Val Ackerman

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Valerie B. Ackerman
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Colleen Maguire - NJSIAA Executive Director

Phone: 609 259 2776

Street Address: 1161 Rt. 130 North

City, State, Zip Code: Robbinsville, NJ 08691

Signed: Colleen Maguire

Date: 10/25/21

Email: cmaguire@njsiaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☒ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☐ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Valerie B. Ackerman
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 90 Franklin Street, Apt. #13
(street address)

New York, NY 10013
(city, state, zip)

Email: vackerman@bigeast.com

Phone: (917) 880-2746 Date of Birth: November 7, 1959

School Affiliation (if any) Hopewell Valley High School

City: Hopewell State: NJ

Place of Birth: Lakewood, NJ 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:
Val is the current Commissioner of the Big East Conference

If deceased, date of death:

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Charles Rappaport (husband)

Address: Same as nominee

Phone: Same as nominee

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Hopewell Valley Regional HS	Pennington, NJ	1977	Diploma
College/University: University of Virginia	Charlottesville, VA	1981	BA
Post Graduate School: UCLA	Los Angeles, CA	1985	JD

☒ 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

ATHLETE

Athletic Participation in Senior High School [give complete details concerning specific performances, years, records, etc. Please note the classification of the high school (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Val Ackerman attended Hopewell Valley High School in Mercer County, NJ. Hopewell Valley is currently a Group 3 high school - NJSIAA hosts 4 public school Groups with Group 4 being those with the largest enrollment. During Val's career, Hopewell Valley was a Group 2 high school,

During her career at Hopewell Valley, Val Ackerman won nine varsity letters: four in basketball, three in field hockey and two in track and field. She was captain of the Bulldog basketball and field hockey teams.

The information below was provided by Val's high school field hockey and basketball coach as there is not much documented by the press during these years. We could not locate her high school track & field coach. Lastly, there was little to no recognition or awards beyond the local county or conference area during these years.

1973-1974:
JV Field Hockey
Varsity Basketball (record 10-)
JV Track & Field

1974-1975:
Varsity Field Hockey (record 10-3-1)
Varsity Basketball (record 11-8) - MVP
JV Track & Field

1975-1976:
Varsity Field Hockey (record 9-2-2) - First team all county (received the most votes of any player)
Varsity Basketball (record 24-3) - First team all county - led all scorers with 19.4ppg - MVP
Varsity Track & Field

1976-1977:
Varsity Field Hockey (record 16-2-2) - Conference champions - Central Jersey Group 2 Champions - 13 goals scored (highest scoring defensive player in county history) - First team all county - County defensive player of the year
Varsity Basketball (record 17-10) - First team all county - led all scorers with 20.5ppg - 1,466 career points (leading scorer in Hopewell Vally high school for both boys and girls for close to 30 years) - MVP
Varsity Track & Field - County champion 440-yd dash

Class Salutorian
The Trentonian "All-1970 Field Hockey Team"

Honors (give complete details of high school and post-high school athletic honors and achievements, awards, and recognition received as a result of high school achievements)

In 1997, she was inducted into the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Hall of Fame

Val attended the University of Virginia where she earned four varsity letters in basketball. She was among the school's first female students to receive an athletic scholarship. She was a three time captain and a two time Academic All American. She was the first woman to score more than 1,000 points at UVA and became the leading scorer in the history of UVA.

She received the University of Virginia Distiguished Alumna Award from the University's Women's Center in 1997 and was named to the Atlantic Coast Conference's 50th Anniversary Women's Basketball Team - 2003.

Other information *(not previously listed)*

After playing professional basketball in France, Val joined the National Basketball Association as a staff attorney in 1988.

1. 1989 - Val was one of the first NBA appointees to the Board of Directors of USA Basketball. Served as the liasion between the NBA and USA Basketball for the 1994 World Championships and the 1992 and 1996 Olympics.
2. 1996 - Val became the President of the newly formed WNBA.
3. 1998 - Val was named by "Sports Business Journal" as the 1998 Female Sports Executive of the Year, and by "Women's Sports and Fitness Magazine" as one of the twenty most influential women in sports.
4. 1999 - Val was inducted into the GTE Academic All American Hall of Fame.
5. 2005 - 2008 - Val served as the first female president of USA Basketball.
6. 2006 - 2010 - Val was named the U.S. delegate to the Central Board of the International Basketball Federation. (FIBA) While with FIBA, she also served as a member of the Competition Commission.
7. 2006 - Val was the recipient of the NCAA's Silver Anniversary Award for students who have achieved personal distinction since graduation.
8. 2008 - Val received the IOC's Women of Distinction diploma and the John Bunn Lifetime Acheivement Award from the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.
9. 2009 - Val became an Adjunct faculty member for Coumbia University's Master of Science in Sports Management Program.
10. 2011 - Val was inducted into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame.
11. 2012 - Val was acknowledged by the Women's Sports Foundation as one of it "40 for 40" honorees as part its celebration of the 40th anniversary of Title IX.
12. 2013 - Val was named Commissioner of the Big East Conference and received USA Basketball's Edward S. Steitz Award
13. 2013 - Val began to serve on the Executive Committee of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, The Board of Directors of the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics.
14. 2021 - Val was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame as a contributor.

She serves on the Board of Trustees of the Basketball Hall of Fame and she is an officer of USA Basketball.

Colleen Maguire

From: Barbara Skiba <bskib@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2021 1:14 PM
To: Colleen Maguire
Subject: Re: NJSIAA Request - Val Ackerman

Hi Colleen,

Here is some information regarding Val Ackerman's high school career at Hopewell Valley CHS:

1973-1977
Val also lettered in track and field. I have no statistics regarding this.

1973-74
JV Field Hockey
Varsity Basketball (10-7)

1974-75
Varsity Field Hockey (10-3-1)
Varsity Basketball (11-8)
Third top scorer in the county
15.1 ppg average
First team all Mercer County

1975-76
Varsity Field Hockey (9-2-2)
First them all county. Received more votes than any other player.
Varsity Basketball (24-3)
Val led all scorers with 19.4 ppg
All County First team

1976-77
Varsity Field Hockey (16-2-2)
Colonial Valley Conference Champs
Central Jersey Group 2 Champs
Val scored 13 goals...highest scoring halfback in the history of Mercer County Field hockey
First team All Mercer County in the Trentonian and Trenton Times
Trenton Times defensive player of the year
Varsity Basketball (17-10)
First team all Mercer County
Averaged 20.5 ppg
1466 career points—was Hopewell's leading scorer in basketball—boy's or girls—for years. Another HV girl broke the record years later

Basketball: MVP 3 years
Class Salutorian
National Merit Scholarship letter of recommendation
Graduated first in her class

As you can see, Val had quite an impact on our sports programs at Hopewell Valley CHS. I am so proud of her accomplishments. Val was voted one of the Top 20 women shaping the future of sports in Women's Sports Magazine. To quote Val: "We've turned a corner.

Gone are the days when women's sports were simply tolerated. Now they are celebrated."

An attractive, intelligent, and athletic young woman describes Val in her high school career. In 1973 I was hired at Hopewell Valley to teach physical education and coach field hockey and basketball. With the advent of Title 9 in 1972, girls sports were just beginning to take off.

Val was a freshman in 1973 so we started our careers at Hopewell at the same time.

She defiantly deserves to be in the NFHS Hall of Fame.I was honored to attend her induction into the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in Knoxville, TN in 2011. And she was just inducted into the Naismeth Basketball Hall of Fame on September 11.

If there is any more information that you need, just let me know. Happy to be able to help out.

Barb Skiba

On Oct 11, 2021, at 6:07 PM, Colleen Maguire <cmaguire@njsiaa.org> wrote:

Barb,
Hello, my name is Colleen Maguire and I am the current Executive Director of the NJSIAA. Tripp Becker, Hopewell Valley HS athletic director, gave me your email address. I am in the process of completing a nomination form for Val Ackerman for the NFHS Hall of Fame. I am submitting her nomination as an athlete and we have been struggling to find many details about her high school success. Tripp believes you coached Val in both field hockey and basketball. I am reaching out to see if you would be willing to write a recommendation letter and/or email that highlights Val's athletic success, her team's success and any other information that would indicate her athletic prowess. Any communication can be sent to my attention.

We appreciate the consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Colleen E. Maguire, Executive Director
NJ State Interscholastic Athletic Association
(609) 259-2776 (office)
(856)437-9074 (cell)
cmaguire@njsiaa.org

<image001.png>

Letters of Recommendation

1161 Route 130 North | Robbinsville, NJ 08691-0487
609.259.2776 | Fax: 609.259.3047 | www.njsiaa.org

September 27, 2021

National Federation of State High School Associations
Attn: Hall of Fame Selection Committee
PO Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Committee members,

It is with great honor that I nominate Val Ackerman for the National High School Hall of Fame.

Val's accomplishments are legendary and loaded with extraordinary "firsts." She was the first president of the WNBA. She was the first woman president of USA Basketball. She currently serves as the first woman commissioner of the Big East Conference.

But in addition to all that success, Val has remained an extremely humble and genuine person – a true role model for all women in any sports profession — and has always retained a connection with her high school athletics roots.

Val is a 1977 graduate of Hopewell Valley Central High School, in New Jersey, where she earned nine varsity letters in the sports of field hockey, basketball and track and field.

Her father was a graduate and long-time athletic director at that same school — which coincidentally was the school at which former NJSIAA Executive Director Steve Timko worked. In fact, Steve replaced Randy Ackerman there as athletic director. Val kept in touch with Steve throughout his career, and recently worked with the current athletic at Hopewell Valley to have the basketball court named in her father's honor.

Soon after I was named Chief Operating Officer in June 2020, Val reached out to congratulate me, and we later met for lunch. She has a genuine interest in interscholastic athletics and the role they play in the lives of teenagers. Despite her busy schedule, she has been eager to share information and insights gleaned from her extraordinary experiences at the very top of the sports world. Val has quickly become a role model and mentor to me.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Colleen Maguire

Colleen Maguire,
NJSIAA Executive Director

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Advertisement

Hopewell Valley High alum Ackerman pulling for Bulldogs in big football game

Updated: Mar. 29, 2019, 10:53 p.m. | Published: Dec. 07, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

By Paul Franklin | For The Times of Trenton

51380245RA005_Ackerman_PC.JPG

Val Ackerman is a Hopewell Valley High product and is now commissioner of the Big East Conference.

(Ray Amati/Getty Images)

A lot has changed at Hopewell Valley High School since Val Ackerman graduated in 1977.

The school didn't have a football program back then. The freshmen girls' basketball team didn't have its own uniforms. With Title IX just one year in place, the school had no budget for the sport, so it had to use the field hockey uniforms.

Advertisement

"Kilts," Ackerman said. "They were sort of a tunic with a belt and bloomers underneath. We didn't get our own uniforms until sophomore year, and they were inexpensive shorts and shirts. But at least they weren't the same field hockey had worn."

Thirty-six years later, the Hopewell Valley alum and the school's football program are in uncharted waters.

This season, the Bulldogs made the playoffs for the first time in their 10-year history, and tonight they will play for their first sectional title when they face Lawrence in the NJSIAA Central Jersey Group III championship game. The game will be carried live on 107.7 FM (WRRC).

Ackerman, 54, continues putting the pieces together as the new commissioner of the revamped Big East Conference.

She won't be attending the game, but her brother George, who lives in Titusville, will. Their mother still lives in Pennington.

"My rooting interest is pretty obvious," she said with a laugh. "Bulldogs all the way."

Her involvement in basketball has essentially been uninterrupted since those days in bloomers. After graduating as the school's all-time leading scorer in basketball and field hockey, she went to the University of Virginia where she became a three-time captain and two-time Academic All-American.

She received a degree in Political and Social Thought and went on to UCLA to earn a law degree. After one year playing professionally in France, Ackerman was hired in 1988 to serve as a staff attorney for the NBA and as special assistant to commissioner David Stern.

In 1996, she was named president of the WNBA and held that position for eight years. Since then, she has been involved administratively with the International Basketball Federation and USA Basketball and has served on several basketball-related boards.
In June, she was hired by the Big East.

Two days ago, she met with membership school presidents and athletics directors in New York City.

"We're very much back in business," Ackerman said, "but I would say we're still putting the league back together. We had to rebuild the entire infrastructure, so I've spent a lot of the last five months hiring staff, trying to figure out our office situation and, in effect, getting operations up and running. So far, it's all good."

A staff of 12 is temporarily split between the former location in Providence, R.I., and rented space in Manhattan. She estimates permanent headquarters in Manhattan should be settled within a couple of months.

Val Ackerman is a mover and shaker in the world of sports. The Hopewell Valley High graduate is shown here in this 2008 photo with former president George W. Bush at the Beijing Olympics.

A TV deal with Fox Sports was in place before her hiring, a long-term deal to air basketball games on Fox Sports 1, a national cable network, Ackerman said, reaches 93 million homes.

The men's basketball tournament will remain at Madison Square Garden, while the women's tournament moves from Hartford, Conn., to Chicago.

Ackerman lives in New York City with her husband, Charles Rappaport; they have two grown daughters, Emily and Sally.

"The hours are terrible," she said. "My husband and my cats haven't seen much of me in the last five months. Hopefully when we get past some of the start-up stuff, things will normalize, but I'm very excited to be here. Of course for me, it's a dream come true, working in a sport I know well and love."

She would love for her Bulldogs made school history with a championship. The opportunity is remindful of her junior year at Hopewell Valley when the girls' basketball team went 24-3, losing in the NJSIAA Group II Tournament semifinals to St. Rose at home in the final minutes.

She still holds the career scoring record with 1,466 points, but the team record was broken two seasons ago when the when the Bulldogs finished 25-3.

Ackerman was introduced to sports at an early age as her father, Randy, was the director of athletics at the high school. He graduated from Hopewell Valley in the 1950s when the high school was at the current site of the Toll Gate Grammar School.

"He really cared about team sports," said Ackerman about her father, who died 25 years ago. "Steve Timko followed him and had the same mind set. He was also on the ground floor of forming the Colonial Valley Conference. So I'm very proud to be associated with a high school that from the very beginning understood the value of girls' sports and made that adjustment."

2 trchristie HINDASH.JPG

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Dot Ford Burrow

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Dot Ford Burrow
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: LeAnna Dawson

Phone: 601-502-5249

Street Address: MHSAA 1201 Clinton Raymond Road

City, State, Zip Code: Clinton, Mississippi 39056

Signed: LeAnna Dawson

Email: ldawson@misshsaa.com

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Dot Ford Burrow
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 516 Meadowbrook Circle
(street address)

Amory, Mississippi 38821
(city, state, zip)

Email: jburrowllc@gmail.com

Phone: _____ Date of Birth: 9/21/1931

School Affiliation (if any) _____

City: _____ State: _____

Place of Birth: Itawamba County, Mississippi 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? _____

If yes, please explain:

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: Smithville HS	Amory, Mississippi	1950	
College/University:			
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

All tournament team Amory Invitational
All Monroe County
All District
All State
3 time leading scorer
Within present classifications her school would be a 3A

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

All time record holder for girls and boys 1949-
1,481 points in a single season
2 time Monroe County Tournament Champs
District and Sub-District champs senior year

Professional Achievements

Other Information

When reviewing Dot Ford Burrow's high school career, one has to ask what if Title 9 had been a few decades earlier. With her athletic prowess and genuine media appeal she certainly would have been an NCAA tournament stand out. This of course is speculation. In reality what we are left with is a female athlete whose love of competition and sport has lived on through her family. Her competitive spirit passed on to subsequent generations. She is the classic tale, of similar female athletes before her, paving the way for small town legends to be formed. All girls in and around Smithville HS have a role model and a level of excellence to strive for. Mrs. Burrow used her on court leadership skills to become the family matriarch and standard bearer. Still today she is community legend as well as one of its most revered citizens.

Letters of Recommendation

Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.

1201 Clinton/Raymond Road, Clinton, MS 39056
P.O. Box 127 Clinton, MS 39060
601-924-6400 Fax: 601-924-1725

www.misshsaa.com

Rickey Neaves, Executive Director
Adam Dillinger, President
Lesley McLendon, Chief Financial Officer
Keith Warren, Technology Director

Lonnie Tillman, Associate Director
LeAnna Dawson, Assistant Director
Greg Freeman, Director of Officials
Tim Shramek, Director of Eligibility

Dorothy (Dot) Ford Burrow's grandson Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow was the first pick in the 2020 National Football League draft. In 2019 Joe put together arguably the most successful single season ever by a college quarterback when he won the Heisman Trophy by the largest margin in history and led LSU to a perfect 15-0 record and national championship. But Joe may never surpass his grandmother's accomplishments during the 1949-50 basketball season at Smithville High School in rural North Mississippi. The rangy 5'-10" Dot, believe it or not, scored a nifty 82 points in establishing an all-time record in leading her Smithville team to an 88-39 win over Caledonia back in February, 1950. Her boyfriend and future husband James Burrow played basketball at Mississippi State and brought his Bulldog teammates to Dot's 82-point game. The town of Smithville's population was only 419, but when Dot played, the gym crowds exceeded 1, 000.

On that night, she broke her records of 68 and 72 points from earlier that year. In 30 games that season, Dot scored 1,481 points in averaging an amazing 49 points per contest. That is scoring 1.76 points per minute, and she didn't even play every minute of every game. In three Regional Tournament games she averaged 52 points per game her senior year.

Dot could out jump and was faster than any other player on the court. Her lowest point total her senior season was 17 points on a night when she played only one quarter because she was sick. Her next lowest total that season was 34 points.

In 2020 Smithville High School gave a fitting tribute to Dot in naming the girls' basketball locker room "The Dot Burrow Locker Room."

As Executive Director of the Mississippi High School Activities Association, I am honored to nominate Dorothy (Dot) Ford Burrow for the National Federation High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Ricky Neaves

Rickey Neaves

October 25, 2023

Mrs. LeAnna Dawson
Assistant Director of Activities

Dear Mrs. Dawson,

I am writing to recommend my grandmother Dorothy (Dot) Burrow for the National High School Hall of Fame. My first recollection of learning about her phenomenal basketball career was at an early age when visiting her home in Amory, Ms. My dad would show me her scrapbook filled with articles of unbelievable accomplishments including scoring 82 points in a game and 72 in another. As a freshman at Fulton High School, she was the high scorer in Fulton's 1946-47 Mississippi Girls High School State Championship win, and as a senior at Smithville High School (1949-50) averaged 49 points per game.

Throughout my basketball career, I always wanted to score points like my grandmother, but I never did, not even on the football field. She didn't let me forget it either. Whenever I was on the phone with her and feeling good about my point total, she would jokingly remind me I was a long way off from her record of 82 points.

When asked about my grandmother's feats on the basketball court during an interview with ESPN in 2019, I posed the question "was my grandmother better than Kobe Bryant". My answer now, as it was then, is I don't know. But what I do know is that she was an incredible athlete and a generational basketball player, and arguably the best athlete in the family. Knowing how great she was motivated me to be the best I could be in all sports. This drive for excellence has helped me achieve my lifelong dream of becoming a quarterback in the NFL.

I am confident that my grandmother, Dorothy Ford Burrow, is worthy of consideration for the National High School Hall of Fame. She is a living legend at 92 years old, and it would be a very deserving honor.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Joe Burrow
Quarterback, Cincinnati Bengals

October 27, 2023

Hall of Fame Committee,

Dorothy (Dot) Ford Burrow is our grandmother, and we support her nomination to the National High School Hall of Fame.

Having grown up in Fredericksburg, Va., we lived a long distance from our grandparents in Amory, Ms. Although this distance made it difficult for them to see their grandchildren grow up, it certainly didn't stop them from demonstrating their love and support for us. We remember the calls after every significant childhood event, and especially after our ballgames. The calls were always filled with genuine interest, encouragement, and love … memories we'll always cherish.

As children, we were told countless stories about our grandparent's athletic accomplishments which at times seemed closer to "tall tales" than fact. In a family so centered around the world of sports and populated by so many athletes, lines often blurred between fact and fiction of such great feats. It wasn't until we were adults that by happenstance, we stumbled across an old dusty scrapbook at our grandparent's house. In the scrapbook's yellowed pages, stories detailed the incredible athleticism of our grandmother and made us realize that the tall tales were in fact true.

In reviewing the articles, we also found a new appreciation for the way that our grandmother stood out in a period when women's success was the subject of little conversation. It was through showcasing of her exceptional abilities on the basketball court that our grandmother, Dorothy Ford Burrow, brought attention, recognition, and an appreciation of women's excellence in athletics. She was a trail blazer who, over 80 years ago, demonstrated to all what women could accomplish when given the opportunity.

Our grandmother's press and credentials demonstrate without a doubt that she was a superstar in 1949-50. In the Memphis Commercial Appeal article *Smithville's Dot Ford Tallies 1481 Points In 30 Cage Games* dated March 9, 1950, the reporter stated, "she is nothing short of sensational … her unbelievable record speaks for itself". Even today she is nothing short of sensational. She has been a role model, a mentor, a super-fan (for all her grandchildren), and a loving and caring person who has had a significant influence on her family, friends, and the entire community.

Thank you for considering our grandmother for this elite honor. We are as proud of her as she is of us. Because of this we urge you to induct Dorothy Ford Burrow, a loving grandmother and a spectacular role model to women and athletes everywhere, into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Taylor Burrow Bezerra (Granddaughter)
Burke, Virginia

Jasce Burrow (Grandson)
Richmond, Virginia

Peyton Burrow (Granddaughter)
Crozet, Virginia

Addison Burrow (Grandson)
Charlottesville, Virginia

To the Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

Every football fan in America knows about Joe Burrow, the football quarterback who led LSU to a national championship and the Cincinnati Bengals to the Super Bowl. And most assume that Burrow's athletic gifts come mostly from his father, Jimmy, who was a defensive back on a national championship football team at Nebraska and then played professional football.

But that's not the case, not totally. Dot Burrow, Joe's paternal grandmother, was one of the greatest female basketball players in Mississippi history at tiny Smithville High School in northeast Mississippi. Better to let Joe Burrow, the All-Pro quarterback, tell the story. When somebody once mentioned to Joe Burrow that Kobe Bryant once scored 81 points in a game, Joe replied, "Yeah, but Kobe's still one point short of my Grandma!"

That's right, Dot Burrow, then Dot Ford, scored 82 points against nearby Caledonia in a high school game. Newspaper reports said she was double-teamed the entire game. It was no fluke. Dot Ford averaged 49.5 points per game for the entire 30-game season.

Joe Burrow was an all-state basketball player in Ohio, highly recruited in that sport as well. But Joe averaged 20 points a game as a senior. The fewest points his grandma, Dot Burrow scored in a game her senior season was 22.

Actually, both of Joe's paternal grandparents were fine athletes. James Burrow, his granddad, played first at Amory High school and then at Mississippi State where he was the starting point guard. But James, now 93, will tell you quickly his then-girlfriend, Dot, was the better basketball player.

"When I was at State, I told all my teammates about my girlfriend back in Smithville who was averaging 50 points a game," James Burrow said. "Nobody believed me, so I took a couple of them to a game when Smithville played near Starkville in Hamilton. Well, she scored 72 that night."

A few nights later, nearly the entire State team went to nearby Caledonia to watch the amazing Dot Ford. "That was the night she scored 82, breaking her own state record," James Burrow said.

Asked whether he ever played his future wife in a game of H-O-R-S-E, James Burrow chuckled and answered, "Oh no, I didn't want to mess with her."

Sadly, 76 years ago, there was no place for Dot Ford to play basketball after her high school days. Her career ended with high school graduation. Although she still holds the single-season and single-game scoring records for Mississippi high school girls basketball, she never received the recognition she richly deserves. That can change.

What better time than now?

Respectfully,

Rick Cleveland
Mississippi Today sports columnist

October 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

It is truly an honor to write a letter recommending Dot Ford Burrow to the Mississippi State High School Association Hall of Fame. It is an award which I think is long overdue. She was without a doubt one of the greatest female basketball players in Mississippi history during the 3-on-3 years. I have personally known Dot since 1964 as a next door neighbor and personal friend. To better explain her talent, many a day I have watched Dot allow her two sons and one daughter to take a first shot in a game of "Horse" in the backyard. She would then make all six of the required shots and it was "game over"! As a young kid growing up in Aberdeen, Mississippi I cannot remember a single person that had a bigger impact than Dot Ford Burrow on the kids of Monroe County with regard to her basketball ability. She was a spectacular basketball player and has been just as spectacular in her role as wife, mother, and grandmother. I highly endorse Dot's induction into the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jim Walden

Support Data

Dorothy (Dot) Ford Basketball Accomplishment

Personal Information

Name: Dorothy (Dot) Ford Burrow
Maiden Name: Dorothy Faye Ford
Date of Birth: September 21, 1931
Current Address:
516 Meadowbrook Circle
Amory, Mississippi 38821

High Schools

Itawamba High School (1946 - 1947) Freshman
Smithville High School (1947 - 1950) Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Team Accomplishments

Itawamba Agriculture High School - Fulton, Mississippi

- Mississippi Girls High School State Champions (Ref: 1, 5, 21)
  - Freshman Season (1946 – 1947)

Smithville High School – Smithville, Mississippi

- Amory Invitational Tournament (Ref: 7, 20)
  - Senior Season (1949-1950)
- Monroe County (MS) Country Championship (Ref: 22)
  - Sophomore Season (1947 – 1948)
  - Junior Season (1948 – 1949)
- District Championship (Ref:22)
  - Senior Season (1949 – 1950
- Sub – Regionals Championship (Ref: 17)
  - Senior Season (1949 – 1950)

Individual Honors

- All-Tournament Team Amory Invitational (Ref: 7)
  - Senior Season (1949 – 1950)
- All Monroe County (Ref:22)
  - Sophomore Season (1947 – 1948)
  - Junior Season (1948 – 1949)
  - Senior Season (1949-1950)
- All District (Ref:22)
  - Senior Season (1949 – 1950)
- All State (Ref: 22)
  - Senior Season (1949 – 1950)

Individual Accomplishments

- High Scorer (14 Points) 1946-47 Mississippi Girls High School Championship Game (Ref: 21)
- 1,481 Points in a Single Season (1949 – 1950) (Ref:21)
- 49 Points Per Game Average (1949 – 1950) (Ref: 21)
- Averaged 1.76 Points Per Minute (1949 – 1950) (Ref: 21)
- Individual Scoring Record 1949-1950 Season (Ref: 3)
- 3-Time Leading Scorer Smithville High School (47/48, 48/49, 49/50 Seasons) (Ref: 1)
- All-Time-Record (Perhaps) for Most Points in a Game for Northeast Mississippi Boys and Girls (1949 – 1950) (Ref: 12)
- B-BB Regional Tournament High Scorer (157 Points in Three Games) (Ref: 19)
- Single Game High Scores (1949 – 1950)
    - 82 Points Against Caledonia High School (Ref: 1, 3, 5, 12)
    - 72 Points Against Hatley (Ref: 1, 3, 4, 12)
    - 66 Points Against Moorville (Ref: 19)
    - 58 Points Against Becker (Ref: 13)
    - 58 Points Against Hamilton (Ref: 16)
    - 56 Points Against Becker (Ref: 17)
    - 52 Points Against Greenwood Springs (Ref: 10,14)
    - 52 Points Against Kosuth (ref: 18)
    - 44 Points Against Tremont (Ref: 7, 8, 11, 15, 20)
    - 41 Points Against Nettleton – In a Half (Ref: 2)
    - 39 Points Against Belmont (Ref: 19)
    - Against Unknown Teams Dot scored 69, 68, 64, and 64 points (Ref: 4, 5)

"Fun Facts"

- Smithville's population in 1950 was 419. Gym crowds to watch her play twice exceeded 1,000. (Ref: 15, 19)
- Her senior year she averaged 1.76 points per minute, computed based on her playing every minute of every game … but she didn't play every minute of every game. (Ref: 21)
- Her boyfriend and future husband James Burrow played basketball at Mississippi State and brought his teammates to watch the night she scored 82 points … on the ride back to Mississippi State they said he wished he could do the same. (Ref: 22)

- In one game she only scored 17 points, but she didn't play after the first quarter due to illness. (Ref: 21)

- Amory High School put one player on another player's shoulders to try and stop her ... she scored 52 points. (Ref 22)

- Descriptors by the press:
    - "Queen" (Ref: 3)
    - "High scoring lassie" (Ref:13)
    - "One of the top basketeers in the State" (Ref: 5)
    - "Goal Popping Dot" (Ref: 19)
    - "She has the ability to jump right on up to the hoop" (Ref: 14)
    - She "scorched the twine" (Ref: 11)
    - "Points-Per-Second Ford" (Ref: 16)
    - "Nothing short of sensational" (Ref: 21)
    - "Hamilton felt the Sting of Dot" (Ref: 16)
    - "Dot pitched in a nifty 82" (Ref: 12)

- "People in these parts are going to long remember the Ford lassie" ... Reporter's observation after watching her score 52 points in a game. (Ref: 14)

- In 2020 Smithville High School named the girls basketball locker room "Dot Burrow Locker Room" ... 70 years after her record-breaking season.

Jackson Daily Paper

1

Smithville Girl Holds 54 Point Score Average

Smithville, Jan. 27 — Those shots of Dot Ford, offensive ace of the Smithville High basketball team, kepp pouring through the basket.

In 12 games this year, Miss Ford has hit the hoop for 648 points, an average of 54 per game. Her highest single game score was made Tuesday night against Caledonia when she registered 82 of her team's 91 points.

A senior this year, Miss Ford is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dew Ford. She started her basketball career with Fulton in 1946-47. The past two years she played with Smithville.

Her 648 points this year surpasses the marks she made each of the last two years when she led the team's scoring. Her second best game score was 71 points against Hatley. The Panther girls have turned in the

ests

2

Smithville Six Wins 24th Game

Dot Ford Racks Up 41 Counters To Lead

SMITHVILLE, — (Special) — Smithville's girls ran their winning streak to 24 here Wednesday night by defeating Nettleton 64-38 behind the first-half goal tossing of Dot Ford.

The win didn't take much effort on the part of the host club and the second team did all the work in the third period. Ford found the range for a total of 41 counters, three more than the combine Nettleton team, while Markham took 12 in tow while Ford was resting.

Pauline Moore for Nettleton led her team with 23 points while Riley got 13.

However, the visiting boys managed to mark up a win, scoring 34 points while Smithville tallied 32. Crutcher paced the host club with 12 points while Ramage racked up 10 for the winning combine. Smithville girls meet Kossuth in the B-BB Regional tournament at 4 p.m., Friday at the Tupelo gym.

3

Miss Dorothy Ford, maybe "Queen" would be more enlightening, became dissatisfied with having scored 72 points in one game to hold the individual scoring record for the 1949-50 season, and Tuesday night bettered it by 10 counters. Of the 88 points racked up by her Smithville club, Dot dropped 82 through the basket.

We don't know if she'll pull above that mark this season but she'll have to hit better than 95 to set an all-time scoring record. Somewhere in basketball history we understand there's a gal that scored a few counters short of 100 points in a single affair. Of course we think Dot could hit the 100 mark if she really went into the fray at top speed and operated all the way at the same gait.

But we aren't recommending that she go to 100—she can be the judge about her basketball a[illegible] we'll all have to admit it's above par.

4

WE HAVE SOME NEW INFO

Dot Ford, the high-scoring Smithville forward, has come up with a new scoring record for a single game. Against Hatley, our informant told us Thursday night, Miss Ford sent 72 points through the hoop. Looks like the Shady Grove lassie, Hortense Simpson, had better get on the ball. Ford also scored 69 points in another game and 64 counters on two occasions.

Now basketball players now have taken it out on the score keeper. The water boy had better re[illegible] if he values his health.

13

Dot Ford Shows Way For Smithville Girls Win

AMORY — (Special) — Dot Ford, Smithville ace forward, fired 58 points into the basket here Thursday night against Becker to enable her team to win 69-59. The high-scoring lassies fouled out in the fourth period but her team held onto the lead closed the record book and gained a chance to meet the top-bracket semi-finalist.

Turner for Becker grabbed off 38 points in losing game played in the Amory invitational tourney. Smithville boys made it two for their school by beating the Becker lads 54-19. Funderburk with 15 points paced the winners and Renfro got seven for Becker.

Hatley boys edged by Okolona 41-40 in the third game of the second round of the tourney with Huel Riddle showing the way with 14 points. Griffin tossed 13 counters in the bucket for the losers.

In the final game Thursday night, Amory girls had an easy time defeating Wren 69-26. Peggy Moore hit the net with 36 points for Amory and Harlow tallied 12 for Wren in the losing cause.

In today's and tonight's games, Greenwood Springs girls meet [illegible]man at 1 p.m., Hatley [illegible] boys at 2 p. [illegible] with point at 8 p.m. and the Smithville and Amory boys close the door at 9.

14

Ford Gets Top Money

We took an opportunity to watch Dot Ford present title holder for single game scoring job in the current season, Saturday afternoon against Greenwood Springs and for our money she can play basketball. Of course she didn't set any new record in the game (she scored 52 points), but her cage ability was felt in the Amory tournament.

In addition to being taller than most gals on basketball teams in this state, she has the ability to jump right on up to the hoop. Even a tall guard has got to be able to jump between 18 inches and two feet to prevent Dot from tumbling the cowhide into the socket. She is far from one of those "permanent fixtures" under the basket. We doubt if Smithville will come tearing out of Monroe County with contention toward a B-BB crown but people in these here parts are going to long remember this Ford lassie.

15

SMITHVILLE GIRLS WIN

Pontotoc Boys Share Honors In Amory Tourney

AMORY, Miss., Jan. 22.—Smithville girls and Pontotoc boys were crowned champions Saturday night in the Amory Invitational tournament before a crowd of 1200. Smithville girls eked out Tremont, 70-69, and Pontotoc prevailed 52-41.

Tremont took a first quarter lead 25-18, held on 40-34 at halftime but began to lose its grip when their all-star guard Ridge went out on fouls. Ridge was holding Dot Ford, who has averaged 50 points per game, to a respectable 16. Ford began hitting the basket and scored 28 counters in the second half to lead her team to victory. While Ridge held Ford in the first half Markham, who usually fires the ball to Ford, put away 18 points of her own to hold Smithville in the ball game.

Pontotoc proved too accurate for Hatley to handle, although Riddle hit the basket for the losers for 13 points in the last half. The entire Pontotoc first team was named on the all-star squad.

Smithville girls climbed to the finals by beating Becker 69-59, and Greenwood Springs 58-47. Tremont won over Pontotoc 66-50 and Amory 57-48. Pontotoc boys defeated Aberdeen 63-32 and Amory 45-29. Hatley triumphed over Okolona 41-40, Vardaman 53-34 and Tremont 35-23.

Teams entered in the event were Aberdeen, Amory, Smithville, Tremont, Sulligent, Hatley, Becker, Pontotoc, Greenwood Springs, Vardaman, Okolona and Wren.

GIRLS

Smithville (70)	Pos.	Tremont (69)
Ford 44	F	Wheeler 29
Markham 26	F	Pitts 27
Stevens	F	Hughes 13
Jackson	G	Ridge
Towery	G	Irod
Frederick	G	Steele

Subs: Tremont—Steele, McCallister, Holley, Bostic, Shamblee, Boozer. Smithville—Roberts.

BOYS

Pontotoc (52)	Pos.	Hatley (41)
Priest 10	F	Riddle 15
Byrom 4	F	Howell 8
Dillard 15	C	Tubbs 5
Clement, G. 4	G	Lacey 4
Leake 19	G	Colburn 9

Dot Ford And Smithville Beat Hamilton

16

SMITHVILLE — (Special) — Hamilton High School's girls basketball team felt the sting of Dot (Point-Per-Second) Ford and Company here Thursday night and became the 17th straight victim of Smithville's undefeated cage combine.

It was the first meeting of the two schools on regular schedule and Ford was the star performer on the floor. Ford scored 58 points to pace the Smithville girls to a 78-47 decision. Markham tallied nine counters for the winning girls while Stephens added four in pushing the host club over the hump.

For Hamilton, Lucas tallied 19 points to show the way while Oliver hit 14 and Welch 10. But the combined efforts of Hamilton's forwards couldn't keep pace with the goal tossing exhibition made by Ford. Hamilton tried every combination of guards in an effort to stop Ford but the tall, pretty forward continued to burn the net with two-pointers until she had pulled her club into the home path and the 17th win of the season.

But Hamilton's boys salvaged the remaining chips on the floor by defeating the host club 35-22. Cruber and Holloway each tallied five for Smithville but it wasn't enough to keep the victory at home.

Smithville has no more games scheduled until after the sub-region tournament and then will meet Caledonia on February 21 and Nettleton on February 23. Both games will be played at Smithville.

Smithville's Dot Ford Tallies 1481 Points In 30 Cage Games

Special To The Commercial Appeal

AMORY, Miss., March 9.—Dot Ford, Smithville, Miss., forward, is nothing short of sensational in basketball ability. Her unbelievable record speaks for itself.

In 30 games this season Miss Ford has scored 1481 points. This gives her an amazing average of 49 points per game. She broke the Mississippi record of 68 points in one game when she hit the net in one fray for 82 counters.

In nearly every contest she was guarded by two guards, back and front. (This is the Williams' shift of basketball.) Dot could outjump, or jump even with any guard and was fast on shots under the basket. Her lowest total in any single game was 17 on a night when she was ill and played only one quarter. Her next lowest total was 34.

In 1946 when she was only 14, Dot was a starter on the Fulton state championship sextet and scored 14 points in the state final game.

She led Smithville to establishing the finest girls' record in North Mississippi. Of 30 contests, Smithville won 28 and lost only two, both by one point. In the Northeast Tourney (state playoffs) Smithville was upset in the semi-finals by Saltillo in a thriller 55-54. Saltillo went on to win the Northeast championship over Belmont. The other loss came in the Monroe County Tournament finals to Greenwood Springs in a wild contest 37-36 last week end.

DOT FORD

21

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)

Albuquereque, 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=M7AdoqqovAE&t=2s
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnIVTjjamc
https://nmtccca.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-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.
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

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
La Cueva High School

Scott Elder
SUPERINTENDENT

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.

NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME
EST. 1973

Mike Colbrese

New
Information

NFHS Hall of Fame Summary: 37 Years of NFHS Involvement

State Association Work

5 Years as Assistant to the Director of Montana HS Association 1982-1987

- Appointed Lead to develop equal opportunity education and training in Montana- Later expanded to assisting other state associations

6 Years as Commissioner of Wyoming HS Activities Association 1987-1993

26 Years as executive Director of Washington Interscholastic Activities Association 1993-2019

- Assisted in writing & lobbying for passage of the nation's first concussion management law (Zachary Lystad Law)
- Developed the first ever model for participation for transgender students which became a national model
- Developed a process to require people of color and female representation on WIAA Executive Board
- Developed a WIAA Native American Advisory Committee with representation on the WIAA Executive Board

NFHS Involvement

- 2 Term member of NFHS Board of Directors
- 26 year member of Football Rules Committee- 8 years of which served as Chair of Football Mechanics Manual Committee
- 2 year member Basketball Rules Committee
- 8 year member Track and Field Rules Committee-4 years of which served as Chair
- 8 year member Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee-4 years as Chair
- Served as Chair (1987) of Coaches Education Selection & Development Committee
- Served 4 years as Chair of Coaches Education Review Committee
- 2 times served as a member of NFHS Strategic Planning Committees
- Member of NHFS 2017 Sanctioning Committee
- 4 year member of Summer Meeting Advisory Committee
- Multiple times served as speaker at NFHS Winter or Summer Meetings
- Assisted in bringing both Winter Meeting and 2023 Summer Meeting to Seattle.

Awards/Honors

- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Hall of Fame
- NFHS Service Citation Award 2019
- Selected to the Washington Officials Association Hall of Fame , Washington Athletic Directors Hall of Fame and Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame
- Selected to both Wyoming Music Educators Hall of Fame and Wyoming Athletic Directors Hall of Fame
- Inaugural recipient of ACEP Pat McSwegen Award

Post Retirement

Currently, I am officiating youth and school football, basketball, baseball, and softball. I also lead the development of the Washington State Football Coalition to promote the positive benefits of high school and youth football. I currently serve as their Director.

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: [Michael Alan Cilbrese
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Mick Hoffman

Phone: 425-988-6156

Street Address: 435 Main Ave. South

City, State, Zip Code: Renton, WA 98057

Signed: [Tab here]

Date: [Tab here]

Email: mhoffman@wiaa.com

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athlete Coach Official X Administrator Performing Arts Others

Name of Nominee: Michael Alan Colbrese
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 42 Edgewater Court
(street address)

Port Hadlock, WA 98339
(city, state, zip)

Email: colm2712@gmail.com

Phone: 425-306-1590 Date of Birth: July 3, 1949

School Affiliation (if any) [Tab here]

City: [Tab here] State: [Tab here]

Place of Birth: Glendive, Montana Date of Retirement: August 31, 2019

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

If yes, please explain:
Mike restarted his hobby of officiating, a past time from which he had to retire when he went to work for the Montana High School Association in 1982.

If deceased, date of death:
[Tab here]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: [Tab here]

Address: [Tab here]

Phone: [Tab here]

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
Dawson County High School	Glendiive, MT	1967	NA
Eastern Montana College/Montana State, Billings	Billings, MT	1971	BA
University of Montana	Missoula, MT	1980	MA

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

ADMINISTRATOR

Note: All candidates in this category must be retired by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated. In addition, state association administrators must meet the following additional criteria:

- Must be retired for three years by November 15 of the year in which the nomination is completed.
- Extended service as state association administrator.
- Viewed as innovative leader within respective state. Statewide accomplishments beyond "simply doing the job."
- National impact on high school activity programs
    1. Service to NFHS should include the following:
        a) member of NFHS rules committees
        b) member of other NFHS committees
        c) member/president of NFHS Board of Directors
        d) speaker at NFHS conferences, meetings
    2. Involvement with NFHS exceeded normal service opportunities, for example:
        a) national impact on playing rules
        b) viewed as leader nationally among state executives
    3. Impact on high school activities beyond NFHS service, for example:
        a) national speaking engagements
        b) expert in certain field; i.e., technology, Title IX, etc.
        c) accomplishments as state CEO received national attention
- Longevity as state association administrator without major and innovative accomplishments at the state and national levels does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.
- Serving on the NFHS Board of Directors and as NFHS President without major and innovative accomplishments at the national level does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.

Career Description as High School Administrator, State Administrator or National Administrator (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school athletic administration)

High school English Teacher 1971-1982

College and secondary school Football and basketball official 1968-1984, 2021-to present

State Association Work

Assistant to the Executive Director of the Montana High School Association 1982-1987

Commissioner of the Wyoming High School Activities Association 1987-1993

Executive Director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association 1993-2019

Member of Football Rules Committee **1982**- 2008
Member Football Manual Committee 13 years
Chair Football Manual Committee 8 years
Recipient of NFHS Football Award 1995 and 1997
Member Basketball Rules Committee 1991-1993
Member Track and Field Rules Committee **1990-94**
Chair Track and Field Rules Committee **2003-07**
Member Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee **1989-93**
Chair Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity Committee **1993-97**
Chair Coaches Education Selection and Development Committee 1987
Chair Coaches Education Review Committee **1991-95**
Member of two NFHS Strategic Planning Committees **1996-99** and **2005-08**
Member of NFHS Sanctioning Committee
Two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors- **1987-88 a**nd **2006-12**
Speaker at several NFHS meetings
Co developed the initiative to address concerns about the future of Interscholastic football 2019
Sponsored Interscholastic basketball events to assist with protecting the recruiting process 2019

Special Honors and Achievements

Inductee

Wyoming Music Educators Hall of Fame
Wyoming Athletic Directors Hall of Fame

Washington Music Educators Hall of Fame
Washington Athletic Directors Hall of Fame
Washington Officials Association Hall of Fame
Washington Interscholastic Activities
Association Hall of Fame

Honors

NFHS Citation Award 2019
ACEP Pat McSwegan Award

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

Seattle 4 Rotary from 1999 until retirement in 2019

Chair of Service Committee for two terms and Board for one term

NIAAA beginning in 1982

NASO beginning in 2020

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Assisted in writing and lobbying for the passage of the Zachary Lystad Law, the nation's first concussion management law

Developed the model policy for transgender participation

Developed a process to require people of color and female representation on the WIAA Executive Board

Developed a WIAA Native American Advisory Committee, which included a representative on the WIAA Board

National Leader in equal opportunity education and training starting in 1983 to present

Published author

Letters of Recommendation

WIAA Est. 1905

WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

October 31, 2022

Dear NFHS National Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mike Colbrese for the NFHS Hall of Fame. Mike committed 26 years of his life to serving students, schools and communities throughout Washington State, while he shared his time and expertise as a participant and leader of several NFHS committees. The list of Mike's contributions to the NFHS is extensive and makes him an extremely deserving candidate.

Not only did Mike provide his time at the national level, Mike led work that was progressive and trendsetting in the state of Washington. His work with physicians and legislators in the state of Washtington led to the first traumatic brain injury legislation that became a model for the entire country. In addition to the traumatic brain injury legislation, Mike led the work to create a system to allow transgender students to compete as they identify. Over the years, the process for implementing the aforementioned concepts have been modified, adjusted and enhanced but the foundation set under Mike's leadership paved the way. The results of Mike's leadership have influenced other state associations to adopt similar policies and impact hundreds of thousands of young people.

Mike was also a strong advocate for activities. HIs intentional efforts to enhance the experience of students that choose activities allowed the Association to serve and positively impact thousands of students not directly served by athletics. The blending of athletics and activities is a shining example of how educational-based activities can bring community to schools by being more inclusive and less restrictive. Performing arts thrive in the state of Washington due to Mike's leadership.

Some may assume that Mike's longevity alone should qualify him for the NFHS National Hall of Fame. I disagree. Mike is a deserving candidate due to his tireless efforts and leadership over the 26 years he served the state and the NFHS. The results of his leadership have outlived his tenure and students that have not yet entered middle school will reap the benefits of Mike Colbrese's leadership. For this, I humbly recommend Mike Colbrese.

Sincerely,

Mick Hoffman

Mick Hoffman

435 Main Ave. S. | Renton, WA 98057 | (425) 687-8585 phone | (425) 687-9476 fax | www.wiaa.com | facebook.com/wiaawa | twitter.com/wiaawa

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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

JASON WARREN
President
Greenville

CARLOS CAVE
Vice President
Seabrook

DR. SAM BARFELL
Simpsonville

DR. KANDACE BETHEA
Marion

KYLE BOCZKOWSKI
Summerville

COBY BRANDYBURG
Allendale-Fairfax

SONYA BRYANT
Batesburg-Leesville

ADRIAN BUSCH
Dorchester

DAVID BYRD
Cheraw

TONY FOLK
St. George

DR. JR GREEN
Winnsboro

DR. ADAM LANFORD
Greenville

JULIEANNE LANG
Hollywood

HEZEKIAH MASSEY
Rock Hill

DR. DARRYL OWINGS
Spartanburg

NICHOLAS PEARSON
Sumter

DEREK PHILLIPS
Columbia

ANDY ROGERS
Boiling Springs

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Please consider this as a letter of recommendation for Mike Colbrese as a member of the National Federation of State High School association's Hall of Fame.

Mike has worked for over 50 years for our youth through the classroom, officiating, and 37 years in state association work including the Montana, Wyoming, and Washington associations.

I first met Mike at the 1996 NFHS Summer meeting after joining the South Carolina High School League staff. During my 27 years career with the League, I have come to know him as a valued colleague and trusted advisor and mentor, someone who took time with everyone and would provide insight whenever asked.

Throughout that time, he was also actively involved with the NFHS at the national level, presenting at various conferences, being a part of two strategic planning teams, and being a member of various NFHS committees, in particular the football, basketball, and track and field rules committees. He also served twice on the NFHS Board of Directors.

During our working with our respective state associations, I worked with Mike directly when we were members of the NFHS track and field rules committee during his time as the chair of the committee. In 2018, I worked with Mike as he and other state association administrators spearheaded the efforts to promote and protect school football.

I found that whether the chair or a member of a committee, Mike was engaged. His leadership was about inclusion- actively engaging everyone and encouraging participation.

Mike was never afraid to take a stand, which included challenging the NFHS insurance programs and tackling such issues as concussion management and transgender participation. In both concussion management and transgender issues, the Washington association developed a model for the rest of the country.

For those reasons, I enthusiastically provide my support for Mike's induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton

Jerome Singleton

KANSAS COACHES ASSOCIATION

October 19, 2022

National High School Hall of Fame Committee:

It is my pleasure to write this letter of recommendation for the nomination of Mike Colbrese, administrator category, to become a member of the National High School Hall of Fame.

I first got to know Mike when we both served on the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Education Program (NFICEP) committee, charter members – late 90s. I served as the representative from the National Federation Interscholastic Coaches Association Board of Directors (NFICA). Our committee put together a Request for Proposal (RFP) and those results have, over the years, evolved into the current NF Coaches Education Program.

I also served with Mike on the NF Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Integrity committee, early 90s. This was a committee of 14 members from across our country charged with providing direction for the National Federation in these three areas of concern. These three areas, in the arenas of competition, continue today to need the NFHS' championing.

Mike and I have continued to cross paths over the years, usually at the NF Summer Meetings. Those are special paths. I have admired Mike for his ease and inclusiveness in a variety of leadership roles for the National Federation. As a committee member, he came prepared - willing to listen, willing to discuss, willing to support the decision-making process and the decisions made. He was truly a respectful team player.

Mike Colbrese – a difference-maker and definitely worthy of induction into the National High School Hall of Fame. I highly support Mike's nomination. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ginny Honomichl
Kansas Coaches Association Executive Director/Treasurer
Kansas State High School Activities Association Hall of Fame inductee – Class of 2012
National High School Hall of Fame inductee – Class of 2019

Mr. Mike Burton, National Director of Division II Football Officials

May to October
12604 132nd Ave. Court East
Puyallup, WA 98374-4866
Phone: (206) 660-4720

November to April
111 S. Greenfield Road #285
Mesa, AZ 85206
Phone: (206) 660-4720

xxcoach@sprintmail.com **(USE EITHER EMAIL)** xxcoach7@gmail.com

Hall of Fame Administrator Nominee – Mike Colbrese

Mike Colbrese came to Washington in 1993 and reformed and changed the WIAA for the better from the day he arrived until his retirement. Mike was not just an administrator but he was an active innovator in activities as well as athletics. He took on tough choices such as changing formats and locations for state championships that were not always popular. Mike was an early advocate for equal opportunity and training and was one of the authors of the Zachary Lystad Law for concussion management.

The great administrator is out of the office and in the field. You saw Mike everywhere from sports playoff games to speech and debate championships. His involvement and support can be seen in that he has been inducted into five halls of fames in the state of Washington from our affiliated groups.

My time with Mike in both the administration of game officials and the speech and debate gave me a true insight into his skills. He was willing to listen to ideas to improve activities as well as athletics. Listening, thinking about and then acting on issues was a key part of his success. Mike could handle the heat when a decision had to be made. He would give everyone a say but he was the decision maker.

Being a speech and debate instructor and coach for 39 years I know communication is the key to success and Mike Colbrese communicated. You were never unsure of where he was coming from and his logic behind a decision. He served on numerous NFHS committees and chaired many. Mike was someone you wanted to be around.

This state of Washington under Mike was the leader on concussion management, transgender participation, and have created a more consistent, fair eligibility process and

the same with the way of handling rules violations. People knew that he respects people regardless of their opinion and even if they did not agree with him understood he was doing what he felt was best for kids. The divide that we once had between parts of the state closed with his leadership. Listening to all and then moving forward was Mike Colbrese. He did not stand still and would take the heat for decisions he made without trying to pass them on. He was a great boss.

Mike Colbrese is a friend, boss and companion in our journey together and more than anyone deserves induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Michael W. Burton

Mike Burton
NFHS Hall of Fame 2015
National Speech and Debate Hall of Fame 2013
NCAA National Director of Division II Football Officials 2019

Support Data

Article

Mike Colbrese <colm2712@gmail.com>
To: Mike Colbrese <colm2712@gmail.com>

Fri, Oct 21, 10:55 AM

RENTON — All those days as a teenager working at the family-owned gas station in rural Glendive, Mont., Mike Colbrese got used to hearing his father's signature farewell line with customers.

"He would say, 'Be good, be careful and hurry back,' " Colbrese said.

And that is exactly how Colbrese has approached his work with many of his member schools, athletic directors, coaches and student-athletes as the longtime executive director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association.

On Monday, Colbrese announced to the WIAA executive board that he will be retiring at the end of the 2018-19 school season.

At that time, when he steps down, he will have served 27 years in that position, making him the third-longest tenured executive director in the country behind Michigan's Jack Roberts (31 years now) and Minnesota's Dave Stead (29 years now, stepping down next February).

Colbrese, 68, said the executive board had asked him to give 18 months advance notice on his retirement plan so it could conduct a proper national search for his replacement, which won't begin until next year.

He also noted that 2019 is when the WIAA will finish up its revamped strategic plan in creating a healthier culture for all of its interscholastic programs.

Colbrese came to the WIAA in 1993 after serving as the executive director in Wyoming for six years.

"I felt it was time to move to a bigger challenge," Colbrese said. "When I moved here, I knew a few things that needed to be accomplished, but I also knew this is where I wanted my family to grow up.

"I wanted to be able to basically get things in motion, and then do some fine-tuning after the hard work has been done."

If there is one thing to know about Colbrese, he hates sitting behind a desk at the WIAA office.

Colbrese said he regularly puts 20,000 miles on his car in a year, visiting member schools for league and district meetings, and rotating through all of the state championships as they are being held in all corners of the state.

"I like being around people," Colbrese said. "I pride myself in listening, and trying to articulate where the membership is, and trying to move that collective voice forward."

One of the first issues Colbrese tackled when he arrived was overhauling an outdated classification system that had stood since 1968. It went from four classifications (B, A, AA, AAA) to the six levels presently (1B, 2B, 1A, 2A, 3A, 4A).

"Equalizing opportunities for schools to get into postseason play has been important," Colbrese said.

Of all the things the WIAA has accomplished under his watch, Colbrese pointed to two start-up programs he is especially proud of creating in 2009: Concussion management and setting up a transgender participation policy.

Colbrese said he has plenty of work remaining over the next 18 months, including refining ways to reach competitive balance among schools, continuing to upgrade a satisfactory playoff system, and continuing to guide the WIAA's growing diversity and governance committees.

"It has been a good 25 years, and it will be a really good next year and a half," Colbrese said. "The (WIAA) board and I have some goals, and we are arm in arm in trying to address those topics."

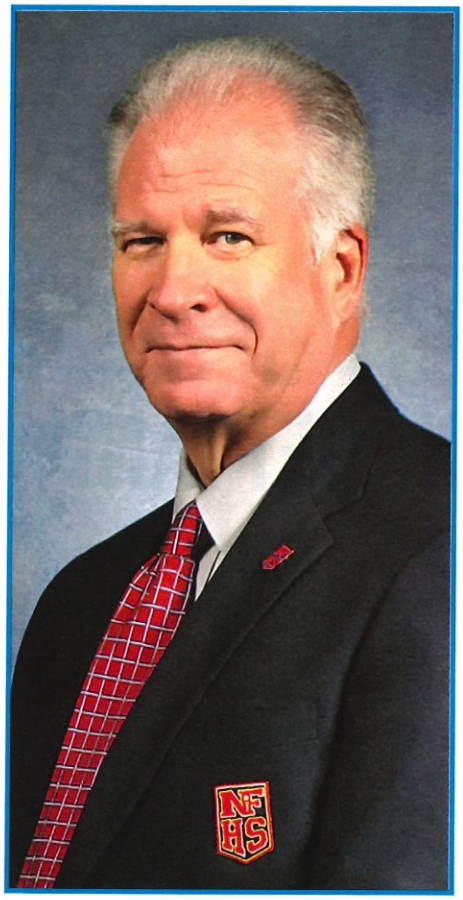
Todd Milles: 253-597-8442, @ManyHatsMilles

On Fri, Oct 21, 2022 at 10:38 AM Lauren Smith <smithlm12@gmail.com> wrote:

I TOOK MY OW

By John Torsiello

He said his state needs officials. So retired exec Mike Colbrese answered the call himself.



Mike Colbrese learned some valuable and lasting lessons while getting his hands dirty and greasy at his father's gas station in eastern Montana.

"Working at my dad's station and watching how he handled his customers instilled in me how to treat people," the 71-year-old Washington state resident said. "We did everything back then — pump gas, wash windows, check the oil and we had a service bay. For my dad, it was all about customer service. I never forgot that." His dad would tell customers, "Be good, be careful and hurry back."

Colbrese used the people skills learned from the late John Colbrese during his long career as an educator, sports administrator with three state high school organizations and as an official.

Colbrese lives with his wife, Jan, in the small town of Port Hadlock, across Puget Sound from Seattle. From 1993 to 2019, he was executive director of the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA). The WIAA is responsible for all middle school and high school sports and fine arts activities in the state.

Before moving to Washington, Colbrese served as the commissioner of the Wyoming High School Activities Association for six years and worked five years as assistant director for the Montana High School Association. From 1971-82, he was a high school English teacher and librarian. During that time he was also a high school and college football and basketball official.

What goes around, comes around for Colbrese. After taking a bit of time "to figure things out" after he retired from the WIAA, he decided to get back into officiating, and he has in a big way. He launched his second career as a member of the Peninsula Officials Association this spring, umpiring baseball ("My first love," he calls it) and softball and officiating football. He was working a football game on May 1 (a scheduling oddity made possible because the pandemic caused Washington high school seasons to shift) when a player rolled into him and injured his knee. The injury meant he couldn't referee basketball later in the spring as he had planned.

"I tore my MCL and am now rehabbing it with no surgery," Colbrese said. "I'll be back and officiating football in the fall."

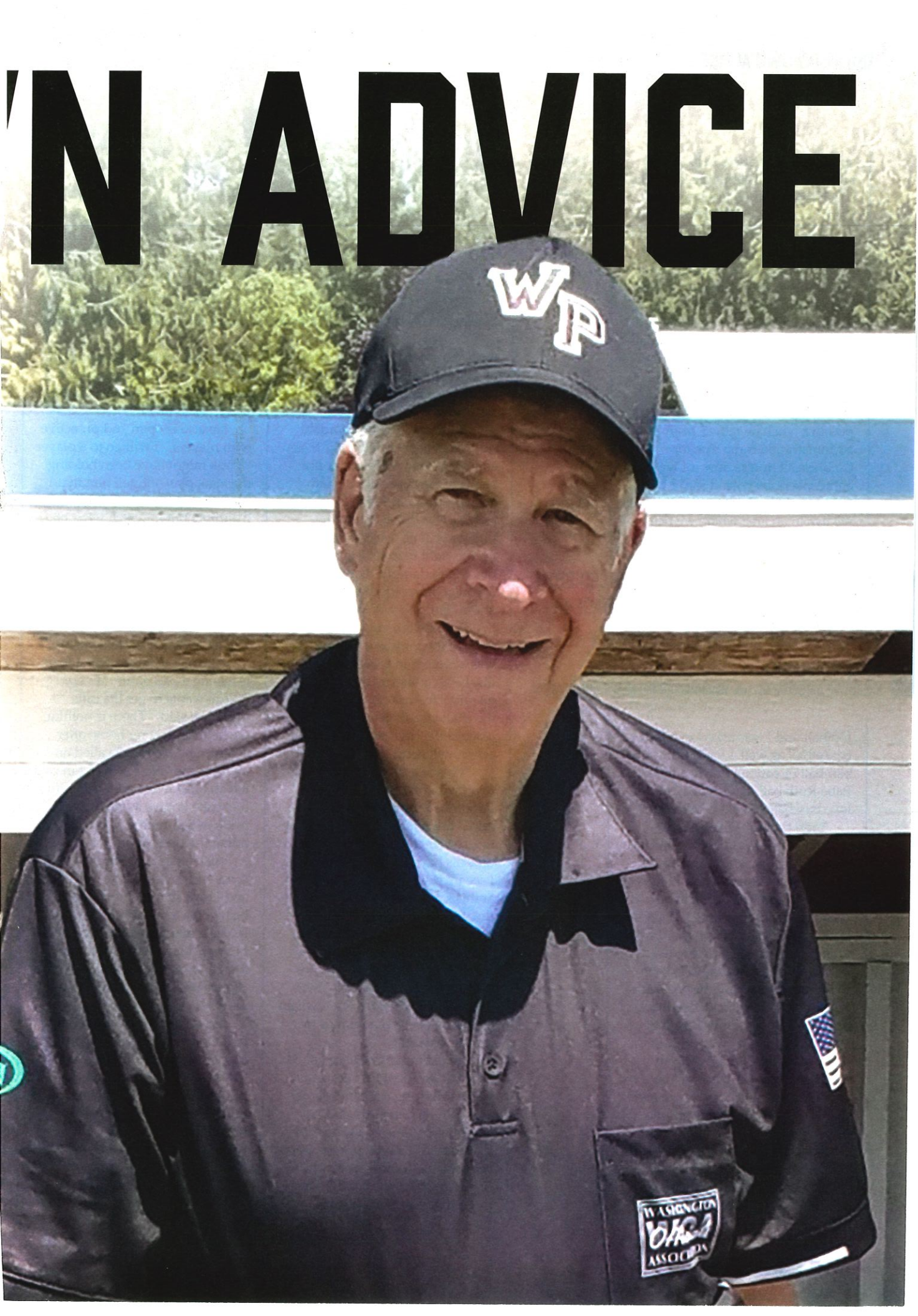
Colbrese had significant influence as an administrator. During his time with the WIAA, he was responsible for the implementation of the Ridgeway Settlement Agreement requiring equal opportunities for boys and girls, and developed the first-in-the-nation policy outlining procedures and paths for transgender students to participate in middle school and high school sports. Colbrese also helped author the draft of the Zackery Lystedt Law, the first return-to-play law in the United States, which has since been the model for concussion-management laws adopted by all the states.

