

AVID Article of the Week

Paralympic Star Makes History on NBA Stage

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: COMPLETE ALL QUESTIONS AND MARGIN NOTES using the **CLOSE** reading strategies practiced in class. This requires reading of the article at **least two (2) times**.

Step 1: Skim the article using these symbols as you read:

(+) agree, (-) disagree, (*) important, (!) surprising, (?) wondering

Step 2: Number the paragraphs. **Read** the article **carefully** and **make notes in the margin**.

Notes should include:

- Comments that show that you **understand** the article. (A summary or statement of the main idea of important sections may serve this purpose.)
- Questions you have that show what you are **wondering** about as you read.
- Notes that differentiate between **fact** and **opinion**.

Step 3: A final quick read noting anything you may have missed during the first two reads.

Your **margin notes** are part of your score for this assignment. Answer the questions carefully in **complete sentences** unless otherwise instructed.



Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

Paralympic Star Makes History on NBA Stage

Blake Leeper is not your average NBA All-Star player. He may dribble and shoot just like Kevin Hart and Nick Cannon, but he was the only disabled player on the court at the 2015 NBA All-Star

AVID Article of the Week

Paralympic Star Makes History on NBA Stage

Celebrity Game, and is now the first Paralympic athlete to ever participate.

The 25-year-old was born without either of his legs and was told he would never walk. Now, after winning two medals in the 2012 Paralympic Games in track and field, he made it to Madison Square Garden as the first disabled and double-amputee to play on an NBA court.

"I'm glad I'm able to carry that torch, to show the world what we can do," Leeper said. "A lot of people see me, they see my disability and they are impressed by me just walking. I can show the world something they have never seen before, a guy with no legs playing standup basketball."

The Paralympian said he owes his fiery ambition to his parents, who told him at a young age his disability did not define him.

Leeper started using prosthetic legs when he was less than a year old and dabbled in baseball and basketball throughout his childhood. But, it wasn't until he was at the University of Tennessee and he saw his first Paralympic race that he discovered his biggest aspiration.

"Right then and there, I decided that's what I wanted to do," he said. "I had never run a day in my life, I didn't know how I was going to do it, but in my heart I truly believed that I could."

After two years of failed efforts, Leeper was finally contacted by the Challenged Athletes Foundation and given the legs he needed to run the race. Soon, he would win his first medal in London as a Paralympic athlete.

Now, he is brushing elbows with professional athletes and celebrities, being interviewed by the media, and living out his dreams despite all obstacles.

For those experiencing similar challenges, Leeper has some advice: "The only true disability in life is a bad attitude."

Notes on my thoughts, reactions and questions as I read:

AVID Article of the Week

Paralympic Star Makes History on NBA Stage

Comprehension questions – answers may be in phrases.

1. *What reason does Leeper give for not having legs?*
2. *What is an NBA All-Star Celebrity Game?*
3. *At what age did Leeper receive his first pair of prosthetic legs?*

Answer each question in one or more complete sentences.

4. *Explain this phrase: "Leeper was ...given the legs he needed to run the race."*
5. *Describe the point in Leeper's life when he decided to become a runner.*

AVID Article of the Week

Paralympic Star Makes History on NBA Stage

6. Using bullet points, cite four pieces of evidence from either the text or the video that support the idea that an individual can do anything he or she puts his or her mind to despite having a disability.

7. “The only true disability in life is a bad attitude.” Leeper mentions this quote at the end of the text. In a well-developed paragraph, explain why some people are able to “make lemonade when given lemons” while others give up on life. In particular, why was Leeper able to maintain such a positive attitude throughout his life? Cite at minimum of two pieces of evidence from the text and/or video to support your claim.