



# SANTIAM JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**"Home of the Wolverines"**

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Principal

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Activities Director

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November 23, 2015

Dear Hardship Committee,

I would like to request a hardship for Camron Newman, a freshman here at Santiam Jr/Sr High School.

Camron just came to us from Sheridan High School, Sheridan, Oregon last week (November 17th). At Sheridan he had not participated in any fall sports, but was looking forward to playing basketball. I checked with Sheridan Athletic Director Bob Bennett and asked about Camron, scholastically, socially and athletically. Mr. Bennett's reply was "great kid, tough home life." He had not played any sports at Sheridan but was planning on playing basketball there. Also, Camron's transfer grades are satisfactory.

The reason for the request for Camron is: Mom had guardianship of Camron. Camron and mom were living in Sheridan, with stepdad at his place. Mom and stepdad divorced and mom has to move out of stepdads place so is moving several states away to the Colorado area where most of her family resides. Biological dad and his wife live in Salem (Sprague High School boundary), but are planning to move within the Santiam Canyon School District boundaries within the next couple of months (January 2016). The parents scrambled as to what they were going to do with Camron. Yes, Camron wants to play basketball and obviously that is part of the problem, otherwise there wouldn't need to be a hardship request. If he is going to have any chance to be on a team he wanted to get started with practices at the start of the season so he could learn plays, etc. Camron had to make a choice to: A) go with his mom to the Colorado area, or B) go with his dad to Sprague High School, or C) come here and live with his step-grandmother (grandmother has power of attorney to act on his behalf). With any of the choices, by OSAA standards, he would be ineligible (not sure what Colorado eligibility requirements are) without being granted a hardship. This probably should not be a consideration, but both Camron and his dad felt that by going to Sprague, with his limited size and ability, he would just be cut from the team. Therefore, there best alternative was to take a chance on a hardship with Santiam and hoping to get the chance to fit in here. Also, with dad moving to the Mill City area enrolling Camron at Sprague and then having to move him one more time to Mill City was not in Camron's best interest.

Again, Camron did not want to move out of state and he and his dad felt Sprague High School was too big for him and he would get lost in the numbers. Camron's "step-grandmother" is a long time resident of Mill City and he has become fairly close to her so he chose to come live with her. He

also has a step-brother who is also going to Santiam and is in his same freshman class. This is his connection to us.

Until Camron showed up here to register for school we had never even heard of him. There is no undue influence or motivation on our part to have him here other than to help him out. Though skill level should not be a factor in a hardship, I will say that he is a very little kid who will probably never make a varsity squad. He just wants to fit in. I did talk to him and said this would not be an easy request because it did involve choices. Most of the choices were made by his divorced parents. His two choices were to go with mom out of state or to go with dad and go to Sprague High School. The main hardship here is that parents were already divorced and another divorce entered the picture to change Camron's placement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectively,

David A. Plotts  
Principal  
Santiam Jr/Sr High School

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