

8/19/2015

Re: Antonio de Jesus Cabrera

To Whom It May Concern at OSAA,

I am writing on behalf of one of my current players, Jesus Cabrera, in regards to his athletic hardship he and the school are applying for this season to play soccer on the Varsity Men's Soccer team at McMinnville High School. I have known Jesus for the past three years and have watched a troubled student athlete grow and mature – especially over the past year both academically and also socially.

When I first met Jesus, he came across very shy, but also very polite to myself and my coaching staff. He is and was always well like and perceived by his peers and they always supported him when he needed help regarding classwork during our mandatory study halls each week. During that first season of my tenure, Jesus worked really hard and assumed a back-up role as a keeper on our team (a role that doesn't ever see the field). He accepted this position and wanted to not only work hard himself, but also push and support the starter ahead of him – all without any issue or question. This is just a small glimpse of the character that I see in Jesus daily.

Obviously, we are getting a hardship based on his overall credits (not being quite on track – close, but not there). Jesus has had struggles in the classroom and with many teachers. For his first two years, he received sub-par grades which rendered him ineligible with me (I require passing at all grade checks). He accepted this and strived to get his work in, but came up short both years with some failing grades. After a few conversations going into the summer of 2015, I mentioned to Jesus that he needed to really do well in the Spring Term and really change his academic mentality if he was to hope to play for me his senior year. In the spring, he passed six classes and increased his attendance ten-fold. Unfortunately, even though he met the requirements of the state in regards to his grades, he is still a bit shy on his graduation credits.

Jesus, his mother, myself, and the Athletic Director are working with him individually to make sure he stays on track for graduation and is able to get done by the spring of 2016. I am personally asking to allow him to play this fall to help Jesus stay involved in a positive program (our team) and work directly with myself and the team leaders constantly. This gives his teammates a sense of pride seeing their fellow teammate succeed – not only on the field, but in the classroom – and also gives Jesus the support and confidence he needs to be successful in his life, both in and out of school.

Again, please give his hardship your upmost consideration as I know he will be wanting to be the best student athlete he can be and graduate this spring. Jesus is striving to better himself daily.

Sincerely,

Jory Shene

McMinnville Head Men's Soccer Coach/Geometry Teacher