

- Daniel Decker: [00:02](#) Welcome to Jon Gordon's Positive University Podcast. My name is Daniel Decker, I'm the cohost of Positive U, and on this episode Jon talks with Austin Hatch. Austin has the rare distinction of being someone who has survived two plane crashes and the odds of this happening are almost unimaginable. Yet as miraculous as this is, the doctors believe it was even more miraculous that Austin not only walked again, but graduated high school, attended Michigan, and joined the basketball team. His story is amazing, but even more powerful is his perspective on life after surviving the crashes which took the lives of his mom, dad, brother, and sister. You'll definitely be encouraged by what Austin has to share. And if you want to develop a more positive perspective in your own life, check out this episode's free resource. It's The Power of a Positive You Seven Step Action Plan. It's a simple plan to help you make positive changes in your life and to get results by taking zoom focused actions. You can download it for free at [jongordon.com/plan](http://jongordon.com/plan). That's J-O-N gordon.com/plan. Now let's join Jon and Austin.
- Jon Gordon: [01:12](#) Hey, I'm Jon Gordon with Positive University and today my guest is Austin Hatch. Austin, how are you doing?
- Austin Hatch: [01:18](#) Doing great Jon, how about yourself?
- Jon Gordon: [01:20](#) Doing really well. Well Austin, a lot of people know your story, they've seen your story on ESPN, but a lot of people may not know about it. Why don't you take us back and just tell us a little bit about yourself, your story, and what brought you to this moment of where you are now?
- Austin Hatch: [01:39](#) I was born to an incredible family, but you know, tragically, my mom, my sister, my brother passed away when our small plane crashed, and my dad was remarried and then eight years later, eight years after the first one, we actually were involved in another plane crash shortly after I accepted a scholarship to play in Michigan. I want to be known for more than that though, you know?
- Jon Gordon: [02:08](#) Of course. How old were you when the first plane crashed?
- Austin Hatch: [02:13](#) I was eight years old, almost nine, and then the second one, I was 16. I committed to Michigan and then nine days later I was involved in an accident that nearly took my life so I'm blessed to be here.

Jon Gordon: [02:25](#) So two plane crashes, you're one of the few people on the planet to survive two plane crashes. What are the odds of that? I remember you told me one time what the odds of that are.

Austin Hatch: [02:36](#) Yeah. The odds of surviving one plane crash with one fatality involved, of course this is according to an MIT statistician, maybe not quite a University of Michigan statistician, but MIT is pretty good I guess, he says the odds of surviving a plane crash with one fatality involved is one in 3.4 million, so that's pretty slim. Tragically, and unfortunately, I survived two of those, those odds are 1 in 11 quadrillion 560 trillion. So pretty slim.

Jon Gordon: [03:09](#) One in 11 quadrillion.

Austin Hatch: [03:11](#) Yeah, it's a 14 digit number.

Jon Gordon: [03:14](#) Wow.

Austin Hatch: [03:14](#) Yeah.

Jon Gordon: [03:15](#) So, you survived this first plane crash and unfortunately your mom and your sister passed away, so it was you and your dad. And did he ever dream of you playing basketball at Michigan?

Austin Hatch: [03:29](#) Yeah. My mom went to Michigan and my dad did research at Michigan before going to medical school, Wake Forest. Both my grandpas went to Michigan, and yeah, so Michigan's been in my family for years, decades. And ironically so, it's a small world, my wife's Abby, her grandpa went to Michigan as well. And actually, 53 years ago he lived with my grandpa at Michigan. They lived in the same house, which is crazy. So small world, small world, and it's a special Michigan connection we have.

Jon Gordon: [04:08](#) I just got goosebumps. So your wife, her grandfather, and your grandfather were friends and lived in the same house?

Austin Hatch: [04:15](#) Yeah. And so my wife played volleyball in Michigan and my grandparents came to see Abby play and Abby's grandparents live in Ann Arbor, so they were at every game. And so my grandpa and Abby's grandpa saw each other for the first time in whatever it was, in 53 years, and just connected, hit it off like it was yesterday.

Jon Gordon: [04:37](#) That is amazing. Well your life is miraculous and I know that you just keep on having more and more miracles come your way. You survived this first plane crash and then it was you and your dad and then he wanted you to go to Michigan and that was a

dream and you were a really good basketball player. Just talk about, I mean, how good you are. I know you're modest, but how good you were, who you were recruited by, and why you chose to go to Michigan.

