

Dan Carr

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Dan Carr
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Matthew Fetsch

Phone: (701) 845-3953

Street Address: 350 2nd St. NW

City, State, Zip Code: Valley City, ND 58072

Signed: 

Date: 11/15/21

Email: matt.fetsch@ndhsaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Dan Carr
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 402 5th St. N
(street address)

Linton, ND 58552
(city, state, zip)

Email: daniel.carr@k12.nd.us

Phone: 701-851-0304 Date of Birth: 12-11-1952

School Affiliation (if any) Linton High School - North Dakota

City: Linton State: ND

Place of Birth: Minot, ND Date of Retirement: NA

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:
Active Boys Basketball Coach at Linton High School

If deceased, date of death:
NA

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: NA

Address: NA

Phone: NA

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Verndale HS (Minn.)	Verndale, MN	1971	HS
College/University: Brainerd Community College Mayville State	Brainerd, MN Mayville, ND	1973 1978	Associates Bachelors
Post Graduate School: North Dakota State	Fargo	1990	Masters - Education

- Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)
- Letters of Recommendation Attached
- Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

See Supporting Documents/PDFs

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

See Supporting Documents/PDFs

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in state and national coaching associations and other related professional organizations)

See Supporting Documents/PDFs

Other information (*not previously listed*)

See Supporting Documents/PDFs

National Basketball Awards

National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year Finalist
2004, 2008, 2011, and 2014

National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year 2014

National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame 2018

Girls Golf

10 Conference Championships

9 Regional Championships

1 State Runner-Up 2018

2 3rd Place State finishes 2019 and Fall 2021

4 5th Place State finishes 1997, 1998, 2002, and Spring 2021

Region Golf Coach of the Year 6 times

1995 State Golf Coach of the Year

Boys Golf Awards

4 Regional Championships

Regional Golf Coach of the Year 2 times

Professional Affiliations and Achievements

North Dakota High School Coaches Member 1981-2021

NDHSCA Boys Basketball Advisory Committee 1996-1999

NDHSCA State All-Star Selection Committee Regional Chairman 1985, 1986, 1988, 1995,
2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2015

Regional COTY Selection Committee Chairman 1985-1987

District COTY Selection Committee Chairman 1984-1987

Conference Scheduling Committee Chairman 1985-1987

North Dakota High School Coaches Association State Convention Clinician 1984, 1985,
2005, and 2009

National High School Coaches Association National Convention Clinician 2004, 2008,
2011, and 2014.

Other Information

Coach Carr is in his 43rd year as a teacher and coach. He continues to coach 3 sports at Linton High School. Carr is very proud of the character of his teams and their commitment to each other, their school and the community. His teams have given back through youth basketball programs, elementary reading programs, benefit tournaments for cancer patients, by teaching flag etiquette and patriotism, and by honoring those who served our country through military service. Coach Carr truly believes that sports are a great vehicle to help mold athletes into responsible citizens.

Letters of Recommendation



NORTH DAKOTA
HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
 www.ndhsaa.com - www.ndhsaanow.com

MATTHEW FETSCH
 Executive Director

PO Box 817
 Valley City, ND 58072
 Telephone: (701) 845-3953

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November 15, 2021

Hall of Fame Director
 National Federation of State High School Associations
 PO Box 690
 Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Hall of Fame Director,

The North Dakota High School Activities Association (NDHSAA) fully endorses Dan Carr's nomination to the National Federation of State High School Associations' National High School Hall of Fame. Mr. Carr has enjoyed a successful coaching career at the high school level and is a qualified candidate.

Dan is highly regarded in the North Dakota basketball community as one of the best coaches in our state's history. His list of achievements is second to none, as he has been recognized numerous times at the state and national level.

On behalf of the NDHSAA, it is truly and honor for me to recommend Dan Carr for the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame. Thank you for providing this opportunity to recognize worthy individuals with this national award.

Sincerely,

Matthew Fetsch
 Executive Director

October 25, 2021

National Federation of High Schools Coaches Association (NFHSCA)

TO: National High School Sports Hall of Fame Selection Committee

RE: DANIEL CARR, Linton/H-M-B High School Boys' Basketball Coach

To write a recommendation for Dan Carr to be inducted into the NFHSCA National Coaches Hall of Fame is my honor. I have known Dan Carr for nearly 40 years in many different capacities; as a member of our high school coaching profession, as a speaker for the North Dakota High School Coaches Association Coaches Convention, as an official for high school basketball contests and as a leader of coaches throughout the state of North Dakota.

Without any doubt, Dan Carr has been a leader of the North Dakota High School Basketball Coaches for many years. He has assumed that role as a very successful coach, and his 772 wins and 257 losses record for a 75% winning percentage can attest to that. One needs to keep in mind that record has been achieved in a state where only 24.5 games are played each year. If coaching success is measured by winning percentage, Coach Carr's 75% certainly is a great credential.

Linton/H-M-B High School's success in winning post season contests also are a great indicator of Coach Carr's success. His teams have played in 31 District Championship Contests with a 68-29 District Tournament record. His teams have also won 11 Regional Championships. Likewise, Linton/H-M-B High School has won 21 of 28 State Tournament victories to the school's credit.

However, as a fellow professional, I hold other criteria as a measurement of his success and his professionalism. First, his players' individual and team conduct are impeccable. They always are immaculately dressed and their behavior on and off the competition court matches their attire. Coach Carr made this comment regarding his players' appearance and competitiveness, "My players are always going to be clean-cut and they're always going to wear a shirt and tie to games. If I didn't make them do it, they would do it anyway." This attests to his players placing importance on the high level of appearance, and they compete at the same level.

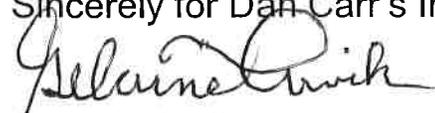
After spending over 40 years in one community, Coach Carr is well-acquainted with the people of the community and they likewise know him well. He has coached some of the children of his earlier players and soon will coach some of their grandchildren.

Another documentation of a coaches' success is the success that he has acquired locally, statewide and even nationally. Dan has been inducted into four Halls of Fame, including the National High School Athletic Coaches Hall of Fame. The success of the teams he has coached has led to recognition of his coaching. He has been recognized

with 15 District Coach of the Year awards, 17 Regional Coach of the Year awards, four State Coach of the Year awards, six National Coach of the Year finalist awards and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year Award.

Dan Carr meets all criteria that I can find to identify a truly appropriate candidate for Induction into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame. He surpasses all the measurements of a perfect inductee with longevity, win-lost percentage, championships, awards, service and character. Inducting Dan Carr into the National High School Sports Hall of Fame would make this Hall of Fame even greater.

Sincerely for Dan Carr's Induction,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gelaine Orvik". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gelaine Orvik

Retired NDHSCA Executive Secretary



101 NE 3rd St.
Box 970
Linton, ND 58552
(701)-254-4717

Dear National Federation of High School Coaches Association (NFHSCA),

October 25, 2021

It is my privilege to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Mr. Daniel Carr! It is difficult to describe the impact that one person has had on a school and community. Mr. Carr is a legend in Linton, ND, and beyond. In addition, his impact on student athletes as a high school history instructor, coach of several sports, and drivers' education instructor for nearly 40 years at Linton Public School is unmatched in North Dakota. Mr. Carr's strong leadership, attention to detail, and unrivaled work ethic as an educator and coach have brought tremendous success to himself, Linton Public School, and our community for decades. When Dan Carr decides to retire from teaching and coaching at Linton Public School, it will take several staff members to fill all of the positions that he currently leads at an extremely high level.

Dan Carr may be best known for his accomplishments as a high school basketball coach at Linton School. He has led our program for nearly 40 years. When it comes to high school boys' basketball, Mr. Carr is the pinnacle of success and longevity in the state of North Dakota. The Linton Lions (Linton-HMB since 2010) have reached the district title game 31 times in Coach Carr's 36 seasons. The Lions have also reached the region championship game 20 times, and played in 11 state tournaments, amassing three ND State Class B Championships. Mr. Carr is the winningest high school boys' basketball coach in North Dakota history with over 770 career victories – and counting.

Mr. Carr also exhibits a level of professionalism not seen from many other high school coaches or programs, regardless of their responsibility. Mr. Carr, and his entire coaching staff, is dressed in a suit for every basketball game. His players wear dress pants, a dress shirt, and a tie to every game. Everyone has grown used to seeing this clean, detailed and professional look from our basketball program. Our team's play on the court resembles this philosophy as well. Coach Carr's teams are noted for their hard work, attention to detail, few mistakes, and always having an out-of-bounds play or half-court set when a big basket is needed during a game. Coach Carr has also enjoyed similar success as a golf coach, including 19 trips to the State Girls' Golf tournament and 12 top 10 team finishes during his tenure.

Mr. Carr is an influential leader in our building! He has taught high school history, coached boys' golf and girls' golf, and instructed drivers' education for decades. The students of Linton School enjoy Mr. Carr because he positively impacts their lives in several big moments during their important years of middle school and high school as a teacher and coach. Since Mr. Carr is a model of consistency for his students and treats all of them with respect, his students and athletes go above and beyond to be their best for him year after year.

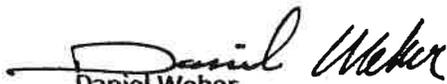
Mr. Carr's leadership and ability to connect and inspire young people is the envy of many schools and programs in our area. Although Mr. Carr is a very quiet and humble leader and coach, his annual success has become expected and commonplace. Dan Carr is a tremendous asset to Linton Public School, the North Dakota high school boys' basketball coaching community, and the type of person that many will not truly appreciate until he hangs up his whistle and leaves the classroom. Most know Dan Carr as a coach at Linton Public School. But I am grateful to know Dan Carr the teacher, husband, father, and grandfather, for several years now. I cannot imagine someone more deserving of consideration as a candidate for the National High School Sports Hall of Fame. Dan Carr's impact on the community of Linton, ND is that impressive!

Respectfully,

Paul Keeney
Superintendent

To: Award Committee

Subject: Letter of Recommendation

From: 
Daniel Weber

I am honored to be able to provide a recommendation for Coach Dan Carr. My wife and family have been acquaintances of Mr. Carr since 1981. Mr. Carr chose teaching as a career. Mr. Carr has also been a Head Coach since beginning his teaching career at Linton Public School. In addition to his Head coaching duties, he has also coached baseball and grade school basketball when needed. I included the fact that Mr. Carr chose "teaching" as a career as I believe to be successful as a Coach you must be able to Teach young people. Dan Carr has the ability to teach in a manner that students can understand.

I have a good friend that taught school for a number of years before he started another profession. He told me that while he was a teacher he tried to teach by the following:

Tell me, I will forget

Show me, I may remember

Involve me, and I will understand

I believe Dan Carr believes in this philosophy as well.

Not only does Dan Carr coach athletes, he involves students that would like to be part of the "team" by including them as managers, statisticians, ball boys and any other activity that he can think of to give young people the opportunity to be part of something special.

As a parent of 4 sons, I am grateful they had an opportunity to be Coached by Mr. Carr. I truly believe Mr. Carr had a big part of transferring them from "boys" to young men. My son's knowledge of the game of basketball far exceeds most people their age, and that is a direct result of the teaching ability of Mr. Carr and his attention to detail. I am at times in awe of what they see in a basketball game compared to what I see. They have been taught the game. Three of my sons are now officiating high school and college basketball and the lessons learned from Mr. Carr have been a great asset to them.

Coach Carr's season does not end with the final game of the season. Coach Carr organizes summer leagues, open gyms, and camps for all ages of young people to keep an interest in these activities. Coach Carr provides the leadership and values to young people to help them be successful. Not just on the field or court but the lessons he provides young people are values they will use for a lifetime. Mr. Carr coaches by example. He sets high expectations for the young people he works with and holds them to compliance of his expectations, and by his actions sets an example for those he coaches.

On a professional level, Linton Public School is fortunate to have a teacher/coach with the work ethic and values that Mr. Carr possesses. A 40 plus year career in any field is admirable. In Coaching it is becoming rare to find someone committed enough to stay Coaching for a long period of time. I guess if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life!

I hope you notice that I did not mention win/loss records, championships etc. in this recommendation. I believe the success Dan Carr has had is the direct result of preparation for games and the commitment he has for young people. Winning seasons come along when you do everything else right.

I feel that the following quotes from John Wooden, a very successful coach sums up this recommendation:

- Success comes from knowing that you did your best to become the best that you are capable of becoming
- Young people need models, not critics

Dan Carr would be a very worthy recipient of an award presented by your organization.

Support
Data

LINTON POWER OFFENSE



By Dan Carr

Our man-to-man offense is designed to go inside. We call this our power offense because the majority of the time we receive the ball in a position where we want our players to power the ball to the basket. The offense allows us to post up everyone, so it is easy to take advantage of mis-matches.

The offense has three rules:

1. Pass to the post - back door.
2. Pass to the wing - screen away.
3. Pass to the point - ballside pin and offside interchange.

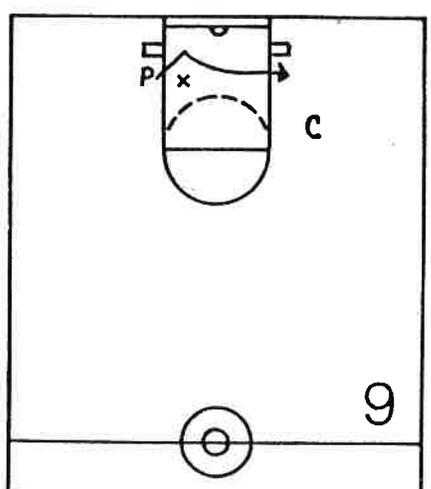
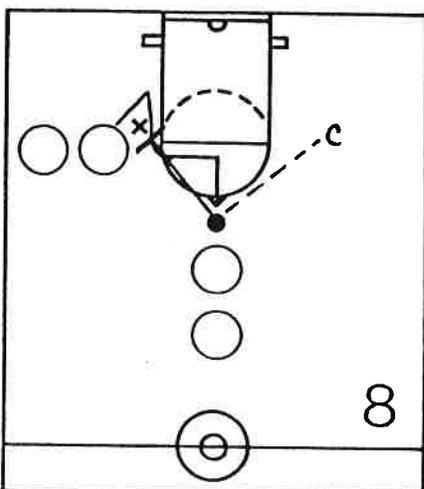
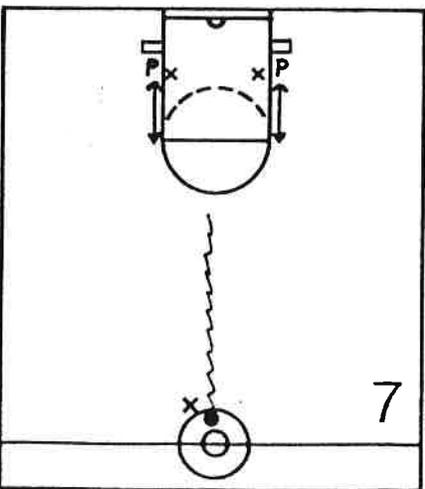
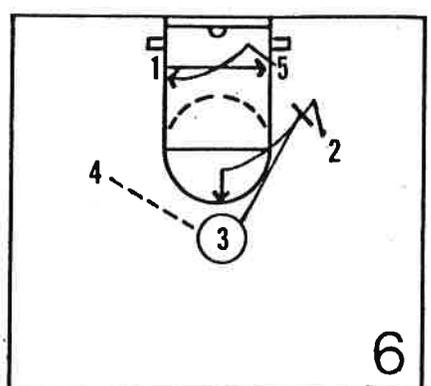
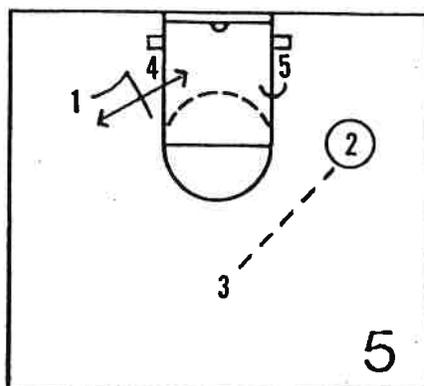
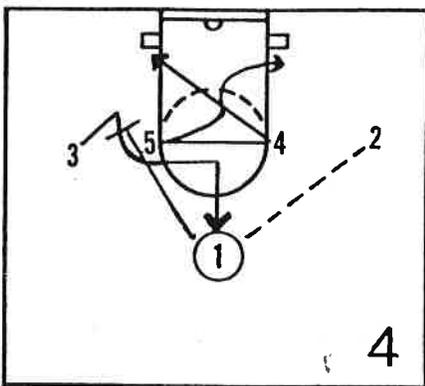
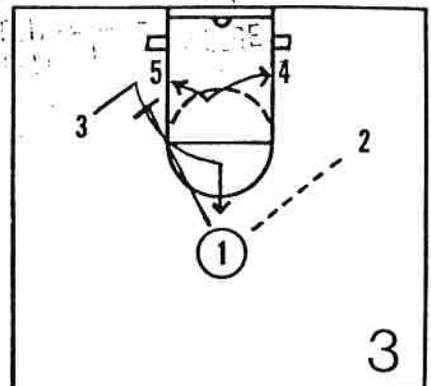
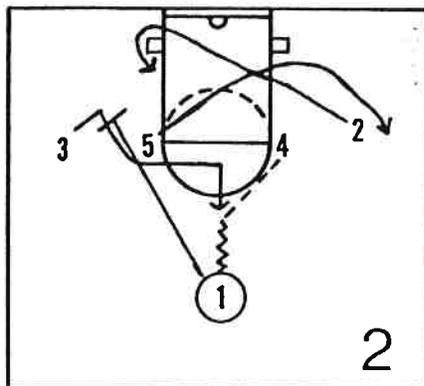
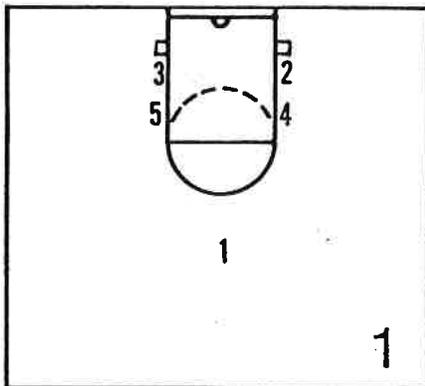
The offense starts with a one-guard front and a double stack. (Diagram #1). We like to walk through the entire offense with the ballplayers and then break it down and work on each of the three rules separately.

Rule #1 Pass to the Post - Back door (Diagram #2).

This rule is introduced initially to get our point guard looking for the posts. The posts are free to float up and down the lane working for the ball. If the defense plays behind the post, we want him to receive the ball just above the freethrow line. If the defense denies the post, he should reverse pivot, legwrap the defense and look for a lob pass.

The point guard has four possible inlet passes. When he makes the pass to the post above the free throw line, the post (#4) pivots on his inside foot into the triple threat position. The post may shoot, pass to the wing (#2) going back door, pass to the other post (#5) crossing the lane, or kick the ball back to the wing (#3) who is coming off the screen set by the point (#1). If the ball goes back to the point, we have our four inlet possibilities again.

1985
NOV 21 1985



Coaching Point: The wing must go hard to the basket. If he does not get the ball on the way to the basket, he continues through the lane as quickly as possible and loops back to replace #5 at the post position. The off-side post (#5) always steps up the lane on the pass from the point to clear the lane for the back door by #2. When #2 gets to the basket, #5 cuts across the lane. If he does not receive the ball, he continues through and replaces #2 at the wing. To teach Rule #1, we run all players at every position until it comes natural to them.

Rule #2 Pass to the Post - screen away. (Diagram #3)

On a pass to the wing, we like our ballside post (#4) to work for the ball, if he thinks he can get position. If he cannot get position, he goes across the lane to the opposite low block. For simplification, we say our rule is screen away. In the case of the post, it is really a rub. Our off-side post (#5) "v" cuts high or low and rubs off #4. If he does not get the ball coming across the lane, he posts up strong just above the big block.

Because we initially allow our posts to float up and down the lane looking for an inlet pass or trying to pin their man for the lob, they are not always low when the pass goes to the wing. However, they still use the same rule as they do when they are low - go to the off-side low block (Diagram #4). This gives us a good rub and we go straight to the basket. If #5 does not receive the pass, he posts up strong at the low block.

The point also screens away on a pass to the wing. It is important that the wing (#3) takes his man to the basket to set up the screen by the point. At times the defense may be cheating into the lane. The point must aggressively go after the man guarding the wing and get him. #3 should go off the screen and run an "L" cut to the center of the free throw line. If he is open, he take the shot. If not, he calls for the ball in his outside hand away from the defense. If we have trouble getting the ball to the point, we interchange with the wing.

Coaching Point: #3 should hold his position at the free-throw line to shield the pass from the defense. He should not move after the ball until just before it gets to him, preventing the interception.

Rule #3 Return to the Point - Ballside Pin, Offside Interchange (Diagram #5).

When #2 reverses the ball to the point (#3), #5 tries to pin his man. #3 looks into #5 and then to #4 on the interchange. When the wing (#1) screens down for the post (#4), #4 usually has an open shot or can hit #1 inside who has an excellent opportunity to establish position. If neither of these options open up, we continue to run our pass to the wing - screen away rule. (Diagram #6).

Coaching Point: In reference to diagram #5, when #2 makes the pass to #3, he must continue to work for the ball by going back door and back out, etc. #5, after pinning his man, is free to come to

the top of the lane to receive the ball for our Backdoor Play. This gives our point a couple of safety valves in case #4 is not open.

BREAKDOWN DRILLS

Guard-to-Post Drill: (Diagram #7)

In this drill, the point guard dribbles the ball up from half court. The defensive guard puts as much pressure as possible on the point. The point may not pick up the ball until he is ready to make a pass to a post.

The posts work up and down the lane in an attempt to receive the ball above the free throw line; or if the defense overplays them, they reverse pivot and legwrap looking for the lob pass.

If the ball is given to the post above the free throw line, he pivots into triple threat and uses one of his three options. The other post must work hard to establish position to receive a pass.

Pick-the-Wing Drill: (Diagram #8)

This drill is used to make sure that the wing takes his man toward the basket and that the point is getting the pick.

Coaching Point: We tell our wings that they must go down and touch the big block before coming over the screen.

Post Up Drill: Diagram #9

We put our posts away from the ball and let them work against a defensive man. The post runs a "v" cut high or low, the coach at the wing gives the post the ball in the lane, if possible. If he does not receive the ball in the lane, he posts up strong just above the big block and works for the ball until he gets it. He then makes a power move to the basket.

Note: It is very important that every ballplayer is able to work with his back to the basket. This does not come natural for a lot of kids. As coach, you must teach your players to read the defense and how to react to it. This takes time. You must be willing to allot part of your practice time to it.

Above all else, in whatever phase of the game you are working, **DEMAND PERFECTION!**

About the Author

Dan Carr has been coaching basketball for 7 years. His overall record is 122-38. He has been in Linton, ND the past 4 years and has compiled an 86-14 record. This includes a 27-0 season in 1983-84 and a 24-3 season in 1984-85. He has 3 conference championships, 2 district championships, 2 regional championships, and back-to-back state championships to his credit. Dan Carr was voted Basketball Coach of the Year in 1985 by the Coaches Association and North Dakota High School Male Coach of the Year in 1985 by the North Dakota A.P. Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association.

Subject: ARTICLES

Hi Dan. I will send you 2 emails, so they are not confused. The first one is part of the article from July, 2018, about your inductions into the N.D. Sports Hall of Fame and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame. I have updated the information on your coaching records for basketball and golf, and will send that in the second email.

