TWO PATERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS GRADUATES AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FROM OMEGA PHI PSI FRATERNITY

Avante Gilbert and Jayden Cornish, both standouts as Kennedy athletes, get awards to help cover cost of books and supplies for college

PATERSON – Avante Gilbert, last season’s top-scoring player on Kennedy High School’s boys basketball team, and Jayden Cornish, a Kennedy football player who made the All Passaic County team as well as headlines as an anti-pot rapper earlier this year, were both awarded scholarships from the Omega Phi Psi fraternity.

“Both Avante and Jayden were outstanding student-athletes who instilled so much Paterson pride in us all,” said Schools Superintendent Eileen F. Shafer. “I am so proud of the young men they have become, and I wish them all the best as they head to college. I am grateful to Mr. Arrington and everyone at the Omega Phi Psi fraternity for giving their support for their college education.”

“This is our way of doing what we can for these very special young people who have given everything they’ve got to their studies and their athleticism,” said Vincent Arrington, a former Paterson Board Commissioner and a member of the Omega Phi Psi fraternity. “These young men have worked hard and they are continuing to work hard, and we wanted to help ease their burden of some of the expenses associated with going to college.”

Gilbert and Cornish were each awarded $500 scholarships to help cover the cost of textbooks and other supplies as they go to college.

Gilbert was the top-scoring player on the Kennedy Knights boys basketball team that won the 2019 Passaic County Championship. He will attend St. Thomas Aquinas College in Sparkill, N.Y. in the fall along with his sister, Taniesha. The Gilbert siblings both earned full basketball scholarships at the school.

Cornish has already reported to football practices at Rowan University in Glassboro, N.J. In addition to being named to the All Passaic County football team, Cornish gained notoriety in May as a member of “Knight Time.” The rap trio and their song, Weed Ain’t Right, were finalists in the New Jersey Shout Down Drugs, a statewide contest run by the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey nonprofit organization.

PHOTO IDS (from left): Kennedy Knights Boys Basketball Head Coach Tommie Patterson, Adrian Gilbert (Avante’s father), Avante Gilbert, Kennedy High School Principal of Operations Michael Hill, Vincent Arrington.

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