

PRESS RELEASE

HCC Bowling to Sign Freeport High School Bowling Standout

Highland Cougar Bowling to sign Jared Johnson to National Letter of Intent

Freeport, IL April 6, 2016: The Highland Cougar Bowling Program is proud to announce their first 2016-2017 signing of a student/athletes to a National Letter of Intent. Jared Johnson from Freeport High School in Freeport, Illinois has committed to the Highland Community College Bowling Program for 2016-2017.

Johnson, a 3-year Varsity Bowler for the Pretzels of Freeport High was the co-MVP for the FHS team which finished 20th in the State in the IHSA State Championship in 2015 in O'Fallon, Illinois. Johnson is also a current state finalist in the Illinois Pepsi State Singles event, which will be concluded in May in Galesburg, IL.

Jeff Johnson, the proprietor of The 4 Seasons Bowling Center and the Director of Bowling for Highland Bowling has focused on particular talent for the incoming Freshman.

"I am very excited to be able to sign Jared to the Highland Bowling Program," says Jeff Johnson who not only likes his abilities on the lanes, but his leadership potential as well. "Jared has shown through his years competing for Freeport High, that he has the ability to lead in volatile situations on the lanes. Those Pretzel teams at times needed someone to step up, calm the environment, and then step up and perform when needed. Jared has the ability to do that, and I am excited about him transferring that knowledge to the collegiate level."

John Kreeger, FHS Boys Bowling Head Coach is quick to point out Jared is a good addition to HCC.

"It has been an honor to have coached Jared the last 8 years through the Freeport Middle School and High School programs," said Coach Kreeger. "I have watched him grow not only as an outstanding bowler but as an outstanding young adult. Jared has been a part of the Varsity team for the last 3 years and I know that the Highland coaches will be impressed with ability."

Johnson, says that while the learning curve will be steep with the conditions of collegiate bowling, Jared has the ability to adapt quickly to that environment.

"Jared has seen and competed on some of the tough sport bowling conditions and realizes that at this level, spares are crucial," continues Johnson. "For some, that is a scary transition. For Jared, I feel it is nothing more than a personal challenge to pick up the spares and move on to the next frame. It is that mentality that will not only elevate his position on the team, but the finishing positions for our Cougar team throughout the year."

Jared has competed for the past 5 years at the USBC Junior Gold tournaments throughout the United States, in addition to USBC Youth National events. He has earned his accolades in top-level competition by competing amongst the best.

Highland Head Coach, Gail Myers, Jr., is excited about the opportunity to bring talented freshman to his team that will make the team better as a whole. "We are looking for very specific types of bowlers when recruiting so that we can take this team to the next level," says Myers who after his first year of coaching is looking forward to building on the success of his team. "Jared is a good, consistent fit to what we are looking for and I look forward to him being part of our Cougar team."

The Highland Men's Bowling Team, while only in their 4th year of competition, continue to surprise many with such a young program with their third consecutive berth into the Inter-Collegiate National Championships. That berth has heralded their outlook for the future. The HCC Men's Bowling Team was consistently rated in the Top 64 in the nation, amongst all the large universities and bowling powerhouses throughout the United States. The top 64 teams in the nation are seeded into the USBC Intercollegiate Championships with the top 4 teams from sectionals advancing to the National Championships. The HCC Men have advanced to sectionals the past three years.

The Highland Men's Bowling team also finished 4th in the nation at the NJCAA Nationals in Buffalo, NY, last February.

The 2016-2017 bowling season begins in September 2016.

The National Letter of Intent for Jared Johnson will be signed at 5pm on Friday, April 8, 2016 at The 4 Seasons Bowling Center. Please feel free to attend the event.

For additional information feel free to call:

HCC Athletic Director, Pete Norman – 815-599-3465
HCC Director of Bowling, Jeff Johnson – 815-238-8707
HCC Men's Head Coach, Gail Myers Jr – 608-558-1206
Jared Johnson – incoming HCC Freshman – 815-990-8826