

October 5, 2009

Rotary Club of Almaden Valley  
P.O. Box 20543  
San Jose, CA 95160

Dear Rotarians:

Now that I am settled in at Azusa Pacific University, I wanted to take a few minutes to write and express my gratitude for the encouragement and support that your club provided to me this past summer. It was during a period when I was struggling with some difficult decisions regarding my continuing education, and my future participation in sports (wrestling and football), that I received the phone call from Coach Shawn Thomas inviting me to be on the North All Star Football Team. The invitation came as a complete surprise to me, especially since I was leaning towards moving on from sports, and I figured I had wrestled my last match and played my last football game. The opportunity to play in a prestigious game like the Wedemeyer Youth Classic gave me a new goal and a new focus. I started working out to prepare, and the Wedemeyer practices and game played a big part in my decision to "walk on" to the Azusa Pacific football program this past August.

The experience of being a North All Star is one I will never forget. The Rotary Club, and everyone involved with the game, treated us players like kings. We and our families were treated with complete respect and amazing generosity throughout the whole experience. I had never before owned a jersey with my name on it, and probably never again will, but my North jersey is now an heirloom. I am also proud to have been involved, even in a small way, with supporting such a worthy charity as ALS research.

The icing on the cake for me was being chosen to receive Almaden Rotary Club's generous scholarship award. Not only was it a complete honor, but it was a tremendous help in funding my education, as I did not receive athletic scholarship funds. I would like to sincerely thank Almaden Rotary for the help you have given me in pursuing my future. I also appreciated the opportunity to have so much fun being on the North Team.

As far as Azusa Pacific goes, after many weeks of hard work, I played in my first collegiate football game a few weeks ago when I started against U. of Wisconsin, Stevens Point. I also started last week against Humboldt State, and am scheduled to start this coming Saturday against Southern Oregon University. Though the competition is fierce, I hope to be able to stay healthy and play well enough to remain in the lineup. I am enclosing a couple of pictures of me as an APU Cougar. Thanks again for all your support.

Sincerely,

Graham Paterson

Monta Vista Matador  
North All Star  
Azusa Pacific Cougar