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## Jason Jarrell Receives Charles Bland Award

NOVEMBER 05TH 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter, Missouri - There is one award given to a Football Bearcat each year that has become a tradition at Dexter High School, the Charles Bland Award! It is a bronze trophy and was originally awarded in 1994. This is the 22rd year that a group of football enthusiasts have honored a Bearcat and the 2016 recipient is senior Jason Jarrell.

Jarrell is the son of Denny and Paula Jarrell.

He has been a member of the Baseball, Basketball, and Football Teams all four years of high school. He is also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Future Business Leaders of America, Sr. BETA Club, and National Honor Society.

His future plans are to attend college and is undecided in a major at this time.

### *History of the Bland Award*

The Bland Award originated from a group of former Bearcat football players and fans who had an interest in honoring the most outstanding student-athlete from the Bearcat Football team.

The selected Bearcat must meet very strict criteria in many areas of the scholar-athlete life, including: Scholastic Ability, School Participation & Attendance, Community Involvement, Leadership Qualities, Personal & Team Attitude, and Athletic Performance.

A Bland Award recipient should reflect the qualities that interscholastic sports programs have to offer. In no way should this award be seen as a trophy strictly for athleticism; rather, it is to celebrate the most outstanding, well-rounded student-athlete from the senior class.

The late Charles ‘Seed’ Bland - the man that the stadium these athletes battled in during their high school careers - was a very active supporter of the Dexter School System for many years. The most amazing gift ‘Seed’ gave was his pride in the Bearcats, as well as the young people of Dexter High School.

Known only to a few, the late Ruth Bland was the ‘athlete of the family’ and was a standout for both the DHS basketball and track teams. It has been written that she was ‘the best female athlete in Southeast Missouri’ during her time.

Together, the Bland family has been there to support Dexter Schools and Bearcat Athletics for over 60 years.

Congratulations Jason!

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