



WEST SALEM HIGH SCHOOL
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Christy Perry, Superintendent

Date: August 31, 2015

To: Tom Welter, Executive Director, OSAA

From: Bill Wittman, Athletic Director – West Salem High School

Re: eligibility request – Takota Scott

I am writing this letter in support of the attached "Eligibility Request Form" for Takota Scott. Takota did not meet the "on track to graduate" at the beginning of the 2015-16 school year, nor did he earn 2.5 credits from last semester.

I have known Takota since he was in elementary school, as he attended the school I was principal at. I also coached him in Boys & Girls Club football during his elementary and middle school years. I have seen him grow up, and I'm very privy to his family situation. He has shown a lot of heart over the years and battled many things beyond his control. Simply put, I am a Takota fan. In fact, when faced with 15 students who were academically ineligible to play for on-track or recent credit deficiencies, Takota was still the 1st on my list, and the coach's list, for hardship appeal – despite what his transcript looks like.

Takota has continued to practice with the football team and, according to coaches, has not missed a day and has been a great teammate. He has also worked out a schedule with his boss at Hawaiian Time to accommodate his football schedule. It's my hope that we can allow him the "carrot" of being able to participate.

This is a classic case of "he needs us more than we need him". Takota is not a key player for our football team – in fact unless the game situation dictates (e.g. we are up by a lot) he may not play much at all. He is just a young man that we believe athletics, in this case football, can help to succeed.

Sincerely,

Bill Wittman
Athletic Director
West Salem High School