

I am Jason Spain Sr, father of Jason Spain jr. He transferred from Minot Central campus to Bishop Ryan in Jan 2023. He was forced to sit one year after the transfer.

While at Central his mental health was deteriorating, and he was suffering from anxiety. Jason has a medical issue that is brutal to live with and when some of the other kids found out about it, it was a mortifying experience. He struggles with connecting with other kids his age and that struggle only got worse as he struggled to connect with classmates. His issue only compounded the problem. He was suffering from insomnia for weeks; we took him to his doctor and received sleep medicine. This medicine made him feel like he was in a deep fog throughout each day.

Going to a school that is centered on his faith has transformed him into a strong young man. His focus is on serving others instead of stressing about his own problems, this has been the best medicine possible for my son. I am so thankful for Bishop Ryan High School. His issues still exist, but his focus has changed making him a much healthier version of himself.

When we decided to transfer, I called the athletic director at Minot High, and asked for his help on how to get a waiver so my son could play football without sitting out a year of varsity. The athletic director said he would be denied the waiver and mental health would not matter because he could still play JV. Well at Class A football JV is not a guarantee. We played one game, then the next game was canceled because of bad air quality, then the next scheduled game the opponent was only able to play a half. Their last four games were canceled either by Bishop Ryan or the opponent due to lack of players. He played a total of 1.5 games in the fall of 2023. The one activity that makes him happy outside of church activities.

We knew he would be ineligible to play varsity for one year, we still made the move for him and his brother. We did not ask for a waiver for his brother, just for Jason. There was zero athletic reasoning behind transferring. The rule was extremely excessive. His brother was going into eighth grade and was forced to sit out varsity as well. That also seems excessive.

There are so many more important issues other than athletics involved in transferring schools, but athletics have so many social, mental and obviously physical benefits. Taking that option away from the student is an exclusive mindset not inclusive.

Thank you,

Jason Spain