

# The Baby Destined to Be a Star

Being greeted by cameras when you first exit the womb isn't something that all newborns experience. However, when it comes to 27-year-old Nicholas Cruz, that's the reality of his first few moments in the world.

Broward College student Nicholas "Nick" Cruz is in his last few months of his BC career, and unlike most students, Nicholas' birth wasn't only a special moment for his family, but for the entirety of Coral Springs.

"I was born on Mother's Day, and I got to be in the newspaper. People thought I was destined to be a big star since I always had the spotlight on me since the day I was born", Cruz explains.

While he may garner an experience not many can say they have had, Cruz is just like any kind person someone would meet.

Nick comes from a small family in Coral Springs, Florida consisting of his mom, dad, and older brother Erick.

"Both of my parents are from Colombia. My mom is from Bogota and my dad is from Cali, so I do speak a little bit of Spanish," says Cruz.

Along with English and Spanish, Cruz can also speak a bit of Tagalog-the national language of the Philippines.

Wildly enough, Cruz's first experience with learning Tagalog was actually from someone he met at his BC orientation.

"I met this guy from the Philippines who'd just moved to Florida about a [year prior]...and ever since then we became-well we used to be friends, and he used to teach me a bit of Filipino," says Cruz.

Along with that, Cruz's ex-girlfriend at the time was also Filipino, and taught him the language.

"I actually had the chance to go to the Philippines too. It's a beautiful country. The people are really great, and the food is amazing over there, so that's how I got to pick it up a little bit," Cruz explains.

Considering Cruz's knack for languages, it comes as no shock that Cruz is working towards a degree in communications.

Though he isn't quite sure what he'd like to do as a profession, with his degree, Cruz would love to pursue a career in sports broadcasting.

Cruz has a passionate love for hockey, especially his home team the Florida Panthers. Cruz explains that if he does work in sports broadcasting, he'd love to work with the Florida Panthers or the L.A Kings.

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However, despite his love for hockey, the reason behind his degree path of choice is due to his past traumas he has faced in the recent years.

“I really went through a lot of bad mental health stuff where I almost took my life,” Cruz says.

His battle with mental health encouraged him to be that person that other people who struggle could lean on and be the voice that encourages them to live to see another day.

“I think the biggest impact that I can bring to people is getting everyone to follow one common cause and giving people the hope that they need to see their strengths...I like building bonds and making memorable experiences...I appreciate life a lot more. Life is great, and there's a lot of things to enjoy despite all the hardships” says Cruz.

Cruz's advocacy for mental health is something he carries on his sleeve. He's always lending a helping hand to his peers and isn't one to shy away from creating memories with others.

“I want people to live with memorable experiences because that's the only thing we could take away with us, no matter what religion you believe in, or what your process of life is, we have one common enemy in life and that's death at the end of the day. If we could at least have memories while we're on this earth...I think we'll come a long way in life”, Cruz relays.

Cruz's message for the world is something that everyone should live by.

So, if you ever see a person who's advocating for mental health, gushing about the Florida Panthers, or speaking Spanish, English, Filipino, or Tagalog, then just know it's Nicholas Cruz: the baby who was destined to be a star.