

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS**



NEWS RELEASE

**Arizona Student-athlete Selected as Section 7 Recipient of
NFHS National High School Spirit of Sport Award**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: John Gillis

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (February 27, 2013) — **Carson Jones**, a student-athlete at Queen Creek (Arizona) High School, has been selected as the 2013 Section 7 recipient of the “National High School Spirit of Sport Award” by the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).

The National High School Spirit of Sport Award was created by the NFHS to recognize those individuals who exemplify the ideals of the spirit of sport that represent the core mission of education-based athletics.

The starting quarterback on last fall’s undefeated Arizona Interscholastic Association Division III state championship football team, Jones also participates in track and boys volleyball at Queen City High School and maintains a 4.2 grade-point average. However, he really distinguished himself by his selfless actions helping protect a fellow student against bullies.

Chy Johnson, a 16-year-old sophomore born with a birth defect brain disorder called microcephaly in which the normal life expectancy is 25 to 30 years, had long been the victim of other students bullying her because of her differences. However,

this year her mother had enough of Chy coming home crying every day, so she decided to call family friend Jones for help.

Jones, who first met Johnson when he was in eighth grade while volunteering for Special Olympics, went far beyond Mrs. Johnson's request. For starters, his football teammates and he asked Johnson to join them for lunch in the school cafeteria every day. Beginning with her first-hour class to the end of the day, the team makes it a point to look after her. Johnson is a regular attendee at Jones' practices and games and he reciprocates by walking her to her classes.

About the Award

The NFHS divides the nation into eight geographical sections. The states in Section 7 are Arizona, Utah, Nevada, California and Hawaii.

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

While the national winner will be recognized June 24 at the NFHS Summer Meeting in Denver, Colorado, the section winners will be recognized within their respective states and will receive awards before the end of the current school year.

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About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and fine arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and fine arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and Rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more

than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.6 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; produces publications for high school coaches, officials and athletic directors; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, spirit coaches, speech and debate coaches and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS Web site at www.nfhs.org.

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