

Signing Day: Stephon continues to honor fallen friend



PARKER - Ponderosa linebacker Drew Stephon will be lobbying to wear a jersey with the number 21 when he starts playing football for the Colorado School of Mines.

Stephon made it official that he will study and play football at Mines last Wednesday morning during National Signing Day ceremonies.

“My goal was always to go to college and play football,” Stephon said. “As I got older, I knew football was soon going to come to an end so I wanted to pursue a good school and the School of Mines was my best option.”

Stephon, who will likely play safety at Mines, hopes to wear jersey No. 21 for the Orediggers, the same number he wore at Ponderosa in honor of his best friend Logan Bauman.

Bauman was killed Dec. 6, 2008 when he was hit by a car near his home in Parker. Stephon and another friend were with Bauman at the time of the accident.

“He was the reason I have always wore 21,” said Stephon. “Before every game, I always wrote his initials on my left wrist and then his number on my right wrist. Before every game I would think about him a little bit.

“He has always been an inspiration of mine, trying to make his family proud, like their second son.”

Logan’s parents, Andrew and Karla Bauman, were at last Wednesday’s signing and have provided help for Stephon to attend football camps.

The Baumans created the Logan Memorial Fund to help deserving students with the expense of attending Regis Jesuit High School.

The other objective of the fund is to assist children ages 10 through 18 in youth athletic programs.

“The whole thing with Logan’s Foundation is to continue to give that gift that he (Logan) made every day and make a difference in someone’s life every day,” said Andrew Bauman.

“Logan had actually taken the Regis entrance exam the morning of the accident,” continued Bauman. “So it all started with trying to figure out a way to help kids financially get to Regis. Right now we have two kids we help sponsor at Regis. And then we do a lot with Parker Hawks football. We do a lot with financial needs, sponsorships with Parker Hawks football and a number of things throughout the community.”

The Logan Memorial Fund has helped Stephon.

“We helped Drew and a couple other kids through the student athlete showcase program,” said Bauman. “This is just one small thing we can do for Drew or any of the other children we can impact on a daily basis.

“It’s something where we follow Logan’s legacy on this journey that we’re on and think about what he would want us to do and to keep that impact that he had every day of his life.”

Stephon’s mother, Renata, was the first person to acknowledge the Bauman’s support.

“They took the tragedy of the accident and turned it around with everything they’ve done,” said Rengta. “They have been wonderful. They’ve been nothing but generous and very supportive.”

The Baumans will be following Stephon when he begins his football career at Mines.

“He wore 21 at Ponderosa, the same number that Logan wore,” Bauman said. “Ironically, the school he is going to, Colorado Mines, my roommate in college Bob Stitt is the head coach. I played football with him at Doane.”