

Damian Serrano-Alonso Jr

395 SW 1st Ave., Canby, OR

503-545-8705

08-22-15

Re: Eligibility Letter

To whom it may concern,

My name is Damian Serrano and I am a senior and student athlete at Canby High School. On August 15th of 2015, as I was submitting paperwork to play soccer for my final year at Canby High School, I was informed I was ineligible. In order for me to be eligible to play soccer I'm supposed to obtain eighteen and a half credits. I was informed I currently have seventeen credits. I'm one and a half credits short to become eligible to participate my last year as a senior. I am very sorry and disappointed in myself for how poorly I did my third trimester of my junior year. I have spoken with my coaches and they told me to write a letter to explain and to show I am serious about wanting a spot on the team to play soccer. Of course, more importantly, to make changes as a student athlete and give all my attention to my studies in order for me to be more academically successful to reach my graduation goal.

I immediately went to speak with my counselor the Monday I was informed I was not eligible to play soccer. We spoke about my classes and determined if I am on the right track to graduate. Of course, with Mrs. Gilbert's expertise, she placed me in classes which will help me to be most successful. I am most excited I am back on track to graduate with no problems and am also determined to become an eligible athlete. I was placed in Alternative school which allows me to catch up on my credits and to recover credits I need in order to graduate. This also affords me the opportunity to work on schoolwork and homework I need to finish during the

trimester to be even more successful. In addition, I registered for the BYU program. This is a program which offers High School courses in order to catch up and gives me the ability to apply for more than a standard GED or High School diploma. This also allows me to obtain more credits and to recover any I may be missing.

I feel my ineligibility problems began when I moved with my parents out of state the summer of my sophomore year and went to school in Las Vegas until the end of my first trimester of my junior year. When transferring, there were problems with transferring all my credits from my school in Las Vegas known as Silverado High School. Such problems including: paperwork and transfer work when moving back to Oregon. My parents were moving again to Edmonds, Washington and gave me the difficult choice to move to Edmonds, Washington with them or to stay in Canby with my grandparents to finish school with all my friends/relatives I grew up with. I chose to stay in Canby because I didn't want to transfer schools again, leave my hometown, and risk losing more credits toward my graduation goal. I really wanted to stay and finish school at Canby High School and play soccer for my hometown.

My grades also suffered when I experienced a personal setback and a huge emotional struggle during the month of May of my junior year. My Aunt Rosie had been battling cancer for the past two years. In the last trimester of school she had some major complications due to her illness and sadly, passed away before the end of the school year. It was one of the hardest things my family has ever had to deal with. She was one of the most amazing, hardworking and loveliest women I have known. Her death caused a great heartbreak for me and my family members. We had lost my grandfather years before which was also sad but, it is so much different and shocking to witness someone like my aunt, at such a young age who is also a mother of two, leave us so suddenly. We were not in town when it happened and not being able to be with her hurt the most. She was fine when I spoke to her on the phone that morning and

by the end of the day she had passed. The absolute hardest part was knowing she left my two little cousins behind. This had such a negative effect on my last trimester of my junior year. As a result of my emotional instability, I didn't do as well as I could have. It was the most difficult and heartbreaking trimester I have ever encountered as a student. I have learned a lot about myself in going through this and am feeling really good about getting back on track toward my future personal and academic goals.

Playing soccer is one of the most important things in my life. It helps me to deal with my feelings and provides a healthy outlet for them. I feel I am a positive member of the Canby High School Community and would appreciate the opportunity to represent my school as a student athlete. I hope all my efforts to enroll in extra programs and create a successful graduation plan shows you how serious and dedicated I am to becoming the student athlete I know I can be. Not only for myself, but for my team mates. I respectfully ask for your consideration to participate as a vital member of the Boys Soccer Team. I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter and thank you, in advance, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Damian Serrano

Senior Canby High School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Serrano". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'D' on the left and 'Serrano' written below it.