Colbrese has also served on numerous NFHS committees, including chairing the football manual and track and field rules committees as well as the Coaches Education Committee. He has also been inducted into several halls of fame, and has served on the Washington State Special Olympics Board.

Colbrese said he returned to officiating out of a passion for

COURTESY OF MIKE COLBRESE

'N ADVICE



Colbrese worked the spring football season until a knee injury put him on the sidelines.

sports and a desire to help young athletes. "It's all about the kids. The coach isn't the only teacher on the field," he said. "Officials have to be teachers, too, and we are responsible for growing players as people. If I can get across to them my sense of camaraderie with coaches, players and other officials, perhaps I can be a role model for young people and they might want to become officials themselves one day. We certainly need more young people getting into officiating."

A joke made from behind a podium when he retired from administration came true for Colbrese. "I don't know if I was entirely serious when I said I was going to get back into officiating, but we live in an area where we need officials. I feel at 71, I can still referee football and I was asked to referee basketball as well. I hadn't umpired baseball or softball much, a little Babe Ruth ball in Montana, but I love baseball and said, 'Why not?'"

"NOT MANY PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED BOTH SIDES, SO WE NEED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY."

TODD STORDAHL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

Todd Stordahl, executive director of the Washington Officials Association, has known Colbrese for almost 20 years. "I hadn't talked to Mike in a while, but then he called and said he wanted to get back into officiating," Stordahl said. "It has been great being involved in his return to the field. We keep in regular contact and he has been able to provide valuable feedback since he has the (administrative) experience of what we want to accomplish, but is seeing it put to action. Not many people have experienced both sides, so we need to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

Stordahl believes Colbrese brings the same strengths to officiating that he did to being an administrator. "He cares about the participants and wants to be part of creating lifelong memories for all participants — and that includes the officials."

"Earlier this year," Stordahl said, "someone asked me if I was concerned that Mike might not be up to the task since he had been off the field for so long. My answer was quick and to the point: not at all. Mike is officiating for the right reasons. He has the passion to do right by the game. If you go into officiating with that at the core, you will be just fine."

Colbrese is a guy who likes to be in the middle of things. "I was a catcher in baseball and I like being a linesman in football," he said. "In basketball, I enjoy the challenge of being in the right place at the right time, where the action will occur.

"People ask me where I want to go with officiating and I say I don't have any ambitions," he said. "I don't care if I work a state tournament game. Let the young officials have those opportunities. I see myself more as a mentor at this stage in my life. One of the things we have missed as officials is learning how to deal with confrontational situations, whether it is with kids, coaches or even the fans. I'm a guy that will walk over to fans and explain something between innings or during timeouts."

For example, Colbrese talked about an incident that occurred while umpiring a softball game. "A girl hit a home run and her teammates gathered around the plate and did a little pre-arranged celebration. Because of that I had to (restrict) the coach to the dugout. It is a rule. The fans didn't know what was going on, so I went over and explained what I had to do and the matter was clear to them."

He also is open and proactive with players. "I will go to a player I think might have been holding during a play and tell him that I didn't call it because I didn't see it entirely but to watch what he is doing. They always say, 'Thank you,' or 'Yes, sir.' Or I might hear an F-bomb and I will tell the player 'No more of that' and they say, 'OK, sir.' I believe that is the way you teach kids the right way to play and also sportsmanship."

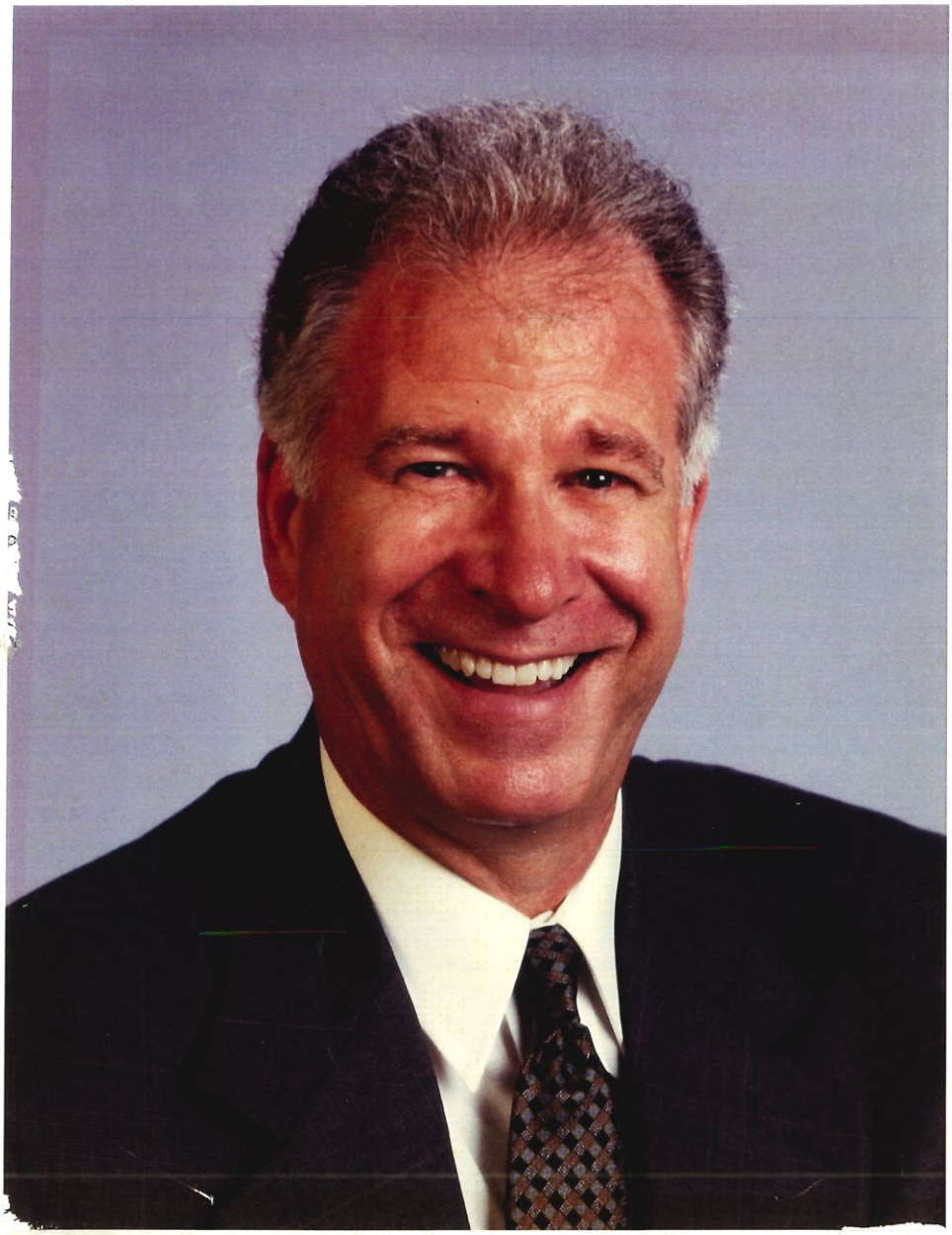
One of Colbrese's worst fears is having a bad game. "Every official wants to get the calls right," he said. "There is nothing worse than driving home after a game and saying, 'I called an awful game.' No coach or fan can tell an official he had a bad game; he or she knows it. I take a lot of pride in getting the calls right and doing the right thing."

As he tells it, Colbrese has come full circle. "I love officiating and I owe so much to it. I like being on a team and I guess that is also a main reason I came back. I missed being a part of a team. That and making sure kids have a chance to play the game the right way."

From his dad's gas station to the playing fields and courts of Montana and Washington, Colbrese still carries his dad's philosophy of how to treat people in his front pocket, not far from his rulebook.

A former Little League umpire, John Torsiello is a veteran sportswriter from Torrington, Conn. □

JEFF HALSTEAD PHOTOGRAPHY



Elaine Elliott

New
Information

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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

November 7, 2023

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

Please allow this letter to serve as a change of nomination category for Mrs. Elaine Elliott for consideration as a National High School Hall of Fame Inductee. Elaine was previously submitted under the Officials category, and I am requesting she be moved to the Others category for consideration.

As mentioned in the previously submitted recommendation letters, she has given tireless service to the State of South Carolina. Elaine is the founding President of the South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association (SCCCA). In that position, she was instrumental in getting Cheerleading accredited into the SC Athletic Coaches Association and the sport sanctioned by the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL).

Elaine spent 26+ years coaching the sport on various levels. She coached for five years at North High School, North, SC, 14 years at Lexington High School in Lexington, SC, and five years as the cheer coach and Cocky Advisor at the University of South Carolina. During her stint at Lexington, Elaine earned three consecutive State Titles (1991, 1992, 1993).

Elaine has 28 years of experience judging cheer on the local level which is her passion. She also judged national high school cheer competitions, All-Star, and collegiate Cheer Competitions with several cheer organizations in the United States. Included in those efforts are serving as a Disney World Collegiate and High School Cheer judge, National High School Invitationals Judge, and UCA Cheer Judge.

Elaine was inducted into the Lexington High School Hall of Fame (2022) and the South Carolina Athletics Coaches Association (SCACA) Hall of Fame (2022). In 2012, she received the SC Cheer Coaches Association Lifetime Achievement Award for her outstanding and dedicated contributions to cheerleading in the state of South Carolina.Elaine has also dedicated her time to the success in the sport of cheerleading nationally. Below please find just a few her major national accomplishments.

- Elected as an At-Large Representative of the Board of the American Association of Cheer Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) (1989). This election took place at the Coach's Conference sponsored by UCA in New Orleans in 1988.

- National Federation of Interscholastic Spirit Association (NFHS Contributor Award Section III, 2000)

- Who's Who of College Cheer Coaches (1998)

- Founding member of the Cheerleading Forum of America (CFOA). This national group was organized in November 1989 by representatives from each State Cheer Organizations, Cheer businesses (UCA, NCA and ICF, etc) and the National Federation of High Schools (Susan True). CFOA was created in an effort to bring the State Cheer Organizations, the Cheer Businesses and the National Federation together for the betterment of cheerleading across the country. The CFOA allows the entities to share ideas at the yearly meeting and take the ideas back to each state organization. While serving as President of the SCCCA, CFOA hosted its conference in Charleston, SC.

- Served as a NHFS State Spirit Director in the 1990s. This group was established by the NFHS to help develop Educational Workshops and Courses for Cheer Coaches across the nation. Her time as Director was served under the tutelage of Susan True who was at the head of NFHS Spirit at the time. With representatives from at least 46 states, the group would meet prior to NFHS Rules Interpreter's summer meeting. The sessions were used to develop the Coaches Principles Course for Cheer, a Coaching Philosophy and Spirit Program Management. The responsibilities of the group also included sharing the information learned with the state. Elaine also held workshops training coaches for at least three years.

- Certified as an AACCA Safety Instructor for SC in 1991 and held on-site safety certification workshops until AACCA merged with USA Cheer in 2019. **Note:** AACCA is no longer the Safety Certification program for Cheer Coaches. Elaine held her last on-site workshop at the SCACA Coach's Clinic in July, 2019. Coaches now receive Safety Certification through the USACheer and Dance Safety Awareness Course that can be found on-line at NFHSlearn.com

- Has served as the SCHSL Arbiter Director for Cheer,

As you can see from her accolades listed above and her notable accomplishments listed in her previous nominations/recommendations, Elaine Elliott has all the qualifications for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton, D.D.

Jerome Singleton
SCHSL Commissioner

Prior Information

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Elaine Elliott
(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

Date: November 1, 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: Elaine Elliott
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 156 Jarah Road
(street address)

Lexington, SC 29072
(city, state, zip)

Email: elaineelliott62@gmail.com

Phone: 803.606.0728 Date of Birth: 9/17/1949

School Affiliation (if any) South Carolina

City: All / Statewide State: SC

Place of Birth: South Carolina 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:
*She is still active as the SCHSL Competitive Cheer Safety Judge

If deceased, date of death:
NA

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Ronnie Elliott

Address: 156 Jarah Road, Lexignton, SC 29072

Phone: 803.206.3663

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: James F. Byrnes High	[Duncan, SC]	[1967]	[Diploma]
College/University: University of SC	[Columbia, SC]	[1972]	Bachelor of Arts
Post Graduate School: University of SC	[Columbia, SC]	[1975]	MAT

☒ 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

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.)

Elaine Elliott is enjoying her 30th year as a South Carolina High School League safety official for Competitive Cheer. How befitting, as she is the biggest cheerleader for student-athletes across South Carolina and the nation! Her passion for education and athletics started at a young age in which she participated in many school and community organizations to then become a cheer coach during her first teaching stint right out of college. She coached an award-winning cheer squad at Lexington High for several years before finding yet another passion in the cheer world-OFFICIATING! She developed a passion and respect for the young women and men who compete at this level and was a pioneer across the state, region for 'cheerleading' to be considered a sport. Not just as a SCHSL sanctioned sport, but in the minds of the public. Elaine believes female dominated sports such as cheer tend to be misconstrued and misplaced in a category of "not a REAL sport." She has changed the minds of many once she has convinced them to attend a competition or even a practice.

Elaine is the founding President of the South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association, serving as President for ten years. She presently serves on its Executive Board. She is also a charter member of the Cheer Forum of America, a national organization for Cheer Coaches and Cheer Associations.

Elaine was instrumental, as President of the SCCCA, in having Cheerleading accepted into the SC Athletic Coaches Association and being brought into the SCHSL as a sanctioned sport in SC. She personally met with the Athletic Directors for five years at the South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Summer Clinic explaining why Cheer Coaches should be a part of that organization. During the 5th year of the SCACA's Summer Clinic, she and Keith Richardson sat down and drew up a contract that brought Cheer into that organization as an auxiliary group. Within a few years Elaine, who had been working closely with Patsy Mack at the SCHSL and the SCCCA Executive Board, met with Pete Ayube, Commissioner of the SCHSL and arranged for Cheer to become a sport governed by that organization. Thus, beginning a long tradition of SCHSL Sanctioned Cheer Competitions and State Cheer Championships in SC.

Elaine has been a Safety Judge for SC State Cheer Competitions since 1994. When she left high school coaching, she was determined to find a way to stay involved. That is when her journey as an official judge for SC High School Competitive Cheer began.

Elaine has 27 years' experience judging cheer on the local level which is her passion. She also judged national high school cheer competitions, All-Star and collegiate Cheer Competitions with several cheer organizations in the United States. In 2015 she decided to give her full attention to judging in South Carolina and devote all her time to SC Cheerleading. Elaine has found that being an official for Cheer in SC keeps her involved with the sport she truly loves.

She works in the off season to help improve Cheer as both a competitive sport and a support team endeavor. Until the 2020 merger with USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management, Elaine was the AACCA Safety Instructor for Cheer Coaches in South Carolina, a position she held since 1991. Safety Certification is now an online testing certification and there is no longer a need for on-site workshops which is what Elaine handled in SC.

As the SCHSL Arbiter Director for Cheer since 2015, she oversees assignments for all Cheer Officials to Sanctioned SCHSL Cheer Competitions. Before working with Arbiter, Elaine assigned judges for all high school events through the SCCCA. She did this as part of her position as Past-President on the Executive Board of the SCCCA. Elaine was on the committee formed by the SCCCA that developed the first scales and scoresheets for Cheer Competitions in SC.

Over the years, she has witnessed this sport grow into one of the most competitive, captivating sports in the state and across the USA. Elaine has perfected the ability to separate herself from the task at hand. She goes team blind during competitions, meaning she sees no team colors, mascots, names, or classifications. All she sees is SAFETY. She is known as the safety guru of cheer. Elaine takes this job very seriously as she has witnessed serious accidents and injuries over the years when rules were not followed properly. Don't let the hair bows and rhinestones fool ya. These student-athletes stand on the shoulders of pioneers such as Elaine Elliott, an official on a mission to continue safety measures while growing the sport of CHEER.

Special Honors and Achievements

~ South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association Outstanding Service Award (20 Years, 2011)
~ National Federation of Interscholastic Spirit Association (NFHS Contributor Award, 2000)
~ Lifetime Achievement Award (SC Cheer Coaches Association, 2012)
~ Who's Who Among College Cheer Coaches (1998)

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

South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association
Cheer Forum of America, charter member
Coaches Association of Woemn's Sports (CAWS)
Until the 2020 merger with USA Cheer Safety and Risk Management, Elaine was the AACCA Safety Instructor for Cheer Coaches in South Carolina, a position she held since 1991. Safety Certification is now an online testing certification and there is no longer a need for on-site workshops which is what Elaine handled in SC.

Other information (*not previously listed)*

1997 was first year of Competitive Cheer as a SCHSL sanctioned sport. During 1996, she joined cheer coaches as they occupied a round table discoussion to develop the manual - items determined: how many can compete per team, per size. She was the pioneer of SC's cheer community and instrumental in creating the entire state program. She has worked as a safety judge for every state final since the start. She has trained all SCHSL safety officials since the start of the sport.

2000- Breast Cancer Survivor- Stage 4
(21 year survivor after cancer metastasized to her ribs, liver, spine and hip bone.)

25 years' experience as a Cheerleading Coach:
~ 20 years on the high school level (3 State Coed Championships, Lexington High School).
~ 5 years Spirit Coordinator and Head Cheer Coach at the University of SC. (UCA Semi-finalist in 1997)

Disney World Collegiate and High School Cheer judge
National High School Invitationals Judge
UCA Cheer Judge
Insatiable fan of 1960's - 1970's music

Letters of Recommendation

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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

JASON WARREN
President
Greenville

CARLOS CAVE
Vice President
Seabrook

DR. SAM BARFELL
Simpsonville

DR. KANDACE BETHEA
Marion

KYLE BOCZKOWSKI
Summerville

COBY BRANDYBURG
Allendale-Fairfax

SONYA BRYANT
Batesburg-Leesville

ADRIAN BUSCH
Dorchester

DAVID BYRD
Cheraw

TONY FOLK
St. George

DR. JR GREEN
Winnsboro

DR. ADAM LANFORD
Greenville

JULIEANNE LANG
Hollywood

HEZEKIAH MASSEY
Rock Hill

DR. DARRYL OWINGS
Spartanburg

NICHOLAS PEARSON
Sumter

DEREK PHILLIPS
Columbia

ANDY ROGERS
Boiling Springs

November 17, 2022

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

Please allow this letter to serve as additional support to the nomination of Mrs. Elaine Elliott for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

In addition to her tireless service to South Carolina, as mentioned in her recommendation letters previously submitted, Elaine has also dedicated her time to the success of the sport of cheerleading nationally.

Elaine has 28 years of experience judging cheer on the local level, which is her passion. She also judged national high school cheer competitions, All-Star, and collegiate Cheer Competitions with several cheer organizations in the United States. Included in those efforts are serving as a Disney World Collegiate and High School Cheer judge, National High School Invitationals Judge, and UCA Cheer Judge.

Since her previous nominations, Elaine was inducted into the Lexington High School Hall of Fame (2022) and the South Carolina Athletics Coaches Association (SCACA) Hall of Fame (2022).

Below please find just a few of her major national accomplishments.

- Elected as an At-Large Representative on the Board of the American Association of Cheer Coaches and Administrators (AACCA) (1989). This election took place at the Coach's Conference sponsored by UCA in New Orleans in 1988.
- National Federation of Interscholastic Spirit Association (NFHS Contributor Award, 2000)
- Founding member of the Cheerleading Forum of America (CFOA). This national group was organized in November 1989 by representatives from each State Cheer Organization (like our SCCCA), Cheer businesses (UCA, NCA, and ICF, etc), and the National Federation of High Schools (Susan True). CFOA was created in an effort to bring the State Cheer Organizations, the Cheer Businesses, and the National Federation together for the betterment of cheerleading across the country. The CFOA allows the entities to share ideas at the yearly meeting and take the ideas back to each state organization. While serving as President of the SCCCA, CFOA hosted its conference in Charleston, SC.
- Served as the NHFS State Spirit Director in the 1990s. This group was established by the NFHS to help develop Educational Workshops and Courses for Cheer Coaches across the nation. Her time as Director was served under the tutelage of Susan True who was the head of NFHS Spirit at the time. With representatives from at least 46 states, the group would meet prior to NFHS Rules Interpreter's summer meeting. The sessions were used to develop the Coaches Principles Course for Cheer, a Coaching Philosophy, and Spirit Program Management. The responsibilities of the group also included sharing the information learned with the state. Elaine also held workshops training coaches for at least three years.
- Certified as an AACCA Safety Instructor for SC in 1991 and held on-site safety certification workshops until AACCA merged with USA Cheer in 2019. **Note:** AACCA is no longer the Safety Certification program for Cheer Coaches. Elaine held her last on-site workshop at the SCACA Coach's Clinic in July 2019. Coaches now receive Safety Certification through the USA Cheer and Dance Safety Awareness Course which can be found online at NFHSlearn.com

As you can see from her accolades listed above and her notable accomplishments listed in her previous nominations/recommendations, Elaine Elliott is a great candidate for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton, D.D.

Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner
SC High School League

SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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

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MIKE BEASLEY
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KANDACE BETHEA
Marion

KYLE BOCZKOWSKI
Summerville

RYAN BROWN
Columbia

SONYA BRYANT
Batesburg-Leesville

CARLOS CAVE
Seabrook

JASON HOLT
Aiken

RAY COOPER
Prosperity

TONY FOLK
St. George

LAURA HICKSON
Lake City

KEITH KISER
Greenville

ANNA MILLER
Chapin

DARRYL OWINGS
Spartanburg

ANDREA PRIDGEN
Green Sea

NICHOLAS PEARSON
Sumter

MICHAEL STONE
Mullins

JOSH TRAHAN
North Augusta

November 5, 2021

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

"What's that? What is she doing?!! Wow! She is really into her work."

It's not often I lead with questions but that was my first impression of Elaine Elliott during SCHSL State Cheer Championships many years ago when I witnessed her in action. She was sprite, agile and quick while leaning, bending, and lunging all while writing notes at warp speed.

Did I say *"was?"* I misspoke…
She remains the same in 2021…leaning, bending, and lunging still. **SAFETY!** That is what she is observing and critiquing for each team competing in the Class AAA, AAAA and AAAAA divisions of SCHSL Competitive Cheer among other competitions.

Mrs. Elliott is so well-known and respected across the south that she is often called upon to either judge or counsel those who are coaching or competing. Her reputation is stellar among sports professionals as well as academic leaders. She has been an icon of cheer since her first years of teaching high school history. Her credentials span across all levels of officiating to include high school, college, and national competitions. She has a balanced outlook between athletics and academics coming from the education arena. So much so, we recruited her to create the first ever SCHSL Student Leadership program and manual nearly 25 years. She also hosted three leadership summits annually for many years after its inception. She is one you can trust and who represents her profession and the state with such class, professionalism, and pride. I am honored to submit her as the South Carolina nominee for NFHS Officials Hall of Fame selection process. Elaine Elliott is a champion among officials, and we think she is a winner!

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton
SCHSL Commissioner

Mayo High School for Math, Science & Technology
405 Chestnut Street
Darlington, SC 29532
843-398-2650
843-398-2647 Fax
Dr. Arlene B. Wallace, Principal
Arlene.Wallace@darlington.k12.sc.us

November 13, 2021

It is my honor to submit this letter of recommendation for Mrs. Elaine Elliott for the National Federation Hall of Fame. Elaine and I go all the way back to 1989 when we met to reorganize the South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association (SCCCA) and she served as our President for ten years. She is also a charter member of the Cheer Forum of America, a national organization for Cheer Coaches and Cheer Associations.

Under her leadership, Elaine was instrumental in getting cheerleading accepted into the SC Athletic Coaches Association (SCACA) and the South Carolina High School League (SCHSL) as a sport in SC. She personally met with the Athletic Directors for five years at the SCACA Summer Clinic explaining why cheer coaches should be a part of the organization. After five years, she and the president of SCACA sat down and drew up a contract that brought cheerleading in as an auxiliary group. Within a few years, Elaine worked closely with the SCHSL to arrange for cheerleading to become a sport governed by the league. Thus, began our long tradition of SCHSL sanctioned cheer competitions and state competitive cheer championships. Elaine still is our advocate for cheerleading. She is all things cheerleading.

I know Elaine best because we are both, two of the longest serving safety judges in the state of SC. Every year before the competitive season begins, Elaine gives me a crash course on the new cheer safety rules and updates. Elaine has been a safety judge for SC State Cheer Competitions since 1994. We have been doing this so long together that we both can be seen writing down the same violations. If it has anything to do with cheerleading, Elaine is the person to answer the call. Elaine has over 25 years of experience judging cheer on the local, state, and national levels. Elaine received the SCCCA Lifetime Achievement Award in July of 2012 for her outstanding and dedicated contributions to cheerleading in the state of South Carolina. Currently, she serves as the SCHSL Arbiter Director for Cheer and still serves on our Executive Board.

Personally, Elaine has also been my friend and is truly a role model and leader who cares for all she meets. She is never too busy to listen, help, or give her shoulder to cry upon. She is a woman with strong Christian faith and beliefs. I have witnessed this with my own personal experiences of loss, pain, and joy. She has been a personal cheerleader for me.

She is truly deserving of this honor because when you think of cheerleading in South Carolina, Elaine Elliott is known by all.

Sincerely,

Arlene B Wallace

Dr. Arlene B. Wallace, Principal
SC Safety Judge and SCCCA Board Member

November 9, 2021

To the Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with great honor that I write this reference letter on behalf of Elaine Cook Elliott as a candidate for the National Federation of High Schools Hall of Fame. As President of the South Carolina Cheerleader Coaches Association, I have had the pleasure of working with Elaine in many capacities and she always does it such professionalism. As a charter member of our organization, she worked tirelessly with the South Carolina High School to get competitive cheer recognized as a sanctioned sport to crown a champion and runner-up. Elaine is best known as the "Safety Judge" in South Carolina, a title she has held since 1994, and one that means a lot to her. The safety and well-being of the student athletes has always been a top priority.

To say that Elaine has a passion for officiating cheer is an understatement. She has 27 years of experience as a judge on the local, state, and national levels having judged All-Star and Collegiate competitions as well. Elaine has devoted many years to cheerleading in South Carolina to make sure that each coach has the latest and most up-to-date information needed to run their programs effectively. Being an official has aided this passion and given her the chance to stay involved in the sport that has given her so much pleasure for so many years. As the Arbiter Director for cheer, Elaine assigns official to the competitions and when Covid-19 was at its highest last year, she worked extremely hard getting protocols in place and making sure they were followed to ensure the safety and well-being of not only the judges but the athletes as well. Elaine's work with cheer in and out of season is to be commended. She has a love for the sport and that makes her an even better official.

Over our 25-year friendship, I can certainly say that Elaine is by far one of the best officials in the business. I have been a witness to the ups and downs she has experienced with the sport of cheer but it has not deterred her from her job – to be the most informed and educated official. She has guided me and so many other judges in our quest to be the best we can be always keeping the student athlete at the forefront. It is without hesitation that I endorse Elaine Cook Elliott for this award as she will be a well deserving recipient.

Sincerely,
Gwen Clark

Gwen Clark
President of the South Carolina Cheerleader Coaches Association
National Federation HS Official

November 9, 2021

To: The National Federation of High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee
From: Vicki Williams
Head Coach, Chapin High School Varsity Cheer

In Re: Elaine C. Elliott

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Elaine Elliott for the NFHS Hall of Fame. I have known Elaine for the past 25 years. I have known her as a fellow coach, safety judge, and as a dear friend. Elaine has done more for the sport of cheer than any other person in South Carolina.

Elaine founded the South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association and served as President for 10 years. During her years as President of the SCCA, she worked diligently to make cheer become a sport in South Carolina governed by the South Carolina High School league. This opened the opportunity for competitive cheer and gave cheerleaders across the state the opportunity to compete for a State Championship. Elaine coached high school cheer for 20 years, as well as coaching at the college level at the University of South Carolina. She was named in the Who's Who among College Cheer Coaches in 1998.

Elaine's passion for cheer continued as she became a Safety judge working with AACCA to further ensure the sport to be safe and performed correctly. For the past 27 years, cheer coaches across the state have contacted Elaine when they were unsure about a stunt, or their competition routine and she always would make sure the coaches' questions were answered in a professional way to ensure the athletes were doing stunts safely. In 2012, Elaine received the South Carolina Cheer Coaches Association Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of service to cheer.

I have coached cheer in South Carolina for the past 25 years. Elaine and I first formed our friendship in 1996. I was a new coach, and she was my mentor. She helped me understand the sport and the rules that guided our athletes in their passion to compete. She has been my encourager and motivator. As a coach, I feel personal integrity is one the highest characteristics a coach can have which should also be transferred into her athletes, Elaine Elliott instilled that in me. She has served coaches, judges, and the high school league administrative staff with the highest form of integrity and professionalism for over 30 years. This characteristic alone should make her worthy of the NFHS Hall of Fame.

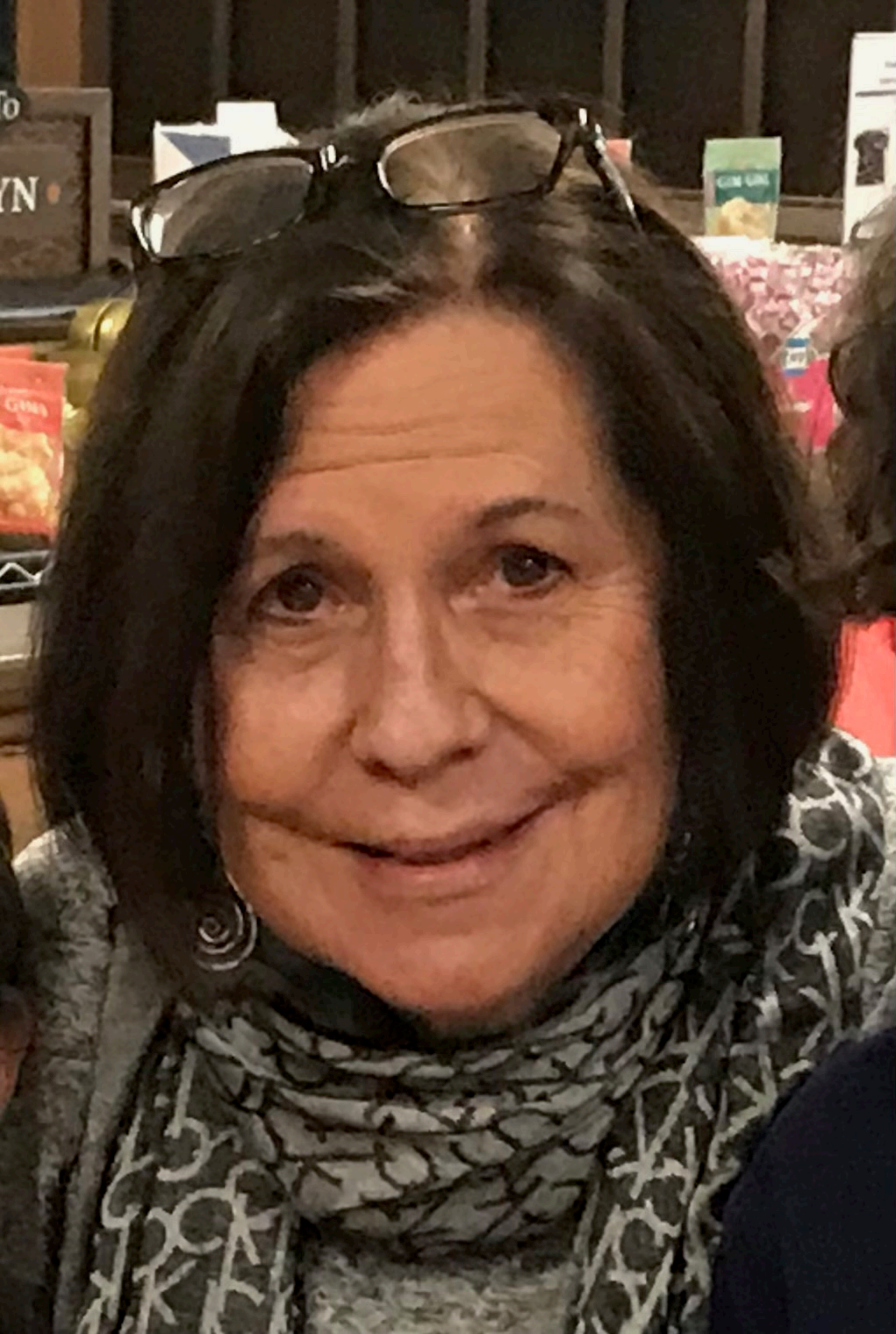
Thank you for giving me the opportunity to nominate such an outstanding and serving candidate as Elaine Elliott.

Vicki Williams
Chapin Varsity Cheer

Support Data

Elaine Elliott, SCHSL Safety Judge- Competitive Cheer

NFHS Hall of Fame nominee



South Carolina
Athletic Coaches Association

Outstanding Service Award For 20 YEARS In Coaching

ELAINE ELLIOTT

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

2011

Joe Watson
President

R. Shell Dula
Executive Director

Presented By Wilson & Associates Sports Turf Management

National Federation Interscholastic Spirit Association

NATIONAL CONTRIBUTOR AWARD

Presented to

Elaine Elliott
Section III
2000

We gratefully appreciate your outstanding service and unselfish devotion to interscholastic athletics

Robert F. Kanaby
Executive Director

Cynthia Doyle
Spirit

Evan Excell

New
Information

PRESS RELEASE:
OGDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Contact: Jessica Haro, Communication Specialist
Phone: 801 737 7334
Twitter: @ogdensd
haroj@ogdensd.org

Ben Lomond High School Athletic Center To Honor Coach Evan K. Excell

Ogden, Utah **– July 7, 2022** – The Ben Lomond High School Alumni Association has come together to honor Coach Evan Excell's legacy by naming ***Evan Excell Court*** in the state-of-the-art Ben Lomond High School Athletic Center.

Evan Excell was the Ben Lomond High School Boys Basketball coach and athletic director from 1978-1994 and led the team to a 3A championship in 1986. The next year in 1987, his girls track team won a 3A championship. After 16 years of teaching, coaching, and serving at Ben Lomond High School, Coach Excell went on to serve as the fourth Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association.

"To even be considered for such an astute honor among hundreds of other most capable coaches, players, and contributors is humbling indeed," Coach Excell said in response to the proposal to name the court in his honor. "My plan is to fully represent my wonderful family and those who have formerly been involved with the marvelous game of basketball. Special gratitude to all my players and coaches over the span of 16 tremendous years at Ben Lomond, to the best high school fans on the planet, and to those responsible for this action, a huge and heartfelt thank you. Go Scots!"

Along with the plan to formally name the main gym court in his honor, the Ogden School Foundation has created ***The Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund.*** This fund will provide ongoing support to the athletics and extracurricular programs at Ben Lomond High School. These donations will be used to support Scots in the pursuit of extracurricular excellence for generations to come.

Ben Lomond High School is hosting a ***Gathering of the Clans*** event to promote the fund on August 12, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All alumni and community members are invited to attend for free. Current students will be leading tours of the new, state-of-the-art athletics facilities and the school. Following the Gathering of the Clans, the Scots will host Providence Hall in the 2022 football endowment game at 7:00 p.m. All football game tickets must be purchased and proceeds will go to the UHSAA Foundation.

About Ben Lomond Athletics:
Ogden School District will develop and maintain equitable and competitive athletic programs. All Stakeholders strive for excellence in the classroom and athletics while promoting leadership, citizenship, accountability, sportsmanship and a positive environment.

###

To make a tax deductible contribution to the ***Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund*** you can send a check to the Ogden School Foundation Office at 1950 Monroe Blvd. Ogden, UT 84401. To donate using a credit card, visit https://www.ogdenschoolfoundation.org/how-to-help/donate and select the "Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund" drop-down option under the donate button. You can also donate by scanning the QR code below or call 801-737-7307.

Coach Excell and the 1986 basketball 3A championship team

OGDEN • SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

What Ben Lomond HS is currently contemplating in naming their basketball court, for me, is frankly mind-boggling. To even be considered for such an astute honor among hundreds of other most capable coaches, players, and contributors is humbling indeed. I am truly blown away, overwhelmed, yet overjoyed for this auspicious occasion. My plan is to fully represent my wonderful family, and those who have formerly been involved with the marvelous game of basketball-gracing the hardwoods at BL since it first opened its doors way back in 1952. Special gratitude to all my players and coaches over the span of 16 tremendous years at BL. To the best high school fans on the planet and to those responsible for this action, a huge, and heartfelt thank you. Go Scots!

- Evan Excell
Basketball Coach, BLHS
1978-1994

On Jan 15, 2023, at 2:40 PM, Dan Ainge <dainge22@gmail.com> wrote:

Congratulations Elder Excell, since that is the name I know you by from your missionary service in Boston. This is a well-deserved honor for someone who gave so much to Ben Lomond for over 18 years, including two state championships. 1986, your hoops championship year, was also a Celtics championship year. It was a fantastic year! Having grown up in Eugene Oregon, (track capital of the world) not very many people can appreciate a Girls Track State Championship like I can. So cool!

I quickly understood how well you liked the game of basketball from the support you gave my son and the high school team in Wellesley. I often have thought, that when I grow up, I want to go on a mission and still get to go to High School basketball games.

Seriously, the same kind of example of service and sacrifice that you and Sister Excell provided us in Boston, is what others see in your leadership at Ben Lomond High. How fitting it seems for you to be honored with a basketball court! Well deserved Brother!

Maybe I should have added you to the Celtics coaching staff.

Long live the Evan Excell basketball Court

Danny Ainge
CEO Utah Jazz

SCOTS

Evan Gull

Prior Information

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Evan K. Excell]
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Robert C. Cuff

Phone: 801-381-1586

Street Address: 199 East 7200 South

City, State, Zip Code: Midvale, Utah 84047

Signed:

Date: November 1, 2021

Email: cuff@uhsaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☒ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Evan K. Excell
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 414 North Highland Parkway
(street address)

Washington, UT 84780
(city, state, zip)

Email: evanexcell@gmail.com

Phone: 801-381-1582 Date of Birth: October 23, 1943

School Affiliation (if any) Utah High School Activities Association

City: Midvale State: Utah

Place of Birth: Panguitch, Utah Date of Retirement: June 30, 2008

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: Nicki Dawn Griffin Excell

Address: Same

Phone: 801-381-2684

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Panguitch High	Panguitch, Utah	1961	Diploma
College/University: University of Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	1966	Bachelor's of Science
Post Graduate School: University of Utah	Salt Lake City, Utah	1967	Master's of Science

☒ 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

ADMINISTRATOR

Note: All candidates in this category must be retired by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated. In addition, state association administrators must meet the following additional criteria:

- Must be retired for three years by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated.
- Extended service as state association administrator.
- Viewed as innovative leader within respective state. Statewide accomplishments beyond "simply doing the job."
- National impact on high school activity programs
    1. Service to NFHS should include the following:
        a) member of NFHS rules committees
        b) member of other NFHS committees
        c) member/president of NFHS Board of Directors
        d) speaker at NFHS conferences, meetings
    2. Involvement with NFHS exceeded normal service opportunities, for example:
        a) national impact on playing rules
        b) viewed as leader nationally among state executives
    3. Impact on high school activities beyond NFHS service, for example:
        a) national speaking engagements
        b) expert in certain field; i.e., technology, Title IX, etc.
        c) accomplishments as state CEO received national attention
- Longevity as state association administrator without major and innovative accomplishments at the state and national levels does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.
- Serving on the NFHS Board of Directors and as NFHS President without major and innovative accomplishments at the national level does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.

Career Description as High School Administrator, State Administrator or National Administrator (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school athletic administration)

(Please see attached Bio.)

Special Honors and Achievements

(Included in attached Bio.)

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

(Included in attached Bio.) Also lifetime member of the National Education Association

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Evan Excell's appointment as the Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association was unique. It is believed that he was the first high school athletic director to receive such an appointment (state association director), without having served as a high school principal or administrator in a school or school district, or elevated to the position from within the association staff. It may still remain to be the only such appointment.

Unique contributions to the Utah High School Activities Association after assuming the director's position in 1994, were to:

1) Streamline the governing bodies and redefine the roles of each group. There had been no material changes over the past twenty years, and these changes dramatically improved the communication with the schools on important topics including classification of schools, alignment, and enforcement of eligibility rules;

2) Within rules enforcement, using the authority and prestige of the Executive Director's role, changes and/or amendments of several bylaws pertaining to due process, hearings, appeals and opportunities for petitioning students were initiated and sold to the governing policy-making bodies of the UHSAA. Prior eligibility issues and decisions were determined by the Executive Director based on information received solely by the embodied schools- the involved students and parents were not heard. Recognizing that the failure to provide the student with a hearing and an opportunity to appeal was an invitation to litigation that the Association might easily lose. These results, although often timeconsuming in the beginning, were significant. The changes highly reduced litigation possibilities. Mark O. Van Wagoner, the Association's legal counsel (for an ongoing 47 years now) states: "Under Evan Excell's direction, the Bylaws and Constitution were amended to provide for due process, and a uniform system of adjudication by three-person panels was put in place. The impact was immediate and dramatic. Petitioning students found the opportunity to fully present their claims and to appeal any adverse decision. Not surprisingly, those opportunities satisfied almost all the students. There have been no successful lawsuits since these implementations. It was noticed that surrounding states, and even some far away, adopted the language of the UHSAA's procedures. Today, the Utah Association, and other NFHS member associations, continues to successfully follow the same basic due process procedures that Evan introduced some twenty years ago."

3). Consolidate state tournaments to a single site (like all classifications of wrestling, or volleyball). This was a significant cost effective move to avoid high facility costs and staffing. Ticket prices reamined the same for nearly the entire tenure of Mr. Excell. A small raise in the ticket for adults transpired near his retirement, but student ticket prices never changed during his 14-year career. The chaotic financial situation of the Association begin to change almost immediately upon his arrival, and was soon to show significant progress towards a workable budget.

4) Establish the Utah High School Association Foundation as a way to guarantee solvency of Association finances into the far distant future. The Foundation has already exceeded expectations and has begun to pay back dividends to member schools in the form of alleviating expensive premiums for catstrophic insurance and discounting annual dues.

5). Build the new state-of-the-arts UHSAA building. The new facility was conceived, designed and built around half-way through Excell's years at the helm. While only a dream at the beginning of that tenure, it had been completed and nearly paid off by the time of his retirement. The Association is justifiably proud of the facility and staff has shown it to many visiting national and state association staff members.

6) Manage the number of member schools in the UHSAA increasing by some 25% during the 14 years from 1994-2008, and the number of classifications moving from three to five. This meant much more work in planning and administering many more state tournamnets and events. The staff increased from one assistant to four assistants during this time, and from two secretaries to three and an office manager.

Letters of Recommendation

Robert C. Cuff
Executive Director
Jeff J. Cluff
Assistant Director
Brenan L. Jackson
Assistant Director

Jonathan C. Oglesby
Assistant Director
Jan H. Whittaker
Assistant Director
Jeanne Widerburg
Office Manager

Utah High School Activities Association

November 1, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mr. Evan Excell for your consideration for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame in the Administrator category.

I am pleased and honored to reflect back on my professional experiences with him as a mentor, colleague and friend for 30 years. Evan's application and biography show his long and distinguished contributions to high school activities as a teacher, coach and athletic director in the state of Utah. Furthermore, his contributions to the NFHS during his tenure at the UHSAA are extensive. He served on the National Federation Board of Directors and other NFHS committees, including the Football Rules Committee, the Appeal Board and the Annual Summer Meeting Advisory Committee.

Evan is a gifted and unique individual who can inspire people in a variety of ways. He has the capacity for motivation, beginning with creating relationships, demanding accountability and ethics and evaluating performance. My association with Evan has been one of collegiality, compatibility and professionalism. I have witnessed his keen ability to keep calm in stressful situations, negotiate void of unethical compromise, problem-solve effectively and make appropriate decisions in the best interest of the stakeholders. He is quick to offer praise and recognition, the nutrition our youth thrive upon.

In addition to his many accomplishments and career experiences, Evan's ethical profile is never in question. Foremost, he has integrity and can be trusted. His style is honest, direct, yet empathetic. In most cases, his style is preventing issues, but his direction and mentoring are effective in ways that produce "win-win" outcomes as he has developed key relationships throughout his career. He focused on maintaining relationships and relevance.

Evan is an outstanding educator, fearless leader and an incredible ambassador for educational based high school activities in our state. We were extremely fortunate to have him involved for many years as a high school teacher and coach, athletic director and ultimately the Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association for 14 years. His passion and enthusiasm for high school activities and students have personally helped me to shape my perspectives and attitude toward the importance of creating participation opportunities and invaluable life lessons through high school activities for all students.

It is a great honor and pleasure for our Association to highly endorse and recommend Mr. Evan Excell from the great state of Utah as a candidate for this most prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Cuff, CAA
UHSAA Executive Director

NATIONAL FEDERATION
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL
ASSOCIATIONS

Mailing Address:
PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, Indiana 46206
Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317.822.5700
www.nfhs.org

Shipping Address:
NFHS Distribution Center
1802 Alonzo Watford Sr. Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

October 20, 2021

National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I am pleased and honored to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Evan Excell, a candidate for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

Without question in my mind, a review of his state, national and international achievements, honors, awards and service in position after position which he has held in his distinguished career, will lead to the conclusion of his worthiness of this honor.

As a teacher /coach and administrator at the school, state and national levels of high school athletics and activities, he has been a beacon of hope and guidance for others. Evan has truly been a friend, advisor and a model for all who were touched by his efforts throughout his career. Patience, kindness and humility describe him.

He has always sought to serve well every situation and circumstance in each of the positions he has held while acting with courage, concern and commitment to the highest standards and expectations in co-curricular sports and activities. Evan possesses the rare talent of seeing the good and potential in people and gaining their trust by his own personal example and standards.

Many of his initiatives at all levels continue to provide service and positive educational experiences to others including the UHSAA Foundation.

Winston Churchill once observed that the "Price of greatness is responsibility." In each and every case and instance, Evan accepted every responsibility accorded to him with confidence to do what was right and to lead by serving others before himself.

I recommend him without reservation and would be prepared to offer any other information requested.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Kanaby

Robert F. Kanaby
NFHS Executive Director Retired

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

January 23, 2010

Mr. Evan Excell
1398 West 11150 South
South Jordan, Utah 84065

Dear Evan:

I would like on behalf of the NIAAA Hall of Fame Committee to congratulate you on your induction into the NIAAA Hall of Fame. This is the highest honor a person can receive from the NIAAA, and you are most deserving.

Your unselfish work through a lifetime of service is a key reason for the growth and influence of the NIAAA. Your effort and that of your fellow Hall of Fame inductees have become an unbeatable team. This team is the driving force that has developed the NIAAA into one of the finest volunteer organizations in America.

Our Committee felt a great degree of satisfaction in the effort of all involved in the process to bring the induction to fruition. The induction was a special event in the history of the NIAAA in which you were the main attraction. What a deserving honor for those of you who have devoted your lives to the education of young people through athletics.

Your performance throughout your career exemplifies the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character. These traits are the common thread that unites the great leaders and contributors, not only to the development to the NIAAA, but also to the youth of our country.

Once again, congratulations on a lifetime of service.

Sincerely,

Bill Mayo

BILL MAYO
NIAAA Hall of Fame Chair

cc: Bruce Whitehead, CMAA
Mike Blackburn, CMAA, PhD

9100 Keystone Crossing, Suite 650, Indianapolis, IN 46240 317-587-1450 office 317-587-1451 fax www.niaaa.org

October 23, 2021

To the NFHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is with pleasure I write this letter of recommendation by commendation for one of the nation's true champions of high school sports and activities. Evan K. Excell owns the copyright to that. His entire life, professionally and personally, is a living testament to the worth and development of the human soul as expressed through high school activities. That truth is painted, with broad strokes, on the canvas of his life.

Numerous are the contributions Mr. Excell made through his high school coaching, teaching, a stint as athletic director and eventually as Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association where he served for fourteen years, 1994-2008. That path was decorated outside of vocational duties by a legion of community services to include judging pageants, officiating contests, membership on city committees, membership on the Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympics, directing the Moscow-Utah games in Moscow Russia and continuous lifetime ecclesiastical service of which most were with the youth. Those "second mile" services he didn't have to do, but he did.

Having previously served as Chair of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee on which you now serve, I trust that Evan's bevy of committee work, state and national awards and service to the NFHS is available elsewhere. From my experience, what you really need from me is not that laundry list, but personal life examples that distinguish him from the rest of the "field." Permit just three examples of the many which could be cited.

With this gentle giant, there was never a question of right and wrong, he chose right and then did it. Always the champion of fairness to every one and every group, his deliberations were dominated with what was best for organizations and groups, but mostly what benefited the one, the individual. Example: State Association financing always challenges directors. At the time of his hiring, Evan stared that challenge in the face by even securing monies and sponsorships to purchase a new Association building for burgeoning numbers of groups needing meeting space. As testament to his organizing capacities and concern for families, in his fourteen years at the helm, the UHSAA raised tournament ticket prices a minuscule $1.00! That is management at its finest despite double digit inflation.

As a director at the UHSAA when Evan was coach and athletic director, I always knew whom to trust implicitly, lean on for support, expect honesty from even in the face of extreme community pressures and attend to details most people don't even know exist. That man was Evan K. Excell. He was firm, he was fair, he was fun, he was forgiving.

Finally, recognizing that no vocational success can compensate for failure in the home, Evan was and is, most importantly, a family man. How he balanced family, faith, community and work would mystify most and challenge the best on the planet, but he did it. In that capacity he presided, protected and provided with uncommon effectiveness and love. But then again, everything he did was personally stamped with love for others and that was, in the end, the hallmark which so qualifies him for the Hall. After decades of watching him serve then serving at his side, it's no secret I love this man. He just "gets" it. My hope is that he "gets" inducted!

To the Committee, thank you for YOUR service. It is meaningful.

David L. Wilkey
Former Assistant under Evan Excell and former Executive Director, UHSAA
Former Chair NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee

October 30, 2021

Dear Committee Members,

It is my privilege to recommend Evan Excell to the National High School Hall of Fame. I am aware of the stature and merits of the Hall of Fame members, as I have personally attended 24 of the ceremonies. Evan Excell unquestionably belongs to this distinguished group.

Evan's extensive and unique biography clearly speaks for itself and sets him apart. He has received many recognitions, all well deserved. Evan was a capable and inspiring coach, teacher, and administrator. He has had a tremendous and immeasurable impact on thousands of young people through sports and other activities.

One has to take notice of the obvious. Evan rises to the leadership of any organization he is affiliated with. One notably, was breaking through the leadership barrier of the Utah High School Activities Association. Evan was appointed director, a position traditionally appointed to a principal, among exceptional competition.

I have known Evan personally and worked with him professionally for 30 years. It was an honor to experience his character, leadership talent, and skills. I watched him join people and organizations together. I was chairman of the UHSAA executive committee, a group of principals charged with the management of the association's activities. I worked with Evan the entire fourteen years he was director. Evan was responsible for managing and coordinating all the association's activities, leading the executive committee, and answering to the Board of Trustees and often the state legislature. He created fresh movement the first day on the job...dealing with a worn building, charter schools, unstable finances and a disgruntled Board of Trustees.

Evan's mantra of leadership elevated the Association to noticeable levels. He set a model of personalization. He made it a point to be at school events. It was very important to Evan to visit and meet with the Athletic Director's and Principals. Evan set out on a daunting task to travel to every membership school, not once, but several times. Utah is bookended by Indian reservations, 350 miles apart in a state that is 240 miles wide. Schools are in remote locations, and only accessible by miles of dirt roads. Evan visited them all.

Among many of Evan's notable accomplishments was the creation of a seat on the executive committee for an Athletic Director. That, in itself, promoted and expanded harmonious working relationships and increased communication. He initiated recognition programs for communities and schools. He also developed partnerships with businesses. Under Evan's direction, the association established a Foundation, which led to the improvement of the organization's financial problems.

Evan always had and extraordinary ability to personalize any, and every situation. It came naturally to him. After retirement, Evan was in Boston on an ecclesiastical mission. He happened to be in a building that had a recreation hall and heard the bounce of a basketball. He watched a young man shooting and noted his abilities. Evan introduced himself, offered tips and subsequently followed the boy and his team through the finals of their season.

What has set Evan apart and ushered him to successful accomplishments is his strong, sincere, and genuine character. It's in his DNA...and he has a lot of it. I can promise with certainty that Evan will be a credit to the National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Paul C. Smith

Educator, 51 years school level

Chairman, Utah High School Activities Association, 19 years

Support Data

PRESS RELEASE:
OGDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Contact: Jessica Haro, Communication Specialist
Phone: 801 737 7334
Twitter: @ogdensd
haroj@ogdensd.org

Ben Lomond High School Athletic Center To Honor Coach Evan K. Excell

Ogden, Utah* – July 7, 2022** – The Ben Lomond High School Alumni Association has come together to honor Coach Evan Excell's legacy by naming ***Evan Excell Court in the state-of-the-art Ben Lomond High School Athletic Center.

Evan Excell was the Ben Lomond High School Boys Basketball coach and athletic director from 1978-1994 and led the team to a 3A championship in 1986. The next year in 1987, his girls track team won a 3A championship. After 16 years of teaching, coaching, and serving at Ben Lomond High School, Coach Excell went on to serve as the fourth Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association.

"To even be considered for such an astute honor among hundreds of other most capable coaches, players, and contributors is humbling indeed," Coach Excell said in response to the proposal to name the court in his honor. "My plan is to fully represent my wonderful family and those who have formerly been involved with the marvelous game of basketball. Special gratitude to all my players and coaches over the span of 16 tremendous years at Ben Lomond, to the best high school fans on the planet, and to those responsible for this action, a huge and heartfelt thank you. Go Scots!"

Along with the plan to formally name the main gym court in his honor, the Ogden School Foundation has created ***The Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund.*** This fund will provide ongoing support to the athletics and extracurricular programs at Ben Lomond High School. These donations will be used to support Scots in the pursuit of extracurricular excellence for generations to come.

Ben Lomond High School is hosting a ***Gathering of the Clans*** event to promote the fund on August 12, 2022 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. All alumni and community members are invited to attend for free. Current students will be leading tours of the new, state-of-the-art athletics facilities and the school. Following the Gathering of the Clans, the Scots will host Providence Hall in the 2022 football endowment game at 7:00 p.m. All football game tickets must be purchased and proceeds will go to the UHSAA Foundation.

About Ben Lomond Athletics:

Ogden School District will develop and maintain equitable and competitive athletic programs. All Stakeholders strive for excellence in the classroom and athletics while promoting leadership, citizenship, accountability, sportsmanship and a positive environment.

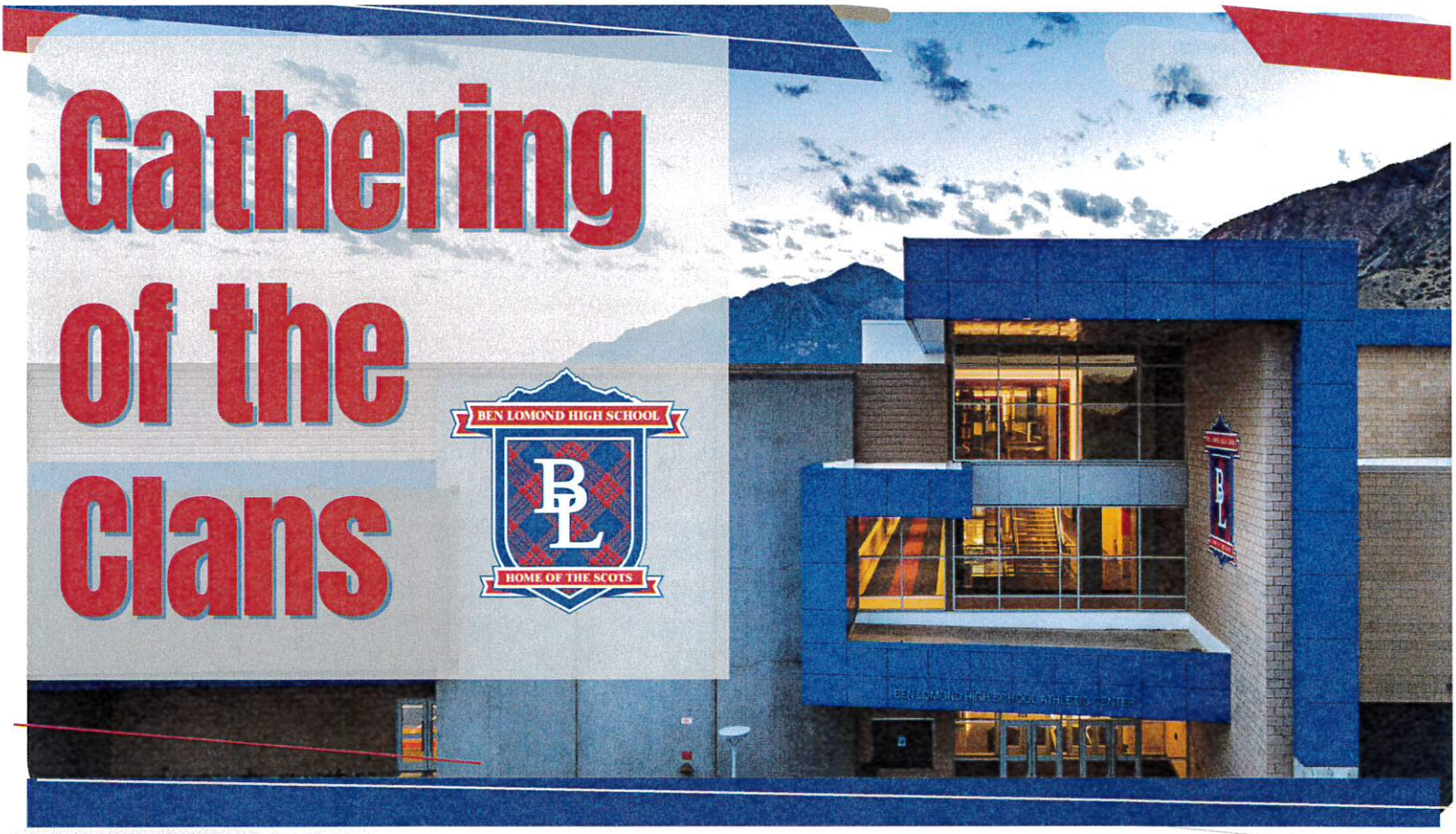
###

To make a tax deductible contribution to the ***Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund*** you can send a check to the Ogden School Foundation Office at 1950 Monroe Blvd. Ogden, UT 84401. To donate using a credit card, visit https://www.ogdenschoolfoundation.org/how-to-help/donate and select the "Evan Excell Honorary Endowment Fund" drop-down option under the donate button. You can also donate by scanning the QR code below or call 801-737-7307.