Austin Hatch: [05:03](#) I don't know. I mean, I was okay. I could shoot a little bit. I was slow, unathletic. I'd like to think I was pretty tough though. Kind of scrappy if you will. Took charge, did the little things that guys like me, the unathletic guys like me, have to do to be good. Yeah. So, I don't know. I mean, so when it came down to it, the last three were Michigan, Notre Dame, and University of Virginia. So those were the three. And fortunately, you know, when Michigan called and offered, it was in my family, I couldn't turn them down.

Jon Gordon: [05:39](#) Was that like a dream come true? Just getting that offer from Michigan?

Austin Hatch: [05:44](#) Oh yeah, yeah. I remember the call like it was yesterday. I accepted the offer and coach asked me if I wanted to sleep on it and talk to my family and I said no because we'd already talked about it for years. And my dad and I agreed that if the offer ever came, it was a done deal. Especially when we got to know Coach Beilein, he's one of the greatest men I've ever met in my life.

Jon Gordon: [06:09](#) He is amazing. I really, really admire him a lot as a leader and just as a man and incredible coach. And so you now have this offer for Michigan, Notre Dame, and UVA. I think you were pretty good Austin. I knew you were humble and modest to get those offers, but so now after signing for nine days, you then you get then got into a another plane crash. Unfortunately your dad passed away, you survived it. Talk about the recovery, the injuries you experienced, and what you had to overcome.

Austin Hatch: [06:41](#) Yeah. In the first accident I was burnt really bad on my arms and hands, but the real pain was the emotional pain, right? Losing my mom and siblings when I was so young. And then the second one, obviously there was emotional pain there as well. I never thought that it could happen again, but tragically it did, and the real recovery was from my physical injuries, the traumatic brain injury, the punctured lungs, broken ribs, broken clavicles, a long list of stuff. I probably couldn't even tell you everything, but there's a long list. I was in a coma for a couple months, my body needed that to heal and stuff.

When I came out of the coma, it was the same way that you go into halftime down 10. You get a bad break at the end of the

first half, you don't just give up at halftime you still got [inaudible 00:07:37] to play, right? And that's kind of how I viewed it. I just got a bad break at the end of the first half or a bad break at the end of the first quarter, whatever you want to say, and I was going to come back out in the second half or second quarter with a new kind of fire and new kind of energy.

Jon Gordon: [07:52](#)

How long were you in the hospital for, recovering?

Austin Hatch: [07:56](#)

Let's see. Well, I was in a coma from end of June until end of August, and then I was in the hospital. So my test to be discharged from the hospital, I had to be able to walk up and down a flight of stairs by myself because my bedroom was upstairs at home. And so I had to be able to walk up and down a flight of stairs obviously to be discharged. I got discharged October 8th, 2011 and then when I got home, the real work began.

Jon Gordon: [08:26](#)

How old were you at the time when this plane crash happened?

Austin Hatch: [08:30](#)

The second one, I was 16. Yeah, 16.

Jon Gordon: [08:34](#)

16. So you still had about two years before you were planning to go to college, right?

Austin Hatch: [08:40](#)

Yeah, but because of the accident I missed a year of school, so that sent me back a year, which at the time was, you know, I didn't want to wait an extra year to get to Michigan, but in hindsight, it was a smart thing to do to make sure I was really ready for the academics and have another year of recovery under my belt.

Jon Gordon: [09:01](#)

Did they think you would ever walk again?

Austin Hatch: [09:07](#)

They said I might, I don't know if they ... They obviously hoped I would, but they told my family when I was in a coma, they said I might never walk, might never talk, might be in a wheelchair the rest of my life, tragically that was the case. But fortunately with great doctors, great nurses, great therapists, great support system, people across the [inaudible 00:09:28] that I'll never meet, those people are on the team too. And I think that's the biggest thing is we can't do it alone. You can't overcome anything alone. We got to have a great team around us and got to surround ourselves with people who push us to be the best we can be.

Jon Gordon: [09:43](#) I love that. I remember watching this on TV and watching your story unfold and they had video of you and you were really in bad shape. You really couldn't even walk and you could tell that your body was really physically injured. And then several years later though, you wind up going to Michigan and you wind up going onto the basketball team. Talk about that.

