

July 2, 2010

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this in support of Daniel Wilson an inmate from the Substance Abuse Program at Loxley Work Release Center. I have known him since he was a boy living in our community here in Brewton. I had known his father for many years and his two older brothers had played for me on the football team here at T.R. Miller High School. He was always interested in sports and began working for me as an equipment manager while he was in middle school. He was intelligent and he never minded working. By the time he reached our high school he was on our football team for four years. Daniel was very dependable, very enthusiastic and was a good team leader for us.

As a player he was very solid. He was essentially a player that all coaches would like to have. He made very good grades. If I ever had a problem with him I could run him or chew him out and he would apologize and make an immediate correction to his behavior. The only problem I ever had with Daniel Wilson was that on occasion he would "go along with the crowd" rather than to stand up and do the right thing in a tough situation. There were some minor incidents that I thought were opposite of his character. I dismissed it as juvenile stuff that many of us get involved in but later outgrow.

He went on to college to play football and graduated. When he got out he went into coaching, getting a job at a private school in the area. I thought he had great potential as a coach and I even once invited him to go to Atlanta to a coaching clinic. We had a great weekend. In the spring of 2006 I lost an offensive line coach and I talked to him about taking the job. Although he had some certification work to do for his teaching certificate, I hired him to coach for me at T.R. Miller. I had no doubts he would work and I knew that he loved our school.

Over the past few years he has done a good job. Daniel had a very positive personality and people liked him. His work ethic was strong and I depended on him for many things. It was inconceivable to me that he could have put his life and family in danger with drug issues. But I have never understood the drug culture because the risk taken for the little reward doesn't make sense to me. His arrest was a blight on our school and football program, but we have all come out stronger and more wise.

In February of 2010 Daniel called me and asked if he could see me. I agreed to meet with him and we talked for about 20 minutes. He apologized for what he had done and told me a little about his past in drugs. I believe he had been living two different lives for a long time and it was inevitable that it would catch up with him. That tendency to go along with the crowd that he had in high school he had never outgrown. After that conversation I believed that he truly had the strength to do his time and overcome his abuse problem. He is still close to losing his family and he has recaptured his faith in God, which he once had but I believed he had lost. Those can be strong motivating factors in a man's life.

Daniel has already lost a lot. He had a great job that he really liked, but he will never be a high school coach again. He may or may not recapture his family. He lost many friends and the trust of many people. But I do believe that he understands the price he is

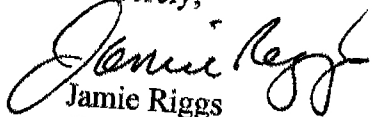
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paying is high, and I believe he has no intention of allowing anything like that to happen again. I deal with people all the time in my work who misrepresent the truth, lie and deceive on a daily basis. In this case I believe that he is sincere. I do believe that Daniel Wilson will spend the rest of his life making amends for his actions and that he will never be involved with such again. He will no longer fall prey to the idea that he won't get caught or everybody is doing it. I certainly believe that he understands that the cost is great.

I forgave Daniel Wilson months ago for the problems that he caused our football program. If I had a business rather than education and I was looking to hire a good worker, I would hire him without hesitation. I believe he will make amends and one day he will be a solid citizen in our community.

I have had many former students and players who have been involved in scrapes with the law over many things. I would be hesitant with writing a letter in support of an early release for many because of the people I know that they would hang around or the fact that I have seen their true character. But this case is different and I believe that Daniel Wilson would honor an early release with positive works and deeds.

Sincerely,



Jamie Riggs  
Head Football Coach  
T.R. Miller High School

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