

NORTH MEDFORD HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE BLACK TORNADO

Daniel P. Smith, Ed. D., Principal

Jesse Pershin, Assistant Principal • Aaron Luksich, Assistant Principal • Jessica Hamlin, Assistant Principal



November 25, 2015

Tom Welter,

Deion Cortez is a sophomore at North Medford HS. As a freshmen, Deion did not earn enough credits to be on track to graduate or academically eligible to participate in winter sports this year.

Deion comes from a highly dysfunctional family. His father has never really been in the picture, and his mom has struggles with drug and alcohol issues for many years. These issues came to a head last year when his mother's grandfather passed away. Deion's great-grandfather was highly influential in Deion's life, providing him with structure and stability that his mother could not. With his great-grandpa gone, both the mother and Deion spiraled. Deion fought depression and anxiety, leading to attendance and grade issues. The result, Deion ended his freshman year with just 2.25 total credits and 2 passed classes/.5 credit in the last two quarters of 2014-15.

Deion has since turned his life around. He is working closely with his school counselor on grades and attendance. He is leaning on his counselor and grandfather for structure, stability, and guidance, and has realized that his "way out" is through education. He is now very motivated to graduate on time with his class.

Given the hardship beyond his control, we believe Deion should be granted the opportunity to participate in OSAA activities. He is interested in making connections and having a healthy outlet, as well as using athletics as a motivation to do well in the classroom.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dan Smith
Principal, North Medford HS

Tim Sam
Athletic Director, North Medford HS

Go Black Tornado!