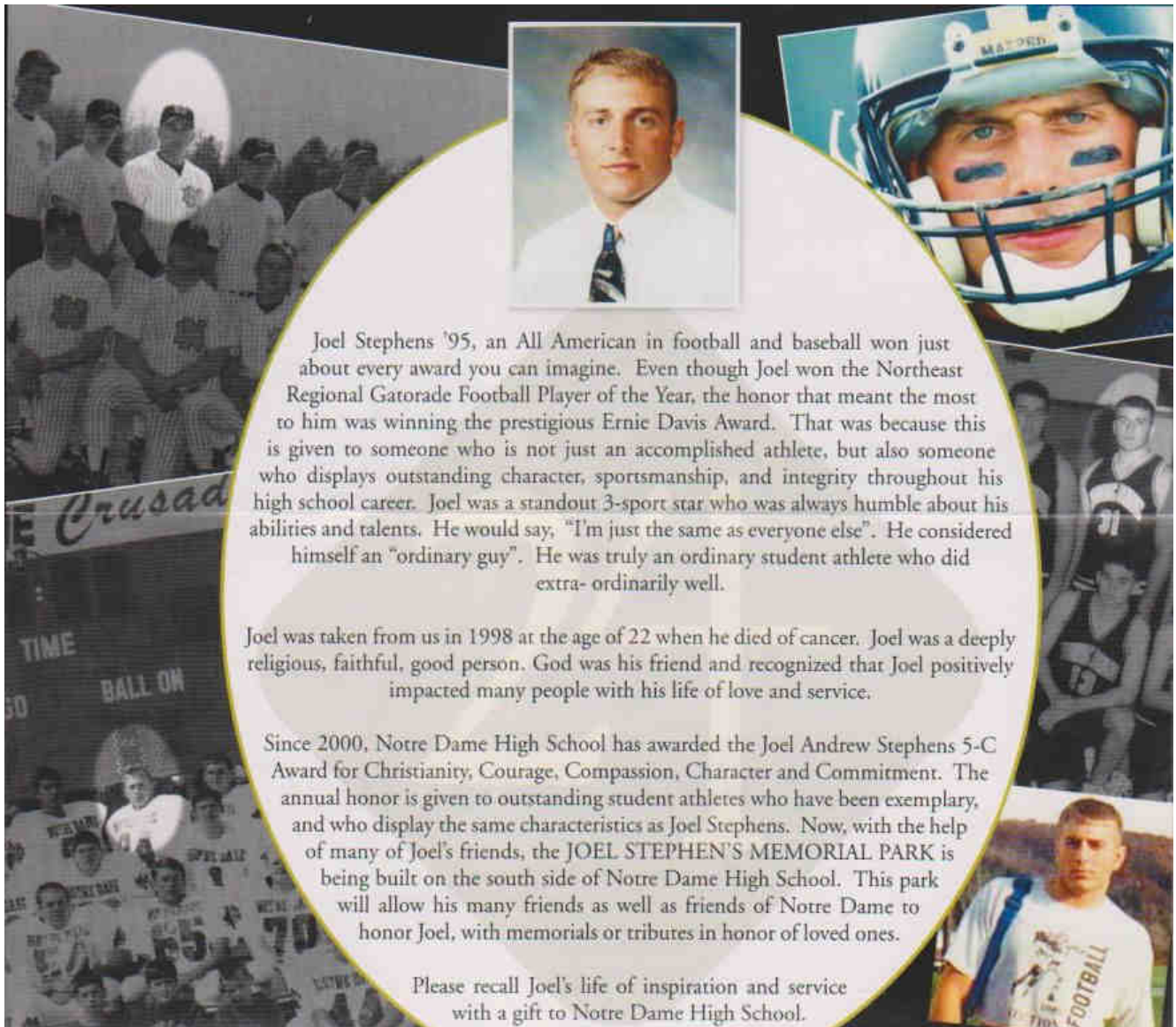


The Joel Stephens Story



Joel Stephens '95, an All American in football and baseball won just about every award you can imagine. Even though Joel won the Northeast Regional Gatorade Football Player of the Year, the honor that meant the most to him was winning the prestigious Ernie Davis Award. That was because this is given to someone who is not just an accomplished athlete, but also someone who displays outstanding character, sportsmanship, and integrity throughout his high school career. Joel was a standout 3-sport star who was always humble about his abilities and talents. He would say, "I'm just the same as everyone else". He considered himself an "ordinary guy". He was truly an ordinary student athlete who did extra-ordinarily well.

Joel was taken from us in 1998 at the age of 22 when he died of cancer. Joel was a deeply religious, faithful, good person. God was his friend and recognized that Joel positively impacted many people with his life of love and service.

Since 2000, Notre Dame High School has awarded the Joel Andrew Stephens 5-C Award for Christianity, Courage, Compassion, Character and Commitment. The annual honor is given to outstanding student athletes who have been exemplary, and who display the same characteristics as Joel Stephens. Now, with the help of many of Joel's friends, the JOEL STEPHEN'S MEMORIAL PARK is being built on the south side of Notre Dame High School. This park will allow his many friends as well as friends of Notre Dame to honor Joel, with memorials or tributes in honor of loved ones.

Please recall Joel's life of inspiration and service with a gift to Notre Dame High School.



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