Coach Excell and the 1986 basketball 3A championship team

OGDEN · SCHOOL
FOUNDATION

Gathering of the Clans



August 12, 2022
3:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Tour the new Ben Lomond Athletics Facilities

Stay for Ben Lomond vs. Providence Hall

Kickoff at 7:00 pm

Donate at ogdenschoolfoundation.org/how-to-help/donate

Ben Lomond High School has created an endowment to support future Scots. The fund is in honor of legendary Coach Evan Excell.

*Football game attendees must purchase tickets

Ogden Standard-Examiner

Ben Lomond High to name court after Evan Excell, a former, longtime coach and AD

July 16, 2022

By: Patrick Carr

Students at Ben Lomond High can probably be forgiven if, in the year 2022, they don't know who Evan Excell is. Pretty soon, they might see his name on the school's gymnasium floor.

Ben Lomond High plans to name the basketball court in its still-new gym after Excell, a former teacher, basketball coach and athletic director at the school from 1978-94.

Anyone in Ogden and the surrounding area who knows Excell probably knows him because of his time coaching boys basketball.

The Scots won the 3A boys basketball state championship back in 1986 with a star-studded team including standout Kurt Miller that ran up and down the court, sometimes scoring 100 points on teams in an era before the 3-point line had arrived.

Excell also coached the girls track and field team to the 1987 state championship.

After Ben Lomond, Excell became the executive director of the Utah High School Activities Association and held the position from 1994-2008.

The hope is there will be a floor naming ceremony the same night as a basketball game this season, with Excell and other alumni in attendance.

In conjunction with the court naming, the Ogden School Foundation is launching an endowment fund in Excell's name with an initial fundraising goal of $200,000, the purpose of which will be to support Ben Lomond student-athletes and activities. Ben Lomond High administrators would control disbursement of the endowment money.

The Ogden school board approved the court naming and the creation of the endowment fund during its May 19 board meeting, according to meeting minutes posted on the district website.

BLHS is one of several high schools in Utah with more than 50% of its students receiving free or reduced lunch, according to state education figures.

"One of the things Ben Lomond struggles with is participation. A lot of that has to do with financial constraints," administrator Ed Morris said. "We'd want money to have more kids participate in sports and pay fees for kids or meet whatever needs the kids need."

Morris, the principal of the Malan's Peak School in Ogden, is heading a committee that's trying to raise awareness about the court naming as well as solicit donations for the endowment fund.

Excell's former players and colleagues say the honor of naming the court after him is appropriate.

"He's done so much for so many kids and stuff at that school, not just basketball, as a teacher and coaching other sports," said Eddie Green, a member of the 1986 state title-winning basketball team. "And then going to the state office and working there and continuing to make high school sports in Utah safe and important for everybody, if anybody deserves it, it's him."

While he pointed out the athletic successes of the basketball teams, Morris noted that most members of Excell's teams did well after high school, too.

"Most of us have Bachelor's degrees, some of us have Master's degrees," Morris said.

Morris said the endowment fund isn't exclusive to "athletics," rather all "activities" because that fits with how Excell operated.

"Evan's thing was always we want everyone to participate, they were pushing three-sport and four-sport athletes," said Jerry Bovee, an assistant athletic director at Utah State who was formerly Weber State's athletic director. "The day of specialization had not hit, it was, 'Come to everything.'"

Bovee has the distinction of having played basketball for Excell at Ben Lomond and working with Excell at the UHSAA. Bovee said the court naming is a nice way to honor Excell and that the endowment fund is more of a way "for us to give back" to the school.

As part of the committee's fundraising and awareness efforts, there will be an event at Ben Lomond High at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, before the Scots' first home football game. This will be called "Gathering of the Clans," where the committee hopes to gather alumni to tour the recently built athletic facilities at the school.

Standard-Examiner
TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 2022
Sports

BEN LOMOND HIGH

Former coach, AD Excell 'overwhe

BY PATRICK CARR
Standard-Examiner

Plans to put Evan Excell's name on the basketball court of Ben Lomond High's new gym were well in place before Excell himself knew anything about it.

Then, he got a FaceTime call earlier this summer from his daughter, Jodi. She, and several other people Excell knew very well, told the former, longtime BLHS basketball coach and athletic director that the new gym floor would eventually be named after him.

"I'm just overwhelmed," Excell said in a phone interview in July. "There's so many people involved in the years since Ben Lomond started back in the '50s that could've had their name on that place that I have the utmost respect for, but to be chosen, it's just simply overwhelming."

EXCELL

Excell, 78, taught and coached at Ben Lomond High from 1978-94. In that time, he coached all manner of sports including boys basketball and girls track and field.

Excell grew up in Panguitch, graduated from the University of Utah, taught at Bryce Valley High, Escalante, East Carbon (no longer exists) and Carbon before landing at Ben Lomond. From 1994-2008, Excell was the executive director of the UHSAA.

Throughout his career, Excell was

Excell

From B1

"We had a 4x100 meter relay team that was undefeated that year regardless of — we were in the 3A out of four classes — and they were undefeated even with the big boys. All four of those girls qualified for the 100 finals, so I mean that's almost unheard of," Excell said.

Several people who either knew Excell or attended Ben Lomond when he taught there formed a committee to both raise awareness about the court-naming as well as solicit donations for an endowment fund that was also created in Excell's name.

"One of the things Ben Lomond struggles with is participation. A lot of that has to do with financial constrai
istrator Ed Morris said earli
"We'd want money to have m
ticipate in sports and pay fee
meet whatever needs the kids

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player said Excell was the pe
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stuff at that school, not just b
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Eddie Greene, a member of th
title-winning basketball tean

BIOGRAPHY

Evan K. Excell, Former Executive Director
Utah High School Activities Association

Evan K. Excell was the fourth Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association, appointed July 1, 1994. Born and raised in Panguitch Utah, Mr. Excell attended Brigham Young University and holds degrees from the University of Utah. His resume of experience and service to Utah high schools is varied and legion. His sterling career affiliation with high school activities began at Bryce Valley High School and included teaching, coaching and athletic administration stints at Escalante, East Carbon and Carbon High Schools. He finished his teaching and coaching career with 16 years at Ben Lomond High School where he also served as Athletic Director.

Evan was a teacher and coach for 28 years. He won state titles in boys basketball and girls track. While he was their athletic director, the Ben Lomond Scots responded with nine state athletic championships and twelve second place finishes. They also garnered thirty-five region titles. Coach Excell had the opportunity of taking basketball teams to Brazil and Australia for international competition. He was honored in May of 2000 as a "Distinguished High School Coach" by the Utah Sports Hall of Fame. This honor is bestowed on a very limited number of coaches. In 2000, the UIAAA Basketball Hall of Fame Game began awarding the "Evan Excell" trophy to the winning boys team, an honor that remains today.

Among his many other affiliations, Evan served as the President of the Utah High School Basketball Coaches Association and as President of the Utah High School Activities Administrators Association. He received the 1993-94 Distinguished Service Award as the Athletic Director of the Year as presented by the Utah High School Activities Association. In 2001, he was presented the Meritorious Service Award by the Utah Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association. Evan was appointed as the Region Seven representative on the Board of Directors for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association in 1993. In 2001 he received the Distinguished Service Award from the NIAAA.

Mr. Excell achieved the distinction of Certified Athletic Administrator, which carries a high level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. There is a limited number nationwide who attain this level of professionalism.

As Executive Director of the UHSAA, Mr. Excell served on the National Federation Football Rules Committee for eight years and the NFHS Appeals Board for four. In July 1998, he began a four-year term to become only the 6th Utahn to serve on the National Federation's Board of Directors, and since served on the NFHS Annual Meeting Advisory Committee another four years. He participated several times as a presenter and moderator at the summer meetings of the NFHS and served regularly and diligently on ad hoc committees whenever asked.

Mr. Excell served on the Education Committee of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the 2002 Winter Olympic games and assisted in directing the Moscow-Utah Youth games in Moscow, Russia in 2003, where 0ver 300 young athletes competed with the Russians. Mr. Excell planned and shepherded athletes and coaches for these exciting games over a period of two weeks in Moscow. The Russians returned to Utah for winter games the following February. The Moscow/Utah Youth Games were a wonderful exchange…involving the political, athletic and travel offices of Russia and Utah at the time.

In 2006, Mr. Excell was honored by the Utah "Best of State" program as the educational administrator of the year, an honor that in his own words was "overwhelming to me, considering all of the outstanding superintendents, principals and their assistants we have administering schools and programs in our great state.

In his fourteen years as director, Mr. Excell opened the lines of communication for member schools into the UHSAA office, listened and implemented new concepts which will better serve the Association and provide greater opportunities for the students of Utah. His years of service saw the consolidation of many state championship events, which have resulted in a more fan-friendly atmosphere. Under his administration and direct supervision, the UHSAA built a beautiful new office building (and nearly paid for it), a further legacy for which he is justifiably proud. In fact, the financial situation at the UHSAA is in wonderful condition as Evan leaves. His ambition was to provide a fund balance equal to the annual budget (as recommended by the NFHS), and very nearly achieved that status. Under his watch, the UHSAA established the UHSAA Foundation, an organization committed and funded to perpetuate high school programs in Utah for years in the future. Mr. Excell was an initial board member for that foundation.

Now at the end of a 42-year career in education and education-based high school activities (June 30, 2008), Evan was involved at many levels and served in numerous capacities. He was a teacher, coach, official, athletic director and a state association executive director. His philosophy was one of loving activities and the students who were involved in them, including his own five daughters, and his many grandchildren. He advocated: "A student should be involved. It matters not in which activity…just become involved in something. The rewards are outstanding and overwhelming!"

Mr. Excell maintained that any success, which he may have been viewed as having, has been as result of being among good people. "The students, fellow coaches and administrators, wherever I was employed, were forthright and honest with me and truly outstanding. I tried and succeeded in surrounding myself with wonderful people and I made tremendous hires, when faced with those decisions. Those people, along with outstanding support from my family and friends, of course, made my job an easy one. I modeled many people along the way and appreciate the influences they had on me and on my family. It was a terrific run for me. I wouldn't change one minute of anything."

Mr. Excell was notified of three outstanding honors near the end of his career and another where his name was placed in nomination. The first, and what Evan calls a very prestigious and special award because of so few that receive it, was the National Federation Citation. Mr. Excell received the award, in behalf of Section Seven, at the NFHS Summer Conference in Washington D.C., July 2008. The second honor was induction to the Utah Summer Games Hall of Honor as a distinguished administrator in June 2008 at Southern Utah University in Cedar City. Third, Mr. Excell received a citation on the floor of the Utah Senate in October 2008, detailing his influential career and acknowledging his retirement after 42 years in education and education-based activities. In addition, Mr. Excell has been nominated as a member of the inaugural class for the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) Hall of Fame. Evan views that as an almost impossible dream.

Since his retirement, Evan has been inducted into the UHSAA's prestigious Circle of Fame (March, 2009) and to the UIAAA's Hall of Fame (April, 2009). He received word in June 2009 that his impossible dream had indeed been realized, as he was selected for the NIAAA's first Hall of Fame. Evan was formally inducted on December 15, 2009 in Grapevine, TX, at the NIAAA conference banquet at the Gaylord Texan Hotel. These three honors have been received with an extremely humbling attitude.

Serving on the Board of Directors of the Utah Sports Hall of Fame Foundation has been another wonderful experience for Evan. He began that service in 1993. He also served a two-year term (2014 and 2015) as president of the Foundation.

Evan is married to the former Nicki Griffin of Escalante, Utah. The Excell's have five daughters - Jodi Rae Andre, Jenifer Dawn Rhees, Jill Ane Hopkins, Jessi Kay Allen and Justi Gai Lundeberg. They have eighteen wonderful grandchildren. Evan and Nicki currently reside in Washington, Utah during the cold months and at their mountain cabin at Panguitch Lake during the warm ones. He believes that he has finally figured it out!

HIGH SCHOOLS

New UHSAA chief plans on living up to his name

Evan Excell has 28 years experience as a teacher, coach around the state.

By Dirk Facer
Deseret News prep editor

MIDVALE — Evan Excell has covered a lot of ground in his 28 years in education. However, few journeys compare with his daily commute from Pleasant View to Midvale. Distance isn't the concern here. It's destination.

Evan Excell

After teaching stints at Bryce Valley, Escalante, East Carbon, Carbon and Ben Lomond high schools, the Panguitch native now serves as executive director of the 110-member Utah High School Activities Association. He filled the post July 1 when Glen Beere retired after seven years at the helm.

"This is my dream job," said Excell. "It's what I want to do. Twenty-eight years has given me a good perspective of activities."

Indeed. The fourth executive director in UHSAA history owns an impressive resume.

Prior to being named the state's Outstanding Athletic Director last year, Excell served as president of the State Association of Athletic Directors and the Utah Basketball Coaches Association. In addition, he was appointed to serve on a national athletic directors committee. As a coach, Excell led Ben Lomond to the state boys basketball crown in 1986 and a girls' state track title in 1987.

"There's nothing more exciting than high school sports. That's why I stayed in it," he said. "I'm just a kids' advocate, that's me."

Every fall for the past 45 years, as both a student and teacher, Excell has answered the school bell.

"It's going to be different for me," he admits. "I will miss the daily interaction with kids. I think I can do more good for more kids here, but I'm going to miss that."

Calling the timing "right," the 50-year-old educator took the plunge into administration — becoming the first UHSAA executive director not to have previously served as a high school principal.

"I've worked at small schools and big schools and I've been all over the state," Excell said. "I felt like I was qualified to assume this position. I'm very excited to be here."

While not anticipating any radical changes on the prep activities scene, Excell does plan on getting involved.

"I think I'm a people person and I don't want to get caught behind this desk too much," he said. "I hope I can get out there and visit the schools. I'd like to darken the door of every school in the state."

However, the father of five girls (enough for a basketball team, he jokes), will hardly be a one-man show.

"We have a wealth of experience in this office and we'll be united in our decisions," Excell said. "We have the greatest product in the world — kids. I realize it's a lot of work and a lot of long hours, but I welcome the challenge."

The UHSAA sponsors sports, music and speech arts activities for high school students throughout the state. Excell's first year at the helm officially begins later this month when fall activites get under way.

SUNDAY
JULY 17, 2005
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<<www.sltrib.com>>

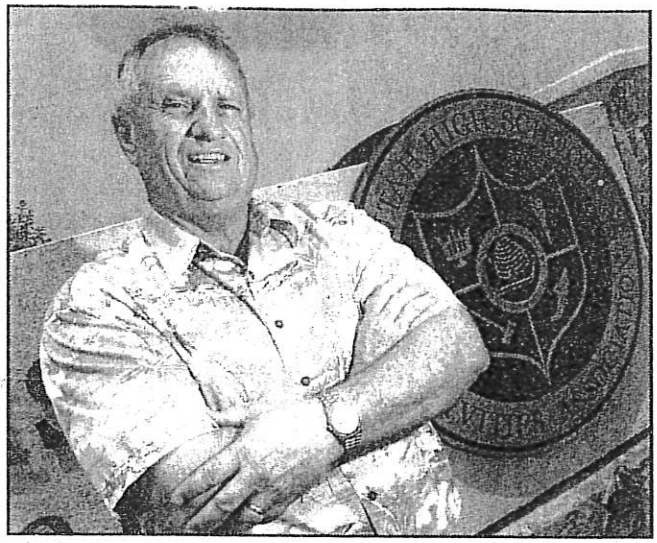
Top 25 features those you know - and don't

Power. How do you define it? It's a simple word, one we use on a frequently, but what does it really mean? Webster's Dictionary has a hard time, offering 14 definitions if it's used as a noun and three others as an adjective.

Here at *The Salt Lake Tribune*, we discovered even more meanings in a series of lively discussions as we tried to define power in one of its more simplistic ways — who has it?

The result is *The Tribune's* first ranking of the most powerful people in Utah sports, written and researched by Staff Writer Lya Wodraska. Our list, which will be annual, is a fluid one. Being powerful now doesn't mean there is a spot being held on next year's list. And being powerful doesn't mean being famous or having been a superb athlete.

Our list is subjective. It's supposed to be. We'd appreciate your thoughts after perusing our choices, because the fun is in the debate.



RYAN GALBRAITH/*The Salt Lake Tribune*

12 EVAN EXCELL
Executive Director, UHSAA

As the executive director of the Utah High School Activities Association, Excell oversees the state's 123 schools in the association, which includes participation of 82,765 athletes. The UHSAA is the governing body for the high schools, controlling the rules and championships for athletic events.

A job well-done

UHSAA boss has few critics anymore

After 14 years at the helm, retiring Evan Excell leaves to much praise from peers

By Jay Drew
The Salt Lake Tribune

When an easygoing basketball coach, math teacher and athletic director from Ogden's Ben Lomond High with deep ties to southern Utah was chosen to be only the fourth executive director of the Utah High School Activities Association 14 years ago, a ripple of shock swept through coaches and others involved in Utah prep sports.

Evan Excell

Shouldn't a principal, superintendent or other established administrator have been appointed to that position, they asked.

Well, few are asking that question now.

Evan Excell, 64, who will step away from the position and into retirement on July 1, has taken the UHSAA to unprecedented heights and success, most observers of the group that governs prep sports in Utah agree.

"The Excell era has been one of tremendous challenges," said Paul Smith, principal of Layton High and longtime chairman of the UHSAA's executive committee. "I don't know of anyone who could have done it better."

Excell set to retire

➤ Continued from D1

Chiefly, Excell has helped moved the UHSAA into the sporting public's consciousness — been to a state championship game lately? — made it flourish financially, opened the channels of communication to its member schools, overseen tremendous growth and established a new $1.2 million office building where it conducts the business of some 90,000 high school athletes, musicians and debaters.

"I still say that if I have a legacy, it is the people I have hired," he said in typical humble fashion. "I've been able to surround myself with very good people."

Still, the executive director is the face of the association, and even the harshest critics, such as Sen. Mark Madsen, R-Eagle Mountain, have acknowledged that the UHSAA has taken great strides the past 14 years under Excell's guidance.

> "I still say that if I have a legacy, it is the people I have hired."
>
> **EVAN EXCELL**
> UHSAA executive director

"Evan has done a wonderful job," said Laura Baker, a Murray school board member and chairperson of the Board of Trustees. "He will be difficult to replace."

First, the organization is no longer in financial difficulty. There was a time a few years into Excell's tenure, after some corporate sponsorships dried up, that he worried about making payroll for the office staff of seven.

Today, the UHSAA has more than $1 million in reserve, despite a budget that has increased from less than $1 million to almost $2 million since 1994. An endowment fund that was created in 1999 by allowing schools to play an extra game in football and basketball if they would give half the gate receipts to the UHSAA has surpassed $1 million, and soon, interest from the account will be used to fund coaches training, officials training and student leadership opportunities.

"Financially, the association is in great, great shape," said Excell, who will be succeeded by longtime Associate Director Dave Wilkey, a 31-year employee of the UHSAA.

When Excell, a native of Panguitch, got the job, he inherited a small, run-down, octagon-shaped building with a leaky roof. He almost immediately began plans to replace the building, and a few years ago that dream was realized with a $1.2 million facility on the same property that rivals any other building of its type in the country.

More importantly, triple payments have been paid on the building's mortgage, and now less than $300,000 is owed. Excell says one day he hopes that its basement will house the Utah High School Sports Hall of Fame.

The reserved and humble former basketball coach and math teacher from southern Utah would not be a bad first choice for induction.

drew@sltrib.com

Utah State Senate

OFFICIAL CITATION

HONORING

Evan K. Excell

Executive Director
Utah High School Activities Association

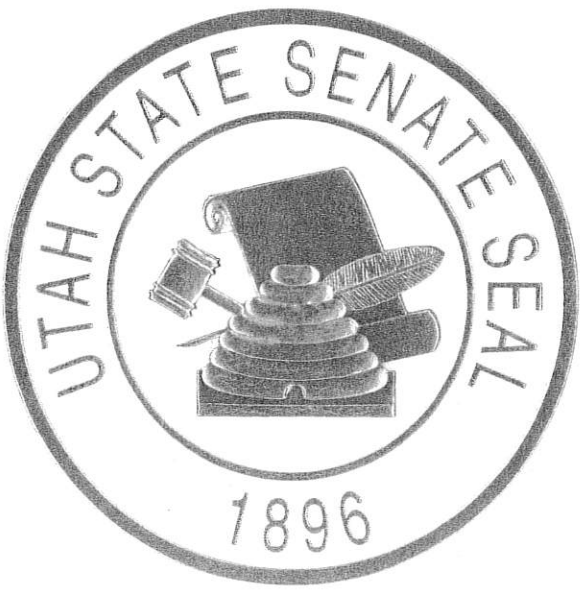
AN OFFICIAL CITATION OF THE UTAH STATE SENATE HONORING EVAN K. EXCELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UTAH HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIAITON (UHSAA), AND RECOGNIZING HIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE STATE OF UTAH UPON HIS RETIREMENT.

Be it known to all by the Senate of the State of Utah:

WHEREAS, Evan K. Excell is retiring after serving as the Executive Director of the Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) for the past 14 years, having been appointed July 1, 1994.

WHEREAS, serving as the Executive Director of UHSAA is the culmination of Mr. Excell's outstanding 42-year career with high school athletics. Prior to this position, Mr. Excell was teacher, coach, and athletic director at Ben Lomond High School in Ogden, Utah. Under his tutelage, the Ben Lomond Scots won nine state athletic championships and 12 second-place finishes.

WHEREAS, while serving as the Executive Director of UHSAA, Mr. Excell received numerous prestigious awards and accolades, including "Distinguished High School Coach" awarded by the Utah State Hall of Fame in 2000, an honor enjoyed by only a select number of coaches. Other awards he received include: 1993-94 Distinguished Service Award as Athletic Director of the Year, presented by UHSAA; 2001 Meritorious Service Award, presented by the Utah Interscholastic Activities Administrators Association; 2001 Distinguished Service Award, presented by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; and 2006 Educational Administrator of the Year, presented by the Utah "Best of State" program.



WHEREAS, during Mr. Excell's 14 years as Executive Director of UHSAA, he implemented many new policies to better serve the association and enrich opportunities for student athletes participating in Utah's high school sports. He was a great voice of reason, fairness and opportunity for all students.

WHEREAS, under Mr. Excell leadership, the UHSAA saw unprecedented growth in numbers and change. He oversaw the construction of a new building to house the offices of UHSAA and, at the same time succeeded in solidifying the financial status of the association. He was instrumental in creating a foundation that will eventually offer scholarships to prep athletes.

WHEREAS, during Mr. Excell's notable career as a teacher, coach, official, athletic director, and state association executive director, he promoted consistent and fair policies, made difficult decisions, lobbyied effectively, and always stood firm on the rules and standards he believed were in the best interest of all students. He has said that the best thing about high school sports is the opportunity it provides young men and women to play for their school and along the way learn the time-honored values of work ethic, teamwork, sportsmanship, winning, leadership, cooperation, discipline and self-confidence.

WHEREAS, Mr. Excell and his wife Niki have always been great supporters of high school prep events, attending a game or competition every Friday night, a tradition they plan to continue. The thing he enjoyed most about his job was being with students at the tournaments.

WHEREAS, Mr. Excell retired June 30, 2008, as Executive Director of UHSAA. He appreciates all those he has worked with and attributes much of his success to always surrounding himself with good people.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT KNOWN, that the Utah State Senate recognizes and appreciates the dedicated service of Evan K. Excell. They pay tribute to him upon his retirement and extend to him their best wishes in all his future endeavors.

Presented by the Utah State Senate on the 15th day of October, 2008.

Senator John L. Valentine
President of the Senate

Senator Mike Dmitrich
Senate Minority Leader

Senator Curtis S. Bramble
Senate Majority Leader

Senator Gene Davis
Senate Minority Whip

David Gore

New
Information

David Gore
Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association Official
(additional information that Mr. Gore has authored since original Hall of Fame form was submitted)

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LAST CALL

I would suspect that most folks now choose to look carefully at the caller ID when the phone rings. They may choose to respond to the call or choose to let it ring. For sports officials, it grabs our attention quickly when the caller is that assignor we are always ready to talk to hoping for a special assignment. I was thrilled to receive such a call toward the end of our recent football season and was assigned to work the game clock for the Big XII Championship Game.

Little did I know at the time that this same assignor would call again with a much more significant assignment! Although I was quick to accept the first assignment, it was the second call that almost left me speechless. Regardless of the sport(s) that we work and the specific role that is our responsibility, we always dream about the ultimate assignment. A crew of eight officials plus the alternate, the two replay officials and the two clock operators from the Big XII conference had been selected to work the CFP National Championship Game and that phone call to each of us was certainly the thrill of a lifetime as a sports official.

This incredible experience caused me to think about the entire journey that I have traveled up to this point since my first time to step on a Little League baseball diamond for my very first officiating assignment. I would encourage every sports official to take the time to think about their own journey and the numerous paths that you have traveled. I would suggest that many of you may discover, as I have, that you have traveled paths that you never had considered possible after that very first assignment. At a very young age, I was determined to be a professional athlete and was planning to be the next second baseman for the New York Yankees when Bobby Richardson retired. Along the way, I discovered a major problem. I was not very big, but at least I was slow, and that is not a good combination for a professional athlete. Therefore, it was time early on for me to consider a different path. I thoroughly enjoyed the game of baseball and decided to stay involved as an umpire during my college days. This turned out to be a much better decision for me as I began to enjoy some level of success and progressed beyond those early Little League assignments to the high school varsity level and ultimately to major college baseball. I did not realize at the time where this early officiating journey was headed.

One of the many memories that officials are quick to mention during their journey is the opportunity to meet and become very close friends with so many other officials. The doors that open and the friendships that develop can lead to other changes along your individual pathway. Naturally, we meet officials who are heavily involved in other sports that we may not have ever played or even considered as another sport to officiate. I was a public school educator and did some Jr. High coaching in football and basketball. I began to pay close attention to the officials in these other sports and realized the additional opportunities that were possible along the way. After my initial seven or eight years on a baseball diamond, several of my new friends recruited me to give football a try. I had coached some football and I was sure that I knew all of the rules so I decided to give it a try. I did quickly realize how much more there was to learn and I did go to my very first varsity assignment without my whistle. Those initial bumps in that additional journey path began to smooth out and more doors opened and more friendships developed.

I began to experience some level of success on the gridiron and was fortunate along the way to work some small college football. There are so many lessons that you learn along this journey and are passed along to your fellow officials. I did not work my very first football game until I was 34 and I quickly discovered that anyone who wishes to advance to major college football sure needs to start that journey much, much earlier. Although that goal was no longer realistic for me, I was enjoying football as much as my baseball. I then made two additional path decisions. My experience as a public school teacher lead me to the role of the technical advisor in our local association for football and baseball. I enjoy teaching and thoroughly enjoy my work with the young officials in our area. My other path decision was to become involved in the timers booth at our local university as a football clock operator. These new decisions led to more open doors and valuable friendships.

I sure hope every young official will realize the incredible opportunities that can come your way if you choose to stay involved even when your journey takes a different turn that you had not expected. My current path includes my work as a clock operator for Big XII football, my work at the basketball score table for the men and the women and my role as the NFHS football rules interpreter in my state. No, I never was the second baseman for the Yankees but I will always have many incredible memories, many incredible friendships and many open doors because I chose to stay involved. That phone call from the assignor to notify us about the CFP National Championship Game may turn out to be my ultimate officiating memory! We shall see what still lies ahead.

David Gore

2023 OSSAA Crew Test Instructions

It is so very important that each crew read these instructions very carefully to take the 2023 crew test correctly!

1.) Each crew who chooses to take the crew test must do so as a crew working together by yourselves at a time and place convenient for you during the window of opportunity. You **ARE NOT** to work with other crews or with your local association as a large group. Make absolutely certain that you turn in the single page **TEST ANSWER SHEET** by the deadline of **Wednesday, October 11**. That sheet is the very last page of this test document.

2.) The test contains 66 items and follows this page of instructions and you are welcome to print the entire test although that is not necessary or required. That is simply your decision to make. You will have to print the final page which is the **TEST ANSWER SHEET!**

3.) The test items are to be answered as TRUE or FALSE. You are to **PRINT** the entire word TRUE or FALSE on the Answer Sheet for each test item. Make certain to complete the entire TEST ANSWER SHEET as instructed prior to returning it to us.

4.) Please note that none of the test items deal with any COVID-19 adjustments. The test items are to be answered according to the NFHS Football Rules.

5.) You **will be** allowed to use your NFHS FB rule book and case book while you take the test.

6.) Each crew may choose to invite a new, young official who you may be mentoring to join you to experience the crew test process. You **ARE NOT** to include a veteran, retired official to take the test with your crew.

7.) You **MUST** return the completed single page **TEST ANSWER SHEET** to David Gore by **Wednesday, October 11**. You have 2 options for returning the answer sheet. You may mail it OR you may scan it and email it. We MUST be able to read the completed answer sheet! The address that you need is listed here.

David Gore
2003 Martingale Drive
Norman, OK 73072

dgoreref910@hotmail.com

Any crew is welcome to send a text or an email to David Gore if you have a question about these instructions. (405) 255-6959 or dgoreref910@hotmail.com

1.) At the snap, team A must have at least 5 linemen numbered 50-79 if they are not in a scrimmage kick formation and a player numbered 50-79 may not be on the end of their offensive line.

2.) It is not possible to legally execute a chop block against an opponent.

3.) A simultaneous recovery requires that both opposing players are inbounds. If one of the players is touching out of bounds, the ball is dead immediately and out of bounds by rule.

4.) There is nothing an offensive team player may do legally to participate after he has stepped out of bounds accidently during the down unless there is a change of possession.

5.) The game clock will start on a ready-for-play wind if team K is awarded a new series following a legal kick.

6.) An entering substitute is still on the opponent's side of the neutral zone when the ball is snapped. This is a live ball foul for illegal substation by rule.

7.) Handing the ball to an offensive teammate is legal prior to any change of possession if it occurs in or behind the neutral zone during a scrimmage down. It becomes an incomplete pass or a fumble determined by the direction of the handing if a muff occurs and the ball is grounded.

8.) An awarded fair catch foul does not require a fair catch signal or the touching of the kick in flight.

9.) The three-minute warm-up period that follows the halftime intermission is a mandatory warm-up time regardless of the length of the halftime.

10.) An assistant coach collides with an official in the restricted area during a down as the game clock goes to 0:00 at the end of the first quarter. The down counts, the penalty is enforced if accepted and there is an untimed down to follow.

11.) A QB who receives the snap scrambles from 1 hash mark to the other and then back to the first hash mark again before throwing a legal, forward pass that falls incomplete. This entire down is a loose-ball play by rule.

12.) With 1:50 remaining in the game, team A trails by 5 points and is guilty of holding during an incomplete forward pass. Team B may request and have the game clock start on the ready-for-play since it is in the final two minutes of the half.

13.) The ball becomes dead and the down has ended when an offensive tackle #78 catches a legal, forward pass.

14.) An offensive player numbered #66 may catch a pass and he may throw a forward pass during a down.

15.) Each team has only 1 team time-out to use at any point during an overtime period.

16.) In an 8-man football game, every offensive player may wear any number 0-99, but every player is not an eligible receiver at the snap.

17.) Team K free kicks from their own 40 with only 3 players to the left of the kicker. This is a live-ball foul and the down does continue.

18.) A new series must belong to team R if K legally kicks during a scrimmage down except for a try and opponents gain joint possession or the kick goes out of bounds or the ball becomes dead in the field of play with no player in possession.

19.) K punts on 4th down and the ball travels in flight will beyond the expanded neutral zone. R25 signals for a fair catch at his own 12 and muffs the kick which bounces into R's end zone. R25 blocks an opponent at his own 12 following his muff but prior to the end of the kick. This foul will be enforced from R's 20 if accepted.

20.) On a 4th down, team A chooses a scrimmage kick formation with no players numbered 50-79. The eligible pass receivers are determined by their position at the moment of the legal snap.

21.) Team A has an illegal formation at the snap and team B if guilty of a late hit on the downed runner. These 2 fouls do not offset and both can be accepted and enforced.

22.) A team K player starts at his own 32 for a free kick from K's 40. As he approaches the ball for the kick, a teammate kicks the ball instead. This results in an immediate whistle for a dead-ball foul.

23.) The ball becomes dead and the down has ended when any live ball that is loose touches a properly placed goal line pylon.

24.) A free kick following a touchdown and the try enters team R's end zone. The result of the play is a touchback or may be a touchdown if the kick is touched by R in the field of play and then recovered by K in the end zone.

25.) The foul for initiating contact with an opponent whose helmet has come completely off is illegal participation.

26.) A scrimmage kick formation at the snap is a requirement to be able to use the numbering exception on any down.

27.) Each of these situations is an example of an official's timeout and the game clock will start on the ready-for-play wind for each: team A makes a first down; a player is apparently injured during the down; team possession changed during the down; any player's helmet comes completely off during the down.

28.) Team B is granted a team time-out. Following this time-out, team A comes to the line-of-scrimmage in a completely different formation and team B may now request another time-out if they still have one.

29.) It is possible to legally bat a grounded, loose ball.

30.) K kicks off from their own 40 and their onside kick is first touched by K at their own 48. The ball then goes out of bounds at the 50 untouched by R. The best penalty option for R to accept for the best field position and to start a new series is to take the ball at the spot of first touching.

31.) If a nose guard slaps the ball during a snap in progress, the foul is a dead-ball foul for a disconcerting act.

32.) A field goal attempt is partially blocked in the neutral zone and travels in flight several more yards beyond the expanded neutral zone where R muffs the kick and the ball rebounds back behind the neutral zone. At the end of the down, the team in possession will start a new series.

33.) Helping the runner is a foul when a teammate behind the player with possession of the ball uses a hand(s) or arm(s) to push the runner forward.

34.) Running back A44 carries the ball into his own end zone where he is brought down when an opponent pulls him to the ground by grasping his face mask. This foul by B will be enforced from the previous spot if accepted.

35.) Offensive tackle #72 may catch and advance a legal, forward pass after it has been first touched by a rushing team B lineman.

36.) Team A scores a touchdown on a play in which an assistant coach for team A collides with an official in the restricted area during the down. The score does count, but the foul can only be enforced on the try.

37.) Eligible receiver #82 catches a pass and runs well beyond the neutral zone and beyond the line-to-gain down to B's 18 where he fumbles and the loose ball goes out of bounds at B's 12. If accepted, a penalty for roughing the passer against B will be enforced from B's 18.

38.) When a new series of downs is awarded, any accepted penalty for a foul committed prior to the ready-for-play must be enforced prior to the chain being set for the new series.

39.) During any legal kick in flight (except a try), any team R player may execute a fair catch anywhere in the field of play.

40.) Unused team time-outs do not carry over from the first half to the second half, from regulation play to an overtime period or from one overtime period to a subsequent overtime period.

41.) A backward pass is grounded and is a live ball beyond the neutral zone when an inadvertent whistle is sounded. The ball must be placed at the spot where it was when the whistle sounded.

42.) During a try for point(s) or during any overtime down, the ball becomes dead immediately and the down is ended if team B/R gains possession during the down.

43.) To begin a new series of downs in an overtime period, the ball must be placed in the center of the field laterally.

44.) Eligible team A receiver #82 runs his route down the sideline and accidently steps out of bounds before returning to the field of play to catch a forward pass, but the team B opponent clearly knocks him down before the pass arrives. A double foul has occurred and the down will be replayed.

45.) On any down, any player in possession of a live ball may throw a backward pass from any place on the field of play or in his own end zone.

46.) One requirement of a legal block below the waist is that the block must be an immediate, initial action following the snap.

47.) The ball becomes dead and the down is ended when an offensive lineman #78 catches a legal, forward pass.

48.) It is possible to legally clip an opponent.

49.) If team K is in a scrimmage kick formation at the snap on a 4th down and they are using the numbering exception, #55 is an eligible pass receiver at the snap if and only if he is on the end of their line of scrimmage.

50.) Following an intercepted pass, the team B runner is about to be tackled and throws the ball forward to a teammate who muffs the pass. The grounded ball remains a live ball and the foul is enforced from the spot of the foul if accepted.

51.) Any team A player may throw a legal, forward pass.

52.) A player may wear glasses that have tinted lenses under their facemask.

53.) Following a fair catch of any legal kick except for a try, team R may have the ball placed anywhere between the hash marks for their new series if the request is prior to the ready-for-play signal.

54.) The play clock must be set to 40 seconds when the game clock is stopped for a defensive player's injury or equipment issue or foul.

55.) Following the snap, the QB tosses the ball back to a running back who ends up outside the lateral boundary of the free-blocking zone and throws the ball forward well beyond the neutral zone and out of bounds. This foul will be enforced from the previous spot if accepted.

56.) In order for team K to initiate a block on their opponent during a free kick, the kick must have gone beyond R's free-kick line or team R has touched the kicked ball or team R has first initiated a block inside the 10-yard neutral zone.

57.) A pop-up kick is illegal on a free kick and the ball must be blown dead immediately.

58.) Team B intercepts a legal, forward pass inside their own end zone and the down is ended as a result of this change of possession and results in a touchback.

59.) The ball becomes dead and the down is ended when any team R player catches or recovers any legal kick except a try in the field of play following a valid or invalid fair-catch signal by any team R player.

60.) 4th and 10 for team K at R's 25. A field goal attempt is partially blocked behind the neutral zone and travels to R's goal line where it touches the pylon. The ball is dead and is returned to the previous spot for a new series for team R.

61.) 4th and 10 for K on R's 30. K lines up to try a field goal but the holder muffs the snap and the player in position to kick the ball steps forward and kicks the muffed snap off of the ground down to R's 5 where it goes out-of-bounds. If the foul is accepted, the penalty is enforced from the previous spot.

62.) Following their touchdown, team A kicks a successful try for point and their holder is roughed by team B. Team A tied the score with their kick try and the game clock in the 4th quarter went to 0:00 during the touchdown play. There is no subsequent kickoff so team A must enforce the foul and replay the try or decline the foul and go to overtime.

63.) The ball becomes dead and the down is ended when a team K player catches or recovers any free kick anywhere in the field of play.

64.) Eligible receiver #38 runs his route well beyond the neutral zone and as a legal, forward pass arrives, he jumps and bats the pass to a teammate. This is a legal bat if and only if the batted ball goes backward.

65.) If an overtime game results in multiple overtime periods, the referee will only toss the coin 1 time to begin the initial overtime period and the first choice of options then alternates between teams for additional overtime periods.

66.) Following their touchdown, team A lines up in a swinging gate for the try. #80 takes the position of a snapper with his hand(s) on the ball in the center of the field while #5 and #10 take the normal position of a holder and a kicker establishing a scrimmage kick formation. There are 5 offensive teammates numbered 50-79 lined up to #80's left near the numbers on the field and legally on their line of scrimmage plus #85 on the left end of the line of scrimmage. #22 and #25 are lined up as backs also to the left near the field numbers. Following the ready, the 8 offensive players near the field numbers legally shift much closer to the center of the field but all 8 are still to the left of #80, #5 and #10 and legally set. Holder #5 has his knee(s) on the ground and #10 is in position to kick. Prior to the snap, #10 goes in legal motion straight to his right away from the rest of his teammates and after several steps, the ball is snapped directly to the holder. #80, #22, #25 and #10 then go directly into B's end zone as #5 rises and reverses out to his right looking for 1 of these 4 eligible receivers. He does throw a legal, forward pass to #80 who catches the pass for a successful 2 point try. This is in fact a legal and successful try. True or False???

Make certain that you have followed the Answer Sheet instructions correctly!

2023 OSSAA Crew Test Answer Sheet

PRINT your answer (True or False) in each blank. Do not use just the first letter!!!

1. _____	26. _____	51. _____
2. _____	27. _____	52. _____
3. _____	28. _____	53. _____
4. _____	29. _____	54. _____
5. _____	30. _____	55. _____
6. _____	31. _____	56. _____
7. _____	32. _____	57. _____
8. _____	33. _____	58. _____
9. _____	34. _____	59. _____
10. _____	35. _____	60. _____
11. _____	36. _____	61. _____
12. _____	37. _____	62. _____
13. _____	38. _____	63. _____
14. _____	39. _____	64. _____
15. _____	40. _____	65. _____
16. _____	41. _____	66. _____
17. _____	42. _____	
18. _____	43. _____	Make sure you
19. _____	44. _____	answered every
20. _____	45. _____	question!
21. _____	46. _____	
22. _____	47. _____	
23. _____	48. _____	
24. _____	49. _____	
25. _____	50. _____	

PRINT the name of each person who participated in taking this test plus their OSSAA ID#.

Ref _____

Ump _____

HL _____

LJ _____

BJ _____

Extra _____

Did your crew take this test alone? (No other crew was involved in taking this test with you!)

Circle YES or NO

You must mail or email this answer sheet to the address listed on the instruction sheet. (Please note the deadline!)

2023 BASIC SCRIMMAGE REQUIREMENTS

Prior to the snap – the ready-for-play now involves a whistle (and physical chop) if the next down is a 25 second play clock situation (or is one of the 3 exceptions where the play clock is set to 40 instead of 25). When there is no natural interruption in the flow of play resulting in a normal 40 second play clock, the ball is ready-for-play as soon as the official (usually the umpire) places the ball on the ground and moves away to his/her position. In either case, remember that each of the 11 offensive players who will participate in the next down must momentarily be between the numbers (9-yard marks) at any point after the "ready" and before the snap. The **Referee** and the **Umpire** are responsible for counting the offensive players and for confirming at least 5 offensive linemen numbered 50-79 (unless there is a numbering exception situation). The 2 **wing officials** are responsible for checking the offensive formation to make certain there are not more than 4 players lined up as backs and that there are no players on either team threatening the neutral zone. It is appropriate to **verbally communicate** with players lined up wide of the formation to assist them in getting on or off the line of scrimmage legally (preventive officiating!). We have had more issues recently with offensive tackles who do not break the plane of the snapper's waistline because they are not far enough forward. If this becomes a problem, communicate early with the player(s) or the appropriate coaches to have the linemen align themselves correctly. Avoid using a flag unless the situation is obvious and you are getting no cooperation from the player(s) or the coaches! The **wing officials plus the referee and the umpire** must also watch carefully for illegal motion, illegal shift or false starts by the offensive players. The **Back Judge** is primarily responsible for counting the defensive players. **All officials** must make a mental note of the down and the line-to-gain prior to the snap. **When the ball is legally snapped and the play is now in progress, you are strongly encouraged to limit any movement from your initial position until the game action dictates otherwise!** Know your play action responsibilities and **avoid being a ball-watcher** until it is absolutely necessary to focus on the runner. There are 21 other players doing something that may be legal or illegal!

Live ball becomes dead – be patient with your whistle, but it is critical to know if and when the play is over and the ball is dead! These situations are the more common plays that create a dead ball: * the **ball goes out-of-bounds** in a runner's possession or as a loose ball; * **forward progress is clearly stopped** in the field of play; * a **score**, a **touchback**, or **simultaneous possession** occurs; * a legal kick becomes a **touchback** or scores a **field goal**; * a legal scrimmage kick is **caught or recovered** by team K **beyond** the neutral zone; * a legal free kick is **caught or recovered** by team K **anywhere** during the kick; * team R **gains possession** of any legal kick following a valid or invalid signal by any R player; * any forward pass (**legal or illegal**) becomes incomplete; * team B/R **gains possession** during a try or during OT or any **kick try** fails; * the helmet of the player in possession of a live ball **comes completely off**.

The ball remains alive – naturally, it is critical to be totally aware of the situations where a live ball does not become dead and the play continues. **Inadvertent whistles must be avoided** at all times and a slow whistle is clearly a better result when it is not a crystal clear dead ball situation! A very common situation that requires extreme patience with your whistle is the catch, interception or recovery of any fumble or backward pass in the field of play. We must remember that **all 22 players** may gain possession and advance in this situation. The difference between a fumble and a muff can become a critical decision when determining a live ball versus a dead ball.

Forward progress – it is also very important that a runner in possession of the ball **receives every inch of forward progress** that is gained during the down! The 2 wing officials are almost always the covering officials in position to determine the forward progress and **must remain at the forward progress spot** throughout the completion of the play if the runner is pushed backwards following legal contact by the opponent(s). The issue of forward progress also becomes critical when the **line-to-gain** is a possibility. This is an important reason why we stress the need to be aware of the line-to-gain prior to each down. It is important to grant every inch of the forward progress that a runner earns prior to the ball becoming dead!

Ball placement prior to a new series – even though many teams/coaches do not take advantage of this rule, there are multiple situations that allow a team to request where the football will be placed between the hash marks prior to the beginning of a new series. By rule, the request must be made **prior to the ready-for-play** for the first down of the new series. The following situations are those that allow this request to be made: * **a try for point(s) or a free kick**; * a **touchback** has occurred; * a **fair catch or an awarded fair catch**. When the request is honored and the ready-for-play is sounded, the offensive team **may not** call a time-out to change their request. If a dead-ball foul occurs prior to the snap or the down is replayed as the result of a foul, the offensive team may make a subsequent request.

2023 Game and Play Clock Notes

Our current 40 / 25 second play clock was a 2019 NFHS rule change. It is important to remember as you review for the upcoming season that there have been no changes to the **game clock** rules while there have been some minor changes to the **play clock** rules as we adjust to the 40 / 25 play clock and its impact on our NFHS game. This document reviews the game clock rules and the play clock rules and you are encouraged to utilize this document as you prepare for the football season and include this conversation throughout the season. You are encouraged to make copies of this and share it with each press box.

GAME CLOCK REMINDERS – It is important that crews practice strong physical signals throughout the contest that develop good habits. This will prepare you for dealing with late game timing issues at the end of either half that could become a game deciding situation. This first section details the reasons for the **game clock** to stop at the end of a down or between downs and it will not restart again until the next legal snap (except a try) or the legal touching of a free kick.

* Forward pass (legal or illegal) is incomplete
* Live ball goes out of bounds (in player possession or loose)
* Change of team possession occurs during or after the down
* Any legal kick down results in a new series for either team
* Delay of game penalty is accepted
* Charged time out is granted
* Any score occurs
* Fair catch is made
* Touchback occurs
* A period ends
* Rule 3-4-6 is enforced

There are others reasons to stop the clock, but if one of these occur, **do not wind the game clock!**

This next list details the reasons for the **game clock** to stop at the end of a down or between downs and **it will** start again on the ready-for-play **if and only if** none of the reasons from the list above has occurred. It is possible for the game clock to stop for multiple reasons, but the only time it remains stopped is when one of the reasons from the list above has occurred.

Temporary stoppages

* A foul has occurred
* An inadvertent whistle occurred
* A measurement
* Team A earns a first down and their possession continues
* The game is stopped to correct any equipment issue
* The game is stopped to attend to any medical/injury issue
* A weather delay or some other unusual delay occurs

We do have game action that does **not involve** the game clock (**try for point(s); untimed down; overtime period**).

** It is important to remember the timing rule that allows the offended team to have the **game clock** started on the snap rather than the ready-for-play **if and only if** the foul occurred inside the final 2 minutes of either half and the clock was supposed to start on the ready. **A request to have the game clock start on the ready-for-play instead of the snap is NOT an option**.

PLAY CLOCK INSTRUCTIONS – a **40 second play clock** will start "immediately" following a physical signal from the covering official(s) to indicate that the down has ended using signal #3 (time-out) or signal #7 (dead ball) or signal #10 (incomplete pass). These are the 3 most common signals that should occur at the end of the down for the 40 second play clock. Each of the following play situations require the 40 second play clock option.

* The team A (offense) runner is stopped in bounds **short** of a first down. The **game clock** continues to run and the **40 second play clock** is started immediately unless it was a 4th down.
* The team A (offense) runner is stopped in bounds **beyond** the line-to-gain (first down). The **game clock** is stopped for the first down and the **40 second play clock** is started immediately. The Referee will then restart (wind) the **game clock** with no whistle sounded as quickly as the football is in place on the ground and ready for play.
* The team A (offense) runner **or** a team A fumble **or** a team A backward pass goes out of bounds. The **game clock** is stopped and the **40 second play clock** is started immediately. The **game clock** will not start again until the next legal snap.
* A team A (offense) legal, forward pass is incomplete. The **game clock** is stopped and the **40 second play clock** is started immediately. The **game clock** will not start again until the next legal snap.

In each of these situations, an official (likely the umpire) will place the ball on the ground and move quickly to their next position and the ball is now ready-for-play if there is no unusual reason for a delay.

ADMINISTRATIVE STOPPAGES / INTERRUPTIONS – it is always possible for the situations that are listed below to occur throughout the game that are normal reasons to stop the natural flow of play. Each of these with **3 exceptions** that are duly noted will result in a **25 second play clock** that is **NOT** started immediately, but will be started by the Referee after the situation has been addressed by using the standard ready-for-play signal #1 or the standard #2 wind of the game clock signal.

Game Situations - * any **score** occurs * any **foul** occurs * a **time-out** is granted
* an **inadvertent whistle** * an **untimed** down * a **measurement**

* play is stopped to address a **medical issue / injury** (**40 second play clock** if it involves a defensive player only)
* play is stopped to address an **equipment issue** (**40 second play clock** if it involves a defensive player only)
* play is stopped as the result of a **defensive foul** (**40 second play clock** if the defense was the only team to foul)
* any **legal kick down** that results in a **new series** for either team
* a **change of team possession** during or after the down * the **beginning** of any period

Note that any really unusual situation is also a possibility such as the lights go out or there is a weather delay.

A pumping motion with 1 hand calls for a 25 second play clock and with both hands calls for a 40 second play clock.

2023 - Kicking Notes

Legal Kicks – A punt, a place kick or a drop kick are each methods for a legal kick and a legal kick also depends on where and when and how the kick is executed. Illegal kicks are extremely rare, but an official must be prepared to drop their flag at the spot of the illegal kick and allow the play to continue. Examples of an illegal kick could include a muffed snap that is grounded and a player kicks the ball similar to a soccer player kicking a grounded ball or a player who has gone beyond the line of scrimmage and then kicks the ball.

'In Kick Status' – it is most important that officials understand this concept as the rules of the kicking game are so critical when the ball is '**in kick status**'! A ball that has been legally kicked and is in flight or is grounded remains a kick until any of the following occur: 1.) the loose ball goes out of bounds; 2.) **any** player gains possession of the ball; 3.) the loose ball breaks the plane of team R's goal line; 4.) the loose ball rolls to a dead stop in the field of play with no one in possession. Always remember that it is possible for the kick to end and the down continues!

Touchback – the result of a legal kick that breaks the plane of team R's goal line is a touchback and **the play is over** and **the ball is dead**! Note here that the kick may have been touched but not possessed by multiple players in the field of play, but it was '**in kick status**' when it broke the plane of team R's goal line. **Do not let a team R player advance a kick out of his own end zone**! This is probably the most common mistake we make in the kicking game! (Exception: a successful field goal is not dead until it passes through the goal post.)

Fair Catch – a valid or an invalid fair catch signal that is made by any team R player causes the **down to end** and the **ball is dead** when any team R player gains possession of the kick anywhere in the field of play. It is also critical to remember that any team R player must be given an unhindered opportunity to catch a legal kick whether or not they have given a valid fair catch signal.

First Touching – a team K player is not to be the first player to touch a legal kick prior to the point where he may legally possess the ball. This is a violation and can occur in the 10-yard neutral zone on a free kick or it can occur anywhere beyond the expanded neutral zone on a scrimmage kick. It is critical that the covering official mark the spot of any first touching violation with a bean bag.

Free Kicks – A free kick (kickoff) is used to start each half in addition to the kick that follows a touchdown and the try or a successful field goal and the kick that follows a safety. The free kick down does not involve a legal snap and each of the legal methods may be used for a free kick with one exception (a punt may **not** be used for the kickoff that follows a touchdown and the try or a successful field goal). Unless a penalty has moved the spot of a free kick, kickoffs occur on team K's 40 yard line following the try or the field goal and occur on team K's 20 yard line following a safety. A free kick down includes a 10 yard neutral zone between the free kick lines for each team. It is critical to remember that team K **cannot** ever gain possession of a free kick **and** advance if the loose ball is **'in kick status'**! It may be team K's ball, but they cannot advance the free kick. It is also critical to know that team K cannot touch a free kick that is in flight even if there is no team R player in position to attempt a catch of the free kick. A free kick that goes out of bounds untouched by team R results in a foul by team K. This foul involves 4 options for team R to consider: 1.) a 5-yard penalty and replay the free kick; 2.) team R may take the ball 25 yards beyond team K's free kick line; 3.) refuse the penalty and take the ball at the out of bounds spot; 4.) a 5-yard penalty from the spot where the ball went out of bounds (team R's ball). Note here that a fifth option is possible if team K is also guilty of a 'first-touching" violation. PSK fouls do not exist during a free kick. Therefore, expect a foul that occurs during a free kick in progress to be enforced from the previous spot or the succeeding spot (except for kick-catch interference which can be a spot foul). The free kick rules call for very specific alignment requirements prior to a free kick and any official may verbally correct any alignment issues prior to the ready-for-play.

Scrimmage Kicks – a scrimmage kick must follow a legal snap and is a legal kick that is made from in or behind the neutral zone. A scrimmage kick formation at the snap is **not** required to execute a scrimmage kick, but is certainly quite common and it requires that the snapper be protected from a roughing foul. Punts and field goals are scrimmage kicks and it is important to note that an unsuccessful field goal is treated the same as a punt by rule. **Any** team R player may gain possession of **any** scrimmage kick in the field of play and advance unless **any** team R player has made a valid or invalid fair catch signal. As is stated above, any legal kick that breaks the plane of team R's goal line is a touchback and **the play is over** and **the ball is dead**! Therefore, **do not let a team R player advance a kick out of his own end zone even if the kick has been touched by any player(s) in the field of play**. One significant difference from the free kick rules is that it is possible for a team K player to gain possession and advance a scrimmage kick **if and only if** the team K player gained possession of the kick in or behind the neutral zone. If this occurs, the down will count and it is critical for team K to reach the line-to-gain to retain possession if it was a 4th down. Another significant difference from the free kick rules is that there is no foul for a scrimmage kick that goes out of bounds untouched by team R. It is important to note that any scrimmage kick that goes out of bounds '**in kick status**' will belong to team R regardless of any touching of the kick by any player(s) and regardless of the location of the line-to-gain or the number of the down. The ball simply belongs to team R!

Blow your whistle and stop the game clock – the following situations cause the down to end and the game clock to stop immediately when a legal kick occurs.

1.) **The kick breaks the plane of R's goal line except for a successful field goal**.

2.) **The kick goes out of bounds**.

3.) **Any team R player gains possession of any legal kick following a valid or invalid signal by any team R player**.

4.) **Any team K player gains possession of a free kick anywhere or gains possession of a scrimmage kick beyond the neutral zone**.

5.) **Any legal kick rolls dead with no one in possession.**

6.) **The simultaneous possession of a kick between 2 opponents who are both in bounds.**

Momentum Exception – if any team R player gains possession of any legal kick inside their own 5 yard line **and** their original momentum takes them into their own end zone where they are downed or they go out the side or back of the end zone, it will be team R's ball at the spot where the possession occurred. The team R player **may** choose to advance out of the end zone in this situation just like a recovered fumble or intercepted pass.

2023 Overtime Notes

The method to determine a winner in Oklahoma when the score is tied at the end of regulation is to allow each team an offensive possession that begins at their opponent's 10 yard line (unless moved by a penalty) and the line-to-gain is **always** the goal line even if an accepted penalty caused the possession to begin at a spot other than the 10 yard line. An overtime **period** consists of an offensive series of 4 downs for each team at the same end of the field. The series of downs ends when the offensive team scores (including a try) **or** the defensive team gains possession at any time during the offensive series **or** the offense fails to score or to gain a new series as the result of a penalty (automatic first down).

Following the end of regulation play, each team will go to their respective team box for a 3-minute intermission. At the end of this intermission, the Referee will conduct a coin toss to determine which team will go on offense first and which end of the field will be used for the first overtime period. That coin toss to begin the first overtime period **is the only time** that there will be a coin toss regardless of how many overtime periods may occur. The first choice for any additional overtime periods will alternate between teams. The team who did not win the first overtime coin toss has their choice for the second overtime period and it continues to alternate if multiple overtime periods become necessary. The options are **always** to play offense, defense or select the end of the field.

Each team may use **only 1 time-out** during an overtime period and any unused time-outs **do not** carry over from regulation or from a previous overtime period (use them or lose them).

It must be noted that **the ball becomes dead immediately** and the offensive series is over at any time that the defense gains possession of the ball!

Each subsequent intermission is only for 2 minutes if multiple overtime periods become necessary.

When a touchdown is scored during overtime, the scoring team is entitled to a try **unless** the winner has been determined as a result of the touchdown. The winner of an overtime game will only receive **1 point** for playoff qualifying points regardless of the actual final score.

It is also important to remember that there is no game clock during any overtime period, but the play clock continues to operate normally!

If an accepted penalty results in a series beginning at a spot other than the 10 yard line, make certain to let both coaches know this information prior to the option decision for that overtime period. It will likely influence their choice!

2023 Passing Notes

Legal Pass – a legal pass may be thrown using any method (overhand, underhand, 2-handed chest pass, etc.). The first key that must be determined is the **initial direction** of the release of the pass. A legal pass is forward or backward and the rules are much different for each. A team A player becomes a passer by definition if he throws **a legal, forward pass** and is therefore afforded protection against roughing. A **catch** of the pass must include clear possession of the ball in flight and the player's first contact with the ground must be any body part inbounds. It is also a requirement that the player maintain possession when he returns to the ground or falls to the ground. Yes, **the ground can cause an incomplete pass**. Any player who catches any pass may advance. A very important difference in a forward vs a backward pass is that an incomplete forward pass ends the down and the unsuccessful backward pass remains alive if it is inbounds whether grounded or in flight. A simultaneous catch of any pass involves clear possession by 2 opponents who are both inbounds and the down is ended. The simultaneous catch is awarded to the passing team.

Illegal Pass – each of the following becomes an illegal forward pass that is a foul: 1.) A forward pass that is released when the team A player has either foot beyond the neutral zone; 2.) Any forward pass that is thrown by any player following a change of possession during the down; 3.) Any team A player throws a second forward pass during the down; 4.) Intentional grounding of a forward pass involves a forward pass that is thrown into an area with no eligible receiver or is thrown to save time or to save lost yardage. It must be noted that an illegal forward pass that is caught by any player remains alive and may be advanced (yes, the foul for the illegal pass will still have to be addressed). A spike to conserve time becomes illegal if it is not released immediately following a direct hand-to-hand snap or from a shotgun position. This direct snap must not be muffed or touch the ground prior to the immediate release. As the result of a **2022 & 2023 rule change**, a team A passer may now **throw the ball away legally** if he/she is or has been in possession of the ball outside of the lateral boundary of the free-blocking zone, the pass reaches the neutral zone or beyond including the out of bounds area **and this passer is the player who received the original snap!**

Eligible Receivers – a team A player must satisfy 2 conditions to become an eligible receiver of a legal, forward pass. His jersey number cannot be 50 through 79 **and** his position at the snap must be the end player on his offensive line or as a back not on his offensive line. All team B players are eligible receivers at the snap and these eligible receiver requirements only apply when a legal, forward pass is thrown. It must also be noted here that if a team B player touches a legal, forward pass then all players become eligible to catch the pass. Any player that is an eligible receiver at the snap remains an eligible receiver throughout the down and must also satisfy other requirements that include staying inbounds (unless blocked/pushed out and returns inbounds immediately). Team A players who are **ineligible receivers** at the snap must remain in or behind the expanded

neutral zone until the legal, forward pass is released. This requirement does not exist if the pass does not cross the neutral zone. These ineligible receivers at the snap may not attempt to catch, bat or muff a legal, forward pass unless it has been touched by any team B player. This illegal touching of a forward pass can occur behind, in or beyond the neutral zone and is a foul.

