



16 September 2013

To the Sentencing Magistrate
Heidelberg Magistrates' Court

Your Honour,

I provide this character reference on behalf of a student of mine, Larry McKinley, who is facing an "Aggravated Assault" charge. I have been his football coach for the past three years and I have known Larry to be a young man of great aspirations and commendable character.

Larry approached me approximately two weeks ago to ask if I could provide a reference for him. We have discussed his offending and he has told me that he is pleading guilty to the charge. He is very remorseful for his actions and has even asked me for help as to how he could deliver his apologies to the victim and to the victim's family. As a young man, his accountability and initiative are remarkable qualities that I rarely see in many youths of his age.

I am much honoured to have Larry in the team as one of our skilled football players who represent our college in various football tournaments. However, aside from his athletic skills, it is his character as a team mate that makes him really valuable to us. He is a very reliable man who always helps everyone in the team in every possible way he can - from lending football gear, to money, to giving advice, to being a study partner, and even to providing a temporary home to one of our players. He is especially admired for his academic efforts despite our hectic practice schedules. He would read books and complete assignments during break times while others rest from the game's strenuous workouts.

Larry's devotion to sports is undeniable and he provides free football lectures to pupils in grade schools. He is very active whenever our team gets the chance to participate in community projects like tree planting and fund raising for animal welfare.

Although I am aware that brawls or similar events can typically occur between young men, particularly in the heat of a game, I must admit that I was surprised to learn that Larry got involved in one, especially one which has led to an "Aggravated Assault" charge. This is very inconsistent with Larry's nature and I clearly feel his guilt and embarrassment at the offending. I am sure that he will remember this forever and I truly believe that he will not reoffend in the future.

Larry's standing at Heidelberg Mariners' College is currently at risk as he faces suspension or, at the very worst, expulsion. I am currently coordinating with the college directors to negotiate his academic status and the process has been truly depressing for him. I know that Larry's family has paid for all the victim's



medical expenses and I was with Larry when he, along with the other defendants to this case, formally apologised to the victim and the victim's family.

If Your Honour wishes for me to confirm any of the information I have written in this reference, please contact me on (03) 5555-4321.

Faithfully yours,

Alex Moss
Football Coach & PE Instructor
Heidelberg Mariners' College

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