

December 1, 2015

To the Hardship Committee,

I recently discovered that one of our JV players did not live in our district so contacted our Athletic Director, Brian Brands, who told me that we would need to complete a hardship for this person to be eligible to play basketball. I discovered his residency issue when he had no ride to or from practice so I chose to transport him. The positive here was that I was able to learn a little more about the young man.

Nathan LeCoe came to Elmira part way through his freshman year after enduring some problems with what he perceived to be racist attitudes toward him at his previous school. He told me that he lived on the border between the Fern Ridge district and the other district, but since his father had attended the other school that is where he sent Nathan. Upon his transfer Nathan said things were immediately better at Elmira High School.

Very recently Nathan's dad left the home and moved to Alaska to work in the fishing industry. Nathan did not want to move schools again (he told me he has attended more than 20 schools in his life) and wanted to stay at Elmira. Fortunately for him, he had family (his aunt) in the area (north Eugene) that was willing to make arrangements to get him out to Elmira on a daily basis.

Joseph loves sports which help him be connected in school. He is doing very well academically and socially which we would like to see continue. I believe his participation in three seasons of school athletics will help him stay connected and be successful in school.

Thank you for your consideration of Joseph's situation.

Sincerely,

Nick D. Garman
Boys Basketball Coach
Elmira High School