

A legacy left behind

With the class of 2021 graduating, the community reflects on the loss of the Eastside legend Dominic Reidburn

May 29, 2021 would have been Dominic Reidburn's high school graduation day. As this day gets closer, the East side community reflects on the legacy Reidburn left behind.

"Whether Dom was in the classroom, field, or gym, you knew he was there. With him gone, it just feels like an empty space. And it feels the same way for my friend group," senior Skyler VanRiper said.

The East side legend passed away in a fatal car accident on Sept. 28, 2019. Since then the community of East High has remembered him in sports seasons, at graduation parties, daily occurrences like jewelry, cleats, shoes, and memorials in their rooms. Reidburn's family also now holds an annual blood drive in his honor because he wanted to be an organ donor and was not able to.

"We would play every game with his jersey hanging up on the fence as if he were playing with us. Every day last year he would park in the same parking spot and we honored him by painting a 5 in that parking spot," senior James Jefferson said.

At East High's commencement, there will be a chair in honor of Reidburn where he would have sat and turned over the tassel on his cap. Turning the tassel over after graduating is symbolic for crossing over from high school to a new stage in life. Even though Reidburn will not physically be doing this, friends and family continue to carry his presence with them in all stages of life.

A new stage after high school for Reidburn would have been playing college level sports like baseball and football.

"He was a hell of a ball player. I could've definitely seen him playing college baseball," junior Symon Yates said.

Reidburn had played baseball since he was three years old. Reidburn's baseball coach says that baseball was his true love.

"I think a lot of people can learn from what Dom used to do, be the type of kid that shows

up early, be a natural leader, willing to do anything to help the team, or do any type of work to try and make yourself be better. They are definitely things that all athletes can learn from that would benefit them and have success in whatever goals they wanna accomplish -

"He wanted to enter the Army reserves and take some criminal justice classes at DMACC, then join the police academy. He wanted to make a difference in our community, and change the perception of the East side for the better," mother Mandy Reidburn said.

He told friends about his plans to join the police force.

"He was riding around with them (WDM police) in that summer of 2019 and he'd always show us. He's been telling me those were his plans since sophomore year," Jefferson said.

As the class of 2021 prepares to move on from East High School, Reidburn also left a great impact on other classes.

"I feel like Dominic's death affected way more than just the class of 2021... After he passed we were all devastated, but when we were all feeling sad, we all came together and found comfort in each other," junior Remmi Dyer said.

Many of Reidburn's friends and family struggled to adjust to a world without him physically here. Reidburn passed away in the middle of his junior year football season. Teammates felt like the team was missing a puzzle piece.

"One day we were all watching him play football and the next day he was gone. We all went to homecoming together a couple weeks before, and him and I were dancing next to each other all night... It was very hard

to accept we wouldn't ever see him again, or another game with him, but now we try to push even harder to make sure that he would be proud of our accomplishments," junior Caden Kline said.

Reidburn's friends and family will forever keep making him proud. They will always cherish memories and pieces of him with them to carry on his legacy as the Eastside legend.



plish," coach James Giboo said.

Many people around Reidburn noticed his hard work increased drastically throughout high school. He always had a good work ethic but coaches and friends say he became much more serious about setting bigger fitness goals.

"He was a late bloomer, he was always kind of small but he had hit a growth spurt and so did his work ethic. He was working with the guys and Coach Keonte White, he was starting to fill out and started looking like a really good athlete," football coach Greg Schoon said.

Reidburn's plans for college extended beyond his focus on athletics. He had huge goals for his career as well.

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