

Mat Boggs Keynote Address: The Kamikaze Story at DreamBuilder LIVE

Now, Mary showed us a spiral with four quadrants in it representing the four domains of our life, right? Where you have relationships, you have health and well being, you have vocation, you have time and money, freedom. And as I was building this, building my dreams and getting into this work, I remember the moment when it dawned on me that it was okay to have more than one dream. How many of you know that? It's okay to have more than one dream, you can have lots of different dreams. And so one of the dreams that I had growing up was to play college football.

So think about a dream that you have right now. One of the dreams is bubbling up for you, because I'm going to tell you a story, and I want you to put yourself inside this story so that you can claim your dream, because oftentimes dreams aren't handed to you, are they? You have to claim your dream. And so for me, I wanted to play college football. That was actually why I went to class in high school. It's true. I wanted to get good grades so I could go to college and play college football. That's how badly I love football and I love playing. And my senior year in high school, we went to a college recruiting specialist, Mary and I went and my dad is there and he's going to consider bringing me to these colleges and have me as one of his recruits to kind of pitch me to these colleges.

And I'll never forget I'm in this meeting with this guy. He's looking at my stats as a football player. He's looking at my height I'm five nine, looking at my weight, 175 pounds. Looking at my strength. He goes, "Well, son, I hate to tell this to you but guys like you are a dime a dozen." Imagine your dream something you want with your whole heart. And that's the message that you're given. You know what, what does that message mean? Not special that's exactly how I took it. That I wasn't so this guy doesn't think I have what it takes. I mean I'm a dime a dozen? Maybe there's someone in your life. Think about this for a moment. In life when we have a dream often there's that person who plays the resistance in our life. Maybe there was someone who played the resistance in your life. A parent told you, you didn't have what it takes, you're not good enough.

Maybe it was a teacher, maybe it was a coach, maybe it was an authority figure and said you don't have what it takes. One of the first steps in achieving our dream is we have to overcome the external resistance. We have to believe enough in our own mind that what we want is possible that we're willing to pass through the resistance that we meet. And so for me, my answer to this man I didn't speak it out loud because he was an elder, he was an expert but in my mind I'm thinking Oh, you don't know me. You think I'm a dime a dozen you clearly don't know me, because I believed in myself.

Now was I scared? Absolutely. I didn't know how it was all going to work out but I trained and trained. One thing I didn't know how to do was work. How many of you know how to



work? You know how put in the elbow grease and I worked all summer long. Worked, worked, worked. Sprints, weights, gym and walked on to the University of San Diego. And they have a football program this division one, double A, and as a freshman, I made the team division one double A. And my dream was to play college football. Now as a freshman, just so that you understand I was fourth string running back, which means there's three guys in front of me and I'm third string on the kickoff team. So there's two men in front of me there. And so my primary job as a fourth string running back and third string on the kickoff team was to make sure that the bench stayed nice and warm.

As a freshman, that was my primary job. Now, if you for those who don't know much about football, the kickoff team, the goal for the kickoff team is when your team scores a touchdown your team kicks the ball to the other team and they try to run it back as far as they can. And your job is to tackle them as far down the field as you can backing them up. So about halfway through the football season, I've never seen the field. My goal is to play and that's what I want with all my heart and I'm warming the bench and I'm doing a darn good job warming that bench. And halfway through the football season my brothers call me. So you met both of my brothers. You met John Boggs who just told you the house story and you met Rich Boggs a little bit earlier who's the Leo. Who likes long walks on the beach and I think French films was it? French films.

So you met both my brothers. And so they call me up and they're like, "Mat we are coming to San Diego buddy! And we're going to come watch one of your games and we want to watch you play!" I'm saying, "Well fellas I mean you know how it works. Man, I'm a freshman. I'm fourth string running back. Just so you know I'm third string on the kickoff team. The chances of me getting on the field are slim to none." And they're like, "That's okay! You know what we're coming to watch you, we're coming too, because we believe in you. We love you. We want to support you and we've never played college football. So we're living through you, man we're living through you."

So we hung up the phone. Now what do you think happened to my desire for getting on the field at that moment? It went way up. I thought I had been practicing as a 10. I prided myself on someone who would play full out in practice. I thought I had been practicing at a level 10. But what was interesting is when I hit the field that next week, there was a whole 'nother Mat Boggs on that field. I was sprinting from drill to drill. I was the first one on the field every day, I was the last one off the field every day. I not only wanted to improve my game, but I wanted to show the coaches that I was improving my game.

What would it take for you to increase the level in which you've been willing to go after your dream? Some of you have been going after a dream. Some of you it's just been an idea that's been on the shelf and that's okay. But wherever it is, what would it take? What level of desire would be required for you to increase your engagement, increase your action?

What would it take for you to go after it at a whole nother level? And so Thursdays is when they post what are called the depth charts in the locker room.

