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FEATURE FRIDAYS: Jesse Billauer



I have been fortunate to hang out with many of the great athletes of several generations, from Mohammed Ali to Martina Navratilova to Abby Wambach.

I'm not sure I've ever met a bigger athlete spirit than Jesse Billauer.

Jesse and I both live in the Los Angeles area so it naturally turns out that we've met up at a number of fundraiser sports dinners.

At the tender age of 17, super athlete, star surfer Jesse, out doing the thing he loved most in life, riding waves, became a quadriplegic in one tragic instant.

That was 1996.

To spend time in Jesse's presence is to experience the intoxicating charisma he radiates. Here's an individual who has found the profound courage to beam a sincere smile, to find reasons to live a grateful life, and to refuse to waste the life....albeit radically different than the life of his dreams... he has been forced to live.

You cannot read about Jesse Billauer, nor read his direct words, nor go to hear him speak, nor play a round of poker with him, nor watch him still surf with the help of friends who push him down the waves and not wish that you could only feel half his positive passion for your own life.

Ladies and gentlemen, today we are honored to present to you:

Jesse Billauer

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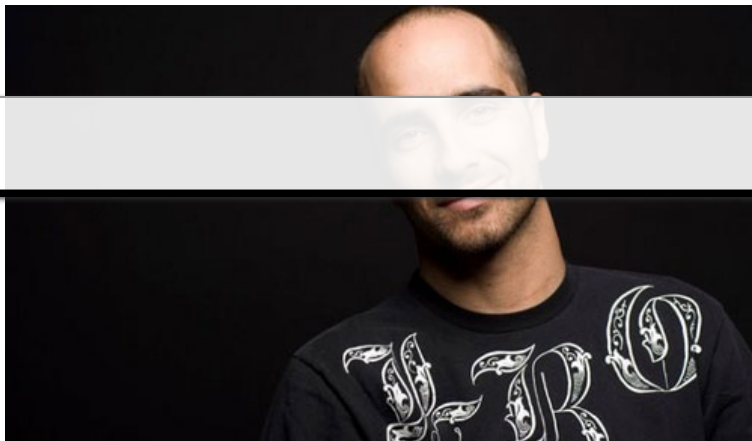
Jesse Billauer is a well known surfer from Pacific Palisades, California. On March 25, 1996, while surfing, Jesse was hit by the crest of a wave and flew headfirst into the shallow sandbar, paralyzing the young man whose passion above all is the ocean.

A few years after his life changing accident, Jesse founded a non-profit foundation called [Life Rolls On](#), which in 2009 merged with the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation. With such dedication and love for life, over the past 13 years Jesse has inspired people to look at their lives in a more thoughtful and thankful way.

He is a sought after motivational speaker, traveling the country inspiring tens of thousands of people to live life to the fullest, to overcome adversity, and to focus on passion over paralysis {not just physical paralysis}.

Jesse's story has been heard by millions of people over the years and featured on Good Morning America, TODAY, Dateline NBC, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition, surf film Step Into Liquid, and dozens more.

He was kind enough to answer our Feature Friday questions so be sure to show him your support and follow Jesse over [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



How are you living your "one wild and precious life," as Mary Oliver wrote about?

II'm living it to the fullest. I am doing all the things I love. Surfing, fishing, poker, traveling, going to concerts, meeting new people, inspiring others through the foundation [Life Rolls On](#).

Walk us through your typical day, what are your favorite routines?

Wake up and have breakfast. Work on my computer. Check my emails, Instagram, Facebook, the waves, the weather and watch a little TV. Everyday I try to surround myself with positive people. I really enjoy networking and spreading the Life Rolls On message to as many people as possible. You never know who you might be able to help out. I also try to allow as much time for physical therapy, surfing, fishing or the chance to play poker. After that come home and have dinner with my girlfriend and watch TV as we cuddle up.

When thinking about the traits that have made you successful, fulfilled, which one do you credit the most?

Patience and persistence.

Who was the most influential person in your life and did he/she instill that singular trait in you?

My family for sure. But I feel like I learned so much about myself after my injury that I inspired myself to move forward with a positive attitude.

What have you gained from life's disappointments that you otherwise would not have?

Starting the foundation Life Rolls On and meeting so many people at all of the events and seeing how so many peoples lives are influenced by the organization. The ability to be a motivational speaker and inspiring hundreds of thousands of people through my story/situation.

If you could do anything over again, would you?

Yes. I would have never paddled out to go surfing on March 25th, 1996. The day I got injured that forever changed my life.

We all experience fear or uncertainty, how do you conquer those feelings?

I conquer my fears by dedication, research and taking action. I don't put my mind in a state of fear. I am smart about my choices in life and don't chose too many things that I am afraid of doing.

What are the 3 most important Goals you would like to accomplish this year?

First and foremost, work on getting more donations/sponsors and raising money for Life Rolls On, travel to a new place and surf a new wave that I have never tried yet and continue working on my health and fitness.

When you're not devoting time to what you're known for, what would people be surprised to learn you like to do?

I enjoy writing poetry and sometimes when I'm alone I bust out a few raps.

DO THIS NOW ...

If you liked this first Feature Friday interview, "Like" it and share it with your friends! Leave Jesse a comment or ask a question below.

Onward!

P.S. Have you signed up for my [7 Day Reboot](#)? Hop in! It's Free!

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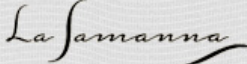
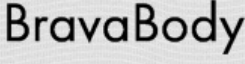
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