I didn’t know I could do that. I still get butterflies in my stomach when I do a big presentation, but now I speak for up to an hour and people pay me to speak.” — Isaac Baldry

By Don Cegger

It was a scene even the scribes at Disney couldn’t have written better.

Limping into the Eastern A Basketball Tournament in Billings with an anemic 3-15 regular-season record, the seventh-seeded Custer County District High School Cowboys weren’t expected to make much of a stir.

Their first-round opponent, the third-seeded Sidney, Mont., Eagles, sported a 15-3 record and a lot of confidence. Not many gave the Cowboys a fighting chance.

Sitting in his customary press-court side, the Cowboys and Gogol’s most loyal fan, a young man who knows a thing or two about overcoming adversity in order to accomplish great things, wasn’t feeling very optimistic either.

“I didn’t think they would win,” said Isaac Baldry, himself a recent graduate of CCDHS.

But every now and then, the underdog exceeds expectations, reminding everyone not to count out a team before the game is played. They just might surprise you. The same can be applied to individuals.

And much to Baldry’s delight, as goodwill ambassador to all things CCDHS sports, that’s exactly what happened.

Isaac Baldry, athlete

Upon meeting Isaac for the first time, one thing becomes clear from the outset: the 21-year-old Miles City resident is a sports nut. He’s a fixture at CCDHS football, basketball and volleyball games, as well as baseball in the summer.

And chances are, the first thing he shares with you after introductions is his devotion to the Montana Grizzlies.

Photos by Steve Allison
LOW TECH;
OFF THE SHELF
CREATIVE USE
HIGH TECH
Access For All
The problem is not the person's disability...

The problem is society's view of the person's abilities.
LIVE, WORK, PLAY
TOOLS TO ASSIST

THERESA BALDRY
PROJECT COORDINATOR
THE RURAL INSTITUTE TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT PROJECTS
PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER
RURAL INSTITUTE FOR INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES
WHAT IS AT?

• Assistive Technology Device
  • is any piece of equipment or device that enables a person with a disability to have greater independence, productivity and confidence in their home, at work, at school or in the community

• Assistive Technology Service
  • any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device
SETT = USE A PROCESS TO INCREASE SUCCESS

- **Student/Self**
  - WHO?- The strengths/needs of the person
    - What are they doing now, and how?
  - WHERE?- One place or does it change?
  - WHAT? – Activities or steps to be completed. Barriers?
  - HOW? – Using feature match, based on strengths, things to try

- **Environment**
- **Tasks**
- **Tools**

AND LASTLY...

Least Complex Solution to Achieve Desired Outcome
Keep it Simple for Success

Joy Zabala – SETT Framework
http://www.joyzabala.com/
PLEASE CONSIDER CHANGE:

**CHANGE**

*Change is the essence of life. Be willing to surrender what you are, for what you could become.*

**WINDS OF CHANGE**

Change can bring exciting new opportunities; however, it can also destroy all you hold dear.
Task:

• Time Clock

• Options based upon Strengths and Needs

List- app(Notes) or 3x5 card, laminate?

Size for viewing or carrying

Video
Step by Step. Audio support, computer or person; Visual support, actual or symbol? (Pictello)

Reminder? Alarm?
More than once during the day— is a schedule needed— visual? Timer?
Choiceworks; First Then Visual HD

You will need your name tag to check in at work.

On the back is your bar code. Make sure this is the side you can see when you use the time clock.
ARE TOOLS/SKILL PORTABLE?
What Technology do they currently use?

Could an additional support be added to a known tool?

Consider comfort of already successful tool, platform.

Are there Built-ins?

Accessibility- speech to text, read aloud, word prediction

Alarm, Siri, Camera, FaceTime, Calendar, Reminder
FTVS HD

Saturday chores

- Feed the dog
- Empty Trash
- Sweep
- Empty the dishwasher
- Mop

QRAFTER

Security Management Tips
How to Mitigate Garthor’s Network Security Worst Practices?
FINAL THOUGHTS:

• AT Service- Can the person overseeing the use of a tool, use the tool? Set up use for success and then build. Consider changes in environment.

• Customize: Make it theirs; Wallpaper, Folders? Addresses? Notifications?

• AT is an ongoing process. Skills, Needs, Barriers, Environments, All Change

• AT can promote independence and functionality in school, moving to home, employment, community, and recreation.
FUNDING AT DEVICES

Julie Doerner
Clinical Coordinator
Montana Assistive Technology Program
BUILDING THE BRIDGE BETWEEN THE RIGHT DEVICE AND THE USER – ACCESS AND OBTAINING AT
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizations like MATP! Lions Foundation, etc.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Insurance Options – Medical necessity</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fed &amp; State Programs- VR, Medicaid Waiver, etc. Mostly grants.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Special Education- must have IEP/504</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Advocacy Groups</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>State VR Centers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Veterans Admin.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Employer – may need to provide education about AT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarships</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising Activities – razoo.com, kickstarter, gofundme…</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other Private Pay Options – Brondum Foundation, private lenders, manufacturers</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Grants –Dept. of Ed. And Office of Educational Technology</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Requests for Proposals</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Additional Funding Resources – Manufacturers, Worker’s comp…</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Any Other Ideas?</strong></td>
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</table>
MONTECH’S FINANCIAL LOAN PROGRAM

1-800-823-1323

RDI Community Lending offers Montana Access Loans providing Montanans with disabilities, or their family members, the ability to purchase assistive technology (AT), for a variety of needs.

RDI Community Lending, among many of their ongoing programs, is also a CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) which allows them to make loans. MonTECH and RDI Community Lending have partnered to create the Montana Access Loan program in such a way that allows persons with disabilities to get loans when a normal financial institution would not approve their loan.

- The following are eligible to apply for a MATL loan:
  - Any Montanan with a disability
  - A family member or guardian borrowing on behalf of a Montanan with a disability
  - An active member of the United States military stationed in Montana
I’ve never received a loan before, so I have no credit history. Will this affect my ability to get a loan?

No. The Loan Review committee will review the entire story of an applicant to determine whether they will be able to pay back the loan. Individuals without a credit history may be encouraged to participate in a credit counseling session and set up a budget plan prior to a decision on their loan application.
WHERE THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY!

• Any questions?
• Feel free to contact myself or others here at MonTECH for help with your AT needs; equipment demonstrations, equipment loans, training/consultations/evaluations, and financial loan program assistance.
• 406-243-5751 or 877-243-5511
QUESTIONS?
THIS PROJECT IS FUNDED IN WHOLE OR IN PART UNDER A CONTRACT WITH THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES. THE STATEMENTS HEREIN DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OPINION OF THE DEPARTMENT.