



A Christmas break different from most SV senior participates in the Hawaiian Tiki Bowl

by Kadyn Willcock



On the beach, Kamden Bose poses with his Tiki Bowl medal.

Imagine the feeling of your toes in the warm sand as you gaze out over the horizon of the Pacific Ocean. Who wouldn't want to be in Hawaii during the cold winter month of January? Southern Valley student Kamden Bose got to do just that to be a participant in the January 6, 2024 Tiki Bowl.

The Hawaiian Tiki Bowl is an All-Star football game aimed at seniors. Bose said, "When I first got the invite to play in the Tiki Bowl, I thought it was fake. How could a small-town kid get invited to play in an All-Star football game in Hawaii? It was an honor to receive an invitation, and I was grateful that I was being recognized for the hard work I put into playing football."

The experience included meeting many diverse team members. Though they came from different backgrounds, each player was able to bring skills and knowledge into the game. Bose said, "By playing with different players from around the United States, I realized that we all shared the same love and passion for the game of football. Whether they were from a big school or a small school, or whether they played 11-man or 8-man, we all shared a love for football."

As a team, the players attended two football practices and then played the game. "We won our game 22-0, but my favorite part of the All-Star game was throwing a touchdown pass and hearing the announcer say over the loudspeaker, 'Touchdown Kamden Bose from Orleans, Nebraska, a senior at Southern Valley High School,'" said Bose.

While football was the highlight of the trip, Bose enjoyed experiencing the Hawaiian culture as well. "While in Hawaii, I ate traditional Hawaiian foods including loco moco, acai fruit bowls, and fresh pineapple. I swam in the ocean and lounged on the beach. I took a tour around the island of O'ahu and played a round of golf," Bose added.

Bose was appreciative of the opportunity to play in the Tiki Bowl. "I am thankful for everyone who made my trip to Hawaii possible. Without the community members who donated to fund my trip, I wouldn't have been able to have the experience of a lifetime."

When thinking about going to Hawaii, tourists often come back and talk about the beauty of the islands and the wonderful beaches. Although Bose enjoyed the beach, his experience was so much more than that. Bose said, "My experience in Hawaii was spectacular. I got to experience the beautiful weather, the clear blue ocean water, and the late-night Hawaiian festivities. I also had the blessing of playing football with players from all across the country. My trip to Hawaii is something I will cherish for the rest of my life."



Kamden Bose looks for an open receiver in the Tiki Bowl All-Star game.