

Sample B - Aaron

In one throw, one scissors, one sideways peace sign, my life was forever changed. Prior to this I was just a dedicated kid, I commanded pretty decent respect throughout the different underground circuits where I had held my own, and had been preparing for the big tournament. But I had no widely acknowledged victories, and people had no idea what was coming.

I knew that the 2005 MMRHS RPS Tournament was a huge chance for me. A chance to show the school my skill, my passion, the real me. I knew this could be my opportunity to gain recognition as the best RPS competitor in the region. All I had to do was compete how I knew I was capable of, and how I knew that I should have. So I came out full-force, cakewalking my way to the quarter-finals in front of the whole MMRHS community. In the final competitions, I made my way through my opponents to the trophy, crown, M&M's, pet rock, and eternal glory that come with the title of "Champion."

After the win I was constantly being approached by paparazzi, trying to snap shots of me, and big corporations looking for me to do commercials and things of that such. I had to turn down offers from corporations such as Coca-Cola, who wanted me to endorse their new Rock-Cola, which tasted just like licking a rock (hence the name). I also had offers from New Balance and Merrill, both of whom wanted to market shoes scientifically designed to improve success in the game of – no, rather the lifestyle of – RPS with my name on them. But I had to turn down these and many other appealing offers because I needed some time to recover from all the strenuous hard work and emotional investment of the tournament, as well as from the shock of instant fame.

Once I had taken some time off and had fully recovered, it was time to get back to work. In past year I have had an intense training process to ready myself for this year's tournament. I would wake up at 4 o'clock in the morning, go downstairs, break and drink 4 raw eggs, and eat a bowl of Lucky Charms. Because although my success is due to my skill and pure talent, there is always the variable of luck, and how to better assure good luck than a bowl of Lucky Charms? So, after breakfast, I would go to my computer, and train for two hours on the World Rock Paper Scissors Organization's official online trainer (www.worldrps.com/trainer.html). At six o'clock I would set away from my computer to perform 20 reps of rock, 20 reps of paper, and 20 reps of scissors. Of course, I did all this to official World RPS cadence and at a real tempo. After doing my repetitions, I would run out and catch the bus to school. Everyday as I got on the bus I would play the bus driver in a quick best 2 of 3 series, after that I would make my way to the back of the bus where I would take on any and all challengers.

After school, I would return home, and record every throw I had seen during the day in my journal. I would then spend about an hour studying the results looking for patterns in my throws do to my subconscious mind, and to pick up on common gambits, or three throw patterns, used by my opponents. After a good hour of study, I would spend about a half hour practicing in the mirror. Practicing my form, making sure that I wasn't releasing early or giving physical clues as to what I was going to throw. After this I would spend another half hour simply practicing different looks to give my opponents. One for intimidation, one for playing dumb, one for seeming absent-minded, one for seeming not to care: I have all the looks, each specially intended to confuse and mislead my opponents. After all the day's work I would retire to bed where I would go to sleep dreaming of new gambits and combinations, new techniques, and ways to adjust my skills. Then, in the morning I would get up, and do it all over again.

This past year of training has really paid off, and I am more confident and more competent than ever. Although rumors are that due to lots of practice and a strong freshman class, this years tournament will be much more cutthroat than ever before, I pity anyone that stands between me and this year's championship.

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