Now the depth charts are where they show who's going to play in the game. And then all their backups. Now the All Stars, they know they're playing in the game because they're the All Stars. But the rest of us what we do is on Thursdays, we huddled around the depth charts to find out who's going to play because Friday is simply a walk through practice. And then we hit the game on Saturday. So Thursday come it's like this every week. The coach comes in, all the guys are waiting, he posts up the depth charts and the tip, tip. All the different teams and as soon as he leaves, we all crowd around.

So I get around in there and I find my name and I'm like, okay, running backs fourth string. Kickoff team third string, no movement. So we play the game that week. And what's important to know is our kickoff team wasn't very good. So if there was an opportunity it was going to be on the kickoff team. So the next game comes, that week comes Saturday and I'm doing my job and the bench is really warm. I'm sitting there and we kick off the ball and the other team runs it all the way back to midfield, which if you know football that's really bad. Puts the defense in a really tough spot. And our kickoff coach is a behemoth of a man. This man is a giant and has anger management issues.

And he is stopping up and down the sidewalk, "Come on, I want you to knock some heads! I want you to give some arm shivers! Come on kickoff team!" It was like that. And the kickoff team. These dudes are huge dudes. And these dudes are like thoroughbreds right? They're like, "Yeah, Coach. Yeah, we're going to run down there and knock some heads. Yeah. All right, we got it. We got it. We got it. We got it." And they got like snot coming down their nose. So I'm looking at this saying, "This is my opportunity."

So, I'm watching this game and we're doing a good, we're playing the game and our quarterback throws a touchdown. So kickoff team assemble. And they have a green mat where they have 11 spaces and all the guys fill their spaces on the mat. That's how they know how many guys are correct that actually take the field, they all assemble. They take their spots, they go out in the field, and now they're motivated. Now they're charged up, we kick off the ball, the other team catches it runs it all the way back to the 48 yard line. So our coaches so mad that he decides to come up with a term for how he wants us to be a new way of being as a kickoff team. And it's a deeply spiritual term. He came up with this term called "Kamikaze." He's like, "Gosh damn it, kickoff team! I want you to become kamikaze! I want you to go down there and blow it up!" And the kickoff team is like, "Yeah coach we'll be your Kamikaze, yeah coach." So sure enough we lose that game. And so I'm thinking, "This is my opportunity."

So all week I'm thinking what way of being in my thinking is going to impress the coach: Kamikaze. And so I am sprinting from drill to drill. I am running around giving my, I took it from a 10 to 12. I'm giving everything I've got being the biggest Kamikaze I can. As Little Mat Boggs running around that field hoping they will take notice. Thursday comes, Coach enters the locker room and we're all huddled around. He puts it up on the wall depth charts, he leaves. We get to the depth chart I fight my way through. I find the running backs: fourth string. Find the kickoff team, here we go baby: third string. My brothers are coming in two days.

So the next day is Friday teams doing a walk through. That night my brothers call me. They're like, "Mat, we're so excited! We're going to come, baby, watch you play!" And I'm like, "Guys I told you I'm fourth string running back, third string on the kickoff team. I am not going to get on this field." And they say, "Don't worry about it, we just want to see you in the pads, see you in the uniform." They've lowered their standards a little bit. It's okay. I said, "Good, man. Well, this is great. It'd be good to see you guys anyway."

And so game time comes and they're going to meet me behind the locker room before the game. And so I put on my shoulder pads and put those on and put on my pants, pads in the pants, put on my cleats and I walk I've got my helmet. I walk out of the locker room and you can hear the click, click of the cleats on the concrete. And my brothers come around the corner and they're like, "Oh my gosh! Dude, look at you, man! Look at you. You look so good!" And they're like, hit my shoulder pads, shoulder pads. They're saying, "Put the helmet on, put the helmet on! Look at you, this looks so good. All right, man, go get them!" And I say, "Okay man, I'm going to go get that bench is actually what I'm going to do."

And so I go down, I'm sitting on the bench, the game starts, we kick off the ball. Sure enough other team runs all the way back to midfield. And when that happens, I turn and I look at my brothers in the stands and something happens for me in that moment. My level of desire went through the roof, and I thought to myself, "I must get on that field tonight." My desire had moved from a want to a must and I got an idea. Now there's a spiritual principle and a physics principle, both actually called "sufficiency," which is the requisite amount of energy required for a transformation of a thing. The sufficient amount of energy before something will transform. We see it all the time and water. How many of you have ever boiled a pot of water?

Like only 10% raise their hand really? This is audience participation time. Okay. We all most of us, almost all of us have boiled the pot of water. So what happens? You turn on the heat and what happens? You watch it and it starts to heat up and you're pouring energy into this water. Are you not? You're pouring energy, pouring energy and for a while, nothing happens. There is no phase change. And that water will get to 211 degrees Fahrenheit and

that water is hot, but there was no phase change. And then all of a sudden at 212 degrees it shifts phases from a liquid to gas. It creates steam and with steam comes power. You can power a locomotive with steam. But at 211 degrees, you poured a whole lot of energy into that water, haven't you? And nothing's happened.