Austin Hatch: [10:06](#) Yeah. Well, just a testament to the kind of man coach Beilein is. I committed to Michigan nine days before that second accident happened and I was no longer able to fulfill my side of the commitment. I like to think of commitment is a two way deal, right? It's a two way street. Coach gives the player an offer, but then the offer's got to fill his side of the bargain too. And obviously, you know, mine were unique circumstances, so coach obviously expects every player that he offers a scholarship, he expects them to fulfill their side of the commitment too, and obviously, my unique circumstances, I didn't really have control over that.

But it tells you a lot about him because how easy is it to commit things and how easy is it to stay true to what we said we would do when we get what we thought we were going to get, right? And despite the change in circumstances, his word, he never thought twice about it. It probably would been easy to get someone who could have helped us on the court, and I'd like to think I help my teammates on the court by encouraging them and working hard and practicing, them seeing me giving it everything I had and maybe that was motivating. I hope it was. But yeah, it's just a test of the kind of man coach Beilein is for sure.

Jon Gordon: [11:22](#) What'd you learn about yourself and about leadership when you really couldn't play like you used to, but yet you were still a leader on the court and in practice and in the locker room? What'd you learn about that?

Austin Hatch: [11:34](#) Well, I think we can all take it upon ourselves, Jon, I think we can all take it upon ourselves to be leaders by example. You don't have to be Mo Wagner or Caris LeVert, two of the best players on Michigan when I was at Michigan, you don't have to be the star of the team to be a star in your role, right? And so on road trips we would travel to go play Wisconsin or Indiana or [inaudible 00:12:00] Arizona, UCLA, and I actually went on a trip to Italy my freshman year and got to go to Rome, which was really cool, go to The Bahamas.

But the bags didn't go from the gym to the bus, from the bus to the plane, and the plane to the hotel, they didn't just magically appear there. So since I couldn't help the team on the court, I took it upon myself to be one of the best unloaders of luggage in the history of college basketball. And you know what, if that's how it helped the team, it's how it helped the team, right? And if I could unload those bags a little bit better, maybe that would help by my teammates fill their roles a little bit better too.

Jon Gordon: [12:40](#) What a great attitude. I love that. Did you ever wonder what if? Like what if I didn't get injured? What if I could have actually went to Michigan and played with the full talent that I had and the full health that I had? Have you often thought about that?

Austin Hatch: [12:55](#) I mean, yeah, those thoughts have obviously crossed my mind, rightfully so. But you know what? I mean, I don't think it does a whole lot of good. It's not really the best use of time to sit and wonder like, "Why did this happen to me? What if it didn't happen?" Maybe I would've had a good career at Michigan, I'd like to think I would have, maybe there would have been a chance to play after college. I have no idea. But you know, I'm just embracing the present, and I did everything I could to make the most of my time at Michigan despite the less than ideal circumstances.

Jon Gordon: [13:28](#) So you were an amazing leader on the court, off the court, in the locker room with your team. I know that you inspired them and now you give a lot of talks around the country. You are an incredible speaker. You've done a lot of great work in that regard. You actually started in high school. Talk about how you got started actually giving motivational talks.

Austin Hatch: [13:47](#) Yeah. Well, I feel that I've been blessed to have a platform and a message that I can use to help other people. And I think that to whom much has been given, much is expected, right? And obviously I've lost a tremendous amount and I'm of course not diminishing the loss of my family by any means, but I think at the same time, the glass is half empty, it's also half full, right? And yeah, so I feel that I have a unique situation and I can share things from a unique perspective that not many people can. And I feel responsible to use that as a tool to help other people. And yeah, so I talk about overcoming adversity and perseverance and focusing on the process and things like that and all the good ... similar to where you talk about being a good teammate and all that kind of thing. So yeah, I feel blessed to have had some experiences that are giving me a platform upon which I can provide some value to other people.

Jon Gordon: [14:47](#) What do you love about that? What do you love about speaking? Why do you love doing this?

Austin Hatch: [14:53](#) I feel that part of the reason I'm still here is to use what I've been through to help others. And you know, I think that if maybe if I go speak to a crowd of, I don't know, maybe if there's a couple hundred people there, if one person out of that group, however many there is, a couple hundred, 500, 1000, whatever, if one person walks away thinking a little bit different about challenges, thinks a little bit different about how we may not control our circumstances but we always control how we respond to them, and if someone can take one thing I say away and then use it in their life when they face adversity of their own, I feel like I've done my job.

