



“Londyn, that alarm thing is going off in your bedroom again,” said her brother Brayden.

“Okay, thank you, I’ll be in in one second,” said Londyn as she completed two more cartwheels, leaped through the back yard, walked in her house and ran up to her room. She knew what the alarm meant so she headed straight to her closet, took her Hooperhero suit off it’s hanger, put it on and then pushed a button on her Hooperhero watch to release her hoop. She began hooping as fast as she could and saying the magical words “Leaping Londyn is on her way, ready to help and save the day.” Suddenly, her hoop began to glow, her Hooperhero power was activated, and out her front door she flew, headed straight to Helpful Hattie Headquarters.

“Welcome back Leaping Londyn, it’s nice to see you again,” said Savannah.

“You too Savannah,” she said, “so who needs my help today?”

“Her name is Rebekah and she is having a hard time because she is on a softball team but doesn’t know if she is good enough and she keeps pretending everything is okay so nobody sees she’s having a hard time. We thought maybe you could go check on her and help her and make sure she’s okay.”

“Of course! I’ll go right away,” she said as she waved good-bye and headed to the Helpful Headquarters Hooping Station. She began hooping as fast as she could, and off she flew to the softball field where the kids were practicing.

“Look out,” yelled Rebekah running to move out of the way as Leaping Londyn stumbled into the middle of the baseball diamond; leaping into a somersault and jumping up with her hands in the air as if she was at a gymnastics meet.

“Whoa, that was a little rough,” said Leaping Londyn as she brushed the dirt off of her. “Sorry about that, I’m still getting used to my flying Hooperpower.”

“Well, it looked cool at the end,” said Rebekah with a slightly confused look on her face at what she had just witnessed.

“Thanks! Hi, I’m Leaping Londyn and I’m looking for Rebekah, is that you?”

“Uh, yeah, I’m Rebekah. Why are you looking for me?”

“Well, I wanted to stop by, or, correction, fly by, and make sure you were okay,” Leaping Londyn said with a giggle at her “fly by” joke.

“Oh, well, yeah, thanks, but um I’m actually doing fine,” said Rebekah.

“Okay, well, can we talk for a little bit? I’d love to hear more about you if you have a few minutes.”

“Sure,” said Rebekah and her and Leaping Londyn walked over to the bleachers and sat down. Leaping Londyn began asking her questions about softball and they talked about how much Rebekah liked it and enjoyed playing it. After a while, Rebekah finally opened up a little and explained that the local news station was going to be at their game that afternoon and she was nervous because she wasn’t sure if she was good enough to play in front of people at the game, let alone people watching at home.

“I see,” said Leaping Londyn, “well, I do understand what you mean because I compete in gymnastics and I used to get nervous all the time, and sometimes, I still do. But I know what I need to do and I know how to do it because I practice all the time, so I just pretend that it’s another practice and as long as I think that way and give it my best, I am able to put my brave face on and get out there and rock it! Maybe if you pretend this is just another practice or game and you give it your best, you will be okay too. Plus, I’ll bet that a lot to people on the team are also nervous so you probably aren’t alone.”





Rebekah thought about it for a few minutes and was surprised that she hadn't thought about that before. She always gave it her best and she agreed that other people on her team were probably nervous too so she really wasn't alone after all. Before she could talk more with Leaping Londyn about it, Rebekah saw the news van pull up and knew the game was about to start so she had to head back over by her team. She asked Leaping Londyn to go with her and off they went.

The coach spent a few minutes encouraging the team to do their best but he could clearly see the team was nervous and not themselves. He walked away to talk with the other coaches and while he was away, Rebekah and Leaping Londyn heard some of the other teammates talking about how nervous and worried they were. Rebekah thought back to the advice Leaping Londyn had given her and without hesitation, she began speaking to them. "Team, we got this! Sure this is a game, and sure, the news station is here, but really, it's just another practice. We spend 3 days a week doing exactly what we're going to do today, but instead of us playing against each other like we do in practice, we get to play together. We can do this as long as we work together and if this is just another practice, then what do we have to be nervous about? I've never been nervous at practice, have any of you?" Rebekah's teammates began to look around and then shook their heads no. "We can do this, so let's get out there and give it our best! As long as we do that, we are winners no matter what and no matter who's watching!" Suddenly, the team began to cheer and get excited and fired up. Leaping Londyn found herself jumping up and down too and couldn't help but laugh and cheer right along with them. When she turned around, she saw the coach standing there and smiling, unsure of what had caused their change in energy, but he didn't care because he knew the team was ready to play!

As the game started, some of the players were still a little nervous, but after a few minutes, they completely forgot the news station was even there. Both teams played well and the score was tied in the last inning. All Rebekah's team needed was one run and they would win but they had two outs and the last batter was coming up and it was Rebekah. As she approached the plate, she was suddenly more nervous than ever before because she knew that it was up to her. She looked at the pitcher...First pitch, Strike! She looked again...Second pitch, Strike!

Leaping Londyn watched from the bleachers and was starting to be nervous for her but she hoped she would remember what she told her. As Rebekah was getting ready to get in position for the third pitch, she took a deep breath; thought about what Leaping Londyn said and began saying to herself, "it's just practice. You hit the ball all the time, just do what you do in practice." She took one more breath, got in position and as the pitcher released the ball, Rebekah closed her eyes and swung...and then heard the cracking noise of a bat hitting the ball. She opened her eyes and heard the crowd cheering from the stands and looked out to see where the ball was going and then just started running; first base, second base, third base, and as she headed for home plate, she knew the ball was coming so she ran as fast as she could and slid to the plate. "SAFE," yelled the umpire, and the crowd and team went wild. Leaping Londyn jumped out of the bleachers and ran over to Rebekah to join in.

Once the cheering had settled down and people were starting to leave, the news reporter came over by Rebekah and asked her how it felt to have hit the game winning home run. Rebekah, without skipping a beat, told her how it was a team effort and everyone gave it their best and that while she was the won who hit the ball that scored the last run, if it weren't for everyone on the team, they wouldn't have had enough runs to win the game. With that, Leaping Londyn knew it was time to head back as she had accomplished her mission. She made her way over to Rebekah and her team and told them how proud she was of all of them and said her good-byes. Then, after a couple cartwheels, she leaped in the air and flew back to Helpful Hattie Headquarters to fill them in on all the events that day and to confirm that it was another successful mission.

