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Photography is what drives me, specifically sports photography. I am currently a Senior in high school at Billings Senior High. I am a self-motivated, hardworking student and entrepreneur along with being a dedicated student and athlete. I am a self-taught photographer that has sharpened my skills through classes at both Billings Central and Billings Senior high schools. I actively participate in the school newspapers as both an article writer and as a photo submitter. My pictures are used in the yearbook for both sporting and general student life pictures.

I feel as though my efforts have helped increase school spirit in the parents and fans and have helped the players elevate their games. The fans and parents love to have their supporting efforts in the stands captured on film. When the players see me on the sidelines with my camera, they step up their efforts so their sporting exploits can be captured for eternity.

My passion for photography has led me to my chosen field of study of Photojournalism that I plan to study at the University of Montana in Missoula. While considering many other schools, my decision to attend UM for this major was cemented after meeting with the dean of the Journalism school for a personal tour. During this tour he outlined the program and how it will be tailored to highlight my passion for photography. The program also demonstrates a proven history of helping their students obtain meaningful internships and professional contacts to lay the groundwork for a successful career post-graduation.

Seeing these effects on the fans, parents, and athletes themselves has solidified my desire to take this passion from a hobby and side-job to a full-blown career. I am really looking forward to sharpening my photography skills while learning the journalism aspect of the career I would like to manifest through hard work. I might be most excited to find an internship through the department that could potentially put me in front of professional athletes. This scholarship will go a long way to helping me capture these opportunities and I truly appreciate even being considered as a candidate.

I am also driven to strive to be debt-free when I graduate. My parents have worked hard to teach me the importance to self-discipline when it comes to spending and finances. I have practiced dividing my earnings up into savings, investments into my business and equipment, and donations to further God's work on Earth and to help others in need. I am driven to continue these efforts in securing financial support through scholarships that will reward the hard work I have done in school and in the 220+ hours of community service that I have logged through my high school years.

I am honored to be considered for this scholarship. It would go a long way to helping meet these goals that drive me and would be directly applied to the cost of school to earn the Photojournalism degree at UM that I hope will launch my career.