What’s Next for the Vanilla Gorilla?

Jordy Kuiper, a 6’9 R-Sr. Forward from Groningen, Netherlands, was the definition of a true Spartan at UNC Greensboro. Kuiper obtained the nickname, the Vanilla Gorilla, from children coming to games dressed in vanilla gorilla costumes to support him. He excelled in the classroom, on the court, and in the community.

He obtained his bachelor’s degree in sociology at the end of his junior year. During his senior year, he had an internship with The Caroll Companies, a real estate and construction company in Greensboro, as their social media and marketing director.

Kuiper has had type 1 diabetes his entire life. Yet, he never let it hold him back from becoming the great individual that he is. In high school, he was an Ambassador for the Bas van de Goor Foundation, whose mission is to improve the quality of life of people with diabetes through exercise. Throughout his entire life, he has used his personal experience with diabetes to inspire people that having diabetes does not mean that you unable to obtain your dreams. Currently, he does public speaking and mentors children with type 1 diabetes. Kuiper stated that he, “communicates with children through social media almost every day”.

Not only did Kuiper have to deal with diabetes, but injuries held him back as well. During his sophomore year, he missed the last nine games of the season due to a broken wrist. In his junior year, he played in eight games before suffering a season-ending knee injury. However, for his redshirt junior and senior year, nothing held him back from being a great asset for the Spartans. As a two-year captain of the UNC Greensboro Basketball team, he led the Spartans to raising banners in their arena. He is a two time SoCon Regular Season Champion, 2018 SoCon Tournament Champion, and played in postseason for two consecutive years (NIT and NCAA Tournament).

For his senior season, the Vanilla Gorilla ranked 14th in the SoCon in offensive rebounds. He started in every game, averaging 27.1 minutes per game, 7.1 points per game, 35% three-point field goal percentage, and 40% field goal percentage. But Jordy’s value is not shown in the stat sheet. His utmost confidence in himself and his teammates, communication skills, defensive intensity, exceptional leadership, and relationship with the fans are things that professional teams should look at and appreciate him for.

On May 3, 2018, Inception Sports, a global, full-service sports agency and marketing company, announced that they welcomed Kuiper to their family. Inception Sports has helped players get signed to teams overseas and in the NBA.