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## 2020 DHS Sports Spotlight Mason Keena

APRIL 23RD 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Dexter, MO - Mason Keena is the 18 year old son of Paul and Melanie Keena.

He is the grandson of David and Betty Fleming and Melba Keena.

Mason is a member of Top 10%, National Honor Society, Student Council, Sr. Beta Club and Future Business Leaders of America. He has also played baseball, football and wrestling for the Bearcats.

When asked about his most memorable moments playing baseball, Mason said, "Playing every summer with my friends and winning State back-to-back years on the SEMO Spartans."

With the COVID-19 (Coronavirus Epidemic) Mason's spring sports baseball season was cancelled. "COVID-19 has affected my Senior year by requiring me to stay home and get a job. Take online classes and hang-up my Bearcat baseball uniform for good."

"Mason Keena is a kid that doesn't say much and always has a smile on his face," commented Drew Pixley, head baseball coach at Dexter High School. "He's a kid that has had to deal with so many injuries and illnesses and never once complained. I didn't get the pleasure to have him as a part of our baseball team last year (my first head coaching year) because he was battling Mono from wrestling season. We had a chat about that and both came to the conclusion that sitting out last spring to rest would be the best option for him moving forward. That was probably very hard for him because he is very competitive."

"Coming into this spring, it was a relief to know I would have a player like Mason that could play a few different positions and help mentor our young catchers. I feel like he was excited about the role he was going to take on especially the fact that he was going to pitch. We were looking forward to what this spring could have brought these kids."

"I feel terrible for all of the seniors," continued Pixley. "But I know that the senior group I would've had this spring would have battled their butts off. In reality, our team would've had to grind through this season, play smart, and look to multiple kids to carry this team. Mason Keena would have been one of those kids. He's dependable, works hard, and is very intelligent. I am sure going to miss having him next spring."

Mason's future plans after high school are to attend the University of Missouri - Columbia.

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