

2025 Application for the Inspiration Award for Student-athletes presented by Piedmont Orthopedics by OrthoAtlanta.

Name

Joseph Zetmeir

School

Charlton Co

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Cell number

912-390-9480

Year in school

Senior

Nominated by DeMario Jones

Joseph is the ultimate student-athlete. More importantly he is an excellent role model for how to care for others. Joseph is really the "glue" that holds our program together. He is a friend to all, and looks to inspire others to do their best.

My name is Joseph Zetmeir, and I am a 17 year old high school senior from Folkston, Ga. I don't have any kind of tragic, life-altering story that impacted my high school athletic career that makes me inspirational. I'm honestly humbled and surprised that someone would find my life inspirational.

While not completely devastating, my journey through high school has been laced with trials and hardships that have tested my faith and forced me to become a better person. I carry a lot on my shoulders, and it's been heavy. Being 6'2" and 285 lbs is great when you're an offensive lineman, but it also means that I'm the one everyone calls for help. My grandma has Parkinson's Disease, and she has lost most of her mobility. I spend a lot of time moving her around and picking her up after she's fallen. This year, one of my biggest supporters, my Aunt Abe, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and she passed away earlier this month. I've had no choice but to keep all of the pieces of my puzzle moving in the right direction. It's not always easy, but I just go quietly on. Holding the line until things calm down again.

Playing football has always been my dream. Every time I step on the field, I use that as an opportunity to be a good teammate, share my faith, and protect my brothers. It's been a blessing to be able to play football, but it hasn't always been easy for me. When I was four years old, I was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. My IgA deficiency has been a struggle as I've played varsity football. I have constant sinus infections, bronchitis, and ear infections that flare back up before I can finish a round of antibiotics. While these are not life-threatening, I've played more football sick than I've played healthy. It's mentally and physically exhausting to play football in the heat and humidity of a Georgia summer with a fever. Once again, I just hold the line until things calm down again.

I play on the offensive line for Charlton County High School. I rotate between center, guard, and tackle depending on where I'm needed to make someone else successful. I have been involved in our school's football program since I was in 6th grade. I played middle school football from 6th - 8th grade. While also playing middle school football, I was a varsity football manager for every high school varsity game. While I was a manager, I learned some of the basics of athletic training. This inspired me to pursue a career in athletic training. The Charlton County High School Indians Football Program has been the cornerstone of my life and my family's lives for seven years, and the things I've gained from this program are guiding my future. I'm looking forward to holding the line and pressing forward.

In addition to playing football, I have a 3.9 GPA, and I am in several student leadership organizations. I also work as an office assistant at school, where I help my school administrators and leadership team on a daily basis. I hold the line at school whenever I'm asked.

My family also owns and operates three small businesses. Most of my free time is spent feeding cows, delivering furniture, or helping around small construction sites. I hold the line and keep everything moving in the right direction.

At the end of the day, I'm just an offensive lineman. There's not a lot of glory in that, but maybe that's what people see as inspirational. I live my life just like I play football - holding the line, helping other people be successful.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my full honor to recommend Joseph Zetmeir for the GHSA Inspiration Award. As a senior leader, team captain, and one of the top academic performers in his class, Joseph embodies everything this award represents. He is the perfect example of what it means—and what it takes—to be a true student-athlete.

In my years of coaching and working alongside young men, only a few stand out with the level of commitment, integrity, and drive that Joseph brings every single day. Whether it is in the classroom, on the field, or within our school community, he is relentless in his pursuit of excellence. His work ethic is unmatched. His leadership is steady and genuine. And his attitude is one that lifts up every teammate, classmate, and teacher around him.

Joseph maintains one of the highest GPAs in his graduating class, all while juggling the rigorous demands of varsity athletics, extracurricular commitments, and leadership responsibilities. He never complains. He never cuts corners. Instead, he leans into challenges with maturity, grit, and a humility that is rare in someone his age.

What makes Joseph truly inspirational, however, goes beyond achievements and accolades. It is how he carries himself. He leads not by title, but by example. Younger athletes look to him as a model of discipline. Teachers look to him as a standard of consistency. His peers see him as someone who shows—every single day—what “doing it the right way” looks like.

Joseph Zetmeir is the kind of student we hope all young people become: committed, selfless, hardworking, and driven by a sense of purpose that inspires others along the way. I cannot think of a more deserving recipient of the GHSA Inspiration Award.

If excellence, character, and leadership are the pillars of this honor, then Joseph is the blueprint.

Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed. It is my privilege to support his nomination.

Sincerely, DeMario Jones Head Football Coach Charlton County High School

Jack W. Corder

7th Grade Language
Arts Teacher, Bethune
Middle School, Folkston, Ga

Charlton County High School
Varsity Football
Offensive Line Coach

770-655-7048



November 14, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Joseph Zetmeir. Joseph is an inspirational person, student, and athlete. I have coached Joseph through middle school football and varsity football since the fall of 2021. It has been a true joy as a coach to watch Joseph grow up over the past five years. He is a true impact player who does not realize the impact he has on the people around him. He is an inspiration to those around him because he never backs down from responsibilities, he takes care of his teammates, and he is always the first one to help someone in need. He's the team taxi driver, the team preacher, and sometimes he's a better coach than any adult on the field. He has seen personal challenges through his senior season, but he has continued to show up and fulfill his role hugely. We are in the GHSA playoffs, and Joseph's leadership on the offensive side of the ball will be a determining factor in the Indians making it to the championship round. It is truly inspirational that Joseph carries the team, his family, his challenges, and his education with such strong shoulders.

I cannot recommend Joseph enough for the distinction of being recognized as an inspirational player. Anyone who studies our team on film or in person knows Joseph. His quiet leadership never wavers, regardless of what he is personally facing.

Sincerely,
Jack Corder