

## Cameron Clay Memorial Scholarship

Congratulations—you have been named the Cameron Clay Scholar for this year at Marshfield High School! We wish you every success as you continue your education into the post-high school levels.

Since it has been quite a few years since Cameron was a student at Marshfield, we would like to introduce you to him, and to make you a bit more aware of just who Cameron Clay was. Of course, you could go digging through old issues of Ma-Hi Times and the Mahiscan, but this will be quicker! We hope, after reading, that you will be proud to have been selected to receive the scholarship given in his memory and will feel that he would have been a peer whom you would have enjoyed knowing.

Cameron Clay was born November 8, 1975, at Bay Area Hospital. He lived his entire life in Coos Bay, where his Mom was a school teacher and his Dad was an architect. He attended kindergarten and first grade at Kingsview Christian School; then [spent] all the rest of his elementary school years at Blossom Gulch. His junior high years were spent at Sunset Junior High, although his eighth-grade year occurred in the shadow of Marshfield, in the old Harding building after fire destroyed Sunset.

In 1990, Cameron entered Marshfield High School and began four outstanding years, graduating June 3, 1994, as a valedictorian of his class. Throughout his school years, Cameron brought home perfect report cards, earning straight "A" grades - during his elementary school years, when they didn't end up on a transcript, and during the "counting" years of high school.

In addition to being a good scholar, Cameron was very active during his school years; during his senior year, he was chosen Boy of the Year, a National Merit Scholar, and editor of the Yearbook, the Mahiscan.

At the time of his graduation, Cameron was destined to attend Willamette University, on a full four-year scholarship. Cameron's strongest academic interests in high school had been English literature and writing. His goal in life was to earn a Ph. D. and become a college professor in these areas of study.

Two other loves figured strongly into Cameron's school years. One of these developed at Marshfield - music. Although he played the trumpet and guitar, his main interest and joy was in vocal music. He sang in school choirs and ensembles, a baritone, and was chosen to participate in an all-state choir.

The second love - athletics - developed at a much younger age. Beginning as a pre-schooler, sports were a great attraction. Soccer, football, basketball, baseball—he loved them all. By the time he reached high school, however, he had figured out that he was too small in stature to achieve much success either on the football field or the basketball court. Soccer became his passion, and at soccer he achieved success, earning his coveted block "M" as Marshfield's goalkeeper.

Cameron graduated in June of 1994. A month later, on July 5, he went to his doctor to try to discover the reason that he was feeling constantly tired, and prone to bruise easily. The unhappy diagnosis was that he had leukemia. A trip to Doernbecher Hospital at O.H.S.U. confirmed the doctor's suspicions—Cameron had AML, the dreaded worst kind of leukemia. He spent the remainder of his life in Doernbecher. His only chance for recovery was with a bone marrow transplant—but no donor match was found. Even if one had been located, the result would very likely have been the same, for Cameron responded very negatively to chemo-therapy—a steady, down-hill path.

Cameron passed away at Doernbecher October 20, 1994. His memorial service was held October 29 in a nearly-filled Marshfield High auditorium.

No one can guess where Cameron's path would have led, of course, had he lived. Without much doubt, he would have made an impact on the world, and on the lives of many others whom he touched. We hope that you will be inspired and motivated to achieve in your life many of the further successes that he was denied. All best wishes as you continue on your life's journey!