The accolades for long-time Linton High School Boys' Basketball and Golf Head Coach Dan Carr were increased during a 10-day span in June, when he was inducted into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Carr, a native of Verndale, Minn., began coaching Boys' Basketball at Belgrade, Minn. at the start of the 1978-79 season. He coached for three seasons (1978-81) at Belgrade and compiled a 36-24 record.

Carr began teaching and coaching at Linton High School in the fall of 1981, and he has served as the head coach for Boys' Basketball for 36 seasons, and Boys' and Girls' Golf for 29 seasons. (Carr took a leave of absence during the 1987-88 term to earn a Master's degree in Education and a Level I Administration certificate at North Dakota State University in Fargo, but he resumed his teaching and coaching duties at LHS in the fall of 1988).

Carr has served on the NDHSCA Boys' Basketball Advisory Committee for four years (1996-99), and spent 11 terms on the NDHSCA All-Star Basketball Selection Committee. Carr was a clinician at the State NDHSCA Convention twice (1984 and 1985), and at the National NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) Convention on four occasions (2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014).

Carr was inducted into the Central Lakes College (Brainerd, Minn.) Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003, and the Mayville State University Coaches' Hall of Fame in 2013. He was inducted into the North Dakota High School Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

N.D. Sports Hall of Fame

Carr was among four inductees into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame during the 2018 North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame Banquet and Induction Ceremony at the Jamestown Civic Center on June 16.

The North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame is housed in the Jamestown Civic Center and honors and recognizes those individuals who have played a major role in the growth and development of sports in the state of North Dakota and to further promote sports and sportsmanship to the public of North Dakota by so honoring those who have made outstanding contributions in sports.

Other 2018 inductees were Scott Berry (Mayville State University Baseball Coach), Brooks Bollinger (Grand Forks Central, University of Wisconsin and NFL Football) and Laura Roesler (Fargo South and University of Oregon Track & Field).

It was the 14th class of inductees into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, which was established in 1992 with the induction of Phil Jackson (Williston, University of North Dakota and the National Basketball Association), Roger Maris (Fargo and Major League Baseball) and Dave Osborn (Cando, University of North Dakota and the National Football League).

North Dakota High School Coaches Association (NDHSCA) Chairman Gelaine Orvik of Fargo introduced Coach Carr during his induction. Orvik, who is a past president of the NDHSCA, and has been on the NDHSCA Board of Directors for 38 years.

During his induction speech, Carr spoke about his coaching philosophy, and how coaches, students and players has evolved in his 41 years of coaching. He stated that being in a community for a long period of time results in coaching parents and their children. "Sometimes you may even coach the grandchildren, but we are not quite there yet," he said.

"A lot of people think the biggest change in the game are the kids, and they think it's so much tougher to coach kids these days. I would argue that, because I think kids still like to work hard," Carr said. "My (players) are always going to be clean-cut and they're always going to wear a shirt and tie to games. If I didn't make them do it, they would do it anyway."

Carr was joined at the induction ceremony by several friends and family members, along with several former and current athletes he has coached. In attendance were his wife, Anne, his son, Kyle, and daughters Katie (Matt) Chandler, Lacey (Lance) Jangula, and Megan Carr; and grandchildren, Carter Renz, Josie Chandler; and Easton and Jaxon Jangula.

Also attending were Dan's brothers—Mike (Alice) of Wadena, Minn.; James (Janell) of Verndale, Minn.; and Bob of Alexandria, Minn.; Anne's sister, Carol Thompson of Thompson, and Anne's brother, Ron Adams of Grand Forks.

A special guest was Lowell Searcy, Dan's baseball and basketball coach at Verndale (Minn.) High School. Searcy, who recently retired, is second all-time in baseball coaching victories in the state of Minnesota.

All inductees in the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame are recipients of the Cliff Cushman Award, which is based on the life of Grand Forks native Clifton E. Cushman.

Cushman was recognized as North Dakota Athlete of the Year in 1960 and as a hurdler in track and field at the University of Kansas. He won a silver medal in the 400-meter hurdles during the 1960 Summer Olympic Games in Rome, Italy. His dream of capturing the gold medal at the 1964 Olympic Games (Mexico City) was lost when he stumbled over a hurdle in the final U.S. Olympic trial meet in Los Angeles, Calif.

After that experience, Cushman wrote a letter to the *Grand Forks Herald*, in which he asked the young people in his hometown not to feel sorry for him, but instead to set goals for themselves. His letter, written only hours after his unfortunate fall, has always been an inspiration.

After graduating from the University of Kansas in 1961, Cushman became a fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force. He was listed as Missing in Action in Vietnam in September 1966, and at the time, he was married and had a 10-month old son, Colin.

After being informed of Cushman's status, his wife, Carolyn, said "Somewhere in Vietnam he's running the biggest race of his life. It's like watching a race in which Cliff is running, only you can't see the finish tape. He's in excellent physical condition. Cliff also has a very deep faith in God. What better combination could there be?"

Clifton E. Cushman was officially declared dead on Nov. 6, 1975, but his timeless inspirational message lives on.

NHSACA Hall of Fame

Carr was among 32 inductees during the 23rd Annual National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Hall of Fame Induction, which was held in Sioux Falls, S.D. on June 26.

Carr was introduced by NHSACA Hall of Fame Committee John Hutchinson of Northwood. Hutchinson is a 2002 NHSACA Hall of Fame inductee, and the 2009 recipient of the Dwight T. Keith Memorial Award, which is presented annually at the NHSACA Convention.

Other 2018 inductees included Gary Schauer of North Dakota, Herman Andrews and Bobbi Maldonado former of Arizona; Pam Fagerlund and Joe Shields of Colorado; Gary Makowicki and Louis J. Milardo of Connecticut; Harry Howell and George Smith of Florida; Jerry L. Cougill and Gene Pingatore of Illinois; Rick Schupbach and Jim White of Iowa; Dale Phillips and Tom Pullen of Michigan; Bob Karn and Ron Stolski of Minnesota; Bernie Blackwell and Lindy Callahan of Mississippi; Swede Hawkins and Dan Moore of Nebraska; Ken Ruml and Rob Vanlaecken of South Dakota; Dan Pedersen and Tom Taraska of Wisconsin; Deb Murray and Rich Murray of Wyoming; Rodney Woods of Kentucky, Shirley Chesterfield-Stanton of Montana, Bill Cawood of New Mexico, and Linda Shanahan of Oregon.

Family

Dan and his wife, Anne, have been married for 39 years, and they have four children—all of whom have graduated from Linton High School. Katie and Matt Chandler live in Grand Forks; Lacey and Lance Jangula live in Linton; Kyle Carr lives in Bismarck; and Megan Carr lives in Minneapolis, Minn. The Carrs have four grandchildren—Carter Renz, Easton and Jaxon Jangula, and Josie Anne Chandler; and one stepgranddaughter, Brooke Jangula.

Subject: Coaching Career Info

Boys' Basketball

Since taking over the reins for the Linton (Linton/H-M-B since 2010-11) Boys' Basketball team before the 1981-82 season, Carr has posted a 736-234 (.759) record, including a 566-170 (.760) mark with 23 South Central Conference titles in the regular season, and a 170-64 (.726) record in the post-season.

The Lions have reached the district tournament championship game 31 times under Carr, including 18 straight seasons from 2000-17, and the Lions have played in 20 region tournament title games, all in the past 39 seasons under Carr.

Carr's post-season resume includes an 81-23 (.779) record with 19 titles (1984, '85, '86, '87, '90, '91, '94, 2000, '01, '03, '04, '05, '07, '09, '10, '11, '14, '17 and '21) in the district tournament; a 68-29 (.701) record with 11 titles (1984, '85, '87, '94, 2003, '04, '05, '09, '11, '12 and '14) in the region tournament; and a 21-12 (.636) record with three titles (1984, '85, 2009) and a runner-up finish (1987) in the State Class B Tournament.

Over 55 percent of the team's post-season victories (170 of 297) and State Tournament appearances (11 of 20); and three-quarters of the team's victories (21 of 28) in the State Tournament have come with Carr at the helm.

Only one (2017-18) of Carr's teams finished below .500, and Linton has won at least 17 games in a season on 29 occasions in the last 39 seasons under Carr. The Lions have won at least 20 games 18 times in the same span, including 24 wins in 1985, 2003 and 2004, 25 wins in 1994 and 2005, and perfect records in 1984 (27-0) and 2009 (26-0).

On Jan. 5, 2016, Carr became the all-time coaching victory leader (689) in North Dakota Boys' Basketball when the Lions defeated Kidder County, 68-30, in Hazelton. Carr passed Ed Beyer, who compiled a 688-195 record in 37 seasons (1961-97) at Hillsboro High School. Despite their legendary careers, Carr and Beyer opposed each other just once, and that occurred when Linton defeated Hillsboro, 45-39, in the semi-finals of the 1984 State Class B Tournament at the Bismarck Civic Center. Linton went on to defeat Newburg, 81-62, in the championship game for its first State Boys' Basketball title.

Carr became the first North Dakota coach to reach 700 career victories when Linton-HMB defeated Turtle Lake-Mercer/McClusky, 61-54, in Hazelton on Dec. 13, 2016, and his career record in 42 seasons overall stands at 772-258 (.750).

Carr has been selected as the District Coach of the Year 15 times (most recently 2021), and region Coach of the Year nine times (most recently 2021). He was selected as the State Class B Coach of year in 1985 and 2005, and the Sportswriters and Sportscasters Male Team Coach of the Year in 1985. Carr's 1984 State Champion team was selected as the N.D. Sportswriters and Sportscasters Association Male Team of the Year.

Carr was selected as the State NFHSCA (National Federation of High School Coaches Association) Coach of the Year, which made him a finalist for the National NFHSCA Coach of the Year in 2003 and 2007, and he was a finalist for the NHSACA National Coach of the Year for Boys' Basketball on four occasions (2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014), and was selected as the National NHSACA Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year in 2014.

Girls' and Boys' Golf

Carr became head coach for Boys' and Girls' Golf at Linton High School in 1990, and has served in that capacity for the past 32 seasons.

His golf teams at Linton (Linton/H-M-B since 2010-11) have had more success on the girl's side, where they have captured nine Region I titles, including six straight from 1997-2002. The Lady Lions also won Region I crowns in 2008, 2010 and 2019.

The Lady Lions advanced to the State Class B Golf Tournament 18 times, including nine straight times from 1995-2003. Other State-qualifying seasons occurred in 2008, 2010, 2013-16, 2018, 2019, 2021 (spring) and 2021 (fall). The Lady Lions finished in the top 10 at State 12 times, including a runner-up finish in 2018, third place finishes in 2019 and 2021 (fall), and fifth place in 1997, 1998, 2002 and 2021.

Carr was selected as the Region I Girls' Golf Coach of the Year six times (1997-2002), and he was selected as the State Class B Girls' Golf Coach of the Year in 1995.

In 2014, Carr's Linton/H-M-B Boys' Golf team ended a 27-year State Tournament drought, and the 2015 squad captured the team's first Region I Boys' Golf title since 1987. The Lions captured three more region titles in 2018, 2019 and 2021, and they have advanced to the State Tournament for seven straight seasons (2014-19; 2021). Carr was selected as the Region I Boys' Golf Coach of the Year in 2018 and 2019.

Awards

Carr, a native of Verdale, Minn., began coaching Boys' Basketball at Belgrade, Minn. at the start of the 1978-79 season. He coached for three seasons (1978-81) at Belgrade and compiled a 36-24 record.

Carr began teaching and coaching at Linton High School in the fall of 1981, and he has served as the head coach for Boys' Basketball for 36 seasons, and Boys' and Girls' Golf for 29 seasons. (Carr took a leave of absence during the 1987-88 term to earn a Master's degree in Education and a Level I Administration certificate at North Dakota State University in Fargo, but he resumed his teaching and coaching duties at LHS in the fall of 1988).

Carr has served on the NDHSCA Boys' Basketball Advisory Committee for four years (1996-99), and spent 11 terms on the NDHSCA All-Star Basketball Selection Committee. Carr was a clinician at the State NDHSCA Convention twice (1984 and 1985), and at the National NHSACA (National High School Athletic Coaches Association) Convention on four occasions (2004, 2008, 2011 and 2014).

Carr was inducted into the Central Lakes College (Brainerd, Minn.) Athletic Hall of Fame in 2003, and the Mayville State University Coaches' Hall of Fame in 2013. He was inducted into the North Dakota High School Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in 2014.

He was inducted into the North Dakota Sports Hall of Fame, and the National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) in June 2018.

Paula Kirkland

New
Information

**National Federation of State High School Associations
2023 Hall of Fame Updates: Paula Kirkland Girls Volleyball**

Below, please find additional information for Paula Kirkland, the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) Nominee in the Coach Category. Kirkland has been at Dorman High School in Roebuck, SC for 32 years.

Additional Information: Overall Record: 1088-173-3 (86.3%)

- Most State Titles in South Carolina: **15**
- 18 Trips to the State Finals
- Has **32** Regional Titles
- 2nd All-Time in South Carolina Most Coaching Victories **1,088**
- 11th in NFHS for Most Coaching Victories **1,088 (Active Coaches)**
- Member of the focus group that was instrumental in bringing Boys Volleyball to high schools in South Carolina.
- Served as her school's 1st Boys Volleyball Coach (club team)

Prior
Information

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Paula Kirkland
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Jerome Singleton / Tammie Newman

Phone: 803.896.0417

Street Address: 121 Westpark Blvd

City, State, Zip Code: Columbia, SC 29210

Signed: Jerome Singleton, Commissioner

Date: November 13, 2021

Email: jsingle@schsl.org tnewman@schsl.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Paula Kirkland
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 205 Goldenrod Lane
(street address)

Moore, SC 29369
(city, state, zip)

Email: kirklapa@spart6.org

Phone: 864.809.6934 Date of Birth: 5-2-1958

School Affiliation (if any) Dorman High

City: Roebuck State: SC

Place of Birth: South Carolina Date of Retirement: [NA]

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

She is currently the Asst. AD of Dorman High and the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach

If deceased, date of death:

[NA]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Joyce Kirkland, Mother

Address: 2180 Black Stock Road, Roebuck, SC 29376

Phone: 864.580.8128

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Dorman High]	Roebuck, SC	1976	Diploma
College/University: Anderson College /Winthrop University	Anderson, SC Rock Hill, SC	1978/ 1980	Assoc Arts /Bachelor of Arts Education
Post Graduate School: Gardner-Web University	Boiling Springs, NC	1985	Masters PE

- Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)
- Letters of Recommendation Attached
- Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

In her own words... "My name is just at the bottom of the roster as the coach," she said. "All those names at the top of the roster, all those players since we started building this program in 1980, they've all played a part in that success. None of it could have been accomplished without them, and thank goodness it's them out there on the floor making it happen, because I can't play a lick."

Paula Kirkland is one of the most "googleable" coaches in South Carolina history due to her stellar career and reputation on and off the court. She has placed volleyball at the top of the leaderboard across the state as one of the most popular sports offered in schools. A unique factoid about her is the short and sweet story on how her coaching career began:

She graduated college with a degree in education, interviewed for a job at (Class AAAA, now AAAAA) Dorman High (her alma mater) and received an offer with one caveat: she had to coach volleyball! A sport she had never even played in high school. She accepted the teaching job without hesitation in addition to leading a team with a 4-12 previous year record.
The End.

Coach Kirkland turned the entire program on its head and hasn't stopped since. 41 years later, she continues to mold students into winners, college level athletes, and community leaders. Her first year as a volleyball coach earned a record of 14-4. THAT is a turnaround. She not only coaches volleyball, but also had a stint as the school's girls basketball coach (record below). She held her own as a high school and college basketball player, but never ventured into high school volleyball. She earned her first State Championship in 1990, just ten years after her start.

She is active in the American Volleyball Coaching Associations and was on the Executive Board of the South Carolina Coaches Association of Womens Sports as the Volleyball chairperson for over 20 years. She has won 11 AAAA State Volleyball titles, which is the most by any individual coach in South Carolina. Her Dorman teams have been Region II-AAAA champions 21 of the last 29 years. She was selected twice to coach the North All-Star team in the annual North-South Volleyball match (won both).

Coach Kirkland is hailed as an incredible ambassador for the sport of volleyball. She took over the Tournament of Champions years ago and has kept the elite-level tournament going strong. Coach Kirkland has coached a NATIONAL Player of the Year among other accolades, Thayer Hall of University of Florida (<https://floridagators.com/sports/womens-volleyball/roster/thayer-hall/14452>). That's gigantic for South Carolina volleyball.

Although Coach Kirkland has been in the public eye, high demand and proven to be one of the very best, she has remained committed to Dorman High and the Spartanburg community. She conducts a service project every year, leading to a match that features a silent auction, raffles, and a donation to that year's cause. She has included those fighting cancer (including players' parents), Autism awareness, and other important causes as the benefactors.

It is said she most likely has a record of nearly 1300 wins instead of just over a thousand. She hasn't always counted every win in 2-of-3 tourneys. But she always counted every loss.

MORE: <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=Paula+Kirkland+record+career>

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

READ THIS: <https://livingupstatesc.com/dormans-coach-k-marks-40-years-of-learning-teaching-and-winning/>

Volleyball Career Record 1022-160

MaxPreps named Kirkland the top female high school coach in South Carolina with a career record of 989-157-5 and 13 state championships

Region Volleyball Coach of the Year 13 times
SCACA Volleyball Coach of the Year 3 times
High School Sports Report Volleyball Coach of the Year twice
National Federation of High Schools Volleyball Coach of the Year once
Spartanburg Herald-Journal Volleyball Coach of the Year 12 times
South Carolina Coaches Hall of Fame, 2004

Basketball Career Record:

JV Basketball Coach 7 years – Record: 93-30
Varsity Basketball Coach 8 years – Record: 122-68
Region II – 4A Champions '90-'91, '93-94, 94-95
Region II Tournament Champions: 90-91, 91-92, 92-93, 93-94
Region Coach of the Year: 90-91, 93-94, 94-95
Spartanburg Herald-Journal Basketball Coach of the Year: 93-94, 94-95
JV Basketball Record: 93-30
Varsity Basketball Record: 122-68
Total Basketball Record: 215-98

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in state and national coaching associations and other related professional organizations)

CAWS- Coaches Association of Women's Sports
AVCA - America Volleyball Coaches Association
Named Coach of Year Region III for SC/NC/GA/AL
NFHS Rules Committee for Volleyball 2020, 2021

Other information (*not previously listed*)

Heads the annual fund-raising for the "Reed Bowyer Scholarship" in Spartanburg, SC. Actively recruits students to take part in all events surrounding the scholarship program.

Many news stories written about her and here are a few of our favorites:

Historic Win:

<https://www.goupstate.com/story/sports/2021/09/08/dorman-paula-kirkland-got-her-1000th-career-high-school-volleyball-win/5777454001/> (SEE SUPPORT DATA)

Best Female Coaches List:

<https://www.goupstate.com/story/sports/high-school/2021/03/19/dorman-high-school-sc-volleyball-paula-kirkland-best-female-coaches/4766659001/> (SEE SUPPORT DATA)

1000 WINS:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/ncaafb/dorman-coach-paula-kirkland-gets-1000th-career-high-school-volleyball-victory/ar-AAOeXGA> (SEE SUPPORT DATA)

Distinguished Alumni Recognition:

<https://www.winthrop.edu/coe/PESH/distinguished-alumni-paula-kirkland.aspx> (SEE SUPPORT DATA)

CONTEST OFFICIAL

Career Description as High School Official (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school officiating, i.e., sports, number of years, etc.)

NEA National Education Association
Scholarship fund [Tab here]

Special Honors and Achievements

[Tab here]

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in local, state and national officiating associations and other related professional organizations)

[Tab here]

Other information (*not previously listed*)

[Tab here]

Letters of Recommendation



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Jerome P. Singleton, Commissioner
P. O. Box 211575
Columbia, South Carolina 29221-6575
803-798-0120 ♦ www.schsl.org

SAM TUTEN

President
Johnsonville

November 5, 2021

JASON WARREN

Vice President
Greenville

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

MIKE BEASLEY

Barnwell

As Commissioner of the South Carolina High School League, it is indeed an honor and a privilege to nominate Paula Kirkland, head volleyball coach of Dorman High School. Very few coaches across the state, nation carry the accolades and accomplishments as Paula Kirkland. I am proud to submit her as the South Carolina's coach candidate for the National Federation of High Schools Hall of Fame awards program.

KANDACE BETHEA

Marion

KYLE BOCZKOWSKI

Summerville

RYAN BROWN

Columbia

Coach Kirkland is head and shoulders above the average coach in all aspects... leadership, role model, skillset, integrity, passion and beyond! She is a rare breed to have attended and graduated from Dorman High School, only to return and never leave. Once you review her resume of accomplishments, you will understand why I hold her in such high esteem and hope to see her named as a 2022 NFHS Hall of Fame inductee. Her career is made even more remarkable for the fact that she never played volleyball while in school, yet she masters the training regimen and leadership to produce championship team after championship team.

SONYA BRYANT

Batesburg-Leesville

CARLOS CAVE

Seabrook

JASON HOLT

Aiken

RAY COOPER

Prosperity

TONY FOLK

St. George

Enjoy the introduction provided in her application, and hopefully your will have the opportunity to meet her in person during the awards ceremony in San Antonio, Texas, next summer. Thank you for your sincere consideration of Coach Paula Kirkland.

LAURA HICKSON

Lake City

KEITH KISER

Greenville

ANNA MILLER

Chapin

Sincerely,

DARRYL OWINGS

Spartanburg

ANDREA PRIDGEN

Green Sea

Jerome Singleton
SCHSL Commissioner

NICHOLAS PEARSON

Sumter

MICHAEL STONE

Mullins

JOSH TRAHAN

North Augusta



Flynn Harrell
Athletic Director
1050 Cavalier Way
Roebuck, S. C. 29376
864-342-8901

November 16, 2021

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is an honor for me to endorse Dorman High School volleyball coach Paula Kirkland for selection into the NFHS Hall of Fame. I have had the privilege to work with Paula during my 15-year tenure as Athletic Director at Dorman, not only as a coach, but as my Assistant Athletic Director. I knew of her great accomplishments when I came to Dorman, but I have grown to respect her so much more for the influence she has had on the student-athletes she has poured into during her career.

Her official statistics speak for themselves:

- 38 years as head volleyball coach at Dorman (her alma mater)
- Over 1,000 career victories
- 28 region championships
- 17 upper state championships
- 14 state championships

But more important is the impact that she has on her players and her coaching staff. She is a loving, caring coach who sets high standards for her players, coaches, and herself. She is someone who teaches the game of volleyball but also teaches those under her leadership about how to succeed in life, how to handle adversity and how to live a life of integrity.

My family has also been blessed by Coach Kirkland because my daughter Lauren, who graduated in 2020, was able to play in her program and under Paula's leadership for four years. The lessons that Lauren learned in Dorman volleyball will impact her for the rest of her life and I know that it is the same for the hundreds of players that have come before and after her.

In conclusion, I hope that you will come to see that Coach Kirkland is very deserving of this great honor not only by her amazing career records but the fact that she makes this world a better place by her love and influence as a teacher and coach.

Sincerely,

Flynn Harrell
Athletic Director
Dorman High School



November 12, 2021

Hall of Fame. The definition speaks of people of “great importance to that field.” When I think of Coach Kirkland, I realize that she is the epitome of this definition. I have had the privilege of playing for Coach Kirkland for the past four years. Through this time, I have grown as a volleyball player in so many ways, but more importantly, I have grown as a person. Coach Kirkland is a coach of high character, and a coach with a genuine passion for the game of volleyball.

