

Oregon State Athletic Association,

My name is Kyah Sherman. I am a senior at Douglas High School this year. I have always loved soccer and I want to pursue it in college. Last year, I had a lot of trouble with family and school. I was living with my dad not so long ago and things went in a downward spiral. He got into stuff he shouldn't have and basically shut me out of his life. Once he wasn't able to afford rent anymore, we had to move in with his mom, my grandma, and also his sister that was living there too on account of her own problems. This was in 2014. At the beginning of February, I could no longer live with them. My dad was very mentally unstable and he always has been. In February it was the worst it has ever been and he lashed out at me. I wanted to live with my mom but she didn't have a place to live herself. I had to stay with her boyfriend for a few weeks, with no clothes or any school things. It was extremely difficult to get to school in that time, and sometimes I didn't even go because my mom refused to take me. I started to become very emotional and had a lack of motivation. At the end of those two weeks, my aunt, my mom's sister, found out what was going on and immediately asked me to come stay with her until my mom figured out the living situation. My mother has never figured out that living situation, nor will she ever. She was incapable of taking care of my three brothers and they also live with me at my aunts. At the end of February I got my license, and was able to transport myself to school. It took me a very long time to return to a regular mental state and a regular focus at school. My mom was diagnosed with a stage 4 cancer, and made everything worse; I also haven't talked to my dad since February. My little brothers have had an even worse time trying to recuperate from our situations. I had such a lack of motivation in everything because it seemed like no one cared. My aunt has pulled me out of that and now nothing is more important than school, soccer, and graduating. I understand what the consequences are, and I am very truly upset with myself at how much my grades slipped. Never again will that ever happen. I am a captain of the varsity soccer team, and I will do anything to be able to play with my team again. I am so sorry with my lack of abilities but I have been working on it and even took some summer classes. Please consider my terms. I am doing the very best I can with my circumstances. I almost told my assistant principal that it was my entire fault, only because I really dislike talking about the situation I had been put down.

Kyah Sherman