Pass Interference – pass interference is defined as "**interfering with an eligible opponent's opportunity to move toward, catch or bat the ball**". It is critical to note here that pass interference simply does not exist in or behind the neutral zone, when the legal forward pass does not cross the neutral zone and when the forward pass is illegal. Physical contact is required to consider pass interference, but it is clearly possible for 2 opponents to collide while each is making a bona fide effort to catch the forward pass and this would not be pass interference. Defensive pass interference cannot occur in an area that is clearly away from the direction of the forward pass. It is also important to remember that the NFHS rules do not consider 'a non-catchable pass" when pass interference is a possibility. Offensive pass interference can occur at any time following the time of the snap (unless B touches the pass) and defensive pass interference can occur at any time following the release of the legal, forward pass.

Backward passes – as was stated earlier, it is important to determine the initial direction of any pass because the rules are quite different for a backward pass. It is pretty easy to remember that **any player** in possession of the ball can throw a backward pass at **any time** and at **any spot** on the field of play or inside their own end zone. Any of the 22 players may **touch/catch** a backward pass and advance and it is extremely important to stay off of any whistle when a backward pass hits the ground and is inbounds. A grounded backward pass inbounds remains a live ball and is treated just like a fumble. A backward pass in flight may be batted by any player with one exception (the team that threw the backward pass may not bat it forward). No player may ever bat a grounded loose ball that would include a grounded backward pass. It is also important to remember that any legal snap is a backward pass until it is possessed by any player.

Momentum Exception – if any opponent gains possession of any legal pass inside their own 5 yard line **and** their original momentum takes them into their own end zone where they are downed or they go out the side or back of the end zone, it will be their ball at the spot where the possession occurred. This player **may** choose to advance the intercepted/recovered pass out of his/her own end zone in this situation.

REVISED DOCUMENT 7/17/23

PENALTY ENFORCEMENT SPOT DETAILS/EXAMPLES

This first section includes the Rule 10-4 statements that did not change for 2023 regarding the enforcement spot for accepted fouls.

10-4-2-a **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul that occurs simultaneously with a legal snap. (Illegal shift; illegal motion; illegal formation; illegal numbering; illegal substitution; illegal participation).

10-4-2-b **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul that occurs during a 10-3-1 loose ball play. (legal kick in kick status; legal, forward pass during the pass; a backward pass by A or a fumble by A or an illegal kick by A that occurs in or behind the neutral zone prior to any change of possession)

10-4-2-c **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul that occurs during a legal kick down and an inadvertent whistle ends the down during the kick.

10-4-2 Exception: Team R may choose **Succeeding Spot Enforcement** for a foul by team K that occurs during a legal kick down (other than kick-catch interference) prior to the end of the kick when team K will not be next to put the ball in play.

10-4-3 **End of the Kick Enforcement** if team R commits a PSK foul unless the foul occurs behind the End of the Kick which becomes **Spot of the Foul Enforcement**.

10-4-5-a **Succeeding Spot Enforcement** for an Unsportsmanlike Foul.

10-4-5-b **Succeeding Spot Enforcement** for a Dead-Ball Foul.

10-4-5-c **Succeeding Spot Enforcement** for a Non-Player Foul.

10-4-5-d **Succeeding Spot Enforcement** when the final result is a touchback.

This next section includes the Rule 10-4 statements that involve a change in the 2023 wording, but you will discover that the resulting enforcement spot still remains the same as before.

10-4-4-a **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for Illegal Batting or Illegal Kicking when the foul occurs BEHIND the end of the run or the related run.

10-4-4-b **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for Illegal Participation (see 9-6-4-a or 9-6-4-g).

10-4-4-c **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for an Illegal Forward Pass (see 7-5-2-c) or for Intentional Grounding (see 7-5-2-d).

10-4-4-d **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for a foul by the team in possession that occurs BEHIND the end of the run or the related run following a change of possession.

10-4-4-e **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for any foul by team A INSIDE team A's End Zone and the foul is accepted. (**SAFETY**)

10-4-4-f **Spot of the Foul Enforcement** for a foul by team A that occurs BEYOND the line of scrimmage during a running play and the foul occurs BEHIND the end of the run or the related run.

Revised> 10-4-5-e **End of the run or related run Enforcement** for a foul by team B when the run or the related run ends BEYOND the line of scrimmage.

Revised> 10-4-5-f **End of the run or related run Enforcement** for a foul that occurs BEYOND the end of the run or the related run following a change of possession.

Revised> 10-4-5-g **End of the run or related run Enforcement** for a foul by team A that occurs BEYOND the line of scrimmage during a running play when the run or related run ends BEYOND the line of scrimmage and the foul occurs BEYOND the end of the run or the related run.

You must be aware that 10-4-5-e, f, & g in the 2023 rule book must now have a separate category for 'End of the run or related run Enforcement' instead of the Succeeding Spot Enforcement (pages 81 & 82).

10-4-5 NOTE: There is **no change at all** in 2023 that allows either team to enforce a foul by their opponent as stated in rules 8-2, 8-3, 8-4 and 8-5!

10-5 There is **no change at all** in 2023 in the 10-5 statements that address the Special Enforcement Rules.

***** This final section includes the Rule 10-4 statements that are the major focus of the 2023 rule change that addresses the different enforcement spots from our previous 10-4 statements! It is critical to study and understand these carefully!**

10-4-2-d **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul by team A or by team B when the run or the related run ends BEHIND the line of scrimmage and there is no change of possession.

Example: Team A 2nd and 3 on their own 40 – QB A15 turns and hands the ball to a wide receiver in motion across the backfield – A75 pulls to block but holds his opponent at A's 37 and the runner is tackled at A's 35 – if accepted, A75's foul is enforced from the previous spot (A's 40) and the down is repeated.

Example: Team A 3rd and 8 on the 50 yard line – QB A10 drops back to pass and is under a heavy rush when he is pulled to the ground by his face mask by B88 at A's 40 – if accepted, B88's foul is enforced from the previous spot (50) and

results in a new series for A at B's 35. (not an automatic 1st down, but the penalty moves the ball well beyond the line-to-gain!)

10-4-2-e **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul by team A BEHIND the line of scrimmage when the run or the related run ends BEYOND the line of scrimmage.

Example: Team A 2nd and 6 on B's 45 – A25 receives a handoff and carries the ball to B's 38, but A66 pulls to block and holds his opponent at B's 49 – if accepted, A66's foul is enforced from the previous spot (B's 45) and the down is repeated.

10-4-2-f **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul by team A BEYOND the line of scrimmage when the run or the related run ends BEHIND the line of scrimmage.

Example: Team A 1st and 10 on their own 30 – A35 receives a handoff and runs around the right end but is tackled at A's 28 – A86 is blocking downfield, but blocks his opponent below the waist at A's 40 – if accepted, A86's foul is enforced from the previous spot (A's 30) and the down is repeated.

10-4-2-g **Previous Spot Enforcement** for a foul by team A or by team B when the run or the related run ends BEHIND the line of scrimmage before a change of possession that does occur.

Example: Team A 3rd and 6 on their own 46 – A28 receives a handoff on a draw play and is pulled down by the face mask by B44 at A's 42 causing a fumble that is recovered by B28 and advanced to A's 10 – if accepted, B44's foul is enforced from the previous spot (A's 46) and results in a new series for A at B's 41. (not an automatic 1st down, but the penalty moves the ball well beyond the line-to-gain!)

It is important to note here that rule 10-6 will no longer exist at this time. It explained the all-but-one principle and that language had been removed from the NFHS Football Rules although many of the penalty enforcements still apply the philosophy of the all-but-one principle. You will discover this to be true except for fouls by A or by B behind the neutral zone or the run or related run ends behind the neutral zone prior to any possible change of possession. It is critical to remember that EVERY FOUL behind the neutral zone is NOT always a previous spot enforcement!

If you have any question at all concerning this document, send an email my way for a quick reply.

D. Gore

dgoreref910@hotmail.com

Prior Information

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: David Linden Gore
(first, middle, last)

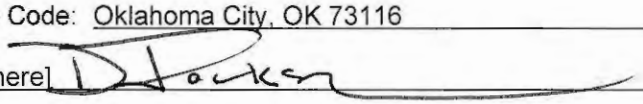
Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: David Jackson

Phone: (405) 840-1116

Street Address: 7300 N. Broadway Extension

City, State, Zip Code: Oklahoma City, OK 73116

Signed: [Tab here] 

Date: 11/11/2021

Email: djackson@ossaa.com

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☒ Official ☐ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: David Linden Gore
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 2003 Martingale Drive
(street address)

Norman, OK 73072
(city, state, zip)

Email: dgoreref910@hotmail.com

Phone: (405) 329-7191 Date of Birth: 9/10/1947

School Affiliation (if any) Retired Norman Public Schools - June 30, 2007 (Classroom Teacher - 17 years, Building Administrator - 13 years, District Athletic Director - 8 years)

City: Norman State: OK

Place of Birth: Wichita Falls, TX Date of Retirement: June 30, 2007

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: [Tab here]

Address: [Tab here]

Phone: [Tab here]

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Tipton High School	Tipton, OK	1965	High School Diploma
College/University: University of Oklahoma	Norman, OK	1969	Bachelor's Degree
Post Graduate School: University of Oklahoma	Norman, OK	1973	Master's Degree

☒ 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

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.)

Football Official: 1981-2015
593 games + 69 playoff assignments
9 State Championship Games (1985, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1995, 2004, 2007, 2013, 2015)

Baseball Official: 1977-2014
1031 games + 49 playoff tournament assignments + 29 State Tournament assignments. Have also worked 594 summer games at the high school level.

Slow-Pitch Softball Official: 2008-2013
70 games + 1 State Tournament

Special Honors and Achievements

* 1986 All State Baseball Game Plate Umpire
* 1997 O.I.A.A.A. State "Newcomer of the Year"
* 2000 O.I.A.A.A. State "Athletic Director of the Year"
* 2004 All State Football Game Referee

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

* New appointment as a member of the NFHS Football Game Officials Manual Committee 2018-2021
* Currently serve as State Football Rules Interpreter for Oklahoma (2007-Present) - Conduct rule change presentations for coaches and for officials statewide each year.
* Previously served as the technical advisor for the OKC Metro Officials Association (200+ FB members). Conduct weekly meetings (July, August and September) to discuss rules and mechanics.
* Currently serve as a State area coordinator for the Oklahoma City metropolitan area. The seventeen area coordinators communicate with our State Supervisor of Officials concerning current issues, playoff assignment recommendations, and local association concerns.
* Currently serve 8 local school districts as football official assignor during the fall season.
* Served OKC Metro Officials Association as technical advisor in baseball for 3 years. Conduct weekly meetings (February and March) to discuss rules and mechanics.
* Previously served 7 local high schools as umpire assignor during the spring and summer seasons. (2008-2014)
* 4-year term on the Oklahoma Officials Association Executive Committee (2005-2008)
* 1-year term as Vice President of the O.O.A. Executive Committee (2008)
* President of the OKC Metro Officials Association - 300+ members in Football, Basketball, Baseball and Softball (1990-1993)
* Membership in the National Association of Sports Officials from the beginning to the present.

Other information (*not previously listed)*

* Currently work University of Oklahoma Basketball Score Table for both the men and women. Official Scorer for the women (1998-Present). Official Scorer for the men (2020-Present)
* Currently work as a Big 12 Conference Football Clock Operator (2008-Present)
* Currently serve as the official clock/scorebook operator for the Class 6A-5A High School Basketball State Tournament. (2007-Present)
* Official scorer for the Big 12 Womens Basketball Tournament (2013, 2014, 2016, 2017)
* Small College Football Official - 50 games + 3 playoff assignments (1990-1997)
* College Baseball Umpire - 408 games + 30 playoff assignments (1977-2001)
* Member of the Big 8 Baseball Umpiring Staff (1989-2005)
* Worked the Big 8 Baseball Post Season Tournament (1995)

Letters of Recommendation

OSSAA
OKLAHOMA SECONDARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
DAVID JACKSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MIKE WHALEY, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
Assistants : Amy Cassell - Mike Plunkett - David Glover - Todd Goolsby - Grant Gower

November 11, 2021

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

Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is with great pleasure I add my recommendation to your consideration of Mr. David Gore of Oklahoma for selection to the NFHS Hall of Fame in the Officiating Category.

I have had the pleasure of knowing David over the last several decades during my career as a teacher, coach and official. He officiated football games that I coached and I observed him as a baseball umpire in games that were played at the schools where I was employed. In all my years as a football coach, I did not work with any "white hat" that approached the games as professionally as David Gore. His knowledge of the NFHS Football Rule book exceeds every official I have known. *(He has served the state association in Oklahoma for the last several years as the state rules interpreter.)* As a school administrator in Oklahoma, he served many years as an Athletic Director in one of our state's largest districts, he had the demeanor and people skills to work easily with coaches. He communicated professionally and treated me as a coach as a professional manner during our games together. David's experiences as a "school person" made his relationships with the coaches and the players education driven. He has always recognized the game he was working as an education-based tool for the players and the coaches.

David continues to share his knowledge and experience in the officiating world with the officials in our state after his retirement from active officiating on the field. He is deeply involved in mentoring young officials and speaks to athletic directors and coaching groups on a regular basis about officials.

David Gore has been a professional educator his entire adult life. As a lifetime educator, he has used the world of officiating to educate players, coaches and other officials. His love for officiating and the promotion of the officiating world makes him an excellent candidate for Hall of Fame consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Whaley

Mike Whaley

THE OKLAHOMAN

November 12, 2021

To the NFHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

It is my honor and privilege to recommend David Gore for induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame. Since coming to Oklahoma two decades ago, I have gotten to know David in my capacities. School administrator. On-field official. Official scorer. But best of all, I've gotten to know him as a friend.

Here's what I can tell you about David: you won't find anyone who cares more about people. He always has a smile on his face, and no matter how busy he is, he always takes time to stop and chat. I have no doubt that genuine kindness and care permeates all that he does.

It is one of the things that made him such a great official. He wanted to do right by the players and coaches in the games that he worked. The same goes for the other officials with whom he is working. To that end, he was meticulous in his preparation before games, staying up on rules, going to clinics and studying his craft. Then once the games started, he was fair and methodical. He didn't want anything compromised, most notably the experiences of the teams that were competing.

And what's more, David has always been willing to be a voice for the officiating community. Any time that I have had a question or an issue that I need to know more about for a story or column, he has been willing to share his insight and knowledge. He has been an invaluable resource to me – and so many others.

There are literally tens of thousands of officials who make high school sports function. I know this first-hand – my dad worked as a high school basketball official for decades. High School sports would cease to exist without all the men and women who work the games. But I guarantee that honoring David Gore would also be honoring them. He is an example of all that is good and right in all of them.

Please let me know if I can provide any further assistance. On David's behalf, I am always at the ready.

All my best,

Jenni

Jenni Carlson, sports columnist, The Oklahoman

Support Data

High School Insider
Cameron Jourdan
The Oklahoman
USA TODAY NETWORK

How Gore is like a 'Yoda' for HS refs across state

NORMAN — Retirement has kept David Gore busy.

Sure, the former Norman Public Schools employee is no longer strolling halls or planning sporting events, but his involvement in high school football hasn't stopped.

During the summer, he travels across the country going to different workshops and meetings to learn about the newest officiating techniques, rules and trends. Come the fall, he's mostly known in Oklahoma as the state's rules interpreter, helping new officials learn the proper way to call games and sharing his knowledge.

In the offseason, he tries to find ways to grow officiating across the state.

Gore, 74, is a bonafide legend within the high school sports world in Oklahoma, but especially in the officiating realm. He called high school games for 35 years and also officiated small-college football as well as major-college basketball and baseball. Yet Gore never turned his back on his roots, the Friday nights at stadiums scattered across the central plains.

His passion for the folks in black and white has transcended generations and shaped how games are officiated for decades to come.

"I want to do it as long as I'm able to," Gore said. "Right now, I'm enjoying it and plan to do it a few more years."

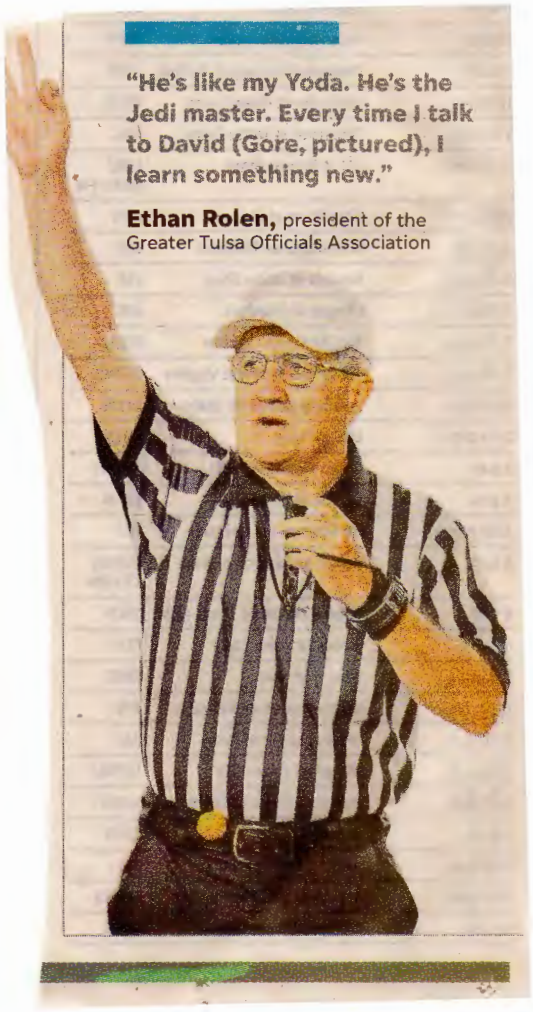
At a time officials are in short sup-

See GORE, Page 4B

"He's like my Yoda. He's the Jedi master. Every time I talk

"He's like my Yoda. He's the Jedi master. Every time I talk to David (Gore, pictured), I learn something new."

Ethan Rolen, president of the Greater Tulsa Officials Association



Gore

Continued from Page 1B

ply and schools fear larger impacts in years to come, the state of high school officiating in Oklahoma is better because of Gore.

He's a walking encyclopedia of knowledge when it comes to officiating, and people around the state know it. During football season, his phone is constantly ringing. Folks asking about specific rules and how to handle situations, there's hardly a question asked that Gore doesn't have an answer to.

If there's an officiating mystery, Gore is the detective to call.

"He's like my Yoda. He's the Jedi master," said Ethan Rolen, the state's mechanics coordinator and president of the Greater Tulsa Officials Association. "Every time I talk to David, I learn something new."

Rolen has known Gore for more than two decades, and Rolen emphasized how fortunate Oklahoma is to have someone like Gore as an officiating advocate.

Because of Gore's expertise, he's often asked to be on national committees discussing rule changes and ways to improve officiating techniques. His voice carries not only across Oklahoma but also the entire country.

When Gore returns to the state from the national meetings, he shares information. He talks to officiating associations. He calls on the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association. It gives them ideas of how to improve.

That knowledge and expertise gets everyone in the state on the same page, which improves the level of officiating.

"That's an invaluable thing to have," Rolen said. "Lots of states struggle in that area and don't have a David Gore, and we are just extremely lucky to have him."

In addition to Gore's extensive high school officiating background, he remains busy at the college level, too.

Last fall, Gore operated the clock at the Big 12 championship game in Arlington, Texas, and the College Football Playoff national championship game in Miami Gardens, Florida.

Yet even with his extensive background and college experience, high school officiating is near and dear to Gore's heart.

However, Gore never truly aspired to officiate at a higher level. The camaraderie of hopping in a car with four other people each Friday night in the fall and driving across the state to different towns while getting to officiate high school football games?

There was nothing like it.

"I enjoyed being on a football field on Friday nights," Gore said. "It was a lot of fun being with the crew. It was not a bad gig, so I decided to concentrate my efforts on high school and the timing worked out that it became my best option."

Gore retired after the 2015 season.

His retirement came at a time when older officials stepping away aren't always replaced by young ones. It left a shortage.

Reversing that trend is something Gore and others, like OSSAA director of officials Grant Gower, are trying to do. Although they work to improve the quality of officials in the state, a lot of time recently has gone toward recruitment and retention.

It's not a problem only Oklahoma faces; it's a nationwide crisis. The shortage is already affecting middle school and junior varsity contests, and if it doesn't start to improve, high school varsity games could start being impacted as soon as next season.

"I am just very, very concerned about the number of officials that we have currently in Oklahoma," Gore said. "My message would clearly be to any youngster out there that enjoys football but realistically is not likely to play past their high school days, we would welcome them with open arms and do all the teaching we can to help them get involved."

Although Gore won't be blowing his whistle at an Oklahoma high school football game any time soon, those who are officiating the contests can do their jobs more effortlessly because of him.

Officiating is thankless. It's difficult for five sets of eyes to catch everything that happens on a high school football field.

That's another reason why Gore has invested so much time and energy into making sure officials can be in the best positions possible to call games.

It's why he'll continue to serve on national committees and travel across Oklahoma helping teach the rules and best practices of officiating. It's why he's thought of as a legend by his peers and numerous others.

High school football officiating wouldn't be where it is without David Gore.

"He is the icon of football officiating in Oklahoma," Gower said. "His knowledge, his experience, his expertise is just phenomenal."

David Gore

PROFESSION: FOOTBALL OFFICIAL
AGE: 64
RESIDES: NORMAN

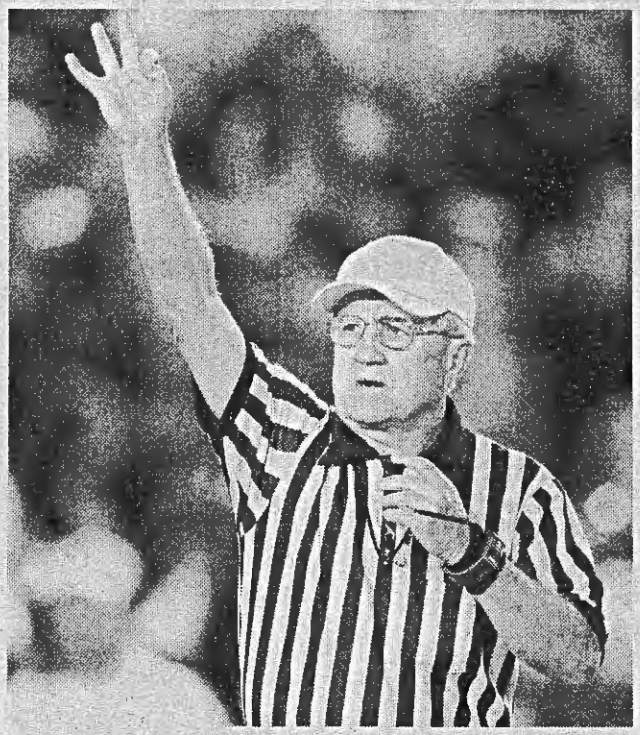
INTERVIEWED BY RYAN ABER, RABER@OPUBCO.COM

David Gore has always been involved in sports. He's gone from playing them in high school in Tipton to coaching them in Norman at the junior high and high school level to officiating for the last 31 years.

In addition to continuing his work as a baseball and football official, Gore is also the football technical adviser for the Oklahoma City Metro Officials Association. He also works as a play clock and game clock operator for the Big 12. Now, Gore is also being nominated for the National High School Hall of Fame.

I grew up in Tipton down in the southwest corner of the state. Our football coach when I was in high school was Don Royal, Darrell Royal's older brother. He was not only a great football coach, he was pretty much the math department at my little high school. I thoroughly enjoyed his class. Math was my area, and I was very impressed with him as a teacher as well as a coach. He was easy to work with, knew what he was going and he was a great teacher. I'm sure there was a lot of influence there in what I've ended up doing in my life.

Baseball was about the only thing I played seriously in high school. I was on the basketball team but I didn't play much. I've always thoroughly enjoyed athletics and would have enjoyed playing after high school but I didn't have enough talent. So in order to stay involved, I got into baseball umpiring first and worked that for a few years, and finally some friends of mine that I was working baseball with got me involved in football and I just fell in love with officiating football. I started football in '81 and I've done it ever since. It allows me to stay involved with the game. It keeps me healthy. I really enjoy what I do especially the teaching aspect of it.



Referee David Gore signals the down during a high-school football game on Oct. 21.

PHOTO BY BRYAN TERRY, THE OKLAHOMAN

My first football game was down at Konawa High School and about 15 minutes before we were supposed to go out on the field, we're checking everything and I had left my whistle at home. Now if that doesn't mess the other guys up knowing they brought along this brand-new guy who's supposed to know what he's doing, and he left his whistle at home. Needless to say, they've given me a hard time about that every since.

I was in Norman Public Schools for 38 years and was a classroom teacher. An opportunity came along to be a technical adviser. I teach classes in July, August and September on Wednesday nights. We're talking about rules, talking about mechanics and stuff. It helped me learn the game as well as teach others. Probably our most difficult challenge is convincing young officials to stay with it. They're going to hear coaches complain, they're going to hear parents complain and they're going to hear players complain. It's hard to know how to deal with that, knowing that no matter what your call is, somebody's not going to be in total agreement with you. You have to believe in what you're doing and just move on.

There is no substitute for game experience. You just have to get out on the field. We tell our young officials absolutely every opportunity you have to work a game, you need to take advantage of it because every time you work a game, you're gaining more and more experience, and you may end up in a situation that you haven't ever thought about but once you've experienced it, the next time it comes along, you've been there.

I've been involved in seven different state championship games. In '07, I got to work the Jenks-Union game, and of course everybody enjoys and would like to be able to work a 6A state championship although I will be very quick to tell you, it doesn't matter if it's 6A, 5A or smaller schools, it's very important to those kids. Any time you're in a playoff atmosphere and especially in a state championship game, those are special.

When I'm watching a game either in person or on TV, I'm almost exclusively watching the officials. I will go to a football game with my wife and we're just sitting there watching and she'll ask me something and I'll say, 'I didn't see that, I was watching the officials.' She just absolutely cannot understand that. It is interesting. You have a whole different perspective. It's a whole new world when you get involved in officiating.

Gore named top athletic director

David Gore, Director of Athletics/Physical Education for Norman Public Schools, has been recognized as the most outstanding athletic director for 2000 in the state of Oklahoma.

Gore was presented the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association State Award of Merit at a recent awards luncheon during the Oklahoma Coaches Association Summer Clinic in Oklahoma City.

David Gore: To attend national athletic directors conference.

Gore, who was selected by members of his state association, said he was honored to receive the award.

"It is a honor to be chosen by your peers because there are many outstanding athletic directors in Oklahoma," he said.

The award is given to one athletic director in the state each year in recognition of significant contributions to interscholastic athletics. As the Oklahoma award winner, Gore will be among 50 directors in the nation to be honored next February at the national conference in Orlando, Florida.

Gore's dedication to the athletic program in Norman Public Schools as well as his contributions and commitment to the state and national organization were contributing factors to Gore receiving this award. Gore, who has 31 years of experience with the district, has been athletic director for the past six years. In 1997, he earned the Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association Newcomer of the Year Award. In 1998, he received the OIAAA Outstanding Service Award Inside in Field of Athletics. He has served on the OSSAA Athletic Directors Advisory Board since 1995, and is presently serving as 2000-01 President of OIAAA.

Gore began his career in Norman as a math teacher at West Jr. High in 1969. He taught math for 17 years at West Jr. High, West Mid High and Norman High School. Gore coached football and basketball at West Mid High and Norman High School for 13 years. He served as assistant principal at Norman High from 1986 to 1994.

Since Gore has been athletic director for the district, he has been involved as tournament manager for Norman Schools hosting regional, area, and state basketball tournaments, semi-final and championship football competitions, regional and state baseball tournaments, track and field meets, and other sporting events. Since 1972, in his spare time, he has been a game official for OSSAA football and baseball including three state championships in football. From 1978-1995, he served as a Big 8 baseball umpire.

Gore and his wife, Denise, who teaches at Cleveland Elementary, have a daughter, Melissa, a senior at Norman High School North, and a son Darren, an eighth grader at Whittier Middle School.

Meet the retiree excited to live out CFP dream

Jenni Carlson

David Gore couldn't say yes fast enough when he was asked to be the clock operator for last month's Big 12 Championship Game.

But when he was asked to do the same at the national championship game, he couldn't speak.

"It may have taken me 10 seconds to say anything," he remembered with a chuckle.

His stunned silence ultimately gave way to agreement — of course he would work the biggest game of the season — and Monday night, the longtime Norman resident got to live a dream. He was part of the officiating crew for college football's national championship.

"Whether you're an official, whether you're a clock operator, whether you're replay, you want that opportunity," he said. "It was exciting."

Gore reminds us, it's not just the young men in the helmets and shoulder pads who have a goal of making it to the Big Bowl.

Gore, a native of the

See CARLSON, B3

CARLSON

From Page B1

far southwest Oklahoma town of Tipton, spent most of his adult life working in Norman Public Schools. He started as a math teacher in the district, then became an administrator. He was the district's athletic director for almost a decade.

But all along the way, he always made time for officiating.

He was a referee for football and an umpire for baseball, and with his calm demeanor, kind spirit and quick wit, he was a standout. He worked high school games in Oklahoma for more than three decades and called small-college football as well as major-college basketball and baseball.

When Gore began scaling back his on-field officiating, he started filling in when needed in the timer's booth at OU football games. He'd been running the clock at OU men's basketball games for several years, and with his refereeing experience, moving to football was seamless.

Then in 2008 when the Big 12 decided to start assigning clock operators to regular-season conference games, Gore applied to be part of the pool. He was accepted, and since then, he's worked Big 12 games nearly every weekend of the season.

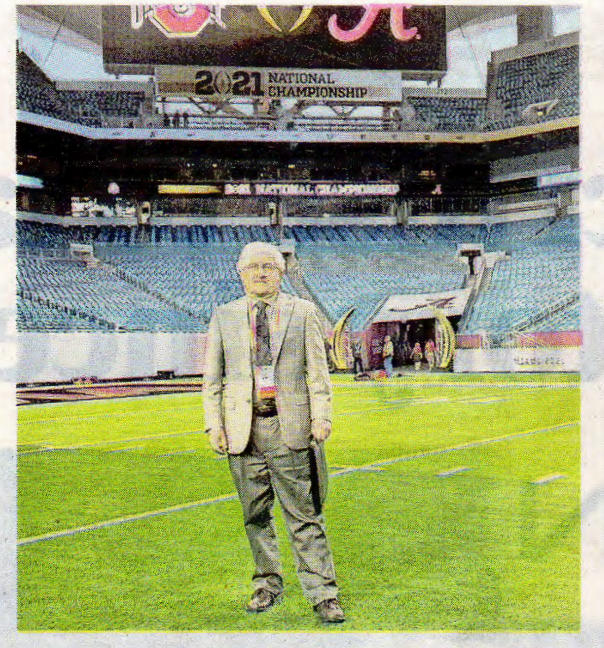
"Because I'm fully retired ... I just thoroughly enjoy doing this," said Gore, who left full-time work at Norman Public Schools in 2007. "As long as they'll have me, I'll continue to do it."

Even though Gore has worked more than a hundred Big 12 games over the past decade or so, he hadn't been assigned the conference title game.

That changed this past season.

"I was very pleased just to get to work the Big 12," he said.

Gore was still riding the high from that game when the Big 12 called two days later with the assignment for the national championship game.



Longtime Norman resident David Gore worked the game clock during Monday's national championship game. He spent decades as an on-field official, but for more than a decade, he's been a clock operator for Big 12 football games. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

After the College Football Playoff selection committee picks the top four teams, it determines which conferences will supply the officiating crews for the semifinals and the final. The playoff doesn't want any conflicts of interest, so it selects conferences without teams in the games. This year, without a league team in the playoff, the Big 12 was asked to provide the on-field and in-booth officials for both the Sugar Bowl, the semifinal between Alabama and Notre Dame, and the national championship.

The day after the playoff selections were announced, Gore got the call that he had been assigned to the national championship.

He and wife, Denise, flew from Oklahoma City to Miami on Saturday. Gore had several meetings and responsibilities over the weekend, but because of pandemic precautions, many events surrounding the Big Bowl were canceled. A huge gala normally held on Saturday night, for example, was a no-go.

The game itself didn't turn out all that great either, as Alabama rolled Ohio State.

But Gore didn't let any of that sully his experience.

"What is a lot of fun at a game like this is, you look at the booth next to you and you see Kirk Herbsteit or you see Sean McDonough," Gore said of the ABC and ESPN analysts. "All these different personalities, and they're just regular folks doing their job just like we're regular folks doing our job."

Gore admits he always soaks in the atmosphere before a big game, but once the whistle blows and the clock starts, it becomes like any other game. He has a job to do, and he focuses on the details of the work, not the magnitude of the moment.

"My job (Monday) night was no different than nine or 10 other times, other weeks this year," he said. "Once the game gets started, you're just back into your routine."

David Gore would love to work another national championship game some day. Maybe one where COVID isn't an issue. Perhaps with all the pomp and circumstance and as many fans as can pack the stadium.

Still, if Monday was his one and only, he has no complaints.

"We had a great, great time," he said. "It just worked out beautifully."

Jenni Carlson: Jenni can be reached at 405-475-4125 or jcarlson@oklahoman.com. Like her at facebook.com/JenniCarlsonOK, follow her at twitter.com/jennicarlson_ok.

David Gore
Author

Referee Magazine
Article
In or Out-Live or Dead

In or Out – Live ball or Dead

Rule four in the NFHS code and also in the NCAA code is the place to start to determine when a live ball becomes dead and the play has ended. Both sets of rules immediately address the issue of a loose ball or a player/runner that goes out of bounds from the field of play. We want to focus our attention here on the difference between the loose ball and the player/runner in the definition from the NFHS rule two or the NCAA rule four for out of bounds (NFHS 2-29-1, 2, 3; NCAA 4-2-1, 2, 3).

A loose ball is not in the possession of any player and can result from a pass, fumble, or kick during the down (NFHS 2-1-3; NCAA 2-2-3). The ball remains in the status of a loose ball until a player gains possession or the ball otherwise becomes dead by rule such as an incomplete forward pass or a legal non-scoring kick that crosses team R's goalline in NFHS play or is grounded in the end zone untouched by team R in NCAA play. Possibly the most common reason for a loose ball becoming dead is when the ball goes out of bounds. This definition is quite clear in stating that a loose football is out of bounds at the moment that it touches the sideline or endline or it touches anything at all that is on or beyond the sideline or endline. This would include an official or a player who is touching the sideline or endline or is beyond the sideline or endline. It is also important to remember that a pylon that is properly placed is in fact out of bounds and a loose ball that touches the pylon becomes dead immediately. It is also important to remember that the loose ball is not out of bounds until it has touched something that is out of bounds as opposed to a pass, fumble, or kick that is still in flight beyond the plane of the sideline or endline.

It must be noted at this point that a ball in the possession of a player is treated differently as it relates to out of bounds. We want to start this with the definition of a player who is out of bounds. A player is out of bounds if he is touching the sideline or endline or is touching anything outside of the sideline or endline with two important exceptions. The player is not considered to be out of bounds if he contacts an official or another player who is in fact out of bounds. We are now able to clearly understand that the ball that is in player possession is out of bounds by rule when that player or that football touches the sideline or endline or anything outside the sideline or endline except for the two exceptions.

Remember that out of bounds occurs when actual touching takes place. We have mentioned the loose ball or the player touching a pylon earlier and we can also include a loose ball or a player who touches a goalpost support as well. The game clock stops each and every time that the ball is out of bounds and it is therefore critical to emphasize the actual touching that must occur when precious seconds are a factor late in either half of play (NFHS 3-4-4-e; NCAA 3-3-2-e-2, 3). An airborne player or a loose ball in flight are not out of bounds by rule until the actual touching occurs. It must also be noted that a covering official must anticipate and be prepared to stop the clock when the touching creates an out of bounds runner or loose ball.

David Gore
Author

Referee Magazine
Article
Fourth and Short

Fourth and Short

Officials who bring many years of experience to a football game are able to share with the younger group about those game situations where the antennas need to be a little bit higher and their focus needs to be a little bit stronger. Our recent rule changes at every level have clearly emphasized the need to make our game safer. One result of this new direction is our increased focus on the defenseless player. It has become clear to all officials that it is a critical time in our game to make certain that we do raise our antennas higher and increase our focus on those players who have been identified as defenseless players.

It is equally important that our younger officials begin to understand and recognize additional situations that are not relatively new areas of concentration in our game. We want to take a close look at a real common scenario that involves a fourth down and less that five yards to the line to gain. Veteran officials are quick to share how important it is to always be aware of the current game situations that will clearly influence coaching decisions such as down and distance, the score, the quarter and time on the clock, the yard line, possible weather issues, etc. An offensive team who is facing a fourth and less than five may very well have several "tricks up their sleeve" that they believe will enhance their efforts to earn that very important first down. Are their "tricks" legal or illegal? There are many things that have been tried over the years and all officials need to study, discuss and be prepared for the various possibilities that could very well turn the momentum of the game completely around and ultimately determine the final outcome.

Let's start our focus with NFHS rule 7-1-7 and NCAA rule 7-1-2. The topic of a false start by team A includes movement that simulates action at the snap and any action that is clearly intended to cause team B to encroach. Various examples might include a quarterback who does different things with his verbal cadence or possibly with a head bob, offensive linemen who initiate a different shift into a 3-point stance or an entire offensive line who raises up abruptly in unison to look to their sideline for a new play signal, and the offensive back who moves from a 3-point stance directly forward quickly before turning to his right or left to continue his motion. Each of these likely border on legal vs illegal tactics and it therefore becomes imperative that a crew discusses and prepares for these possibilities and anticipate their occurrence accordingly to the current game situations.

This conversation becomes even more critical when the fourth and less than five becomes fourth and inches to go. In addition to the possibilities already mentioned, we now need to consider a quarterback who quickly takes a snap prior to all of his teammates being completely set, a runner who is assisted by a teammate, or the very difficult task of determining if six or seven offensive linemen who are nose to nose against six or seven defensive opponents and everyone is crowding the neutral zone. Let's make certain at this point that we don't forget the responsibility of the defensive players to avoid any disconcerting movement or words designed to cause a false start by the offense (NFHS 9-5-1-d; NCAA 7-1-5-a-3). This can be a tough task for the interior officials and this defensive effort to create a foul is just as critical as those various offensive possibilities.

Our final comments must include conversation about the difficult task of determining forward progress when the runner disappears into a mass of offensive and defensive linemen and the two wing officials lose sight of the football. Wing officials who work opposite each other on a weekly basis develop strong habits that become routine each game as they grow accustom to each other and therefore avoid conflicting decisions as they pertain to forward progress. One suggestion that has made the rounds is to determine which line won the battle of movement forward or backward when it becomes difficult to find the football. This critical decision becomes even more paramount when either goalline is involved. It is important for these two officials to discuss and come to very clear agreement as to how they plan to determine the forward progress that is so critical on short yardage situations. There is not a single perfect answer, but the two wing officials must be on the same page.

David Gore
Author

Referee Magazine
Article
It's About Time

Shared Responsibility - It's About Time

Effective football crews have and carry out their individual assignments before, during and following each down throughout the game. In addition to these assignments, it is important for each individual to recognize those areas of game management that involve shared responsibility for the entire crew to work together to effectively address important areas that are critical to a well-officiated football game. An excellent example of this would be accurate penalty enforcement. It is important for each member of the crew to become proficient with the rules of penalty enforcement to ensure that there are no errors that would diminish the overall strength of the crew.

Let's take a close look at another equally important area of game management that would lend itself to shared responsibility for the entire crew. Game clock management is another critical area of game control that each member of the crew should pay close attention to in order to avoid any timing errors throughout the contest. Do you feel completely proficient in starting and stopping the game clock or do you leave that up to your referee? It is understood that the referee is the person primarily responsible for the winding of the clock when appropriate, but effective communication from other crew members can enhance this process to avoid problems when a referee may not be completely aware of the results of the play. Although it is common practice in a 5-person crew for the referee and the back judge to have the major portion of the clock management responsibility, the two wing officials will often find themselves on the backside of the critical action at the end of a down and are in position to take a close look at the game clock to make certain that it is running or is stopped appropriate to the result of the play. Effective communication among the crew with each other or possibly with a head coach or the quarterback can certainly enhance the sharing of critical information during those moments in a game when seconds can become precious.

Rule 3 in the NFHS rulebook and also in the NCAA rulebook clearly spells out the details of starting and stopping the game clock. Officials may find it helpful as you master these details to think of various groups of reasons to stop the game clock. For example, the game clock will stop at the end of scoring plays or touchbacks, any out-of-bounds play, plays that involve a foul, all fourth down plays, any change-of-possession plays in addition to plays that result in a new series for either team(NFHS 3-4-4; 3-5-7; 3-5-9; NCAA 3-3-2) . This list is not all-inclusive, but it does suggest one method for learning and remembering critical game clock decisions. When the discussion turns to the correct starting of the clock, it is understood that the referee has that primary responsibility although individual crew members must know and be prepared to assist with verbal or physical reminders to start the clock on the ready-for-play. Naturally we understand that the decision to start the clock is totally dependent upon why the clock was stopped. As you study rule 3 carefully and in detail, you are encouraged to divide all of the reasons for stopping the game clock into two categories. The larger list will be those situations that call for the clock to remain stopped until the next legal snap or the legal touching of a free kick. The smaller list will be those situations that call for winding the clock on the next

ready-for-play. Most crews refer to these two lists as major/minor, large/small or long/short.

It is not unusual throughout the game for the clock to stop for multiple reasons at the end of a down. If any of those reasons calls for the clock to start on the next snap, the clock will not be started on the ready-for-play.

Play 1:Third and 8 on team A's 45 yardline late in the first half. A1 receives the snap and throws a backward pass to back A2. A2 breaks free at the 50 yardline and runs down to and out-of-bounds at team B's 28 yardline. B2 is guilty of a personal foul for a late hit on A2. **Comment**: The result of this play causes the game clock to stop because A2 runs out-of-bounds, A2 runs beyond the line-to-gain and there is a dead-ball foul after the play has ended. **Ruling 1**: Following the enforcement of the dead-ball personal foul from the end of the run down to B's 14 yardline, the game clock will start on the next snap.

An official's timeout that stops the clock is taken for the awarding of a first down, for addressing possible medical issues with an injured player, for legal/illegal equipment concerns in addition to various intermissions that include the break between the first two periods or the last two periods and the break following a try, a successful field goal or a safety(NFHS 3-5-7; 3-5-9; 3-5-10; NCAA 3-3-2; 3-3-4). This list is also not all-inclusive, but does show additional examples for stopping the clock and therefore must be studied carefully in to determine whether the clock will start on the ready-for-play or on the next snap. Each crew member is encouraged to become proficient with these lists to enhance your shared crew responsibility.

Although it is a fairly rare occurrence, it is possible for the game clock to start other than on the ready-for-play or on a legal snap.

Play 2: Second and 12 on team B's 33 yardline during the final minute of the last period. A1 receives the snap and quickly throws a forward pass that is caught behind the neutral zone by A2. A2 runs to B's 25 yardline where he is hit and fumbles the ball. There is a significant pile of players from both teams who attempt to recover the fumble and the covering official stops the game clock as the digging begins to locate the football. After several seconds have elapsed, it is determined that teammate A3 has recovered the ball at the bottom of the pile at B's 24 yardline. **Ruling 2**: Team A has retained the ball and is in possession of the ball short of the line-to-gain. It is therefore necessary to immediately restart the game clock when it is determined that A3 made the recovery.

This is a great example of shared crew responsibility that calls for a member of the crew that is not involved in digging for the football to verbally remind the referee to immediately restart the game clock.

Our last example of a game situation that involves the starting of the game clock other than on the ready-for-play or on a legal snap is a free kick down. By rule, the game clock will start when the kick is legally touched in the field of play other than first touching by team K(NFHS 3-4-3; NCAA 3-3-2).

Play 3: Following a successful field goal during the third period, K1 kicks off from team K's 40 yardline. The ball travels down to team R's 15 yardline where it bounces in front of R1. R1 muffs the grounded kick that bounces to team R's 5 yardline where several players from each team

attempt to recover the ball and causes the loose ball to break the plane of team R's goalline.
Ruling 3: The free kick broke the plane of team R's goalline that resulted in a NFHS touchback. The game clock should have started when R1 legally touched the ball at the 15 yardline. The clock then was stopped when the kick broke the plane of R's goalline.

Crews are encouraged to carefully study the timing rules to gain a complete understanding of game clock management and to further discuss as a group how individual crew members can best assist with this critical piece of a great big puzzle that we refer to as crew responsibility. Add to your dead-ball officiating to-do list the habit of taking a quick look at the game clock when you are able, concentrate on the result of each down as it pertains to game clock management, communicate whenever possible with appropriate crew members or either head coach or appropriate players as to the status of the game clock during critical moments when seconds are precious and study rule 3 continuously to enhance the level of game clock proficiency for the entire crew. The crew and the game will benefit from these efforts.

2021 OSSAA Crew Test Instructions

It is so very important that each crew read these instructions very carefully because our 2021 crew test is clearly different from previous years but does match the 2020 crew test!

1.) Each crew who chooses to take the crew test must do so as a crew working together by yourselves at a time and place convenient for you during the window of opportunity. You **ARE NOT** to work with other crews or with your local association as a large group. Make absolutely certain that you turn in the single page **TEST ANSWER SHEET** by the deadline of **Wednesday, October 13**. That sheet is the very last page of this test document.

2.) The test contains 66 items and follows this page of instructions and you are welcome to print the entire test although that is not necessary or required. That is simply your decision to make. You will have to print the final page which is the **TEST ANSWER SHEET!**

3.) The test items are to be answered as TRUE or FALSE. You are to **PRINT** the entire word TRUE or FALSE on the Answer Sheet for each test item. Make certain to complete the entire TEST ANSWER SHEET as instructed prior to returning it to us.

4.) Please note that none of the test items deal with any COVID-19 adjustments. The test items are to be answered according to the NFHS Football Rules.

5.) You **will be** allowed to use your NFHS FB rule book and case book while you take the test.

6.) Each crew may choose to invite a new, young official who you may be mentoring to join you to experience the crew test process. You **ARE NOT** to include a veteran, retired official to take the test with your crew.

7.) You **MUST** return the completed single page **TEST ANSWER SHEET** to Sheree Riddell or to David Gore by **Wednesday, October 13**. You have 2 options for returning the answer sheet. You may mail it OR you may scan it and email it. We MUST be able to read the completed answer sheet! The addresses that you need are listed here.

David Gore
2003 Martingale Drive
Norman, OK 73072

dgoreref910@hotmail.com

Sheree Riddell
O.S.S.A.A.
P. O. Box 14590
Oklahoma City, OK 73113-0590
sriddell@ossaa.com

Any crew is welcome to send a text or an email to David Gore if you have a question about these instructions. (405) 255-6959 or dgoreref910@hotmail.com

1.) On a 3rd down from A's 32 yard line, the QB throws a forward pass that is intercepted at the 50 and returned for a touchdown by B24. A bean bag must be dropped at the 50 to mark the enforcement spot for a holding penalty by B44 at A's 40 yard line during B24's return.

2.) The designated representative who will make decisions on penalties must determine acceptance or declination of the penalty before a charged time-out can be granted.

3.) A substitute entering the game during a dead ball and still on his opponent's side of the neutral zone when the ball is snapped is not guilty of encroachment.

4.) During a free kick down, a team R player may signal for and execute a fair catch from inside the 10-yard neutral zone.

5.) The loss of player possession by an unsuccessful execution of the attempted handing of the ball becomes a fumble only if the direction of the handing is backward.

6.) A team K player in position to punt the ball illegally kicks a grounded backward pass (snap) well beyond the neutral zone. This results in a loose ball play until the ball is possessed or otherwise becomes dead.

7.) The team who will next snap the ball may request that the ball be placed anywhere between the hash marks following a touchback, following a fair catch or following a free kick out of bounds untouched by team R.

8.) A16 throws a forward pass to eligible A83 who catches and advances 20 yards beyond the neutral zone. Prior to the catch, B90 holds eligible receiver A40. If accepted, this penalty will be enforced at the end of A83's run.

9.) Running back A35 is 5 yards behind the neutral zone when his face mask is grabbed and pulled causing a fumble that bounces out of bounds 8 yards behind the neutral zone. If accepted, this penalty will be enforced from the previous spot.

10.) Defensive pass interference may only occur against an eligible receiver.

11.) During the final down of the 4th period when the clock goes to 0:00, team A scores a touchdown and team B is guilty of pass interference. During the successful try that ties the score, team B is guilty of holding. Both team B fouls can be enforced at the beginning of overtime.

12.) K18 punts from his own end zone and R24 who is beyond the expanded neutral zone muffs the kick in flight and the ball rebounds back into K's end zone where K18 falls on and recovers the kick. The ball is dead and the result of this play is a safety.

13.) A18 receives a shotgun snap and turns to throw a forward pass to A83 behind the neutral zone. B24 knows that there is no pass interference behind the neutral zone and tackles A83 prior to the arrival of the pass. This is a legal play behind the neutral zone.

14.) Any pass in flight may be batted in any direction by an eligible receiver.

15.) Very late in the game, team A trails by 4 points and is facing a 3rd and 10 at B's 13 yard line. A16 scrambles to find an open receiver but cannot and is about to be tackled at B's 5 yard

line when he throws a pass out of bounds at B's 8 yard line. This is a legal play and the game clock will start on the snap.

16.) A dead-ball foul that occurs after the ready-for-play whistle is sounded for a try cannot be carried over to the subsequent kickoff.

17.) The ball becomes dead and the down has ended if and when any team K player gains possession of any legal, free kick anywhere in the field of play.

18.) Clipping or a block in the back is a foul that involves contact with any opponent below the shoulders from behind.

19.) The team in possession must be in a scrimmage kick formation at the moment the ball is snapped if they are using any form of the numbering exception.

20.) The first touching of a free kick can occur anywhere in the field of play between K's free kick line and R's goal line.

21.) A legal block below the waist must now occur immediately following a legal snap with the initial movement of the blocker directly against his opponent.

22.) During the very first possession in an overtime period, team K kicks a successful field goal on 4th down and their kicker is roughed. Team K may choose to keep their 3 point lead and enforce the penalty at the succeeding spot which results in a 1st down and goal to go for their opponent at the 25 yard line.

23.) K83 punts on a 3rd down and his kick is blocked and the kick goes out of bounds several yards behind the neutral zone. The ball will belong to team R following the down.

24.) B15 intercepts A's forward pass in B's end zone and begins to advance when A80 pulls him to the ground by the face mask inside the end zone. If accepted, this penalty will be enforced from B's goal line.

25.) With 8 seconds to go in the 4th period and the score is tied, team A lines up in the field goal scrimmage kick formation on 3rd down. The holder receives the snap and with his knee on the ground shovels a forward pass to an eligible receiver who catches the pass and advances into B's end zone. This results in an illegal forward pass and the penalty is enforced from the spot of the pass and includes a loss of down.

26.) The ball is marked ready-for-play at the beginning of an overtime period. Team A chooses to call a time-out prior to their first snap. Team A may not be granted another time-out during their offensive series or during the opponent's offensive series.

27.) A simultaneous catch of a pass, a simultaneous recovery of a fumble and a simultaneous recovery of any legal kick (except on a try) belongs to the team in possession at the beginning of the down.

28.) During the final down of the 3rd period when the time goes to 0:00, team A scores a touchdown and team B is guilty of holding. During the successful try, team B is guilty of illegal participation. Both team B fouls can be enforced on the free kick to start the 4th period.

29.) A85 runs a pass route near the sideline and steps out of bounds before a pass to him is in flight. He returns to the field of play and catches the forward pass inbounds. A85 is guilty of illegal touching of a forward pass.

30.) The game clock will start on the Referee's wind when the ball is in place if it was only stopped when team K recovered a blocked punt behind the neutral zone and ran for a first down.

31.) The last timed down (0:00) of the 3rd period includes a non-player foul by team B during the down. If the penalty is accepted, it is necessary to run an untimed down.

32.) The line-to-gain chain is not necessary during any overtime series.

33.) The catch of a loose ball in flight must include clear possession of the live ball followed by first touching the ground inbounds with a body part and maintaining possession when the ground or an opponent is contacted.

34.) A new force can occur to a pass, kick or fumble in flight if the muff or legal batting by an opponent clearly changes the direction of the pass, kick or fumble to the opposite direction.

35.) A16 throws a forward screen pass to A45 behind the neutral zone. B55 bats the pass that then goes beyond the neutral zone. A75 was beyond the expanded neutral zone prior to the release of the pass while blocking B40. This play is free of any fouls whether the pass is successful or not.

36.) Roughing the passer is a personal foul that can occur following any legal pass.

37.) After a safety has occurred, the kicking team may free kick using a place kick, a punt or a drop kick.

38.) If team K is aligned in a typical swinging gate formation with 6 offensive linemen to the left or to the right of their snapper and the snapper is standing with his shoulders parallel with the sidelines, he may legally shovel the ball directly to a teammate who is a back.

39.) Illegal touching of a forward pass by an ineligible player must be an intentional act and can only occur in or behind the neutral zone.

40.) Unintentional contact between an official and a non-player in the restricted area is by rule a personal foul and a second occurrence of this same foul does result in the disqualification of the head coach.

41.) Team K kicks off to start the 2nd half and the grounded kick is bouncing at R's 6 yard line with K players attempting to recover the kick when R24 intentionally kicks the ball into and out of R's end zone. This illegal kick is penalized at the previous spot and the free kick is replayed.

42.) R28 is back to receive a 4th down punt and gives a valid fair-catch signal. He muffs the kick and the grounded kick bounces toward R's end zone. R36 recovers the kick at R's 2 yard line and his momentum takes him into R's end zone where he is downed resulting in a safety.

43.) During a dead ball between downs, A45 enters the game as a substitute but never gets inside the numbers prior to the snap. Following the snap, A45 catches a forward pass for a sizable gain. This results in a foul for illegal touching.

44.) A55 is lined up in the traditional fullback spot behind his QB. A55 many legally do each of the following during the down. A55 may throw a forward pass, may receive a backward pass, or he may receive a handoff for a running play.

45.) A65 steps forward into the expanded neutral zone prior to a legal, forward pass that crosses the neutral zone. A65 is not guilty of being an ineligible downfield if he is never in contact with an opponent.

46.) Team A has a 4th and 8 from B's 33 yard line. A12 runs and is forced out of bounds at B's 28 yard line. The LJ collided with a team B coach during the down inside the restricted area. The penalty is enforced half the distance from B's 28 down to B's 14 and results in a new series for team A.

47.) Prior to the ready-for-play whistle, team A requests that the ball be placed on the right hash mark following a fair catch. Team A comes to the line of scrimmage and their spread formation causes team B to call a time-out. Team A may now ask for the ball to be placed on the left hash mark.

48.) Team A may legally spike the ball to stop the game clock if the snap is made directly to a player 4 yards deep in a shotgun formation and he immediately throws the ball forward to the ground following the snap that has not been muffed or has hit the ground.

49.) Because of a false start by team A, their try is now from B's 8 yard line. A45 runs to B's 4 and fumbles the ball into B's end zone where B25 intentionally bats the grounded loose ball out the back of the end zone. If this foul is accepted, the try is replayed from B's 2 yard line and team A may have the ball placed anywhere between the hash marks.

50.) A7 receives a hand-to-hand snap and turns to hand the ball to his fullback as A64 pulls and blocks B75 above the waist in the back for a typical trap block. A64 and B75 were on their line of scrimmage and in the free-blocking zone at the snap and the handoff occurred while the free-blocking zone was still intact. A64's block was illegal as it was not an immediate, initial action at the snap.

51.) On 4th and 8 from their own 12 yard line, K punts and a poor kick strikes the ground at K's 17 yard line and bounces back behind the neutral zone where K15 recovers the kick and throws a forward pass to K83 and it falls incomplete. Team K will have a new series at their own 12 yard line.

52.) Team A has illegal numbering at the snap if all seven linemen are numbered 50-79.

53.) The result of any personal foul by a player that is judged to be a flagrant foul by the game official(s) is disqualification for the remainder of the game.

54.) Targeting is an act by any player to takes aim and initiates contact against an opponent above the shoulders with the helmet, forearm, hand, fist, elbow or shoulders.

55.) A pop-up kick is a free kick that is driven directly into the ground by the kicker and bounces only one time before going airborne and this is a foul that must become a dead ball immediately.

56.) Team A trails by 5 points and has a 3rd and goal from B's 7 yard line. A12 drops back to pass and begins to run when he does not find an open receiver. At the team B 4 yard line about to be tackled, A12 throws a pass into the end zone where his fullback A55 catches the pass as the clock goes to 0:00 to end the 4th period. This play includes an illegal forward pass, illegal touching by an ineligible and the game is over.

57.) An awarded fair catch can only occur as the result of an accepted foul.

58.) Players may wear moisture-absorbing sweatbands of any width as long as they are located between the elbow and the hand.

59.) Each of the following plays will result in a safety and 2 points for the opponent. * A backward pass in flight from the QB to a teammate is batted by a defensive end and the ball then bounces into and strikes the pylon on A's goal line. * A team K punt in flight 15 yards beyond the neutral zone is muffed by team R and rebounds back across the neutral zone and into team K's end zone where a simultaneous recovery between opposing players occurs. * B34 intercepts a forward pass in B's end zone and begins to return the change of possession when B45 is guilty of holding in B's end zone while B34 is still in B's end zone.

60.) An ineligible team A player who has been beyond the expanded neutral zone prior to the release of a forward pass that crosses the neutral zone is guilty of a foul regardless of his location when the pass is released.

61.) B34 intercepts a forward pass at team A's 15 yard line and returns the change of possession for a touchdown. During the return, B80 is guilty of holding inside A's end zone. If accepted, the penalty will be enforced from A's goal line resulting in a new series for team B at A's 10 yard line.

62.) A14 receives a shotgun snap and begins to roll out to his right where he stops behind the neutral zone and throws a backward pass across the field to A50 who then throws a forward pass from behind the neutral zone that travels well beyond the neutral zone and falls incomplete. This entire down is one loose ball play and the basic spot for a live-ball foul would be the previous spot.

63.) During a change of possession down (pass interception), a team B non-player is on the field of play and collides with an official. Team B will retain possession after the penalty is enforced resulting in a 1st and 25 following the enforcement of this non-player foul.

64.) During the 1st period, a team A assistant coach is guilty of an unintentional contact foul in the restricted area during a live ball when he collides with an official. In the 2nd period, the same team A assistant is guilty of an unsportsmanlike conduct foul for inappropriate language directed at an official. By rule this assistant is disqualified.

65.) Runner A24 is inside B's 5 yard line near the sideline and dives from B's 3 across the sideline where he lands out of bounds at B's 1. Just as he is about to touch out of bounds, he

extends the ball across the extended goal line outside of the pylon and the ball is the first thing to touch the ground out of bounds. The result of this play is a touchdown for team A.

66.) The kicking rules that apply to an unsuccessful field goal attempt are the same as the rules that apply to a 4th down punt.

Make certain that you have followed the Answer Sheet instructions correctly!

2021 OSSAA Crew Test Answer Sheet

PRINT your answer (True or False) in each blank. Do not use just the first letter!!!

PRINT the name of each person who participated in taking this test plus their OSSAA ID#.

1. _____	26. _____	51. _____	Ref _____
2. _____	27. _____	52. _____	

3.	28.	53.	Ump
4.	29.	54.	
5.	30.	55.	HL
6.	31.	56.	
7.	32.	57.	LJ
8.	33.	58.	
9.	34.	59.	BJ
10.	35.	60.	
11.	36.	61.	Extra
12.	37.	62.	
13.	38.	63.	**Did your crew take this test alone?**
14.	39.	64.	**(No other crew was involved in**
15.	40.	65.	**taking this test with you!)**
16.	41.	66.	**Circle YES or NO**
17.	42.		
18.	43.	Make sure you	
19.	44.	answered every	
20.	45.	question!	**You must mail or email this answer**
21.	46.		**sheet to either address listed on the**
22.	47.		**instruction sheet. (Please note the**
23.	48.		**deadline!)**
24.	49.		
25.	50.		

