### **Sports**

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# 2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Taylor Condict

NOVEMBER 12TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

### 2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Taylor Condict

Dexter, MO - On Friday, October 29, 2021 the Dexter High School honored their Fall Senior Athletes at Charles Bland Stadium prior to kick-off of the Dexter vs Doniphan Class 3 District Play-off game.

Taylor Condict is the son of Robert and Krystal Condict.

He is a member of the Dexter High School Football Team and wears the #2 jersey.

His future plans are to attend Arkansas State University in Jonesboro.

His most memorable moment is suiting up each and every Friday night.

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# 2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Lucas Alday

NOVEMBER 12TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Lucas Alday

Dexter, MO - On Friday, October 29, 2021 the Dexter High School honored their Fall Senior Athletes at Charles Bland Stadium prior to kick-off of the Dexter vs Doniphan Class 3 District Play-off game.

Lucas Alday is the son of Jay Alday.

He is a member of the Dexter High School football team and is #44.

His future plans are to attend college and play football.

His most memorable moment is winning the 2020 Defensive Player of the Year.

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## 2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Joshua Alday

NOVEMBER 12TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

2021 DHS Fall Senior Night Featuring Joshua Alday

Dexter, MO - On Friday, October 29, 2021 the Dexter High School honored their Fall Senior Athletes at Charles Bland Stadium prior to kick-off of the Dexter vs Doniphan Class 3 District Play-off game.

Joshua Alday is the son of Jay Alday.

He is a member of the Dexter High School Football Team and is the Bearcat quarterback. He is #17 on the team.

He is also a member of the Boys Track & Field.

His future plans are to throw javelin at a four year university.

His most memorable moment at DHS was beating Perryville 72-26 with his teammates.

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# Coach Aaron Pixley Receives Honorary Charles Bland Award

NOVEMBER 10TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

### Coach Aaron Pixley Receives Honorary Charles Bland Award

Dexter, MO - There is only one award given to a Bearcat Football Athlete each year that all seniors strive to obtain, the Charles Bland Award! It's a bronze trophy, similar in appearance to the Heisman Memorial Trophy. It was first awarded in 1994, 27 years ago. This year's' award went to the 28th recipient Camden Riley; however one more trophy was created and given this year to a man who loves his athletes, his football team, and his community. He's a true Bearcat and is retiring at the end of the 2022 academic school year. That man is none other than Coach Aaron Pixley.

Pixley has a passion for football. He loves his wife and family and enjoys being "Pop Pop" to his grandchildren. He also is a community man. He not only teaches and instructs athletes on the field, but off the field he is a mentor to many. He loves him community.

"(I was) very surprised. I had no idea," Pixley said of winning the award. "I think these guys know they've got to keep it from me or I'll try to talk them out of it. It was very nice. I'm very honored. I've worked for good people. It's a great school. More than

anything, we have great kids. It's been my honor to coach them all these years. I'm just blessed to have been here."

Pixley, graduated DHS in 1988, was hired as head football and weightlifting coach in 2000 and became the school's all-time wins leader over the next 13 seasons.

"The dedication to the weight room and molding minds to get tougher than anyone you come up against has led him to become the winningest football coach in Dexter history," Jason Comfort said. "He's a man of great humility who will tell you he was simply blessed with some great kids, great assistant coaches, and he doesn't deserve any accolades."

During Pixley's first run as head coach, the football team compiled a 78 - 59 record and won district championships in 2002, 2010 and 2011 and conference titles in 2002, 2005 and 2011. They reached the quarterfinal round in 2011.

He left Dexter and went to Kennett for four years as head coach, returning to his home town in 2018 coaching another four years as head football coach of the Bearcats.

"Coach got to come back home," Comfort stated. "Never accept mediocrity became his war cry when he hit the ground. He even had it on T-shirts."

With a total of 17 years, he is the longest-tenured football coach in Dexter High School history. He retires this season with a record of 93-83 at DHS and his total 21-year career as a head coach was 114-105.

"All the time and energy he's put in the weight room and football field over the last 21 years, the impact this man has made on students is immeasurable," Comfort said. "The lessons taught are not just lessons for high school athletics. They were lessons for life. The lesson was life's tough. It's going to kick you. We must be better, stronger and tougher. The lesson is the most important thing is to always do the right thing, even when it sucks and it's not any fun. The lesson is when times are hard, we must stay together and love on each other."

Congratulations Coach Pixley it's been one heck of a ride!!

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## Camden Riley Receives 28th Annual Charles Bland Award

NOVEMBER 10TH 2021 BY DEE LOFLIN

Camden Riley Receives 28th Annual Charles Bland Award

Dexter, MO - The Annual Fall Sports Awards Program was held at Dexter High School on Monday, November 8, 2021. Jason Comfort awarded the 28th Charles Bland Award.

"Each year we honor an athlete on the football team with the Charles Bland Award," stated committee member Jason Comfort. "This year the voting was extremely close. It gets harder and harder with athletes doing so well on and off the field."

"This is the 28th year we have given out this award," continued Comfort.

The Bland Award is presented to the senior football player who is the most well-rounded student-athlete.

The winner must meet several criteria, including community participation, school participation and attendance, attitude, leadership qualities, grade-point average and athletic ability.

Camden Riley was presented with the 2021 Charles Bland Award on the stage of the Dexter High School auditorium. He gave a short speech thanking his mom and dad, his coach and teammates.

Besides football, Riley plays baseball and is involved in several clubs in school, including Sr. Beta Club, National Honor Society and Student Council. He is involved in the community through his church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

He is the son of Andy and Natalie Riley.

His future plans are to attend Mississippi State University.

His most memorable moment at DHS is receiving First Team All-Conference his Junior year.

### A little history of the Bland Award

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.

Past Winners of the Bland Award

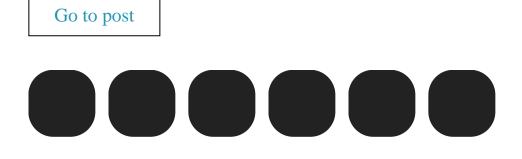
1994 - Kevin Young

- 1995 Jason Comfort
- 1996 Kent Essner
- 1997 Mike Guethle
- 1998 Justin Kelley
- 1999 David Howard
- 2000 Jason mayer

2001 - Nathan McKay

- 2002 Drew Wethington
- 2003 Marc Thrower
- 2004 Derek Clark
- 2005 Andrew Stuever
- 2006 Drew Pixley
- 2007 Eric Windham
- 2008 Nick Hessling
- 2009 Gary Summers
- 2010 Taylor Jarrell
- 2011 Tyler Miller
- 2012 Ryan Joiner
- 2013 Holden Bruce
- 2014 Noah Kronk
- 2015 Tyler Stevenson
- 2016 Jason Jarrell
- 2017 Ben Sindle
- 2018 Nate Gargas
- 2019 Austin Guy
- 2020 Ryan Collier
- 2021 Camden Riley

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