

August 21, 2015

Stuart Smith, Athletic Director

Roosevelt High School

Portland, OR

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing to help explain the reason for the interruption of Conley Taylor's 2014-2015 school year. Conley had lived in Albany all of his life with me, his mother. His father, Damon Fontleroy, and I have always been close and made parenting decisions together. Conley wasn't really focusing on his school work down here. Throughout the years, with being one of the only black children in a predominantly white area, Conley had to deal with a lot of racism. We had decided that when Conley had reached his junior and senior high school years, he would move up to Portland to live with his dad and attend school up there. A young man needs to have his father active and involved in his life

Junior year began and Conley moved up to Portland as we had planned. He began the school year and even joined and became part of the football team there at Roosevelt High School. My son was instantly welcomed into the family and I was very thankful for the positive leadership Christian Swain has with these young men. He is an amazing role model and truly helps them to focus on their academics. My son was excited and talking about his grade point average and started talking about colleges he would like to attend. He even started talking about what type of career field he would like to work in. This was the first time he had ever started looking forward with a goal in mind. His father and myself were very happy with this. We felt the move up there was exactly what we wanted. He had made a lot of friends up there. He was active and involved in the school.

Throughout his life, I have always suffered from intense migraines. They have gotten progressively worse over the years. This last year, I was to the point I was also going to the Emergency Room once a week because the pain was too intense and I needed them to help stop the migraine. My left ear also started having pain through the year, and I lost hearing in that ear. About October 2014, I was finally referred from the ear specialist I had been seeing in Albany, up to OHSU. Things moved very quickly from there. Dr. Anh did a MRI of my head and neck, and actually found the cause of my pain in my ear and the cause of my migraines for over 20+ years. I was diagnosed with a brain tumor. As you can imagine, this news shook our entire family. From October to November, they were trying to find out if it was 1 or 3 different tumors. They then decided that we would be scheduling brain surgery. We found this out I believe in early November. Conley had been having trouble focusing in school because he was so scared and worried about whether he was going to be losing mom to cancer (we weren't sure at the time if it was cancerous or not), or if I was going to survive brain surgery. He

was torn and decided that he needed to be back home with mom to help take care of me and make sure I was ok, and if I wasn't, he at least wanted to spend as much time as he could with me before my surgery. He contacted the school, and also Christian Swain to let them know what was going on with my health, and then he moved home and we registered him back into the local school at West Albany.

I had brain surgery in February. We found removed the only part of the tumor that they were able to get to, the part that had ruptured my eardrum and destroyed a nerve in there. We removed every part we could reach and rebuilt that ear drum. It has grown back again within 3 months. We did biopsy the tumor that was removed and found out that it was benign. That part was good news. The rest of the tumor is back in my ear again, all through my head, back of my brain, base of my skull wrapped around the cranial nerves and down into my neck wrapped around the jugular and carotid arteries. Every part is inoperable except the back of my head which they are saving for when it puts too much pressure on my brain, then they will try to take some out to relieve pressure. We are just trying to pain management. So for now, we are pretty much stabilized and dealing with memory loss, dizziness, exhaustion, and the list goes on. It is at least manageable though and we are not in fear of losing a family member. I know this is a rather in depth description of what happened, but I wanted to make sure that you had a real picture of the seriousness of what we were facing and how scary it was for him. I have included some pages of my medical information to show the dates that some of this happened to show the timeline of the events and why he came back to Albany.

With everything under control and being manageable, we are ready for Conley to be able to go back to Portland like we had planned. I am also looking to move up closer so that I am able to attend everything and be a part of his senior year. He is excited about his class schedule and has even been talking about taking some night classes too. These options were never offered in Albany with their curriculum. After meeting with the counselor, I was pretty excited myself about the senior preparedness class that covers how to do the SATs and scholarships.

I hope that this letter helps clear up any problems or confusion that had arisen from his withdrawal for my medical problems last year. I know that my son needs to be able to have physical activity. It helps him stay focused. With everything going on for our family, he needs that physical outlet. I hope that he will be able to still be allowed to engage in athletics this year at Roosevelt. Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help or if there are any more questions that I can answer to help expedite the process.

Thank you,

Jeny Taylor

Conley Taylor's Mother

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