It'd be awesome if I could follow up with the company like a month later and say, "Hey, so have all you guys taken everything that I said and applied it to your daily lives because I think that everything I say should be adopted by you all immediately." Of course it'd be great to hear that. But I mean, I think just one person for me, if I can impact one person. I think I remember seeing something about you. One of first, the first ...

Everything good?

Jon Gordon: [16:08](#) Yeah, everything's good. Yeah. I got some ADT people here doing some security work and they're in my attic, and I'm thinking like someone's going to fall through the roof, right.

Austin Hatch: [16:16](#) Okay, okay.

Jon Gordon: [16:21](#) But go ahead. Keep going Austin, it was awesome what're you going to say.

Austin Hatch: [16:24](#) Yeah, yeah, I was going to say, I remember, you were just getting into this, and you're at a conference in like the Pocono mountains or somewhere in Pennsylvania, I think.

Jon Gordon: [16:39](#) Yeah.

Austin Hatch: [16:40](#) And you said you were expecting a couple hundred people there-

Jon Gordon: [16:43](#) And six showed up.

Austin Hatch: [16:44](#) ... and six showed up. And then you said, you know what you talked about, "To inspire as many people as possible, one person at a time," right? And you said, "Make the most of the people that are right in front of you." So that's what I try to do. When I go speak to, whether the audience is 50, 100, however many, I just try to make the most of that opportunity and really try to bloom where I'm planted, if you know what I mean.

Jon Gordon: [17:09](#) I love that. Yeah, I remember you told me, because I told you you were a miracle, and you said, "I'm only a miracle if I'm a miracle to others." And I loved when you said that because you really are about serving others, making an impact. You know you're here for a reason, that 11 quadrillion to whatever, to one, reason, surviving two plane crashes. I mean, do you walk around feeling in some ways invincible based on what you've been through or just more passionate and purposeful knowing that you're not here by accident, you're here for a purpose.

Austin Hatch: [17:49](#) Yeah, well, I think, Jon, I think we're all here for a purpose, right? And I believe that you don't have to go through something like what I did to know that. And I think God has a plan for all of us. But yeah, the odds of me being here, maybe the odds are slim, you wouldn't bet on that in Vegas, but to me that just speaks to the power of God, right? I mean, I don't think that I'm here by accident. None of us are here by accident, I don't think. But for me it just really makes me kind of take a look in the mirror and just really remember, and just be very appreciative and grateful for all that I'm still blessed with.

And yeah, there's one way of looking at it, like I said a few minutes ago how if the glass is half empty it's also half full. You know, I've lost a lot, I've been through a lot, and of course that, but I focus more on what I'm still blessed to have and I think that's just a decision we can all make to focus on all the positives or focus on the negatives, right?

Jon Gordon: [18:48](#) What'd you learn about yourself when you overcame that second crash and you were in the hospital and having to recover and all that physical work you had to do to get back? What did you learn about yourself? What lessons can you share with others?

Austin Hatch: [19:01](#) Yeah, well I was working to be the best basketball player I could be before I got hurt, right? I was getting up early, going to lift weights before school, going to a full day of classes, and then going to work on my skills, after school practice, what have you, and then this happened and so basketball was a challenge. The



challenge was to become the best I could be at basketball, right? Was to get better. The challenge when I was playing basketball was to get better every single day. And when this happened, I couldn't control my circumstances, but I knew I could control how I respond.

And I just tried to get a little bit better every single day. Just do something or a few things to get a little bit better every single day, whether that's walking around the hospital floor one extra time just to get a little bit closer to the goal. Or maybe that's working out 10 minutes extra or maybe that's studying for that exam an extra 10 or 15 or 20 minutes, right? Just taking little steps to get a little bit better every single day. Rome wasn't built in a day, right? We all know that. And I think it's when we can take little steps in the right direction that's more effective than trying to take massive steps.

Jon Gordon: [20:14](#) How did you meet your wife?

Austin Hatch: [20:17](#) Yeah, well her story of how we met will probably be a little different than how my story goes. She walked in late to Poli Sci 101 at Michigan and I had a seat next to me, and I saw, "Oh she's pretty," I kind of flagged her down and yeah, she came and sat next to me, we really hit it off and [inaudible 00:20:40]-

Jon Gordon: [20:41](#) [inaudible 00:20:40], you just waved to her and said, "Hey, come sit here?"

