

10 H-F High seniors chart future course in college sports

BY ANDREW BURKE-STEVENSON
aburke Stevenson@hfchronicle.com

On Thursday, May 19, Homewood-Flossmoor High School senior athletes gathered to sign and celebrate their soon-to-be-continuing athletic careers in college. Athletes present were Michael Shelley, Anthony Mootry, Denzel Lee, Brian Nwachukwu, Christian Meeks, and Rachyl Robinson. Taji Mathis Akinremi and Spencer Leak III were scheduled but couldn't attend.

Shelley, Mootry, Lee, Akinremi, and Nwachukwu will be doing Track and Field. Meeks and Robinson will play basketball, and Leak will play football.

Shelley has run since fourth grade and joined H-F's team in his freshman year, making the varsity team his junior year. He will be attending Benedictine University and run Track and Field there.

Mootry hasn't stopped running track since sixth grade. He joined H-F's team his freshman year, made varsity his junior year, and will attend and continue his Track and Field career at Drake University.

Akinremi ran track since his freshman year and joined varsity his junior year. He will be attending Eastern Illinois University.

Nwachukwu started his competitive running career with cross country in junior high, switching over to track his freshman year at H-F. He will attend and run at University of the Cumberland.

Audriana Grant and Kaitlyn Cole have signed to be members of the Howard University Track & Field team.

Meeks has played basketball since starting in the H-F feeder program in the sixth grade. He joined the H-F team as a freshman and made varsity his sophomore year. He will continue playing basketball while attending University of Missouri at St. Louis.

Robinson has played basketball since fourth grade, joining the H-F team her freshman year, and making varsity as a junior. She will attend and play basketball at Morton College.

Leak has played on the H-F football team for four years as a punter and a kicker. He has been on varsity since his junior year and will attend and continue playing football at Morehouse University.



Provided photo
Kaitlyn Cole will be heading to Howard University where she will be a member of the women's track team.

Andrew Burke-Stevenson/H-F Chronicle
H-F track standouts, from left, Michael Shelley, Denzel Lee, Brian Nwachukwu, and Anthony Mootry, will take their talents to the college level.



Provided photo
H-F graduate Audriana Grant is going to run track at Howard University.



Andrew Burke-Stevenson/H-F Chronicle
Rachyl Robinson will play basketball at Morton College.



Andrew Burke-Stevenson/H-F Chronicle
Christian Meeks will play basketball for the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

**RED
SUMMER**

*A pandemic ravages the land.
An innocent black teenager murdered. A country divided.
It's not 2022. It's 1919.
A new modern musical that bridges the past to the present.*

Friday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, September 17 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 18 at 2 p.m.
Saturday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 25 at 2 p.m.

(708) 235-2222

**CENTER FOR
PERFORMINGARTS**
Governors State University

CenterTickets.net

4 H-F grads honored by Sox

BY CHRONICLE STAFF

The Chicago White Sox ACE program recognized four Homewood-Flossmoor High School graduates during a June 7 ceremony at Guaranteed Rate Field for their work on the ball field and their intention to continue to play baseball in college.

Players Shai Robinson, will attend Illinois State University; Aarion Fry will attend Lakeland University in Wisconsin; brothers Jaden Jackson and Jaren Jackson will attend Joliet Junior College. During their high school years, the four were a part of the ACE Program.

The White Sox created the ACE program in 2007 with the goal of providing high-quality baseball instruction, as well as leadership and mentorship opportunities on and off the field, to young athletes from Chicago's underserved communities. ACE financially supports the cost of travel baseball against other highly competitive groups at the local, regional, and national levels.

ACE team members, age 12 through 17, are engaged in an elite practice and competition schedule, while receiving academic direction to prepare them for

future success. The ACE Program is funded through White Sox Charities.

ACE Coach Darius Day, himself an ACE program graduate, is excited for his former players and the opportunities they'll have at the next level.

Day said Robinson is "a really, really good shortstop. He's coming into his own as a ball player. I think Shai's career is heading in the right direction. He's a really humble guy, he enjoys playing the game. He's a leader on and off the field."

Fry and the Jackson brothers were with the ACE Program for two summers. Day said the idea behind the seven-week summer league is to get players in front of scouts.

"Any opportunity to get to the next level is a great opportunity. You never know where it can go from there," Day said. "All you can do is go with it the best you can and hope for the best."

Fry is a pitcher, and Day said pitchers are hot commodities for the ACE Program. "We're always looking for pitching." Fry hopes to get a chance to make the cut for the varsity team at Lakeland.

The Jackson brothers are expected to take roles as middle infielder and utility man at JJC.