

Conor Gaines

My name is Conor Gaines. I currently live in Eagle Point, Oregon with my grandmother, Anna and her boyfriend, Mike along with my brother. Before freshman year I lived with my mom in Medford, Oregon. While I lived in Medford with my mother, she got into a nasty relationship, where she was beaten almost daily. My brother and I sought peace at our grandmother's house to avoid seeing our mother in such bad condition, after a long couple of months my mother finally filed charges against her boyfriend Chad, causing him to go to jail for a short while. After the abusive relationship my mom turned to drugs in hopes of finding peace, half a year later she attempted suicide. Pushing my brother and I to go live in Eagle Point with our grandmother and Uncle and his three kids. Anna, my grandmother, is now a truck driver along with her boyfriend Mike, they are home every 8-11 days for only around 1-3 days leaving my older brother, who is 19 now, and me a lot of alone time. My grandmother also refuses to write her part of the hardship. My uncle moved out my junior year, he had an on and off relationship causing him to come home every few weeks while my brother and I watched his kids. Now he lives with his brother in Central Point, Oregon his oldest kid who attends EPHS as a freshman regularly stays with my brother and I.

Wrestling for me has always taught me very important skills going far beyond learning how to take someone down, or turning them over for points, it has taught me self-control and discipline. These skills I was not able to learn in my previous households. For example, one saying we have in the wrestling room is "When the going gets tough, the tough gets going." To me this is more than just a saying we use to push yourself, this phrase inspires determination. Determination is very important because it is applied all throughout life, let's say you need to write a paper to pass a class that you have been struggling in, you are determined to write it. You know you will write it because that is what needs to be done, and you have the determination to do so.

As it stands I cannot compete in the sport that has shaped me into the person I am today, until January, and to be honest the crushes me, Because I have spent so many years into perfecting technique and pushing myself to my physical and mental limit. Now, all that has been reduce to a hope, a hope that will somehow allow me to compete in the sport that has ultimately shaped who I am, and who I will become. It is my plan to join the armed forces when I get out of high school, it is to my understanding I must graduate to do so. So I ask for one last chance to compete in the sport I love so much, even if that means I have to be on a plan to where I cannot fail a single class, I will do it without hesitation, because that is what needs to be done.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Conor Gaines.