Some of you, some of you are at the 211 degree mark in your dream. Oh, yeah, you poured a whole lot of energy in and you're wondering, when is this going to happen? You're wondering, what's it going to take for this to happen? Will it ever happen? Some of you put 211 degrees in your dream five years ago. And because it didn't happen, you put it on the shelf thinking it will never happen. Your dream will happen. It will happen with sufficiency when you give it the right amount of energy with the right structure. How many of you know that if you put a lid on top of that pot of water, it will boil faster? It's got more structure for how to flow it, to how to contain that energy.

So I see my brothers up in the stands and something clicks in me and my want, my desire for this goes from a want to a must. I must get on that field. What would have to happen for your desire, for your dream to go from a want to a must? What would be required for you? And so I feel I'm like I have to get on the field, I must get on that field and right then I get an idea. It was a brave thinking idea, because the moment I received it, I had fear shoot through my entire body. And my coach is livid kickoff coach. So they've run all the way back to the 48 yard line, my coach is stomping up and down the field. Like marching down the field. He's going, "Gosh damn it guys, come on. Kamikaze! I need some Kamikazes out there!" And I get this idea and I run the idea in my mind and the idea is this. The idea is, I'm sitting on the benches, and then for me to come off the bench, walk towards the coach and say, "Hey coach. You want to Kamikaze? I'm your man."

You ever play a movie in your mind and you look really cool in the movie? So half of me thought, "That looks pretty cool, man. That looks good. That might work." And the other half of me thought, "Are you crazy?" Because the other half of me knew what I had experienced in my past. See, what I had experienced all season long was that freshman don't speak. We were put in a role as freshmen where your opinion didn't matter. You're on the scout team, cleanup crew, just serve the older guys. That was the role. You weren't skilled enough. You weren't good enough. Your opinion doesn't matter. Don't speak. You try to speak in a meeting and it was, "Who's speaking? Freshman? Shut up, freshman, you're a freshman. You sit there and listen."

You've been a freshman, you know. That was the role I was put in. Maybe people have tried to put you in a role. Maybe people have tried to put you in a role that was beneath what you were worth, didn't measure up to your true value. Or sometimes yet, we assume a role. We resign ourselves to a role and we say this is as good as it gets. It can't get any better for me. You've got to claim your dream and so in that moment, the coach was marching by. It

was an opportunity that was going to pass me by. I had a split second to make that decision. What did we say this morning? Decisions don't take a long time they can change your life but those windows of opportunities closed and then they're gone. If you don't seize it while it's there it will be gone.

And so he's walking by, I stood up and I said, "Hey coach," and this man looked around. "Yeah, Boggs?" And I said, "If you want a Kamikaze, I'm your m-m-aaan." And the part of my brain I had seen the movie said, "That was not like the movie, dude." So the coach is looking at me and he's like, "All right, Boggs, next kickoff, you're in." And then I really got scared at that point because I'm like, "Oh my God, I'm doing this." Our quarterback was amazing. He threw a 50 yard touchdown pass. And I hear the coach say, "Kickoff team, assemble!" And there's that green mat with 11 spots on it. And so I'm standing here, all the guys converge to the mat that are supposed to be playing. And the guy who was in spot number eight is standing over here, and he's a junior. And so he looks at me, he looks at the mat and kind of starts to take a move to the mat. I'm like, "Actually that's my spot."

You've got to claim your spot. It won't be handed to you. You've got to claim your spot. It will not be handed to you. If you want it. You've got to grab it. And it doesn't mean someone else has to lose their spot in all cases, but it does mean you have got to seize it. And so I stood on that number eight spot man it felt good. It felt good. And the coach said, "Kickoff team, go!" And so I run out onto the field and I can feel my cleats on the grass. And I turn around. I see the lights shining down on us. We're playing at night and the crowd is going wild and above the crowd, I can hear my brother's going, "Wow! Mat Boggs! He's in the field! Look at that! There he is!"

And so we line up. We're ready. We're ready. We're ready. He kicks off the ball. I sprint down as fast as I can go. I dodge one guy I knock into another, he falls down. We run around. We tackle the ball carrier, and he gets up - 20 yard line! And that number eight spot was mine for the rest of the season starter as a freshman on the football team. There is a spot that has your name on it. Your dream has your name on it. But you've got to be willing to claim it. You've got to be willing to push through the people who doubt, the people who try to tell you you're not good enough. The people who try to tell you you don't have what it takes. But you know who you are. You know that dream has been given to you for a reason. So the question is, are you willing to claim your spot? Are you willing to claim it?

Audience: Yeah!

Mat: Are you willing to claim it?

Audience: Yes!

Mat: Say yes!

Audience: Yes!

Mat: Put your hands together and welcome Mary Morrissey to this stage.