Coach Kirkland is a leader of strength and courage, who sets out to reach her and her teams’ goals. She has taught me many things in volleyball such as always have your foot on the gas and play your game. “Just play Dorman volleyball.” I could always tell myself this in the middle of a stressful game to help myself refocus and stick to the task at hand. Coach Kirkland helped us realize our potential and led us to reaching our goals this year. As a team, we were going to win Region and eventually State. With her guidance, we were able to put our foot on the gas, stick to the task, play Dorman volleyball, and eventually become Region and State Champs.

I was lucky to be a part of Coach Kirkland’s 1000th win, her 14th State Championship, and Region 5 Coach of the Year (among many other accomplishments over my past 4 years.) One of my favorite character traits of Coach Kirkland is her selfless acts and the time she has poured into us. I am grateful to say that I am leaving Dorman Volleyball as a better player and person, and I will forever be thankful for the impact Coach Kirkland has had on my life.

It has been a blessing playing for one of the best coaches in the game of volleyball. I am lucky to have been able to play under her leadership for the past 4 years. I have no doubt that Coach Paula Kirkland is the most deserving of the NFHS Hall of Fame Award.

Savannah Freeman #9

Support
Data

National Federation of State High School Associations

Hall of Fame Updates: Paula Kirkland Girls Volleyball

Additional Information: Overall Record: 1053-66 (94.1%)

- Most State Titles in South Carolina: **14**
- 2nd All-Time in South Carolina Most Coaching Victories (**1,053**)
- Top-20 in NFHS for Most Coaching Victories (**1,053**)
- Member of the focus group that was instrumental in bringing Boys Volleyball to high schools in South Carolina
- Served as her school's 1st Boys Volleyball Coach (club team)

Paula Kirkland -- BASKETBALL COACHING RECORDS:

JV Basketball Coach 7 years – Record: 93-30

Varsity Basketball Coach 8 years – Record: 122-68

Region II – 4A Champions '90-'91, '93-94, 94-95

Region II Tournament Champions: 90-91, 91-92, 92-93, 93-94

Region Coach of the Year: 90-91, 93-94, 94-95

Spartanburg Herald-Journal Basketball Coach of the Year: 93-94, 94-95

Varsity records breakdown:

90-91	19-6, 12-2 1 st in Region
91-92	19-5, 11-3 2nd
92-93	17-7, 12-2 2nd
93-94	25-3, 13-1 1st
94-95	18-7, 14-0 1 st in Region (100th win) Upper-State Finals-lost to Greenwood
95-96	7-13, 7-7 5th
96-97	9-13, 6-6 5th
97-98	8-14, 3-9 5th

JV Record: 93-30

Varsity Record: 122- 68

Total basketball record: 215-98

YEAR	WINS	LOSSES	DETAILS	YEAR	WINS	LOSSES	DETAILS
81	12	2	1st Round of Play-offs	06	26	8	Region Co-Champions w/Hillcrest. Lost in 2nd round to Lexington
82	10	6		07	21	3	2nd in Reg. Lost to Hillcrest in Upper-State, 600th win this year
83	10	9		08	22	3	Region Champ Lost to Byrnes 3rd rd
84	11	9		09	27	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY, HSSR COY
85	21	8	2 nd rd play-offs, Region COY	10	20	3	2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Rock Hil in 3rd round. Reg COY All-Star Coach
86	19	6	1st Round of Play-offs	11	23	9	2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Hillcrest in the Upper-State Finals
87	21	3	2 nd rd play-offs, Region Champs	12	28	7	Region Champions , lost to Hillcrest in the quarter finals. Reg COY 700th win
88	17	7	2 nd rd play-offs, All Star Coach	13	29	6	Region Champions , lost to Hillcrest in the Upperstate finals. Reg COY
89	24	2	Upperstate, Region Champs Reg. COY, SHJ COY	14	31	6	Region Champions , lost to Gaffney in 3rd rd. Reg Co-COY w/Val ThomsMH
90	28	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	15	35	4	Reg. Champ. ; lost to Wando in Finals; Reg. COY SHJ COY SCACA COY
91	23	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	16	46	2	STATE CHAMPS;Reg.Champ ;beat Wando; Reg. COY SHJ COY NFHS State n Sectional COY;HSSR COY
92	30	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY	17	43	6	STATE CHAMPS; Reg Champ : beat Wando; Reg COY; 900th win; HSSRCOY
93	26	2	Region Champs , 2 nd rd play-offs Reg, Toum Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	18	26	13	2 Reg. Champ. Lost to TL Hanna Final 8
94	26	1	Region Champs , UpperState Finals Reg, Toum Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	19	34	7	2 Reg.Champ. Lost to Nation Ford in Upper-State Final
95	28	0	STATE CHAMPS Region Champs Reg Toum Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	20	19	2	Reg. Champ Lost in upperstate to TL Hanna Reg COY
96	28	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	21	33	4	Reg. Champ STATE CHAMPS beat River Bluff Reg II COY AVCA Reg. III COY
97	24	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY				AVCA Reg, III (SC) COY '21
98	20	3	Region Champs 3rd seed-lost All-Star Coach				17 Trips to State Final
99	21	3	Region Champs 1stseed -lost 2nd rd				14 State Titles 31 Region Titles
2000	24	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY				Region COY: 22 times
01	24	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY NFHS COY for SC, High Sports Report COY				SHJ COY: 16 times
02	22	1	Region Champs, Upper-State Champs , lost in State Finals to Summerville				HSSR COY: 4 times
03	23	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs SHJ COY , inducted SC Coaches Hall of Fame				SCACA VBCOY: 3 times
04	30	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs SHJ COY Record setting 10th State Championship				NFHS SC COY: 2 times
05	37	5	Region Co-Champions w/Hillcrest. Upper-State Champion , Lost to West Ashley in finals				NFHS Sectional COY: 1 time named by MaxPreps as a top 50 female coach '20
total	559	77	total	1022	160	3	Coach Kirkland's Overall record
				1003	203	5	program overall record

YEAR	WINS	LOSSES	DETAILS	YEAR	WINS	LOSSES	DETAILS	
81	12	2	1st Round of Play-offs	06	26	8	Region Co-Champions w/Hillcrest. Lost in 2nd round to Lexington	
82	10	6		07	21	3	2nd in Reg. Lost to Hillcrest in Upper-State, 600th win this year	
83	10	9		08	22	3	Region Champ Lost to Byrnes 3rd rd	
84	11	9		09	27	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY, HSSR COY	
85	21	8	2 nd rd play-offs, Region COY	10	20	3	2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Rock Hil in 3rd round. Reg COY All-Star Coach	
86	19	6	1st Round of Play-offs	11	23	9	2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Hillcrest in the Upper-State Finals	
87	21	3	2 nd rd play-offs, Region Champs	12	28	7	Region Champions , lost to Hillcrest in the quarter finals. Reg COY 700th win	
88	17	7	2 nd rd play-offs, All Star Coach	13	29	6	Region Champions , lost to Hillcrest in the Upperstate finals. Reg COY	33 yrs
89	24	2	Upperstate, Region Champs Reg. COY, SHJ COY	14	31	6	Region Champions , lost to Gaffney in 3rd rd. Reg Co-COY w/Val ThomsMH	34 yrs
90	28	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	15	35	4	Reg. Champ. ; lost to Wando in Finals; Reg. COY SHJ COY SCACA COY	35
91	23	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	16	46	2	STATE CHAMPS;Reg.Champ ;beat Wando; Reg. COY SHJ COY NFHS State n Sectional COY;HSSR COY	36

92	30	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY	17	43	6	STATE CHAMPS; Reg Champ: beat Wando; Reg COY; 900th win; HSSRCOY	37
93	26	2	Region Champs , 2 nd rd play-offs Reg, Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	18	26	13	Reg. Champ. Lost to TL Hanna Final 8	38
94	26	1	Region Champs , UpperState Finals Reg, Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	19	34	7	Reg.Champ. Lost to Nation Ford in Upper-State Final	39
95	28	0	STATE CHAMPS Region Champs Reg Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	20	19	2	Reg. Champ Lost in upperstate to TL Hanna Reg COY	40
96	28	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY				16 Trips to State Final 13 State Titles 30Region Titles	
97	24	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY				Region COY: 21 times	
98	20	3	Region Champs 3rd seed-lost All-Star Coach				SHJ COY: 16 times	
99	21	3	Region Champs 1stseed -lost 2nd rd				HSSR COY: 4 times	
2000	24	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY				SCACA VBCOY: 3 times	
01	24	1	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY NFHS COY for SC, High Sports Report COY				NFHS SC COY: 2 times NFHS Sectional COY: 1 time	
02	22	1	Region Champs, Upper-State Champs , lost in State Finals to Summerville				named by MaxPreps as a top 50 female coach '20	
03	23	0	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs SHJ COY , inducted SC Coaches Hall of Fame				Volleyball program from 1977-1980: 14-47	

04	30	2	STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs SHJ COY Record setting 10th State Championship
05	37	5	Region Co-Champions w/Hillcrest. Upper-State Champion , Lost to West Ashley in finals
total	559	77	total

Inducted into SCACA Hall of Fame in 2003

North-South All-Star Coach 3 times: '89, 98, 2010

989	156	3	Coach Kirkland's Overall record
1003	203	5	program overall record

Spartanburg Herald-Journal

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Dorman coach Paula Kirkland gets 1000th career high school volleyball victory

Joe Dandron, Herald-Journal - Sep 8

React Comment

© TIM KIMZEY/Spartanburg Herald-Journal...

SPARTANBURG – When Paula Kirkland began coaching at Dorman in 1980, she didn't even think this would happen.

But it did. 41 seasons later Paula Kirkland has become the second high school volleyball coach in South Carolina to reach 1,000 career wins. Kirkland's 1000th victory came Wednesday at home against Mauldin as the Cavaliers swept the Mavericks in two sets.



Take This Quiz To See If You Can Retire Comfortably

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But for the hall of fame coach, it has never been about her.

"There's been a ton of players that have come through the system over the years," she said after the match.

"From the first year when we went 14-4 and made the playoffs for the first time in Dorman history to the teams that have won the state championship, to the team you saw tonight ... a lot goes in to it, a lot of time, a lot of effort. By a lot of players. Fortunately, I've been along for the ride."

Kirkland has won a record 13 state championships in volleyball. It's the most ever by a single head coach in state history.

Wednesday, her team got to 11-3 by sweeping River Bluff and then Mauldin.

"I've got something in my office, it's a piece of wood from the old Dorman (High School) and the court that we played on," Kirkland said, "We come in here ... I try to hold on to that. Because what we started at that old gym in the 1980s was just the beginning of this. It just snowballed."

Of course, it was her senior outside hitter Lauren Mims, that smacked the match-clinching spike over the net. Her kill gave the Cavaliers a 25-20 win that stymied a potential Mauldin comeback.



"It's honestly an honor to be a part of this," Mims, who had nine kills, said. "She has such a legacy here at Dorman. Just to be the team

HIGH-SCHOOL

Dorman High School volleyball coach Paula Kirkland listed among nation's best female coaches

Jed Blackwell Herald-Journal

Published 2:00 p.m. ET March 19, 2021

Dorman volleyball coach Paula Kirkland had garnered some national attention.

Kirkland, a South Carolina volleyball legend who has won 989 games and 13 state championships, has been named to MaxPreps' list of the 50 greatest female high school coaches from all 50 states. Kirkland was South Carolina's representative on the list.

"It was kind of a shock," Kirkland said of the honor. "I didn't even know they'd done it. Flynn (Dorman athletic director Flynn Harrell) found it this morning, otherwise, I wouldn't have known. I'm not sure it's deserved, because I don't know how you determine that. Just because we've won 13 state titles here doesn't mean that I'm better than anyone else. But it's an honor. I've already heard from my mom and dad, and they're terribly proud. To me, that makes it worth it."

Kirkland said the honor truly recognizes the girls who have played for Dorman throughout her career.

"My name is just at the bottom of the roster as the coach," she said. "All those names at the top of the roster, all those players since we started building this program in 1980, they've all played a part in that success. None of it could have been accomplished without them, and thank goodness it's them out there on the floor making it happen, because I can't play a lick. It goes back to good players, good assistant coaches, and good people. They say it takes a village, and in athletics it certainly does."

SPORTS

Dorman coach Paula Kirkland gets 1000th career high school volleyball victory

Joe Dandron Herald-Journal

Published 9:46 p.m. ET Sept. 8, 2021 | Updated 10:01 p.m. ET Sept. 8, 2021

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But for the hall of fame coach, it has never been about her.

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"It's honestly an honor to be a part of this," Mims, who had nine kills, said. "She has such a legacy here at Dorman. Just to be the team that won 1,000 games for her is really special."

The trio of setter Sierra Dudley and senior outside hitters Mims and Savannah Freeman was dialed in from the start.

Freeman said after the game that the milestone was in the front of their minds and back of conversations pregame – but that doesn't mean it didn't matter to Kirkland's team.

"She's always there for us," Freeman said. "(She) makes us better as players and as a person. That's kind of rare these days ... coaches just want to win. But she wants to make us better as a person too."

That trait has separated Kirkland for an entire career. It showed as a crowd gathered to celebrate the milestone on the court she helped Dorman build in her 40 years.

You can contact sports reporter Joe Dandron at jdandron@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter at [@JosephDandronMI](https://twitter.com/JosephDandronMI).

Distinguished Alumni 2010

Paula Kirkland

Paula Kirkland began her collegiate career at Anderson Junior College and transferred to Winthrop in 1978. She completed a BS in Physical Education at Winthrop in January of 1980 and returned home to Dorman High School, where she had been a three year letterman on the high school basketball team. She completed a MS in Physical Education in 1985 at Garden-Webb University.

Coach Kirkland attended Anderson on a basketball scholarship. She was recruited by Annie Tribble and played for Frankie Porter. In her freshman year, Anderson won the Junior College NAIA National Championship. She continued her athletic career at Winthrop playing basketball and softball for two years. She began teaching at Dorman High School upon her graduation and has been there ever since.

Although she coached both basketball and volleyball at Dorman High School, it is clear that volleyball is her passion. She has been named Region Coach of the Year 13 times, the SCACA Volleyball Coach of the Year three times, the High School Sports Report Volleyball Coach of the Year twice, National Federation of High Schools Volleyball Coach of the Year once, and the Spartanburg Herald-Journal Volleyball Coach of the Year 12 times. In 2004, she was inducted into the South Carolina Coaches Hall of Fame.

She is active in the American Volleyball Coaching Associations and was on the Executive Board of the South Carolina Coaches Association of Womens Sports as the Volleyball chairperson for over 20 years. She has won 11 Four A state volleyball titles, which is the most by any individual coach in South Carolina. Her Dorman teams have been Region II-4A champions 21 of the last 29 years. She was selected twice to coach the North All-Star team in the annual North-South Volleyball match (won both).

Paula Kirkland has been a teacher and coach at Dorman High School for 29 years. She currently serves as an Assistant Athletic Director and teaches on the Dorman Freshman campus. We would like to support the movement founded on Gilmers Gospel Home, we too believe that the playing court at Dorman High School be named "Coach K Court." She has indeed won that honor. Coach Kirkland has dedicated her life to teaching and coaching and touched thousands of lives.

Dorman's Coach K marks 40 years of learning, teaching and winning

BY **LIVIN' UPSTATE SC** · PUBLISHED · UPDATED MARCH 25, 2021



As a recent college graduate in 1980, Paula Kirkland was cutting grass at Spartanburg Methodist College when she received a call to report for work at Spartanburg District One.

“My grandfather knew the superintendent over in District One and he called and asked if he could give his granddaughter a job,” Kirkland recalled. “I had a job but no school and no position. Then three days before school started, my old basketball coach who was then the principal at Dorman called and said, ‘We’ve got an opening.’”

The new gig included teaching physical education, coaching basketball and coaching volleyball.

“I said, ‘oh no, I don’t know anything about volleyball,’ but he said that was the deal and I said ok,” Kirkland said.

Kirkland admittedly knew very little about the game of volleyball and only tried it as an intramural player in college. So, three days before her new team’s first practice at Dorman, Kirkland met her former college roommate and her roommate’s high school volleyball coach in Kershaw, SC for a quick tutorial.

Advertisement

“That lady spent all Sunday afternoon copying the coaching books that she had on volleyball and talking to me about volleyball. That gave me my start. At least I had something to go by,” Kirkland said.

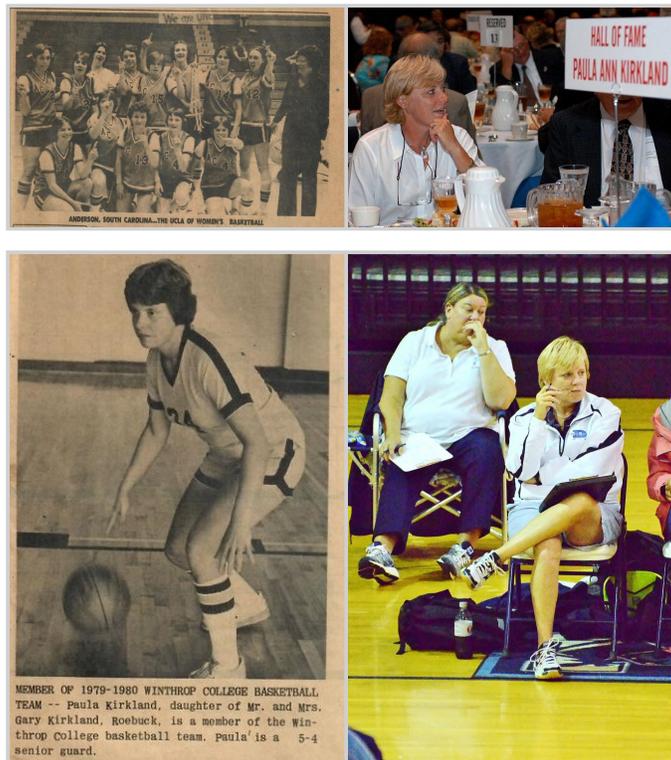
The instruction appeared to pay off with Kirkland’s team going 14-4 and making the playoffs that first year. But subsequent years were just average.

“I was struggling with that because I’m a competitor. I hate to lose,” Kirkland said. “The best thing you can do in this profession and any profession is ask for help, surround yourself with people that know more than you, and go learn, so that’s what I did.”

Kirkland got to know the volleyball coach at the University of South Carolina, spending four summers at USC’s volleyball camp learning how to teach the game.

“That gave me the confidence to come back into my gym and teach it,” Kirkland said, “I give those folks all the credit in the world for giving me the opportunity to be successful here.”

That success includes 13 state volleyball championships and sending several Dorman players on to college careers including Gatorade® National Volleyball Player of the Year Thayer Hall who is now playing at the University of Florida.



The accolades have piled up for Kirkland, too. In 2004, she was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame and in 2010 became a member of Winthrop University Distinguished Alumni. She's been a Region Coach of the Year 13 times, the SCACA Volleyball Coach of the Year three times, the High School Sports Report Volleyball Coach of the Year twice and the National Federation of High Schools Volleyball Coach of the Year once. And just last week, MaxPreps named Kirkland the top female high school coach in South Carolina with a career record of 989-157-5 and 13 state championships.

Choosing favorite moments from a storied, 40-year career can be difficult, but Kirkland points to her first state championship as one of them.

"It just so happened that that particular year, we made it to the finals, and we got to host it," Kirkland said. "It was at the old gym in the old Dorman which was sunken down with the fans up high and you were down low. It was loud and echoey and that place was packed. I'll never forget the feeling, sitting on the bench and it's obvious we're going to win the match and a state championship. That was memorable."

Then in 2016, Kirkland's team traveled to Arizona where they placed seventh in a gym full of national powerhouses. "We went out there and held our own and that's a moment

I'll always be proud of.”

But having the opportunity to spend a career at a school where her letter jacket hangs on the wall is unique and special.



“I was over-the-top excited about being able to come back to this school. I love this school. I loved it growing up and playing here. Obviously, I’ve never looked to go anywhere else. They treat our program with respect, they treat me with respect. You just couldn’t ask for a better place to work.”

So, what advice does someone with a successful and storied career as a player and a coach have for future young women coaches?

“Always be willing to ask the next question and ask someone for help if you need it,” Kirkland said. “And if someone tells you that you’ve got to do something else in order to do what you love, you say ‘yes,’ because you can learn.”

Images used in the video portion of this story courtesy of Edward Overstreet.







STATE
CHAMPION



AAAAA
VOLLEYBALL
2021-2022

COACH PAULA KIRKLAND

1000

-CAREER WINS-



IK

2017-18
2018-19
2019-20
2020-21
2021-22
2022-23
2023-24
2024-25



Victory Club

Presented To

Paula Kirkland

Dorman High School

In Recognition Of Your
900th Career Victory

2017

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AAAAA
VOLLEYBALL
STATE CHAMPION
2021





Ronald Vincent

New
Information

J.H. Rose baseball coach Ronald Vincent reaches 1,000 career wins

Vincent's teams have averaged 20 wins a season during his 51-year career at J.H. Rose.

- [MARC PRUITT](#)
- UPDATED: APR 12, 2023 12:05 PM EDT ORIGINAL: APR 12, 2023

GREENVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA—Ronald Vincent, who has been the baseball coach at J.H. Rose since 1974, picked up his 1,000th career win on Tuesday night with Rampants' 12-2 win against Jacksonville in five innings.

The team improved to 15-3 this season with the win.

Vincent's mark is the most high school baseball wins in the state of all-time.



Ronald Vincent picked up his 1,000th career win Tuesday night.

JH Rose Athletics photo

This is Vincent's 51st season with the team after starting his career with Farmville Central.

The Rampants have averaged 20 wins per season during Vincent's tenure and he has led the program to seven state championships: 1975, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008, and 2021.



BY

MARC PRUITT

<https://www.highschoolot.com/story/jh-rose-baseball-coach-ronald-vincent-wins-1-000th-game/20806828/>

BASEBALL

JH Rose baseball coach Ronald Vincent wins 1,000th game

JH Rose baseball coach Ronald Vincent won his 1,000th game on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 against Jacksonville. No other coach in NCHSAA history has 1,000 wins in a single sport.

Posted 9:49 p.m. Apr 11 - Updated 11:00 p.m. Apr 11

By

J. Mike Blake

HighSchoolOT Contributor

There is only one North Carolina high school coach with 1,000 wins in a single sport.

There is only one Ronald Vincent.

The J.H. Rose baseball coach known throughout the state as "RV" hit the milestone victory on Tuesday in a 12-2, five-inning contest at Jacksonville.

"I really can't put it into words. It's a lot longevity; a lot of great players obviously, a lot of good assistant coaches," Vincent said. "It's hard to imagine — I can't believe I'm still coaching and I'm still here."

This year's group, his 51st edition, is now 15-3 on the year. His teams have averaged almost 20 wins a season for more than half a century despite the 2020 season ending early, the 2021 season being reduced, and the 2023 season only just past the midway point.

"They're such good people," Vincent said of this year's team. "Today's youth catches a bad rap because really I've got a team of really, really good people right now. The guys like to play ball, they compete, they support each other, and it's a lot of fun when it happens like that."

There are a few coaches in N.C. High School Athletic Association history that have reached the mark by combining sports, like a few soccer and tennis coaches who coach boys and girls.

But the only ones that come close to Vincent's 1K in a single sport are SouthWest Edgecombe girls basketball coach Sandra Langley (still active) with more than 830 wins, McMichael's volleyball coach Marty Woods (still active) with 776 and Union Pines tennis coach John Frye (still active) with more than 730 in boys tennis.



J.H. Rose head baseball coach Ronald Vincent. Vincent earned his 1000th coaching victory in his 51st season on Tuesday Apr. 11, 2023 at Jacksonville High School. (Photo: Evan Moesta/HighSchoolOT)

In the N.C. Independent Schools Athletic Association, the only coach to reach the 1,000-win plateau is Freddy Johnson of Greensboro Day boys basketball.

