

# The Jackson Sun

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## MADISON ACADEMIC MAGNET HIGH SCHOOL

# Student killed in shooting accident honored

## 'Sam's Dugout' dedicated in memory of Sam Bomar

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A makeover of a room at Madison Academic Magnet High School now symbolizes the spirit

of a former student who died last school year.

On Tuesday, members of the Madison Academic community dedicated an area named "Sam's Dugout" in memory of Sam Bo-

mar, a multitalented former student whose passions included baseball.

The "dugout" includes a room with shelves made by a friend to hold clothing donated for students throughout the school system. A baseball-themed mural will also be paint-



BOMAR

ed down the hallway leading to the room.

Many of those in attendance Tuesday became teary eyed as friends and educators spoke about their memories of Bomar, who died May 4 after being accidentally shot by a friend.

The senior at Madison Academic participated in theater, debate and sports. He displayed an uncommon strength for some-

one his age and had a passion about family, faith and politics, said teacher Gwen Penny, who heads the school's debate team.

"There was never any doubt about where he stood on an issue," said the speech and forensics teacher. "Sam just had a sense of right and wrong ... I think Sam would agree that helping others

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Rayna and Hugh Bomar, the parents of the late Sam Bomar, stand with Ben Carlton in Sam's Dugout, which Carlton helped create at Madison Academic Magnet High School as an Eagle Scout project in honor of Sam.

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is the right thing to do.

"Because of (the dugout), for many years to come, many students who do not know Sam will be touched by him," she said.

Madison's crisis counselor Donna Lane said she noticed some students at other schools had a need for more school uniforms. Last year, Madison Academic seniors began donating school uniforms for a class project. The idea spawned this year into "Sam's Dugout," after Lane discussed the idea with school officials, a parents' organization and Sam's parents.

Sam's friend, Ben Carlton, designed the shelves for an Eagle Scout service project. The project was assembled over two Saturdays by the members of Boys Scouts Troops 12 and 115 along with other scouts from Madison.

Carlton said he thought the dugout would be a nice way to honor a friend who he knew well from school and from being members of the same Boy Scouts troop.

Sam's involvement in school activities and personality made him popular.

"He was just a great



KATIE BRAKE/THE JACKSON SUN

Madison Academic Magnet High School Principal Tommy Allen speaks during a dedication to Sam's Dugout on Tuesday afternoon. Sam's Dugout is an area in the school for clothing donation in honor of the late Sam Bomar.

kid," said the 17-year-old Carlton before Tuesday's ceremony. "There was no other kid like him at Madison."

Former Madison principal Tommy Allen said last spring semester was the most difficult time of his 41-year career in education. But the reaction after Sam's death represented the culture of the school.

"I saw how the kids of this school pulled together, how they loved each other and how they build each other up," Allen said.

The dugout is one example of the compassion of those involved with the school, said Lisa Carson, guidance counselor for Madison juniors and seniors.

"We felt it was only appropriate to give back to

a family, which has given so much (to us)," she said.

— Stanley Dunlap, 425-9668