1. I’m glad the Americans with Disabilities Act was on our agenda this week.  I had an aunt that was more like a sister to me that was involved in a severe car accident a few weeks after she graduated from high school.  She was very active in sports before her accident, but the accident left her paralyzed from the waist down.  She worked very hard at rehab and was soon able to take her place back in society.  She never let her disability stop her from what she wanted to do.  She worked a full-time job, married, had a child and drove a car with hand operated controls.  She volunteered at one of the elementary schools and helped the children learn soccer.  She was eventually offered a full-time paying position as the assistant soccer coach.   I was amazed at how she interacted with the children and was able to teach them despite being in a wheel chair.  I can’t help but think that without the Americans with Disabilities Act, she might not have had the opportunity to help out and eventually work at the school.

I witnessed a bit of discrimination a while back, but in the end, it worked out.  Both my daughters played softball from the time they were five years old until they graduated from high school.  One of my oldest daughter’s friends had down syndrome but played on her softball team when she was younger.  As she grew older, she was still part of the team, but was put into a “manager” position.  She tried out for the high school softball team every year and was allowed to help “manage” but never actually played on the team.  During her senior year, a new softball coach came to the school and allowed her to actually play in a few games.  The girls on both her team and the opposing team cheered her on and willingly allowed her to score a few points.  The expression on her face was worth a million dollars!  When the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed in 1990, it was a win-win for everyone.  It helped the people with disabilities actively participate and contribute to society.  It also helped the employees, because they always got loyal employees that gave their very best in everything they did

1. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is a civil rights law the solely prohibits discrimination related to people with disabilities. Since the passing of this civil rights law, the sport programs from Americans with disabilities have definitely improved and grew tremendously. Some issues that have happened in the past including not allowing people with disabilities to play sports. There are many students and adults that love to play sports, but their disabilities may hinder their abilities. Organizations these days need to make sure they have sport programs for people with disabilities. No one should face discrimination, especially dealing with something that is out of their control. It is important that everyone should treat kids and adults with disabilities the same as anyone else. Lawsuits can be and have been brought upon any organization or person that discriminates someone based on their disability. It is important for every school and college or university to make sure they that include sport programs for people withdisabilities.

      Autism is something that I have been around my entire life. My parents best friend’s son is autistic, as well as my cousin’s daughter. They are around the same age and are currently apart of a program at The University of Alabama called CrossingPoints. This is a post-secondary transition program. They help people with disabilities transition from school to adult life. They allow people in the program to learn independent living, employment, and social skills that gets them ready for a life outside of school. This program also gets them involved in sports and other activities. My cousin recently joined the CrossingPoints Flag Team. She is also involved in the Special Olympics and gets to swim a lot as apart of that sport program. I have not witnessed discrimination toward anyone in regards to an organization, but I have witnessed people judge my parent’s best friend’s son before. He is extremely good at basketball. When he has tried to play basketball before, a couple of people did not pick him to be on their team because they assumed that he would not be very good because of his disabilities. Since I have known him my entire life, I knew how crazy they were not to pick him. He is just as good as any other person without disabilities. He can easily beat myself and anyone else on a given day at basketball. I am just glad that he has The Americans with Disabilities Act to protect his rights if he does face any issue with discrimination in the future. Just because they are different than us does not mean that they are not just as good or better at sports. Everyone should be given an equal opportunity regardless.