From coaching Little League baseball to his longevity as the Rampants coach since 1973, RV is part of the fabric of Greenville. He's guided the Rampants to seven state championships, coming in 1975, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008, and 2021.

He instills work ethic, honing in the fundamentals, and having fun — never forgetting that's the point of it all.

"When you've got a team that comes together, it's one of the best things you can ever have," Vincent said.

Parents held up cut-out numbers — all four digits, 1-0-0-0 — to celebrate his accomplishment. He was given a wooden plaque that read "COACH RONALD VINCENT 1000 WINS APRIL 2023" with the Rampants logos etched on either side.



J.H. Rose's Marvin Jarman. The Rampants defeated Jacksonville 12-2 on Tuesday Apr. 11, 2023 to earn head coach Ronald Vincent his 1000th career coaching victory, an NCHSAA record (Photo: Evan Moesta/HighSchoolOT)

His longtime friend Marvin Jarman – who has been to more than 1,300 straight games in football, basketball, and baseball – was there on the edge of the group photos.

But RV finished the game like it was any other.

He drove the bus back home to Greenville.

Prior
Information

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Ronald Stuart Vincent
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: James Alverson

Phone: 919-770-7946

Street Address: 222 Finley Golf Course Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Signed: 

Date: 11/14/22

Email: james@nchsaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Ronald Stuart Vincent
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 1728 Circle Drive
(street address)

Greenville, NC 27858
(city, state, zip)

Email: rhsvincent@hotmail.com

Phone: (252) 717-4332 Date of Birth: 05/28/1947

School Affiliation (if any) Junius H. Rose High School (J.H. Rose or Greenville Rose)

City: Greenville State: NC

Place of Birth: Greenville Date of Retirement: Active

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

No

If deceased, date of death:

N/A

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Tiffany Vincent

Address: 1728 Circle Drive; Greenville, NC 27858

Phone: (252) 717-4332

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: J.H. Rose High School	Greenville, NC	1965	HS Diploma
College/University: East Carolina University	Greenville, NC	1969	B.S. Physical Education
Post Graduate School: None	N/A	N/A	N/A

Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)

Letters of Recommendation Attached

Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Ronald Vincent has been a Pitt County, NC resident his entire life. He attended Pitt County Schools and graduated from Rose High School in 1965 where he played football and baseball. He then attended East Carolina University from 1965-1969 and played football for the Pirates in 1966 and 1967. This year he begins his 53rd year of coaching baseball for Pitt County Schools. Coach Vincent has also coached football over 30 years at Rose High School and Farmville Central High School and has also coached basketball and wrestling. He taught at Farmville Central High School from 1969-1973 and Rose High School from 1973-2009. Currently he has the most wins for a high school baseball coach in North Carolina history with 985 wins. This includes 7 state championships in baseball (1975, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008 and 2021) and was assistant football coach on 5 state championship teams (1975, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006). Each summer he enjoys hosting many baseball camps for the City of Greenville and has done so for over 40 years. He has been on the Greenville Babe Ruth Board of Directors since 1977 and also has served as the District Commissioner for Boy Scouts.

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

985-292 Record as a Head Coach in Baseball (52 Years)

Head Baseball at Farmville Central HS from August 1969 to May 1973. Head Baseball Coach at Junius H. Rose HS from 1973 to Present.

Served as J.H. Rose HS Athletic Director from August 1997 to May 2001.

7X State Baseball Champion Head Coach

1975 4A State Champions -

1997 4A State Champions - 26-2 Record - Swept Charlotte Providence 2-0 in State Finals

1999 4A State Champions - 28-0 Record - Swept South Mecklenburg 2-0 in State Finals

2003 4A State Champions - 26-2 Record - Defeated XXXXXX 2-games to 1 in State Finals

2004 4A State Champions - 28-5 Record -

2008 4A State Champions - 28-3 Record -

2021 3A State Champions - 16-4 Record - Swept Cox Mill 2-0 in State Finals

NCHSAA Hall of Fame Inductee - Class of 2014

NC Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Inductee - Class of 2010

NCHSAA State Award Winner 2021 - Harvey Reid Male Coach of the Year

NCHSAA "100 Coaches To Remember" Honoree during NCHSAA Centennial Celebration (2013)

NFHS Section 3 Coach of the Year (2013)

2X ABCA Coach of the Year - Region I (1997 & 1999)

Winningest High School Baseball Coach in the History of NC

Mid-Atlantic Baseball Coach of the Year 1999

Multiple-time Pitt County Baseball Coach of the Year, most recently in 2017 & 2021

Field House at J.H. Rose named in his honor in 2004

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in state and national coaching associations and other related professional organizations)

Citizen of the Year by Greenville Civitan Club in 2014

Legends Award winner from Pitt County Chamber of Commerce in 2019
J.H. Rose High School Alumni of the Year 2000
Greenville (NC) Babe Ruth Board of Directors Member since 1977
Awarded NC Order of the Long Leaf Pine in August 2003 (NC's Highest Civilian Honor)
Served as President of the NC Baseball Coaches Association multiple terms. Remains active on the group's Board of Directors.
Active supporter and organizer for Greenville Little Leagues - North State League & Tar Heel League - both leagues have made trips to Williamsport to participate in the Little League World Series and have combined for 22 State Little League Championships, including one by Coach Vincent's 1970 Tar Heel League team.
District Leader of Boy Scouts of America

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Letters of Recommendation



Inspiring individuals, encouraging excellence through education-based athletics

*Sportsmanship • Developing Student-Athletes • Equity • Fair Competition
Fair Play • Honesty • Integrity • Respect*

Thursday, November 10, 2022

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Wendell Hall
N.C. State School Boards Association

Burt Jenkins
N.C. Department of Public Instruction

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

The NCHSAA is pleased to submit one of the best high school baseball coaches in the country for consideration for inclusion in the NFHS Hall of Fame Coaching Category. Ronald Vincent has a storied history of success in shaping the lives of young men through the game of baseball. Not only is Vincent a winner on the field, 985 times to be exact, but his young men go on to be leaders in their community and in their families.

This year, Coach Vincent begins his 53rd year coaching baseball in Pitt County Schools, mostly at Junius H. Rose High. His resume is spectacular. He has more wins than any coach in the history of high school baseball in North Carolina, posting a stellar 985-292 career record at the varsity level. His 985 wins place him in elite company among the top 25 in all-time wins according to the NFHS Record Book.

Coach Vincent's Rampants have collected seven state championships, the first in 1975 and his most recent in 2021. As an assistant coach, Vincent has been a part of five football state championship teams at J.H. Rose. Those five State Championships include a string of four-straight from 2003-2006.

He truly exhibits the ideals of a servant coach, demonstrated in his willingness to do what is necessary to provide the best experience for students and visitors to his school community. Vincent has coached not only football and baseball but has been called on to coach teams in basketball and wrestling over the course of his distinguished career.

In North Carolina, we have a great history of outstanding high school baseball coaches, but few come close to the stature of Ronald Vincent. He is one of the most respected coaches, regardless of sport, in our state. He has long been a proponent of education-based athletics and has worked countless hours to provide summer baseball camps for young people in Greenville, NC while serving as the District Commissioner for Boy Scouts of America. In further demonstrating his commitment, Vincent has been an active member of the Greenville Babe Ruth Board of Directors since 1977.

In summary, we believe that Coach Ronald Vincent is worthy of induction in the prestigious NFHS Hall of Fame, a recognition worthy of a career that has reached his level of success. Further, we believe his record of service to young people throughout North Carolina and the nation would only add to the esteem of an already well regarded National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Que Tucker
NCHSAA Commissioner



1717 West Fifth Street
Greenville, North Carolina 27834
<http://www.pitt.k12.nc.us>

TEL: 252-830-4200
FAX: 252-830-4239

11/10/22

To Whom It May Concern:

It brings me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for the consideration of Ronald "RV" Vincent to be considered for the prestigious NFHS Hall of Fame. Coach Vincent is deserving on many platforms as he has obviously set records for wins and championships. However, he means far more to our community and state than just giving signals at a baseball game.

Let me begin by stating the obvious. Ronald Vincent has led the J.H. Rose Baseball Program to 7 state championships. During the span of his career he has accumulated a 985-292 overall record. In addition to coaching baseball he has also served many other coaching roles at J.H. Rose High School including head football, assistant football, assistant basketball, and even serves as the color analyst on football radio broadcasts. You can see him at every Rose athletic event outside of baseball as a loyal supporter of all teams regardless of the season or gender of sport.

In addition to athletics at his school he is very active in our youth leagues in Greenville and Pitt County. One of the staples of Eastern NC is the fine Little League program that has gained national recognition through the years with many appearances in the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa. While he does not take an official position in the league his presence is felt there every year as he aids with everything from tryouts, to helping coaches and players year round. It is a joy to watch the children in Greenville as they see him at their games. They truly act as if coaching royalty is in place, which I must agree that I feel the same.

Having coached at a rival high school for many years I found Coach Vincent to be very giving to all. He always offered me positive and encouraging conversations. His wisdom is something that I have always marveled at and will never take for granted. I am one of many as he has always been there to offer help of any kind regardless of the school one may represent. This is the reason that Ronald Vincent has set the standard in which coaches throughout the great state of North Carolina aspire to reach.

In closing, I could write pages about the countless qualities that make this fine professional an obvious choice for the NFHS Hall of Fame. However, I will make it



Pitt County Schools

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Greenville, North Carolina 27834
<http://www.pitt.k12.nc.us>

TEL: 252-830-4200
FAX: 252-830-4239

simple by sending the highest of recommendations that Ronald "RV" Vincent be chosen to represent our great profession in the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Rob Maloney
N.C. Coaches Association President
Pitt County Schools Athletic Director
1717 West 5th Street
Greenville, NC 27834

National Federation of High School
November 10, 2022

Dear Hall of Fame committee, I have the honor and privilege to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ronald Vincent. Coach Vincent has been a staple in our school and community for over fifty years as a coach, mentor, leader and friend.

I played for Coach Vincent from 1999 through 2002 and have been coaching alongside him from 2004 - present. I can honestly say that I've never met a finer man, coach or person in my life. He has compassion for all players, not just the starting nine. He has love for his players and their families and keeps their best interest in mind. He keeps track of his players long after their high school years are over. He's coached generations of families in the Greenville area and that's not by mistake, but the love the former players have for him and want their children to experience.

Ronald Vincent, while compiling a 985-292 record and owning the single most wins in North Carolina history, is much more than a coach, however. He's a leader in the community. He's a Boy Scout advisor, he's a member of the board of directors for multiple youth organizations, and he's a staple at J.H. Rose High School. He's found at school almost every day doing whatever it is that needs to be done; painting the football and soccer fields in morning while cutting their grass in the afternoons. Keeping the clock for basketball games in the winter, and helping the lacrosse and softball coaches fix their fields in the spring.

Since coming to J.H. Rose High School in 1973, he has been the head baseball coach, capturing seven NCHSAA state titles (1975, 1997, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2021). He has also served as head football coach, assistant football coach, head wrestling coach, assistant basketball coach and athletic director.

Coach Vincent has also been awarded many honors on the local, state and national levels through the Pitt County Hot Stove League, the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association, the NCHSAA and the American Baseball Coach Association.

I have no doubt that Coach Vincent is truly deserving of a hall of fame induction by the NFHS and would do nothing but enhance the standards to which those members already hold.

Thank you for your time and attention to this,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Clay Medlin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Clay Medlin
Athletic Director
J.H. Rose High School

National Federation Of State
High School Association

November 12,2022

This letter is in reference to the nomination of long time JH Rose High School coach Ronald Vincent to the National Federation Hall of Fame.

My relationship with Coach Vincent goes back well over 40 years. As a former assistant baseball coach at the University of North Carolina and for over the past 38 years as a Major League scout with Boston, Arizona, Seattle, and Kansas City, I have had the pleasure of viewing Ronald's teams in practice and game settings as both an evaluator and as a parent. Under Coach Vincent's tireless leadership and dedication, he has amassed well over 900 victories in his 46 plus years of coaching. There have been many league and state championships under his tutelage. RV has touched and influenced countless numbers of athletes both at JH Rose and in the city of Greenville. Kids love to play for him and grow up wanting to wear the Rose HS uniform. He has the special touch allowing athletes to be who they are individually while recognizing their strengths and weaknesses on how they best can be coached.

I can attest to the countless hours he spends on the field with his players. Rose is one of the few schools that still run three levels, 9th grade team, Junior Varsity, and Varsity. By doing this he is involving as many kids as possible. Ronald knows that players progress at different stages. Not only is his high school program important, but he spends a great deal of time in the area youth programs with summer and winter camps, summer play for all ages. During the spring and summer there aren't many days or nights that you won't find Ronald at Guy Smith Stadium (honored by the city recently with adding Ronald Vincent Field at Guy Smith Stadium) or our Little League complex, either coaching his HS team or watching young players develop their baseball skills. Never one to say no to any age kid who wants extra work on the weekends, he's always there to offer his time coaching and advice to allow for the improvement of their fundamental skills. None of this "pay for instruction " with Ronald, he's in it for the kids.

Ronald lives by example: hard work, positive attitude, dedication, equal opportunity and equal treatment of all. Ronald is a fabulous role model on and off the field. I've often heard my son say how much Coach Vincent has meant to his development as a collegiate and professional player but most importantly how much fun he had playing for Ronald Vincent. His baseball accomplishments are well noted, but his Hall of Fame qualities stretch well beyond the baseball diamond.

I'm proud to call RV a friend and a role model for so many. He's a tremendous ambassador for high school athletics and the entire youth athletic programs of our city.

I offer my utmost recommendation for his consideration into the NFHS Hall of Fame. Believe me, he is most deserving!

Howard McCullough

KC Royals

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Data



NFHS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

NOMINATION PACKAGE

SUBMITTED FRI. NOVEMBER 18, 2022



**RONALD STUART VINCENT
HEAD BASEBALL COACH
JUNIUS H. ROSE (J.H. ROSE) HIGH SCHOOL
GREENVILLE, NC
1973-PRESENT**

City of Greenville to name Guy Smith Stadium field after Rose head coach Ronald Vincent

"What a great place Guy Smith Stadium to have your name on something like this."



By [Eric Gullickson](#)

Published: May. 13, 2022 at 6:02 PM EDT



GREENVILLE, N.C. (WITN) - J.H. Rose baseball won again in the state tournament Thursday night 10-0 over Southern Lee. While the Rampants were winning, the City of Greenville decided they are giving their coach, the legendary Ronald Vincent, a great honor. **they dedicated the field at Guy Smith Stadium to coach. It will now be Ronald "RV" Vincent field.**

"It's something I never considered, and somebody brought it up and said they were going to try to get it passed. I said, man that would really be something," says J.H. Rose head coach Ronald Vincent, "What a great place Guy Smith Stadium to have your name on something like this. With this area like this is really quite an honor."

Decades of hard work and dedication coach Ronald Vincent has made such an impact on Greenville and the baseball community. Coach is closing in on the 1000 win milestone and will likely hit it next season. The milestone would be reached on a field named for him. The honor really hits home for a man who used to play ball there too.

"This was the original Pitt County Fairgrounds way back when. This was built in 1939. There's been a lot of baseball here... cause I played out here when I was 13, 14, 15 and then in high school we played out here," says Vincent, "Then you know they have done a lot over the years to renovate it and make it so nice over the years, Boyd Lee and his crowd, and then the recreation has just kept it going and kept it up. It's really, really a great place to play and our guys are really proud to play out here. You talk to old players all the time and they got memories of Guy Smith Stadium. It's part of the culture in our community."

Rose hosts their third round game against Orange there on Tuesday night at 6 PM.

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RV KEEPS ON ROLLING

Record-breaking, youth mentor RV in his own class

By Ronnie Woodward Sports Writer Jul 1, 2021



Ronald Vincent instructs kids where to go at Elm Street Park on Wednesday during baseball camp for 6- to 8-year-olds. Ronnie Woodward/The Daily Reflector

Three of the six head baseball coaches in Pitt County Schools are not yet 46 years old, which might be the most appropriate tribute to the range of Ronald Vincent's seven state championships as J.H. Rose's coach.

His first was in 1975. His seventh was sealed 46 years later Sunday afternoon in Fayetteville, and in sticking to his script, the 74-year-old Vincent was at Elm Street Park 17 hours later on Monday morning leading a Greenville Recreation and Parks baseball camp for 6-, 7- and 8-year-olds.

"That is RV, all the way," Greenville Little Leagues commissioner Brian Weingartz said. "I'm not sure there is anybody like him anywhere else."

Monday could have been an excusable absence for Vincent at Elm Street Park, one of the nation's most pristine Little League venues that also serves as a valuable feeder program for Rose and other county schools. Vincent considered maybe not being there Monday by 9 a.m., but it wasn't seriously pondered.

"No," he said when asked if he wanted to miss the first camp day of this week. "We talked on the (state championship) bus ride home, but I said that we have to because all of the kids that are going to be there. We might as well go ahead and do it. I can tell you that come Friday, I'm out of here for a while. I'm not much of a beach-goer or anything like that, but this might be a good week to get away for a little while."

This week's camp is actually the third of its kind in June. There already were two for older kids, which coincided with the Rampants' run to a state championship as the East No. 13 seed.

Vincent said hitting ground balls and directing kids to the batter's box and around the bases for camps during the day helped ease his mind for the playoff games he coached at night. Rose needed a nine-inning, comeback victory at top-seeded Northern Guilford in the third round before shutting out rival D.H. Conley in the 3A Eastern Finals in one of the most intense matchups possible in Pitt County prep athletics.

Weingartz said Vincent's balance in managing his schedules, which for the Rampants in the playoffs was a log of more than 1,500 miles traveled for games, showed his high level of dedication.

"He's just a big believer in our young people," Weingartz said of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's winningest baseball coach.

Up Next - Is Anthony Rizzo back to the Yankees or Tyler Anderson to the Angels the better deal?

Vincent can name the years of J.H. Rose state championships with ease. He also likes to reference a year in which the Rampants were plenty talented but didn't finish in first place.

"'75, '97, '99, '03, '04, '08 and this one, 2021," Vincent said. "I think in 1988 we came in second. That year we came in second, but we were really good that year, too."

North Pitt coach Ryan Meadows was a player on the 1997 title team. He is one of the county coaches under the age of 46, joined by Ayden-Grifton's Corey Skinner and South Central's Pat McRae.

Vincent is far from a dictator in his coaching style. He relies on his peers and assistant coaches, like Clay Medlin and Chuck Humphrey as prime examples for many years, to help him with various baseball duties at various fields.

Fellow local legend Marvin Jarman, of course, accompanies Vincent as much as anyone.

The overlap of youth camps and J.H. Rose baseball playoff games this year was not something Vincent planned, but he did embrace.

"It wore on me physically, but it also kept my mind off worrying about other things, and I stayed busy and that part helped," Vincent said. "Doing baseball and being around these kids helps. ... Baseball is supposed to be played, and it's a game and we want to give these guys a chance to play baseball."

"We want them to get better because the better you are, the more fun it is. The thing about these camps is we do them to help improve their skills and stuff, but we really try to make sure the kids enjoy playing baseball. That is what it is supposed to be about is liking to play baseball."

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com, 252-329-9592 and follow @RonnieW11 on Twitter.

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Get to know the winningest HS baseball coach in N.C. history, Ronald Vincent



Courtesy: Amy Taylor

Amy Taylor

BVM Sports User Submission

May 10, 2022

GREENVILLE, N.C. — Meet Coach Ronald Vincent. He is probably a household name for most of you. He has dedicated a good portion of his life to young baseball players and high school students at JH Rose High School.

He started his career in 1969, at age 18, in Farmville as a little league coach while

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second season at Rose, the team won the State Championship! Many of the boys on that team had been with him in little league. Coach Vincent told me that the funniest thing about the team he coached to the State Championships in 1975 is that they are all now on Medicare! They have all turned 65 this year.

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Not only was he dedicated to the baseball program at Rose, he was also a Social Studies teacher from 1973 until 2009. For 40 years he was committed to the educational growth of his students.

He is still the baseball coach at Rose today. He has had more wins than any coach in North Carolina, totaling 980 to date. He is determined that this number will continue to grow as the current team is entering the playoffs. I asked him if he thought there was a chance to make it to the State Championships this year, and he told me that yes, there is a possibility, and he is very confident in his team for the 2022 season. Over his career, he has won 7 State Championships and 1 runner up.

I asked Coach Vincent what makes him such a great coach. He was very modest and gave a lot of credit to his players and assistant coaches, but the 3 main things he mentioned as being the most important in the success of the team is to stay positive, that the players come first, and they always try to have fun! They try to win as hard as anyone but the principal goal is to make sure that when the boys finish high school, they have had fun playing baseball. That's a really big deal for him. They can be intense but they have to have fun.

The team at Rose is a big team. Coach Vincent tries not to cut any players and everyone gets a chance. Many players actually move to Greenville to be able to play for Coach Vincent. In this moment there are 13 players from the Rose baseball program that are playing for college teams. Two men from his program have made it to the Major Leagues, Kelly Heath in 1980 and Jamie Brewington in 1991.

Many others have gotten close and have played in the minor leagues.

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Courtesy: Amy Taylor

I asked what they do in training that aids in their success, and he mentioned that they practice a lot of game like scenarios, and they do a lot of repetition. I also asked what he thinks are the most important positions in the game. "All positions are important," he states, "but you have to have a good pitcher and you have to have a good catcher". These are the 2 key positions and all else will fall into place.

When I inquired as to his most memorable moments, he said that All the State Championships are etched in your brain forever and he can remember every moment play by play.

He also mentioned that the key to dealing with losing is to bounce back and to not

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I asked him if he noticed a change in the way players behave over all these years. He said that the kids are still essentially the same. They want discipline, they want things to be organized and they want to have a chance. They want to be led. The ones who have changed are the parents. Some parents might have some expectations that aren't realistic. Coach Vincent says that the parents should just let the boys play and that after the game, they should just say, "I enjoyed watching you play today". He also mentions that these things are easier to say than they are to do, but everyone should try. In baseball, the boys are made accountable for what they do and this is the main goal in the growth of the players.



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Courtesy: Amy Taylor

Some of Coach Vincent's proudest moments are when he sees players or students 20 years later and they have become successful citizens. He wants to feel that he has really made a positive impact on these boys' lives, not just in baseball but in all areas of their lives. The true satisfaction in his life he is when his students come back after many years and thank him for what he did to influence their lives in a positive way.

His biggest life lesson from being a coach is having passion. Things just don't come easily, and he is always continuing to and adjust to how things have changed not only in baseball but also in life. Things have changed so much over the years and he has been there dedicated to his students, his players and his community.

I heard and saw the passion and dedication in Coach Vincent as I spoke to him for this article. We are so very lucky to have such a strong, grounded and kind man to lead our boys to success.

This is a special tribute to a very special person, so I ask all of you, when you see him, thank him for all he does and has done. The community of Greenville is lucky to have him!

Park Vista HS baseball team prepares for 2023 season

This is an unedited user writing submission. The views, information, or opinions expressed in this article are



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J.H. Rose inducts 7 into Hall of Fame

By Jim Green Sports Writer Oct 16, 2021

J.H. Rose High School inducted seven as part of its 12th Hall of Fame class during a recognition banquet Thursday evening.

The five inductees were Jumail Blount, Esther Fisher, Charlie Harvey, Matt Houser, Tommy Peacock, James Rankins and Ronald Vincent.

Blount (Class of 1999) was a standout basketball player at Rose – a four-year varsity starter.

He is among the top 15 all-time leading scorers in school history, he earned all-conference honors from 1996-1999, he was named the Rampants' Most Valuable Player and Conference Player of the Year in 1999, an all-area player his junior and senior seasons, a Christmas tournament all-tournament team as a junior and senior, and was an honorable mention McDonald's All-American selection in 1999.