Austin Hatch: [20:44](#) She walked in, she was looking for a seat, because she walked in 20 minutes late and the professor was kind of looking at her like, "Don't interrupt the class." She walked in the front of the room. She thought she was going to walk in the back of the room, but she walked in the front. And so I was just trying to help her, trying to be a good teammate, right? Yeah. So I flagged her down and she came and sat next to me and we hit it off and yeah, two and a half years later I proposed and she said yes, and now we've been married almost a year already.

Jon Gordon: [21:18](#) How's that going?

Austin Hatch: [21:19](#) It's great. It's great. She's amazing. She makes me better and I like to think we push each other to get better. She played volleyball in Michigan so we both kind of have the athlete mindset a little bit. When we commit to things, we commit to working out, you know, at 5:30, 6:00 AM, one of us gets up, the other one's got to get up too, right? If we commit to it the night before, we may not feel like it in the morning, but commitment

is staying true to what you said you would do even after the mood you said it in has left, right? Even after your circumstances change. You're feeling a little tired, you could use an extra hour's sleep, but if you said you're going to work out, I told her I was going to work out, I owe it to her to be the leader of the family and work out, right?

Jon Gordon: [22:03](#) What are you excited about going forward?

Austin Hatch: [22:07](#) Well, we have a puppy, he just turned one, good practice, right? Love that. And hopefully that's preparing us for whatever God blesses us with in the future. We'd love to have a family of our own someday and I can't wait to be a father. I was best friends with my dad, we were like brothers almost, maybe because of what we went through in 2003, but also just after that we were just so close. We did everything together and I can't wait to be on the other side of that and lead our family and lead our son, show our boys what it looks like to be a good husband and a good father. And yeah, I'm just excited, just very excited.

Jon Gordon: [22:54](#) I lost my mom and my dad when I was older, not at your age, but I think about them all the time. I'm sure you think about your parents quite a bit. Do you feel like they're around you? Do you feel like they're watching you? Do you feel like they're with you?

Austin Hatch: [23:06](#) Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely I do. And I believe that they're gone, but they're still with us and I firmly believe we're going to see them again someday. And I can't wait for whenever that day comes. Hopefully it's in 70 years, but I look forward to the reunion and seeing my dad there and my mom and just seeing my dad, giving him a big hug, and just hearing that he's proud of me. And I'm sure your parents will do the same thing.

Jon Gordon: [23:44](#) Do you live in such a way that you want to make them proud?

Austin Hatch: [23:47](#) Every day. I try to. I'm sure there are things, some things, that I do that don't make them proud and there are things that I do and never hear that didn't make them proud, but you know what, that's part of being human, right? But I try to, every day, every interaction, how I treat people, how I approach my work, how I go about loving my wife and someday our family. I think we have the opportunity to honor our loved ones every day by every interaction we have. I take pride in that and I do my very best to honor them with everything I do.

Jon Gordon: [24:20](#) Were your grandparents still alive when this happened?

Austin Hatch: [24:23](#) Yup. Yup. They all four were, and since then my dad's mom has tragically passed away. His dad is still around. He was the CIO of like five big companies, right, and he's 80 years old now and he's the headmaster of the Catholic High School in Petoskey, Michigan. Just because that's what he wants to do, right? And he's staying busy and my other grandparents are doing great as well.

Jon Gordon: [24:55](#) So you probably have a very close relationship with them.

Austin Hatch: [24:58](#) Yeah. Yeah. Very close. Very close. And yeah, my whole family's amazing. I'm truly blessed to have the amazing family that I do. And yeah, as I said before, I've lost a lot, but I try to focus more on what I'm still blessed to have, and my amazing wife, my amazing family, her amazing family, so yeah, you know, life's good. Life's good, Jon.

Jon Gordon: [25:22](#) I love the way you always really are focused on the positive and you are looking forward and creating the future. What would you say to people who live their lives in the past and are always thinking about what if's and what could be's and they basically struggle to create their future because they're stuck where they are because they're always thinking about the wrongs of the past.

