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RE: Letter of Recommendation – Samuel Bolin, Class of 2017

It is my honor to type a letter of recommendation on behalf of Sam Bolin.

I am consistently impressed with the abilities and attributes that Sam represents in his school system and community. I would break his characteristics and leadership into 3 categories. Sam is full of self-initiative, integrity, and loyalty to team.

As the President of Center Grove HS Football's Gridiron Club, it gives me great pride to see a student athlete represent those attributes and live them to their fullest each day.

Self-Initiative:

At 15, Sam founded his own sports camp ministry, "In Jesus Name We Play." He gathered peers and encouraged them to participate as camp counselors. For example, this summer, over 75 younger children attended a 2-day back-to-school camp where they were taught the importance of athletics, faith and friendship in today's world. No involvement from adults. Very impressive and he is already set to take a team of volunteers to Nicaragua next year for their first international sports camp.

Sam went on to gather even more peers for a program called iCan Bike. This program helped young kids with disabilities learn how to ride a bicycle. This program took place over a 5 day period and if were not for the leadership of Sam Bolin, arguably many of his peers (girls and boys) would not have experienced such a rewarding volunteer activity.

As an incoming junior for a perennial power in HS football, Sam took the lead in finding an indoor facility, funds to pay for the facility, and championed the communication to get as many of his teammates to attend workouts in the winter. No coaches were present and attendance was abundant.

Integrity:

In a society full of temptations, Sam continues to keep his focus on tasks at hand and does not break down to pressure from his peers. He has no problem standing up for himself, but more importantly he helps those who cannot stand up for themselves. Because students know his integrity, they listen and it's almost as if he is an extension of the school administration. He has the respect of his school, classmates and parents of which he is around.

Team Loyalty:

The slogan *There is no "I" in Team*, stands strong with Sam. His football team returned a lot of seniors this season. He began as a defensive back. However because of injuries at the linebacker position, the coaching staff came to him and asked that he move positions. With no experience at that position, he never hesitated, stayed longer after practice, watched more film and learned the new spot. In addition, he knew that when the eventual starter was healthy again, more than likely his time would be limited and he would stay at LB and not moved back to his initial position. Not only did Sam prosper and play well, he continued to stay focused on the other player and help him recover from his injury. The goal was to get the original player back for the semi state. His attitude was great. He was grateful for his chance. The injured senior player made it back for the State game. Sam lost his starting spot that day. His loyalty to team showed. More importantly his team performed and finished the season undefeated and Champions of the largest class system in the State of Indiana. His role in that result will never be forgotten.

Center Grove has a phrase that states "Hard Work x Dedication = Success." Sam lives this statement. He can lead from the front and be vocal or he can read the room and know when to hang back. His presence is always felt regardless where he is during a practice or a game. In the end however, once hands are shook and congratulations have been provided, he will be leading a prayer for those in need and giving thanks with his team mates after each game.

Conclusion:

Though I am sure he has them, many would think that Sam never has a bad day. His attitude is optimistic and is always striving to improve. He demonstrates great loyalty to all those he touches. He is thoughtful and respectful of others. He is creative. He is extremely competitive. He is rarely satisfied. As you look at his potential spot into your prestigious institution, I urge that you look deeper and get to know him. I know he has made Center Grove proud.

Warm Regards,

Aaron Hohlt

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