Fisher (Class of 2012) excelled in cross country and track during her career.

She was captain of the cross country team, won multiple conference and state titles in individual events, and is a school record holder in the 5K, 800 meters, 1,000 meters, 1,600 meters and the mile.

An avid member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Fisher attended North Carolina State University, where she continued to set personal and college records in cross and country and was an academic scholar-athlete for the Wolfpack.

Harvey (1988-2021) served as soccer and swimming coach at Rose for more than three decades.

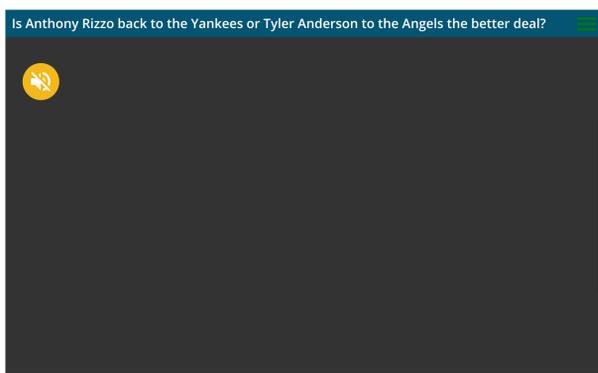
He compiled a record of 364-171-12 as men's soccer coach from 1987-2012, a record of 201-102-21 in two stints as women's soccer coach (1998-2007 and 2015-2017), a record of 566-84 as men's and women's swimming coach from 2007-2021.

He won 17 conference championships, four regional championships and finished second in the state in 2014 as the men's swim coach.

A two-time NCHSAA Regional Coach of the Year (1993 and 2003), Harvey earned conference coach of the year 13 times spanning from 1989-2015, coached 67 all-state soccer players and 4 all-state (???) and also coached 10 All-American swimmers as well as three All-American relay teams.

Houser (Class of 2009) was a state champion swimmer in the 200 individual medley in 2008, and a state champion in the 200 IM in 2009. He also placed second in the 100-meter backstroke in 2009.

He was a competitor at the U.S. Olympic Trials in 2008-2009 and is the current state record holder in the 200 and 400 IM in the 15-18 age group.



Houser attended the University of Virginia, where he was part of a three-time ACC winning team, was on the team that finished 10th in the NAAs in 2011 and set a school record of 1:44.51 while placing 11th individually.

Peacock coached from 1982-2016 at Rose (basketball and football) as well as served as athletic director.

He graduated from Jacksonville High School in 1977, walked on to the ECU football team and earned a scholarship the next year.

He was an assistant football coach (1982-2001), wrestling coach (1982-1984), assistant men's basketball coach (1987-1989) and women's basketball coach (1999-2006). He served as AD from 1997-2016 and was a conference president for four different leagues: Big East, Coastal 3A/4A, Mideastern and Eastern Carolina 3A/4A.

Among the awards Peacock has earned are NCHSAA Eastern Regional Basketball Distinguished Service Award (2001), NCHSAA Outstanding Service Award and Region I Athletic Director of the Year (2004), NCHSAA Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award (2010), Top 100 Athletic Directors in NCHSAA history (2013), North Carolina Athletic Directors Association AD of the Year (2015) and NCADA Hall of Fame (2011). He also served on the NCADA Board of Directors for four years.

Rankins (who has coached from 1984-present) graduated from Bertie High School in 1976, where he was a three-year letterman in football, basketball and track and field. He was the school's most valuable athlete his senior year and awarded a track scholarship to ECU, where he became a two-time Southern Conference champion and a top sprinter for the Pirates in the 55- and 100-meters.

Rankins has been a six-time coach of the year while at Rose and one-time all-area coach of the year. He has won nine regular-season conference titles, made 18 state playoff appearances and had more than 20 players moved on to the collegiate level.

Rankins has also coached 69 all-conference players, three East-West players, three N.C.-South Carolina all-star players and four all-state players recognized by the NCHSAA.

He is a recipient of the National Basketball Athletic Association sportsmanship award and has coached 10 individual champions, two state record holders and multiple conference championship track teams.

Vincent, coaching from 1973-present, graduated from Rose in 1965 and played football at ECU in 1966-1967. He taught at Farmville Central from 1969-1973 before moving to Rose.

He has directed the Rampants to seven state championships in baseball (1975, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2004, 2008 and 2021), a five-time assistant coach for state championship football teams (1975, 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006), was elected for the George Whitfield Hall of Fame and named the Atlantic Region Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association (1997) and had a fieldhouse named after him at Rose in 2004.

Other honors for Vincent include: Charter member of the N.C. Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame (2010), NCHSAA Top 100 Coaches of All Time (2012), Sectional Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High Schools (2013), Citizen of the Year by the Greenville Civitan Club and inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame (2014), Pitt County baseball coach of the year multiple times, most recently in 2017, and recipient of the Legends Award from the Pitt County Chamber of Commerce (2019).

The inductees were announced at halftime of Friday's football game between Rose and New Bern.

Contact Jim Green at jgreen@ncweeklies.com.



Tags James Rankins Athlete Sport Football Swimming Basketball Athletics Coach Esther Fisher Matt Houser Ronald Vincent Conference

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Mac Whitaker

New
Information



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2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472

November 15, 2023

Bruce Howard
NFHS
PO Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Mr. Howard,

Please accept this letter with updated information for the nomination of Mac Whitaker of Harrison County High School for nomination into the NFHS Hall of Fame in the Coach Category. It remains not possible in a letter or even in his nomination form to capture Mac's influence on his sport, his Commonwealth, or his school. We will not be nominating another individual in any category at this time.

This list of wins has been audited a couple of times and is complete through the 2023 playing season. I trust the committee will again review his submitted material and truly grasp his contributions. We are blessed to be at a unique time in the history of our Commonwealth, where several sports are seeing our most successful coaches retire or move on. Thankfully, Mac continues to give to the school, community, and state. His 1221 wins through the 2023 season places him in the top 10 nationally of both active and all-time coaches.

Mac just completed his 46th season at the helm of the Thorobreds of Harrison County. I have been able to witness his influence throughout that time, being immensely successful at what in many states would be considered a small school. This success is even more pronounced when you consider that we only have one class in baseball, so he has always had to compete against much larger schools. His teams have been consistently successful, as is evidenced by his nomination form, much of which was compiled for his induction in our own Hall of Fame. Simply put, he continues to be a combination of teacher, coach, strategist, manager, and promoter for his sport and his school.

We have submitted the information that hopefully will help the screening committee and selection committee in their review. We feel that his work at the interscholastic level leaves him uniquely qualified to be inducted into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Julian Tackett". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julian Tackett
Commissioner

YEAR	WINS	LOSSES	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1978	13	6	won district
1979	15	4	won district
1980	13	12	
1981	20	9	won district
1982	31	5	won district
1983	22	6	won district
1984	23	10	won district, region, sectional, state runnerup
1985	26	8	won district
1986	33	8	won district, region
1987	34	6	won district, region, sectional, state runnerup
1988	30	6	won district, region
1989	30	6	won district, region
1990	30	10	district runner-up, region
1991	34	8	won district
1992	39	5	won district, region
1993	31	9	won district, region, sectional, state champion
1994	29	8	won district
1995	34	7	won district, region
1996	28	8	won district, region, sectional
1997	40	1	won district, region, sectional, state champion
1998	33	6	won district, region, sectional, state champion
1999	28	11	won district, region
2000	21	12	won district
2001	25	11	won district, region
2002	20	15	district runner-up, region runner-up
2003	25	8	won district
2004	25	10	won district, region
2005	29	9	won district, region, sectional
2006	27	7	won district, region, sectional
2007	26	8	won district, region runner-up
2008	35	6	won district, region, sectional
2009	27	10	won district, region, sectional, state quarterfinalist
2010	36	4	won district, region, sectional, state champion
2011	20	10	won district
2012	30	10	won district, region runner-up
2013	25	8	won district, region, state quarterfinalist
2014	25	12	won district
2015	30	8	won district, region runner-up
2016	22	12	won district
2017	21	10	won district, region runner-up
2018	17	16	won district
2019	30	9	won district
2020			No Season (COVID)
2021	32	6	won district, region runner-up
2022	25	9	won district
2023	32	9	won district, won region, state quarterfinalist
	1221	378	
	Wins	Losses	
			All at Harrison County

Prior
Information

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Mac Whitaker
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Julian Tackett

Phone: 859-299-5472

Street Address: 2280 Executive Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Lexington, KY 40505

Signed: Julian Tackett

Date: 11/1/22

Email: jtackett@khsaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Mac Whitaker
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 475 Chelsea Drive
(street address)

Cynthiana, KY 41031
(city, state, zip)

Email: mac.whitaker@harrison.kyschools.us

Phone: 859-298-9654 Date of Birth: 9/30/1952

School Affiliation (if any) Harrison County High School

City: Cynthiana State: KY

Place of Birth: [Tab here] Date of Retirement: N/A

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:
Continues coaching at Harrison County High School

If deceased, date of death:
[Tab here]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Connie (spouse)

Address: Same

Phone: Same

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: [Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]
College/University: [Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]
Post Graduate School: [Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]	[Tab here]

- Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)
- Letters of Recommendation Attached
- Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Mac Whitaker was the coach that brought that pride, to not only the baseball team, but to everyone in Harrison County and continues to do so as he completed his 44th season as the Head Baseball Coach of the Thoroughbreds. Harrison County has won 4 State Titles (1993, 1997, 1998 & 2010), 2 State Runners-up (1984 & 1987), 21 Regional Crowns and 37 District Championships all the while compiling the most career coaching wins in the history of high school baseball in the state of Kentucky. In 1997, he was inducted into the KY High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall Of Fame. He has been named Coach of the Year in Kentucky five times. In 2008 He was named National High School Baseball Coach of the Year by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association and in 2011 was named the National Federation of High School Coaches Association National Coach of the Year. Coach Whitaker ranks first in most wins in the state of Kentucky. He won 40 games in 1997 with only one loss, has won 30 games or more in 17 seasons and has eclipsed the 20-win mark for 40 of his 44 seasons as head baseball coach at Harrison County High School.

Coach Whitaker, at the end of the 2022 season, has a career record of 1189 wins and is currently slated to continue coaching the Thoroughbreds for 2023.

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

37 District Championships
21 Regional Championships
9 Sectional Championships
6 Sectional Runners-up
4 State Titles *
1189 wins and 370 losses in 44 seasons

* Note that Kentucky only has one class and Harrison County is a small to medium size school with less than 500 total males.

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in state and national coaching associations and other related professional organizations)

Long-time member and one of the founding members of the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association and several other regional and national organizations

Other information (*not previously listed*)

Mac Whitaker is the all-time wins leader for baseball coaches in the state of Kentucky. He took over the Harrison Co Baseball Team in 1978 and has never had a losing season in the 43 years he has been at the helm (through 2021). In 1981, his Harrison Co Thoroughbreds' teams began a 20-

win season streak that lasted for 37 years. Coach Whitaker has led Harrison Co to 4 State Tournament Titles (1993, 1997, 1998, 2010) and 2 State Runners-up (1984, 1987). He has coached seven players who signed a professional baseball contract, two KY Mr. Baseball's and Gatorade Players of the Year and 76 players who have gone on to play college baseball

Letters of Recommendation



Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472

November 30, 2022

Bruce Howard
NFHS
PO Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear Mr. Howard,

Please accept this letter of recommendation on behalf of the KHSAA for Mr. Mac Whitaker for nomination into the NFHS Hall of Fame in the Coach Category. It is simply not possible in a letter or even in his nomination form to capture Mac's influence on his sport, his Commonwealth, or his school. I trust the committee will review his submitted material and truly grasp his contributions. We are blessed to be at a unique time in the history of our Commonwealth, where several sports are seeing our most successful coaches retire or move on. Thankfully, Mac continues to give to the school, community, and state.

Mac just completed his 44th season at the helm of the Thoroughbreds of Harrison County. I have been able to witness his influence throughout that time, being immensely successful at what in many states would be considered a small school. This success is even more pronounced when you consider that we only have one class in baseball, so he has always had to compete against much larger schools. His teams have been consistently successful, as is evidenced by his nomination form, much of which was compiled for his induction in our own Hall of Fame last year. Mac would have been in the Hall of Fame much earlier, but only recently was our criteria revised to permit the induction of an active coach. Simply put, he continues to be a combination of teacher, coach, strategist, manager, and promoter for his sport and his school.

We have submitted the information that hopefully will help the screening committee and selection committee in their review. We feel that his work at the interscholastic level leaves him uniquely qualified to be inducted into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Tackett", written in a cursive style.

Julian Tackett
Commissioner

Support
Data

Jim Ciccarello

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Jim Phillip Ciccarello
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: J.P. Murrieta

Phone: 5053794305

Street Address: 6600 Palomas Ave NE

City, State, Zip Code: Albuquerque, 87109

Signed: J.P. Murrieta

Email: jp@nmact.org

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Coaches

Name of Nominee: Jim Phillip Ciccarello
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 2010 Dartmouth NE
(street address)

Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106
(city, state, zip)

Email: jimciccarello@hotmail.com

Phone: 5054809747 Date of Birth: 5/7/1942

School Affiliation (if any) La Cueva High School

City: Albuquerque State: New Mexico

Place of Birth: Jersey City, New Jersey Date of Retirement: _____

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes

If yes, please explain:

Along with his coaching duties at the high school, Jim has been responsible for developing a jump roping team that has performed all over the state and even out of the country.

If deceased, date of death:

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Valley High School	Albuquerque, New Mexico		
College/University: University of New Mexico	Albuquerque, New Mexico		
Post Graduate School:			

Coaches

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Jim Ciccarello has coached in New Mexico for almost 50 years! He has led track programs at multiple high schools in Albuquerque and won state championships with several teams in the state's highest classification. NO COACH IN NEW MEXICO HAS MADE AN IMPACT ON MORE KIDS THAN JIM CICCARELLO.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7A0oqqovAE&t=2s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnIVTjjamc>

<https://nmtcca.com/historical-docs/310-history-legendary-coaches-ciccarello-and-lockridge>

<https://runningnewmexico.podbean.com/e/episode-63-jim-ciccarello-la-cueva-girls-track-coach/>

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

11 Team State Championships with La Cueva and Manzano High School

State Championships (2023, 2018, 2019, 2013, 2011, 2007, 2005, 2004, 2000 with La Cueva High School and 1977 & 1978 with Manzano High School)

Coached over 300 Individual State Champions

Coached track or taught PE to more than 65,000 New Mexico kids

2011 Inducted into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame

2012 Named the NFHS Coach of the Year for Track and Field

2014 Inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Hall of Honor

Professional Achievements

New Mexico High School Coaches Association

New Mexico Track and Field Coaches Association

In the early 70s, Ciccarello helped start the Duke City Dashers and Albuquerque Track Club which produced some of the top athletes in New Mexico. Four of his athletes made the USA National team and four also went to the USA Olympic Trials. He has coached track or taught PE to more than 65 thousand New Mexico kids.

He coaches the highest standard of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character.

Other Information

He's been described as an innovator, starting gymnastics programs at the first two elementary schools he worked. Using his own money, he later created jump rope teams that have been performing and entertaining New Mexico crowds for years. The Coach's jump-rope kids have performed before 17,000 fans at Lobo basketball games, at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, and for appreciative families at Indian Pueblos. The gymnastic jump-rope sport is now supported in many local schools and has spread across the country, even to the Philippines.

Jim also played a large role in Title IX and its development in the state of New Mexico.

Letters of Recommendation



6600 Palomas Ave. NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109 • www.nmact.org
Phone: 888-820-6622 or 505-923-3110 Fax: 505-923-3114

It is my pleasure to nominate Coach Jim Ciccarello for induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame. For over 45 years and still coaching today, he has led his teams to 11 overall state track and field championships, 12 runner up trophies, and coached over 300 individual state champions all at the highest classification. I was blessed to be a part of his history and cannot think of an individual who has had more of an impact on the lives of the youth of New Mexico, including my own.

As a little girl I competed on a rival track club to Coach Ciccarello, but I always dreamt about running for this incredible man. In high school, by chance my dreams became reality. Coach Ciccarello was my coach. This amazing educator impacted my life beyond measure. I sit in the chair as NMAA Executive Director because he influenced me to pursue an occupation that would have an impact on youth. He showed me what a coach and teacher can do in someone's life to teach lifelong skills. He showed me that I could reach down deep inside and be the best version of myself. He pushed me to achieve, while staying humble and grateful. He raised me up to know that I could climb any mountain and stand tall on that mountain while helping others. He taught me how to be a leader.

I look back on my athletic achievements, state championships, collegiate career, honors, and rising to the top in my chosen profession, but the one major success was having Jim Ciccarello as my high school coach. He taught me how to anchor the "mile relay" of life.

For all of these reasons, Coach Jim Ciccarello would make a perfect addition to the NFHS Hall of Fame and represent everything the Federation believes and stands for. He is a true winner in all aspects of his life.

Sally Marquez

Sally Marquez

Executive Director of the New Mexico Activities Association



6600 Palomas Ave. NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109 • www.nmact.org
Phone: 888-820-6622 or 505-923-3110 Fax: 505-923-3114

If the standard for Hall of Famers is tremendous success, longevity with a standard of excellence, and a life-long impact on others, then New Mexico's Jim Ciccarello should be your next inductee. He has 11 state track and field team championships on his resume, along with coaching hundreds, yes hundreds, of individual state champions. Just as impressive as his total of 11 first place finishes is the fact he finished runner-up another 12 times. You would be hard pressed to find a coach who cares more about kids and teaching than longtime track coach Jim Ciccarello. He has been dedicated to his craft for more than 50 years. The mustached man's mission is simple, help others to excel.

"PE and athletics saved my life," Jim says. He's been paying it back his entire professional life.

Jim is a servant in so many ways, rising above economic hardship to become the coaching icon he is today. Born in New Jersey, in what he describes as a "ghetto environment", Jim believes that without the attention of his early PE coaches, he would have joined the others in his neighborhood who fell through the cracks.

Jim started his journey as a physical education teacher for Albuquerque Public Schools. He's been described as an innovator, starting gymnastics programs at the first two elementary schools he worked. Using his own money, he later created jump rope teams that have been performing and entertaining New Mexico crowds for years. The coach's jump-roping kids have performed before 17,000 fans at Lobo basketball games, at the Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta, and for appreciative families at Indian Pueblos. The gymnastic jump-roping sport is now supported in many local schools and has spread across the country, even to the Philippines. In the early 70s, Ciccarello helped start the Duke City Dashers and Albuquerque Track Club which produced some of the top athletes in New Mexico. Four of his athletes made the USA National team and four also went to the USA Olympic Trials. He has coached track or taught PE to more than 65 thousand New Mexico kids. That is not a random number, he probably remembers them all!

In 1976, Coach Ciccarello took his first job as a high school track and field coach. Over the next four and a half decades, **he coached more than 300 individual New Mexico State Champions**. His athletes have combined for over twenty New Mexico state records. In 2011, he was inducted into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame and in 2012 Coach Ciccarello was named the National Federation of High School's Track and Field's National Coach of the Year.

The 81-year old Ciccarello continues to coach to this day.

"My own personal motivation was, and is to this day, to help all students achieve to their own best potential," Jim said. Ciccarello has adapted his teaching methods to the changing times over the years, but his motivation has remained the same. "I can guarantee one goal that will never change: we will motivate our children by spending time with them," he said. "Human beings need approval. The human presence will always be important."

Not only is Jim Ciccarello an admired and accomplished coach, he is also a published author. Ciccarello wrote a book titled *Coach, Coach, Look at Me! A Memoir of Teaching and Love*. If you read some of the reviews, you will get an idea of the impact Jim Ciccarello has on his audience. Here is a sample:

REVIEW FROM AMAZON: "This was a very uplifting book. This should be a must read for anyone going into the education of children. Coach Ciccarello has had such a positive effect on so many throughout the years. We need more like him. Maybe some of the administrators should read it too.

-Virginia Brockwell

Jim Ciccarello not only checks all the boxes when it comes to criteria for NFHS Hall of Famers, he is the definition of what you want your coach of education-based athletics to be. With 50 years of service, he has the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character. He cares about kids, has dedicated his life to it, and (as his resume shows) he excels at it. I fully endorse Coach Jim Ciccarello for induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

J.P. Murrieta

NMAA Sports Information Director



Dana Lee

PRINCIPAL

October, 2023

NFHS Hall of Fame Committee,

It is our honor and privilege to recommend Jim Ciccarello for induction into the *National Federation of State High School Sports Hall of Fame*. Coach Ciccarello has been a long-time educator and coach in the Albuquerque Public School District for 55 years, the same district where he attended school and graduated. After coaching at several high schools, Coach Ciccarello became the head Girls Track and Field Coach at La Cueva High School in 2000, where he continues to coach today. During his tenure, his teams have won more than 20 District Championships and 11 State Championships. Over the last 24 seasons, he has coached over 200 individual State Champions. Coach Ciccarello is a master chess player when it comes to placing athletes in the right events, and develops such mutual trust with his athletes, that they believe in his ability to see winning combinations where they cannot.

Coach Ciccarello was an elementary Physical Education teacher for forty-five years until he retired. He started an elementary jump rope program (at Whittier) which was well-recognized and even performed at the University of New Mexico basketball games during halftime. Over Coach Ciccarello's career, he has influenced decades of athletes throughout the city of Albuquerque, including on club teams such as The Duke City Dashers and Albuquerque Track Club. He has always had a heart for kids!

Though Coach Ciccarello has had incredible athletic success, the relationships he forms and maintains with his athletes, long after they have graduated from high school, are most impressive. To this day, Coach still meets his former athletes for lunch or a cup of coffee, to catch up and see where life has taken them. Coach Ciccarello has made positive, lasting relationships with his athletes, many of whom have gone on to quite successful post-secondary athletic careers! In 2012, Coach even wrote a well-received autobiography, *Coach, Coach, Look at Me!*

We believe whole-heartedly that Coach Ciccarello is a quality coach and human, who will represent the *NFHS Hall of Fame* with pride and respect. He is well-deserving of this honor.

Dana Lee

La Cueva High School Principal, 2012-present

LeeAnn Moores

La Cueva High School Athletic Director, 2013-2022

October 5, 2023

Adam Kedge
9109 Palomas Ave NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Re: Jim Ciccarello

Selection Board:

It is with great honor that I've been asked to write on behalf of my friend, Mr. Jim Ciccarello. Jim's lifelong accomplishments are incredible and deserve recognition to the extent of consideration to the National Federation of High Schools Hall of Fame. As you review Coach Chic's resume you will find his accomplishments to be broad, longstanding, and quite impressive. During his ongoing tenure, Coach Ciccarello has displayed a deep commitment to serving others.

Coach Chic started off in youth sports, heading up the famous Duke City Dashers. Over the years he's coached the Albuquerque Olympette Club for girls, and the Albuquerque Track Club. His work at the club level was highlighted by a balance of high numbers of participants while never compromising performance. Included in his tutelage were New Mexico High School track & field legends, Val Boyer and Curtis Beach.

A teacher/coach in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) for over 50 years, Coach Chic is a community legend. He's taught well over 70,000 budding athletes in the area of elementary PE, jump rope club, or high school track and field.

As a girls' track coach for four different schools in APS during his 50+ years of coaching, Jim's teams have been successful in every era. He's won 10 New Mexico State T&F team titles. In addition, he's coached individuals and relay teams to 100's of state titles. His former athletes currently hold numerous state records. Jim's current team, the La Cueva Bears are, once again, the force of girls' track and field in New Mexico!

Locally Jim has been honored and recognized for much of his work with the kids of our state. He's earned multiple state and regional coach of the year awards. In 2012 your NFHS agency named Jim the National COY for Girls Track and Field. Coach Chic is also member of the prestigious New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame.