Austin Hatch: [25:46](#) Yeah. Well, I mean, of course I'm in no place to tell people that they shouldn't think that way and shouldn't think about their past, think about things that have happened, I of course do as well. But creating the future you want is not in the past, right? You got to look forward and we can't control our past. We obviously can't control our circumstances but we can always control how we respond. We can always control, you know, in basketball, Coach Beilein always talked about two things. We can always control our attitude and our work ethic, and I think the same is true in life.

Obviously we're all going to experience adversity, I hope and pray that no one seeing this is going through anything super, super tragic or super traumatic, but for those who have, for anyone for that matter, I think we just need to make the decision to be resilient, to make the decision to focus more on our response to the adversity rather than focus on the adversity itself because you can't do anything about the adversity. It's part of life, but we can always focus on creating the future that we dream of.

Jon Gordon: [26:55](#) Awesome. What do you dream about the future? I asked you what what you're excited about and talked about your family, what about your career? What about the impact you want to make in the world? You often think about that future and what does that look like?

Austin Hatch: [27:08](#) Yeah, I mean, I do. I do think about that. And of course, I'd love to be in a position where I can do this more, where I can provide more value for people, inspiration, motivation, what have you. But you know, at this point Jon, I'm doing that as much as I can, whenever there's interest by anyone, you know, I don't say no to anything. And fortunately I work for a great company. My boss here at Domino's is willing to let me go speak. He kind of gets that this is kind of part of my calling and part of my bigger purpose. But I'm just trying to bloom where I'm planted. I don't have the executive level position yet, or maybe it's yet, but you know what, like I said with the basketball team, if I can unload those bags a little bit better, if I can rebound for the guys in practice, play defense on them a little bit better, then maybe it'll help them fill their roles in the games a little bit better.

If I can do my roles here, if I can find opportunities for us to open new stores or if I can fill my role on the team a little bit better, maybe it'll help the other more senior leaders of the team fill their roles a little bit better too.

Jon Gordon: [28:26](#) That's awesome. So last thing, this is Positive University. Positive University. So people are listening, they might be struggling, they might be facing a challenge. What would you tell them in the midst of their challenge they're going through right now? What would you tell a young person like you, maybe they're 15, 16 years old and facing a lot of struggles, a lot of fear, a lot of doubt? Give them some inspiration right now if you can, Austin, and just some words of encouragement.

Austin Hatch: [28:53](#) Yeah, well like I said before, Jon, we're all going to face struggles, we're all going to have our challenges, and we're all going to have our adversity, but I think we can use adversity as an opportunity. We can use it as an opportunity to learn and get better and you can use adversity as an opportunity to grow too because the adversity we face today, unfortunately, it's probably not the last adversity that we're ever going to face, so why don't we use the adversity we're facing today to learn things that'll help us thrive in the midst of the adversity we'll face tomorrow or next year, whatever. There is the whole surviving versus thriving deal, and I don't focus on surviving. I don't try to survive, I don't just try to get by. I think the goal

should be to thrive in the midst of adversity. The goal should be to thrive in the midst of any circumstance.

I think that we can't just expect things to happen without putting the work in. So when I was in a hospital bed, when I was in Chicago and I came out of the coma, I couldn't walk or couldn't really do anything, couldn't take care of myself. I was thinking, "Man, I can't wait to get to Michigan." Once I got to Michigan, that wasn't going to make everything better. If we want to get better, if our actions don't line up with our dreams and our goals, we have to change our actions or we've got to change our dreams and our goals, right? And I think that if we set the goal of achieving X, Y, or Z, everything we do every single day better be preparing us to achieve that goal. We can overcome anything we put our minds to, and I don't think there's any challenge that's too big.

- Jon Gordon: [30:36](#) Incredible. Austin, how old are you?
- Austin Hatch: [30:36](#) 24.
- Jon Gordon: [30:40](#) 24 years old. Incredible, incredible wisdom. You're a miracle. And I just want to say thank you for being a miracle for others. I know the impact you have, the difference you make, and the work that you do. So keep it up. I'm rooting for you. I know everyone else is and thanks for being on Positive University.
- Austin Hatch: [30:58](#) Thanks very much Jon, I really appreciate you having me. And let's just keep working on it. I know we have goals, you have goals. You're probably one of the greatest authors in the country, but I know you got room to grow too. Let's keep at it. Let's keep at it and keep getting better every single day.
- Jon Gordon: [31:13](#) Hey, I want to get better and you just made me better. So I appreciate that. Everyone I learn from, everyone I listen to, I get better. It's so much fun doing this Positive University because I'm always learning from different people. And just your inspiration, your encouragement, your example. I mean, when I watched your segment on ESPN, I mean I just literally bawled. I just cried and I felt really connected to you. And so now for us to be friends all these years later, it's a pretty cool thing. And to see you grow, to see you get through Michigan, to see you succeed, to see the impact you had on the team, and watched your graduation and just everything you've been through, now you're married. It's just really fun to watch you grow and just be there to encourage you along the way. And I know without a doubt that your parents, your family, is with you. I don't have a