David Gore
Author

OSSAA Football page Penalty Enforcement

TO: All Football Officials

It is time for each of us to take on the critical responsibility of accurate penalty enforcement during the course of every football game. As an individual member of a crew, are you prepared to know the correct enforcement of each penalty that you call? If you were required to take the crew test by yourself, would you be ready for the penalty enforcement questions? Many decisions during the game involve subjective human judgment which will result in disagreement from time to time, but penalty enforcement is black and white and every official is equally responsible for the accuracy of those decisions that will impact the game. Please use this document to review penalty enforcement and prepare yourself properly!!!

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Every foul occurs while the ball is live OR occurs during a dead-ball period. It is also possible for a foul to occur while the ball is live, BUT the enforcement of that foul is treated as a dead-ball foul. It is most critical that you know the difference and make the appropriate determination when you throw the flag.

Most fouls that are treated as a live-ball foul are part of a Loose Ball Play OR part of a Running Play.

LOOSE BALL PLAY: Action that begins with a legal snap or a legal free kick and then includes: 1. a legal kick while the ball is in kick status; 2. a legal forward pass while the ball is in pass status; 3. a backward pass by A or a fumble by A or an illegal kick by A that occurs in or behind the neutral zone prior to any change of possession. A loose ball play can end while the play is still in progress.

RUNNING PLAY: Any action that begins with a legal snap and does not involve any of the action described in a Loose Ball Play OR any action that begins while the ball is still live and follows a loose ball play. Please note that it is clearly possible to have both one loose ball play plus a running play(s) that all occur during the same down. If this occurs, the loose ball play MUST precede the running play. It is NOT possible to have a running play followed by a loose ball play during the same down.

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Every foul that occurs during a game has a BASIC SPOT associated with that foul that is used to determine the spot from where the penalty will actually be enforced. Please note that the basic spot associated with a foul and the spot where the penalty is enforced may NOT be the same. It is critical to know the difference. When the foul occurred, where the foul occurred, what was happening when the foul occurred, and the actual foul that occurred are all critical factors that determine the enforcement spot.

POSSIBLE ENFORCEMENT SPOTS: 1. Previous spot (the spot where the previous play began); 2. Spot of the actual foul (the yard line where the foul occurred); 3. Succeeding spot (the spot where the next play is to begin); 4. Spot where the related run ends (the yard line where the ball becomes dead in player possession or where the runner loses player possession); 5. PSK spot (the yard line where the legal kick ends) The 20 yard line could be the PSK spot if the result of the kick is a touchback.

There are several fouls that can occur prior to the ball becoming live and we must blow the whistle to prevent the play from starting. These dead ball fouls include: 1. False Start; 2. Illegal snap; 3. Delay of game; 4. Encroachment; 5. Free Kick infraction; 6. Illegal substitution. Each of these penalties would be enforced from the succeeding spot (where the play was about to begin).

There are several fouls that become fouls at the moment that the ball is legally snapped. This is the case because the problem can be avoided or fixed prior to the snap. These include: 1. Illegal formation; 2. Illegal numbering; 3. Illegal motion; 4. Illegal shift; 5. Illegal substitution; 6. Illegal Participation. Each of these penalties would be enforced from the previous spot (where the play began). Please note that the ball does remain live in these live ball foul situations.

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ALL-BUT-ONE PENALTY ENFORCEMENT: Many but not all fouls that occur during a loose ball play or during a running play are penalized according to the all-but-one principle. It is critical to know that there are exceptions to this principle. The basic spot that is used to determine the enforcement spot for a foul that occurs during a loose ball play is the previous spot. This penalty is enforced from the previous spot if and when the defense commits the foul behind or beyond the previous spot or the offense commits the foul beyond the previous spot. If the offense commits the foul behind the previous spot, the penalty is then enforced from the actual spot of the foul. The basic spot that is used to determine the enforcement spot for a foul that occurs during a running play is the end of the related run. This penalty is enforced from the end of the related run if and when the defense commits the foul behind or beyond the end of the related run or the offense commits the foul beyond the end of the related run. If the offense commits the foul behind the end of the related run, the penalty is then enforced from the actual spot of the foul.

POST-SCRIMMAGE KICK ENFORCEMENT: This enforcement procedure applies if and only if the following occur: 1. A foul by Team R occurs beyond the expanded neutral zone; 2. This Team R foul occurs during the time period beginning with a legal snap and until the kick ends; 3. The down included a legal scrimmage kick (except for a kick try or a successful field goal) that crossed the expanded neutral zone and Team R was in possession of the ball at the end of the down. This penalty is then enforced from the end of the kick if Team R's foul occurred beyond the end of the kick and this penalty is enforced from the actual spot of the foul if it occurred behind the end of the kick. Remember that the end of the kick is the 20 yard line when the result of the kick is a touchback. Team R will retain possession of the ball.

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CRITICAL STATEMENTS CONCERNING FOULS AND PENALTY ENFORCEMENT:

> Any non-player foul or any unsportsmanlike foul is always enforced the same as any dead-ball foul from the succeeding spot regardless of when the foul actually occurred.

> A dead-ball foul and a live-ball foul do NOT offset each other but dead-ball fouls by each team can now offset each other. Any penalty may be declined. The offended team always has the option to accept the result of the play.

> Multiple fouls are two or more live-ball fouls committed by the same team during the same live-ball action and their opponent may only accept one foul to be enforced.

> Double fouls are live-ball fouls committed by both teams that may very well offset, but that is not automatic as there are some exceptions.

> Dead-ball fouls that occur simultaneously by opponents or the order of the fouls cannot be determined are to be disregarded and they cancel each other out.

> Remember to enforce all penalties BEFORE the chain is set. If all penalties are enforced AND the chain is then set AND the next ready-for-play whistle is sounded, it would then be possible for a subsequent dead-ball foul at that point to create a down and distance of more than 1st and 10 or less than 1st and 10.

> The only fouls in our Federation Rule Book at this time that call for an Automatic First Down are Roughing the Passer, Roughing the Kicker or Holder of a Scrimmage Kick, or Roughing the Snapper if and only if the offense is in a scrimmage-kick formation at the snap.

> The only fouls in our Federation Rule Book at this time that call for a Loss of Down are an Illegal Forward Pass, an Illegal Forward Handoff, or the Illegal Touching of a Forward Pass.

> CLEAN HANDS EXCEPTION: If both teams foul during a down AND there is a change of possession during the down, the team that has possession of the ball at the end of the down may keep the football if and only if they did not foul prior to gaining final possession AND if and only if they decline their opponent's foul. Their opponent still has the option of accepting or declining the foul committed by the team in final possession. Otherwise the two fouls will offset and the down is replayed.

> PSK CLEAN HANDS EXCEPTION: If both teams foul during a scrimmage kick down and the foul by Team R involves PSK enforcement, R may keep the ball by declining Team K's foul. Team K still has the option to accept or decline Team R's foul. Otherwise the two fouls will offset and the down is replayed.

>ADDITIONAL FOULS WITH UNIQUE SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT RULES: You are encouraged to study Rule 10-5-1 very carefully for those fouls that have their own special enforcement rules that are unique to that foul only. They include: 1. A free kick out of bounds untouched by R; 2. Kick-catching interference; 3. A foul by the opponent of the scoring team during a successful try; 4. A foul by the opponent of the scoring team during a successful field goal; 5. Fouls that occur during or after a touchdown scoring play; 6. Roughing the passer; 7. Roughing the kicker or holder of a scrimmage kick; 8. Roughing the snapper if and when the offense is in a scrimmage kick formation at the snap. 9. New in 2018 – tack onto the end of the play fouls by team K during a free kick or scrimmage kick down (carefully note the EXCEPTION to rule 10-4-2)

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CRITICAL STATEMENTS THAT INVOLVE SCORING PLAYS:

> If the opponent fouls during a TOUCHDOWN scoring play, the team that scores may keep the 6 points AND have the penalty enforced on the try or the subsequent kickoff unless the foul occurred prior to a change of possession. This could include a dead-ball foul before the ready-for-play signal on the try. It must also be noted that the scoring team may have committed a foul that involves dead-ball enforcement and their opponent then has the same option to penalize them on the try or on the subsequent kickoff.

> If the opponent fouls during a successful FIELD GOAL, the scoring team may keep the 3 points AND have the penalty enforced at the succeeding spot OR they may take their 3 points off the board and have the penalty enforced from the basic spot with the down to be replayed.

> If the opponent fouls during a successful TRY, the scoring team may keep the point(s) and have the penalty enforced at the succeeding spot OR they may take their point(s) off the board and have the penalty enforced from the basic spot with the try to be replayed.

David Gore
Author

OSSAA Football page Live Ball/Dead Ball, Running Game & Forward Progress

SCRIMMAGE REQUIREMENTS

Live Ball/Dead Ball, Running Game, &

Forward Progress

THE BASICS THAT YOU MUST KNOW!!!

Prior to the snap:

- **Must have the "ready for play" that establishes the neutral zone.**
- **Each of the 11 offensive players must momentarily be between the numbers (9-yd marks) at some point after the "ready" and prior to the snap.**
- **After the snapper touches the ball, no one shall be in the neutral zone except entering/leaving subs/replaced players for either team.**
- **All 11 offensive players must be set as a unit for a full count before the snap or before legal motion begins plus no false start by any offensive player.**
- **Ball remains dead (blow the whistle) for false start, encroachment, illegal snap, illegal substitution issues by either team, no ready for play whistle, or defensive team disconcerting acts or words.**

At the snap:

- **Legal snap plus a legal formation by the offense [at least 7 on their line with correct numbers (scrimmage kick formation exceptions) and no one in "no-man's-land" except probably the QB].**
- **Any legal motion must have started AFTER the offense is set for a full count and is parallel to the line or backward at the snap.**
- **All 11 defensive players must be behind their line.**

A live ball becomes dead right now when:

- **Ball/ball carrier goes out-of-bounds or forward progress is stopped.**
- **A score, a touchback, or simultaneous possession occurs.**
- **A legal kick breaks the plane of R's goal or scores a field goal.**
- **A legal scrimmage kick is caught or recovered by K anywhere beyond the neutral zone or a legal free kick is caught or recovered by K anywhere.**
- **R catches or recovers any legal kick after a valid or invalid signal by any R player.**

- Any forward pass (legal or illegal) hits the ground or goes out of bounds.
- B gains possession during a try or during OT or when any kick try fails.
- The ball carrier's helmet comes completely off.

Running Game:

- A player becomes a runner when he has gained possession of a live ball by receiving the snap or a handoff, by catching a pass or kick, by recovering a fumble or backward pass, or by intercepting a pass or fumble.
- A handoff can be forward before any change of team possession and must be behind the line of scrimmage or a handoff can be backward at any time the ball is live and in possession of any player. (NO flag for a muffed handoff which is a fumble.)
- A player cannot fumble unless he has possession of a live ball.
- An unsuccessful attempt to gain possession is a muff.
- The catch, interception, or recovery of any fumble or backward pass in the field of play remains a live ball and may be advanced by any player.

Forward Progress:

- A player must receive every inch of forward progress that is earned toward his opponent's goal while the ball is live and in his possession.
- Forward progress is the location of the football when the ball is in player possession and becomes dead by rule. Yes, forward progress does exist when the ball is loose.

- If their request is prior to the "ready-for-play" , allow A or K to designate the spot of the ball between the hash marks for the following: the try or the kickoff, the play following a safety or touchback, or the play following a fair catch or awarded fair catch. Do not allow them to change this spot of the ball after the "ready" by taking a timeout.

THE PASSING GAME

BASIC INFORMATION:

- A pass is an intentional act of throwing the football no matter how you release the ball.
- A catch includes possession in flight plus your first contact with the ground inbounds. Maintaining possession when you return to the ground or fall is required.
- A simultaneous catch involves opponents that are both inbounds, and belongs to the passing team, and becomes a dead ball.
- Normal line play (blocking) can include an expanded neutral zone.
- The initial direction determines a forward / backward pass including the direction of the passer's arm when it is hit during the release.
- Only 1 forward pass by A is allowed during a scrimmage down.
- A legal or illegal forward pass is complete if caught by any player and the ball remains alive OR it is incomplete and becomes dead if not caught.
- A forward pass crosses the neutral zone when the entire ball is beyond the zone regardless of where the pass may have been first touched.
- Any eligible receiver (A or B) may bat a forward pass.
- The passer is protected if he has thrown a legal, forward pass.
- Roughing the passer includes a 15 yard penalty that is tacked on to the dead ball spot if it is beyond the neutral zone and there was no change of possession. Otherwise, penalize from the previous spot AND it does include an automatic first down.

ILLEGAL FORWARD PASSES:

- Thrown from beyond the neutral zone.
- Thrown following a change of possession.
- A second forward pass by A during the down.
- Intentional grounding (to save time or to save yardage or there is no eligible receiver) and please note that there is no "outside the tackle box" rule in grades 6-12.
- A spike to conserve time if it is not released immediately following a direct hand-to-hand snap OR it is released following a muffed snap that has touched the ground.
- Any incomplete illegal pass belongs to the passing team at the spot of the pass.
- 5 yard penalty from the spot of the pass plus a loss of down in most cases.

ELIGIBILITY RULES:

- Only applies to a legal, forward pass.
- All team B players are eligible.

- Team A players must be eligible both by their number AND by their position at the snap.
- All team A players become eligible if and when B touches the pass.
- If eligible at the snap, a receiver remains eligible throughout the down although illegal participation may become an issue.
- Ineligibles may go beyond the neutral zone once the forward pass that goes beyond the zone is released OR at anytime if the forward pass does not cross the neutral zone.

ILLEGAL TOUCHING:

- Can be behind, in, or beyond the neutral zone.
- An ineligible catches, bats, or muffs a pass (intentional act) before it is touched by B.
- 5 yd penalty plus a loss of down (all-but-one principle).

PASS INTERFERENCE RULES:

- These rules only apply beyond the neutral zone AND only apply on a legal forward pass that crosses the neutral zone.
- Contact is NOW required - face guarding is no longer a pass interference foul.
- A and B have equal rights to the ball.
- Catchability is NOT a factor in our Federation rule book for grades 6 – 12.
- "Interfering with an eligible opponent's opportunity to move toward, catch, or bat the ball."
- Offensive interference can happen from the time of the snap (until B touches the pass) and is a 15 yd penalty. It is no longer a loss of down.
- Defensive interference can happen from the time of the release of the forward pass (until the pass is touched) and is a 15 yd penalty. It is no longer an automatic first down. DPI CANNOT happen away from the direction of the pass.

BACKWARD PASSES:

- Any player in possession of a live ball at any time may throw a backward pass.
- 22 players are eligible to touch/catch a backward pass and the ball remains alive even if it touches the ground in bounds.
- The passing team may NOT bat it forward.
- The opponents may bat it in any direction.
- NO ONE may bat a backward pass after it has touched the ground.
- Any legal snap is a backward pass unless it is a successful hand-to-hand snap.

MOMENTUM EXCEPTION: ALWAYS be alert for an interception or recovery of a pass by the opponents that occurs inside the opponent's own 5 yard line!!!

THE KICKING GAME

LEGAL KICK: A punt, a drop kick, or a place kick – the term legal involves when and where and how the kick is executed.

FREE KICKS: (A free kick down does not involve a snap.)

- Kickoff – Usually from K's 40 and there is a 10 yd. neutral zone. You cannot use a punt for a kickoff. (Ask about the tee.)
- Following a safety – Usually from K's 20 and has a 10 yd. neutral zone. You can use a punt or a place kick or a drop kick. (Yes, you can on-side kick following a safety.)
- K may recover (but NOT advance) a free kick if R has touched it OR if the kick has touched the ground AND broken the plane of R's free kick line (in either order).
- Protect the kicker – No one may block the kicker until the ball touches the ground or it touches R OR the kicker advances 5 yards beyond his kick line. (15 yd penalty for an illegal block enforced from the previous spot and a re-kick).
- Free kick out of bounds – DID R EVER TOUCH THE KICK??? Must know this!!!
  - 4 options: 5 yard penalty and re-kick.
    R's ball 25 yards from K.O. spot (at the hash mark).
    Refuse the penalty and take the result of the play.
    5 yard penalty from the dead ball spot (succeeding spot)
- PSK does not exist on free kicks so all penalties during the kick are from the previous spot except for kick-catching interference (15 yard penalty and re-kick or an awarded fair catch following a 15 yard penalty from the spot of the foul) – New 2018 change allows for a foul during the kick by K can be enforced from the dead ball spot (succeeding spot) if K will not put the ball in play next. (tacked onto the end of the play)
- Fair catch is possible (Very SLOW, deliberate whistle on fair catches).
- TOUCHBACK IF THE BALL IN KICK STATUS BREAKS R's GOALINE PLANE!!!
- R may advance any free kick in the field of play unless a valid or invalid signal has been given by any R player but DO NOT let K advance any free kick !!!
- At least 10 K players must be less than 5 yards from their free kick line at the 'ready' AND at least 4 K players must be on each side of the football at the time of the kick.

SCRIMMAGE KICKS: (The down must start with a legal snap.)

- Legal kick by K in or behind the neutral zone during a scrimmage down.
- Illegal kick – incorrect method or incorrect location of the kick and the ball retains the same status as it was prior to the kick. (15 yard penalty from the spot of the kick.)

- Protect the snapper on any down that a scrimmage kick formation is used.
- R may advance any scrimmage kick in the field of play unless a valid or invalid signal has been given by any R player.
- Any scrimmage kick that goes out of bounds in kick status always belongs to R.
- A scrimmage kick possessed BEHIND the neutral zone can be advanced by all 22 players, or K can still throw a forward pass or K can even kick the ball again.
- A scrimmage kick possessed BEYOND the neutral zone can be advanced by R only. (K can gain possession if R has touched the kick but K cannot advance.)
- An unsuccessful field goal is treated exactly the same as a punt in terms of the scrimmage kick rules.
- FOULS by K enforced from the previous spot except for kick-catching interference. (Options for kick-catching interference are a 15 yd penalty and replay the down or an awarded fair catch 15 yards from the spot of the foul or decline the penalty.) – New 2018 change allows for a foul during the kick by K can be enforced from the dead ball spot (succeeding spot) if K will not put the ball in play next (tacked onto the end of the play).
- FOULS by R from the previous spot UNLESS they are POST SCRIMMAGE KICK enforcement fouls.
    - 1.) Foul by R occurs between the snap and the end of the kick AND occurs beyond the expanded neutral zone.
    - 2.) Kick must cross the expanded neutral zone.
    - 3.) The ball must belong to R at the end of the down.
    - 4.) PSK does not apply on a try or on a successful field goal.
- Protect the kicker/holder – Running into (5 yds) vs. Roughing (15 yds plus automatic 1st down)
- Fair catch (Valid or Invalid) – If any member of R signals, no member of R may advance. (Valid indicates "HOW" and "WHEN" the signal is given.)

GENERAL RULES:

- R must be given an unhindered opportunity to catch the kick regardless of whether a fair catch is signaled or not.
- 1st touching – K touches a kick when they are not entitled to possess the kick.
- THE KICK ENDS and the play is over (blow your whistle and stop the clock) if:
    - 1.) The kick breaks the plane of R's goal line.
    - 2.) Kick goes out of bounds. (It belongs to R.)
    - 3.) R gains possession following a fair catch signal.
    - 4.) K gains possession beyond the neutral zone on a scrimmage kick.
    - 5.) Kick dies with no one in possession.

- 6.) Simultaneous possession.

*** ALWAYS be alert for a fair catch signal and use a SLOW, DELIBERATE whistle !!! Remember that R loses his fair catch protection if he muffs the kick.

*** You must also be alert for the momentum exception that could occur near R's goal line plane inside the 5 yard line.

Marty Hickman

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Dr. Martin (Marty) Leonard Hickman
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Craig Anderson

Phone: 309-663-6377

Street Address: 2715 McGraw Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Bloomington, Illinois, 61704

Signed: Craig Anderson

Date: November 15, 2021

Email: mtroha@ihsa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☒ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Dr. Martin (Marty) Leonard Hickman
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 404 South Spencer
(street address)

Lexington, Illinois, 61753
(city, state, zip)

Email: mnaa44@gmail.com

Phone: 309-530-0828 Date of Birth: 9-12-1958

School Affiliation (if any) n/a

City: _____ State: _____

Place of Birth: Colorado Springs Date of Retirement: January, 2016

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:
n/a

If deceased, date of death:
n/a

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Nancy Hickman

Address: 404 South Spencer, Lexington, Illinois, 61753

Phone: 309-530-1328

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: New Berlin High School	Ner Berlin, Illinois	1976	General studies
College/University: Eastern Illinois University	Charleston, Illinois	1980	Education
Post Graduate School: University of Illinois-Springfield University of Illinois-Champaign	Springfield, Illinois Champaign, Illinois	1983 1994	Master's in Education Doctorate in 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

ADMINISTRATOR

Note: All candidates in this category must be retired by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated. In addition, state association administrators must meet the following additional criteria:

- Must be retired for three years by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated.
- Extended service as state association administrator.
- Viewed as innovative leader within respective state. Statewide accomplishments beyond "simply doing the job."
- National impact on high school activity programs
    1. Service to NFHS should include the following:
        a) member of NFHS rules committees
        b) member of other NFHS committees
        c) member/president of NFHS Board of Directors
        d) speaker at NFHS conferences, meetings
    2. Involvement with NFHS exceeded normal service opportunities, for example:
        a) national impact on playing rules
        b) viewed as leader nationally among state executives
    3. Impact on high school activities beyond NFHS service, for example:
        a) national speaking engagements
        b) expert in certain field; i.e., technology, Title IX, etc.
        c) accomplishments as state CEO received national attention
- Longevity as state association administrator without major and innovative accomplishments at the state and national levels does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.
- Serving on the NFHS Board of Directors and as NFHS President without major and innovative accomplishments at the national level does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.

Career Description as High School Administrator, State Administrator or National Administrator (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school athletic administration)

0) CAREER OVERVEW
a) Girard High School (Girard, IL): Teacher, Coach (1980-83)
b) Bluffs High School (Glasford, IL): Principal (1983-85)
c) Westmer High School (Joy, IL): Principal (1985-87)
d) Monmouth High School (Monmouth, IL): Principal (1987-91)
e) IHSA Assistant Executive Director (1991-1999)
f) IHSA Associate Executive Director (1999-2002)
g) IHSA Executive Director (2002-2016)

1) NFHS SERVICE
a) Member of NFHS Basketball Rules Committee (1999-2002)
b) Chaired NFHS Strategic Planning Committee (approx. 2006)
c) NFHS Appeal Board (2008-2012)
d) NFHS Board of Directors (2012-2016)
e) Multiple-time presenter at NFHS Summer Meeting
f) Worked with NFHS staff to co-host Summer Meeting in Chicago (2003, 2009, 2018)

2) NATIONAL LEADERSHIP - HOF ENDORSEMENTS:
Rick Wulkow, Retired Iowa HS Athletic Association Executive Director – NFHS Hall of Fame Class of 2017:
"Marty Hickman was respected by his peers; whenever he spoke, people listened. He was always well prepared, articulate, and passionate. Marty had the best interest of State Associations and the NFHS in mind whenever he acted. He was truly a visionary in my opinion. He was a natural leader and didn't hesitate to accept that role when called upon. The IHSA, under Marty's leadership, was a model for other State Associations to become prominent and successful. Aside from that, Marty was a great person and a true friend. He is very worthy of induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame."

Bob Gardner, Retired NFHS Executive Director – NFHS Hall of Fame Class of 2019:
"Marty Hickman brought stability to the IHSA taking over in a difficult time. His vision and leadership unified the membership of the Association. He brought that to the NFHS family through service on the Board and leading the Strategic Planning Committee. He is worthy for selection to the National High School Hall of Fame as an Administrator."

3) NATIONAL INVOLVEMENT & STATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS
a) Guided the IHSA through a successful defense of a class-action concussion football lawsuit from 2014 to 2015, the first of its kind in the nation at the high school level. Provided resources and expertise from the IHSA's case to other state high school associations as they traversed similar situations. Continues to consult in this area, including currently for the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA).
b) Served as a Board member for the Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET). Provide input in CSIET rule-writing, as well as guidance to other state high school associations during the early 2010's when an influx of student-athletes attending high schools on various Visas created issues for many state high school associations.
c) Increased diversity in the IHSA staff, hiring first African-American administrator and increased female representation on the administrative staff. Installed internal policies to increase diversity among IHSA membership committees and in State Series representation by game officials.
d) Financial Responsibility: Dr. Hickman inherited the Executive Director position at a time when the IHSA was crippled financially by an unsuccessful lawsuit. His financial austerity had the Association back on solid ground financially with 2-3 years. By 2007, he had eliminated annual dues for membership schools. While not necessarily popular by staff at the time, his foresight to eliminate the pension program and move to a 401K proved to be especially forward-thinking, as the IHSA was able to weather the pandemic year without reducing staff.
e) Provided greater student participation opportunities with the addition of multiple IHSA sports and activities during his tenure, including the first state high school association sponsored bass fishing tournament in the country. Other programs that began under his watch included boys and girls water polo, boys bowling, competitive cheerleading, dance, and journalism.
f) Met the desire of member schools by initiating a committee process that ultimately led to the expansion of classes in many IHSA sports. Decried by some purists, the move remains wildly popular among IHSA schools and clairvoyant given a growing disparity in athletic success often spurred by school enrollment and socioeconomic factors.
g) Oversaw the creation of an ad hoc committee that would ultimately become a full-time IHSA committee advocating for athletes with disabilities, a group that would spur the implementation of IHSA State Finals divisions for athletes with disabilities in four IHSA sports.

h) Remained constant in his support of the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee and the IHSA SMAC taking on greater involvement in the Association, which led to progressive safety initiatives throughout his tenure.
i) Was a key proponent in starting the IHSA Officials Conference, an annual summer conference for IHSA officials to attend and attend sessions to improve while networking and building camaraderie.
j) Started the IHSA Foundation, a not-for-profit that aided students with scholarship opportunities, including the IHSA All-State Academic Team, which is now considered the top honor a high school student-athletes can achieve in the state.

Special Honors and Achievements

a) Illinois Wrestling Coaches & Officials Association (IWCOA) Hall of Fame inductee
b) Bloomington-Normal Officials Association Hall of Fame inductee
c) New Berlin High School of Fame (attended)
d) Mercer County High School Hall of Fame (worked as administrator there)

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

a) Past Board member for Special Olympics Illinois
b) Past Board member for National Association of Sports Officials (NASO)
c) Past Board member of Council on Standards for International Educational Travel (CSIET)
d) Past Board member for Peoria Riverfront Museum
e) Annual presenter at Illinois Association of School Boards Conference, Illinois Athletic Directors Association Conference, Illinois Principals Association Conference.

Other information *(not previously listed)*

I have attached a letter Dr. Hickman wrote entitled "Handing Off The Future Of High School Football". In the open letter, Hickman talked about how important his high school football experience was and why the sport would endure despite the growing concerns about head trauma that were swirling at the time. The letter went viral and was eventually read by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, who invited Dr. Hickman to be his guest at Super Bowl 50.

Finally, I just wanted to share a few brief words from Marty's initial reaction when he learned he was being nominated for the NFHS High School Hall of Fame.

Dr. Marty Hickman:
"I know how diligent we were and the time and thought that we gave to the NFHS Hall of Fame nominations while I was at IHSA, so I am humbled that your team would even consider me. It's not something I ever expected, but even to be nominated is really rewarding. My identity will

always be as a guy who spent 25 years working in a job he could never have dreamed of having. I will always LOVE the IHSA and what it stands for. My life was enhanced and changed for the good by participating in high school sports."

Letters of Recommendation

Esteemed Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with the utmost deference that the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) submits the nomination of former IHSA Executive Director Dr. Marty Hickman for enshrinement in the National Federation of State High Associations (NFHS) National High School Hall of Fame in the Administrator category.

The IHSA has been privileged to see 27 past nominees achieve the highest honor that can be bestowed upon an individual for excellence in high school sports and activities with their respective enshrinements into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

We recognize that when a coach or athlete is considered for the Hall of Fame, while still never an easy decision, the selection committee has more data to pull from in the form of stats, records, and championships. We believe that we have outlined the transcendent impact and visionary leadership that Dr. Hickman displayed during his 26 years at the IHSA, which included 16 years in the Executive Director role. In addition, Dr. Hickman frequently provided his expertise to the NFHS via committee work, and volunteered his time on the Board of Directors for several organizations who support education-based athletics and activities.

However, before you review those supporting materials, we wanted to start by sharing the personal views of two NFHS Hall of Fame administrators, both of whom worked alongside Marty during their careers and believe him to be worthy of Hall of Fame status:

Rick Wulkow, Retired Iowa HS Athletic Association Executive Director – NFHS Hall of Fame Class of 2017:
"Marty Hickman was respected by his peers; whenever he spoke, people listened. He was always well prepared, articulate, and passionate. Marty had the best interest of State Associations and the NFHS in mind whenever he acted. He was truly a visionary in my opinion. He was a natural leader and didn't hesitate to accept that role when called upon. The IHSA, under Marty's leadership, was a model for other State Associations to become prominent and successful. Aside from that, Marty was a great person and a true friend. He is very worthy of induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame."

Bob Gardner, Retired NFHS Executive Director – NFHS Hall of Fame Class of 2019:
"Marty Hickman brought stability to the IHSA taking over in a difficult time. His vision and leadership unified the membership of the Association. He brought that to the NFHS family through service on the Board and leading the Strategic Planning Committee. He is worthy for selection to the National High School Hall of Fame as an Administrator."

We believe Dr. Hickman's career merits NFHS National High School Hall of Fame consideration and hope you will give him full consideration.

Craig Anderson
Executive Director
Illinois High School Association

Missouri State High School Activities Association

1 N. Keene Street, Columbia, MO 65201 ♦ P.O. Box 1328, Columbia, MO 65205
Phone (573) 875-4880 ♦ email@mshsaa.org
♦ www.mshsaa.org ♦

Dr. Kerwin Urhahn, Executive Director
Stacy Schroeder, Associate Executive Director

Davine Davis, Assistant Executive Director Doug Fessler, Assistant Executive Director Craig Long, Chief Financial Officer Lou Mazzocco, Assistant Executive Director
Marty M. Marsh, Assistant Executive Director Kenny Seifert, Assistant Executive Director Greg Stahl, Assistant Executive Director Jason West, Communications Director

October 15, 2021

NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee:

It is a great honor and privilege to write a letter of support for my mentor, peer, and most importantly my friend, Dr. Marty Hickman, for induction into the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame. What an outstanding director, and even better person.

I can honestly say that I would not be where I am today if not for Dr. Hickman. Marty was so generous with his knowledge, time, and expertise to help a new executive director find his way in his new role. I cannot tell you the number of hours that I asked Marty questions, and he never tired of helping me.

Dr. Hickman chaired the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee in 2005, and presented the plan to the entire membership at the 2005 Summer Meeting. He was a leader in a room full of leaders.

Marty also hosted a regional states meeting each year. From that meeting, many things came out which impacted the entire country with examples such as, officials training for the NFHS, and the NFHS Network, which was first discussed by Jack Roberts. Also at that meeting, the first concussion lawsuit was discussed and strategized on how to defend. There were many topics discussed, suggestions made, and possible solutions presented to the NFHS for consideration.

Dr. Hickman did not stop helping others when he retired from the IHSA. He went to work for Special Olympics Illinois. His generous heart, and servant leadership makes him a candidate for every Hall of Fame, but definitely one for the NFHS. Marty has impacted more people's lives in his time in education, association work, and with the Illinois Special Olympics, that he is a blessing to all that come into contact with him.

Respectfully,

Kerwin Urhahn

Kerwin Urhahn, Ed.D
MSHSAA Executive Director

Bobby and Katby Cox
26 Fairlane Dr.
Warsaw, IN 46580
3100 Silkwood Ln.
Port Charlotte, FL 33953

Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with high honor and humility that I enthusiastically author this letter of unlimited support for Dr. Marty Hickman and his potential induction into the National High School Hall of Fame. While I knew of Marty prior to 2011, our professional and personal relationship grew exponentially during my years as Commissioner of the Indiana High School Athletic Association.

Simply stated, Dr. Hickman is one of the finest state Executive Directors the NFHS family has enjoyed in its illustrious history. I greatly benefited from his wisdom and counsel as I began my tenure in Indiana. I deeply admired Marty's calm and thoughtful approach to the myriad of challenges facing him and the Illinois association throughout his career. His strong and steady leadership benefited the IHSA dramatically as well as our Federation family.

During Marty's career at the IHSA, he served admirably on the NFHS Board of Directors, chairing a Strategic Planning Committee for the Federation during a critical time of growth and change. And while these formative modifications were occurring at a national level, simultaneously additional opportunities were being created for Illinois students at the IHSA under his watchful eye.

Perhaps the most dramatic series of events that accentuated Marty's profound leadership were the challenges of the concussion lawsuits brought against the IHSA. Marty activated a dynamic legal team and his Federation friends and supporters to successfully defend the actions and protocols exercised to ensure student safety in the sport of Football. His guidance through these tumultuous times provided reassurance to parents, students, school administrators and those of us in other state associations facing the same tests. The public relations campaign evolving from these trials served as a template for other state associations for years to come. Yet again, another sterling example of Marty's leadership.

As I look at the list of tremendous Executive Directors already enshrined into the NFHS Hall of Fame as Administrators, the name of Dr. Marty Hickman should be added proudly to this roster, reflective of his superb service to the State of Illinois and our National Federation. I provide my highest recommendation to the National High School Hall of Fame for the induction of Dr. Marty Hickman of Illinois.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you wish to discuss Dr. Hickman's candidacy for this honor directly.

Sincerely,

Bobby Cox, Retired Commissioner, Indiana High School Athletic Association

Support Data

Handing Off The Future of High School Football In Illinois by Marty Hickman

January 14, 2016

SHARE

Marty Hickman joined the IHSA staff in 1991 and became the organization's sixth Executive Director in 2002. After 25 years at the IHSA, he will retire on January, 15, 2016.

MEET THE PRETZELS OF NEW BERLIN — Front row, from left: Chris Burger, Vince King, Bill Westwood, Bryan McCray, Joe Corbett. Second row: Phil Hermes, Carl Hart, Kevin Workman, Bob Ward, Greg Miller, Darrell Nation. Third row: John Smith, Mike Thomas, Jim Burger, Tim Lewis, Marty Hickman, Bill Pfeffer, Fourth row: Stan Workman, Mike Simpson, Dan Andrew, Monty Hichman, Rich Nation. Fifth row: Keith Meiers, Jeff Andrew, Jerry Knepler, John Workman, Mike Maurer, Lee Fuchs. Top row: Asst. Coach Bill Bordon, Manager Kent Fortner, Coach Woody Cheesman.

In the fall of 1972, I started my high school athletic career on a football field at New Berlin High School in New Berlin, Illinois. It was the first year of our school's football program and I can still vividly recall playing against the Kincaid Ponies in the inaugural round of the IHSA Playoffs just two years later. What a thrill it was for our team and community.

Now I sit just one day from my retirement date after a 25-year career at the IHSA.

I have made a commitment to writing one letter each day during my final few months on the job, sharing reflections with colleagues, coaches, officials and others who have impacted my life and career. Today's letter is an open one of sorts, responding to the question I have been most oft asked over the past few years..."what is the future of high school football?"

As I have routinely told folks throughout my career, the reason I believe so strongly in education-based athletics is that my high school coaches were the most influential individuals in my life next to my mom growing up. The character and life lessons they instilled in me led me to follow their path as a high school teacher, coach and then principal, en route to my "dream job" at the IHSA...a job I didn't know existed growing up in a town of 1,000 people.

In my quarter of a century at the IHSA, I don't know that there is an issue we have attacked more fervently or collaboratively than that of concussions, especially in football. The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has been at the forefront in that leadership, and the NFHS recently capped the 2015 high school football season with a release highlighting how far we have come in a short period of time (*click here for entire release*), including...

2008 – The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee advocated that a concussed athlete must be removed from play and not allowed to play on the same day.

2010 – The NFHS developed its "Concussion in Sport" online course that has been completed by more than two million student-athletes, parents, coaches and officials.

2014 – The NFHS Concussion Summit Task Force adopted recommendations for reducing the amount of full contact in practices.

I am proud to say that in Illinois we took many additional steps in the name of safety thanks to the collective efforts of our member school coaches/administrators, the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee, the IHSA Council on Player Safety, the state legislature, and other invested constituents (please take the time to educate yourself further at ***Play Smart. Play Hard.***).

Those efforts include the development of a Return to Play Policy that was eventually used as the model for the current Illinois state law, the elimination of contact in summer football, required concussion education testing for coaches, and regular-season football practice contact limitations to name a few.

Keeping the 340,000-plus young men and young women who participate in high school sports in Illinois safe through risk minimization is the number one responsibility of the Association. We had an uplifting moment in that regard in October, when a class-action concussion lawsuit against the IHSA was dismissed with prejudice by the Honorable LeRoy K. Martin Jr. of the Circuit Court of Cook County. In Judge Martin's order granting dismissal, he supported the IHSA's progressive safety record, saying: "In fact, it is clear to this court that IHSA has acted to protect student athletes in this State."

Still, there are stark reminders that there is a risk of injury any time a player steps on the field of play. Chicago was home to a tragic example of that in October, when Bogan High School's Andre Smith passed away following an injury suffered in a contest. As devastating as a tragedy like this is, it is also what continues to drive the doctors, certified athletic trainers and medical experts around the world who work to make sports safer for all athletes. Never has that been more apparent than right now.

The future of the game of football has been called into question often recently in the media. There is a part of me that takes exception to the tunnel vision that football is often viewed through, as the health of the student-athletes who play football is no more, or no less, important than those participating in cheerleading, soccer, lacrosse, basketball and so on.

As the dangers of head trauma in sports have become clearer over the last decade or so, many have piled on football (no pun intended), hastily calling for its demise. However, given time for research and reflection, we have seen many top medical experts speak to the safer climate that the initial "concussion crisis" has created for today's game. Make no mistake, football has been here before, as history shows us that in 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt intervened to help change the trajectory of college football at a time when the game was becoming increasingly violent.

Sports Illustrated recently ran a story (December 14th: *Brain and Brawn by Tom Taylor*) on Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), citing what we do and don't know about CTE, along with highlighting some of the misinformation that been reported on the subject. In the story, University of Minnesota associate professor of neurosurgery Uzma Samadani, MD, PhD, makes it clear that she believes that inactivity and obesity are greater threats to young people than football, saying, "America's problem is not that it plays football, but that it watches football."

Samadani had even stronger words in a Counterpoint against the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) in their stance to ban youth football that was published in Minneapolis Star Tribune, as she said:

"Football is on the riskier end of the spectrum of sports, but still is less risky than skiing, snowboarding, skateboarding, equestrian sports or bicycling. If we are going to legislate all risk-taking behaviors in children, we should probably begin with those that are statistically most dangerous, rather than those in the middle."

We know more today about concussions than we did yesterday and will know tomorrow than we did today. Football remains under the microscope, and that is a good thing for the safety of current and future student-athletes. I have been irked that many of those serving as the judge, jury and abolitionists of high school football often to do so based upon judgements accrued from looking at the college and professional game, as well as past athletes who played in different eras without the current safeguards. It remains vital that we move forward and allow the opportunity for the recent changes to the high school game, and those that may still come like the development of new helmet technology, to positively impact player safety for this generation of players.

I can say unequivocally that high school football is far safer now than when I played. I believe that is a sentiment that will be repeated by the forthcoming generations of high school football players in Illinois.

As long as some of the best and brightest minds on the planet are focusing their energy on the goal of making the game as safe as possible, I personally believe the game will continue to not only survive, but thrive.

I hope it gets that chance.

I talked earlier about the tragedy that occurred in Chicago this season, but there was also triumph from the Windy City.

The city of Chicago has a storied lineage of producing great high school athletes, so many were surprised to learn that when Wendell Phillips Academy won the 2015 IHSA Class 4A Football state championship, it marked the first-ever football state title by a member of the Chicago Public Schools.

In the post-game press conference that night, several of the players talked about how football had helped steer them to a path away from gangs, drugs, and violence that others around them had succumb to.

Senior captain Amir Watts told the assembled media that, "Football has pretty much guided my life, all my life. With football, you get structure and discipline. It's made me a better man."

Fellow defensive linemen Malcolm Fox finished Watts next sentence, adding, "especially with our coaches. Our coaches are amazing in the way they teach us to be young men and to deal with adversity and be humble in victory."

Then Chris Elmore closed by saying, "Football has made me a better person, and man, all-around. Every day when I go to practice, I think, 'man, what would I do without football'."

The world is a very different place today than it was when I graduated from high school 1976, and New Berlin remains a very different place than the Bronzeville neighborhood that houses Phillips Academy in Chicago.

I won't pretend to have faced the same adversity as those young men from Phillips as a high school student, but I can definitely relate to their post-game comments.

I am not sure where I would be today without football either.

I hope that is something that the nearly 47,000 high school student-athletes who played the game in Illinois last year, and the million-plus around the country, never have to worry about either.

Sincerely,

Marie Ishida

New
Information

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Marie M. Ishida
(first, middle, last)

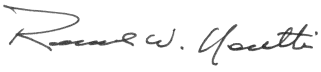
Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Ron Nocetti

Phone: 916-239-4477

Street Address: 4658 Duckhorn Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Sacramento, CA 95834

Signed: 

Date: November 12, 2021

Email: rnocetti@cifstate.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☒ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Marie M. Ishida
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 233 Sundance Lane
(street address)

Watsonville, CA 95076
(city, state, zip)

Email: ishidasanm@gmail.com

Phone: 831-728-8028 Date of Birth: February 25

School Affiliation (if any) California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)

City: Sacramento State: CA

Place of Birth: Utah Date of Retirement: July 2012

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:
Member of CIF's Title IX 50th Anniversary Celebration Advisory Committee

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: Strathmore	Strathmore, CA	1965	College Prep
College/University: Cal State Univ. Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1972	Physical Education
Post Graduate School: Cal State Univ. San Jose	San Jose, CA		Masters and Administrative Credential in Educational Administration

☐ 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

ADMINISTRATOR

Note: All candidates in this category must be retired by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated. In addition, state association administrators must meet the following additional criteria:

- Must be retired for three years by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated.
- Extended service as state association administrator.
- Viewed as innovative leader within respective state. Statewide accomplishments beyond "simply doing the job."
- National impact on high school activity programs
    1. Service to NFHS should include the following:
        a) member of NFHS rules committees
        b) member of other NFHS committees
        c) member/president of NFHS Board of Directors
        d) speaker at NFHS conferences, meetings
    2. Involvement with NFHS exceeded normal service opportunities, for example:
        a) national impact on playing rules
        b) viewed as leader nationally among state executives
    3. Impact on high school activities beyond NFHS service, for example:
        a) national speaking engagements
        b) expert in certain field; i.e., technology, Title IX, etc.
        c) accomplishments as state CEO received national attention
- Longevity as state association administrator without major and innovative accomplishments at the state and national levels does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.
- Serving on the NFHS Board of Directors and as NFHS President without major and innovative accomplishments at the national level does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.

Career Description as High School Administrator, State Administrator or National Administrator (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school athletic administration)

Marie Ishida's career spans a 40-plus year history in education. The now retired State CIF executive director was the seventh chief executive officer of the statewide organization, and currently the only female to hold this post. She served in this position from April 2001 to July 2012.

Ishida served on the CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. She was CIF president-elect from 1992-1994, CIF president from 1994-1996 and CIF past president from 1996-1998 (the first female to hold this elected position). Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her leadership, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

She also served two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. Once as an at-large member (1998-2002) and as the Section 7 representative (2006-2010), only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post. Additionally, Ishida also served on the NFHS Foundation Board of Directors for six years (July 2005-June 2011).

During her tenure as CIF Executive Director, Ishida was responsible for implementing a state championship in football, as well as soccer and girls wrestling. She also played a key role in the CIF negotiating a 15-year deal with Spectrum (previously Time Warner Cable) to televise regional and state championship events in boys and girls sports. Additionally, she championed the promotion of women in leadership roles such as CIF Officers, Staff and Tournament Directors.

Ishida began her career as a teacher and coach at Faye Ross Junior High School in 1971. From 1974-1979, she worked at Artesia High School as a teacher, coach, assistant athletic director (1975-1979) and assistant Dean of Students (1976-1979).

She was an administrative intern for the CIF Central Coast Section from 1979-1980 before becoming the assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School, a position she held from 1980-1986. From 1986-1995, Ishida was the principal at Carmel High School.

In 1995, she accepted the position as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools and served in that capacity until being appointed the State CIF executive director.

Ishida's involvement spans two other CIF Sections as well: the CIF Central Coast and Southern Sections. She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-1991 and was a manager for the girls' basketball championships within the CIF Southern Section from 1976-1978.

Special Honors and Achievements

1997 NFHS Outstanding Service Award Recipient

2014 NFHS Citation Recipient

CIF Extraordinary Service Award honoree

William S. Rockwell Distinguished Service Award (California Coaches Association's highest honor)

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

Served on the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee, including one year as chair.

Represented the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) on the State CIF Federated Council (1987-1989).

Served as the State CIF Softball Rules Interpreter from 1982-1985 and was a member of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee.

Moderator for several NFHS Summer Meeting topics, including: Advancing Equity, Tournament Finance, and NFHS Strategic Plan.

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
CIF STATE OFFICE • 4658 DUCKHORN DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95834 • (916) 239-4477 • CIFSTATE.ORG

November 9, 2021

National Federation of State High School Associations
Attn: NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee,

It is my honor to endorse the nomination of Marie Ishida for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Hall of Fame. Marie dedicated 41 years of her life to education with much of her career in service to education-based athletics. There is no better candidate that the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) could put forward for this prestigious honor.

In a year where the entire NFHS family is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic Title IX Legislation, the nomination of Marie Ishida is particularly appropriate as she was a trailblazer for women in high school sports in California. Marie was the first female CIF President serving in that role from 1994-1996. In 2001, Marie was selected as the CIF Executive Director becoming the first woman to hold that position since the CIF was founded in 1914. Marie held that position until her retirement in 2012 celebrating numerous achievements during her tenure as outlined in our nomination packet.

At a time when all of us are working to grow and improve in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Marie's selection to the NFHS Hall of Fame would be recognizing the accomplishments of a strong, Asian woman. I may not be correct in my perusal of the current Hall of Fame members as names alone do not identify ethnicities but is it possible the Marie would become the first Asian woman in the NFHS Hall of Fame? It would not only be another first for Marie but her appointment would also send a clear message to the education-based athletics community about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do.

Marie's accomplishments are numerous and there is no doubt that she qualifies to be in the NFHS Hall of Fame. I appreciate the arduous task in front of this committee as you will obviously have many qualified individuals for so few spots. However, I ask that you look not only at Marie's career but also at the exciting possibility of selecting the first female president and first female executive director of the largest state in the country to be inducted into the Hall of Fame so close to the date that the historic Title IX legislation was signed into law. The CIF nominates Marie Ishida without reservation and we look forward to your announcement of the 2022 NFHS Hall of Fame class.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Nocetti

WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
6571 EAST 2ND STREET
CASPER, WY 82609
(307) 577-0614 (Phone) / (307) 577-0637 (FAX)
www.whsaa.org

November 9, 2021

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Marie Ishida in support of her nomination for the National High School Hall of Fame. I have known Marie for over twenty years and have worked directly with her as an Executive Director.

Marie was very active in the NFHS both during her tenure as a CIF Executive Committee member as well as her years serving as the CIF Executive Director. Marie is one of the few in the history of the NFHS to serve two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. I was fortunate enough to serve with her on the board during her second term.

My experiences with Marie have been nothing but positive. She has strong leadership abilities and built positive relationships with her welcoming personality throughout the NFHS family. She is well respected among her peers, and I believe was an outstanding team player. Marie was willing to share her opinion in a professional manner and respected the opinions of others.

I worked with Marie on the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee and her insight into moving the organization forward was invaluable. She took several of those ideas back to the CIF and implemented them at the state level as well. Marie was always willing to assist at the NFHS Summer Meeting in advancing professional development in several areas.

Marie was one of the few female Executive Directors. She did not look at this as being a challenge, but rather an opportunity to advance equity. I believe Marie stands for what education-based athletics is all about. Her service to the NFHS, her leadership skills and her overall contributions to her state and the NFHS as an administrator make her an outstanding candidate for the National High School Hall of Fame.

I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX than to select a most deserving female administrator into the National High School Hall of Fame. I urge you to give her your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Laird

Ron Laird, CMAA
Commissioner

-- EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACTIVITIES --

RECOMMENDATION
MARIE ISHIDA
NFHS HALL OF FAME

It is with unwavering respect and admiration for Marie Ishida that I endorse her nomination for induction in the NFHS Hall of Fame.

I was first introduced to Marie in the late 90's at an NFHS Summer meeting. We were both serving as officers for our respective state athletic associations. At the time, I didn't realize our professional paths would cross to the degree they have, and an enduring friendship would result.

Marie's contributions to the California Interscholastic Federation will be highlighted by numerous individuals from her home state. I prefer to focus on how Marie Ishida interacted with and influenced her fellow state commissioners and executive directors.

From 2000 to 2012, I had the privilege of working closely with Marie during the time we both served as state executive directors, Marie with the CIF and me with the NYSPHSAA. As the athletic associations in California and New York are structured in a similar manner, I depended greatly on Marie's wisdom, insight, and judgment.

During our NFHS meetings, it was quickly evident to me the impressive leadership skills Marie possessed. Marie was elected to serve on the NFHS Board of Directors for two terms. There is a reason for that. She was "the" leader among leaders. She is soft-spoken, engaging, and kind. Her style of leadership is highly effective because she inspires those around her. Marie is a clear and concise communicator and has the courage and conviction to make difficult decisions.

When serving on the NFHS Board with Marie, I witnessed her innate ability to see solutions in all matters, regardless of their complexity. She was often the voice of reason, always keeping in perspective the values of an education-based athletic program.

Marie has earned nationwide respect in the field of Interscholastic athletics. She is a consummate professional often called upon to serve on influential committees such as the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee and the NFHS Foundation Committee. She was never reluctant to get actively involved. Her contributions were recognized with the (NFHS Outstanding Service Award (1997) and the NFHS Citation Award (2014).

Marie Ishida has dedicated her impressive career to the CIF and NFHS. She is, without doubt, extremely deserving of induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame. I trust you will agree.

Sincerely,

Nina Van Erk

Nina Van Erk
NYSPHSAA Executive Director (2000-2012)
President NFHS Board of Directors (2010-2011)

November 5, 2021

NFHS Hall of Fame Committee
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pride that I write this letter of recommendation to you for your consideration the nomination of Marie Ishida of Watsonville, California to the National Federation Hall of Fame in the administration category.

California has a very proud tradition of world-class athletes and administrators, and Marie Ishida is considered to be one of our best. After forty-one years of public service, Marie retired in 2012 having served her last eleven (11) years as the Executive Director of the California Interscholastic Federation, the first female to hold the position.

Marie began as one of the first trailblazing female athletic directors in southern California at Artesia High School in 1975. That was just the beginning of an administrative career that impacted millions of student-athletes that included time as Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal of Carmel High School, and Assistant Superintendent of the Santa Cruz School District. During her tenure as a school site and school district administrator, Marie continued her involvement as an athletic administrator in both the CIF Southern Section and the CIF Central Coast Section as well as the State CIF. Marie served as manager for the girls' basketball championships in the CIF Southern Section from 1976-1978 She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-1991.

Before becoming the CIF Executive Director, Marie continued to serve in leadership roles in both California and nationally with the NFHS. Marie was elected to serve on the State CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. In recognization of her exemplary leadership, Marie was elected as CIF president-elect from 1992-1994, CIF president from 1994-1996, and CIF past president from 1996-1998 Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her guidance, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

On a national level, She also served two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. Once as an at-large member (1998-2002) and as the Section 7 representative (2006-2010), only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post.

I urge the committee members to read the various letters of recommendation for Marie Ishida. You will read about not only an outstanding administrator who has long shown herself not only to be an outstanding leader but also to be a person of strong character, showing others mutual respect and human decency. You will see the admiration and respect that everyone who encountered Marie over the years, and she accomplished this all the while remaining a quiet, reserved, and humble person, a trait not often found in today's world.

The NFHS could not have a more deserving person, whose servant leadership impacted millions of lives to induct into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Blake
Executive Director, retd. (2012-2019)

After 11 years, Marie Ishida to step down as CIF Executive Director

By **BAY AREA NEWS GROUP** |
February 3, 2012 at 9:10 a.m.

Marie Ishida announced Friday she will step down as the California Interscholastic Federation's Executive Director at the end of the 2011-12 school year and begin her retirement.

Ishida, who has held the position since 2001, made the announcement at Friday's CIF Federated Council meeting in Ontario.

"It has been an honor to serve as the CIF Executive Director for the past 11 years," Ishida said in a press release. "When I was initially selected for this post I said at that time that this was my dream job. It has been just that. I could not have held any other position that has been so satisfying to end my educational career."

North Coast Section commissioner Gil Lemmon, who attended the meeting, was surprised by Ishida's decision.

"Oh absolutely, I was shocked," said Lemmon, in his fourth year heading the NCS. "I was not aware of any information that she was thinking about retiring."

Ishida, the CIF's first female chief executive, has done a "terrific job," Lemmon said.

Lemmon praised Ishida for bringing financial stability to the CIF, including raising funds for its new office in Sacramento, and establishing "more of a partnership" with the state legislative body. The federation also upgraded its website and re-did its brand under her leadership, he said.

"Marketing has greatly improved over her leadership," Lemmon said. "They've been through three marketing directors and yet they've been able to make progress during her tenure. I think she's done a wonderful job."

Lemmon said he was not going to pursue Ishida's position. He mentioned CIF Associate Director Roger Blake as a "terrific candidate."

The CIF Executive Committee will begin the search for the new candidate immediately, with the new CIF Executive

Director being announced at the CIF Federated Council meeting in May.

Staff writer Matt Schwab contributed to this story.

2010–2011
FEDERATED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

CIF President, Heather Daims, Principal Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
CIF President-Elect, Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
CIF Past-President, Mike Henson , Dir. of Student Pathways, Porterville U.S.D.

Executive Committee

Jeff Cardoza , Athletic Director, Washington Union, High School
Dave Contreras , Athletic Director, Wheatland High School
Richard Graey , Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Michael Lewis, Assistant Superintendent, Grossmont U.H.S.D.
Sister Cheryl Milner, Principal, Bellarmine-Jefferson, High School
James Perry, CAHPERD

Federated Council

Nancy Acerrio, Athletic Director, Hilltop High School
Ray Alvarado, Athletic Administrator, Calexico High School
Sheilagh Andujar, Principal, Oakland Tech High School
Todd Arrowsmith , California Association of Directors of Activities
Diane Burbank, Principal, Prospect High School
Jeff Cardoza, Athletic Director, Washington Union, High School
Dave Contreras, Athletic Director, Wheatland High School
Marci Cranford, Coach, Kingsburg High School
Bill Dabbs, Assistant Superintendent ,Oxnard U.H.S.D.
Heather Daims, Principal, Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
Maureen Ferrel, California, Heath, PE, Recreation & Dance
Dick Fukuda , Athletic Director, Roybal Learning Center
Mike Garrison, Principal, Rocklin High School
Evelia Genera, Principal, Woodland High School
Richard Graey, Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Mike Henson, Dir. of Student Pathways ,Porterville U.S.D.
Debbi Holmerud, Principal, Lincoln High School
Andrew Ishibashi, Principal, Lowell High School
Doug Kaelin, Association of California, School Administrators
Sue Kuwabara, California School, Boards Association
Nancy Lambert, Assistant Principal, Galileo Academy
Michael Lewis, Assistant Superintendent, Grossmont U.H.S.D.
Camille Maben, California Department of Education
Catherine Manthey, California Association of Private School Organizations
Keith Matthews, Principal, St. Francis Catholic, High School
Dennis McClanahan, California Coaches Association
Kim McEwen, Athletic Director, Francis Polytechnic High School
Darlene Miller, California State Athletic Directors Association
Sister Cheryl Milner, Principal, Bellarmine-Jefferson , High School
Jim Monico, Assistant Superintendent, Paramount U.S.D.
Richard Morris, California School, Boards Association
Ray Odom, Superintendent, Hamilton U.H.S.D.
James Perry, California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Dave Reid, California State Athletic Directors Association
Marco Sanchez, Principal, Gilroy High School
Benjamin Schmookler, Principal, Fremont High School
Thom Sembritzki, Athletic Director, Lemoore High School
Gary Smidderks, California Association of Private School Organizations
Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
Mary Jo Truesdale, California Coaches, Association
Reginald Thompkins, Principal, Santiago High School
Nancy Veilleux , Assistant Principal, Roseville High School
Salvador Velasco, Principal, Eagle Rock High School
Kim Wheeler, Coach, Red Bluff High School

CIF State Office Staff

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Roger Blake, Associate Executive Director
Ron Nocetti, Senior Director
Desiree Friedman, Director of Marketing
Quwan Spears, Sports Information Officer
Jade Chin, Assistant to Executive Director
Al Goldberg, Assistant Director
Brian Seymour, Assistant Director of Championship Events
Bobbi Madsen, Bookkeeper
Jennifer Peters, Receptionist
Mary Davis, Intern
Dean Crowley, Championship Events Supervisor
Sheri Ross, Championship Events Supervisor
Diane Marshall-Freeman, General Counsel
Richard Nelson, Foreign Exchange Coordinator

CIF Sections Contact Information

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408.224.2094 · fax 408.224.0476 · www.cifccs.org
Los Angeles City
Barbara Fiege - P.O. Box 3307, Los Angeles, Calif. 90051
(333 S. Beaudry Ave., Suite B216, Los Angeles, Calif. 90017)
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Northern
Elizabeth Kyle - 2241 St. George Lane, Suite 2, Chico, Calif. 95926
530-343-7285 · fax 530-343-5619 · www.cifns.org
Oakland
Michael Moore - 900 High Street, Oakland, Calif. 94601
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Sac-Joaquin
Pete Saco - 1368 East Turner Road, Suite A, Lodi, Calif. 95240
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858.292.8165 · fax 858.292.1375 · www.cifsds.org
San Francisco
Don Collins - 555 Portola Drive, Room 250, San Francisco, Calif. 94131
415.920.5185 · fax 415.920.5189 · www.cifsf.org
Southern
James Staunton - 10932 Pine Street, Los Alamitos, Calif. 90720
562.493.9500 · fax 562.493.6266 · www.cifss.org

CIF on the Web: www.cifstate.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Shout Out to Commissioners

By Heather Daims, CIF President

Throughout the state, there are 10 people, along with their staff, who make it possible for the athletes of California to reap all of the benefits of the high school interscholastic athletic experience. These are the commissioners of the 10 sections that make up the California Interscholastic Federation. The hours are grueling and the work is virtually non-stop, from season to season and year to year. They give up untold time with loved ones and friends to pursue their passion of having the highest quality athletic programs possible for their student-athletes. The concept of "down time" does not exist in their world.

These 10 men and women deal on a daily basis with difficult issues such as student eligibility, incidents at athletic events, parent frustration, negotiating contracts with officials, unethical behavior by some involved in the athletic program, demands from their boards of managers and school districts, ongoing training of coaches and athletic directors, securing venues for athletic events, student health concerns, media requests, dwindling finances for their programs, legal and legislative issues and myriad other tasks and concerns that are usually exhausting (mentally, physically and emotionally), oftentimes anxiety-producing, but always necessary. It is miraculous that they do not collapse under the load.

Occasionally they get to stop for a brief moment and enjoy the fruits of their labors, from sportsmanship awards events, to exciting athletic events to honoring others who have paved the way for today's athletes in their sections. Occasionally, because of their positions, they are able to meet highly regarded professional athletes or celebrities. Occasionally, they travel to other parts of the country to meet with their counterparts and to learn from them. Unfortunately, these moments are fleeting and they are back to the work that needs to get done too quickly.

