## To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Zach Haskell to not only sing his praises as a gritty, hard nosed runner and athlete, but more so, to vouch for his exceptional character as a human being with unparalleled intellectual and emotional intelligence, as well as tremendous work ethic and initiative.

When I got Zach on my Middle School Cross Country team at Harwood in seventh grade where I am the head coach, let's just say, it was easy to know what kind of work ethic and talent I could expect. I would see him day in and day out, not just his athletic talent, but witnessing his extreme dedication every day, showing up and consistently giving his best. I also run a summer camp called "The A.R.C.", an adventure running camp for athletes looking to challenge themselves while having fun in the process! This was another arena where Zach excelled. He not only took on challenges fearlessly, but instead of having an arrogance around his abilities, it was a natural confidence that inspired others to challenge themselves as well! He was intuitive, and insightful emotionally in the way he interacted with other teammates, and has always been eager to take the initiative when the situation called for it. No ego, no pride, just a pleasure on and off the field.

I had coached golden gloves boxing in South Boston, basketball, and running for all ages for over 20 years, and this will be my 12th year coaching cross country, and to this day, there have been very few runners or athletes in any sport that I've had the privilege to work in that would measure up to Zach's exceptional qualities not just as a athlete, but as a person. I hope that you have the privilege to experience his genuine kindness, empathy, and sense of humor. I wish I could have him STILL with me in all of my endeavors... unfortunately for me, I think he'll have to go to high school at some point:)

Please feel free to give me a call if more information is needed on Zach's behalf. It is a rare pleasure to be speaking on behalf of someone who is truly deserving of all the praise you can fit into a recommendation letter.

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