

Midwest Members Credit Union Male Athlete Of The Month: Thornton Highlights A Blend of Athletic /Classroom Commitment As Keys To Success

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WOOD RIVER - Cameron Thornton, a senior at East Alton-Wood River High School, has been recognized as Midwest Members Credit Union Male Athlete of the Month for soccer after what he described as building strong connections with teammates on and off the field and maintaining his focus on faith, family, and academics.

Thornton, who has played soccer for three years, said he enjoys “how fun it is to play and how competitive it can be.” He pointed to relationships with teammates as a major accomplishment for him in Oilers boys soccer.

“One major accomplishment is connecting with teammates on and off the field,” Thornton said. “One quality or necessity that’s led to this reward goes back to what I stated before: Philippians 4:13, because none of this is possible without Jesus in my life.”

Thornton said his high school career and involvement in sports have helped shape him personally.

“My high school career and involvement in sports showed me how to grow up and mature into the man I’m supposed to be,” he said. “This also shows me that time flies, and I enjoy every waking moment.”

In the classroom, Thornton said he has maintained at least an A or a B in his classes. He also said he is interested in nursing as a future career field, while his plans to continue playing soccer in college remain undecided.

Outside of school and sports, Thornton said he is dedicated to his faith and makes time to attend church on Sundays and Wednesday nights. He also said he enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Thornton thanked several family members for their support, including his grandmother, aunt, uncle, and cousin.

“I want to thank my grandma, who always supported me with athletics and school,” he said. “My uncle Derrick for showing me how to become a better person. I also want to thank my cousin Noah Thomas for showing me how to be a better athlete by demonstrating both physical and mental strength. ‘Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.’ I, as well, would like to thank my aunt Melissa for always encouraging me to do my best.”

Thornton also shared advice for others.

“If you want to do something in life that others think you can’t do, believe in yourself and trust in the Lord, for he’s the one who sets your path,” he said.

Thornton's coach is Chris Johnson.