Please give Coach Jim Ciccarello "Coach Chic" your full consideration. He comes with my highest recommendation.

If you need any further information, please contact me by phone at work (505 828 3118) or by e-mail at kedge@aa.edu.

Respectfully,

Adam Kedge
Faculty, Albuquerque Academy HS
NM Sports Hall of Fame 2016

Support
Data

Jim Ciccarello article from the Albuquerque Journal June 29, 2022
Written by Rick Wright

HEADLINE: Title IX, The Coach: Ciccarello got girls track up and running

Jun. 30—It's a fact that Norma Sims, Manzano High School's athletic director from 1975-89, hired Jim Ciccarello as the Monarchs' first girls track-and-field coach in 1976.

It's not a fact, yet true in its own way, that Val Boyer did.

As Ciccarello recalled in a recent phone interview:

"Val Boyer, who I consider one of the greatest sprinters of all time, was running for me at the Albuquerque Track Club for about eight years. She was a student at Manzano," Ciccarello recalled. "She walked into Norma Sims' office and said, 'If you're gonna start a (girls) high school team here, I think I could get my club coach to come over here and coach us.'"

Sims took Boyer's advice, Ciccarello took the job, and — though, of course, it's not this simple — girls high school track and field in Albuquerque finally got out of the starting blocks.

After Title IX was signed into law in 1972, the first New Mexico girls state track meet was held in the spring of 1973. Yet, full participation from Albuquerque schools didn't begin until 1976. Texico (1973), Portales ('74), Clovis and Estancia ('75) were the first team champions.

Sandia, thanks to coach Weegie Poston, was an early APS participant. Matadors hurdler/sprinter Nora Carter, older sister of SHS and UNM football star Mike, was high-point person at the '73 meet.

Del Norte, coached by Richard Herrera, won the big-school title in '76, with Boyer winning three events for Manzano.

The Monarchs, with Ciccarello orchestrating, and with Boyer and Margaret Metcalf combining to win five events, won the Class AAAA title in 1977. Girls prep track and field was off and running, making headlines in the Albuquerque newspapers.

Why did the Albuquerque schools take so long to get involved after Title IX opened the door?

In part, it was because AAU programs like the Duke City Dashers, ATC and the Albuquerque Olympette Club, led by coaches like Ciccarello, John Baker, John Haaland, Willie Goldsmith, et al, were so strong. Young athletes like Boyer, Metcalf, Janet Wroblewski, Sandy Beach and Ellen Hart had opportunities to compete before high school, then transitioned to the preps when those opportunities arose thanks to Title IX.

But for older AAU standouts like Carol Hudson, Lisa Chiavario, Barbara Butler, Cathy Hamblin, et al, Title IX came too late. Though they continued to compete, and successfully, they would never wear their high school colors while doing so.

Ciccarello, born in New Jersey, moved to Albuquerque with his family in the late 1950s. He was a standout basketball player at Valley.

After a tour in the U.S. Air Force, he returned to Albuquerque and took a job teaching physical education at APS.

He also began coaching, working with boys as well as girls — helping to develop the talents of, among others, future national champion decathlete/heptathlete Curtis Beach — at ATC and with the Dashers.

But, he said, "I knew right away there was no (scholastic) athletics for females. The only way those girls were competing in track and field was through the AAU programs in the summer.

"The AAU was the forerunner for all athletics for girls in track and field. That's how they got to the Olympic Trials, that's how they made an Olympic team, was through the guidance of the AAU."

Because there were no scholastic opportunities for girls in track and field, college programs were slow in developing. Ciccarello recalls taking some of his teenage (ages 14-15) girls from ATC and running them in a mile relay against UNM.

"We smoked 'em," he said. "That's the way it was. The better athletes were in the age-group programs."

Title IX changed all that, but not without hiccups. As it was at the university level, so it was for high schools as the athletic landscape expanded to include girls. Budgets were strained, facilities crowded.

In September 1977, Sandia boys basketball coach Keith Griffith resigned, citing Title IX as a major reason.

"I am for the equalization of girls sports," Griffith told the Journal's Roger Ruvolo. "I think they should have everything the boys have. But the way they have to do it is they have to put a wood floor in the girls gym. They have to put some bleachers in the girls gym and a scoreboard in the girls gym and let 'em go.

"It is not right to take this stuff away from the boys and give it to the girls."

Track and field, though, enjoyed built-in advantages. Relatively little equipment was required; boys and girls could practice at the same time. In Albuquerque, APS had two facilities, Milne and Wilson stadiums, available for use.

"The boys still had bigger numbers back then (in the mid '70s)," Ciccarello said, "and I think still had more opportunities, more meets than the girls did at the very beginning. But it evened out."

After four years at Manzano, Ciccarello took the girls job at Sandia, then moved to Highland. In 2000, he moved to La Cueva, where, 22 years later, he still coaches the girls. His teams have won 10 state titles. He was inducted into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame in 2010.





Gary Rankin

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: John Gary Rankin
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Matthew Gillespie

Phone: 615-390-4819

Street Address: 3333 Lebanon Road

City, State, Zip Code: Hermitage, TN, 37076

Signed: Matthew Gillespie

Date: November 13, 2023

Email: mgillespie@tssaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: John Gary Rankin
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 4610 Maria Street
(street address)

Chattanooga, TN, 37411
(city, state, zip)

Email: grankin@bbschool.org

Phone: (865) 755-2458 Date of Birth: 2/13/1953

School Affiliation (if any) Boyd Buchanan High School

City: Chattanooga State: TN

Place of Birth: Lebanon, TN Date of Retirement: N/A

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:

[Tab here]

If deceased, date of death:

[Tab here]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Sandra Rankin

Address: 4610 Maria Street, Chattanooga, TN 37411

Phone: 865-414-3973

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Smith County High School	Carthage, TN	1972	HS Diploma
College/University: University of TN (Knoxville)	Knoxville, TN	1976	Bachelor of Science
Post Graduate School: Tennessee Tech University	Cookeville	TN	Post-Graduate

- Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)
- Letters of Recommendation Attached
- Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

In his 40-plus year career as a head football coach in Tennessee:

Coached 19 Mr. Football Winners

17 State Championships

6 Runner-Up Finishes

7 Undefeated Seasons

Coaching Record - 484-84 (1982-2023) - 85.2 winning percentage
All-Time Winningest Coach in Tennessee

4th Most wins in National High School Record Book for active coaches

7th Most wins all-time in National High School Record Book

58-33 at Smith County (1982-1989), coached 1 Mr. Football winner while at Smith County

194-25 at Riverdale (Class 3A - largest class - in 3 classes/expanded to 5 classes where Riverdale was 5A) (1990-2005) - was 97-5 in region play in 16 seasons; 4 state titles, 5 state runner-up finishes; helped produce 8 Mr. Football winners while at Riverdale; 3 undefeated seasons at Riverdale

215-21 at Alcoa (Class 3A in 6 Classes) (2006-2021) - was 79-1 in region play in 16 seasons, won 15 region championships; won 13 state titles in 16 seasons, one runner-up finish, helped produce 10 Mr. Football winners while at Alcoa; 3 undefeated seasons at Alcoa.
Won 8 consecutive state titles at Alcoa (2015-2022)

Began coaching at Boyd Buchanan in 2022. Went 7-4 in first season. 12-0 in 2023 at time of submission of nomination.

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

Inducted into TSSAA Hall of Fame in 2011

Inducted into Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2018

Tennessee Football Coaches Association Inaugural Class in 2014

2021 AFCA/AFCF Regional Power of Influence Award Winner

Named National High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 2006

EA Sports National Coach of the Year in 2005

Letters of Recommendation



Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association

P. O. BOX 319 • 3333 LEBANON ROAD • HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE 37076
615/889-6740 • Fax 615/889-0544 • www.tssaa.org

October 30, 2023

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great honor that I write this letter of recommendation for Coach Gary Rankin to be inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame. In his over 40 year career, Coach Rankin has established himself as not only one of the winningest high school football coaches in Tennessee history, but across the entire nation as well.

Coach Rankin's resume speaks for itself - 472 career wins with 17 state championships. He has coached 19 Mr. Football winners during his illustrious career. However, what is perhaps most impressive is the sustained excellence he achieved over decades at multiple schools of varying sizes. Whether it was a rural school like Smith County or continuing dynasties at powerhouses Riverdale and Alcoa, Coach Rankin's teams were always among the elite year in and year out. His record of 97-5 in region play and 8 consecutive state titles at Alcoa stands out as one of the most dominant stretches any high school coach has achieved.

Coach Rankin has received many honors recognizing his immense contributions to the high school football landscape in Tennessee and beyond. He is inducted in both the TSSAA and Knoxville Sports halls of fame, and was named a winner of the AFCA/AFCA Regional Power of Influence award for being a role model and mentor to coaches nationwide.

With all of the accolades, the most important measure of success with Coach Rankin is the type of impact he has had on the lives of the thousands of players he has coached. He is a man of integrity who expects nothing less than the absolute best from his kids.

In summary, Gary Rankin exemplifies the type of coach most deserving of induction into the National High School Hall of Fame. His career achievements and honors are a testament to true greatness and excellence over an extraordinarily lengthy period of time. I cannot recommend him more highly and hope you will find him as deserving as I do. Please let me know if any additional information would be helpful in your consideration.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Reeves

Nov 13, 2023

Dear Members of the National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Gary Rankin was a friend, classmate and teammate at Tennessee. I followed his career very close and was amazed at his success and how he won with class. He always kept his players best interest at heart, and was admired and appreciated by them.

In 40 years of coaching he amassed a 472-84 record from 1982-2022. He is the all-time winningest coach in Tennessee history, and the 4th all time winningest coach nationally.

Gary amassed 17 state championships, 6 runner-ups, and 6 undefeated seasons, and 19 Mr. Football players in his amazing career. Gary had an amazing 194-25 record at Riverdale High School and an even more amazing 215-21 record at Alcoa High School with 8 consecutive state championships.

Gary accomplished his success with hard work and humility and is deserving to be in the National High School Hall of Fame.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip Fulmer". The signature is stylized with a large, circular flourish on the left side and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Coach Phillip Fulmer
University of Tennessee
Retired Head Football Coach
Member of the National Football Hall of Fame Class of 2012



EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Intercollegiate
Athletics

November 6, 2023

National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Gary Rankin for nomination to the National High School Hall of Fame. I competed against Coach Rankin for many years when I was the head football coach at Maryville HS and he was the head football coach at Alcoa HS in Tennessee.

In his forty-plus year career as a head football coach in Tennessee, Coach Rankin has 17 state championships, 6 runner-up finishes, 6 undefeated seasons and he has coached 19 Mr. Football winners. He is the all-time winningest coach in Tennessee with a coaching record of 472-84 (1982-2022). His win total is the 4th most nationally all-time.

At Smith County (1982-1989) he was 58-33 and coached 1 Mr. Football winner. At Riverdale HS (1990-2005) he was 194-25 in the largest classification in the state with four state titles and five runner-up finishes. He won 15 region championships at Riverdale and had a region record of 97-5 in 16 seasons. He coached 8 Mr. Football winners and had 3 undefeated seasons for the Warriors. At Alcoa (Class 3A in 6 classes) (2006-2021) he had a record of 215-21 and 13 state titles and one runner-up finish in 16 seasons. He was 79-1 with 15 region titles during that time. He coached 10 Mr. Football winners while at Alcoa.

Coach Rankin's numbers are staggering to say the least and he is showing no signs of slowing down. He is currently the head coach at Boyd Buchanan HS in Chattanooga, TN where his win total will continue to increase. His career is certainly deserving of being in the National High School Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me with any follow-up questions at 865 719-4994 or email at gwquarles@gmail.com.

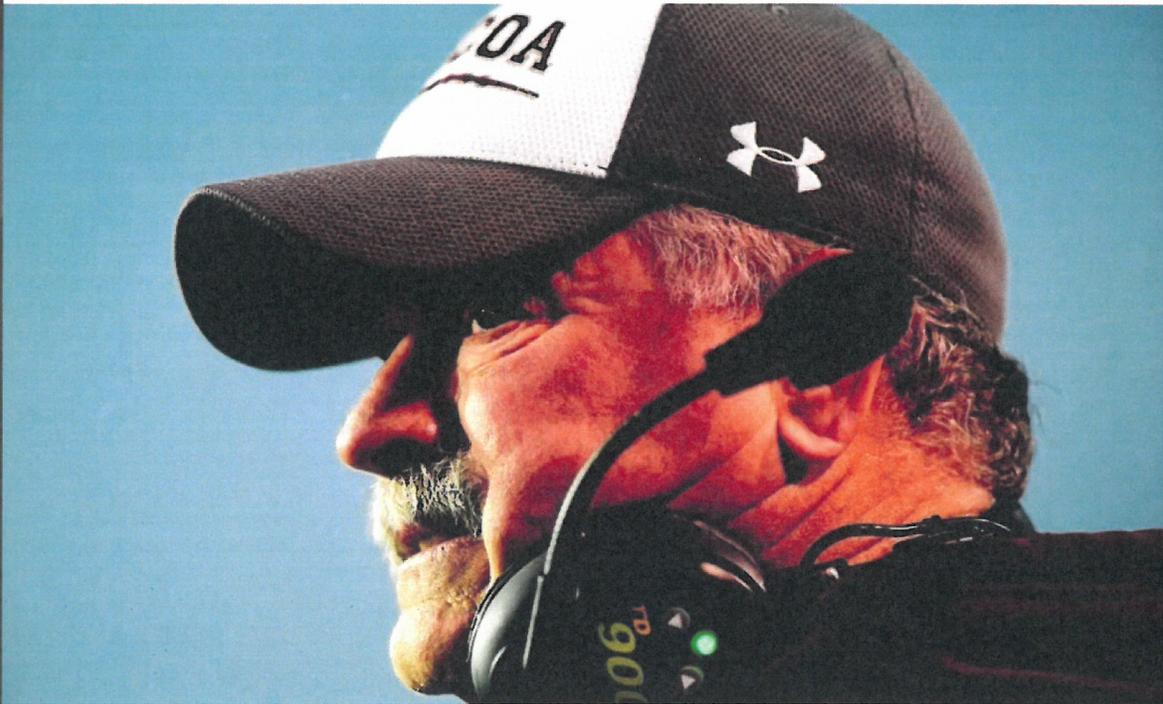
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Quarles".

George Quarles
Head Football Coach
East Tennessee State University
Johnson City, TN

Support
Data

Legendary Tennessee HS football coach retires after 40 seasons



Alcoa's Head Coach Gary Rankin looks on during a game between Alcoa and Covington at the TSSAA Blue Cross Bowl at Tennessee Tech's Tucker Stadium in Cookeville, Tennessee on Saturday, December 1, 2018. Kns Alcoa Covington

Tyler Calvaruso

February 6, 2022 3:02 pm ET

[jwplayer IpqhoLGb-BmKM743H]

Legendary Tennessee high school football coach Gary Rankin decided to hang up his whistle earlier this week after 40 seasons, 466 wins and 17 state championships.

Rankin, who ranks ninth all-time nationally in career wins, closed out his coaching career by winning seven straight state championships at Alcoa High School, where he spent 16 seasons. Rankin got his start as a head coach at Smith County High School from 1982-89 and coached at Riverdale High School from 1990-2005.

Rankin turned Alcoa into a state powerhouse during his tenure with the program. Alcoa won 13 championships in 16 seasons, as Rankin amassed a 215-16 record over that span. Alcoa went 27-2 in Rankin's final two seasons at the helm and outscored opponents by a combined 1,024 points.

Rankin is a member of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and concludes his coaching career with a shining 466-78 record. Brian Nix, Rankin's long-time defensive coordinator at Alcoa, will take over as the program's next head coach.

"I'm proud of how much success we had and I'm proud we did it the right way," Rankin told the Knox News after announcing his retirement. "We didn't cut corners. We've never been investigated by the TSSAA that I know of. We always tried to treat kids with respect and make sure they left our program better people."

Related

[Sunrise Christian Academy beats IMG Academy to win inaugural NIBC title](#)

HIGH SCHOOL

Alcoa football coach Gary Rankin at 400 wins: Stories from former players, coaches

Diana C. Nearhos Knoxville

Published 9:45 p.m. ET Sept. 15, 2017 | Updated 9:55 p.m. ET Sept. 15, 2017

Gary Rankin's players and assistant coaches love him, but that didn't stop them from sharing some stories about the Alcoa coach's career as he approached win No. 400. Rankin is the first high school football coach in Tennessee to reach the mark.

Rusty Bradley

Former CAK coach and current Grace Christian coach

Bradley was on the wrong side of more of Rankin's wins than he'd like — the two schools met in region play each season and often again in the playoffs — but he got the best of the state's winningest coach twice in 2011.

More: Alcoa football coach Gary Rankin first in Tennessee to win 400 games

More: Alcoa football coach Gary Rankin gets 400 wins: What people are saying

The second time was in the playoffs, one of Alcoa's earliest departures under Rankin. A week later, Rankin's daughter Addie, who attended CAK, handed Bradley a note. It was from Rankin, saying he respected what Bradley had done at CAK. If there was anything Rankin could do for Bradley, he should let him know.

"He's someone I enjoy talking to, he's a friend," Bradley said. "When he can help you, he wants to do that. That note was a first-class thing for him to do."

Thomas McDaniel

Former Riverdale assistant and current coach of Christian Brothers in Memphis

McDaniel started as a defensive backs coach for Rankin at Riverdale right out of college. He joined the staff unofficially for spring scrimmages. The first one didn't go well for the secondary.

Afterward, Rankin met McDaniel's father for the first time and asked if you can fire someone before they're actually hired. McDaniel, who was just trying not to get yelled at in those first few weeks, didn't know how to take it. But he didn't get fired.

“I lived with a bruised ego for the first couple of years,” he said. “He saw something in me that I didn’t know I had. I had dreamed of being a football coach and he saw something in me that I didn’t know I had. He was very hard on me, he challenged me. I’m forever indebted to him. He’s one of my best friends and next to my dad, probably the most important male figure in my life.”

Randall Cobb

Former Alcoa player and current Green Bay Packers wide receiver

The moment that sticks out to Cobb was from Rankin’s first season at Alcoa in 2006. They were in a close game and McCallie quarterback B.J. Coleman was throwing all over the place. The Tornadoes had practiced a hook-and-ladder play and Rankin called it. The play worked.

“Him being able to have the confidence to call that play shows how confident he is in his coaching,” Cobb said.

Jimmy Maynard

Coached against Rankin at White County then with him at Riverdale, now coaches at Cookeville

Rankin does not like being late. When the bus was behind schedule on the way to Nashville to be recognized for a state championship, Rankin didn’t like it. “They got into it a little bit,” Maynard said of Rankin and the bus driver. On the way back, they continued going at each other and by the time the team got off the bus both men were irate.

When Rankin got to the door to the coaches’ offices at Riverdale, he realized he left his keys on the bus. In Rutherford County, the buses are privately owned. Rankin looked at Maynard and said those keys were probably in the Stones River by then. He never got them back.

David Watson

Former Riverdale assistant and current Blackman coach

Rankin isn’t a rah-rah type coach, not one to get players too hyped up. But then-assistant Ron Crawford, now at Brentwood, convinced Rankin, then at Riverdale, to try it out one game.

Rankin tells the players he wants them to go out there and play like a crazy shark. The players got a little quiet and then went running out. Crawford looked at Rankin and asked “Gary, what’s a crazy shark.” Rankin responded it’s a shark who smells blood in the water and goes crazy in a feeding frenzy. But the players didn’t quite get the image.

Gary Rankin named head football coach at Boyd Buchanan

February 27, 2022

By DONOVAN STEWART Main Street Preps

For Gary Rankin it wasn't about chasing championships or money, it was all about family.

Rankin, the state's winningest coach with a 467-78 overall record (.857 winning percentage) and 17 state titles, has been named the head football coach at Boyd Buchanan.

He replaces Jeremy Bosken, who resigned recently to become head coach at Tri Cities Christian Academy.

The Buccaneers are coming off a 4-6 record in 2021 and lost to CPA in the first round of the DII-AA playoffs.

"It wasn't about chasing money or championships this was about getting closer to family," Rankin said.

Rankin's oldest son John Tucker is the strength and conditioning coach for all sports programs at Boyd Buchanan.

"I am definitely looking forward to working with my son John Tucker every day but also being able to be closer to my other son (Zeke)," Rankin said.

Zeke Rankin is the place kicker for the Middle Tennessee State football program.

"After I stepped down at Alcoa, we wanted to get closer to Chattanooga or Murfreesboro to be closer to them," Rankin said.

In 16 seasons at Alcoa, Rankin led the Tornadoes to 13 state titles (2006, 2007 and 2008 in 2A; 2009, 2010, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 in 3A).

Rankin also posted a 215-21 record (.911 winning percentage) in that time.

Before Alcoa, Rankin turned Riverdale into a Class 5A power, winning four state titles (1994, 1997, 2001, 2004) and leading the Warriors to five runner-up finishes (1993, 1995, 2000, 2002, 2003). He went 194-25 during his stint in Murfreesboro from 1990 to 2005.

Rankin began his head coaching career in 1982 at his alma mater Smith County, where he posted a 58-33 record and led the Owls to five playoff appearances over eight years.

"Boyd Buchanan is extremely excited to have Coach Rankin lead our football program and to be part of the Buccaneer community. His credentials, consistency, and success will be a tremendous asset to not only the athletic department but Boyd Buchanan School," Boyd Buchanan AD Matt Pobiegló said.

"Coach Rankin exemplifies excellence and his leadership in all aspects of the student athlete experience will be invaluable in the classroom, field, community and throughout Boyd Buchanan."

Currently 17 schools in Antioch, Chuckey Doak, East Robertson, FRA, Fulton, Glenclyff, Grace Christian Academy-Franklin, Hillcrest, Kenwood, Lewis County, Manassas, Northeast, Scott, South Pittsburg, Summertown, Webb School and White House Heritage are in the market for a head coach.

Contact Donovan at dstewart@mainstreetmediatn.com and follow him on Twitter at [Examine_Stew](https://twitter.com/Examine_Stew)

HIGH SCHOOL

Legendary Alcoa coach Gary Rankin announces resignation, replaced by defensive coordinator Brian Nix



Emily Adams

Knoxville News Sentinel

Published 1:28 p.m. ET Feb. 3, 2022 | Updated 4:43 p.m. ET Feb. 3, 2022

Gary Rankin, the winningest high school football coach in Tennessee history, announced his resignation from Alcoa on Thursday.

In a release, Alcoa said Rankin was retiring, but in an interview with Knox News, he was adamant that he resigned and plans to continue working as an assistant principal at Alcoa unless he is offered another football job closer to his family in either Chattanooga or Murfreesboro.

"This wasn't a football decision — you don't walk away from Alcoa football," said the 68-year-old Rankin, who has amassed 17 state championships and 467 career wins in a 40-year career that started at Smith County in 1982. "It was a family decision. We played on Friday nights and I've got a kid that plays at MTSU on Saturdays. We've got a new grandbaby so you try to get there on Sundays, and there just wasn't enough time. Something had to give, and what gave was football at Alcoa."

Rankin has led Alcoa since 2006 and won his 13th state title with the Tornadoes on Dec. 3. It was Alcoa's seventh championship in a row, tying its own state record set from 2004-10. In 16 seasons at Alcoa, Rankin has never had a losing record.

"I'm proud of how much success we had and I'm proud we did it in the right way," Rankin said. "We didn't cut corners. We've never been investigated by the TSSAA that I know of. We always tried to treat kids with respect and make sure they left our program better people."

Alcoa announced that defensive coordinator Brian Nix, who has been on the staff since 2004, will replace Rankin.

