

## Never Give Up!

On April 23, 1997 I had a serious accident at work. I got my right hand caught in a drive chain and sprocket on a conveyor belt. I spent a year going back and forth to the doctor for surgeries to repair the damage.

In the end the doctors and their incredible skills and dedication to their jobs were able to save my hand. I did however end up with 80% loss of use of my right arm. I have very little feeling or dexterity in my right hand. I do not want anyone to think I am complaining about my loss. I just want to explain what happened to me. I thank god every day for the blessings in my life and I am very happy with my life. Before my accident I was a pretty good shot with a compound bow and was getting to be a good shot with a recurve. After the accident I was not able to shoot my bow anymore. I worked hard at regaining the strength in my arm and every once in a while I would get my bow out and try to draw it. My compound at the time was a York STO set at 65 pounds with a 50% let off.

The nice thing about the York STO is that it can be set up for either right or left hand use because of the split riser. It was a very unique design, but I do not think it was a very popular bow. I have done searches on the internet for the bow and the company and all I have found is old advertisements for the bow model I had. Because of the limited mobility and lack of feeling in my right hand I cannot shoot right handed anymore. I would try every so often to just draw the bow and was not able to draw far enough to get it to break over and let off. The pain in my wrist was terrible and I was afraid I would lose what little grip I had on it.

Here in Idaho Cross bows are only legal for the any weapon seasons unless you get a handicapped hunters permit from the game department. To get the permit you have to show a doctor's report proving the handicap. I thought about this because I have missed bow hunting. I thought about getting the handicapped permit and a crossbow. I could not do it. I just could not admit to being handicapped, when I did not feel that I was, and use that to give me an advantage, at least until I had exhausted all possible options.

I continued to work on my arm strength and I kept trying to draw that bow. For 10 years I continued to try to draw that bow. Late last summer I was able to finally draw that bow to full draw. It hurt like heck, but I at least new it was possible. I knew that I would never be able to hunt with the York. After a few shots my wrist would be so weak I would not be able to draw the bow anymore for a few days.

I started looking around at all the bow shops in the area for a new bow. I know that most of the manufacturers of bows make several left hand models, but most of the shops around here do not stock any left hand bows. All of them were willing to order one for me if I was going to buy it. They did not want to order any left hand bows just so I could test shoot them. I went to the Cabella's store in Boise and there I found two left hand bows. Both of them were Parker bows. I was looking for a fifty pound draw weight and both of these were set for sixty pounds with 65% let off. I was amazed at how smooth the draw was on both bows, and at how easy they were to hold at full draw. I bought the Parker Buckhunter bow and a half dozen carbon arrows. I got home and was amazed at how well it was set up right from the factory. I had to do very little tweaking to get the bow on target and after just a few minutes I was shooting better than I had ever been able to shoot with the York at 20 yards. After about 10 shots my wrist was starting to hurt and my groups were starting to expand. I quit for the day feeling very good about my abilities.

I have kept up my practice as much as possible throughout the fall and winter and I have extended my range to 40 yards so far and my shooting sessions have gone up to 30 or more shots at a session. Now that spring is here I plan to increase my practice and get ready for the upcoming bow season.

**By Jeff “ke7cjw” Love**

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