

**JOINT PUBLIC STATEMENT**

**JANUARY 11, 2018**

**STATEMENT FROM MARY ANN GEMMILL**

In November 2017, Steve (“Shorty”) Cager was suspended from athletics under the school district’s prior drug testing policy.

In December 2017, Mr. Cager apologized and accepted responsibility. Mr. Cager asked for help in addressing his mistake and asked for his suspension to be reconsidered.

In response, I offered Mr. Cager an opportunity to prove his good faith. This offer included a chance for Mr. Cager to be reinstated to athletics a few weeks early if, and only if, he first strictly complied with certain pre-conditions intended to ensure two things: (1) that he actually attend and receive appropriate treatment and (2) that he refrain from using illegal drugs.

For the past several weeks, Mr. Cager has strictly complied with the preconditions given to him. As a result, Mr. Cager’s eligibility to participate in athletics has been conditionally reinstated effective January 13, 2018.

I want to thank Mr. Cager for his strict compliance with my conditions. Going forward, Mr. Cager’s continuing eligibility to participate in athletics is contingent upon his continuing strict compliance with the same conditions described above.

I believe Mr. Cager has learned valuable lessons from this experience, including the importance of accepting responsibility and refraining from the use of illegal drugs.

  
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Mary Ann Gemmill, Superintendent  
Christian County Public Schools

## STATEMENT FROM STEVE CAGER

I want to thank Ms. Gemmill for the chance to get the help I needed and to earn my way back to playing high school basketball. I made the mistake of using marijuana to deal with personal matters. I accept responsibility for that mistake.

Instead of using marijuana, I should have asked for help. I understand that now.

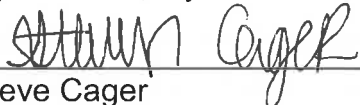
I apologize to my family, my coaches, my school, and my teammates.

My suspension has humbled me. It has been hard watching my team play without me.

I now understand the importance of accepting responsibility and staying away from drugs.

During the past several weeks, I have proven myself to Ms. Gemmill.

I am ready to prove myself to my family, my coaches, my school, and my teammates.

  
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Steve Cager