The skills that commissioners must possess to be effective run the gamut from having the patience of a saint, the diplomacy of an international ambassador, the organizational skills of the President's chief of staff, the knowledge of their subject similar to that of a doctoral candidate and the communication skills of Dale Carnegie.

And so, at the end of this school year, as many of us will head off to vacations and relaxation, I would like to take a moment to do something that happens far too rarely. I would like recognize and express my gratitude for all ten commissioners of the State CIF who work diligently all year long to ensure that the students of California continue to have an outstanding interscholastic athletics program. Thank you Dennis Ackerman, Barbara Fiege, Don Collins, Jim Crichlow, Liz Kyle, Nancy Lazenby Blaser, Gil Lemmon, Michael Moore, Pete Saco and Jim Staunton for a job well done.

The perks are few, the headaches many. We who dabble in the arena of athletics are fortunate, indeed, to have amazing, committed people like you doing the difficult job of commissioner with such grace and professionalism.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Looking Back – Looking Ahead"

By Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director, CIF State Office

Recently marking the passage of my 10th year as the executive director of the California Interscholastic Federation, it gave me pause to reflect on the decade and made me think of the future of this organization.

When I became executive director of the CIF, I knew exactly what direction the CIF was headed. After all, the direction was clearly spelled out in the Strategic Plan the organization had passed:

- CIF needed to not only be a governance organization, but also a service organization assisting our member schools with education based athletics
- Train and educate coaches
- Train and educate athletic administrators
- Continue to work on health and safety issues of our student–athletes
- Be more inclusive

Since that time the CIF has:

- Increased the number of participants from 656,345 to 736,727
- Developed a statewide eligibility transfer and appeal process
- Increased state championship revenue
- Purchased a permanent headquarters
- Added seven Regional/State Championships: football (just passes the regional football games), boys and girls golf, SoCal Boys and Girls Regional Soccer, Girls Wrestling and SoCal Boys Volleyball
- Developed a master plan for the addition of Regional/State Championships: Girls Wrestling (2011), SoCal Regional Tennis - 2013 (NorCal in place), NorCal Regional Boys Volleyball (SoCal in place), State Swimming and Diving, Badminton, Water Polo
- Updated the original strategic plan

Issues that will face the CIF in the next ten years will be:

- Lack of consistent revenue for public schools
- Walk on coaches
- Principals and athletic directors with little or no athletic background
- Schools with a competitive advantage (public or private)
- Creating an "open" division in basketball
- Section reconfiguration
- Legislative interference
- Legal issues and costs
- Consistency in rules statewide

Regardless of how much we have accomplished and how many issues will face us in the future, you can be assured the CIF is sound in its basic structure and sound financially.

2011–2012
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CIF President-Elect, Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
CIF Past-President, Mike Henson, Calif. Network Services Dir. National Academy Foundation

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Todd Arrowsmith, California Association of Directors of Activities
Dennis Byas, Superintendents Liaison Committee
Jeff Cardoza, Athletic Director, Washington Union High School
Duane Coleman, Associate Superintendent Educational Services, Oceanside U.S.D.
Dave Contreras, Athletic Director, Wheatland High School
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Evelia Genera, Principal, Woodland High School
Patty Gillig, Dean of Students, Monte Vista Christian School
Richard Graey, Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent, West Contra Costa U.S.D.
Mike Henson, Director, District Engagement National Academy Foundation
Debbi Holmerud, Principal, Lincoln High School
Andrew Ishibashi, Principal, Lowell High School
Doug Kaelin, Superintendent/Principal, Biggs U.S.D.
Bill Kappenhagen, Principal, Burton High School
Terry Kok, Superintendent, Calvin Christian School
Sue Kuwabara, California School Boards Association
Nancy Lambert-Campbell, Assistant Principal, Galileo Academy
Sue Lepisto, Administrative Consultant, Los Angeles U.S.D.
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Dennis McClanahan, California Coaches Association
Amy McNamera, Principal, James Logan High School
Darlene Miller, California State Athletic Directors Association
Sister Cheryl Milner, Assistant Principal, Paraclete High School
Jim Monico, Director, Instruction & Student Services, Paramount U.S.D.
Richard Morris, California School Boards Association
James Perry, California Association Health, P.E., Recreation & Dance
Dave Reid, California State Athletic Directors Association
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Heather Daims, CIF President

June marks my last month as the President of the California Interscholastic Federation. Although many people are not aware, those of us who have the honor of serving in this voluntary position also have careers in education, or what many of us call our "paying" job. I am most fortunate to be a high school principal at the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex in the Los Angeles Unified School District. My work with the CIF is often filtered through that lens of a high school principal.

In the past two years since I began my stint as the President of the CIF, we have seen great upheaval in education, particularly at the high school level, from the huge growth in the numbers of charter schools and altenative educational settings (like cyber schools and home schooling), to the extreme funding shortages for many schools and districts throughout the state. During these very tumultuous and often difficult times, many programs have seen harsh reductions or outright elimination.

In the wake of the statewide fiscal crisis, there is much talk about reducing programs such as athletics and arts programs or eliminating many of the extra-curricular activities that our students so enjoy and out of which they learn so many lessons beyond the classroom. At the same time, and from many of the same people, there is much talk about intervention programs and increasing student achievement.

In a system of education where there is such great emphasis on "data driven decision making", it seems that many of our decision makers around education have not read the research about the multitude of benefits of athletics, arts and activities for our students. In a time when 21st Century Skills are incorporated into every high-level educational conversation and many mission statements, it seems particularly strange that the very programs that build these skills are under threat.

At this time of reflection about my career in education and my time time working with the amazing people who make up the CIF, I would like to offer some encouragement for those of you who continue to make the difference in thousands of students' lives each year. Let us continue to stand strong and stay vocal about what we know is in the best interests of all of our students. Although we may often disagree about how things should be done around the state, I believe every one of us has the students' best interests in mind.

As a final comment, I would like to thank Marie Ishida for her amazing work during her tenure as CIF Executive Director. Although she remains incredibly humble and is often willing to pass the credit to someone else for the outstanding work that is accomplished each day by this organization, the California Interscholastic Federation would not be the fiscally solid and ethically responsible organization that it is today without her strong, capable and compassionate leadership. We are all wishing you great health, great happiness and great adventure as you move into this strange, exciting time called "retirement" and know that you will continue to be the strong advocate you have always been for student-athletes and for the work being done by the CIF.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Tribute to my Mom and Dad

By Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director, CIF State Office

I'm not a writer, never have been, never will be, but I've often had to try and put my thoughts into words writing these articles over the last 11 years. It has always been a struggle and I welcome the fact that this will be my last article for the CIF News! It has been extremely difficult to decide what to write about. I'm not one to get emotional or use the pronoun "I" or adjectives such as 'excited' or 'happy'. I don't talk much about my personal life or my childhood, but I want to share with you how I believe I got to where I am today.

My parents raised four of us – all girls in California for most of my life. We were all born in Utah and when my twin and I, the youngest of the four, were nine months old we moved to central California to an area where my father was born and raised. During the war – WWII -- all Japanese were forced to leave California, relocate to a "relocation camp", or relocate to a state inland if you had family and could earn a living. Since my mother was born in Utah and we had family there, my parents relocated to Utah. They went by train with only what they could carry. We were all born after the war. I had an aunt and uncle that automatically had to go to a relocation camp because my uncle was born in Japan. An another uncle served in the famous 442nd.

This brief family history is where I believe I get the foundation for my beliefs. For over 20-plus years of my life I never knew what had happened to my parents during the war. They never talked about it. And, somehow we just knew this was not a subject they wanted to talk about. Just as we knew we were going to college without my parents ever saying so. During a family Thanksgiving one of my brother-in-laws asked my parents what had happened to them during the war. That was the first time we had heard what had happened. My dad was matter of fact when he recounted to us what had happened to them. If they were bitter, they never showed it. After that they never talked about it again.

I learned somehow and resolved that the experience my parents had to endure and the dignity in which they lived their entire lives would be my guide. As I retire, I wish for only one thing – that I could know I made my parents proud. My parents were short on words too. I never heard them say "I," It was always "we." I never heard them use the words "excited" or "happy." I am who I am because of my parents.

Scholar-Athletes of the Year . . . . . continued from page 1

2012 CIF/FARMERS Scholar-Athlete Section Winners

Central Section
Kelsey Ruehling — Woodlake Union High School, Woodlake
Jacob Ruiz — Clovis East High School, Clovis

Central Coast Section
Lindsay Mewes — Archbishop Mitty, San Jose
Kevin Bishop — Monta Vista High School, Cupertino

Los Angeles City Section
Camille Saucier — Taft High School, Woodland Hills

North Coast Section
Liza Brusman — Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley
Justin Roberto — San Ramon Valley High School, Dublin

Northern Section
Madeline Gray — Pleasant Valley High School, Chico
Eric Neill — Yreka High School, Yreka

Oakland Section
Hope Schwatrz — Oakland Technical High School, Oakland

Sac-Joaquin Section
Ashley Noda — St. Francis High School, Sacramento
Ryan Peabody — Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento

San Diego Section
Hannah Yoder — Cathedral Catholic High School, San Diego
Tyler Kasl — Poway High School, Poway

San Francisco Section
Anna Ng — George Washington High School, San Francisco
Jeffrey Wong — Lowell High School, San Francisco

Southern Section
Ilima Kung — Torrance High School, Torrance
Seamus Land — San Luis Obispo High School, San Luis Obispo

For Immediate Release
Monday, February 26, 2001

Contact: Jim Duel
415-492-5911
jduel@cifstate.org
www.cifstate.org

ISHIDA SELECTED AS CIF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marie M. Ishida, a prominent player in the CIF's history, has been selected as the State CIF executive director. Ishida follows Jack Hayes and becomes the seventh chief executive officer of the statewide organization. She will begin her new post on April 1.

The assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools, Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her leadership, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

The CIF was formed in 1914 as the governing agency for high school athletics in California with its major purpose to enforce the rules regarding athletics. That remained the primary focus of the organization until the implementation of the strategic plan in 1995.

Said Bob Kanaby, executive director for the National Federation of State High School Associations: "I am extremely pleased that Marie Ishida has been selected as

California Interscholastic Federation executive director. I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Marie the past three years as a member of the NFHS Board of Directors. During that time, she has repeatedly demonstrated the qualities of leadership that are needed for a position like this, and I am confident that the CIF will enjoy continued success and achievement as a result of her service to the membership."

"The Executive Committee is extremely excited about the prospect of having Marie Ishida as executive director," said Charley Berger, CIF president and assistant superintendent for the San Juan Unified School District. "Marie's experience with the strategic plan, and her leadership in changing the role of CIF in high school athletics was an important factor in her selection. As CIF president, Marie was one of the primary forces behind significant changes the organization has made during the past five years."

Ishida served on the CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. She was CIF president elect from 1992-94, CIF president from 1994-96 and CIF past president from 1996-98. Currently, she is on the board of directors for the National Federation of State High School Associations, only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post.

On both the state and national level, Ishida has received many accolades and honors. In 1997, the National Federation of State High School Associations bestowed Ishida with their Outstanding Service Award. She was also honored with an Extraordinary Service Award by the CIF and received the California Coaches Association's highest honor as a recipient of the William S. Rockwell Distinguished Service Award.

Ishida's involvement spans two other CIF Sections as well: the CIF Central Coast and Southern Section. She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-91 and was a manager for the girls' basketball championships within the CIF Southern Section from 1976-78.

Ishida began her career as a teacher and coach at Faye Ross Junior High School in 1971. From 1974-79, she worked at Artesia High School as a teacher, coach, assistant athletic director (1975-79) and assistant Dean of Students (1976-79).

She was an administrative intern for the CIF Central Coast Section from 1979-80 before becoming the assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School, a position she held from 1980-86. From 1986-95, Ishida was the principal at Carmel High School.

In 1995, she accepted her current position as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools.

Said Ishida: "My first teaching position included coaching. Throughout the years I have joined the efforts of thousands of people throughout the state of California who volunteer their time and their hearts to help our student athletes experience what sports can teach us about life, discipline, commitment and achievement.

"I know success in every effort relies on a team. I am truly excited to have the privilege of working with the CIF team and helping in every way I can to make all of these efforts count. Our student athletes deserve it. Quite honestly, it feels like I've been given the best coaching job I could have imagined!"

4-4-4

Other Notables on Marie Ishida:

- Serves on the National Federation of State High School Association's Hall of Fame Screening Committee.
- Was a member of the CIF Central Coast Section Executive Committee from 1984-92.
- Represented the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) on the State CIF Federated Council (1987-89).
- Served as the State CIF Softball Rules Interpreter from 1982-85 and was a member of the National Federation's Softball Rules Committee.
- Was a moderator for several National Federation Summer Meeting topics, including: Advancing Equity, Tournament Finance, and NFHS Strategic Plan.
- Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

CIF Chief Executive Officers

E.W. Barnhart	January 1914-February 1915
C.L. Biedenbach	February 1915-December 1937
A.B. Ingham	December 1937-June 1955
William Russell	July 1955-June 1980
Thomas E. Byrnes	1980-1995
Jack J. Hayes	1995-2001
Marie M. Ishida	2001-present

Prior Information

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Marie M. Ishida
(first, middle, last)

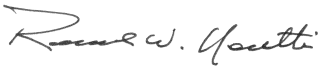
Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Ron Nocetti

Phone: 916-239-4477

Street Address: 4658 Duckhorn Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Sacramento, CA 95834

Signed: 

Date: November 12, 2021

Email: rnocetti@cifstate.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☐ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☒ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Marie M. Ishida
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 233 Sundance Lane
(street address)

Watsonville, CA 95076
(city, state, zip)

Email: ishidasanm@gmail.com

Phone: 831-728-8028 Date of Birth: February 25

School Affiliation (if any) California Interscholastic Federation (CIF)

City: Sacramento State: CA

Place of Birth: Utah Date of Retirement: July 2012

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:
Member of CIF's Title IX 50th Anniversary Celebration Advisory Committee

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: Strathmore	Strathmore, CA	1965	College Prep
College/University: Cal State Univ. Long Beach	Long Beach, CA	1972	Physical Education
Post Graduate School: Cal State Univ. San Jose	San Jose, CA		Masters and Administrative Credential in Educational Administration

☐ 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

ADMINISTRATOR

Note: All candidates in this category must be retired by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated. In addition, state association administrators must meet the following additional criteria:

- Must be retired for three years by November 15 of the applicable year to be nominated.
- Extended service as state association administrator.
- Viewed as innovative leader within respective state. Statewide accomplishments beyond "simply doing the job."
- National impact on high school activity programs
    1. Service to NFHS should include the following:
        a) member of NFHS rules committees
        b) member of other NFHS committees
        c) member/president of NFHS Board of Directors
        d) speaker at NFHS conferences, meetings
    2. Involvement with NFHS exceeded normal service opportunities, for example:
        a) national impact on playing rules
        b) viewed as leader nationally among state executives
    3. Impact on high school activities beyond NFHS service, for example:
        a) national speaking engagements
        b) expert in certain field; i.e., technology, Title IX, etc.
        c) accomplishments as state CEO received national attention
- Longevity as state association administrator without major and innovative accomplishments at the state and national levels does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.
- Serving on the NFHS Board of Directors and as NFHS President without major and innovative accomplishments at the national level does not constitute appropriate credentials for Hall of Fame induction.

Career Description as High School Administrator, State Administrator or National Administrator (give complete background and information pertaining to involvement in high school athletic administration)

Marie Ishida's career spans a 40-plus year history in education. The now retired State CIF executive director was the seventh chief executive officer of the statewide organization, and currently the only female to hold this post. She served in this position from April 2001 to July 2012.

Ishida served on the CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. She was CIF president-elect from 1992-1994, CIF president from 1994-1996 and CIF past president from 1996-1998 (the first female to hold this elected position). Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her leadership, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

She also served two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. Once as an at-large member (1998-2002) and as the Section 7 representative (2006-2010), only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post.

During her tenure as CIF Executive Director, Ishida was responsible for implementing a state championship in football, as well as soccer and girls wrestling. She also played a key role in the CIF negotiating a 15-year deal with Spectrum (previously Time Warner Cable) to televise regional and state championship events in boys and girls sports. Additionally, she championed the promotion of women in leadership roles such as CIF Officers, Staff and Tournament Directors.

Ishida began her career as a teacher and coach at Faye Ross Junior High School in 1971. From 1974-1979, she worked at Artesia High School as a teacher, coach, assistant athletic director (1975-1979) and assistant Dean of Students (1976-1979).

She was an administrative intern for the CIF Central Coast Section from 1979-1980 before becoming the assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School, a position she held from 1980-1986. From 1986-1995, Ishida was the principal at Carmel High School.

In 1995, she accepted the position as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools and served in that capacity until being appointed the State CIF executive director.

Ishida's involvement spans two other CIF Sections as well: the CIF Central Coast and Southern Sections. She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-1991 and was a manager for the girls' basketball championships within the CIF Southern Section from 1976-1978.

Special Honors and Achievements

1997 NFHS Outstanding Service Award Recipient

2014 NFHS Citation Recipient

CIF Extraordinary Service Award honoree

William S. Rockwell Distinguished Service Award (California Coaches Association's highest honor)

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

Served on the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee, including one year as chair.

Represented the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) on the State CIF Federated Council (1987-1989).

Served as the State CIF Softball Rules Interpreter from 1982-1985 and was a member of the NFHS Softball Rules Committee.

Moderator for several NFHS Summer Meeting topics, including: Advancing Equity, Tournament Finance, and NFHS Strategic Plan.

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity

Letters of Recommendation

RONALD W. NOCETTI, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION
CIF STATE OFFICE • 4658 DUCKHORN DRIVE • SACRAMENTO, CA 95834 • (916) 239-4477 • CIFSTATE.ORG

November 9, 2021

National Federation of State High School Associations
Attn: NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee,

It is my honor to endorse the nomination of Marie Ishida for the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) Hall of Fame. Marie dedicated 41 years of her life to education with much of her career in service to education-based athletics. There is no better candidate that the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) could put forward for this prestigious honor.

In a year where the entire NFHS family is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the historic Title IX Legislation, the nomination of Marie Ishida is particularly appropriate as she was a trailblazer for women in high school sports in California. Marie was the first female CIF President serving in that role from 1994-1996. In 2001, Marie was selected as the CIF Executive Director becoming the first woman to hold that position since the CIF was founded in 1914. Marie held that position until her retirement in 2012 celebrating numerous achievements during her tenure as outlined in our nomination packet.

At a time when all of us are working to grow and improve in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion, Marie's selection to the NFHS Hall of Fame would be recognizing the accomplishments of a strong, Asian woman. I may not be correct in my perusal of the current Hall of Fame members as names alone do not identify ethnicities but is it possible the Marie would become the first Asian woman in the NFHS Hall of Fame? It would not only be another first for Marie but her appointment would also send a clear message to the education-based athletics community about the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in all that we do.

Marie's accomplishments are numerous and there is no doubt that she qualifies to be in the NFHS Hall of Fame. I appreciate the arduous task in front of this committee as you will obviously have many qualified individuals for so few spots. However, I ask that you look not only at Marie's career but also at the exciting possibility of selecting the first female president and first female executive director of the largest state in the country to be inducted into the Hall of Fame so close to the date that the historic Title IX legislation was signed into law. The CIF nominates Marie Ishida without reservation and we look forward to your announcement of the 2022 NFHS Hall of Fame class.

Sincerely,

Ronald W. Nocetti

November 5, 2021

NFHS Hall of Fame Committee
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, Indiana 46206

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great pride that I write this letter of recommendation to you for your consideration the nomination of Marie Ishida of Watsonville, California to the National Federation Hall of Fame in the administration category.

California has a very proud tradition of world-class athletes and administrators, and Marie Ishida is considered to be one of our best. After forty-one years of public service, Marie retired in 2012 having served her last eleven (11) years as the Executive Director of the California Interscholastic Federation, the first female to hold the position.

Marie began as one of the first trailblazing female athletic directors in southern California at Artesia High School in 1975. That was just the beginning of an administrative career that impacted millions of student-athletes that included time as Dean of Students, Assistant Principal, Principal of Carmel High School, and Assistant Superintendent of the Santa Cruz School District. During her tenure as a school site and school district administrator, Marie continued her involvement as an athletic administrator in both the CIF Southern Section and the CIF Central Coast Section as well as the State CIF. Marie served as manager for the girls' basketball championships in the CIF Southern Section from 1976-1978 She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-1991.

Before becoming the CIF Executive Director, Marie continued to serve in leadership roles in both California and nationally with the NFHS. Marie was elected to serve on the State CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. In recognization of her exemplary leadership, Marie was elected as CIF president-elect from 1992-1994, CIF president from 1994-1996, and CIF past president from 1996-1998 Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her guidance, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

On a national level, She also served two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. Once as an at-large member (1998-2002) and as the Section 7 representative (2006-2010), only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post.

I urge the committee members to read the various letters of recommendation for Marie Ishida. You will read about not only an outstanding administrator who has long shown herself not only to be an outstanding leader but also to be a person of strong character, showing others mutual respect and human decency. You will see the admiration and respect that everyone who encountered Marie over the years, and she accomplished this all the while remaining a quiet, reserved, and humble person, a trait not often found in today's world.

The NFHS could not have a more deserving person, whose servant leadership impacted millions of lives to induct into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Roger L. Blake
Executive Director, retd. (2012-2019)

WYOMING HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
6571 EAST 2ND STREET
CASPER, WY 82609
(307) 577-0614 (Phone) / (307) 577-0637 (FAX)
www.whsaa.org

November 9, 2021

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for Marie Ishida in support of her nomination for the National High School Hall of Fame. I have known Marie for over twenty years and have worked directly with her as an Executive Director.

Marie was very active in the NFHS both during her tenure as a CIF Executive Committee member as well as her years serving as the CIF Executive Director. Marie is one of the few in the history of the NFHS to serve two terms on the NFHS Board of Directors. I was fortunate enough to serve with her on the board during her second term.

My experiences with Marie have been nothing but positive. She has strong leadership abilities and built positive relationships with her welcoming personality throughout the NFHS family. She is well respected among her peers, and I believe was an outstanding team player. Marie was willing to share her opinion in a professional manner and respected the opinions of others.

I worked with Marie on the NFHS Strategic Planning Committee and her insight into moving the organization forward was invaluable. She took several of those ideas back to the CIF and implemented them at the state level as well. Marie was always willing to assist at the NFHS Summer Meeting in advancing professional development in several areas.

Marie was one of the few female Executive Directors. She did not look at this as being a challenge, but rather an opportunity to advance equity. I believe Marie stands for what education-based athletics is all about. Her service to the NFHS, her leadership skills and her overall contributions to her state and the NFHS as an administrator make her an outstanding candidate for the National High School Hall of Fame.

I cannot think of a better way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Title IX than to select a most deserving female administrator into the National High School Hall of Fame. I urge you to give her your strongest consideration.

Sincerely,

Ron Laird

Ron Laird, CMAA
Commissioner

-- EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE THROUGH ACTIVITIES --

RECOMMENDATION
MARIE ISHIDA
NFHS HALL OF FAME

It is with unwavering respect and admiration for Marie Ishida that I endorse her nomination for induction in the NFHS Hall of Fame.

I was first introduced to Marie in the late 90's at an NFHS Summer meeting. We were both serving as officers for our respective state athletic associations. At the time, I didn't realize our professional paths would cross to the degree they have, and an enduring friendship would result.

Marie's contributions to the California Interscholastic Federation will be highlighted by numerous individuals from her home state. I prefer to focus on how Marie Ishida interacted with and influenced her fellow state commissioners and executive directors.

From 2000 to 2012, I had the privilege of working closely with Marie during the time we both served as state executive directors, Marie with the CIF and me with the NYSPHSAA. As the athletic associations in California and New York are structured in a similar manner, I depended greatly on Marie's wisdom, insight, and judgment.

During our NFHS meetings, it was quickly evident to me the impressive leadership skills Marie possessed. Marie was elected to serve on the NFHS Board of Directors for two terms. There is a reason for that. She was "the" leader among leaders. She is soft-spoken, engaging, and kind. Her style of leadership is highly effective because she inspires those around her. Marie is a clear and concise communicator and has the courage and conviction to make difficult decisions.

When serving on the NFHS Board with Marie, I witnessed her innate ability to see solutions in all matters, regardless of their complexity. She was often the voice of reason, always keeping in perspective the values of an education-based athletic program.

Marie has earned nationwide respect in the field of Interscholastic athletics. She is a consummate professional often called upon to serve on influential committees such as the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee and the NFHS Foundation Committee. She was never reluctant to get actively involved. Her contributions were recognized with the (NFHS Outstanding Service Award (1997) and the NFHS Citation Award (2014).

Marie Ishida has dedicated her impressive career to the CIF and NFHS. She is, without doubt, extremely deserving of induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame. I trust you will agree.

Sincerely,

Nina Van Erk

Nina Van Erk
NYSPHSAA Executive Director (2000-2012)
President NFHS Board of Directors (2010-2011)

Support Data

After 11 years, Marie Ishida to step down as CIF Executive Director

By **BAY AREA NEWS GROUP** |
February 3, 2012 at 9:10 a.m.

Marie Ishida announced Friday she will step down as the California Interscholastic Federation's Executive Director at the end of the 2011-12 school year and begin her retirement.

Ishida, who has held the position since 2001, made the announcement at Friday's CIF Federated Council meeting in Ontario.

"It has been an honor to serve as the CIF Executive Director for the past 11 years," Ishida said in a press release. "When I was initially selected for this post I said at that time that this was my dream job. It has been just that. I could not have held any other position that has been so satisfying to end my educational career."

North Coast Section commissioner Gil Lemmon, who attended the meeting, was surprised by Ishida's decision.

"Oh absolutely, I was shocked," said Lemmon, in his fourth year heading the NCS. "I was not aware of any information that she was thinking about retiring."

Ishida, the CIF's first female chief executive, has done a "terrific job," Lemmon said.

Lemmon praised Ishida for bringing financial stability to the CIF, including raising funds for its new office in Sacramento, and establishing "more of a partnership" with the state legislative body. The federation also upgraded its website and re-did its brand under her leadership, he said.

"Marketing has greatly improved over her leadership," Lemmon said. "They've been through three marketing directors and yet they've been able to make progress during her tenure. I think she's done a wonderful job."

Lemmon said he was not going to pursue Ishida's position. He mentioned CIF Associate Director Roger Blake as a "terrific candidate."

The CIF Executive Committee will begin the search for the new candidate immediately, with the new CIF Executive

Director being announced at the CIF Federated Council meeting in May.

Staff writer Matt Schwab contributed to this story.

2010–2011
FEDERATED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers

CIF President, Heather Daims, Principal Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
CIF President-Elect, Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
CIF Past-President, Mike Henson , Dir. of Student Pathways, Porterville U.S.D.

Executive Committee

Jeff Cardoza , Athletic Director, Washington Union, High School
Dave Contreras , Athletic Director, Wheatland High School
Richard Graey , Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Michael Lewis, Assistant Superintendent, Grossmont U.H.S.D.
Sister Cheryl Milner, Principal, Bellarmine-Jefferson, High School
James Perry, CAHPERD

Federated Council

Nancy Acerrio, Athletic Director, Hilltop High School
Ray Alvarado, Athletic Administrator, Calexico High School
Sheilagh Andujar, Principal, Oakland Tech High School
Todd Arrowsmith , California Association of Directors of Activities
Diane Burbank, Principal, Prospect High School
Jeff Cardoza, Athletic Director, Washington Union, High School
Dave Contreras, Athletic Director, Wheatland High School
Marci Cranford, Coach, Kingsburg High School
Bill Dabbs, Assistant Superintendent ,Oxnard U.H.S.D.
Heather Daims, Principal, Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
Maureen Ferrel, California, Heath, PE, Recreation & Dance
Dick Fukuda , Athletic Director, Roybal Learning Center
Mike Garrison, Principal, Rocklin High School
Evelia Genera, Principal, Woodland High School
Richard Graey, Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Mike Henson, Dir. of Student Pathways ,Porterville U.S.D.
Debbi Holmerud, Principal, Lincoln High School
Andrew Ishibashi, Principal, Lowell High School
Doug Kaelin, Association of California, School Administrators
Sue Kuwabara, California School, Boards Association
Nancy Lambert, Assistant Principal, Galileo Academy
Michael Lewis, Assistant Superintendent, Grossmont U.H.S.D.
Camille Maben, California Department of Education
Catherine Manthey, California Association of Private School Organizations
Keith Matthews, Principal, St. Francis Catholic, High School
Dennis McClanahan, California Coaches Association
Kim McEwen, Athletic Director, Francis Polytechnic High School
Darlene Miller, California State Athletic Directors Association
Sister Cheryl Milner, Principal, Bellarmine-Jefferson , High School
Jim Monico, Assistant Superintendent, Paramount U.S.D.
Richard Morris, California School, Boards Association
Ray Odom, Superintendent, Hamilton U.H.S.D.
James Perry, California Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance
Dave Reid, California State Athletic Directors Association
Marco Sanchez, Principal, Gilroy High School
Benjamin Schmookler, Principal, Fremont High School
Thom Sembritzki, Athletic Director, Lemoore High School
Gary Smidderks, California Association of Private School Organizations
Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
Mary Jo Truesdale, California Coaches, Association
Reginald Thompkins, Principal, Santiago High School
Nancy Veilleux , Assistant Principal, Roseville High School
Salvador Velasco, Principal, Eagle Rock High School
Kim Wheeler, Coach, Red Bluff High School

CIF State Office Staff

Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director
Roger Blake, Associate Executive Director
Ron Nocetti, Senior Director
Desiree Friedman, Director of Marketing
Quwan Spears, Sports Information Officer
Jade Chin, Assistant to Executive Director
Al Goldberg, Assistant Director
Brian Seymour, Assistant Director of Championship Events
Bobbi Madsen, Bookkeeper
Jennifer Peters, Receptionist
Mary Davis, Intern
Dean Crowley, Championship Events Supervisor
Sheri Ross, Championship Events Supervisor
Diane Marshall-Freeman, General Counsel
Richard Nelson, Foreign Exchange Coordinator

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CIF on the Web: www.cifstate.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A Shout Out to Commissioners

By Heather Daims, CIF President

Throughout the state, there are 10 people, along with their staff, who make it possible for the athletes of California to reap all of the benefits of the high school interscholastic athletic experience. These are the commissioners of the 10 sections that make up the California Interscholastic Federation. The hours are grueling and the work is virtually non-stop, from season to season and year to year. They give up untold time with loved ones and friends to pursue their passion of having the highest quality athletic programs possible for their student-athletes. The concept of "down time" does not exist in their world.

These 10 men and women deal on a daily basis with difficult issues such as student eligibility, incidents at athletic events, parent frustration, negotiating contracts with officials, unethical behavior by some involved in the athletic program, demands from their boards of managers and school districts, ongoing training of coaches and athletic directors, securing venues for athletic events, student health concerns, media requests, dwindling finances for their programs, legal and legislative issues and myriad other tasks and concerns that are usually exhausting (mentally, physically and emotionally), oftentimes anxiety-producing, but always necessary. It is miraculous that they do not collapse under the load.

Occasionally they get to stop for a brief moment and enjoy the fruits of their labors, from sportsmanship awards events, to exciting athletic events to honoring others who have paved the way for today's athletes in their sections. Occasionally, because of their positions, they are able to meet highly regarded professional athletes or celebrities. Occasionally, they travel to other parts of the country to meet with their counterparts and to learn from them. Unfortunately, these moments are fleeting and they are back to the work that needs to get done too quickly.

The skills that commissioners must possess to be effective run the gamut from having the patience of a saint, the diplomacy of an international ambassador, the organizational skills of the President's chief of staff, the knowledge of their subject similar to that of a doctoral candidate and the communication skills of Dale Carnegie.

And so, at the end of this school year, as many of us will head off to vacations and relaxation, I would like to take a moment to do something that happens far too rarely. I would like recognize and express my gratitude for all ten commissioners of the State CIF who work diligently all year long to ensure that the students of California continue to have an outstanding interscholastic athletics program. Thank you Dennis Ackerman, Barbara Fiege, Don Collins, Jim Crichlow, Liz Kyle, Nancy Lazenby Blaser, Gil Lemmon, Michael Moore, Pete Saco and Jim Staunton for a job well done.

The perks are few, the headaches many. We who dabble in the arena of athletics are fortunate, indeed, to have amazing, committed people like you doing the difficult job of commissioner with such grace and professionalism.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Looking Back – Looking Ahead"

By Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director, CIF State Office

Recently marking the passage of my 10th year as the executive director of the California Interscholastic Federation, it gave me pause to reflect on the decade and made me think of the future of this organization.

When I became executive director of the CIF, I knew exactly what direction the CIF was headed. After all, the direction was clearly spelled out in the Strategic Plan the organization had passed:

- CIF needed to not only be a governance organization, but also a service organization assisting our member schools with education based athletics
- Train and educate coaches
- Train and educate athletic administrators
- Continue to work on health and safety issues of our student–athletes
- Be more inclusive

Since that time the CIF has:

- Increased the number of participants from 656,345 to 736,727
- Developed a statewide eligibility transfer and appeal process
- Increased state championship revenue
- Purchased a permanent headquarters
- Added seven Regional/State Championships: football (just passes the regional football games), boys and girls golf, SoCal Boys and Girls Regional Soccer, Girls Wrestling and SoCal Boys Volleyball
- Developed a master plan for the addition of Regional/State Championships: Girls Wrestling (2011), SoCal Regional Tennis - 2013 (NorCal in place), NorCal Regional Boys Volleyball (SoCal in place), State Swimming and Diving, Badminton, Water Polo
- Updated the original strategic plan

Issues that will face the CIF in the next ten years will be:

- Lack of consistent revenue for public schools
- Walk on coaches
- Principals and athletic directors with little or no athletic background
- Schools with a competitive advantage (public or private)
- Creating an "open" division in basketball
- Section reconfiguration
- Legislative interference
- Legal issues and costs
- Consistency in rules statewide

Regardless of how much we have accomplished and how many issues will face us in the future, you can be assured the CIF is sound in its basic structure and sound financially.

2011–2012
FEDERATED COUNCIL MEMBERS

Officers
CIF President, Heather Daims, Principal, Miguel Contreras Learning Complex
CIF President-Elect, Rick Spears, Principal, Colfax High School
CIF Past-President, Mike Henson, Calif. Network Services Dir. National Academy Foundation

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Duane Coleman, Associate Superintendent Educational Services, Oceanside U.S.D.
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Patty Gillig, Dean of Students, Monte Vista Christian School
Richard Graey, Superintendent, Mattole U.S.D.
Wendell Greer, Associate Superintendent, West Contra Costa U.S.D.
Mike Henson, Director, District Engagement National Academy Foundation
Debbi Holmerud, Principal, Lincoln High School
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Dennis McClanahan, California Coaches Association
Amy McNamera, Principal, James Logan High School
Darlene Miller, California State Athletic Directors Association
Sister Cheryl Milner, Assistant Principal, Paraclete High School
Jim Monico, Director, Instruction & Student Services, Paramount U.S.D.
Richard Morris, California School Boards Association
James Perry, California Association Health, P.E., Recreation & Dance
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Richard Rankin, District Athletic Director, Porterville U.S.D.
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Sac-Joaquin
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Southern
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CIF on the Web: www.cifstate.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Heather Daims, CIF President

June marks my last month as the President of the California Interscholastic Federation. Although many people are not aware, those of us who have the honor of serving in this voluntary position also have careers in education, or what many of us call our "paying" job. I am most fortunate to be a high school principal at the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex in the Los Angeles Unified School District. My work with the CIF is often filtered through that lens of a high school principal.

In the past two years since I began my stint as the President of the CIF, we have seen great upheaval in education, particularly at the high school level, from the huge growth in the numbers of charter schools and altenative educational settings (like cyber schools and home schooling), to the extreme funding shortages for many schools and districts throughout the state. During these very tumultuous and often difficult times, many programs have seen harsh reductions or outright elimination.

In the wake of the statewide fiscal crisis, there is much talk about reducing programs such as athletics and arts programs or eliminating many of the extra-curricular activities that our students so enjoy and out of which they learn so many lessons beyond the classroom. At the same time, and from many of the same people, there is much talk about intervention programs and increasing student achievement.

In a system of education where there is such great emphasis on "data driven decision making", it seems that many of our decision makers around education have not read the research about the multitude of benefits of athletics, arts and activities for our students. In a time when 21st Century Skills are incorporated into every high-level educational conversation and many mission statements, it seems particularly strange that the very programs that build these skills are under threat.

At this time of reflection about my career in education and my time time working with the amazing people who make up the CIF, I would like to offer some encouragement for those of you who continue to make the difference in thousands of students' lives each year. Let us continue to stand strong and stay vocal about what we know is in the best interests of all of our students. Although we may often disagree about how things should be done around the state, I believe every one of us has the students' best interests in mind.

As a final comment, I would like to thank Marie Ishida for her amazing work during her tenure as CIF Executive Director. Although she remains incredibly humble and is often willing to pass the credit to someone else for the outstanding work that is accomplished each day by this organization, the California Interscholastic Federation would not be the fiscally solid and ethically responsible organization that it is today without her strong, capable and compassionate leadership. We are all wishing you great health, great happiness and great adventure as you move into this strange, exciting time called "retirement" and know that you will continue to be the strong advocate you have always been for student-athletes and for the work being done by the CIF.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A Tribute to my Mom and Dad

By Marie M. Ishida, Executive Director, CIF State Office

I'm not a writer, never have been, never will be, but I've often had to try and put my thoughts into words writing these articles over the last 11 years. It has always been a struggle and I welcome the fact that this will be my last article for the CIF News! It has been extremely difficult to decide what to write about. I'm not one to get emotional or use the pronoun "I" or adjectives such as 'excited' or 'happy'. I don't talk much about my personal life or my childhood, but I want to share with you how I believe I got to where I am today.

My parents raised four of us – all girls in California for most of my life. We were all born in Utah and when my twin and I, the youngest of the four, were nine months old we moved to central California to an area where my father was born and raised. During the war – WWII -- all Japanese were forced to leave California, relocate to a "relocation camp", or relocate to a state inland if you had family and could earn a living. Since my mother was born in Utah and we had family there, my parents relocated to Utah. They went by train with only what they could carry. We were all born after the war. I had an aunt and uncle that automatically had to go to a relocation camp because my uncle was born in Japan. An another uncle served in the famous 442nd.

This brief family history is where I believe I get the foundation for my beliefs. For over 20-plus years of my life I never knew what had happened to my parents during the war. They never talked about it. And, somehow we just knew this was not a subject they wanted to talk about. Just as we knew we were going to college without my parents ever saying so. During a family Thanksgiving one of my brother-in-laws asked my parents what had happened to them during the war. That was the first time we had heard what had happened. My dad was matter of fact when he recounted to us what had happened to them. If they were bitter, they never showed it. After that they never talked about it again.

I learned somehow and resolved that the experience my parents had to endure and the dignity in which they lived their entire lives would be my guide. As I retire, I wish for only one thing – that I could know I made my parents proud. My parents were short on words too. I never heard them say "I," It was always "we." I never heard them use the words "excited" or "happy." I am who I am because of my parents.

Scholar-Athletes of the Year . . . . . continued from page 1

2012 CIF/FARMERS Scholar-Athlete Section Winners

Central Section
Kelsey Ruehling — Woodlake Union High School, Woodlake
Jacob Ruiz — Clovis East High School, Clovis

Central Coast Section
Lindsay Mewes — Archbishop Mitty, San Jose
Kevin Bishop — Monta Vista High School, Cupertino

Los Angeles City Section
Camille Saucier — Taft High School, Woodland Hills

North Coast Section
Liza Brusman — Tamalpais High School, Mill Valley
Justin Roberto — San Ramon Valley High School, Dublin

Northern Section
Madeline Gray — Pleasant Valley High School, Chico
Eric Neill — Yreka High School, Yreka

Oakland Section
Hope Schwatrz — Oakland Technical High School, Oakland

Sac-Joaquin Section
Ashley Noda — St. Francis High School, Sacramento
Ryan Peabody — Christian Brothers High School, Sacramento

San Diego Section
Hannah Yoder — Cathedral Catholic High School, San Diego
Tyler Kasl — Poway High School, Poway

San Francisco Section
Anna Ng — George Washington High School, San Francisco
Jeffrey Wong — Lowell High School, San Francisco

Southern Section
Ilima Kung — Torrance High School, Torrance
Seamus Land — San Luis Obispo High School, San Luis Obispo

For Immediate Release
Monday, February 26, 2001

Contact: Jim Duel
415-492-5911
jduel@cifstate.org
www.cifstate.org

ISHIDA SELECTED AS CIF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Marie M. Ishida, a prominent player in the CIF's history, has been selected as the State CIF executive director. Ishida follows Jack Hayes and becomes the seventh chief executive officer of the statewide organization. She will begin her new post on April 1.

The assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools, Ishida was the CIF president during the formation and implementation of the organization's strategic plan. Under her leadership, the CIF changed both philosophically and governance-wise becoming a service organization to member schools.

The CIF was formed in 1914 as the governing agency for high school athletics in California with its major purpose to enforce the rules regarding athletics. That remained the primary focus of the organization until the implementation of the strategic plan in 1995.

Said Bob Kanaby, executive director for the National Federation of State High School Associations: "I am extremely pleased that Marie Ishida has been selected as

California Interscholastic Federation executive director. I have had the pleasure of working very closely with Marie the past three years as a member of the NFHS Board of Directors. During that time, she has repeatedly demonstrated the qualities of leadership that are needed for a position like this, and I am confident that the CIF will enjoy continued success and achievement as a result of her service to the membership."

"The Executive Committee is extremely excited about the prospect of having Marie Ishida as executive director," said Charley Berger, CIF president and assistant superintendent for the San Juan Unified School District. "Marie's experience with the strategic plan, and her leadership in changing the role of CIF in high school athletics was an important factor in her selection. As CIF president, Marie was one of the primary forces behind significant changes the organization has made during the past five years."

Ishida served on the CIF Executive Committee from 1989-1998. She was CIF president elect from 1992-94, CIF president from 1994-96 and CIF past president from 1996-98. Currently, she is on the board of directors for the National Federation of State High School Associations, only the third member from California ever selected to this prestigious post.

On both the state and national level, Ishida has received many accolades and honors. In 1997, the National Federation of State High School Associations bestowed Ishida with their Outstanding Service Award. She was also honored with an Extraordinary Service Award by the CIF and received the California Coaches Association's highest honor as a recipient of the William S. Rockwell Distinguished Service Award.

Ishida's involvement spans two other CIF Sections as well: the CIF Central Coast and Southern Section. She served as president of the CIF Central Coast Section from 1989-91 and was a manager for the girls' basketball championships within the CIF Southern Section from 1976-78.

Ishida began her career as a teacher and coach at Faye Ross Junior High School in 1971. From 1974-79, she worked at Artesia High School as a teacher, coach, assistant athletic director (1975-79) and assistant Dean of Students (1976-79).

She was an administrative intern for the CIF Central Coast Section from 1979-80 before becoming the assistant principal at Santa Cruz High School, a position she held from 1980-86. From 1986-95, Ishida was the principal at Carmel High School.

In 1995, she accepted her current position as the assistant superintendent of human resources for the Santa Cruz City Schools.

Said Ishida: "My first teaching position included coaching. Throughout the years I have joined the efforts of thousands of people throughout the state of California who volunteer their time and their hearts to help our student athletes experience what sports can teach us about life, discipline, commitment and achievement.

"I know success in every effort relies on a team. I am truly excited to have the privilege of working with the CIF team and helping in every way I can to make all of these efforts count. Our student athletes deserve it. Quite honestly, it feels like I've been given the best coaching job I could have imagined!"

4-4-4

Other Notables on Marie Ishida:

- Serves on the National Federation of State High School Association's Hall of Fame Screening Committee.
- Was a member of the CIF Central Coast Section Executive Committee from 1984-92.
- Represented the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) on the State CIF Federated Council (1987-89).
- Served as the State CIF Softball Rules Interpreter from 1982-85 and was a member of the National Federation's Softball Rules Committee.
- Was a moderator for several National Federation Summer Meeting topics, including: Advancing Equity, Tournament Finance, and NFHS Strategic Plan.
- Volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

CIF Chief Executive Officers

E.W. Barnhart	January 1914-February 1915
C.L. Biedenbach	February 1915-December 1937
A.B. Ingham	December 1937-June 1955
William Russell	July 1955-June 1980
Thomas E. Byrnes	1980-1995
Jack J. Hayes	1995-2001
Marie M. Ishida	2001-present

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 Ediucation Association
Scholarship fuind[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

JASON WARREN
Vice President
Greenville

MIKE BEASLEY
Barnwell

KANDACE BETHEA
Marion

KYLE BOCZKOWSKI
Summerville

RYAN BROWN
Columbia

SONYA BRYANT
Batesburg-Leesville

CARLOS CAVE
Seabrook

JASON HOLT
Aiken

RAY COOPER
Prosperity

TONY FOLK
St. George

LAURA HICKSON
Lake City

KEITH KISER
Greenville

ANNA MILLER
Chapin

DARRYL OWINGS
Spartanburg

ANDREA PRIDGEN
Green Sea

NICHOLAS PEARSON
Sumter

MICHAEL STONE
Mullins

JOSH TRAHAN
North Augusta

November 5, 2021

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Jerome Singleton
SCHSL Commissioner

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 1st 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 1st 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
81	12	2	1st Round of Play-offs
82	10	6	
83	10	9	
84	11	9	
85	21	8	2nd rd play-offs, Region COY
86	19	6	1st Round of Play-offs
87	21	3	2nd rd play-offs, **Region Champs**
88	17	7	2nd rd play-offs, All Star Coach
89	24	2	Upperstate, **Region Champs** Reg. COY, SHJ COY
90	28	1	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY
91	23	1	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY
92	30	2	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY
93	26	2	**Region Champs**, 2nd rd play-offs Reg,Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY
94	26	1	**Region Champs**, UpperState Finals Reg,Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY
95	28	0	**STATE CHAMPS Region Champs** Reg Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY
96	28	2	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY
97	24	1	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY
98	20	3	**Region Champs** 3rd seed-lost All-Star Coach
99	21	3	**Region Champs**1stseed -lost 2nd rd
2000	24	0	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY SCACA COY
01	24	1	**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY NFHS COY for SC, High Sports Report COY
02	22	1	**Region Champs, Upper-State Champs**, lost in State Finals to Summerville
03	23	0	**STATE CHAMPS, Region Champs** SHJ COY , inducted SC Coaches Hall of Fame
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**

YEAR	WINS	LOSSES		DETAILS	
06	26	8		**Region Co-Champions** w/Hillcrest. Lost in 2nd round to Lexington	
07	21	3		2nd in Reg. Lost to Hillcrest in Upper-State, 600th win this year	
08	22	3		**Region Champ** Lost to Byrnes 3rd rd	
09	27	0		**STATE CHAMPS**, **Region Champs** Reg COY, SHJ COY, HSSR COY	
10	20	3		2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Rock Hil in 3rd round. Reg COY All-Star Coach	
11	23	9		2nd in Region behind Hillcrest. Lost to Hillcrest in the Upper-State Finals	
12	28	7		**Region Champions**, lost to Hillcrest in the quarter finals. Reg COY 700th win	
13	29	6		**Region Champions**, lost to Hillcrest in the Upperstate finals. Reg COY	33 yrs
14	31	6		**Region Champions**, lost to Gaffney in 3rd rd. Reg Co-COY w/Val ThomsMH	34 yrs
15	35	4		**Reg. Champ.;** lost to Wando in Finals; Reg. COY SHJ COY SCACA COY	35
16	46	2		**STATE CHAMPS;Reg.Champ**;beat Wando; Reg. COY SHJ COY NFHS State n Sectional COY;HSSR COY	36
17	43	6	1	**STATE CHAMPS; Reg Champ**: beat Wando; Reg COY; 900th win; HSSRCOY	37
18	26	13	2	**Reg. Champ**. Lost to TL Hanna Final 8	38
19	34	7	2	**Reg.Champ**. Lost to Nation Ford in Upper-State Final	39
20	19	2		**Reg. Champ Lost in upperstate to TL Hanna** Reg COY	40
21	33	4		**Reg. Champ STATE CHAMPS beat River Bluff** Reg II COY AVCA Reg. III COY	41

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	2nd 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	2nd rd play-offs, **Region Champs**	12	28	7	**Region Champions**, lost to Hillcrest in the quarter finals. Reg COY 700th win	
88	17	7	2nd 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	1	**STATE CHAMPS; Reg Champ**: beat Wando; Reg COY; 900th win; HSSRCOY	37
93	26	2	**Region Champs**, 2nd rd play-offs Reg,Tourn Champs Reg COY, SHJ COY	18	26	13	2	**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	2	**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	
02	22	1	**Region Champs, Upper-State Champs**, lost in State Finals to Summerville					NFHS Sectional COY: 1 time 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				Inducted into SCACA Hall of Fame in 2003
05	37	5	**Region Co-Champions** w/Hillcrest. **Upper-State Champion**, Lost to West Ashley in finals				North-South All-Star Coach 3 times: '89, 98, 2010
total	559	77	**total**	**989**	**156**	3	Coach Kirkland's Overall record
				1003	203	5	program overall record

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Spartanburg Herald-Journal

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

Joe Dandron, Herald-Journal - Sep 8

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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.

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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

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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."

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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 contract sports reporter Joe Dandron at jdandron@gannett.com. Follow him on Twitter at @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 lettermen 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.

MEMBER OF 1979-1980 WINTHROP COLLEGE BASKETBALL TEAM -- Paula Kirkland, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Kirkland, Roebuck, is a member of the Winthrop College basketball team. Paula is a 5-4 senior guard.

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.

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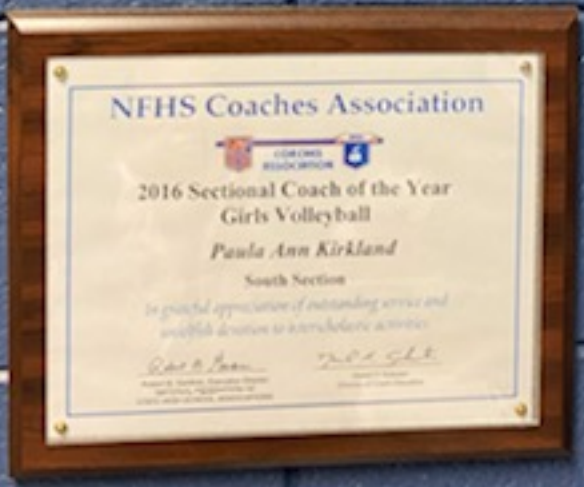

NFHS Coaches Association
2016 Sectional Coach of the Year
Girls Volleyball
Paula Ann Kirkland
South Section

Joe Mauer

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Joseph Patrick Mauer
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Timothy Leighton

Phone: 651-226-5591

Street Address: 2100 Freeway Boulevard

City, State, Zip Code: Brooklyn Center, Minnesota 55430

Signed: Timothy Leighton

Email: tleighton@mshsl.org

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Joseph Patrick Mauer
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 41988 Palm Street
(street address)

Braham, Minnesota 55006
(city, state, zip)

Email: joseph7mauer@gmail.com

Phone: 239-851-0075 Date of Birth: 4/19/1983

School Affiliation (if any) Cretin-Derham Hall

City: St. Paul State: Minnesota

Place of Birth: St. Paul, Minnesota 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? _____

If yes, please explain:

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:			
College/University:			
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

* 2001 Graduate of Cretin-Derham Hall High School in St. Paul.
* A three-sport standout in football, basketball and baseball.
* Led Cretin-Derham Hall to two consecutive appearances in the Minnesota State High School League's Class AAAAA football championship game. Class AAAAA was the largest classification of six divisions in Minnesota at the time. By enrollment, Cretin-Derham Hall is a Class AAAA or Class AAAAA school.
* The Raiders won the Prep Bowl football championship in 1999, his junior year, and were runner-up to Eden Prairie the next season.
* In those two seasons, he threw for nearly 6,000 yards and 73 touchdowns.
* As a sophomore, he played little as a quarterback. That season, he played little, but did get a little playing time in a 47-0 victory over St. Paul Como Park. That sophomore would become a Minnesota legend.
* As a starting small forward in basketball, he was a triple threat as a scorer, rebounder and playmaker on the perimeter. Finished career with more than 1,000 points in basketball. After averaging nine points per game as a sophomore, he averaged just more than 20 in his senior season.
* In baseball, he wowed onlookers beginning as a fifth-grader.
* In 222 high school at-bats, he struck out just once. That was in his junior year during the Minnesota State High School League's Baseball State Tournament. As walked back to the dugout, his teammates looked at him with stunned faces. They had never witnessed a strikeout before. "Are you sick or not feeling well?" his teammates asked.
* Led Cretin-Derham Hall to the Class AA baseball state championship in 2001, his senior year.
* As a senior, he batted .605 and tied a national record by hitting a home run in seven consecutive games.
* Finished his prep career with a .567 batting average.

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

* Ranks as one of Minnesota's most celebrated high school student-athletes of all time.
* He is one of just three Minnesota high school athletes to receive three Division I offers in three sports. Major League Baseball Hall of Famer Dave Winfield and former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Barry Wohler are the others.
* Many all-state award recognitions over this three years as a high school player.
* All-State in two publications in basketball his senior season when he averaged 20 points per game.
* Parade All-American in football
* USA Today National Player of the Year in football and baseball
* In his senior year, selected the national player of the year in both football and baseball.
* Gave a verbal commitment to play football at Florida State University.
* In Mauer's junior year, he was selected first-team all-state quarterback. This was his first first-team all-state selection. The wide receiver on that team? Larry Fitzgerald, Jr., who would have a stellar career with the Arizona Cardinals and appears destined for the Pro Football Hall of Fame.
* Was the youngest player ever selected to the U.S. Junior National Baseball team as a 16-year-old. He had been invited as a prospect, but was so impressive that he was selected as one of two starting catchers.
* He later became the No. 1 ranked high school catcher in the nation in the 2001 graduating classe.
* Was 18 years old when selected No. 1 overall in the Major League Baseball Amateur Draft by the Minnesota Twins.

* In Major League Baseball, had a stellar career and spent his entire 15-year career with the Twins that likely will lead to Cooperstown with an induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
* He was a six-time American League all-star and is the only catcher in Major League Baseball history to win three batting crowns.
* Also the only American League catcher to win a batting title.
* An imposing presence behind the plate, he won three consectuive Gold Glove Awards from 2008-2010.
* Was a five-time recipient of the Silver Slugger award, an honor presented annually and determined by coaches and managers to be the best offensive player in both the American League and National League.
* In 2009, was selected the American League MVP.
* Inducted into the Minnesota State High School League's Hall of Fame, Class of 2022
* Joe has twice appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated: Aug. 7, 2006 and June 29, 2009.
* In 2010, he received the largest number of notes of any MLB player for the All-Star Game with more than 5.3 million.
* On Nov. 24, 2009, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman presents Mauer with a proclamation honoring his baseball achievements.
* On April 12, 2018, Mauer records the 2,000th hit of his career, a two-run single against the Chicago White Sox. He becomes one of just three Twins players to reach that milestone. The others? Hall of Famers Rod Carew and Kirby Puckett.
* In his final at-bat as a professional, he hit a double, his franchise record 428th of his career.
* Joe was inducted into the Minnesota State High School League's Hall of Fame in April, 2022.

Professional Achievements

Other Information

* Joe and his wife, Maddie, are active in the community and work diligently to make a meaningful impact on the lives of others. Their passon for service to others is rooted in their education at Cretin-Derham Hall High School. They are active supporters that assist individuals with disabilities, Gillette Children's Hospital and Healthcare in downtown St. Paul.
* From former Cretin-Derham Hall baseball coach Jim O'Neill, who was asked to pitch for Joe during the 2009 Home Run Derby at the All-Star Game in St. Louis: "What a thrill it was to be invited by Joe to be a part of such a powerful event. He said it was his way of thanking me for all I'd done for him. Really, I thank him for being such a terrific young man with respect for all, and letting me experience it with him. When I was able to meet many of the all-stars in the clubhouse, they just raved about Joe, how genuine and down to earth he is. I've known that since he's been just a little guy."

Letters of Recommendation

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Nov. 1, 2023
Mr. Bruce Howard
Director, National High School Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

Joe Mauer is a name that is synonymous with excellence here in the state of Minnesota. Through his athletic performance, his respectful and ethical character, and his genuine humility, he has truly set the bar for all Minnesota high school athletes. Therefore, it is my absolute pleasure to offer my greatest support for his nomination for induction into the National Federation of High School's Hall of Fame. Joe Mauer was an incredible athlete at both the high school and professional levels but, as you will learn, was also an accomplished student and was, and continues to be, a person of great virtue.

As an athlete, there are many teammates, coaches and others who could provide much greater detail in describing his outstanding high school career, complete with leading his teams to and through state tournaments, earning Minnesota Gatorade Player of the Year recognition in both football and baseball, and being granted the most elite honor of being named USA Today National Player of the Year by Gatorade in both football and baseball in his senior year. As a three-sport athlete, competing in the class of the largest schools, Joe demonstrated that he was the best of the best during his high school career. With state championships in both football and baseball and being named all-conference, all-section, or all-state, he was at the absolute top in all three sports. In considering his incredible athletic career in historical context, his accomplishments are as impressive as any of the most decorated athletes in Minnesota, and likely, the nation.

Beyond the gridiron, basketball court and baseball diamond, Joe set himself apart as an outstanding role model for younger students. I believe that the seriousness with which he approached his classes, the integrity with which he competed and the respectful way in which he treated his teammates, opponents, and officials, are truly deserving of hall of fame recognition. It was only fitting that when Joe brought his talents to the majors, he would don the Minnesota Twins uniform, continue his incredible performance in the major leagues and ascend to all-star status. As Major League Baseball's Most Valuable Player and three-time American League Batting Champion, he demonstrated the excellence that many Minnesotans first observed in a high school setting.

The qualities that set Joe Mauer apart from others extend well beyond his high school and professional accomplishments. Joe exemplifies integrity, ethics, commitment, and humility. As a player, Joe might disagree with the call of an umpire by simply pausing and casting a questioning look their way, but never say a word. His dedication and class are in a league all his own. Joe is gracious, team-centered, and someone who does not need the limelight, although he typically deserves it. Joe was most recently inducted into the Minnesota State High School

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

League Hall of Fame as a member of our Class of 2022. As a state, we are immensely proud of him, and Joe could not have been more gracious and appreciative. He is recognized and loved wherever he goes.

In order to better understand why our state thinks so highly of him, a co-worker shared this story. As a young baseball fan, the co-worker's daughter was quite impressed with Joe as a Minnesota Twin and felt compelled to send him birthday cards on his birthday. Much to her surprise and delight, following her first birthday greeting, she received a thank you note from Joe, who personally thanked her for taking time to send him a birthday wish. As one could imagine, this kind act firmly cemented his place as a hero in her eyes and added another example of his friendly "boy next door" personality.

Joe Mauer is one of the most impressive student-athletes to have laced up cleats and sneakers. In addition, he has always displayed the utmost character and integrity, treated everyone with great respect, and focused on others first. He is a hall of famer in every possible way and on behalf of the Minnesota State High School League, we proudly nominate him for the NFHS Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Erich Martens

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Nov. 1, 2023

Mr. Bruce Howard
Director, National High School Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is with tremendous enthusiasm and conviction that the Minnesota State High School League submits Joe Mauer as a candidate for the National High School Hall of Fame's Class of 2024. While accompanying evidence will support Joe's legacy as arguably one of the nation's most decorated student-participants ever, in this letter of recommendation, the League will share an anecdote that speaks to the character, passion and cherished memories he has of his high school career.

In November of 2009, Joe was selected the American League's MVP after another banner season with the Minnesota Twins, his hometown team. On the day he was recognized with the award, a press conference was held deep within the cavernous halls of the Humbert H. Humphrey Metrodome.

