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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 21, 2021 Release #2021/22 – 022 <u>Contact:</u> Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, <u>Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net</u>

Perry High School to Host Author Damon West October 22

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Perry High School will welcome Damon West on Friday, October 22 at 8:00 a.m. in the Perry High competition gym. Damon West is a nationally known keynote speaker and best-selling author of *The Coffee Bean: A Simple Lesson to Create Positive Change* with Jon Gordon, best-selling author and motivational speaker.

The theme of the 2021 Perry High School football season has been "Be a Coffee Bean," based on principles shared in West's book. West will be speaking directly to the football team as he shares his story and how the book came to be written.

After suffering an injury that ended his football career, West turned to hardcore drugs and was arrested. While in prison, he learned that, like a coffee bean changing with the application of heat and pressure, he was capable of changing the environment around him. His story of redemption, grit and determination continues to inspire audiences today.

Over the past few years, West has shared the Coffee Bean lesson with dozens of college football teams such as Clemson, Alabama, Georgia, and Texas, and countless schools and businesses. His story has been featured both nationally and globally. West is passionate about the Coffee Bean message and loves sharing how it changed his life and how it can change others, too.

Kevin Smith, Perry's head football coach, said, "Throughout this season, we've challenged our players to be a coffee bean. *The Coffee Bean* is a great reminder to all of us that we have the power to transform our environment, overcome challenges and create positive change."

Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue in Perry, Ga; Wesley "Del" Martin is principal. For more information about Perry High School, visit <u>https://phs.hcbe.net</u>.

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