

JCHS Student Signs to Play for Division II School

Story and Photo By Angela Gabbard-Byrd



On Thursday, April 11, Jackson County High School senior Isiah Baker signed his letter of intent to play football this fall for Kentucky Wesleyan College. Isiah will be playing under Coach Craig Yeast, former UK wide receiver.

Wes Bishop, Jackson County Public Schools Athletic Director, said Isiah will be playing at NCAA II Division, the highest level any JCHS General has ever left and played before when he steps on the field. Isiah will be going to KY Wesleyan as a dual credit athlete as quarterback and wide receiver. Bishop had always called him "Isiah Baker, the highlight maker." He was a four-year starter as quarterback. He started against Bell County his freshman year and threw a 30 yard pass down the middle of the field his first play of the game and that is where he started being the man to lead the team.

According to Coach Dalton, the biggest thing about Isiah is that Isiah invented Isiah! He is a unique individual and very talented. He didn't try to be anybody else. He was just Isiah. He did a lot for Jackson County Football. Coach Dalton said he was the best quarterback to play here and was a great kid to coach. Isiah worked hard and represented Jackson County well. Dalton said Isiah was a highlight waiting to happen because of his athleticism and his will and desire to be a good football player, to get on the field and make it happen.

Dean Rader first met Isiah at his son, Peyton's 14th birthday party. The boys became best friends. Rader was privileged to have coached Isiah for one baseball season. He was an easy placement on his roster and agreed with all the compliments from Coach Dalton and Mr. Bishop. Rader fondly told a story about the baseball team having to set in the dugout during some rain. Peyton elbows Mr. Rader to take a look at what Isiah was doing at the time. Isiah was bending a 36-inch piece of concrete rebar around his head. If that wasn't impressing enough, he straightens it back out. Rader laughs as he says if you know Isiah, he has to find something to pass the time. Rader laughs as he admits he tried for a half hour after the team had left to try to bend the rebar with no luck. So, there is no doubt that Isiah has the physical talent and the physical ability to play at the next level.

Isiah takes the podium and starts by thanking Mr. Dean Rader for being the best mentor. He then thanked Coach Dalton for never giving up and sticking with him and the General team. He thanked Mr. Rader and Coach Dalton for helping him during football and becoming a man in life. I love them to death and couldn't ask for anything better said Baker. He thanked his family and siblings for cheering for him on Friday nights. He thanked his friends and teammates for always being there for him and making lifetime memories. He thanked Jerrie Lynn and Ty for helping set up the food. Isiah thanked Jerrie Lynn Utz for everything she had done for the football team. A very emotional thank you for his best friend, Peyton Rader, for pushing him to be the best he could be and for the encouragement to do something crazy just to make Peyton laugh. Isiah ended by thanking God for giving him the strength to play football and protecting him throughout his life to be in this position.

JCHS Senior Signs to Play for Cumberland

Story and Photo By Angela Gabbard-Byrd



On Monday, April 8, Jackson County High School senior, Reagan Bowman, was joined by his family, football team and baseball team, to sign his letter of intent to play football at The University of the Cumberland this fall.

According to Wes Bishop, Reagan is the fifth JCHS General to ever sign a letter of intent to play college football. There are very few kids that show the work ethic, the attitude and team work that Reagan demonstrated on the football team Bishop stated. He also said the Patriots would be lucky to have him. I've never seen him be anything but a leader on the field. It was not a surprise that Reagan reached this accomplishment.

Coach Clay Dalton said what stood out about Reagan was he was one of the best players to play at JCHS, big time character, big heart, lots of talent, great family support and an excellent teammate. He remembered needing to replace a hurt player and asked Reagan to play a position that he normally didn't play, Reagan didn't hesitate to do what was asked of him and they won the game. Coach Dalton said he just really couldn't say enough about Reagan. However, he was proud of him and he was going to make the University of the Cumberland a great football player.

As the event came to a close, Reagan wanted to thank everyone for coming out and being with him. He wanted to thank Jerrie Lynn for everything she did for the team. He wanted to thank Jerrie Lynn and Ty for their help for arranging this special day in his honor. Reagan thank Coach Dalton for coaching him since the 7th grade. He was thankful for his parents for supporting his football dream since he was five years old, when he started playing football for the Berea Youth League. His parents never missed a game.

Beshear Demands Governor

Rescind Unlawful 'Sickout' Subpoenas

Subpoenas violate teachers' first amendment rights, may constitute unlawful threats and coercion under state law

FRANKFORT, KY. (April 16, 2019) – Attorney General Andy Beshear is calling on the governor and the Labor Cabinet to rescind the unlawful subpoenas recently sent to local school districts. He has given them 10 days to take action.

The subpoenas seek records and the names of teachers who may have participated in recent "sickouts." They were issued by the Labor Cabinet as part of a supposed inquiry into possible violations of labor law. The education commissioner recently stated such violations could result in \$1,000 fines to individual teachers.

Beshear writes in his letter, sent Tuesday, that the "sickouts" do not violate labor law, that any attempt to fine a member of a "sickout" would violate their First Amendment rights. Beshear adds that the Bevin administration's actions may constitute "intimidation, threats or coercion" in violation of state law.

"The governor and his administration are directly threatening teachers in an attempt to keep them from exercising their constitutional rights," said Beshear. "These 'sickout' subpoenas represent another abuse of power by the governor and they must be rescinded."

Beshear said if the subpoenas are not withdrawn he will protect the public he serves.

The subpoenas were sent to various school districts in response to demonstrations by teachers advocating for public education at the state Capitol earlier this year.

The so-called "sickouts" were not related to conditions of the school employees' employment, but instead related to a perceived "attack" on public school funding, and therefore constitute free speech protected by the First Amendment.

Beshear said teachers do not surrender their constitutional right to free speech, to peaceably assemble and to make a complaint to, or seek the assistance from government without fear of punishment when they become public employees.

The letter also points to a similar case out of Michigan where a court found that a teachers' "sickout" was based on "complaints to the state government to rectify educational, financial and structural problems in the Detroit Public School District, and not issues concerning the rights, privileges or conditions of their employment." The court found their actions were not in violation of the state's labor laws, but instead constitutionally protected free speech.

Given the similarity to Kentucky, Beshear said it is clear these actions are protected by the First Amendment, meaning that if the Labor Cabinet continues, it will lose and – like the Detroit school district – waste thousands of taxpayer dollars on legal fees.

As the state's chief law enforcement officer, it is Beshear's duty to protect the people of Kentucky.

Since taking office, Beshear has had to take action multiple times when the governor attacked public education and educators by failing to follow state laws and the Constitution.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION DAY

"Together We Can Make A Difference"
Saturday, April 27, 2019
11:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.
Bond Memorial Park
McKee, Kentucky

Face Painting Vendors PRIZES

Paparazzi & Color Street Nails
Guest Speakers
Clint Harris, Family Court Judge
Brian Gabbard, Jackson County Jailer
Ross Murray, Jackson County Attorney
Paul Hays, Jackson County Sheriff

Games For Kids **Free Girl & Boy Bicycle**

Live Entertainment
Donnie Parrett & Clyde, Travis Wayne,
The Anglin Brothers, The Bakers &
Alison Thomas Whitehead

Sponsored By:
Jackson County Foster Care Association,
Jackson County Department of Community Based Services,
Tyner Family Resource Center, Vroom Initiative JCHS Youth Services Center and
Save the Children Programs

FREE-Hotdogs for Kids