A sports reporter from the St. Paul Pioneer Press, who had covered Joe throughout his prep career at Cretin-Derham Hall High School, had an idea. You see, later that week, Cretin-Derham Hall and Eden Prairie, two big-school football powers, were playing in the League's football state tournament at the Metrodome. This reporter wondered, and hoped, that perhaps Joe could share an anecdote or reflect on his high school football career days that took place just down the hall less than a decade earlier.

The reporter checked in with the supportive Twins' public relations staff and then patiently waited his turn in the back of the interview room while baseball scribes peppered the humble Mauer, hoping for quotes and soundbites that would enhance their accounts of an MVP season. Joe's grandfather and brothers, all newsmakers in St. Paul, loved the idea as well, for they knew the sacred memories that Joe held from his high school career.

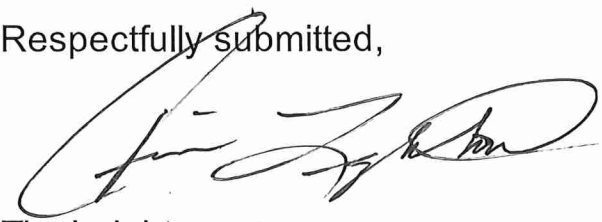
As Mauer finished with the print media, he was guided next to do national radio interviews. He recognized the reporter and greeted him warmly. Twins' personnel were persistent with Mauer, but he held up his hand in pause to learn more about the reporter's request. Mauer was thrilled at the opportunity to reflect on his high school days. For 15 minutes, as they walked the Metrodome together, he continuously smiled as he shared memories. When asked what he missed most about this high school career, his response had nothing to do with state championships or individual accomplishments, which included national player of the year honors in two sports.

Rather, what he missed was the purity of high school sports, the unconditional love and support of friends and teammates and the life lessons learned that gave him the courage to venture into the next chapter of his life. And he beamed with fondness when he shared how much he missed bus rides with friends, "Friday Night Lights" and all the pizza a high school kid could devour.

On the day he was selected the best player in the American League, Mauer's true highlight, he would share later, was to visit about a time that brought him great joy.

Thank you for your consideration of Joe Mauer as an inductee to the National High School's Hall of Fame Class of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,



Tim Leighton

Minnesota State High School League

September 19, 2023

Erich Martens
Executive Director, Minnesota State High School League
2100 Freeway Boulevard
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430

Dear Erich,

In my 34 years with the Minnesota Twins, I have had the privilege of watching, and getting to know, not just our franchise greats, but many of the finest athletes our state has produced. Few, if any, are as synonymous with Minnesota as Joe Mauer, a man whose impact as a player is surpassed only by his legacy as a person of the utmost class, character and dignity.

As Joe rose to national prominence as a three-sport star at St. Paul's Cretin-Derham High School, we at the Twins were certainly well-versed in his achievements on the gridiron, on the court and on the diamond. However, what truly convinced us to make him the first overall pick of the 2001 Major League Baseball draft was the person behind the talent. Joe Mauer was, and is, a man of exceptional virtue.

Drafting Joe in 2001 was a transformative moment for the Twins. The abilities we saw as a high schooler – Joe's arm strength, vision and quiet leadership that made him a quarterback recruit of Florida State's Bobby Bowden; the competitiveness and natural athleticism that led him to become a two-time all-state selection in basketball; and the astonishing bat-to-ball skills that produced a .625 batting average with 43 home runs, 170 RBI and only one (one!) strikeout in 222 career prep at-bats – all translated onto the big-league stage.

Joe spent his 15-year major league career in a Twins uniform, amassing accolades worthy of Cooperstown. The three batting titles (most ever by a catcher), the six All-Star selections, five Silver Slugger Awards, three Gold Glove Awards, 2009 American League MVP trophy and four playoff appearances are all well-documented. More importantly, Joe's devotion to his community, state and region has been heartfelt and powerful; his outreach, presence and charitable endeavors continue to this day, well beyond his retirement.

Perhaps Joe's transcendent impact is best summarized by Michael Cuddyer, a teammate and fellow member of the Twins Hall of Fame: "I cannot think of a single person who represented an organization, a community, his city and his state as well as Joe Mauer."

For these reasons and more, it is truly my honor and my pleasure to wholeheartedly support the Minnesota State High School League's nomination of Joe Mauer for the National High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Dave St. Peter
President & CEO
Minnesota Twins Baseball Club

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FROM THE DESK OF PAUL MOLITOR

Dear National Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I'm highly recommending Joe Mauer to be inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame's Class of 2024.

During his high school career, Joe exhibited exceptional talent and skill in three sports. He excelled at a national level in football, basketball, and of course, baseball.

As a high school athlete, Joe's strong character was evident and always present, as well as his ability to be a leader, in all three sports.

He was able to take these traits and turn them into a phenomenal major league career, which will eventually lead him to becoming a member of the exclusive baseball Hall of Fame.

As a leader at the Major League level, Joe was not the rah-rah type, but when he spoke, people listened. His words were powerful and carried a lot of weight. He was consistent, steady and constantly leading by example while maintaining exceptional humility over all of his accomplishments.

As competitive as anybody, yet always showing respect to his competition as well as umpires, Joe was a tremendously-composed athlete.

Joe currently chooses to remain living in his hometown. He is a wonderful husband and father that continuously gives back to his community in so many ways.

Once selected, Joe would immediately be an asset to the National High School Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Molitor

Paul Molitor

National Baseball Hall of Fame, Class of 2004

Cretin-Derham Hall

Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Nov. 5, 2023
Mr. Bruce Howard
Director, National High School Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear National High School Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is an honor for me to recommend Joe Mauer for selection consideration to the National High School Hall of Fame's Class of 2024. While it has been just more than two decades since Joe has traveled the hallways here at Cretin-Derham Hall, his legacy and impact will remain for generations.

I was blessed to be a part of Joe's high school journey, not just in athletics, but also to witness the ways in which he treated his peers and displayed respect and honor for his teachers, coaches, mentors and family members. Joe's faith-based family is the root system for his commitment to core values of kindness, integrity and moral courage. While in high school, the entire school community respected him and followed his lead.

While Joe was one of those once-in-a-lifetime kinds of athletes, it was also the way he handled things beyond his age. When he was at Cretin-Derham Hall, he had so much attention put on him, but he never flinched. The big-city newspaper assigned a reporter to him for his senior year, but it didn't faze him. I think his mental capacity, his confidence and his maturity are what carried him. I don't think many kids could have handled what Joe did at such a young age.

In school, he noticed a fellow student eating alone at lunch. He befriended the young man and invited him to sit at a lunch table with Joe and his friends. The student was visually impaired, so Joe, his teammates and friends, assisted him in navigating the hallways to make sure he made it to class safely and on time. Joe's act of friendship, kindness and humanity not only created a lasting friendship, but also was a positive part of a fellow student's high school experience.

In athletics, his story is well told, but this one stick out: His older brothers were participating in a summer instructional baseball league for sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders. One day, they let Joe, a fifth-grader, tag along. An extra player was needed for an instructional game and Joe was inserted into the lineup and batted in the No. 10 spot. The first time he came up to bat, the bases were loaded. He promptly hit an over-the-fence grand slam. Joe ran around the bases like nothing happened. He sat down on the bench and the rest of the kids just stood there in awe.

Really, it was a prelude of what was to come.

Cretin-Derham Hall

Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and the Brothers of the Christian Schools

Thank you for your time and your consideration of Joe Mauer for the National High School Hall of Fame's Class of 2024.

Respectfully,

Jim O'Neill

Former Cretin-Derham Hall varsity baseball coach

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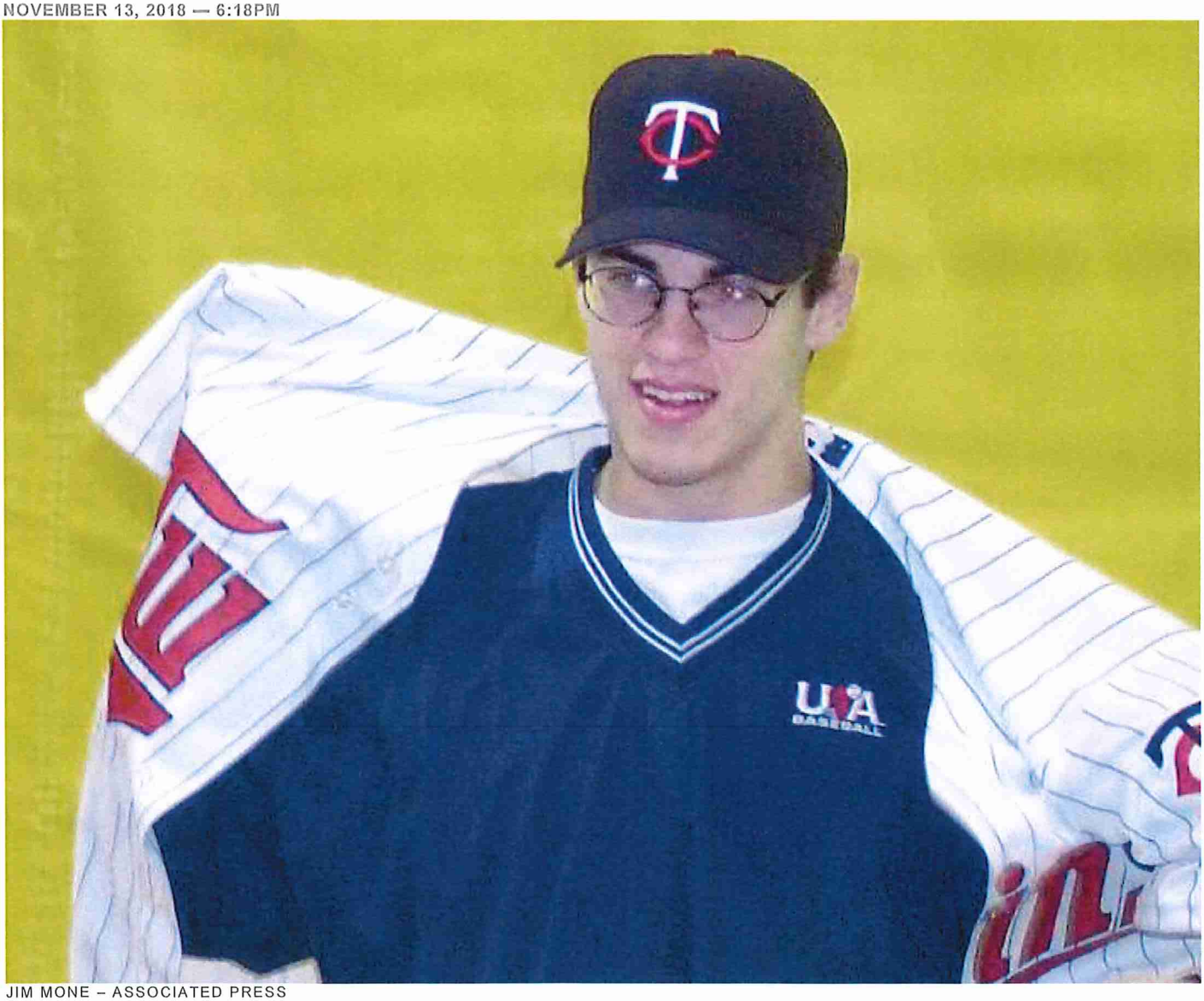
Memories begin and end with Joe Mauer the three-sport prep star

The relationship columnist Chip Scoggins built with Joe Mauer dates back to their first conversation, when Mauer asked if he could call back after he'd finished his homework.

NOVEMBER 13, 2018 — 6:18PM



JIM MONE – ASSOCIATED PRESS

Joe Mauer, out of Cretin-Derham Hall in St. Paul, was the first overall pick in the Major League Baseball amateur draft in 2001

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Joe Mauer had a major announcement to make in the morning. Rumors were circulating that he would pick Florida State as his college choice. So I called his home number for an interview.

In his typical Gentleman Joe tone, Mauer apologized and asked if we could talk later. He was studying for a test.

True to his word, he called back later that night after finishing his homework.

That was 17½ years ago, and that memory remains fresh because that's how I will remember Joe Mauer's athletic career. Not the middle or the end, but its beginning stages.

I was hired by this newspaper in early January 2000 to cover high school sports. I learned during my interview about a talented multisport athlete at Cretin-Derham Hall. You'll probably write a lot about him, someone mentioned.

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Yeah, just a little.

Being assigned to chronicle Mauer's high school athletic career still stands as one of the highlights of my writing career. Minnesotans love to debate whether Mauer ranks as the state's best athlete ever. My slightly different view: He is the best all-around athlete that I've witnessed in nearly three decades of covering sports for newspapers in six different states.

And it's not close.

As a senior, he was named Gatorade National Player of the Year in football. He was chosen all-state in basketball. And he was the No. 1 overall pick in the Major League Baseball amateur draft.

In an era of sports specialization, Mauer didn't just play three sports. Some viewed him as the best player nationally in two sports and he could've played Division I basketball in his "third" sport.

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"I loved every minute of it," he said Monday at his retirement news conference.

He loved to reminisce about those days, too. Over the years, our conversations at spring training or in the Twins clubhouse often veered back to his high school career, specific games and players that he competed with and against.

In an interview seven years after he graduated, Mauer hadn't forgotten that former Wayzata star Marion Barber III intercepted him three times in high school. Not just remembered, Mauer dissected each interception in specific detail.

"[One] was an out pattern to Tony Leseman," Mauer recalled. "I was on the fifth step of my drop. I saw Barber make a break, so I tried to throw it low and away. He dove for it and was parallel to the ground. It was a pretty impressive play."

Again, seven years after the fact.

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Mauer's laid-back, humble personality masked a fiercely competitive streak. His mom, Teresa, found him lounging on the couch at home the day of the football state championship game. She checked his pulse.

"I had to make sure he was still breathing," she joked. "There were a lot of days like that."

And a lot of memorable performances. Too many to list. He threw game-winning touchdowns, made game-winning shots and struck out only once in 222 career high school at-bats.

A few of my personal favorites:

Mauer passed for 327 yards and four touchdowns in a win over Wayzata in the big-school state semifinals as a senior.

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In the semifinals of the state basketball tournament that year, he posted 25 points, eight rebounds and five assists in a loss to Osseo.

His finest baseball moment came in the state semifinals against Brainerd that year. He hit a game-tying three-run homer in the fifth inning, then pitched the final five innings to earn the win. He struck out nine, only allowed one hit and reached 91 miles per hour on the radar gun.

"That was the moment where I was like, 'Wow, we're watching someone develop into a pretty special deal,' " said Leseman, who remains Mauer's closest friend.

Everyone knew it, especially watching him glide from one sport to the next. Football season would conclude and boom, he's scoring 25 points in a basketball game. Basketball finished and boom, he's hitting rockets to the gap in baseball.

He made everything look effortless. And he displayed no ego doing it. Just the opposite. His personality was so unassuming as a teenage prodigy that you'd have thought he was a backup on the JV team.

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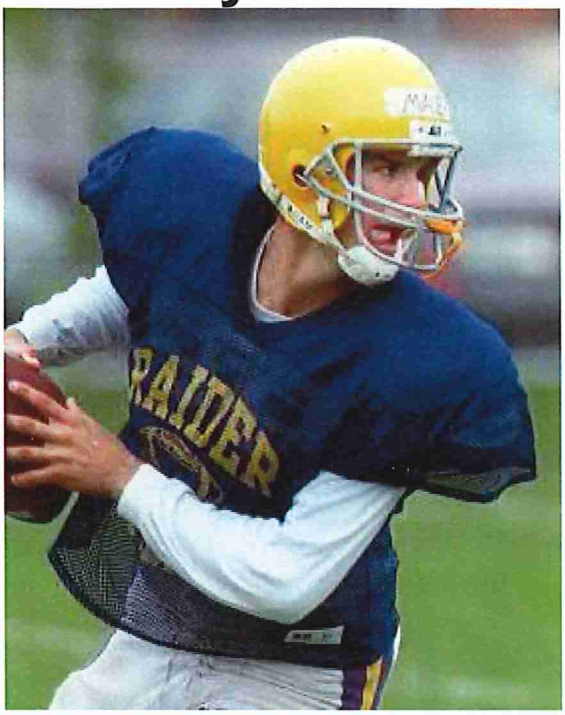
Mauer laid bare his soul at Monday's retirement news conference in a way the public rarely, if ever, witnessed throughout his Twins career. Normally stoic, his emotions and tears came pouring out.

His legacy will be a matter of personal perspective. For some, the focus might be his MVP season. Or that sweet, perfect swing. Or his contract. Or his unfortunate injuries. Or that he was a genuinely nice and classy guy.

Me? I'll always reflect back on the beginning, when I took a new job in a new state and had the good fortune to write about a kid who could do anything.

Chip Scoggins is a sports columnist and enterprise writer for the Star Tribune. He previously covered the Vikings, Gophers football, Wild, Wolves and high school sports in nearly 19 years at the paper.
ascoggins@startribune.com 612-673-4484 @chipscoggins

Choice of a Lifetime: Cretin-Derham Hall star Joe Mauer faces a similar call to one faced by Chris Weinke 10 years ago



Cretin Derham Hall quarterback Joe Mauer rolls out during practice on August 21, 2000. (Pioneer Press: John Doman

By JIM WELLS | Pioneer Press
PUBLISHED: August 31, 2000 at 12:43 p.m. | UPDATED: November 15, 2018 at 2:19 p.m.

Cretin-Derham Hall quarterback Joe Mauer often learns about the latest speculation on his future when he reaches the breakfast table.

"Better take a look at the newspaper today," his dad will say. "Looks like you got a raise."

Some days the speculation takes a different form.

"Better take a look at the newspaper today," his dad will say. "Looks like you're a No. 1 baseball draft pick now."

Florida State quarterback Chris Weinke can relate to what Mauer is going through. Ten years ago, he was the Cretin athlete with the option of pursuing pro baseball or college football. He was deciding between taking a big signing bonus from a baseball team or playing college football.

"What made it easier for me, and people didn't seem to realize this, was that I went through my whole senior year not knowing if I would get drafted in baseball," Weinke recalled recently. "It wasn't something I truly thought about, so I focused on having a good senior year."

As a junior, Weinke took the Raiders to the state football championship game, where they lost to Blaine in the final second.

As a junior last year, Mauer took the Raiders to the state football championship game, where they defeated Hastings.

And the similarities only begin there.

"They're both left-handed hitters, great baseball players," Raiders football coach Rich Kallok said. "They're both tremendous in the huddle and with the ball in their hands with the game on the line."

"They both know what they're doing. They understand the offense and its concepts and take that knowledge and make the team function as a smooth unit. They're like having coaches on the field. Chris might be a little stronger physically, but not much."

Mauer is rated as high as the No. 8 quarterback in the country by some recruiting services. He's also likely to be one of the first catchers taken in next spring's amateur baseball draft, and could demand a signing bonus of $1 million to $2 million.

Mauer led the Raiders to a 13-0 record and the Class 5A football championship last season. He completed 59 percent of his passes for 2,500 yards and 32 touchdowns. This summer he batted .559 for the U.S. junior national baseball team.

Ten years ago, Weinke took a $400,000 bonus from the Toronto Blue Jays, invested it and played minor league baseball for six seasons. Then he quit baseball and enrolled at Florida State at age 24 to play football, spent eight months in rehabilitation after injuring his neck two years ago and last season led the Seminoles to the national title.

Although he said he wouldn't change a thing about his career and life, he doesn't advise everyone to do it his way.

He and Mauer talked last May when Weinke was in the Twin Cities.

"Basically, he told me just to enjoy my senior year and not think about it," Mauer said.

Weinke said he doesn't usually offer advice but doesn't mind pointing out some of the things he has learned.

"I always hesitate to point a kid in one direction," he said. "I told (Joe) that situations are different for every person, that's the best advice I could give him. He'll have to do what his heart tells him to do."

Ron Weinke, Chris's father, had some minor reservations about Chris's decision to play baseball out of high school.

"He had played only two years of quarterback, and I thought he had a lot of untapped ability as a football player," Ron explained. "But... that was the second-highest bonus paid at the time. He always seemed to make the right decisions."

Weinke, 28, is several years older than many of his classmates at Florida State, but said he wouldn't change the way he went about his career after graduating from Cretin.

"I wouldn't take a million dollars for my experiences," said Weinke, who invested his bonus money wisely and has a comfortable back account today.

He also understands that Mauer might do precisely what he did, particularly with the baseball bonus money available today.

"You can't put a monetary value on college and its experiences," Weinke said, "but if you're a first-round pick in baseball, it's really unbelievable what they're putting up for bonus money."

Mauer is in an enviable position. He might be able to do what his heart and his pocketbook tell him to do.

He has said frequently that baseball is his favorite sport. His father, Jake, Jr., said he thought that was always true, too, although he had to wonder a year ago.

"We're pretty much a baseball family," Jake said, "but football kind of exploded last year at Cretin. So now that kind of came into the equation."

Yet...

"I think he favors baseball," Jake said, "but maybe that's wishful (thinking) on my part."

Joe Mauer seems to like whatever sport is in season.

"I've thought for a long time that I liked baseball best, but it sometimes depends on the season," he said. "I really like football right now."

The challenge of the moment seems to be what motivates the Raiders' quarterback, one of the key players on a team that lost several big-time players to graduation.

The challenge this year?

"Basically to get back to where we were (last year)," Mauer said. "We lost a lot of guys but we have a lot of guys coming back such as Rashon (Powers-Neal), Kim (Sarin) and Tony (Leseman). It will take time to get back to where we were as a team, but we're capable of that or maybe being better."

Mauer's strong arm (throwing to second base or on a post pattern) puts him in the company of Cretin's former great quarterbacks, Weinke at Florida State and Steve Walsh, an 11-year NFL veteran who guided the University of Miami to a national title.

"That's quite an honor to be compared to those two guys," Mauer said. "They are great quarterbacks and great people. It's kind of neat to be compared to them. They've both been real successful."

Florida State and its fans have come to love Weinke. Seminoles scouts have their eyes on Mauer, too. He is No. 1 on their list of high school quarterbacks and has not ruled out playing there. He also hasn't ruled out Minnesota, Arizona, Michigan and Michigan State.

Nor has he ruled out approaching his career the way Weinke did.

"I could see myself doing that," Mauer said. "I just don't know right now what type of situation I'll be in."

Mauer isn't opposed to playing football and baseball at some college, either.

"There are a lot of ways I could do this," he said.

Much of that will be decided next spring when Mauer learns what kind of bonus money baseball will offer him.

"Nobody's offered anything yet, and, until they do, I don't have anything to decide," he said.

Neither did Chris Weinke before the Blue Jays made their irresistible offer.

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Joe Mauer's playing career inspired younger Twins from Minnesota: 'It made me realize it was possible'

Minnesota Twins designated hitter Joe Mauer laughs with Texas Rangers catcher Chris Gimenez before batting during the first inning of a baseball game at Target Field in Minneapolis on Aug. 13, 2015. (Holly Peterson / Pioneer Press)

By **BETSY HELFAND** | bhelfand@pioneerpress.com | St. Paul Pioneer Press
PUBLISHED: August 4, 2023 at 2:21 p.m. | UPDATED: August 4, 2023 at 7:39 p.m.

Caleb Thielbar had heard the whispers growing up — there was a kid in St. Paul who was an exceptional young athlete — but in those days, social media didn't exist and there weren't any YouTube highlights to watch. So, Thielbar, a Northfield native, really didn't have any clue how good Joe Mauer actually was until the latter broke into the big leagues with his home-state Twins.

"I think we all knew, 'Oh, this kid Joe Mauer is in Minnesota. He's really good. Good football player, good baseball player,' " said Thielbar, a Twins relief pitcher since 2013. "But I think from a — knock on wood — Hall of Fame trajectory, we didn't see that kind of thing because we would have had to go and watch him to see what he was doing."

Things changed quickly. By the time pitcher Louie Varland, currently with the Saints, was growing up in the St. Paul area, Mauer was an idol to baseball players across the state. Varland had a Mauer poster plastered on his wall from third grade through high school.

The Twins will induct the 40-year-old St. Paul native, Cretin-Derham Hall alum and longtime Twins player — he spent his entire 15-year career in Minnesota — into their Hall of Fame on Saturday. It will be a special day for Mauer and those close to him. It also figures to be meaningful for the Minnesotans within the Twins' organization who grew up watching him.

"It made me realize it was possible," Varland, 25, said of a major-league career.

The pitcher called Mauer one of his heroes growing up. He still has a Mauer rookie card that he would like to have him sign one day.

Matt Wallner, 25, a Forest Lake native, strikes a similar tone. Watching Mauer and Justin Morneau — the pair were teammates with the Twins from 2004 when Mauer debuted to 2013 when Morneau was traded — was the "heart" of his baseball fandom as a kid, Wallner said.

"Him especially being from Minnesota … that was always fun from a fan's point of view and kind of just a little dream that I could be in that position one day," the Twins outfielder said. "It felt really great to see how that was. Not to Joe Mauer's level, but just playing for the Twins as a hometown kid, which is pretty cool."

Unlike Wallner and Varland, Thielbar, 36, wasn't a young kid while Mauer was in his prime. He was in high school when Mauer debuted. Later, he was his teammate for multiple seasons, occupying the locker next to Mauer's corner spot in the Twins' clubhouse.

Thielbar is one of just a small number of current Twins who overlapped with Mauer, playing with him from 2013-15 during his first stint with the Twins.

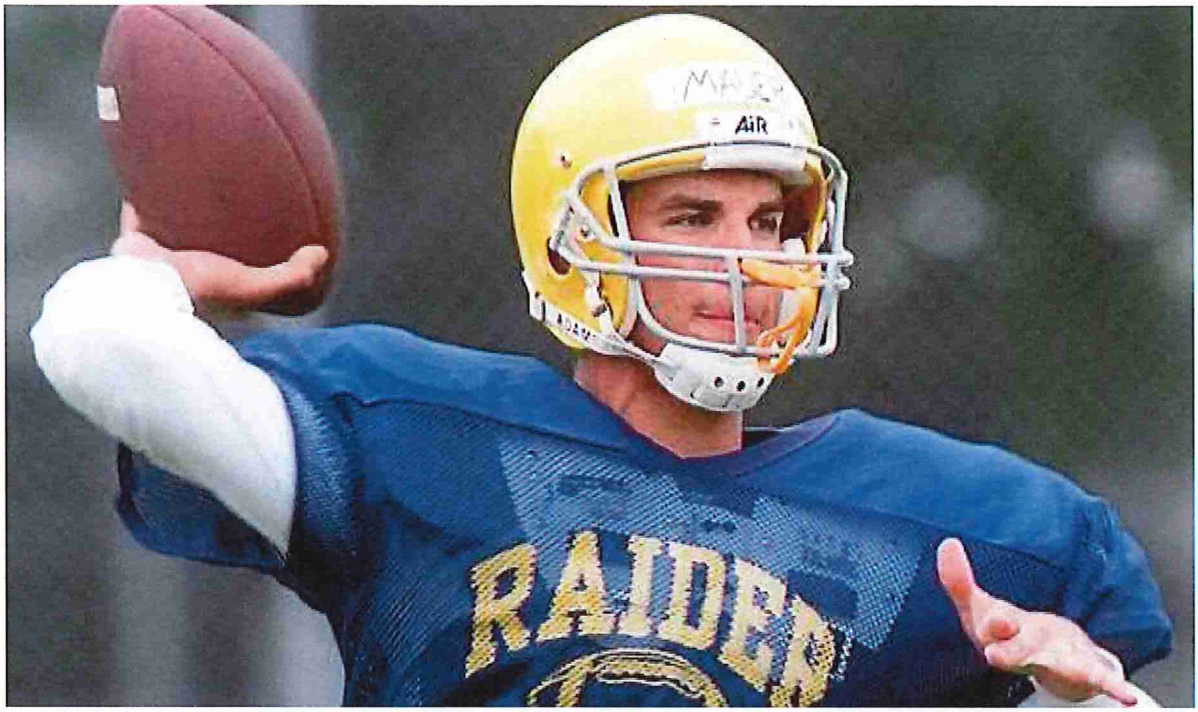
"Watching him play in high school and then have him catch my debut was something pretty special," Thielbar said. "I'll always remember that."

Nearly five seasons after his retirement — Mauer hung it up for good after the 2018 season — his presence can still be felt around Target Field, from the countless number of jerseys bearing his name to his jersey No. 7, which the Twins retired the year after he did.

On Saturday, he will formally take his place among Twins greats.

"Getting to play his entire career here, it's just uncommon," Thielbar said. "... I think if you talk to him, he'd say it was kind of a storybook career. You grow up in Minnesota and play for your hometown team for your entire career and retire here and he's still a big part of the Twin Cities. It's a cool thing. It's a cool thing for his family, and I'm happy for him."

Prep Bowl's biggest star? How about Twins' Joe Mauer



Joe Mauer, the two-time national player of the year, led the Cretin-Derham Hall Raiders to a big-school championship in 1999 and a runner-up finish the following year. Against Hastings in 1999, he engineered three touchdowns in a 2 1/2-minute span. Mauer finished his two-year run at 25-2 with 5,528 yards and 73 touchdowns. (Pioneer Press: John Doman)

By **PIONEER PRESS** | news@pioneerpress.com | Pioneer Press

PUBLISHED: November 26, 2013 at 11:01 p.m. | UPDATED: November 7, 2015 at 10:27 a.m.

Joe Mauer graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall more than a decade ago. But the former Raiders quarterback, a national high school football player of the year, still has his former coach Mal Scanlan wondering, "What if?"

Before Mauer was an MVP catcher for the Twins, he was the best high school football player in America. Named player of the year by USA Today and Parade magazine, he completed 179 of 290 passes for 3,016 yards and 41 touchdowns during his senior year at Cretin-Derham Hall in the fall of 2000.

Mauer committed to play football at Florida State before the Twins made him the No. 1 pick in the amateur baseball draft in June 2001.

As good as Mauer was on the football field, his former coach insists he could have been better — if the coaching staff had known how to use him properly.

"Do you realize what kind of damage he could have done if we had him in the shotgun?" asked Scanlan, the football team's co-coach when Mauer played for the Raiders. "I kick myself for not doing it then, but we were old school."

Cretin-Derham Hall used Mauer as a classic dropback passer, and his strong arm provided weekly Friday night thrills.

He saved some of his best play for the Prep Bowl games at the Metrodome. In fact, the Pioneer Press has selected Mauer as the dominant player in the 32-year history of the high school state championship games played under the Teflon roof.

In a two-year stretch during his junior and senior seasons, Mauer led the Raiders to a 25-2 record and two berths in the big-school Prep Bowl championship game. Cretin-Derham Hall defeated Hastings 42-21 in 1999 and lost the following season to Eden Prairie 24-14.

Against Hastings, Mauer threw for 306 yards and four touchdowns, including three in a 2 1/2-minute span that gave the Raiders to a 35-14 halftime lead.

"What a terrific arm he had," said Bob Majeski, the Hastings coach in 1999. "He just had super composure, was super confident and was very accurate. He always seemed so under control. It's like now when he is at the plate with a full count. He just handles every game situation with calm and poise."

In the following season's Prep Bowl, Mauer was sacked by two Eden Prairie players on the first play from scrimmage. He suffered a deep thigh bruise but didn't tell anyone. He completed just 14 of 32 passes. The injury kept sidelined him for the first three weeks of basketball season.

"Going into the game, Mauer had only been sacked once all year," Eden Prairie coach Mike Grant remembered. "The question became, how do you bring pressure on the guy? He had big receivers that we had to keep in check, too. The ability to keep him under a little bit of control was key. We more contained him than stopped him."

Mauer finished his high school career completing 341 of 570 passes for 5,528 yards and 73 touchdowns.

"Every time Mauer throws a pass, you hold your breath," former Blaine coach Dave Nelson told the Pioneer Press in 1999.

"I've always said that nobody coached Joe," Scanlan said. "He just had a ton of natural ability, was athletically gifted and smart. He didn't need time in a game to get going. The first pass of the game was right on the money. He might have wanted to play out of the shotgun, too, but he was too polite to say anything."

No one eats alone: 'Silent Impact' of Joe Mauer's act of kindness still reverberates as Thumbs Up embarks on initiative with support of KSTP's Joe Schmit

- Jul 29, 2022 Updated Jul 29, 2022

- _0

1 of 12

KSTP sports director Joe Schmit, Mike Hally, Joe Mauer and Katie Shatusky give thumbs up after the reunion of Hally and Mauer was captured on video.

KSTP's Joe Schmit facilitated the reunion inside the lunchroom at Cretin-Derham Hall High School.

by Jim Boyle

Editor

When Katie Shatusky first read about Joe Mauer's simple act of kindness to have lunch with a blind high school classmate who was sitting alone, she was moved.

The words in the 2014 book "Silent Impact: Stories of Influence through Purpose, Persistence and Passion," authored by family friend and KSTP sports director Joe Schmit leaped off the page for Shatusky, who was still grieving the 2010 loss of her grandfather to a completed suicide. She was also processing how to move forward in an age where many still considered the topics of suicide and mental illness taboo. That was not going to work for her family, and that's not what she wanted for her community either.

The personalized note Schmit included when he signed her Valentine's Day gift was like gasoline on the sparks that were dancing in her head about how to move forward.

"I felt like you were telling me what I should do," Shatusky told Schmit in a recent story that aired on 5 Eyewitness News.

Shatusky founded the nonprofit Thumbs Up that year in honor of her grandpa, who greeted his 19 grandchildren with a smile and a thumbs up. The organization held a 5K in 2014 that attracted 500 people in its first running. Schmit was the keynote speaker.

It has become an annual event. Participation nearly topped 1,000 this past year when more than $87,000 was raised. The 9th annual 5K run, walk and

bike event is scheduled for Sept. 17 at Woodland Trails Regional Park in Elk River.

The ideas in Shatusky's mind are still sparking, and the organization's reach is growing like wildfire as she now holds a paid position and Melissa Bowers works as an administrative assistant to help lead the army of volunteers.

The group opened a center in downtown Elk River earlier where the organization offers regular programming and drop-in services. Thumbs Up partners with other organizations to reach people. Students in the schools are a huge focus. Thumbs Up provides schools cheer bags, calming corners and funds to help people receive counseling. Shatusky and her team also continue churning out ideas.

Latest spark of an idea brings things full circle for Shatusky

This year Shatusky went to Schmit with a "crazy idea" of retelling Mauer's story and reuniting the retired Minnesota Twin and Mike Hally, who Maurer pulled into his circle of friends at lunch 21 years ago and each day for the rest of his senior year at Cretin-Derham Hall.

Schmit agreed it was a "crazy idea" and said he would pose the question to Mauer. He told her not to get her hopes up.

A roughly 9-minute segment on Thumbs Up and the reunion of the Cretin-Derham Hall graduates aired on July 6. The video is now housed on

the station's website, and the hope is it will be aired in homerooms across Minnesota. It can be found at: https://bit.ly/3za9fUW.

"We're hoping to inspire kids to go out on a limb and really be like Joe Mauer," Shatusky told the Star News. "I don't know how else to say it.

"He's so humble about it. That's what I love. Joe Schmit asked why did you do that? Because it was the right thing to do."

Here in the Elk River Area School District, Shatusky is partnering with ISD 728 to roll out a pilot program called "No one eats alone."

Elk River will be ground zero for 'No one eats alone' pilot

The effort is being funded with the help of a $5,000 grant from Sherburne County Area United Way. The hope is to eventually partner with other nearby school districts. Interest is already spilling in from all over, including Appleton, Wisconsin.

"The idea is for this not to be just one video and done," she said. "There's a curriculum we're working on by partnering with the district."

The idea is once the video is shown in a classroom or a homeroom at area middle schools and high schools, there would be a worksheet or something teachers could work with the students on to learn what they took away from it and what this could mean for them.

Grants are also being written to create bracelets with the "No one eats alone" name on one side and the link to that video on the inside.

Subtle reminders could be made in the form of posters in the lunchroom showing Joe Mauer and Mike Hally.

"It's hard to get buy-in with kids,' Shatusky said. "It has to be there in their world and wherever they are living on social media. Maybe we could create an app. There are lots of ideas on the table."

Joe Schmit and Shatusky also got asked to speak at a meeting of superintendents in October.

Schmit will be giving a keynote address and talking about the story. Shatusky and likely others from the school district will be doing a breakout session.

"I know kids are so connected to their phones and devices," Shatusky said. "We're trying to see how we can get our kids to put their phones down and look around. We'd like to see them have community and have face-to-face conversations, helping kids who are different feel accepted."

Julius Peppers

New
Information

NFHS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME

NOMINATION PACKAGE

SUBMITTED FRI. NOVEMBER 18, 2022

AMENDED NOV. 14, 2023

1997

JULIUS FRAZIER PEPPERS
SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL | BAILEY, NC
CLASS OF 1998
COLLEGE: UNC-CHAPEL HILL FOOTBALL (1998-2001) & BASKETBALL (1999-2000)
NFL: CAROLINA PANTHERS, CHICAGO BEARS, & GREEN BAY PACKERS
2002 NFL DRAFT #2 OVERALL PICK | RETIRED 2018

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Julius Frazier Peppers
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Brandon Moree

Phone: 919-240-7367

Street Address: 222 Finley Golf Course Road

City, State, Zip Code: Chapel Hill, NC 27517

Signed:

Date: Nov. 14, 2023

Email: brandon@nchsaa.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☒ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☐ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Julius Frazier Peppers
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: C/O Bessie Brinkley (Mother) 3017 New Watkins Lane
(street address)

Raleigh, NC, 27616
(city, state, zip)

Email: CarlCoreyJr@gmail.com (agent)

Phone: 919-201-0096 Date of Birth: 1/18/1980

School Affiliation (if any) Southern Nash High School

City: Bailey State: NC

Place of Birth: Wilson, NC Date of Retirement: 2018

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:

If deceased, date of death:

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Mother: Bessie F. Brinkley

Address: 3017 New Watkins Lane, Raleigh, NC, 27616

Phone: N/A

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Southern Nash High School	Bailey, NC	1998	Diploma
College/University: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Chapel Hill, NC	2002	B.S.
Post Graduate School: N/A	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

ATHLETE

Athletic Participation in Senior High School [give complete details concerning specific performances, years, records, etc. Please note the classification of the high school (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Julius Peppers attended Southern Nash High School in Bailey, NC. He played football, basketball, and ran track at the 3A school (NC has 4 classifications). Peppers never played football until his high school coach, Ray Davis convinced him to come out for the football team his sophomore year. Peppers was 6' 7", 250 pounds and ran a 4.6 second 40-yard dash as a sophomore, so naturally he chose to play running back. In his first seaons playing football, Peppers rushed for 1,044 yards and 15 touchdowns on the varsity team. He finished his football career at Southern Nash with 3,501 yards and 38 rushing touchdowns, catching six more scores.

Peppers was the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in basketball in 1996, finishing his career at Southern Nash with more than 1,600 career points, 1,000 career rebounds, and more than 500 assists. Peppers was a four-event threat in track as well, participating in the triple jump, shot put, 400 meters, and the 4 X 400 relay. He finished third in the state meet in the Triple Jump in 1996 and was a part of the state championship 4x400 meter relay team from Southern Nash in 1998, helping the school win its first team State Championship in men's Track & Field program history.

Peppers was the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year in 1998. He was a first-team Parade All-American in 1997 (football), and was the football team's Most Valuable Player for three straight years.

Honors (give complete details of high school and post-high school athletic honors and achievements, awards, and recognition received as a result of high school achievements)

Peppers attended the University of North Carolina on a football scholarship and also played on the University's Basketball Team. As a member of the Tar Heels 1999-2000 Final Four, he averaged 15 minutes a game and just under 5 points per contest. Peppers is the only athlete to play in both an NCAA Final Four and the Super Bowl. (Donovan McNabb was a part of a Final Four team as a reserve, but did not see the floor at the Final Four as a walk-on reserve for Syracuse). After two years of playing football and basketball at UNC, Peppers decided to focus on football, where he ranks as 2nd all-time in school history with 30.5 sacks in his career.

His list of awards at the collegiate level is extensive:
- First-team All-ACC as a sophomore
- Led the nation in QB Sacks with 15 as sophomore (2000)
- Second-team All-American honors (sophomore)
- First team All-ACC (junior) (2001)
- Unanimous First Team All-American (junior)
- Won 2001 Chuck Bednarik Award (Nation's top defensive player)
- Won 2001 Bill Willis Trophy (Nation's best defensive lineman)

Peppers went on to play professionally in the NFL, playing from 2002-2018, in three different franchises. Peppers was drafed with the second overall pick by the Carolina Panthers in 2002, staying with the franchise through 2009, returning to the team from 2017-2018. Peppers also spent time with the Chicago Bears (2010-2013) and the Green Bay Packers (2014-2016).

Much like his list of collegiate accolades, his lis of awards in the NFL is lengthy:
- NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year (2002)
- 3x First-team All-Pro (2004, 2006, 2010)
- 3x Second-team All-Pro (2008, 2009, 2012)
- 9x Pro Bowl selection
- NFL 2000s All-Decade Team
- NFL 2010s All-Decade Team
- Pro Football Writers Association (PFWA) All-Rookie Team (2002)
- 100 Greatest Bears of All-Time
- North Carolina Sports Hall of Fame inductee (2021

Other information (*not previously listed*)

Peppers is an outstanding humanitarian as well. He was nominated by the Carolina Panthers in 2018 for the Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award for his efforts in eastern North Carolina after a pair of devastating hurricanes hit the state in the fall of that year. After retirement, Peppers has been a regular contributor to three charities the Center for Community Transitions, Girl Talk Foundation, and the Young Black Leadership Alliance.

Letters of Recommendation

Thursday, November 10, 2022

2022-2023 NCHSAA Board of Directors
Rob Jackson, President
Buncombe County Schools
Chris Blanton, Vice President
Watauga High School
Bobby Wilkins, Past-President
Hendersonville High School
Que Tucker, Commissioner
NCHSAA
Paige Badgett
North Surry High School
Mark Byrd
Wilkes County Schools
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Enka High School
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Stephen Gainey
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Mark Garrett
Henderson County Schools
Sam Jones
West Stokes High School
Jerome Leathers
Southern Durham High School
Troy Lindsey
Gray's Creek High School
Fred Lynch
Laney High School
Andy McCormick
Union Pines High School
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Bryan Tyson
Cabarrus County Schools
Tanya Turner
Perquimans County Schools
Larry Williford
Farmville Central High School
Affiliate Members
Vernon Aldridge
N.C. Athletic Directors Association
Elbert Lassiter
North State Football Officials Association
Joe Franks
N.C. Coaches Association
Wendell Hall
N.C. State School Boards Association
Burt Jenkins
N.C. Department of Public Instruction

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

It is my honor to submit Julius Peppers from Southern Nash High School in Bailey, North Carolina as a candidate in the athlete category for consideration of inclusion in the NFHS High School Hall of Fame. North Carolina has a proud tradition of high school athletics, and we firmly believe that Julius Peppers' accomplishments in high school, college, and professional athletics as well as his character, philanthropy, and his support of young people make him a highly qualified candidate for inclusion as North Carolina's first inductee in the athlete category.

Amazingly, Peppers never played football until his sophomore year in high school when his school's football coach, Ray Davis, talked him into coming out for the team. What an incredible difference this decision and relationship made in the life of Julius Peppers! Without the influence of Coach Davis talking Julius into playing football the Carolina Panthers would never have reached the Super Bowl in 2003, as Peppers was a disruptive force on that defensive team that went from worst defense in the league in 2001, to second-best defensive unit in the league in Peppers' rookie season of 2002. Maybe without that nudge from Coach Davis in high school, we still would never have seen an athlete play in both the Final Four and a Super Bowl!

As a 6'7", 250 pound running back at 3A Southern Nash, Julius rushed for over 1,000 yards in his first season playing football and amassed more than 3,500 career rushing yards and 44 total touchdowns. If you view the video, included in the supporting materials as a link to a story from WRAL-TV, you'll find that Peppers was a rare combination of power, speed, and grace at the running back position.

He also participated in basketball and track at Southern Nash. He helped the Firebirds Men's Track Team to the school's first team State Championship in the sport in 1998. Peppers ran as a member of the school's 4 X 400 Relay team that won the 3A State Championship in the event by more than a second at 3:23.10. He also finished second in the Triple Jump with a performance that spanned 46' 10".

Peppers was an outstanding basketball player for Southern Nash as well, scoring more than 1,600 points and grabbing more than 1,000 rebounds during his career at the school. He went on to play football and basketball at the University of North Carolina, averaging 16 minutes per game on the Tar Heels 2000 Final Four team under Bill Guthridge before choosing to focus on football after two years playing both sports for the university.

It is easy to see how high school athletics made an impact in the life of Julius Peppers; and it is even more apparent how Julius is committed to making an impact in young people's lives as he seeks to give back to his community. Peppers was a finalist for the NFL's Walter Peyton Man of the Year Award in 2018, selected by the Panthers as their nominee for that prestigious honor, because of the charitable work that Peppers did when two destructive hurricanes ravaged eastern North Carolina in 2017.
Peppers is a regular contributor to his community, supporting three charities that seek to support young people and families in our state. Peppers has donated

to the Young Black Leadership Alliance and the Girl Talk Foundation, both groups empowering young leaders and helping equip them to be successful in school and life. He has also been involved with the Center for Community Transitions, a group that offers assistance to families dealing with someone who has been incarcerated.

As one of the top five members of the NFL's all-time sack list, a multi-sport athlete throughout high school and college, and a generous, active, and involved community leader, we believe that Julius Peppers' accomplishments, life's work, and connection to Southern Nash High School more than qualify him for inclusion in the NFHS Hall of Fame. It would be my distinct honor as Commissioner of the NCHSAA to hang the NFHS Hall of Fame medallion on Julius Peppers as the first individual from the athlete category from our great state to join this prestigious Hall of Fame.

Warmest Regards,

Que Tucker
NCHSAA Commissioner

NASH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
930 EASTERN AVENUE, NASHVILLE, NC

To: NCHS Hall of Fame Committee

From: Angie A Miller, Executive Director of Athletics

Re: Julius Peppers

Date: 11/[illegible]/22

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Julius Peppers to the NCHS High School Hall of Fame. Peppers began his high school career at Southern Nash High School in Bailey, NC, in 1994. He was 6 ft. 5 in. and weighed 225 lbs. Peppers had never played organized football before. With his size and athleticism, the coaches felt he would bring a strong presence to the gridiron for the Firebirds. During his high school years, he played running back and defensive lineman, and his career finish was 3,501 rushing yards and 46 touchdowns. He was one of the biggest threats as a lineman in the state of North Carolina. Also as a Firebird, he excelled at basketball, lettering and being voted All-Conference for four consecutive years. As a Track and Field sprinter, Peppers helped Southern Nash High School win the state championship for the first time in the school's history. He won in the 4x200 meter team relay and as a triple jumper. His senior year, Peppers was named to the Parade magazine high school All-American team in football as an all-purpose talent. In 1998 Julius Peppers was named Male Athlete of the Year by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, which at that time Nash County Public Schools. During his high school stint he was named by the Rocky Mount Telegram as one of the 50 Greatest Athletes from the Twin Counties (i.e., Nash and Edgecombe).

Peppers has been a dedicated supporter of the Southern Nash Firebirds and of all of the Nash County Schools athletes and teams. He continues to mentor and guide fellow athletes in his hometown as an adult. Peppers is a dedicated, remarkable gentleman with outstanding character. We at Nash County Public Schools highly recommend him for this most prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Angie A Miller

Angie A Miller, Executive Director of Athletics and Wellness
Nash County Public Schools

Southern Nash High School
6446 Southern Nash High Road
Bailey, North Carolina 27807
"Students First"

To: NCHS Hall of Fame Committee

From: Ray Davis, Former Head Football Coach & Athletic Director

Re: Julius Peppers

Date: 11/12/22

As the athletic director and head football coach at Southern Nash High School during Julius Pepper's attendance, I would like to recommend him for induction into the NCHS High School Hall of Fame. I want to focus on his character, which is clearly his best attribute and defines him as a respectable man.

Julius was blessed with the physical stature and athleticism to give him a natural advantage over most competitors. He was also blessed with hard-working parents who taught him early in life the value of effort. His parents also taught him to respect others and that kindness was necessary to be successful in life. I met Julius when he was in the ninth grade, and I immediately thought of him as a gentle giant. Despite his overwhelming size and formidable talent, he never looked down on anyone, and never tried to gain attention just because he could. Julius was always a team player, not a one-man show. No matter what position or role he had on a team, he wanted to be a value to the whole team and do his best. To this day, I've never known him to depart from that way of thinking.

Julius is highly respected by everyone who has had the pleasure to compete with and against him. Furthermore, he continues to do for others, mentoring in his hometown community, and be a loving father and husband. He is the epitome of a strong athlete, role model, and leader, and I highly recommend him for this outstanding honor as a NCHS High School Hall of Fame candidate.

Sincerely,

George Ray Davis
Former Head Football Coach and
Athletic Director of Southern Nash High School.

CAROLINA PANTHERS

November 18, 2022

NFHS Hall of Fame Committee
PO Box 690
Indianapolis, IN 46206

Dear NFHS Hall of Fame Committee:

From Bailey to Southern Nash High School to the University of North Carolina to the Carolina Panthers, Julius Peppers has made a tremendous difference in communities across North Carolina. Julius' support of various initiatives has enabled him to touch the lives of countless citizens in the Tar Heel state. His impact makes Julius a unique and highly qualified candidate for induction into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Our relationship with Julius began when the Panthers selected him in the first round of the 2002 NFL Draft, continues for 16 years until his retirement following the 2018 season and continues today as a Panthers Legend, where he uses his platform to serve the needs of communities throughout his home state. There are many recent examples.

After seeing photos and videos of damage along the coast of North Carolina and areas in the eastern part of the state caused by Hurricane Florence in 2018, Julius started the Hurricane Florence relief fund to provide relief to victims of the storm. Many of the hurricane ravaged towns reminded him of his hometown, which prompted him to spend several days in Robeson County in North Carolina and Marlboro County in South Carolina helping clean up.

Even after retiring, Julius has remained involved. In the spring of 2019, he supported local non-profit organizations that serve individuals transitioning from incarceration back into society, provided bail assistance for qualified non-violent offenders, helped young single mothers and worked to improve police and community relations. Leading us to the 2020 presidential election, he lent the strength of his voice and stature to a PSA for the team's voter engagement initiative that aimed to educate, register and mobilize voters in the Carolinas.

Thank you for the opportunity to share a firsthand perspective of Julius' legacy with the selection committee. We appreciate you considering him for induction in the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame Class of 2023.

Sincerely,

Khail Coleman
President
Carolina Panthers

Support Data

THE WILSON DAILY TIMES

Sports

Babe Ruth Southeast Regional Commissioner James Fenland, right, listens as Kent Montgomery talks about Fleming Stadium. Joining the two are, from left, Babe Ruth District 4 commissioner Nathan Stallings and WCYAA director Mickey Davis. Fleming is the proposed site for the Babe Ruth ages 13-15 Southeast Regional beginning in July. (Photo by Phil Goble Jr.)

WCYAA takes biggest step, to host regional

By Phil Goble Jr.
Daily Times Sports Editor

For five days this summer, Wilson will become the final step to the World Series — the Babe Ruth ages 13-15 World Series, that is.

The Wilson County Youth Athletic Association was officially awarded the league's Southeast Regional Tournament Saturday in a ceremony at the office of Athletic Director Mickey Davis.

"Our organization has come a long way in the last six or seven years and we're ready for it," said Davis. "We know we did real well with the state and district tournaments last year. We've hosted a 9-10 state tournament in Tar Heel (League) and a 15-17 state in Tar Heel.

"This is the biggest tournament yet, but I think we're prepared for it."

The event will run July 30-Aug. 5 and will be played in Fleming Stadium. Alternate sites will be used if weather interferes with the double-elimination event.

"When you walk into Fleming Stadium, ifs baseball; it shouts baseball," said Davis, who hopes to use the Fike, Hunt and Beddingfield high school diamonds for practices. "Ifs a great facility."

The tournament will field nine teams — Eastern North Carolina, Western North Carolina, Tennessee, defending champion Virginia, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. The final squad is an automatic entry from the host league.

The winner advances to the World Series in Little Rock, Ark., the week after the Regional.

"As far as I'm concerned, this (Fleming Stadium) is one of the top three facilities I've been in (for Babe Ruth)," said Babe Ruth Southeast Regional Commissioner and International Board Member James Penland, who represented Babe Ruth at the contract signing. "We appreciate Wilson County being a part of Babe Ruth. We'd like for the people to come out to the ball park and see some good games."

Many area families may also have a reason to go Fleming — Babe Ruth requires all players to be housed in private homes during the tournament.

That means the WCYAA is facing a daunting challenge — to find rooms for approximately 125 players.

"The biggest thing we take pride in is host families," said Penland. "We require

See Babe Burth, page 2B

WDT salutes Peppers

SNSH multi-sport star named Athlete of Year

By Phil Goble Jr.
Daily Times Sports Editor

STANHOPE — For four years, the name Julius Peppers has been synonymous with Southern Nash athletics.

Tile 6-foot-7, 250-pound standout excelled on the football field, basketball court and track, raising eyebrows with every touchdown run, two-handed slam, race and triple jump.

From all-area teams to all-conference squads, state and national honors, Peppers, said his former football coach and athletics director Ray Davis, has brought nothing but honor to the Class 3-A school in the tobacco fields of Nash County.

Monday morning, in front of more than 300 classmates, teachers and family, Peppers brought honor again, this time being named the 1998 Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year.

Peppers was chosen from among more than 1,200 athletes at 11 area high schools that comprise the Daily Times coverage area. The graduating senior headed a list that included Mark Strickland and Jennifer Laughridge of Hunt; Shemkia Reid of Fike; Antwane Yelverton of Greene Central and Roger Stone of Greenfield.

Peppers, the 25th recipient, becomes the second straight athlete from Southern Nash to be honored, following Rikki Cockrell in 1997. He also ends a run of four female winners, becoming the first male named since Beddingfield's Corey Thomas in 1993.

"He is one of those individuals that come along one in a million," said Davis, who coached Peppers for three years in football. "You don't find too many people who have that God-given ability and are that good a person."

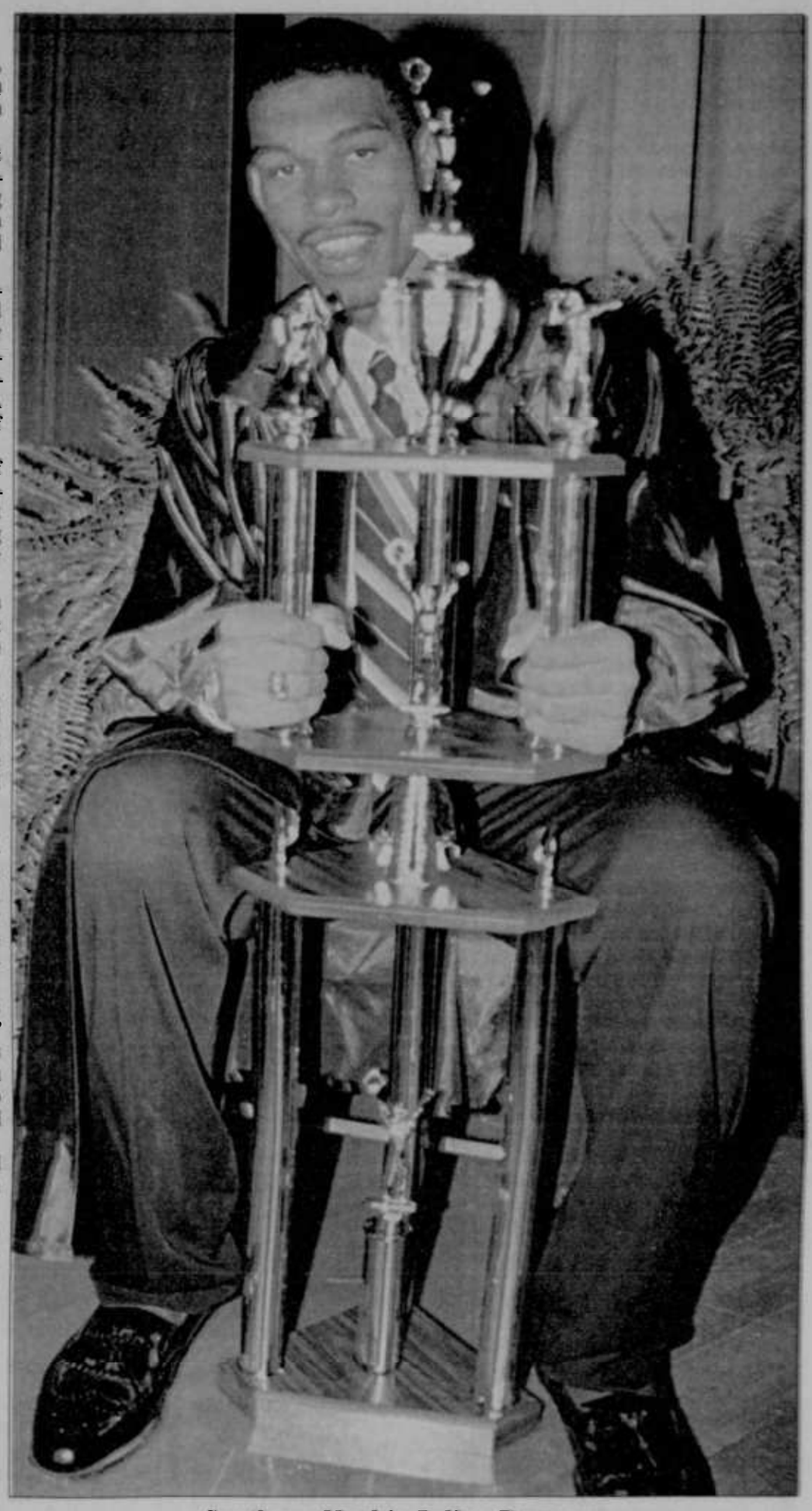
Known as shy and quiet around campus, Peppers is by far that on the field of athletic competition.

In football, the son of Bessie Faye Brinkley and George Peppers rushed for 3,501 yards and scored 38 touchdowns.

In 101 high school basketball games, Peppers scored 1,661 points, hauled down 876 rebounds; handed out 215 assists; had 151 steals; and blocked 142 shots.

On the track, he won the 1996 and 1998 N.C. High School Athletic Association Eastern Regional triple jump championship and was a national Junior Olympic long

See Peppers, page 2B



Southern Nash's Julius Peppers
... Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year

Warriors grind to first 3-A regional golf title

Hunt a state qualifier for fourth straight year; Demons>Parker earns first trip to Chapel Hill

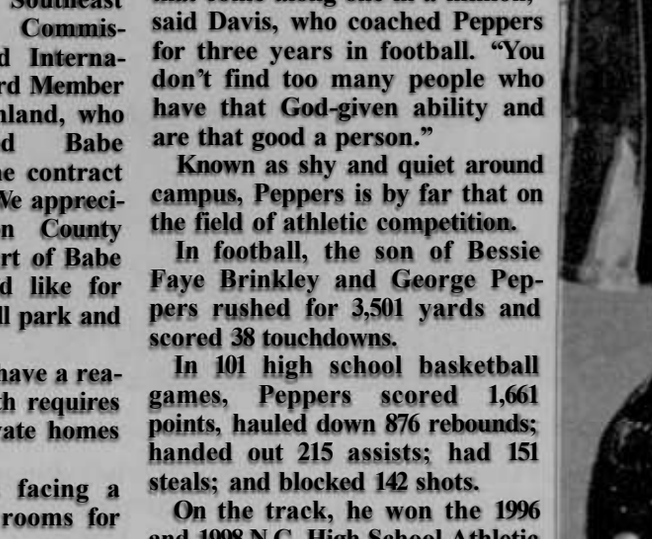
Hunt's Chris McKeel won a playoff to finish the individual runner-up. (Photo by Tom Ham)

By Tom Ham
Executive Sports Editor

PINETOPS — The abundant array of championship banners adorning the Hunt High School gymnasium wall will soon include the only one missing in the sport of golf.

Hunt now owns a regional championship.