KREAGER: How Gary Rankin, the GOAT of Tennessee high school football coaches, keeps winning titles

STATE CHAMPIONS: Alcoa football wins 7th straight state championship, leads Tennessee with 20 titles

ALCOA COACHES: Seven members of Gary Rankin's Alcoa staff can win seventh straight TSSAA football title

"He'll be an influence on my career for the rest of my life. There won't be a day I go on a field where I don't think about Gary, and I don't think about something he's done or contributed or taught me," Nix said. "We'll be winning games at Alcoa for a long time and a big part of that will be the contribution that he's made. You'll never go without saying what he did for this program."

Rankin won four state championships in 16 years at Riverdale from 1990-2005. He coached seven Mr. Football winners at Riverdale and nine more at Alcoa, including NFL veteran Randall Cobb.

Nix has been a part of 15 state championships. Nix said he has had other opportunities to serve as a head coach in the past, but his goal has always been to remain at Alcoa.

"Most of the time when you're taking a new head coaching job, you're coming into a program with some issues...and you got a lot of problems to fix," Nix said. "It's a blessing for me that I'm coming into a situation where we have great culture, where we have great discipline, where we have great tradition and can just to continue — like Gary did — to elevate all those things."

Contact Emily Adams at eaadams@gannett.com or on Twitter @eaadams6.



A
Alcoa

Roy Snyder

Nomination Form



HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Roy Snyder
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Drew Kaufmann

Phone: 484-256-6319

Street Address: 2601 Grandview Blvd.

City, State, Zip Code: West Lawn, PA 19609

Signed: 

Date: 11 | 2 | 23

Email: kauand@wilsonsd.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Roy Snyder
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 324 Charleston Lane
(street address)

Wyomissing, PA 19610
(city, state, zip)

Email: swimroy@aol.com

Phone: 610-334-1051 Date of Birth: 4/18/1937

School Affiliation (if any) Wilson

City: West Lawn State: PA

Place of Birth: Allentown, PA Date of Retirement: N/A

Is the nominee still active in any area of athletics or performing arts other than the category for which he/she is being nominated? Yes No

If yes, please explain:
[Tab here]

If deceased, date of death:
[Tab here]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Alison Snyder

Address: 108 Hickory Ln. Reading, PA 19610

Phone: 610-207-2925

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Allentown HS	Allentown, PA	1954	HS Diploma
College/University: East Stroudsburg University	East Stroudsburg, PA	1958	Bachelor - Education (Phys Ed)
Post Graduate School: West Chester University	West Chester, PA	1970	Masters - Education (Phys Ed)

- Small Portrait-type Photograph of Nominee Attached (to be used for news release, etc.)
- Letters of Recommendation Attached
- Newspaper and/or Other Supportive Material Attached

COACH

Career Description as High School Coach [give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in athletics, i.e., coaching positions, tenure, etc. Please note the classification of the high school(s) (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

-Roy established the Wilson Swimming Program in 1964 and has been the Boys Swimming Head Coach ever since. The Wilson Swimming Program has participated in the AAA classification.

-In addition, Roy founded the Wilson Water Polo Program in 1972 and was the Boys Water Polo Head Coach until 1984.

Coaching Records and Honors (overall record, outstanding seasons, etc.)

Swimming Coaching Highlights (59 years)

- Overall record: 611 wins - 114 losses
- League record: 461 wins - 59 losses
- 40 league championships
- 23 PIAA District 3 Championships
- 4 PIAA AAA State Championships
- 15 individual PIAA State Champions
- 20 undefeated seasons
- 58 out of 59 winning seasons
- Over 300 All-Americans
- 9 NISCA National Dual Meet Championships
- Have had a Wilson team represented at every PIAA State Championship Meet since 1965
- Two national high school record holders
- 6 Olympic trials qualifiers
- One Olympian (Kristy Kowal, Silver Medalist, 200 breaststroke, 2000 Sydney Games)
- More than 250 swimmers and/or water polo players have gone on to swim/play at the collegiate level
- Pennsylvania Coach of the Year and Berks County Coach of the Year numerous times

Water Polo Coaching Highlights (12 years)

- Overall record: 125 wins - 31 losses
- 20 All-Americans
- Served as NISCA National Water Polo Chairperson from 1978-1983
- As NISCA National Water Polo Chairperson, worked with the National Federation to develop the first high school rule book and instituted the All-American selection process that is still used today
- Served as NCAA Water Polo Official
- Developed the local Berks County Summer Water Polo League

Hall of Fame Honors

- Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame
- Berks County Sports Hall of Fame
- Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame
- East Stroudsburg University Athletic Hall of Fame
- Pennsylvania Aquatic Hall of Fame
- Berks County Aquatic Hall of Fame
- NISCA Hall of Fame

Professional Affiliations and Achievements (i.e., involvement in state and national coaching associations and other related professional organizations)

- NISCA Outstanding Service Award
- Reading YMCA Service to Youth Award
- Wilson School District Leader of Character Award

Other information (*not previously listed*)

- Central Penn League Administrator for 57 years
- Established and led Tri-County Age Group Swim League
- Berks County Chapter of PIAA Swimming and Diving Officials
- Pennsylvania Swim Coaches Association (served as the second president)
- Founded Wilson Relays
- Initiated Wilson Athletic and Berks County Aquatic Halls of Fame
- Ran SWIMINAR INC. (swim clinics conducted across the nation)
- Served as Vice President of the Green Valley Country Club for 35 years, started the swim team, and chaired the committee for the new 8 lane racing pool
- Member of PA Chapter of Berks County Sports Hall of Fame for 25+ years (currently serving as president)

Letters of Recommendation



**PENNSYLVANIA INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**

550 Gettysburg Road • PO Box 2008
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055-0708
(800) 382-1392 • (717) 697-0374
FAX (717) 697-7721 • www.piaa.org

November 14, 2023

Hall of Fame Director
NFHS
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46208

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame:

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide the NFHS Hall of Fame with a recommendation from the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA), for the Coach category for consideration to the NFHS Hall of Fame. It is regarding this recommendation that we are providing you with the following information.

Please accept our recommendation on behalf of Roy Snyder, the longest serving and one of the most honored, if not the most decorated, swimming coach in Pennsylvania high school history for consideration into the NFHS Hall of Fame. Mr. Snyder has accumulated an amazing record of 611 victories and 114 losses over a 59 year career at Wilson HS and he's still coaching. In that time, Roy's teams have won 40 Berks League championships, 23 PIAA District 3 Championships and 4 PIAA State Swimming Championships in our largest classification. As part of this tenure, Roy has coached over 300 All-Americans and numerous USA Olympic swimmers.

Pennsylvania has since 1934 hosted historic and tremendously successful swimming and diving championships. We do not believe there is another swimming coach at the high school level whose teams have been this successful and achieved so much. What is truly an amazing record is the fact that since 1965, Wilson has had a team represented at every PIAA Swimming Championship. That is a 58 year winning streak of success. I know of no swimming coach in PIAA history that has such a record.

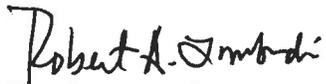
Mr. Snyder has the ultimate respect of his colleagues as illustrated by being recognized for induction to various halls of fame. He has been inducted into the Berks County Sports Hall of Fame, the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame, the East Stroudsburg University Athletic Hall of Fame, and the Wilson Athletic Hall of Fame. He has been recognized nationally and inducted into the National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association Hall of Fame. There is not one person in PA swimming that has accumulated such success and has been recognized, locally, statewide and nationally as Mr. Snyder. Roy is second to none.

Roy Snyder
NFHS HOF Recommendation
November 14, 2023
Page 2

On behalf of PIAA, please accept this recommendation for Wilson HS Swim Coach, Roy Snyder for induction into the NFHS Hall Of Fame. An honor he would richly deserve.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this information on Roy's behalf. It is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert A. Lombardi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Dr. Robert A. Lombardi
Executive Director

November 1, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame for Roy Snyder. I have had the privilege of working with Roy for the past nine years as the Director of Athletics for the Wilson School District and, during that time, I have witnessed his exceptional coaching abilities and unwavering dedication to the sport of swimming. Roy has spent the past 59 years as our HS Boys Swimming Head Coach and has had a profound impact on our student-athletes, Swim Program, school district, and community as a whole.

Roy founded our Swim Program back in 1964 and has been our only HS Boys Swimming Head Coach ever since. His overall record during his time at Wilson has been 611 wins and 114 losses, for a remarkable 84% winning percentage. He has won 40 league championships, 23 PIAA District 3 AAA championships and 4 PIAA AAA State Championships. Under Roy's leadership, we have had over 300 All-American swimmers.

In addition to Roy's impressive coaching skills, he is a mentor and a role model for all of his swimmers. He is known for instilling discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and for creating an environment where his swimmers not only excel in the pool, but also develop into responsible, confident, and resilient individuals.

Furthermore, Roy has demonstrated a deep commitment to the development of the sport of swimming. He has created and established multiple youth swim programs, served in numerous leadership roles on district and state committees, and organized clinics and workshops across the nation. His passion for the sport and dedication to his swimmers is truly exceptional.

Finally, Roy possesses an innate ability to instill a love for the sport in, and build lifelong relationships with, his student-athletes. This is exemplified on an almost annual basis when we inevitably have at least one alumni swimmer being inducted into our Athletics Hall of Fame and they select Roy to be their presenter to speak on their behalf. After Roy shares success stories and memories of the time spent with the inductee at Wilson, the inductee then shares the impact that Roy has had on them, and most times the stories that are told are not centered around the accolades; instead, they are centered around the person that that have become as a result of Roy's leadership.

It is without a doubt that Roy Snyder has made a lasting impact on the world of high school swimming. His induction into the National High School Hall of Fame would be a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding contributions to the sport of swimming, and be a source of inspiration for future generations of coaches. I wholeheartedly support Roy Snyder as a nominee for the National High School Hall of Fame, and I have no doubt that his legacy in high school swimming will continue to shine brightly for years to come.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me at 610-670-0180 x 1142 or via e-mail at kauand@wilsonsd.org

Thank you for considering Roy Snyder for this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Drew Kaufmann". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Drew Kaufmann
Director of Athletics
Wilson School District

ROY SNYDER

I am Rick Fehling. I swam for Roy Snyder at Wilson High School for four years in the late 60s. I am a retired federal judge. I choose not to detail Roy's incredible array of successful days, weeks, months, years, and decades in aquatic sports. His undefeated teams, his All-State athletes, his All-American athletes, his collegiate and his Olympians, are well-known to coaches and swimmers all over the United States.

As a 9th grader I had no particular success in swimming. I had swum backstroke in summer age-group and swam for Wilson, initially, in backstroke I would have been easy to pigeonhole and disregard. But Wilson was a Roy Snyder team - he did not pigeonhole any of his swimmers.

Roy closely examined all of his swimmers for three things: stroke technique, endurance, and competitiveness. I had only a little the first and second criteria. But he saw in my competitiveness a swimmer who hated to lose. If I lost a race, but did a best time, that was not good enough for me and Roy saw that. He quietly gave me some hints on technique and his practices provided the endurance. Roy was way ahead of the pack in establishing a weightlifting regimen as part of our practices. Swimmers lifting weights ! ! ! Unheard of!

My natural inclination to demand of myself that I win coupled with Roy's friendly, confidential advice on how I would get there. When I came in second to one of our other swimmers in an early meet my senior year, a couple weeks after football ended, I put a sign on my locker — "THBWNW" — The Has Been Who Never Was. Shortly after I put it up, Roy took it

down. He told me that the season was young and I would succeed if I continued to work hard.

During my senior year, Roy allowed me to make line-ups for prospective dual meets. For one in particular, we were swimming against a team that had not lost a dual meet in the history of the league. I gave him a line-up with a couple unusual events for our swimmers. He read it and used one in particular that totally flummoxed the undefeated team. It worked and we won.

I coached age-group swimming before my senior year. Roy's two kids swam for me - his daughter 8-and-under and his son 9 & 10. He never said a word to me about how I should use his kids. I put his son in 2 relays and an individual event because it helped the team. His son would have won all three individual events if I had let him swim in individual event, but Roy never questioned my line-up. The team winning a dual meet was everything.

With Roy's guidance, I worked with Roy to establish summer league water polo at a number of pools. I worked with Roy in training young kids through the Wilson Aquatic Leaders. I worked with Roy in overseeing the outdoor aquatic activities at a local club. I had numerous occasions to break bread with him at dinners. I "worked" with Roy (when I was old enough) to have a couple beers.

My brother and I were two of the many Roy's Boys who were able to matriculate to college because we swam for Roy.

I have known Mr. Snyder/Coach/Roy, for 57 years and I am proud to have him as a long-time friend. Your organization could never find a candidate better than Roy Snyder.

To Whom It May Concern,

Coach Roy Snyder is one of the most incredible men I have ever met. I have seen him impact so many people, as both an athlete myself and a member of his staff. I can start with my time as one of his athletes. Coach Snyder pushed me to be the very best version of myself, as both an athlete and as a person. He turned me from a scrawny little freshman to the anchor on a state medalist relay team. He even attended every single one of our water polo games and cheered us on. Coach Snyder taught me everything I know about swimming, which I carried into my coaching career with him. I was a member of his staff for two years, and it would have been longer had I not moved out of the area. Everything from stroke technique to how to approach a certain event, I passed the knowledge he gave to me onto the swimmers that we coached together.

But Coach Snyder's teachings go beyond the pool and the number of championships he has won and state medalists he has coached. He focuses on having his athletes become good people by the time they are ready to graduate. This is where he impacted my life the most. As one of his athletes, he always showed us how to be respectful and kind to others. We always made sure our area was cleaner than when we had arrived at a meet. We always made sure to treat the staff and other coaches and swimmers with the utmost respect. This translated to my life after swimming as well. I carry on those lessons into my professional career. It has helped me build good working relationships with my coworkers. It has also helped me in my personal life to build strong relationships built on respecting each other. Coach Snyder has also been there for me everytime I needed a recommendation letter for a job interview or if I just needed to call and talk a life decision through with someone. He has become more than just a coach in my life but a friend and person that I can count on for anything.

Nobody is more worthy of this honor than Coach Snyder. He is a man who demands excellence and hard work, and will always demand it of himself first. He coaches not just great athletes but great people who will forever be impacted by having him in their life. He truly is one of a kind and I will never have someone like him enter my life again.

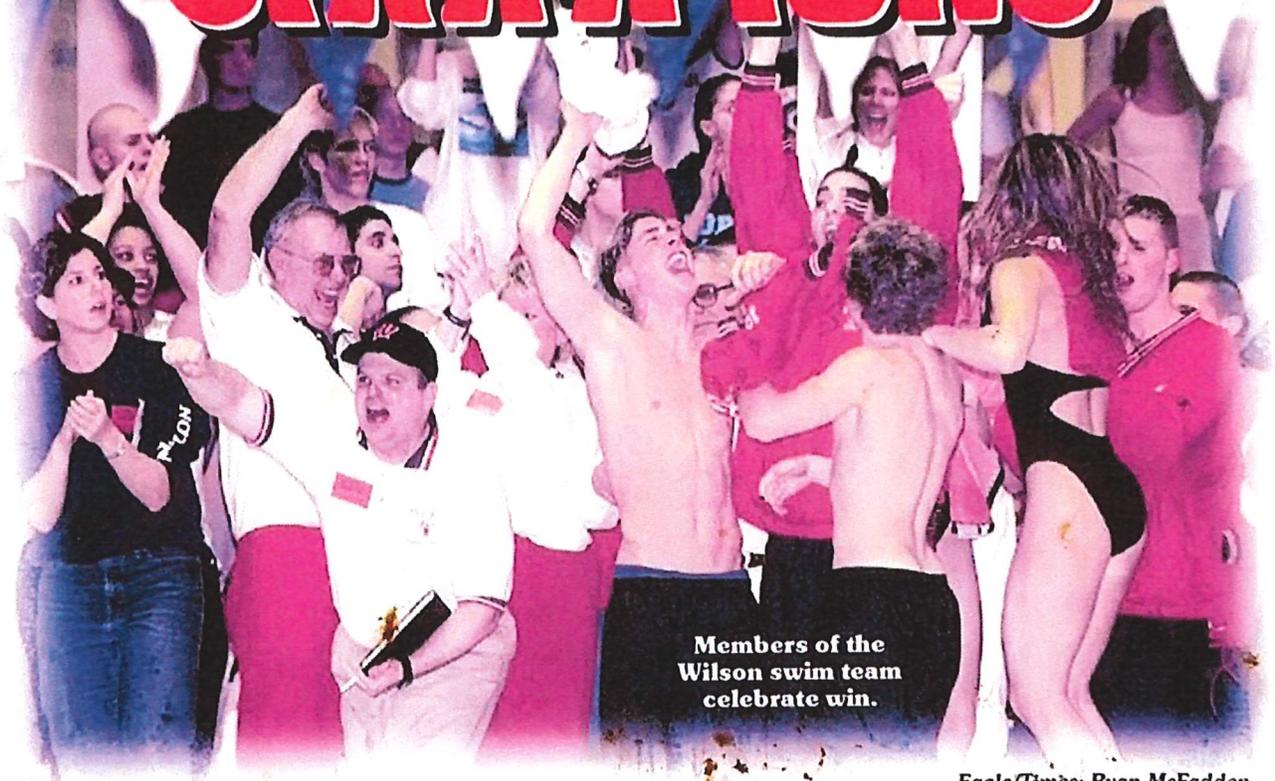
Sincerely,

Carter Young

Carter Young

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CHAMPIONS



Members of the
Wilson swim team
celebrate win.

Eagle/Times: Ryan McFadden

Bulldogs Win First State Title

By Steve Patton
Eagle/Times

UNIVERSITY PARK – Wilson coach Roy Snyder thought the absence of a dominant team, as has been the case in recent years, was one of the reasons his team had a chance to win a state swimming championship.

Turns out he was wrong.

One team did dominate – the one Snyder coaches.

The Wilson boys swam spectacularly and won Snyder the one prize that has eluded him in 37 years at West Lawn: a PIAA team championship trophy.

Ben Robinson delivered a gold medal in the 500 freestyle – the first state win by a Berks AAA male swimmer in nine years – and the Bulldogs scored in every event to extend the lead they built Friday and roll to a 57-point victory over four-time defending champion North Penn.

"The absolute highlight of 43 years of coaching," said Snyder, who coached at the Reading YMCA for six years before starting the program at Wilson. "And the thing that makes it very special to me is it just brought about every-

thing I preached for all those years, and that was the team comes before the individual.

"We made some individual sacrifices for the benefit of the team, and it paid off. I'm just very, very proud of them."

Berks AAA swimmers added eight medals to their total, giving them 14 in two days. That's the most since 1994, when AAA swimmers won 15 medals and the Wilson girls won the state championship.

If there was any doubt Wilson was going to win the title, it disappeared during the preliminary heats. The Bulldogs advanced six swimmers into the evening finals and consolations, guaranteeing they would score points in every event.

Backstroker Shawn McClIn set a tone that the Bulldogs maintained for the rest of the day.

McClIn came into the meet seeded fourth in the event in 52.12 seconds, and had a goal time of 51.2. But swimming in the last heat next to top-seeded Alan Carter of Bethel Park, McClIn raced out to the lead and easily beat Carter. His time of 50.87 seconds shattered Justin Houck's 1999 Berks record of 51.30.

The Wilson Boys Swim Team Uses Its Depth To Earn A Class AAA State Championship At State College

"I just wanted to do a good time and make finals," said McLin, who went on to a third-place finish in the final heat, in 51.59. "I wanted to try and win my heat and that's what happened. Everyone was swimming good and that just seemed to add more to it."

So did Robinson's win in the 500 free. Seeded third going into the meet, he swam his preliminary heat next to Thomas Fletcher of Seneca Valley, the sixth seed.

While Fletcher won the heat and the top seed for the final, Robinson gleaned some valuable information about Fletcher, who won the prelim with a late kick.

"Just by swimming next to him, I kind of figured out the way he was going to swim," said Robinson, whose time of 4:35.04 was five seconds better than his fourth-place time last year. "I didn't know exactly when he would make a push, but I knew it was coming and I had to be ready for it. I figured if I got out in front and had something left when he pushed, I'd be all right.

"I'm just so happy. This is exactly what I wanted to do."

The gold medal was the first by a Class AAA boys swim-



Coach Roy Snyder

mer from Berks since Wilson's Scott Troy won the 100 breast in 1992.

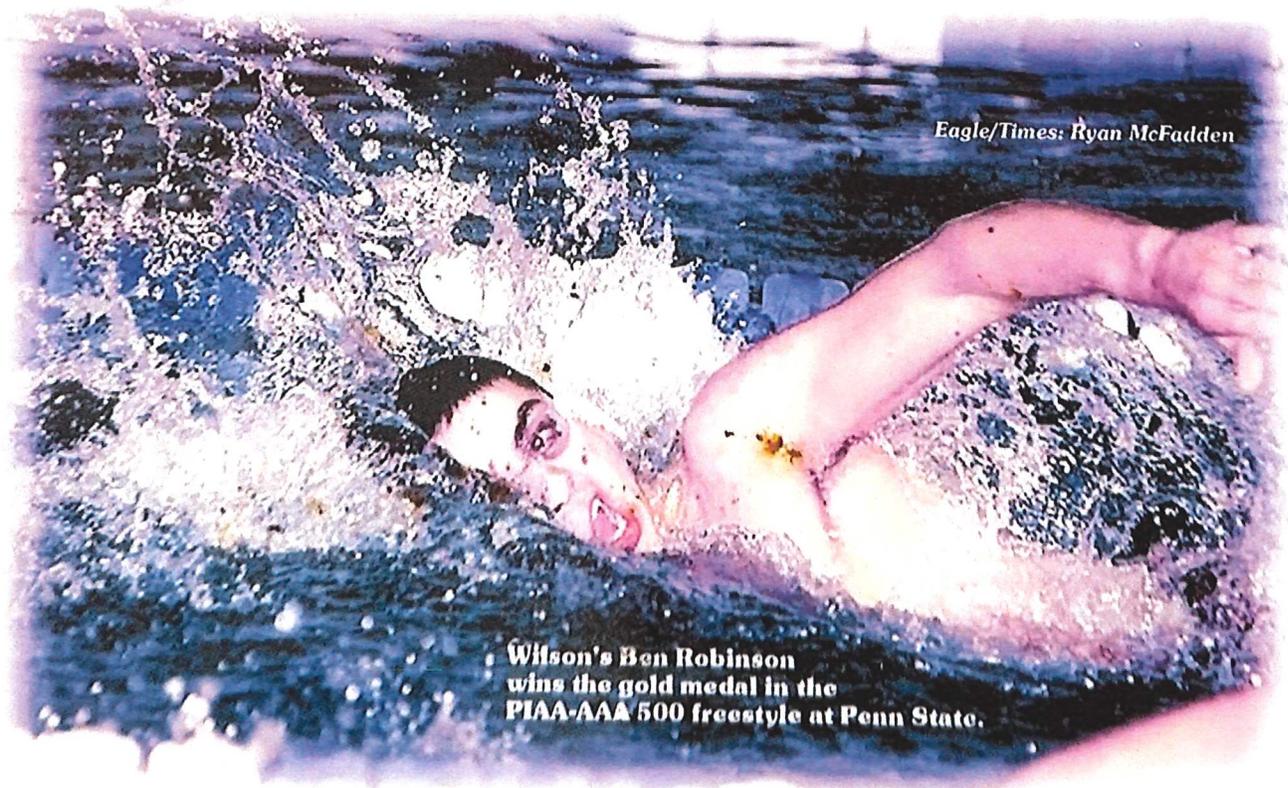
The Bulldogs punctuated their championship by winning the meet-ending 400 free relay – their seventh medal of the weekend and third gold – and did it in grand style.

