

Charles Hahn

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Dear OSAA:

I'm writing this letter to you not as a coach who self-reported an accidental oversight of academic eligibility for a player and is worried about the ramifications for a team that has worked very hard to win a title, but as a human being who is worried about the effect of no tennis will have on the player who was ineligible to play when we played him. He has been through some very dark moments of immense personal tragedy and has seen the darkest depths of despair. I know what I speak of because I was in the very same place not long ago, having suffered a family tragedy of unspeakable proportions. My wife still refuses to acknowledge openly what happened. It is with me every second of every day, but I am able to deal with it because of coaching and teaching, these kids give me a reason for being. I saw a transformation in Jacob from the first day of practice where he was listless, just floating, and not really at all there, to someone who is smiling, having fun, engaged, and looks forward to coming to practices and matches. Over spring break we had optional practice as always and while many showed up, many did not, but Jacob was there every day, which shows how much he needs tennis right now.

If you took coaching and teaching away from me right now, it would definitely set me back quite a ways. I truly don't want to imagine a future like that. Let's not turn out the light on Jacob, but keep the hope burning bright for him. I want every day to be as good a possible day for him, much like it is for me now. I ask not for our team, but for Jacob and what is best for him. Our scores are the same with or without him in the lineup. I believe it's a matter of him needing us and us being there for him.

Please allow us to keep helping him, so that we can keep the light burning brightly for him.

Respectfully yours,

Charles Hahn

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