What Could I Have Done?

The last thing I remember after the party was the bright yellow lights blinding my view. Now I'm in a hospital bed thinking about *what could I have done?* Should I have been driving slower? I could have been more vigilant. In reality, though, there was one big thing that would have prevented it all.

We had just won the biggest football game of our lives. I was the star quarterback and feeling on top of the world. We all knew there would be a party after, so just like everyone else, I went. Thinking that since I had only had a couple of beers, I would still be okay to drive. Plus, I needed to be home by twelve, so I started to grab my things to leave.

It was around 11:30 when I decided to head home. I thought about calling an Uber or even my sister, but driving home seemed as though it would be easier. As I stumbled into the front seat and turned the key, not even thinking about my seatbelt being buckled, I just started driving down the road. Being almost home, I noticed my phone screen light up extremely bright in my lap. I was already swerving a bit, but I only looked down at it for a second. That was plenty of time to be distracted though. When I looked back up, there were the blazing yellow lights.

Barely awake in the hospital bed, I look around to see my mom and sister with tears in their eyes. I knew that playing football again was not an option and I'd lose that scholarship, but being alive was all I could think about. I'm sure that my family found out that I decided to drive while intoxicated. At that moment, however, they were just grateful I was still breathing, and so was I.

When I look back and think about what I could have done, I know it had nothing to do with how I was driving. I should have never been behind the wheel in the first place.