NHS, Three-Sport Athletes Compete in National Game

Missouri School for the Deaf students Joseph Allen, of Jefferson City, and Terrell Owens, of Worth Missouri, both National Honor Society students and three-sport athletes, were invited to compete this past Friday in the USADB National East-West All Star game played in St. Louis. Representing Missouri on the National (West) team, Allen led all players on both the National and American (East) team with twelve rebounds. Owens contributed four points in the Nationals first victory in two years over the American team with the final score of 91 – 71.

The United States of America Deaf Basketball, Inc. sponsors this annual event, hosting at a new major location in the States each year with Missouri serving as the host state this year. The top deaf athletes from around the country are selected to play each year providing an opportunity for them to showcase their talents. Deaf Olympic personnel are on hand to evaluate prospective players to join the upcoming Olympics for the Deaf.

MSD head coach, Richard Keller, was selected to coach the National team adding to the honors received for the school this year. Leading the national team in scoring was Elonzo Arellano and Dalton Taylor with 21 and 20 points respectively. Both Arellano and Taylor represented the State of Texas. The American (East) leading scorer, from Riverside, California, with 19 points was the national deaf player of the year Noah Vallencia. Vallencia scored a total of 31 points on the game having played the first one-and-one half quarters for the National team and scoring 12 points, before moving over to help the American team. The Nationals controlled the boards outrebounding the Americans 69 – 37.

This event for Allen and Owens of Missouri capped off their basketball careers with the Missouri School for the Deaf as the top honor received. As National Honor Society students and athletes they have both committed their time and energy to excel both academically and athletically during their years enrolled at MSD.