



HER LIFE HAS BEEN RIDDLED WITH ADVER-SITY AND CHALLENGES AND YET SHE HAS PUSHED THROUGH, achieving higher levels of success by using life's obstacles to fuel her fire.



∆UCIA is no stranger to the hardships that life can throw at you. Growing up in a tiny New Brunswick town, it was evident from an early age that she had a unique athletic talent, however her small hometown was not equipped with the proper resources to nurture this gift. In order for her to follow her dream, Alicia had to be driven to and from a neighboring town to train with her track and field coach, every single day. Neither distance or a lack of resources could prevent Alicia from doing what she loved. Even at a young age she started seeing the proof that anything can be achieved when you put your mind to it.

After years of training and competing in Track and coaching

feature THE WORKOUT: WE CAUGHT UP WITH REST DAY WHERE A CALORIE BURNING HIIT SESSION WAS ON THE MENU. While there's no such thing as a fitness miracle, HIIT workouts come pretty darn close. Research suggests that HIIT can super-charge fat burning, boost metabolism, and improve cardiovascular fitness. In less than 30 minutes, this highly effective circuit will target and strengthen every muscle above your waist.

others to excel at the sport, Alicia competed in her first bodybuilding competition in the bikini division with the Ontario Physique Association. Her body adapted well to this new way of training and within just over a year's time, she had achieved the muscle gains necessary to compete in her first figure class competition, bringing home a silver medal in her division. Less than a year, and a few more competitions later, Alicia had defeated her previous bests and in May of 2017, she won the titles of Overall Figure Champion and Miss Figure Ontario in the Ontario Championships. Throughout 2018, Alicia kept her momentum going. She used a series of second and third place finishes at competitions throughout the first half of the year as the driving force to motivate her towards her goal of a first place win. With luck on her side and hours of hard work and dedication behind her, Alicia finally achieved what she had set out to do. Winning first place at the 2018 Canadian National Pro Qualifier in the Figure C division and first place in Overall Figure, has made her one of Canada's newest IFBB pro card holders.

These are amazing accomplishments in themselves, however Alicia managed to achieve them all while recovering from a full ACL tear and ruptured meniscus, causing loss of motion in her knee and a motorcycle accident from which she suffered whiplash, back strains and numerous cuts, bumps and bruises. As if these injuries weren't enough, Alicia was also diagnosed with having a migrating tumour which required seven rounds of chemotherapy to treat. With grit and determination she stepped up to the challenges that these injuries and illnesses brought her, overcame them and took it one step further by starting prep for her next competition while still undergoing her final chemo treatment.

When asked about the obstacles that have presented themselves throughout her life and how she has



managed to overcome them, Alicia makes reference to her track and field background; "It's kind of like a hurdle race to me. You leap over the hurdles. You don't stop at them. Instead, you keep your momentum going in order to reach the finish line. I use stress and obstacles as motivators to help me thrive and they make me even more determined to come out on top." Her history of success is all the proof we

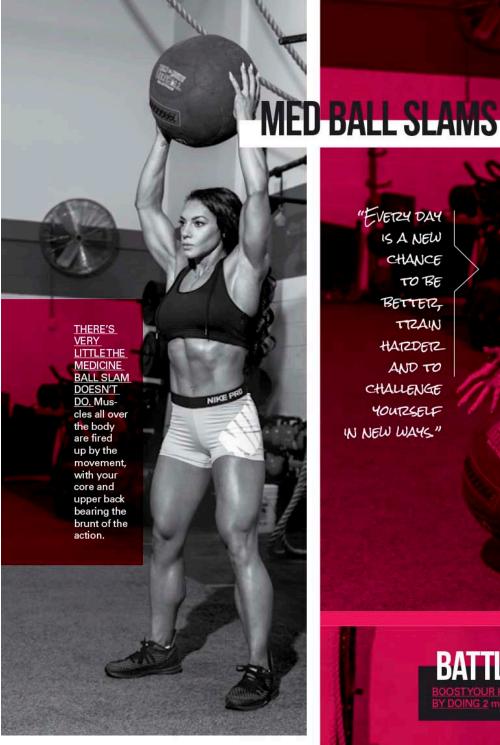
Marked in ink, upon her skin, is the mantra Noscete Ipsum, a guiding belief behind Alicia's accomplishments. This Latin saying means "to know thyself". "It is so important," Alicia says, "to know yourself and what makes you - YOU! Never compromise who you are, what your motivation is, or your goals, for anyone or anything. That is something I stand for each and every day. I know myself, I know what I want in life and I will keep going until I achieve it. No matter what."

Most people would have given up when faced with so much adversity but when asked why she chose to keep going, when so many others would have quit, Alicia replies, "Through all of my experience, I have learned that it is so empowering to become stronger and more confident. I know that I can control my own life and the outcomes. Empowerment to me, means knowing that I have been through so much and have overcome so much. I know that I have enough knowledge and experience that I can do anything I put my mind to."

Each milestone that we pass and every obstacle that we triumph over along the way, only makes us more resilient and ready to persevere. Alicia's goals for the future are to rise in the ranks as an IFBB Pro Figure competitor and one day compete in the Olympia. She knows that there will be hurdles along the way but she is prepared for them and ready to face them head on, starting today. "Every day is a new chance to be better, train harder and to challenge yourself in new ways. I never take a day for granted. The list of things I pushed through over the years, to get where I am, is definitely long and extensive but I never gave up. I







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never stopped believing in myself and when no one was clapping for me....l clapped for myself."

It is inevitable that life will throw us curveballs. Struggles will arise and hardships will come, but it is how we choose to deal with them and accept them is what really matters. Using the difficulties that we face as opportunities to learn and grow seems to be the takeaway from Alicia's story.

If we can just take a page of resilience from her book, and use the challenges that present themselves as fuel for the fire within, we could count on greater success and grander glory-no doubt.

