

'Superman' flies home from Nebraska

SPECIAL TO BLUFFTON TODAY

Nearly nine months have passed since 2009 Bluffton High School grad Elliott Turner (nicknamed Superman) nearly died in an auto accident.

On Sunday, Turner is set to return from a successful first year of college as a freshman at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln.

Turner spent three days in intensive care at Hilton Head Hospital after an Aug. 17 car accident injured his aorta, the main blood vessel that carries blood from the heart to the body. Thoracic Surgeon Dr. David Kastl and ICU cardiologist Dr. Jonathan MacCabe performed his emergency surgery at Hilton Head Hospital.

"Elliott has made it to his 19th birthday," said Sheila Turner, Elliott's mom. She said she and her husband Tony are celebrating that Elliott enjoyed a rewarding year at UNL making friends and playing lacrosse.

"It speaks a lot to his character," she said. "We see it as an encouragement to other students graduating from Bluffton High and the other local high schools. Colleges are willing to help you get to school and learn, and you can do anything you set your mind to."

Following a second hospitalization for additional procedures, Elliott was encouraged by his team of doctors, nurses and care providers to pursue his original education path of attending college at UNL.

He arrived Oct. 1 at UNL to begin his on-campus continuation of classes which he was allowed to start while still in ICU at Hilton Head Hospital,

she said.

He was UNL Student of the Month for February. He is pursuing a degree in history and earned a 3.0 GPA his freshman year. Elliott played for the UNL Men's Lacrosse team that hosted and traveled for play against teams from Missouri, Iowa State, Texas Christian, Oklahoma and Kansas State.

Elliott will return to Bluffton Sunday in time for his 19th birthday Monday. He plans to spend his summer working for his brother Neil Turner, who has opened a jet ski rental company on Hilton Head Island; spend time at the beach surfing as not much of that happens in the corn fields of Nebraska; traveling and wrestling with his brothers, and spending time with friends and family to let them know he's missed them.



Turner