

Athlete '08

Athlete Gains Chance to Compete Again in '08



Movement is everything to Rachel Frank. While playing Division 1, Big Ten soccer for the University of Illinois, she sustained two separate injuries to her left knee. After her second surgery, not only did Rachel lose athletic movement in her knee, she lost a part of herself. “I was a happy, active person prior to my injuries,” Rachel said. After consultation and researching her options, she decided that a left lateral meniscus allograft transplant would give her the best possibility of restoring movement

to her knee to the extent that she could compete again.

“This transplant means everything to me because movement is everything to me.”

Following a period of rehabilitation, Rachel ran a couple of races trouble-free. In 2008, Rachel completed an Olympic-distance triathlon and a half marathon. This year, she is training for a half Iron Man competition that will be held in Hawaii, May 2009. Rachel is grateful to the donor and the donor’s family and the team of healthcare professionals - all who made it possible for her to perform as an athlete again. Rachel is now pursuing orthopedic surgery “to help restore movement in others, just as my surgeon helped restore movement in me.”