

Sept 8 2015

To: West Albany High School
OSAA

Re: Donald Biehn Sports Eligibility

From: Thomas Biehn
Father of Donald
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Please understand that I do not expect my child to get undeserved kudos, or be allowed to be in sports ,
“just because”.

I have tried to instill in my children that hard work might get you somewhere today if your lucky, but continued hard work is the only way you will succeed in the long run. I have a son who has has a hard row to hoe because of a relationship that his mother and I have had, which is not in his best interest. I have custody and without insults thrown, that takes a lot of work in Oregon, for father to have custody.

There have been many things since an ugly demise to a relationship that have caused Donny problems. Many situation caused him to have limited respect for women. That fell out into his schooling. He didn't think that it was needed for him to waste his time learning from the female teachers he had. A couple classes with men teaching he seemed to listen and learn. The majority of the teachers he had were female and the lack of respect he gained, cused him to learn very little. We had him in an IEP. He was suspended from grade school twice and middle school once. Each time, were things that we had warned the school would happen if they did not stay on top of him and keep us in the loop with the most minor problems. They appeared to think we were being unfairly harsh on the boy. We were just trying to give him the best chance.

After many meetings and discussions about him being 30 assignments behind, an ESD advocate was brought in and after multiple meetings and weeks past, the end result was – no added assignments and about 6 of the 30 were needed for him to complete the 6th grade semester. We pulled him from the public school system and worked with him for the past few years. My wife Emily got him from 4-5th grade education that he tested at to where he was in January of this year at 8-9th – as far as the testing we were advised to use for judging this.

We got him involved with some very positive organizations. He was looking at life in a whole new light. He ended up going to the National Guard Youth Chalange program in Bend Oregon. If you don't know about it, call them before making a judgment. There was no court, no legal expectation, no run-in with the law. This is not a program that has anything to do with bad kids who have caused problems. It is for those who are a little behind and want to get ahead.

January, we got him into the program. Through it he was doing well enough to qualify for a running team, 12 of the 150+ kids were invited. He was one of them. I believe the forced extra exercise needed to be allowed to stay in that program was a driving force for him. He was finally succeeding in school and liking it. He was too busy to think about the negative influence of peers. He ran in a number of

competitions and did well. He had to keep up the GPA to be in the program. He would now have to keep up the GPA to be in cross country or any other sport. He has proven that he can do it in a program that required an 80% for a c grade - -they had no d's to speak of. 80% was the bare minimum on everything.

I am working with a kid, against his mother who has visitation this weekend and told him, "if your not able to run in cross country, don't go. Come stay with us and relax" He has stood up to his mother in the commitment to his team and drive to make this work.

He will get bored without something extra. He had 3 years without the standard system and is being held out of this opportunity that will give him one more carrot to reach for because he doesn't have that extra $\frac{3}{4}$ credit. He has done 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ since January – 8 months. How can one assume that he can't get the others he needs in 2 years.

Please consider allowing him into sports sooner than later, call the Youth Challenge Program (541)317-9623. They had him for 5 months all day, all night. They saw amazing drive. I was specifically told - "don't let him be normal, keep him busy and he will strive, give him a typical high school schedule he will get bored and fail."

This young man has worked very hard to get to where he is. I am not asking for extra help. I am asking for a tool that has proven to be a driving force in his recent past when nothing else has ever worked. Please do not pull the rug out from under someone who has finally found his footing.

Please feel free to call me if questions arise.

Tom Biehn
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