



Press Release

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PREP FOOTBALL STANDOUT, MERCY HOME YOUTH SIGNS ON AT BALL STATE

DEFENSIVE END OVERCAME LONG ODDS, LIFE IN SHELTERS TO REALIZE DIVISION I DREAM. WILL PLAY FOR CARDINALS IN 2010

February 3, 2010—Tory Squires, a senior defensive end at Gordon Tech High School in Chicago, signed his letter of intent today to play football at Ball State University in the NCAA's Division I beginning next season.

Squires, a 17-year-old senior, has overcome a lifetime of personal challenges to excel on the gridiron. Before coming to Mercy Home, he spent much of his life trying to survive on some of Chicago's toughest streets and moving in and out of shelters in three states. As a result, he never knew the stability he would need to succeed in school, or to develop his abilities.

Once he arrived in the safe, supportive, and consistent environment of Mercy Home, Squires was able to improve his grades and pursue his passions. Mercy Home placed Squires at Gordon Tech High School for his freshman year. Each evening, he took full advantage of the tutors and the array of academic support programs offered at Mercy Home. That same year, Squires went out for the football team at Gordon Tech, and before long, he began to attract attention from recruiters.

Squires' tremendous talent is supported by his determination. "He has a great head on his shoulders," said Rev. L. Scott Donahue, President and CEO of Mercy Home. "As he does on the field, Tory never sits out a play, never quits in the pursuit of his goals," Donahue said. "Mercy Home looks forward to big things from this very special young man in the years to come."

About Mercy Home for Boys & Girls

Mercy Home for Boys & Girls has been a solution for kids in crisis since 1887. Our residential, aftercare, and mentoring programs provide safety and opportunity for more than 600 kids every year. Mercy Home is 99.8% privately funded and operates on two campuses in Chicago—a home for boys at 1140 W. Jackson Blvd. and a home for girls at 11600 S. Longwood Dr.

Please visit mercyhome.org to learn more.