

April 28, 2023

Jacob Bush to be honored with Spirit of Sport Award **Mishawaka senior to be recognized with national award on Wednesday**

A two-sport high school athlete who overcame severe injuries from a motorcycle accident that also took the life of his father, Jacob Bush of Mishawaka High School is the 2023 recipient of the National High School Spirit of Sport Award for Section 4.

Bush will be honored and recognized Wednesday (May 3) on Senior Day when he and his Mishawaka teammates host Northridge in a track and field dual meet. IHSAA Commissioner Paul Neidig and Sports Information Director Jason Wille will make the presentation.

The National High School Spirit of Sport Award was created in 2008 by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics. The NFHS announced this year's recipients from around the country on March 15: [News Release](#)



In August of 2020, the summer before his sophomore year, Bush was riding on a motorcycle with his father, Jeremy Bush, a South Bend firefighter, when it was hit by another vehicle. His father was killed instantly, and Jacob would spend the next four days in a coma fighting for his own life.

Following months of medical procedures and rehabilitation, Jacob persevered by working his way back to continue as a member of the Cavemen football and track and field teams as well as the school's Champions Together program through Special Olympics Indiana. He will graduate this month having served as Student Council Secretary, the recipient of Forté Sports Medicine's High School Comeback Award, and his team's Service Award as he is always the first to volunteer for community service.

"Football and the chance to be with his team saved this young man," said Dean Huppert, the athletic director for Mishawaka schools. "Coaches and players called, texted and visited. He didn't want to let them down. He had the goal to run out onto that field someday, not in a wheelchair, but with his own strength. His story sends a strong message about the power of high school sports."

Huppert published [this video story](#) on Jacob and his mother Jen Bush last month.

The Indianapolis Star and reporter Dana Hunsinger Benbow published [this article](#) on Jacob last October.

Nominations for the "Spirit of Sport" award were generated through NFHS member state associations and reviewed by the NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award Selection Committee composed of state association staff members.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 407 member high schools - public, institutional, parochial and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 22 sports, 10 for girls, 10 for boys and two co-eds (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.