a big help because there’s always someone outside the college who you can turn to for help. If you need help, don’t be afraid to ask and do what you want to do.” Jordan plans to graduate at the end of this semester and continue to pursue his education in the arts while playing soccer.

To see some of Jordan’s art, go check out his website at <https://beardedart.jimdo.com>.

