



ELIZABETH FORWARD SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Renowned BMX Pros Airdrop Anti-Bullying Message on Elizabeth Forward HS Students

The program, presented by ASA Sports and sponsored by the United States Marines, used gravity-defying stunts and world-class athletes to relay a powerful message

ELIZABETH, Pa.; September 20, 2024 — Dressed in his black tee and white helmet, BMX Pro Zach Newman sat alone in the middle of the Elizabeth Forward High School Gym, on the stunt ramps that he had spent the past 20 minutes flipping and flying over. This wasn't the set-up for one of his amazing stunts, but his presence captured the audience's attention all the same.

This part of the No Hate Tour – a program that combines breathtaking BMX tricks and a strong Anti-bullying message – was meant to illustrate how bullying could have a negative impact on someone's life. Tour Manager Dan Sieg explained to the crowd how Newman became enamored with the sport of BMX stunt-riding. His family, short on extra money for things like bikes and safety gear, took Zach to the pawn shops and got him used equipment and an oversized bike.

"His parents made sure that Zach had what he needed to begin this journey," Sieg said. "Not what he wanted, necessarily, but what he needed." Sieg went on to explain that Newman went to the local BMX park to start practicing his new love. But his, big bike and used helmet caught the attention of some of the others there and he was picked on and harassed. The moment could have ended a career that would eventually lead to a Bronze Medal in the 2018 X Games.

And that's why these athletes perform in schools across the country – to get the message out that everyone struggles with these issues and that there is help out there if you need it.

"I'm 42-years-old and I keep coming out here because the kids we see day in and day out," Sieg said after the assembly. "We perform five shows a week at high schools around the country/ That puts us in contact with roughly 7,000 kids a week. We entertain all of them, but if we're able to reach even a few who are going through some sort of bullying and remind them that there are people out there who care and who will help them, it makes it all worthwhile."

Doing it for the kids is also the reason that teacher and EFHS boys head basketball coach Nolan Larry decided to face his fears and become part of the show.

Sieg announced that a volunteer was needed to help with the show's biggest stunts. For liability reasons, a student couldn't participate so a volunteer was pre-selected and that was Coach Larry. The problem is, nobody bothered to tell Coach Larry that he volunteered!

"I had no idea that was coming because I certainly didn't volunteer," the coach said laughing after the event. "I don't do heights, even climbing the ladder to get to the top of the ramp had me nervous. But I wanted to be a good sport and thankfully, it all went well.

"I was scared but you've got to do it for the kids."

The No Hate Tour is presented by ASA Entertainment in partnership with the United States Marines. More information can be found at www.nohatetour.com and on Instagram at @nohatetour.