

August 27, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Joseph Kibbey as we approach the 2015-16 school year. As I have been notified, his final standing at the end of his Junior year (2014-15) had him passing only 4 classes and failing 3. He had no early release or late arrival in his schedule so he was a full time student. Unfortunately, passing only 4 classes in the previous term deems him ineligible for athletics as he enters his Senior year. I would like to make a plea to consider some form of reinstatement of his eligibility before the end of the first semester.

I have personally known 'Joey' since I was his coach in AA baseball as a young child. He has always had a spirit for competition and a desire to be involved in athletics. As I have seen him grow over the years through middle school and into his last year of high school, I know his peer support system comes directly from the people that surround him on his teams. As many young adolescents do, he has seen good times and hard times. He has made some challenging decisions that have led him astray, but he has always been 'coachable' and responded to consequences in a positive manner. The structure athletics have provided him over the years has been a strong support system for him as he matures. Without the support of his teammates and coaches, I can attest that Joey would be in a significantly more challenging position than he is in today.

I have observed a few events over the last year that have put Joey in a very unique situation that have challenged him to judge his character, worth and morals in ways that most students do not have to face. He was in a relationship with another young girl that tempted him to break rules he would not normally break. Some of these events are documented in his behavior file. At one point in time, he was forced to consider his role in the relationship as his girlfriend allegedly threatened to commit suicide to Joey.

The most challenging part of this transition was the stress it placed on Joey's parents and family. As Joey was trying to decide right from wrong, his parents also tried to provide structure at home for him to make good decisions. Unfortunately, Joey does come from a split home where his father resides in Dallas OR, and Mother resides in Keizer Or. As tension began to grow between Joey and the two parents, decisions for Joey's future began to cloud up his judgement and vision. At one point in time, there was a decision made that Joey would move out of his Mother's house and into his Dad's house in Dallas. As I understand it, he spent much of the end of last year living at his Dad's house in Dallas as he finished up the year. It is during this time that some of Joey's attendance started showing problems and his grades began to fall. I intervened with him and had a discussion about his actions and his future. He was able to repair some of his grades before the end of the school year.

As I reflect on Joey and his living situation over the last several years I can see two major influences within his lifestyle and how they may have contributed to a disruption in his education. I have witnessed the structure and support provided by Joey's Mom and stepfather. As difficult as it might be, they have supported his academics and athletics whole heartedly and they have utilized the lessons and teachings of his many coaches to help support him. I have had significant discussions and meetings with Joey's Mom about what he has been doing wrong or right, and what rewards or

consequences he will be facing on the team. Every one of those conversations have been positive and productive. I believe after all has been considered, Joey respects the input of his Mom and his coaches as we continue to help him mature.

On the other hand, I have had several conversations with Joey's father as well. I know Joey loves his Dad and I do want to be careful with my words. I only want to speak about actual events and facts I have seen and how I perceive how Joey may have responded. During practices over the holiday break, Joey tends to stay with his Dad. Several times I have heard from his Dad how Joey could not make it to practice and would be missing practices of events. At times, I have helped the father problem solve or compromise to allow Joey to be at practice or events. I have seen Joey shrink back and avoid conflict in these situations. I know Joey's Dad is supportive of his activities and sports but I know there is conflict over time as well. As a result, I have some concerns over Joey's grades at the end of last school year. I believe that in the transition of parenting roles last year, Joey fell through some loopholes. I know as I approached him near the end of the school year, he was able to make significant improvements but the big picture was lost.

Joey has changed from living with his Dad in Dallas to residing again with his Mom and stepdad. As a result, he is already trying to tie up loose ends and close up gaps that he left open in his grades last year. He has turned out for football and is practicing daily. He is planning ahead for his future and trying to make things right again. I am 100% positive that keeping him surrounded by people with strong character and common goals will only be beneficial in protecting his future as he enters his last year of high school. Given the chance, I have no doubt that he will re-establish himself as a young man of strong character and judgement. I know that as we look back and gave him that chance, we will not regret the opportunity we gave him to fix his own mistakes.

In conclusion, I submit this letter on behalf of Joey Kibbey and his future. He has ALWAYS been involved in activities and it has only done great things for him and for others. As he enters his last year of high school, I am confident that he is in the right place and has the right structure to grow, mature, and be successful. If given the chance, I believe he will prove himself. Please accept this letter on his behalf to reinstate his athletic eligibility.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ebbs', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jason Ebbs