



# McMINNVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

615 NE 15<sup>th</sup> St. McMinnville Oregon, 97128

503.565.4200 (main line)

503.565.4106 (fax)

[www.msd.k12.or.us/schools/MHS](http://www.msd.k12.or.us/schools/MHS)

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August 19, 2015

To: Mr. Tom Welter, OSAA Executive Director  
From: Mark Hinthon, McMinnville High School Athletic Director  
Re: Hardship Request for Odin Thorson (10<sup>th</sup> grade)

Dear Mr. Welter,

This letter is in support of Odin Thorson, who is in need of a hardship in order to participate in Fall Sports at McMinnville High School for the 2015-16 school year. Odin is an incoming sophomore whose story is a common one. His parents divorced a few years ago and his dad moved to Sisters, Oregon while his mother stayed in McMinnville. Odin attended the first half of 2014-15 at our school and played football for us. Upon completion of the first semester, Odin moved to Sisters to live with his dad because he really missed him. He played baseball last spring, did a few summer workouts with the football team, and attended the summer Linfield FB camp as he anticipated staying in Sisters this entire school year.

However, on the inside, Odin was struggling. The truth was, he never felt that he fit in there at Sisters High School and felt like an outsider with his classmates and teammates. But, Odin liked living with his father and seeing him on a daily basis. After staying with his mom for a few weeks after the FB camp, Odin realized just how much he disliked feeling like an outsider and expressed his desire to stay in McMinnville to his mother. Odin's mother and father talked and were in agreement that Odin should remain in McMinnville.

Rest assured, Odin not once was contacted by any of our coaches this summer, until he showed up for our team camp and people at the registration table notified our coaching staff. It was a shock to them that Odin was here as they thought he was in Sisters readying for the coming season.

For the aforementioned reasons, I humbly submit this hardship request to you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Hinthon

MHS Ass't Principal / Athletic Director

August 11, 2015

To: OSAA Staff  
From: Shannon Thorson  
RE: Odin Thorson Relocation

To whom it may concern:

Mid-year, last year my son moved to Sisters, Oregon to live with his Dad who had relocated to that area. While there he played baseball and also did some pre-season practice work with the football team.

Odin came back to McMinnville for the summer and became more and more depressed over the thought of moving back to Sisters and leaving behind his friends and hometown. Odin and I decided it was best for him to remain in McMinnville and not return to Sisters. Although he's pleased he gave it a try over in Sisters he simply didn't feel like it was home.

It's very important to Odin's state of mind and well-being that he be allowed to play sports. He is very dedicated to Football and Baseball and associates much of his identity with sports. If Odin were not allowed to play football it would absolutely devastate him.

I want to clarify that he and I made this decision based on his level of happiness and mental health. There were no discussions with coaching staff at McMinnville in regards to the possibility or intent of him relocating.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards



Shannon Thorson

August 11, 2015

OSAA

To whom it may concern:

My name is Odin Thorson and I have returned to McMinnville from Sisters, Oregon and would like to play football for the McMinnville Grizzlies.

About 18 months ago my Dad moved from McMinnville to Sisters. Initially I stayed in McMinnville living with my Mom but I missed him a lot so mid-year I moved over to live with him and go to school in Sisters. Although I love my Dad, I just didn't feel like I fit in there and I missed being in the town I was born and raised in my entire life.

Football (and sports in general) are very important to me and I can't imagine my life without that structure and sense of team. I really hope you'll understand my situation and thank you for your time.



Odin Thorson