

May 21, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of Darius Pound. I have known Darius since he was a freshman here at Easton Area High School both as a student and as a member of the football team. In my 30+ years of teaching and coaching, I can not think of any student more deserving of receiving a Flyin Ryan Foundation Scholarship than Darius.

Darius has always put exceptional effort into everything that he does, both on the field and in the classroom. He is also a kind and respectful young man that has very strong and positive values that he lives his life by. His parents did a wonderful job of raising him. Darius is an excellent "lead by example" type of leader and has always tried to help others, especially the younger football players, to stay on the right path in life.

As I look at his Core Values, two of them stick out to me. #6 – Find the good in every day; be optimistic and especially #7 – Be resilient. Darius has been through so much adversity in his life...so much more than any teenager should ever have to go through. The way in which he has handled this adversity in his life is what makes him such a special young man. He lost his starting football position and yet still worked as hard as he could in accepting his role on the team. He had to overcome family medical issues and the loss of a parent, yet he managed to work through those difficult times by staying true to his core values. Darius struggled with mental and emotional stress and, once again, overcame those issues to continue to be an outstanding student-athlete who is pursuing his dreams of going to college and playing football.

I honestly do not know many teenagers who could be so positive and resilient while overcoming the adversity that Darius has had to endure. Words can not express how much respect and admiration that I have for him. The maturity and inner strength that it takes to overcome these life struggles is incredible. I am so thankful that I could play a small part in helping guide Darius through these difficult times in his life, but all of the credit goes to him and his strength and resiliency. Once again, I have never met another student-athlete who is more deserving of this scholarship opportunity. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jeff Braid
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