doubt in my mind that they're not with you watching you. I'm glad that they somehow some way brought us together.

Austin Hatch: [32:10](#) Yeah, absolutely. Jon. Well thank you. We still have to meet by the way, haven't met in person. I feel like we have.

Jon Gordon: [32:17](#) I do too, I guess, because of the video conference and stuff. So, yeah. So how tall are you?

Austin Hatch: [32:17](#) Six, six.

Jon Gordon: [32:28](#) Six, six. Well when we meet in person, at five, eight and a half, you're going to go, "Wow, he's a lot shorter in person."

Austin Hatch: [32:35](#) You know what, we all have our talents, we all come in different shapes and sizes, but you know what, the brain power is where ... So see you're five, five, nine, we'll give you five, ten.

Jon Gordon: [32:49](#) We'll say five, nine. Five, nine.

Austin Hatch: [32:51](#) Okay. Okay. I'm six, six but see, you're about seven, nine with the brainpower though.

Jon Gordon: [32:58](#) I'll take that. I appreciate it. I appreciate that comment. Do you still play basketball, because when we meet we got to play some hoops.

Austin Hatch: [33:04](#) Yeah. Yeah. I don't play, not like seriously anymore.

Jon Gordon: [33:09](#) Well, you play for fun and you shoot around, right?

Austin Hatch: [33:11](#) Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. I'll out-shoot you whenever we get together. I'll out-shoot you.

Jon Gordon: [33:18](#) All right. I was a point guard. I don't know. We'll have to see about that.

Austin Hatch: [33:21](#) Yeah, yeah. You probably weren't far behind John Stockton were you? [inaudible 00:00:33:28].

Jon Gordon: [33:29](#) I was a better passer than I was shooter, but-

Austin Hatch: [33:32](#) Yeah. Hey, you know what? The team needs passers, the team needs shooters, the team needs people to unload bags, right? We all fill our roles, right?

Jon Gordon: [33:42](#) It needs everyone. I played the other day and I pulled my hamstring though, so now I'm recovering after about two weeks.

Austin Hatch: [33:48](#) Yeah, I was watching them. Yeah, I watched the video. You said you pulled a hamstring. Is your daughter doing okay?

Jon Gordon: [33:57](#) Yeah, yeah. She had the car crash, car's totaled, total loss, we just got word from the insurance company so I have to get a new car, but thank God, [crosstalk 00:34:08], that's the most important part, thank God she's okay. And talk about being fortunate and blessed, just a hurt pinky, just like a dislocated pinky and that's it, based on a total car crash, so feel very blessed, very fortunate that she's okay. But thanks for asking.

Austin Hatch: [34:28](#) Yeah, absolutely. Absolutely. A car is replaceable, right?

Jon Gordon: [34:33](#) Exactly. Well hey, thanks so much Austin. Remember, no fear, you survived two plane crashes, no fear because you know what, when you did that, I mean you are going to create something amazing in this world. I can't wait to see what that is in the future.

Austin Hatch: [34:49](#) Yeah. Well thanks Jon. I appreciate it. That speaks to the power of God. We've got to put our faith and our trust in Him and I think when we do that, I don't think there's anything we can't overcome, I don't think there's anything we can't achieve. Thanks for having me. I wish you all the best.

Jon Gordon: [35:02](#) Amen.

Daniel Decker: [35:05](#) Thanks again for joining us for this episode of The Positive University Podcast. If you found value from it, please share it with a friend. You can post on social and be sure to tag @JonGordon11. Make sure you also subscribe so you get notified each week as a new episode releases. You can subscribe, rate, and review in iTunes or wherever you listen, would be extremely grateful for that as your reviews help encourage others to listen in. So until next time, stay positive and remember the best is yet to come.