McLin, Oliver Horrigan, Ryan Holt and Jared Levan blazed to a win in 3:09.24, breaking by a half-second the Berks record held by Reading High since 1987.

"One of our goals was to score in every event, and that's unheard of," said Snyder, whose team also got a sixth-place medal Saturday from breaststroker Aaron Burns. "That's just a sign of dedication and unselfishness, and that's a sign of this team, because that's what they are."

The Wilson girls also made an impressive showing at states, finishing sixth in the team standings after winning four medals.

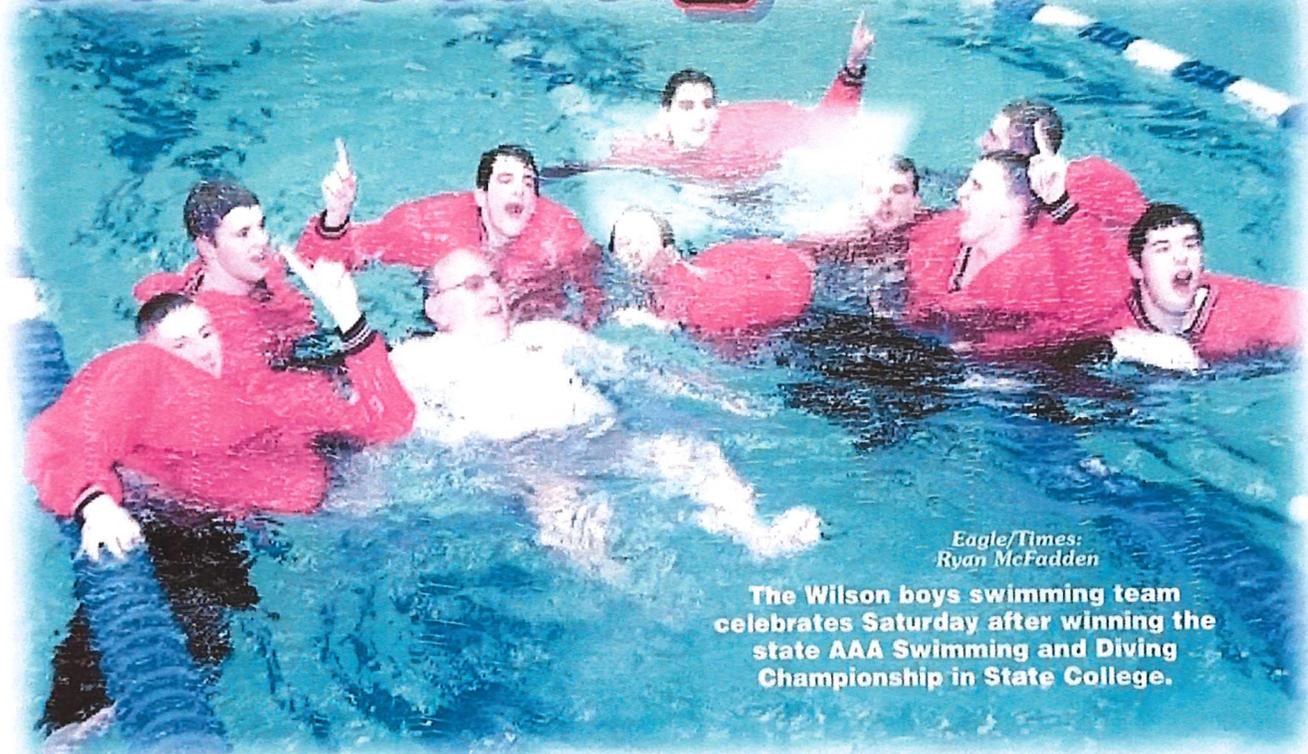
The Bulldogs picked up two medals Saturday. Deanna Strunk earned her second of the weekend with a sixth-place finish in the 100 back. Laura Heiser swam to a fourth-place finish in the 100 breast.



Eagle/Times: Ryan McFadden

Wilson's Ben Robinson wins the gold medal in the PIAA-AAA 500 freestyle at Penn State.

Wilson Boys Win 2nd Straight Title



Eagle/Times:
Ryan McFadden

The Wilson boys swimming team celebrates Saturday after winning the state AAA Swimming and Diving Championship in State College.

By Steve Patton
Eagle/Times

UNIVERSITY PARK – So much for the notion that staying at the top is harder than getting there.

The Wilson boys won their second straight PIAA Class AAA Swimming and Diving Championship Saturday night at Penn State's McCoy Natatorium, and did it resoundingly.

The Bulldogs led from the meet-opening 200 medley relay Friday, when they won in state-record time, through the meet-ending 400 freestyle relay Saturday night, when they broke their own Berks record.

"We knew if everyone just swam their best," said senior Shawn McLin, one of eight returning swimmers from last year, "we'd probably win again."

They certainly did that, especially Friday, when Wilson opened an insurmountable lead.

SATURDAY'S BERKS MEDALS

- ◆ **Team Champion:** Wilson boys, Class AAA.
- ◆ **Berks Champion:** Shawn McLin, Wilson, AAA boys 100 back.
- ◆ **Silver:** Wilson boys 400 free relay (Jared Levan, Ryan Holt, Kevin Ford, Shawn McLin).
- ◆ **Other:** Laura Heiser, Wilson, AAA girls 100 breast, fourth; Tom Gilbert, Conrad Weiser, AA boys 100 back, fifth; Deanna Strunk, Wilson, AAA girls 100 back, fifth; Crysten Boyer, Muhlenberg, AA girls 100 free, sixth; Muhlenberg AA girls 400 free relay (Katie Hinnershitz, Samantha Frees, Jill Snyder, Crysten Boyer), sixth; Evan Roseberry, Central Catholic, AA boys 500 free, sixth; Brian Weiser, Central Catholic, AA boys 100 breast, sixth; Jared Levan, Wilson, AAA boys 100 free, sixth; Aaron Burns, Wilson, AAA boys 100 breast, sixth.

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Wilson's 200 medley relay team, from left, Rob Thomas, Shawn McLin, Kevin Ford and Aaron Burns, set a state record Friday while winning a PIAA Class AAA gold medal.

Eagle/Times:
Ryan McFadden

Poised For Repeat, Wilson Boys Make Strong Title Defense

■ The Bulldogs, who turn in several record-breaking performances, take a 56-point lead in the team standings.

By Steve Patton - Eagle/Times

UNIVERSITY PARK - The Wilson boys swimming team didn't merely pick up where it left off last year - it took defense of its PIAA Championship to an entirely new level Friday night.

Serving notice that they intend to keep the Class AAA championship trophy in West Lawn for at least one more year, the Bulldogs won five medals, including two golds and a silver, and broke three Berks records and one state record on their way to a 56-point lead in the team standings.

Wilson won both of the first-day relays, breaking the Berks record in each, and also got a record-setting swim from senior Jared Levan, who took the silver in the 200 free.

Senior Shawn McLin finished fourth in the 200 IM (1:54.68) and senior Rob Thomas delivered the most improbable medal of the day, taking fifth in the 50 free (21.53) after qualifying for the final as the 13th seed.

The Bulldogs also got consolation heat victories from juniors Aaron Burns in the IM (1:56.14) and Kevin Ford in the 50 free (21.44).

The 200 medley relay established Wilson's dominance in the opening event, as McLin, Burns, Ford and Thomas not only bettered the Berks record they established in the preliminary heat (1:34.37),

they broke Hempfield's 1999 state record by going 1:33.69.

"We knew all year we were right around the record (1:33.76) and we thought we could go a 1:33 and we wanted to get it," said Thomas, who ended the night with three medals. "After this morning, we knew it was possible. We knew it would really set a tone for the whole meet and get everybody pumped up."

Wilson ended the night with another win, this one in the 200 free relay. Levan, Holt, Burns and Thomas won in 1:25.25, just off their Berks record swim (1:25.21) from the preliminary.

In between those victories, Levan won the silver and topped former Bulldog Tom Houck's eight-year-old Berks record (1:41.46) in the 200 free. Levan broke the mark in the preliminary heat by going 1:41.10, then backed it up with a 1:41.16 in the final that was good for a silver medal behind state record-holder Cameron Hollinger of Penn Manor (1:39.67).

"I'm definitely happy with that," said Levan. "I wanted to come back in the finals and do a better time, but I can't complain."

Also earning a medal Friday was Boyertown junior Brandon Youse, who placed fifth behind McLin in the IM in 1:57.47. The medal was the first for a male Bears swimmer at states.

Wilson's Deanna Strunk won the only individual girls medal, taking fifth place in the 200 IM, and teamed with Laura Heiser, Kelly Redcay and Katie Flynn to take the bronze in the 200 medley (1:47.97).

ROY SNYDER TO WRAP UP 50TH SEASON WITH WILSON AT PENNSYLVANIA HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPS

Comments: 14



Snyder has qualified at least one athlete for the state tournament in each of the past 50 seasons, a testament to success and longevity. Archive photo via Fred Maurer

BY JARED ANDERSON

March 10th, 2014

14

High School, News



**DECK TO WATER
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MORE HIGH SCHOOL

2023 FHSAA 2A ROUNDUP: REGIONS HIGHLIGHTS AND STATE QUALIFIERS

The Pennsylvania high school state championships kick off this week, and while we'll certainly have coverage of the meet itself, here's one fun storyline worth noting at the outset: Wilson High School coach **Roy Snyder** will conclude his 50th season with the program this week, a coaching run that has included at least one state qualifier every single one of those 50 seasons.

Snyder started with the Wilson program back in 1964, coaching for 20 years before adding duties as the school's athletic director to his plate. In 2002 he retired as AD but continued



This week, Wilson will be represented at the PIAA Class AAA Championships by a 200 free relay and two divers, extending an amazing streak for Snyder: in each of his 50 seasons, he has qualified at least one athlete for the state tournament.

In addition, according to the Wilson aquatics website, Snyder has led the Bulldogs to four state championships, 15 district championships, 27 league championships and 15 individual event state champions, and we're told his current win-loss record stands at 509-113-1. That's a win percentage of .817.

Wilson has had an odd season in that the team was displaced from its usual training home (aptly named the Roy G. Snyder Natatorium) as it undergoes renovations. Snyder's Wilson team will move into their new home as early as June, when renovations are scheduled to be completed.

« Final night of Jenks Sectional sees big swims from Video Interview: Logan Lassley of OBU on Breaking Walker, Tatlow, Molacek the NAIA 50 Free Record »

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14 COMMENTS

newest

Deborah Niles

8 years ago

I had the fortunate opportunity of learning how to teach others swimming through the Aquatic program at Wilson High School! His legacy is a true testament of an individual who had touched many lives by his character, focus and love for giving back to his community. The magnitude of his influence have impacted many lives! Thanks for the memories!

Deb Niles
Principal, Price Elementary
Louisville, Kentucky

+ 0 0 - Reply

Kristen Woodring-Messner

9 years ago

Congratulations Mr. Snyder!! Many great memories and honored to be part of the Wilson family.

+ 0 0 - Reply

Dick Guyer

9 years ago

KAIL WINKLER SHOWS OFF RANGE, ERIKA PELAEZ BREAKS 3 STATE RECORDS AT FHSAA 1A REGIONALS

FORT MILL SWEEPS TEAM TITLES AT SCHSL 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

LILLA BOGNAR (#5 2025) LEADS EASTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL TO REPEAT TITLE AT SC 4A HS CHAMPS

BISHOP ENGLAND GIRLS REPEAT, ST. JOSEPH'S BOYS WIN 7TH STRAIGHT SCHSL 3A TITLE



when we'd swim Wilson. He is a remarkable person, a great coach, and one of my best friends.
Congratulations, Roy!!

+ 0 0 - Reply

Denise (Pierantozzi) Mapes

9 years ago

Congratulations Coach Snyder!

+ 0 0 - Reply

Janice Bechtel

9 years ago

I have known Roy since 1965 as a student, swimmer, and lifeguard at the Wilson pool. He was instrumental in hiring me as teacher at Wilson, was my department head, colleague and friend. I am amazed at his accomplishments, love his sense of humor and his care and concern for his students and family. Congratulations for 50 great years! !

+ 0 0 - Reply

nancee wenzel

9 years ago

An incredible man, so honored and blessed to be coached by Roy Snyder.

+ 0 0 - Reply

Todd Bingaman

9 years ago

What an amazing Legacy ! Congratulations Coach Snyder!!

+ 0 0 - Reply

Malissa Young

9 years ago

I am so happy both my boys have been able to partake of the Coach Snyder experience. Truly a great coach not just for the sport of swimming but in life! Thanks Coach- you are loved by many!

+ 0 0 - Reply

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ABOUT JARED ANDERSON

Jared Anderson swam for nearly twenty years. Then, Jared Anderson stopped swimming and started writing about swimming. He's not sick of swimming yet. Swimming might be sick of him, though. Jared was a YMCA and high school swimmer in northern Minnesota, and spent his college years swimming breaststroke and occasionally pretending ...

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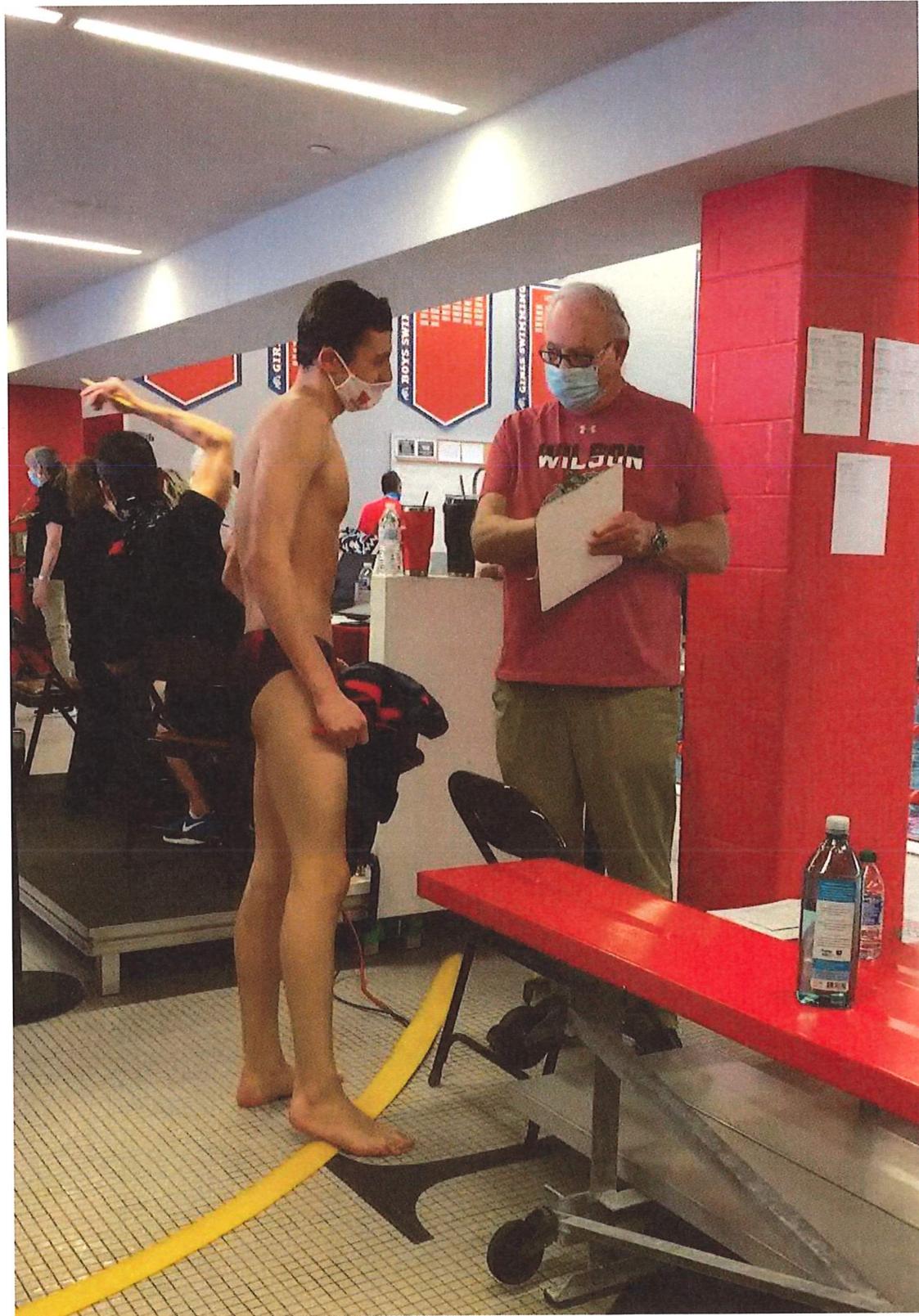
RANKING THE 2022 MEN'S NCAA RECRUITING CLASSES: #5-8



SPORTS > HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Wilson boys swimming coach Roy Snyder still going strong at age 83





Brian Rippey – Reading Eagle

Wilson boys swimming coach Roy Snyder talks to Josh Woessner about details of the 500 free.

By **BRIAN RIPPEY** | Reading Eagle

PUBLISHED: January 10, 2021 at 5:52 a.m. | UPDATED: August 19, 2021 at 12:55 p.m.

As the swimmers filed out of the building that bears his name, Wilson boys coach Roy G. Snyder congratulated many of them on their performances.

Snyder called each by name and gave individual critiques of their swims, no small feat for an 83-year-old.

Nearly six decades after becoming the Wilson High School swimming coach, Snyder is still engaged with each swimmer. He has no trouble remembering the names, strengths and weakness of the 25 boys on his 57th Bulldogs team.

"I should know them," Snyder quipped. "I spend almost every day with them."

During a time when coaches much younger are opting out over concerns of contracting the coronavirus – a disease especially deadly for people 65 and older – Snyder still is going strong. He takes the precautions such as wearing a mask and keeping 6 feet away, but he hasn't let those fears prevent him away from doing what he enjoys most.

"I don't think that way," Snyder said. "This is what I love to do. I'm not going to let anything take me away from what I love to do."

Neither Snyder nor his daughter, assistant coach Alison Snyder, are concerned about his health. In fact, Roy Snyder wonders how he'd feel without coaching.

"If I wasn't doing this I don't know what I'd be doing," Snyder said. "This helps keep me going."

Snyder, an Allentown High School and East Stroudsburg College graduate, has persevered through personal challenges. In 2015 he lost his wife of 57 years, Mary Jane Snyder, after her battle with cancer.

He has turned to this second family, the Wilson swimming community, to help him through that and other challenges.

Snyder's Bulldogs opened the delayed 2020-21 season Saturday with a decisive victory over Schuylkill Valley in the Roy G. Snyder Natatorium. It was the 579th victory of a career that started in 1964.

Snyder is on track to possibly earn his 600th victory next season. Although it's not guaranteed he will be back in 2021-22, Snyder said he has no plans to retire at the end of the season.

"I just take it year by year," Snyder said. "As long as I'm healthy and I'm still effective I'll keep coaching."

"Effective" is measured in a lot of different ways. By the numbers, Snyder far surpasses that standard with a 579-114-1 record, 30 Central Penn League championships, 20 District 3 titles and four PIAA championships.

But Snyder's continuing legacy is measured by much more. He has touched the lives of so many swimmers and others during his career at Wilson that included being a physical education teacher and athletic director.

He has inspired many of his former athletes and students to set high goals in and out of the pool. Countless numbers of his swimmers have gone on to college, become coaches and teachers or grown into leadership roles in other walks of lives.

"He's more than just a swim coach," said Tom Houck, the Wilson girls swimming head coach. "He doesn't teach you just swimming and how to race. He teaches you life lessons. That's the thing I remember the most."

"He can talk for a half-hour to an hour straight and you'll hang on every single word. Especially with today's youth, that's hard with their attention spans."

Houck, a 1994 Wilson graduate, returned to his alma mater after graduating from Penn State to teach and join Snyder's coaching staff. After serving as the boys assistant coach under Snyder for five years, Houck is in his 11th season at the girls head coach.

He seeks advice from his mentor on a regular basis.

“That makes me the happiest father in the world.” Houck said.

Houck said he has another son, Robert, in fifth grade, so would like Snyder to coach for at least seven more years until he graduates.

Whether or not he'll be effective for that long, only Snyder will know on a year-to-year basis.

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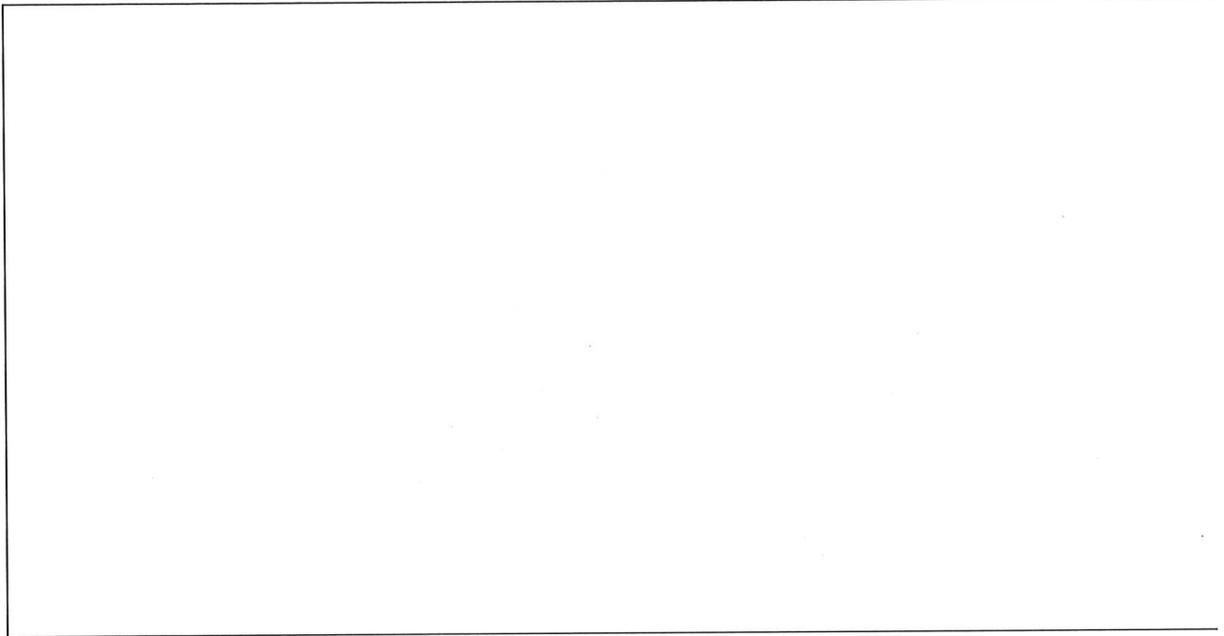
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Wilson boys swimming coach Roy Snyder earns his 600th victory

The Bulldogs' season-opening sweep of a tri-meet vs. Cumberland Valley and Dallastown gives Snyder a 601-114-1 record





Roy Snyder is 601-114-1 as the boys swimming coach at Wilson. (READING EAGLE).



By **BRIAN SMITH** | bmsmith@readingeagle.com | Reading Eagle

PUBLISHED: December 2, 2022 at 8:51 p.m. | UPDATED: December 2, 2022 at 8:55 p.m.

Wilson boys swimming coach Roy Snyder earned his 600th — and 601st — career wins Friday as the Bulldogs opened the season with victories over Cumberland Valley (136-47) and Dallastown (158-25) in a tri-meet at Mechanicsburg.

The 85-year-old Snyder, beginning his 59th season as Wilson's coach, has a career mark of 601-114-1.

Since founding the program, Snyder has led the Bulldogs to 32 Central Penn Leagues titles, including the last eight; 22 District 3 championships, including the last six; and four PIAA titles.

Wilson's next meet is at home — in the natatorium that bears Snyder's name — on Dec. 8 at 4:15 p.m. vs. Muhlenberg.

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