

# 'I have faif in you': Adorable letter hearing impaired girl, 9, wrote to deaf Seahawk Derrick Coleman to thank him for inspiring her

 [dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2543752/Hearing-impaired-girl-pens-heart-melting-letter-Derrick-Coleman.html](https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2543752/Hearing-impaired-girl-pens-heart-melting-letter-Derrick-Coleman.html)

- Little Riley Kovalcik, from Roxbury, New Jersey, penned the note to Coleman Sunday
- She and her identical twin sister, Erin, who is also hearing impaired, were moved by a Duracell ad about his journey to be the first legally deaf offensive player in the NFL
- The sisters were then glued to the TV as Coleman helped Seattle beat the San Francisco 49ers and make it through to this year's Super Bowl
- Her dad, Jake Kovalcik, tweeted the touching letter to the sportsman saying, you've inspired my little girls in a way I never could. THANK YOU!
- The Seahawks retweeted the photo of the note and it has now gone viral
- In the letter, Riley calls Coleman her inspiration and tells hm 'I know how you feel'

By [Helen Pow](#)

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A hearing impaired 9-year-old girl has touched hearts across the nation after she wrote an adorable letter to deaf Seahawks running back Derrick Coleman, calling him her inspiration and telling him 'I know how you feel.'

Little Riley Kovalcik, from Roxbury, New Jersey, penned the note to Coleman after she and her identical twin sister, Erin, who is also hearing impaired, watched a moving Duracell ad about his journey to become the first legally deaf offensive player in the NFL.

The sisters were glued to the TV Sunday, cheering as Coleman helped Seattle beat the San Francisco 49ers to make it through to this year's Super Bowl - and his success compelled Riley to reach out to the sportsman.

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Inspiration: Riley Kovalcik, left, penned the note to Coleman after she and her identical twin sister, Erin, right, who is also hearing impaired, heard his story. Her dad, Jake, center, tweeted the letter

Too cute: Riley touched hearts across the nation after she wrote the adorable letter, pictured, to the Seahawks running back, calling him her 'insperation' and telling him 'I know how you feel'

Her dad, Jake Kovalcik, then tweeted the heart-melting letter to the 23-year-old with the comment @Seahawks @DC2forlife you've inspired my little girls in a way I never could. THANK YOU! #Seahawks #SuperBowXLVIII, and the photo has since taken the internet by storm.

'Dear, my insperation (sic) Derrick Coleman,' Riley's note starts off, 'I know how you feel. I also have hearing aids. Just try your best. I have faif (sic) in you.'

She continued, 'Derrick good job on January (19th) game. GO Seattle seahawks!'

The sweet fan went on to list what she and Coleman have in common.

'I where (sic) two hearing aids. I love sports. Other things are I'm a identical twin and my twin where's (sic) one hearing aid too!'

Jake Kovalcik told MailOnline the whole family was in awe after hearing Coleman's story for the first time in the Duracell

ad.

Ad: Coleman, pictured left and right, stars in a moving Duracell ad about his journey to become the first legally deaf offensive player in the NFL

Success: The sisters were glued to the TV Sunday, cheering as Coleman, pictured on the field in September, helped Seattle beat the San Francisco 49ers and make it through to this year's SuperBowl

[Deaf NFL star Derrick Coleman's inspirational commercial](#)



'...so when the Seahawks were playing, the girls were right there watching and they were like, 'Where is he? Where is he?' he said.

When they won, his daughters were beyond excited.

'Riley said she wanted to write a note to Derrick and could I send it to him, so I said "of course." 'When I read it I was like "oh my god, really?"'

Kovalcik said he searched for Coleman on Twitter Sunday but the sportsman didn't have an account.

A day later, after the Duracell spot had captivated audiences around the country and perhaps the world, the football player had set one up.

'So I took a picture of the note and tweeted at him,' Kovalcik said.

Not held back: The proud father said apart from a couple of special classes, the girls, pictured, are treated the same as the other kids at their school

Outgoing: 'We have never treated them differently, it's just been "everyone has their challenges, this is how you're different and you do the best you can,"' Kovalcik said of his daughters, pictured here with their little brother, Aiden. 'They are wonderful, incredibly outgoing little girls'

Heart-felt: 'Riley said she wanted to write a note to Derrick and could I send it to him, so I said "of course." 'When I read it I was like "oh my god, really?"' the dad said

Before he knew it, the Seahawks had retweeted Riley's letter and his phone was beeping uncontrollably as more and more fans shared the touching message.

'Riley and Erin just sat there with my phone, watching, and they were like "oh my god dad, you went viral,"' he recalled, laughing.

But all Kovalcik really wanted was for Coleman to know the impact he'd had.

'I just wanted to show him what he had done,' he told MailOnline.

'He inspired my daughters but it's a great thing he's doing not just for hearing impaired kids or kids with other disabilities, he's showing all kids that if you work hard and you dedicate yourself whatever deficiencies you have, you can be great. I wanted to thank him.'

The proud father said apart from a couple of special classes, the girls are treated the same as the other kids at their school.

Blown away: Kovalcik and his wife Tracy were blown away by Coleman's success, he said. Coleman is pictured here as a child

We have never treated them differently, it's just been "everyone has their challenges, this is how you're different and you do the best you can," Kovalcik said. 'They are wonderful, incredibly outgoing little girls.'

He and his wife Tracy, who also have a five-year-old son, Aiden, said they were blown away by the success of the sportsman who has been deaf since the age of three.

'It's really amazing the fact he overcame so much as a little kid growing up when hearing aids, well they're still expensive today, but 10-15 years ago they were really expensive. He overcame it all.'

Coleman hasn't responded to the tweet yet, but Kovalcik said that doesn't matter - he still has two new lifelong fans.

'We were Dolphins and Giants fans but I can guarantee my girls will be fans of his forever and I probably will be purchasing a lot of Seahawks gear in future.'

The dad added: 'It's great, it's just going to make watching the Superbowl this year that much better.'