

June 4, 2013

To whom it may concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Zach Gonzalez. He is a gift, talented writer. His senior year of high school he was a member of the sports section of the 2013 Optime, Westminster Academy's yearbook. The Optime receives top honors from Columbia Scholastic Press Association and National Scholastic Press Association. I only tell you this so you will know the caliber of writing expected from Zach.

As an athlete, Zach had an understanding of the actions of players, vocabulary peculiar to the various sports and the ins and outs of an athletic season. His writing was of superior quality. He always met his deadlines, and his work was error free. A colleague, who is an English teacher and proofed for me, said, "I can always tell when it's Zach's work. His stories are exciting, and they pull you in. He's the best you have."

Zach had the ability to write a story that included facts and personal highlights. He made the effort to collect facts from the entire season and made sure his facts were accurate. Through first-person quotes he brought life to the players. His stories were not only factual but also interesting and entertaining.

Zach also worked well with coaches. The rowing team underwent a complete overhaul with the introduction of a former Olympic rower as the coach. She was excited to be at the school and had high expectations. She wanted prior approval of his work and kept adding to her demands. Zach met with her on five different occasions. What impressed me about this was Zach's willingness to meet her changing demands. When she approved Zach's final spread, she was thrilled. She kept saying what a joy it was to work with him.

Zach's easy going temperament made him a great team player. He worked well with others and was willing to help any who needed it. The staff respected his work and was liberal with their compliments.

I have been an adviser for 42 years. Zach and another young man who now works for a syndicated newspaper, were the best two sports writers I have had the privilege of teaching. My only regret was seeing him graduate. He will be missed. I do believe that you will be pleased with his work and that he will exceed any expectation you have of him.

Sincerely,



Carol Neal
Westminster Academy
Cell: 954.4037