The Warriors, Big Eight Conference champions in all five years of the league's existence, grinded down the stretch to add the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A Eastern Regional championship to their lengthy list of laurels on a cloudy Monday and m occasional light rain at Maccripine Country Club.



Beddingfield golfers wore wrist bands in memory of two classmates who died in a weekenc| auto accident. (Photo by Tom Ham)

Coached by Jeff Best, Hunt posted a 309 total for its low four individuals to qualify for the NCHSAA 3-A Championship for the fourth consecutive year.

The Warriors trimmed North Lenoir of the Coastal Conference. Led by medalist Matthew Denmark, a junior, the Hawks carded a 311. Hunt and North Lenoir were joined by Coastal Conference champion White Oak in seizing state berths. White Oak finished third at 322.

Manteo finished fourth at 333, followed by Southern Nash at 335, Fike, in third place after nine holes, at 336, Beddingfield at 343, Kinston at 344 and Havelock at 366.

Beddingfield players dealt with the grief that resulted when fellow athletes/classmates Rebekah Anderson and Benji Edmondson lost their lives in a traffic accident Saturday evening. The players painted around their wrist a dark band that included the initials of their departed classmates and dedicated their regional effort to their memory.

Senior Michael Hooks said the wrist band was a reminder, "that when you hit a bad shot, it's not worth getting mad about it."

Fike senior Rob Parker was among three players not members of state-qualifying teams to earn a trip to Chapel Hill. Parker qualified for his first state appearance with a 39-39—78.

He was joined by freshman Ben Eisner of Manteo with a 38-35—73 and sophomore Mark Hale of Kinston with a 37-37—74.

Denmark, playing in the same group with senior Will Pope and junior Chris McKeel of Hunt, turned in a machine-like performance in firing a 35-35—70, 1-under-par over the 6,200-yard Maccripine layout that played at near-maximum difficult with testy pin placements and faster-than-usual greens that had been double-cut three consecutive days.

McKeel birdied the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to best Eisner for second place. McKeel fashioned a 38-35—73 in a round that included two birdies. Without a birdie for his second straight round, Pope, headed to East Carolina University, came in with a 38-38—76.

The Warriors also counted a 41-38—79 from freshman Scott deKeyzer, while junior Taylor Lyon and sophomore Hyatt Field each shot 81. Senior Dwayne Baker

See Hunt, page 2B

Matthew Denmark of North Lenoir fired a 70 to pace the regional field. (Photo by Tom Ham)

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE
Wilson Daily Times, May 12, 1998,Pg. 13, Wilson, North Carolina, US
https://newspaperarchive.com/wilson-daily-times-may-12-1998-p-13/

Babe Ruth Southeastern Regional set

(Continued from page IB)
you put a minimum two (players) to a home.

"That (finding families) is the biggest challenge. Years ago, that wasn't a problem. Now, parents have become more cautious. It's getting tougher and tougher to get homes."

Players will be in homes anywhere from two to five days, depending on how far their team advances.

"That (housing) is a worry," said Davis, "but we've had a lot of people volunteer and we'll handle it."

And if they handle it — and the rest of the tournament — well, Davis and Penland agree a World Series could be on WCYAA's horizon.

"Definitely," said Davis of WCYAA hopes of running a World Series. "If we were going to do a tournament for a one-shot deal, we wouldn't do this.

"When this is over, we'll sit down and look at it. If we feel we've done the job for Wilson County and Babe Ruth, then the letter will go in."

Then the major fundraising will begin. While the Southeast Regional will cost WCYAA $2,500, the World Series takes a commitment of $40,000.

"Rest assured, it (WCYAA and Fleming) meets all the requirements for a World Series," said Penland.

The commissioner said the earliest open date at the moment is 2001, but that could change if a current site is unable to host.

Davis is certain the WCYAA can live up to the responsibility.

"No one is going to outwork us," he said. "Wilson County is baseball and what else best represents baseball than a World Series.

"It's every kid's dream to play in a Babe Ruth World Series. If we do a good job, I think the World Series is ours."

That job begins in earnest July 30.

Hunt corrals long-elusive regional crown

completed the lineup with a 92.

Best explained he did not mention a regional championship as a feat his Warriors must accomplish, but admitted, "it's one I've been thinking about for a long time. It's the only banner we didn't have in the gym for the golf team.

"Of course, we wanted to qualify (for the state finals), but we wanted to do our best to try and win the regional. We didn't play spectacular and we didn't make a lot of putts. But we hung in there and did what we had to do."

The Warriors grinded through the difficult Nos. 16-18 stretch. McKeel and Pope each parred all three layouts. Lyon and deKeyzer each surged down the stretch. Field played the first eight layouts at I-over before struggling, while Baker encouraged his teammates with a solid start.

"It was character at its best," Best said of the Warriors' performance.

Pope called a one-shot penalty on himself and deKeyzer, despite being a freshman, played with the poise of a senior by taking an unplayable lie rather than attempt a shot of extreme risk on three occasions.

Hunt golfers sensed they had clinched a state spot, but were uncertain of their regional-title chances. The Warriors capitalized when a North Lenoir golfer, whose score counted, suffered a triple bogey the final layout.

The Warriors, 3-A state champs in 1996, claimed the regional's final state berth last season and Pope exclaimed. "I feel 10 times better out here than I did last year this time."

Fike's Rob Parker
... first-time state qualifier

Pope and McKeel persevered despite witnessing a dazzling exhibition from Denmark, who seldom missed a shot and putted brilliantly from long-range in putting together the regional's only under-par round.

Denmark birdied Nos. 2, 3 and 12 and was boosted by rolling in a long, downhill putt on the treacherous No. 2 green. His bogeys occurred at Nos. 9 and 17.

"I made really long putts at Nos. 2 and 11 and the one at No. 2 got me started," said Denmark. "I hit the ball great. To play this course, you just had to control the ball and two-putt.

"I was excited, but I was kind of nervous because of great players here like McKeel. I haven't been playing that well lately and I didn't want to play badly in the same group with him."

The Hawks also got an 80 from Denmark's freshman brother, Stephen; an 85 from senior Brent Pelletier, a top-10 regional finisher in 1997; and a 76 from senior Dusty Harrison.

White Oak was paced by senior Lance Oliver, last year's regional runner-up, with a 78.

Parker is state-bound despite problems at Nos. 16 and 18 (4-over).

"This was pretty much my main goal," Parker said of his state opportunity. "But I wasn't sure I made it and I didn't want to go and get happy — and then find out I didn't. I hit it great until No. 16.1 hadn't hit it that good all season and I wasn't putting bad. But I didn't think I was going to make it and, when I got in, I was not happy with the way I played."

Parker was a lot happier afterwards.

And Eisner, a tough-minded freshman, was not disappointed over his playoff loss to McKeel, who hit the par-5 layout in two shots and two-putted for birdie.

"I had heard a lot about him being a good player," Eisner said of McKeel, "and I am pretty excited. I just came out and felt my way around. I stuck a lot of shots close. It worked out pretty good."

Neither could Matthew Denmark complain about North Lenoir's runner-up finish.

"I am really excited about us going to the state," he said. "I think we gave Hunt a good run."

Now Hunt's focus is toward Chapel Hill.

"We've still got a little unfinished business," Pope said. "I can look back on winning this regional the rest of my life, but I am looking forward right now."

3-A regional golf results

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Class 3-A
EASTERN REGIONAL
Golf Tournament

(at Maccripine Country Club

TOP INDIVIDUALS

Matthew Denmark, N Lenoir	35-35	—	70
Chris McKeel, Hunt	38-35	—	73
"Ben Eisner, Manteo	38-35	—	73
"Mark Hate, Kinston	37-37	—	74
"Rob Parker, Fike	39-39	—	78
Will Pope, Hunt	38-38	—	76
Lance Oliver, White Oak	40-38	—	78
Dusty Harrison, North Lenoir	39-37	—	76
Scott deKeyzer, Hunt	41-38	—	79
Matt Pullen, Kinston	43-37	—	80

•HUNT (309)

Chris McKeel	38-35	—	73
Will Pope	38-38	—	76
Taylor Lyon	42-39	—	81
Scott deKeyzer	41-38	—	79
Hyatt Field	39-42	—	81
Dwayne Baker	49-43	—	92

•NORTH LENOIR (311)

Matthew Denmark	35-35	—	70
Brent Pelletier	42-43	—	85
Dusty Harrison	39-37	—	78
Dean Cox	46-48	—	94
Stephen Denmark	38-42	—	80
Brandon Grant	51-57	—	108

•WHITE OAK (322)

Lance Oliver	40-38	—	78
Kris Nelson	44-38	—	82
Brian Cone	42-42	—	84
Cliff Ray	41-40	—	81
Evan Erwin	45-42	—	87
Ryan Brown	39-42	—	81

MANTEO (333)

Ben Eisner	38-35	—	73
Ryan Stormont	41-39	—	80
J.b Sheppard	46-52	—	98
Matt Ottario	49-49	—	98
Ryan Bridgewater	44-43	—	87
Sean Olds	47-46	—	93

SOUTHERN NASH (335)

Gorham Bradley	40-42	—	82
Michael Whitley	45-41	—	86
Michael Strickland	45-47	—	92
Josh Floyd	40-41	—	81
Justin Carter	52-47	—	99
Derrick Hopkins	44-42	—	86

FIKE (336)

Rob Parker	39-39	—	78
William Shreve	43-43	—	86
John Ream Watston	40-46	—	86
Clint O'Hara	42-44	—	86
John Shreve	46-45	—	91
Walker Abney	44-43	—	87

BEDDINGFIELD (343)

Brad Perry	41-46	—	87
Mike Hooks	44-40	—	84
Jim Dubovec	49-45	—	94
Patrick McMahon	43-46	—	89
Justin Webb	41-42	—	83
Shane Davis	48-51	—	99

KINSTON (344)

Mark Hale	37-37	—	74
Brandon Weils	47-46	—	93
Ray Deepa	52-45	—	97
Matt Taylor	49-55	—	104
B.J. Murphrey	66-70	—	136
Matt Pullen	43-37	—	80

HAVELOCK (366)

Teddy Neuhaus	41-43	—	84
Corbett Norris	54-52	—	106
Rob Hillary	56-45	—	101
Eddie Cruz	47-42	—	89
Frank Wasko	49-54	—	103
Mike Schwarz	46-46	—	92

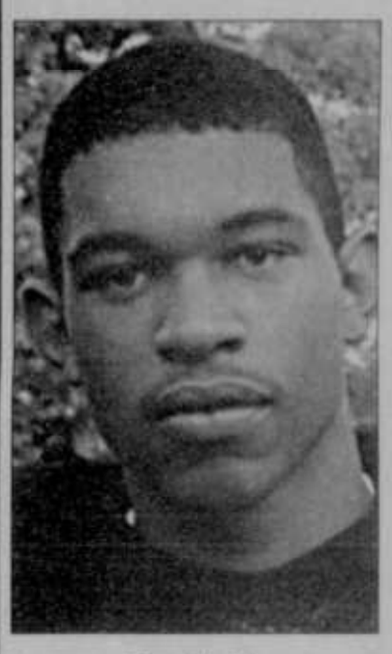
INDIVIDUALS

John Yates, Pender	41-40	—	81
William Jernigan, Hertford Cty.	41-45	—	86
Ashley Davis, C B Aycock	46-42	—	88
Joseph Spamhour, Pender	45-48	—	93
Spencer Pake Washington	53-46	—	99
David Cummings, SW Edge	52-52	—	104
Greg Mulder, Bertie			DNS
Justin Hagee, Washington			DQ

* — State-qualifying teams
* — State-qualifying individuals

WDT Athlete of the Year

Julius Peppers career



Football
All-Big Eight Conference
3 years
WDT All-Area
3 years
Shrine Bowl
1997-98
Parade All-American
1997-98

Basketball
All-Big Eight Conference
4 years
Big Eight Conference Player of the Year
1995-96
WDT All-Area
4 years
WDT Player of the Year
1996-97
Honorable Mention All-State
1997-98

Track
Regional Triple Jump champion
1998, 1996
Junior Olympic long jump finalist
1996
All-Big Eight Conference
3 years

(Graphic by Phil Goble Jr.)

Peppers is top WDT athlete

(Continued from page IB)
jump finalist (1996). Currently, Peppers competes in the shot put, triple jump and runs the third leg of the Eastern Regional-championship 400-meter relay for the Firebirds.

"I don't think anyone can question Julius' commitment to Southern Nash athletics," said boys track coach Alton Tyre. "I'm going to have some great memories of him. He's been a tremendous asset for this program."

An asset that has been on display almost continually since he began competing as a freshman.

In his first year, Peppers participated in basketball, track and Junior Olympic track.

With no break, the rising sophomore then played football, basketball, track, Junior Olympic track and Amateur Athletic Union basketball.

As a junior, Peppers played football and basketball before deciding to skip track for the season and summer. It was his first atliletic break in nearly three full years.

Peppers' final season may have been his best — Parade All-America in football with more than 1,200 yards rushing; honorable mention all-state after averaging double-figures in scoring and rebounding; the intimidating factor of a track team with more than a fair shot at winning the state championship.

He was also named the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year last week.

"I always thought I was one of the best, but I never proclaimed myself that," said Peppers, who has signed a national letter-of-intent to play football at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "It feels funny right now. I'm starting to realize it (high school career) is almost over. When I came here as a little kid, they weren't that good. I thought, maybe, I'd have a chance to make it (Southern Nash) better."

That, he has done with style.

In his career, Southern Nash returned to the football playoffs and captured an NCHSAA sectional championship in basketball. The track team has been proclaimed an Eastern Regional champion and, come Friday afternoon, could be proclaimed the 3-A state champ.

But for all his talents and abilities, Peppers said the real heroes are the men and women who coach the Firebirds.

"They treat everybody the same way," he said. "They don't care how good you are; they just want the best person playing sports. They did everything the right way."

The right for Peppers started in the ninth grade with Brian Foster, then an assistant and the recently-named successor to Davis as head football coach for the F'irebirds.

"When I was in ninth grade, he told me he knew I'd have the chance to play college sports," said Peppers. "He helped pick me up after a bad game. He was there to just talk. He helped my confidence out a lot."

Also there to prod and direct was Peppers' mother, Bessie Faye.

"She just stayed on me all the time about doing right and wrong," Peppers said. "When she would say, no, I used to get mad; now I see it was all the best for me."

And that has made Peppers the best he can be — not just for himself, but for his school and his county.

"I think just the character he has and what he's done for Southern Nash is incredible," said boys basketball coach Rick Ruffin. "It's amazing to see somebody 6-7 and 250 pounds do some of the things he does.

"More importantly, he's stayed on track and gotten an education. I'm glad to be associated with and coach the type of player he is. I'm going to miss him as a person; he'll be a good memory for Southern Nash."

And, with size 19 feet, Peppers will leave big shoes to fill for all

Athlete destined to become special

Tom Ham

Executive Sports Editor

From the freshman moment he stepped onto the basketball court for his varsity debut, Julius Peppers was destined to become special.

His tall, powerful frame implied, "I am going to be bad (awesome)."

Pretty soon, onlookers were anticipating an explosion from this youngster within a man's body.

Thus proceeded an argumentative career in the sports of basketball, football and track.

Peppers accomplished plenty — rushing for over 1,000 yards in football three consecutive seasons, accumulating over 3,500 yards and attaining All-America status; pouring in over 1,500 points and snaring over 800 rebounds, and being proclaimed the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in basketball; and excelling in the triple jump and emerging as an impressive relays performer in track.

Tile aforementioned accolades only brush the surface. And, as graduation approaches, the honors are piling up. In a span of less than a week, Peppers has been saluted as the N.C. High School Athletic Association male Athlete of the Year and The Wilson Daily Times Athlete of the Year. More recognition is forthcoming.

Attesting to his potential and ability is the prompt willingness of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to offer him a football scholarship — which he accepted. The stipulations include allowing him to try basketball.

lb earn a scholarship with such a top-flight program as the one at North Carolina is, in itself, remarkable. And to suggest Peppers is athletic enough to play both football and basketball in the esteemed Atlantic Coast Conference is astonishing.

But did Peppers do enough? Could he have accomplished more?

Actually, Southern Nash's most celebrated athlete never went about prep sports with an "I am bad" personna. His demeanor was always laid-back, tolerant and perhaps considerate of his teammates and opposition. He shunned attention and the spotlight.

Gradually, Peppers displayed more of a willingness to take charge and, sometimes, was forced into that role. When that was the case, opponents were in big trouble. The involvement of his teammates always seemed a top priority.

Southern Nash head boys basketball coach Rick Ruffin points out that Peppers' contribution were multiple. He ranked among the team leaders in scoring, rebounding, assists, steals and blocked shots.

Perhaps, at times when he should have been thundering over and dominating foes and ruling the backboards, Peppers was conscious of involving his teammates.

His status as a powerful running back was obvious on the gridiron. Peppers also displayed breakaway capabilities.

Smaller defenders must have felt their prayers had been answered when the Firebirds' showcase back ran wide and afforded them an opportunity to tackle from an angle and go for the feet, instead of having to deal with his brute force straight-on.

On the track, Peppers was blessed with the ability to contribute in about every event.

The multi-sport star ended his prep football career with a name-taking, butt-kicking exhibition — the type of display easily envisioned for him.

His basketball farewell was less glorious. Peppers struggled against an aggressive, physical sophomore from East Chapel Hill. That night in Southern Nash's first-ever appearance in the 3-A Eastern Regional was one of his longest.

But Peppers bounced back and kept his promise to coach Alton Tyre to compete in track his senior season. Tyre says he never ceases to be amazed by Peppers' feats.

Onlookers won't soon forget his performance in the 400-meter relay in the Big Eight Conference championship meet. Peppers, running the third leg, took the baton several meters behind the front-runner and simply blitzed him.

"How's that for athleticism," said an admiring Tyre.

Perhaps many that followed Peppers were not certain of what to expect from him because of not being qualify to measure or appreciate his abilities.

After all, they were watchinga 6-foot-7, 245-pound athlete who performed with the versatility and agility of an athlete who stood 6-0 and weighed 180.

Southern Nash athletics stepped another level during Peppers' four years but could it be that he will be most remembered for being too unselfish.

Middle schools

Cougars, Hawks close with wins

Speight wrapped up its middle school baseball schedule on a winning note Monday, while Toisnot did likewise Friday afternoon.

Cougars edge Cobras

SARATOGA — Speight Middle School concluded its season with a 3-2 victory over visiting Springfield Monday afternoon.

The Cougars of coach Tom Riddle closed with an 8-4 record as Ryan Beamon drove in the winning run with a triple in the bottom of the sixth inning. Springfield forged a 2-2 tie with a run in each of the fifth and sixth innings.

Speight right-hander Michael Thigpen pitched the win, allowing two hits, walking three and striking out 11. Thigpen compiled a 6-2 record.

The Cougars, who struck for two runs in the fourth inning, got a hit each from Beamon, John Coffey, Thigpen, Todd Exum and Kevin Gardner.

Hawks blank Speight

Erie Morris and Travis Eatmon crushed consecutive home runs FYiday afternoon in a six-run, fifth-inning rally as Toisnot finished an 8-4 season with an 8-0 victory over visiting Speight.

Morris' shot was his seventh of the season , while Eatmon enjoyed a 2-for-2 day at the plate. Ricky Webb was 3-for-4 with a double for the Hawks.

Eatmon picked up the pitching win by striking out 12 batters and allowing only two hits.

Webber barred

UPPER MARLBORO, Md. (AP) — Washington Wizards forward Chris Webber on Monday was barred by an administrative law judge from driving in Maryland for 120 days.

The restriction is punishment for refusing to submit a blood sample after a Prince George's County police officer concluded Webber was driving under the influence of marijuana in January.

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE
Wilson Daily Times, May 12, 1998,Pg. 14, Wilson, North Carolina, US
https://newspaperarchive.com/wilson-daily-times-may-12-1998-p-14/

THE WILSON DAILY TIMES Sftorts

Firebirds capture state championship

Top 10

1. Southern Nash	76
2. Greensboro Dudley	45
3. Durham Hillside	35
4. North Buncombe	34
5. T.C. Roberson	33
6. East Rowan	26
6. Kings Mountain	26
8. Havelock	22
9. Ragsdale	18
10. North Gaston	17

Southern Nash's Arthur Deans, left, and SouthWest Edgecombe's Deshawn Richardson race to the 110-meter hurdles finish. Deans won the event and Richardson took second.

(Photos by Grant Roberson)

So. Nash wins with total package

By Scott Jones
Daily Times Staff Writer

RALEIGH — Without a doubt, this year's Class 3-A boys track state champion has the best *team* in the state.

More often than not, the N.C High School Athletic Association track team title is more representative of which team has the most premier athletes, rather than a true gauge of depth and overall superiority. However, Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr track. Southern Nash showed the rest of the state that, indeed, it has the total package in rolling to the school's first ever track state championship.

Southern, whose previous best state finish was 8th in 1995, blasted the competition just as it has all year, with this performance being much more impressive since it came against the best the state has to offer The Firebirds rolled to 76 team points, easily outdistancing runner up Greensboro Dudley's 45. Rounding out the top five were long-time 4-A powerhouse Durham Hillside (35), North Buncombe (34), and last year's champion. Skyland TC. Roberson (33).

Fike posted the next highest finish for area schools, amassing 16 points to finish tied for lith. Southwest Edgecombe rode Deshaun Riochardson's second-place showing in the mo hurdles to tie for 23rd with eight points, and Beddingied rounded out the area scoring by tying for 38th with 0M^rnts" ringbytyingf0r3" hwith

"It's been a team effort all year long," proud Firebirds head coach Alton lyre beamed. "It helped us having an all-around program. Roberson did well in the field, but couldn't score much on the track. Dudley was strong on the track but didn't have any field events. But we had them both — track and field. We had the total package."

Evidence that the Firebirds indeed possesed the total package is that Southern could roll to such an easy team victory while winning just two events after having qualified in 16 of the 18 events. However, second, third, and fourth places proved to be Firebird Country, and the rest of the state quickly found out that those points can add up in a hurry.

Southern's only individual champions was senior Arthur Deans. Deans edged a very familiar competitor, Richardson, to win the lOOhurdles. Both runner's posted a 14.2 second hand-time performance, but Deans won with the lean. Deans tripped on a hurdle in last year's regionals and did not qualify for the 110's, his specialty, and that trip up proved to be this year's motivating factor.

"I was making up for lost time," Deaus said of his personal victory. "This is a great way to end my senior year. We knew coming in we were the favorites, but we still had to prove it. And we did."

Southern Nash coach Alton Tyre raises his hands in victory after being doused with a water cooler by his athletes.

> *"All these guys have worked so hard since they've been here, it really makes me proud to see them achieve such an outstanding accomplishement."*
>
> — Alton Tyre
> Southern Nash boys track coach

Southern's other win came in the 1600 relay, proving to be a fitting finish for the Firebirds' dream season. Dudley took the early lead and seemed intent on preventing Southern from beginning its celebration with a championship in the final event. However, Southern's unit, consisting of Cornelias Gary. Brian Jones, Julius Peppers, and Derrick High would not be denied (High in particular) and battled back to win by nearly a full second with a time of 3:23.1.

"We knew that even with the 4-by-4 we would win the meet," said High, a junior that Tyre considers the heart and soul of the team. "But finishing second, that didn't satisfy us, so we had to win the 4-by-4."

High typified Southern's overachiveing attitude that prevailed throughout the meet High's surprise second place finish in the 200 dash turned Tyre's worried anticipation into a victorious grin. However, High's performance (he set the school record with a time of 21.96 in the trials) was just the cap on a day that saw Southern athlete's rise to the ocassion time and again.

"We came into the meet not knowing for sure we could win, but Coach Tyre had us believing," High said. "We just ran with everything we had, and it all just fell into place."

Senior Demaryland Cooper could not match last week's regional championship performance of 6-feet-10 in the high jump, instead he settled for runner-up status with a leap of 6-8 He more than made up for that slight regression, however, by posting career-best performances rn both the long and triple jumps. Cooper, a Western Carolina recruit, soared 22-7 to place fourth in the long jump, then bounded 45-1 to take fifth in the triple jump Peppers, the NCHSAA Athlete of the Year, nearly matched his career best with a leap of 46-10 to place second in the long jump. Robersons William Montgomery the meet's MVF. won each of the three events.

Southern took on the look of a winner with a blistering performance in the 800 relay. Tile unit of Gary, Jones, High, and Deans, which had already shattered the school record last week, re-set the school record with a blistering time of 1:27.78, good for a close second behind Dudley.

Deaas posted a runner-up showing in the 300 hurdles after setting a school record with a time of 39.4 in the trials.

"All these guys have worked so hard since they've been here, it really makes me proud to see them achieve such an outstanding accomplishement," Tyre said "We've worked since Day One with the goal of wining a state championship. All the time, all the effort has really paid off. These kids sacrificed a lot to be here. They don't have the fancy cars that other kids do because they practice instead of working. They gave up a lot for this team, and it really is good to see all that hard work pay off with something like this."

The only other area hurrah came when Fike's Tim Wells came from nowhere to sprint to victory in the 400 dash. Wells was seeded just sixth coming into the finals, but he blazed past the field coming out of the last turn, outstriding Burlington Williams to the line with a time of 50.05.

Demons advance

By Jay Mumford
Daily Times Staff Writer

FUQUAY-VARINA - Fike High School's version of "Murderer's Row" came to the rescue Friday night in pounding out out a 15-12 win over Fuquay-Varina in a second round game in the N. C. High School Athletic Association's 3-A baseball playoffs.

Led by the home run power of seniors Brandon Godwin, Gerry Grimes and Jon Stancil, the Demons overcame erratic pitching in advancing to the Eastern semifinals at home Tuesday night against Southern Durham, a 5-3 winner over Washington.

Fike (16-6), the Big Eight Conference co-champion and No. I seed, pounded out 18 hits and needed them all to offset a combined mound effort which produced six wild pitches and four passed balls.

Fuquay-Varina (17-6), the Five County Conference's champion and No. I seed, fared badly as well, releasing eight wild pitches, including five by losing right-hander Neil Soars in a five-run, sixth-inning rally.

Fike never trailed, although a fifth-inning error allowed the Bengals to eventually score four unearned runs and tie, 8-8. The Golden Demons held leads of 5-1, 84, 13-8 and 15-10.

"It was a struggle," said Golden Demons' head coach Will Flowers. "No lead was safe, because this game had a lot of stuff in it. Sometimes it was ugly; sometimes it was pretty."

Fike's decisive rally started with center fielder Brent Bissette walking, advancing to second on a wild pitch and scoring on Godwin's fourth hit, a single to center.

Soars, who had come on in relief of right-handed reliever Jeremy Cotten, became unglued, unleashing another wild pitch, then surrendering a one-out, two-run homer to left by Stancil. Chris Harrell and senior Justin Toms laced consecutive singles, then proceeded to score as three more of Soars' pitches soared over the head of Bengals' catcher Joe Griffen.

"We certainly hurt ourselves with the wild pitches," Fuquay-Varina head coach Milton Senter said. "But we didn't expect Fike to hit the ball as well as they did tonight. We just didn't have the pitching to get their big guys out."

Stancil was one of Fike's biggest guys, enjoying a 4-for4 night with four RBL Godwin, who belted a three-run homer in the third inning, also went 4-for4 for the Golden Demons, who equaled their fartherest advance in the playoffs at the 3-A level.

Harrell, freshman Brock Godwin and Bissette added two hits each for the Golden Demons.

The surge left the Golden Demons with a 13-8 lead, and the Bengals never came closer than three afterward, much to Senter's disappointment.

"We kept coming and coming at them (Golden Demons)," he said. "But we could never come far enough. I thought we had turned the corner when we tied the game in the fifth, but they got that big rally in the sixth, and there we

See Fike, page 2B

Fike.....15
Fuquay-Varina.....12

FIKE	AB	R	H	BI	FUQUAY-VARINA	AB	R	H	BI
Mason, dh	5	0	0	0	Carroll, 2b	2	2	1	0
Wilson. 2b	0	0	0	0	Faucette, lf	5	0	3	2
Davis, p	0	0	0	0	Cotten, 3b-p2	1	1	1	
Bissette, cf	4	2	2	2	Ryan, 1b-p	3	1	1	0
Bass, rf	0	0	0	0	Soars, p	1	0	0	0
B.Gdwn,rf-p	4	4	2		Smith, p-3b	3	2	0	0
Grimes, 1b	5	3	2	2	Ellis, ss	5	0	2	5
Stancil, c	4	2	4	4	Matthews, rf	5	1	2	1
Harrell. 3b	5	1	2	2	Walton, C	0	0	0	0
Toms, lf	5	1	1	0	Griffen, c	4	1	1	0
Bk.Gdwn, ss	4	2	2	0	Evans, p	0	0	0	0
Eldrdge,p-2b	3	0	1	0	Stphnson, cf	2	0	0	0
					King, ph	1	1	0	0
Totals	39	15	18	10	Totals	33	12	11	9

Score by innings:
Fike ..... .302 125 2 — 15
Fuquay-Varina .. .103 042 2 — 12

E—Cotten, Ryan, Grimes. DP—Fike 1, Fuquay-Varina 1. LOB—Fike 6, Fuquay-Varina 11. 2B—Matthews, Ellis. HR—Bn Godwin, Ellis, Stancil, Grimes, Matthews. SB—Ryan, Eldredge, Stephenson 2, Carroll. SF—Eldredge.

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Eldredge	4	7	5	4	5	4
Davis (W, 5-2)	1	1	3	0	3	2
Godwin	2	4	4	3	4	2
Smith	21/3	5	5	5	0	0
Cotten	21/3	6	3	2	1	1
Soars (L. 1-3)	1	5	5	5	1	1
Ryan	11/3	2	2	2	1	3

WP-Smith, Eldredge, Cotten 2, Davis 2, Soars 5, Bn. Godwin 3, Ryan . PB-Stancil 4.

Southern Nash's Felicia Harris runs a leg of the state championship 800-meter relaV.

(Photos by Grant Roberson)

SN girls take 2nd

From staff reports

RALEIGH — Led by a championship performance from the 800-meter relay team, Southern Nash finished the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A girls track runner-up for the second straight year on N C. State University's Paul Derr Track Friday.

TC. Roberson was again the state champion with 66 points, followed by the Ladybirds of coach Brian Foster with 58. Going into the 1,600-meter relay, the final event, Southern Nash could have shared the title by finishing three positions ahead of Roberson.

Tresha Hunter, Meka Battle, Felicia Harris and Thomasina Parker comprised the Ladybirds' 800 relay that posted a first-place time of one minute, 42.2 seconds.

Fike also claimed a state champion in junior Tiffany Smith, who scorched the 300-meter intermediate hurdles field with a time of 44.87.

A detailed report of the girls' championship meet will appear in Monday's Daily Times sports section.

Fike's Tiffany Smith leaps over a hurdle in the 300-meter finals. Smith won the title.

Hunt pitcher Jessica Tedder struck out IO.

(Photo by Tom Ham)

Lady Warriors oust Bertie, 3-2

By Tom Ham
Executive Sports Editor

WINDSOR — Hunt returned to the scene of its poorest 1998 outing to turn in one of its sharpest performances on a gorgeous Friday afternoon.

The effort was enough to boost the Lady Warriors of head coach Teresa Allen into the third round of the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A fast-pitch softball playoffs for the first time in the 20-year history of the softball program with a 3-2 squeaker over Big Eight Conference rival Bertie.

Hunt, 15-3 and victorious in 15 of its last 16 games, conquered the Lady Falcons for the second time in three meetings this season in reaching the Eastern semifinals on the road Tuesday at 7 p.m. against Charles B. Aycock, a 6-2 winner in eight innings over Washington Friday. The Lady Warriors and Bertie, which concluded 14-6, deadlocked for second place in the regular season.

The Lady Warriors, the Big Eight's No. 2 seed, constructed a 3-0 lead and withstood a Bertie bunting spree in the sixth inning.

The Lady Falcons, making their first fast-pitch playoffs appearance and qualifying for the softball postseason for the first time in seven years, did not resort to the bunt in

See Hunt, page 3B

Inside...

C.B, Aycock triumphs over Washington, 6-2, in 3-A softball.....2B.

Greenfield advances to the NCISAA girls soccer championship with a win over Carolina Day.....2B.

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The Wilson Daily Times Sports

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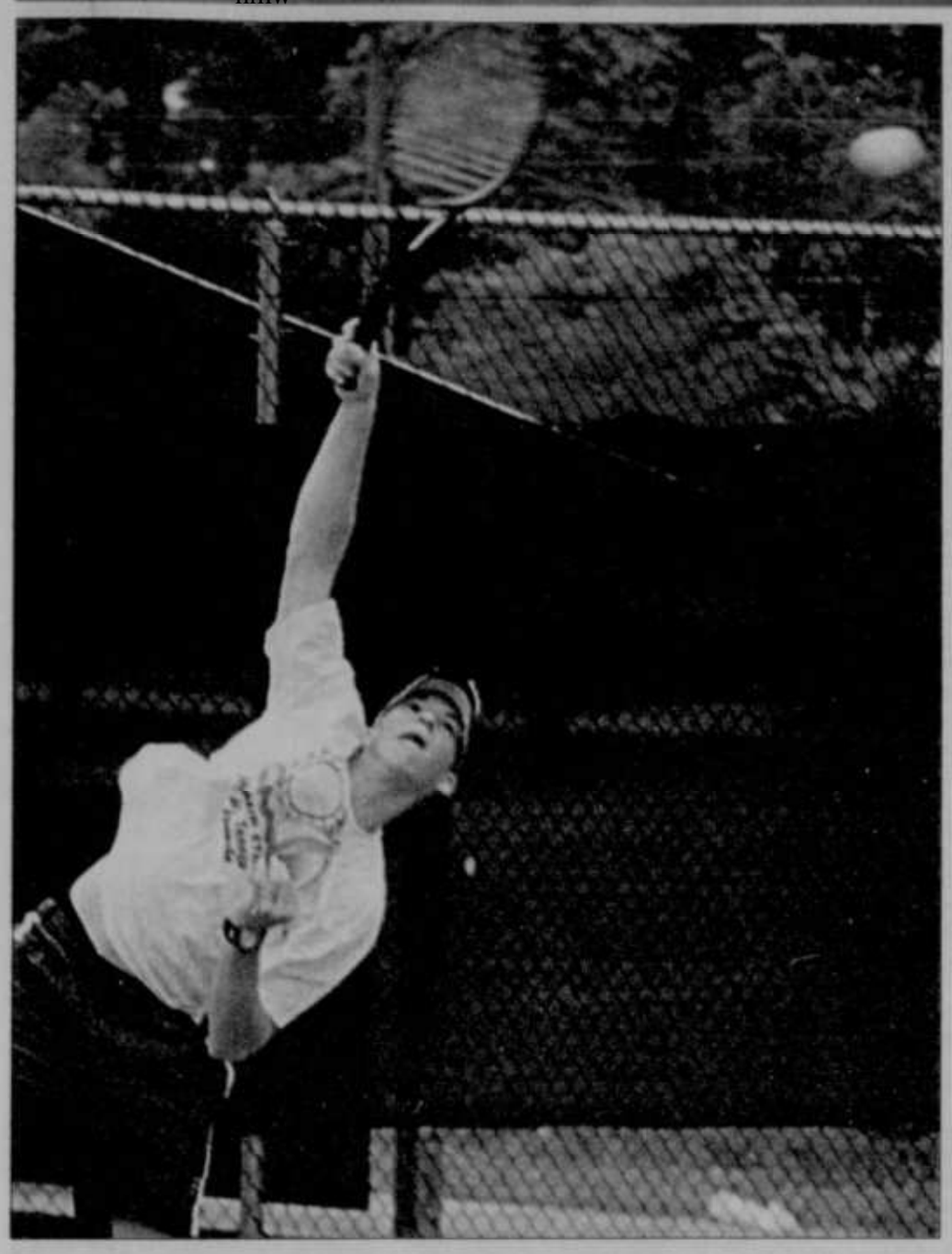


Fike's Whitaker Askew smashes a shot during his championship victory Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Jay Mumford)

Askew grabs crown

Fike jjunior beats No. I seed to win regional

By Jay Mumford
Daily Times Staff Writer

Fike's Whitaker Askew had two dilemmas Saturday afternoon.

His first one would be whether he would have the stamina to play three singles matches in one day in the N. C. High School Athletic Association's Class 3- A Eastern Regional boys tennis tournament.

The junior's second dilemma was where to put the wall chart, signifying his march to the championship, punctuated by a 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 victory over top-seeded junior Henrik Teiwik of White Oak, an exchange student from Limoping, Sweden.

Beddingfield's No. I doubles team of Lee Vaughn-Beaty Bass failed to match the No. 2-seeded Askew's title accomplishment, falling 6-2, 6-1 in the finals to Washington's top-seeded duo of Vinnie Maurizzio-David Cook. Vaughn-Bass entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed.

The semifinalists in singles and doubles advanced to the NCHSAA 3-A championship at the Burlington Recreation Tennis Center Friday and Saturday.

"I wasn't worried about playing three matches in one day," said Askew, who occupies the No. I position on the Golden Demons ladder. "Coming into the finals, I didn't feel tired. I felt like I was in pretty good shape."

The final five games were a testament to Askew's efforts. Hampered by cramping muscles, he staved off a rally by Teiwik, taking momentary breaks betweem points to attempt to stretch his legs in order to continue.

Teiwik couldn't take full advantage of Askew's physical problems, however, despite closing within 5-4 after falling behind 4-0.

He said Askew's tenacity was a major contributor to the outcome.

"He's a great player," Teiwik said. "The players in my conference (Coastal) would hit the ball maybe two or three times, and give up on a point. He hit the ball hard, kept it in play and kept me running.

"It was very tiring."

After routing Washington's Marcus Jones. 6-0, 6-0 in the quarterfinals and Southern Nash's fourth-seeded Braxton Patterson, 6-1, 6-1 in the semis, Askew dominated Teiwik, who entered the match with a 21-0 record.

Askew mixed crisp down-the-line and cross-court forehand volleys to build a 5-2 first-set lead, but Teiwik stormed back to take a 6-5 advantage.

"I ws getting a little concerned when he started to come back," Askew said. "But I didn't want to second-guess myself, because, when you do that, you penalize yourself by losing your focus.

"But I was real concerned when he took the 6-5 lead. Somehow7I managed to break his serve and force the tiebreaker."

The undefeated Askew (17-0) forged a 6-2 lead in the tiebreaker then held on to win the set.

The second set began as a carbon-copy of the first, with Askew racing to a 4-0 led, capitalizing on what he said was a weak backhand attack by Teiwik

Teiwik battled back again, but there would be no tiebreaker this time.

"It was same old. same old," Askew said "But I wasn't about to let him come back all the way again."

"I lost concentration in the first parts of both sets," Teiwik said. "Ifs very hard to come back from those deficits and have a shot at winning."

Vaughn-Bass rallied from a one-set deficit to win the semifinal encounter

See Askew, page 2B

3-A results

N. C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHELTIC ASSOCIATION
Class 3-A
EASTERN REGIONAL
Tennis Tournament
(on Wilson Rec. Courts)

SINGLES
Quarterfinals

(No. 3 seed) Jeremy Jones (Kinston) d Anil Vernia (Fike), 6-2, 6-4; (No. 2) Whitaker Askew (Fike) d. Marcus Jones (Washington), 6-0, 6-0

SEMIFINALS

(No. 1) Henrik Teiwik (White Oak) d. J. Jones, 6-0, 7-5; Askew d. (No. 4) Braxton Patterson (Southern Nash), 6-1. 6-1.

FINALS

Askew d. Teiwik, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4

DOUBLES
SEMIFINALS

(No. 1) Vinnie Murizzio-David Cook (Washington) d. Brent Bennent-John Parker (Manteo). 6-4. 6-3; (No. 2) Lee Vaughn-Beaty Bass (Beddingfieid) d. (No. 4) Jason McDaniel-Robert Strickland (North Lenoir), 1-6, 6-3, 6-4.

FINALS

Maurizzio-Cook d. Vaughn-Bass, 6-2, 6-1.

Fike makes best of second chance

Golden Demons rides bats, Davis' arm to Big Eight top seed

By Phil Goble Jr.
Daily Times Sports Editor

Fike High missed an opportunity to sew up the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference regular-season title when it slipped at archrival Hunt two weeks ago.

Saturday night, the Golden Demons did not let a second chance get away.

Behind an eight-hit offensive and the pitching of right hander David Davis, the Golden Demons wrapped up the league's top seed in the N.C. High School Athletic Association playoffs with a 4-0 victory over the visiting Warriors.

The contest became necessary when both finished the Big Eight tied for first with 10-4 worksheets.

The co-champions get home games in the first round Tuesday night — Fike entertains Durham Hillside while Hunt welcomes Southern Durham. Both games are set for 7 p.m.

"We should have won over at Hunt," said Fike senior second baseman Matt Eldredge. "We felt we shouldn't have had to play this game tonight."

But play they did — in every aspect of the game.

In the field, Davis was king of the hill. Using a fastball and curveball, the junior befuddled Hunt batters most of the night, striking out nine while walking just three. He hit one batter.

"He's got a good curveball and a good fastball and he blended them well tonight," said Fike head coach Will Flowers, whose team improved to 14-6 overall.

The Warriors had both their hits in the first inning and had their biggest threat in the second, when they loaded the bases.

That, however, was all the offense Hunt could muster.

Davis worked out of the bases loaded jam with a strikeout — an out that started a string of 12 straight.

Hunt got runners on in the final two innings due to errors and walks.

"I only threw two pitches — fastball and curveball," said Davis, who improved to 4-2. "I was mixing it up well to their good hitters. We've been talking about it (rematch) since we lost over there. They (Demons) were pumped up when we got here, so I knew we had a good chance."

The chance got even better when Fike came to the plate.

Despite hitting into three double plays, the Demons rapped eight hits and benefited from four Hunt errors.

Senior first baseman Gerry Grimes opened the second with a double, went to third on a single by junior catcher John Stancil and scored when Hunt left fielder Blake Weller over ran the ball.

Eldredge scored the second run in the second inning, singling, then moving to second on an errant pick-off attempt and scoring on an infield error on a grounder from senior right fielder Brandon Godwin.

Junior center fielder Brent Bissette earned theonly RBI — slapping a double to left- center field that scored Eldredge in the fifth inning.

Fike's final run came in the sixth on two singles and a two-out error.

"As far as our team, it's good to see them step up and play that way (hard)," said Flowers. "It shows the coach they care."

Eldredge and Grimes each wound up 2-for-3 with two runs scored while Bissette wound up 2-for-2.

Cedric Williams suffered the pitching loss for Hunt, falling to 2-1 after striking out one and walking one in six innings.

"We made too many errors and had too many strikeouts," said Hunt head coach Stevie Hinnant, whose team dipped to 13-6. "We were making the kid look good on his off-speed pitches. Don't get me wrong, he was mixing it up well, but we were trying to hit it out of the park instead of just going to the right side like we've been doing.

"But. we're going to the playoffs; we're co-champions and that's all I care about."

pjke 4
Fike 4
Hunt 0

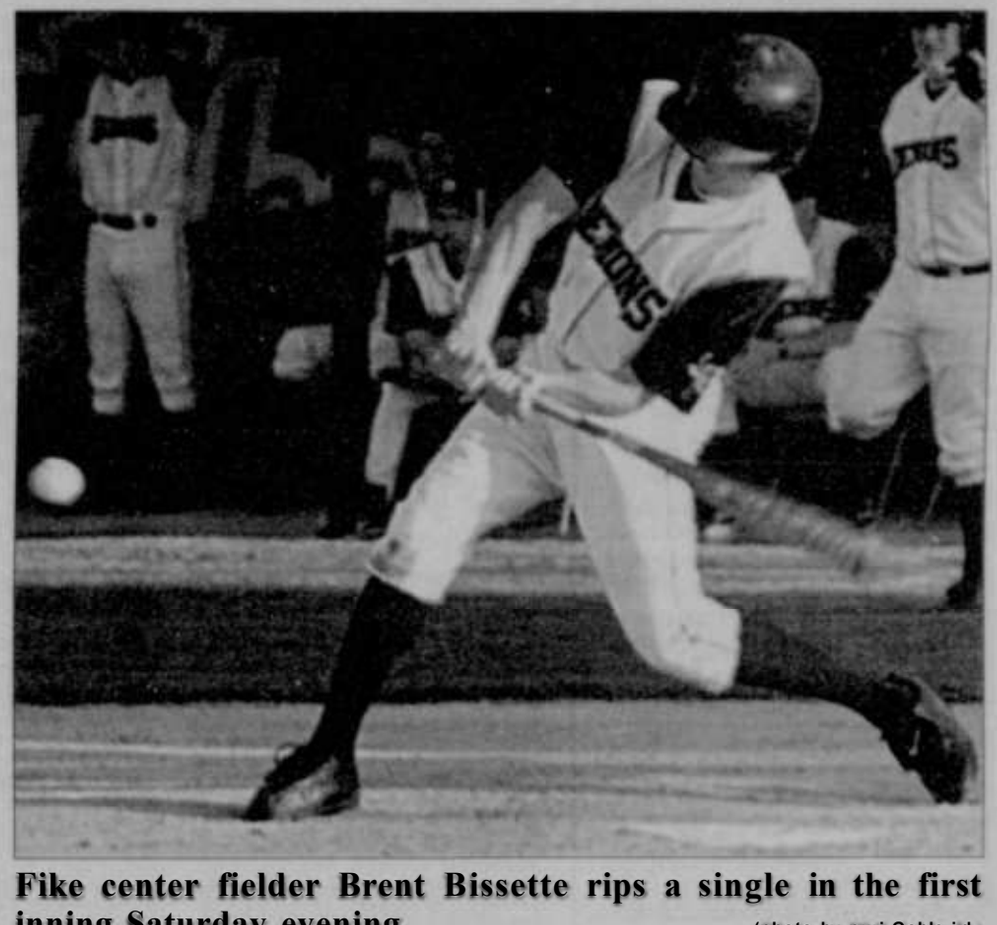
HUNT	AB	R	H	BI	FIKE	AB	R	HBI
High, 2b	4	0	1	0	Home,lf	2	0	0 0
Boswell, ss	4	0	1	0	Bissette.cf	2	0	2 1
Daniels. 3b	3	0	0	0	Bra.G'win,rf	3	0	0 0
Tant, 1b	2	0	0	0	Grimes, 1b	3	2	2 0
Skinner, dh	3	0	0	0	Stancil, c	3	0	1 0
Williams, p	2	0	0	0	Harrell, 3b	3	0	1 0
Weller, lf	2	0	0	0	Toms, dh	2	0	0 0
Ballance.c	3	0	0	0	Bro.G'wn,ss	2	0	0 0
Langston,cf	2	0	0	0	Mason, ph	1	0	0 0
					Eld'dge.2b	3	2	2 0
Totals	25	0	2	0	Totals	24	4	8 1

Score by innings:
Hunt ..... 000 000 0 — 0
Fike ..... 011 011 x — 4

E—Weller, Williams, High. Boswell, Eldredge LOB—Hunt 8, Fike 7. DP—Hunt 3. 2B-Boswell, Grimes. Weller. S—Horne

Pitching	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Williams (L, 2-1)	6	8	4	1	1	1
Davis (W, 4-2)	7	2	0	0	3	9

HBP-Langston (by Davis), Bissette (by Williams).
T-1:41 A-300.



Fike center fielder Brent Bissette rips a single in the first inning Saturday evening. (photo by pwi Goble jd

Southern sweeps track regional

Boys catch field unprepared

By Scott Jones
Daily Times Staff Writer

STANHOPE — Maybe now that the state track meet is on the horizon, Southern Nash will finally be able to find some competition.

In a scene so repetitive that it now almost borders on monotony, Southern Nash's boys track team has followed the same formula for success all season long: show up, find the competition unprepared for the impending onslaught, and race to victory by a ridiculous margin.

Such was the case Saturday afternoon as the host Firebirds blitzed the Class 3-A Eastern Regional field in preparation for what Southern hopes will be the school's first-ever N.C. High School Athletic Association track championship Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr Track Complex.

If numbers count, Southern will posses a decided advantage in its championship quest. The Firebirds are qualified to compete in a gaudy 16 of the 18 events, with the 100- and 400-meter dashes being Southern's only non-qualifiers. The top four finishers in each event qualified for the state meet. All six area members of the Big Eight, with Fike, Hunt, Beddingfieid, Southwest Edgecombe, and Charles B. Aycock joining the Firebirds, will be represented at the state meet. Pike will have the area's second largest contingent as the Golden Demons are qualified in six events.

Such domination equaled 171 team points for the Firebirds Saturday, a total that decimated runner-

See Firebirds, page 2B

Ladybirds crush foes again

By Scott Jones
Daily times Staff Writer

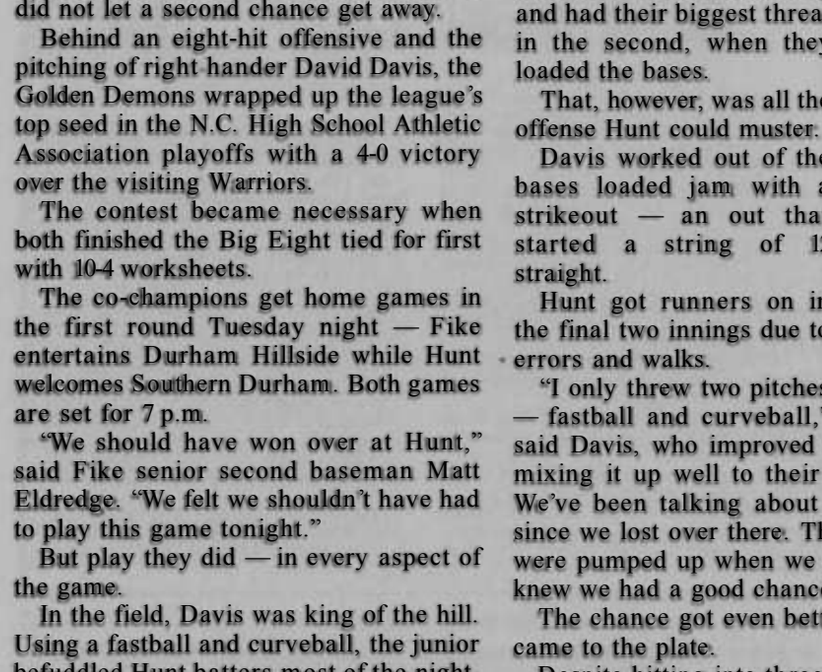
STANHOPE — the season has already been ultra successful, but Southern Nash's girls track team has competed all season with a sense that it had some unfinished business to handle. The opportunity is now a week away.

The Ladybirds came close last year to experiencing the ultimate in prep competition — a state championship. Southern finished 14 points behind TC. Roberson, taking home the silver runner-up plaque. All season long the Ladybirds have pointed towards bringing home the gold first-place plaque. If Saturday's N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A Eastern Regional, held at Southern Nash, is a true indicator, the Ladybirds are definitely poised for a championship run.

Southern, as has been the case all year, outclassed the competition in romping to 170 team points, easily outdistancing runner-up Fike's 78. Thanks to a strong showing in the field events, the Ladybirds needed just seven events to amass a point total high enough to win the meet. Southern had 70 points coming out of the field, and Tish Pope's third place finish in the 100-meter low hurdles effectively sealed the outcome, giving Southern 82 points.

However, Southern's success was not limited to the field. The Ladybirds qualified in a staggering total of 16 of the 17 state championship events that will be contested Friday at N.C. State's Paul Derr

See Ladybirds, page 2B



Southern Nash senior DeMaryland Cooper soared-to the high jump championship with a leap of 6-feet-10. (Photo by Scott Jones)

Fike's Calin Burkett en route to one of her three victories. (Photo by Scott Jones)

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Jackets add two titles

By Jay Mumford
Daily Times Staff Writer

The staple of Roanoke Rapids' proud tennis tradition has been the play of its doubles teams.

Saturday afternoon at the Barton College Tennis Complex, the Yellow Jackets continued to build on the program's rich heritage by adding the N. C. High School Athletic Association's 2-A Eastern Regional boy's tennis singles and doubles championships.

The Yellow Jackets placed both of its doubles teams in the finals, doing so at the expense of Eastern Plains Conference member Greene Central, which held the top two tournament seeds.

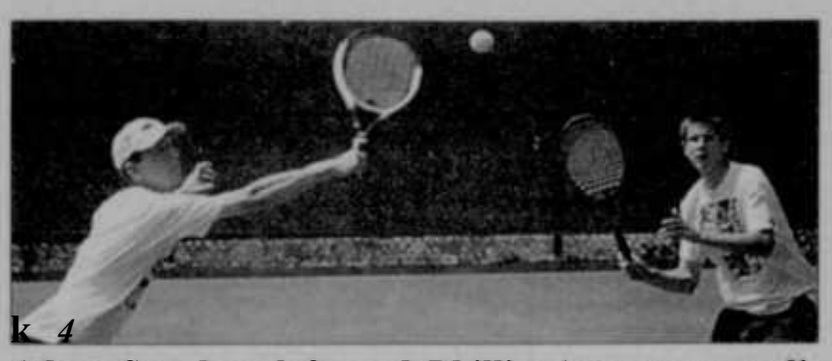
The Rams' No. 2-seeded team of Lance Miller-Ken Morgan dropped a 6-1, 6-2 decision to eventual tournament champions Philip Artmann-Adam Swecker; while No. I seeds Steven West-David Monroe dropped a three-set, 6-1, 2-6, 6-3 marathon to Will Spears-Brad Young.

Artmann-Swecker defeated Spears-Young, 6-2, 6-4 for the title.

All four teams, as well as the individuals who reached the semi-finals of the singles event, into the NCHSAA 2-A state championship tournament, which begins Friday at N. C. State University.

Claiming the singles championship was the Yellow Jackets' top-seeded Dennis Lerchl, who ripped Northern Vance's fourth-seeded Spencer Delbridge, 6-0, 6-0 in the finals. So overpowering was Lerchl, that two consecutive games lasted a combined time of one minute, 45 seconds.

Dennis Lerchl smacks a shot. (Photos by Jay Mumford)



Adam Swecker, left, and Phillip Artmann coordinate in doubles.

2-A results

N. C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Class 2-A
EASTERN REGIONAL
Tennis Tournament
(on Barton College Courts)

SINGLES
Semifinals

(No. 1 seed) Dennis Lerchl (Roanoke Rapids) d. Adam Fields (Warren County), 6-2, 6-0; (No. 4) Spencer Delbridge (Northern Vance) d. (No. 2) Jay Carraway (Swansboro), 6-0, 6-0

Finals

Lerchl d. Delbridge, 6-0, 6-0.

DOUBLES
Semifinals

Will Spears-Brad Young (Roanoke Rapids) d. (No 1) Steven West-David Monroe (Greene Central). 6-1, 2-6, 6-3. (No. 4) Phillip Artmann-Adam Swecker (Roanoke Rapids) d. (No 2) David-Ken Morgan (Greene Central). 6-1, 6-2.

Finals

Artmann-Swecker d. Spears-Young, 6-2, 6-4.

Lerchl, a junior and an exchange student from Germany, improved to 19-0 for the season. He defeated Warren County's Adam Fields 6-2, 6-0 in the semis, while Delbridge dispatched Swansboro's No. 2-seed Jay Carraway, 6-6, 6-0. Lerchl dropped but two games in four matches.

Artmann-Swecker improved to 16-1, while Spears-Young stand 14-2. Carraway is 15-5. West-Monroe go into the state tournament with a 7-1 record,while Miller-Morgan advances at 6-2.

Damsels rule GPIC tourney

Greenfield blanks Hale High, 5-0

By Tom Ham
Executive Sports Editor

ROCKY MOUNT —State qualifiers had best not underestimate Greenfield's chances of repeating as the N.C. Independent Schools Athletic Association 1A girls soccer champion.

The Damsels of head coach Ben Forbes sent a warning on Rocky Mount Academy turf Saturday afternoon, blanking Coastal Plains Independents Conference regular-season champion Hale High of Raleigh, 5-0, to seize the tournament crown.

Junior Cindy Tetterton, proclaimed the tournament's Most Valuable Player, not only defused dynamite Hale eighth-grader Katherine Kelley, the CPIC Player of the Year, but recorded a hat trick (three goals) as Greenfield avenged its only regular-season CPIC loss and boosted seedings hopes for this week's state tournament.

Amy Sullivan, also a junior, knocked in the other two goals as the Damsels rocketed to a 2-0 halftime lead and then dominated deflated Hale (14-2).

Tetterton's primary responsibility was to mark Kelley, who has wrecked the Damsels in Hale's 3-2 regular-season triumph.

"When we played them the first time, we were not marking No. 8 (Kelley)," Tetterton said. "Forbes told me not to leave her _ to be like I was a part of her. She's a great player and she's their playmaker. Everything they do offensively starts with her. We knew we had to shut her down."

Kelley did not get off a shot until Tetterton and the Greenfield (12-8) starters had departed.

Greenfield's Lauren Forbes, left, contests Hale's Elizabeth Rendleman for possession. (Photo by Tom Ham)

Forbes lauded Tetterton for being smart enough to know when to abandon Kelley and become involved in the Greenfield offense.

"She did a good job of marking me," Kelley said of Tetterton. "I kind of expected it. They were not ready for us the first time, but, today, they were prepared. It just was not our day."

Tbtterton drilled both first-half goals, with sophomore Claire Smith assisting the first. Greenfield's offense turned to the attack mode once Smith was moved up front. Tetterton's second goal came on a penalty kick with just over three minutes remaining in the first half and she closed the scoring with an unassisted goal.

"I just happened to be there," Tetterton said of her goals. "Claire gave me a really nice square at the goal on the first one. Then I got lucky and got a penalty kick. On the last one, I saw the ball coming and just, went for it."

In between, Sullivan converted assists from freshman Elizabeth Bischoff and Tetterton.

Sophomore Rhia Aycock sparkled in goal with five saves and senior Lauren Forbes, wearing the scars of physical tournament play, and freshman Gretchen Barber turned in stellar performances.

Tetterton was joined on the all-tournament team by teammates Barber, Sullivan, Forbes and Aycock. Tetterton, Sullivan, Smith and Forbes were each named all-conference, while junior Tiffany Rudolph was accorded honorable mention.

"I'm happy," Tetterton said of being the tourney MVP. "But I knew we didn't have the Player of the Year and I just wanted somebody from Greenfield to get it (tourney MYP)."

Askew leads state qualifying contingent

(Continued from page one)

against fourth-seeded Jason McDaniel-Robert Strickland of North Lenoir, 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Vaughn raced across the court to make a lunging return, which whistled past a ducking Bass and over the net to set up match point.

"I just ran as hard as I could and got it back over," Vaughn said. "Our last two sets were a lot better than the first. It was very ugly."

The Bruins' duo said they were able to get their ground strokes down in the final two sets, which wasn't working for them at the outset of the match.

However, nothing worked well for them in the finals, while Maurizzio-Cook performed like a well-oiled machine in racing to the championship.

"We used a lot of aggressive play at the net," Maurizzio said. "Last night's (Friday) (quarterfinal against Beddingfield's John Green-Jeff Bryant) was our toughest match of the tournament. Today was a lot of fun."

Firebirds rule regional roost

(Continued from page one)

up Coastal conference representative Washington's 60. Southern's fellow Big Eight conference member Fike was third with 48 points. The meet was comprised of the Big Eight and Coastal conferences, plus Northeastern-Albermarle misfit Manteo. The Redskins are the only 3-A member of the Northeastern-Albermarle conference.

As the score indicated, Southern found the competition lacking. As a matter of fact, the Firebirds had enough team points (68) after the first five field events were in the books. However, the final field event, the high jump, provided the day's best competition, and a Firebird rose to the task there as well.

Southern senior DeMaryland Cooper, a Western Carolina signee, wowed a gathering that grew with each raising of the high jump bar by clearing a school-record six feet, IO inches. The competition Cooper faced was familiar — Hunt's Mark Strickland and Beddingfield's Brian Blount, each of whom cleared 6-8. The trio has switched off big-meet titles all season, with Blount taking the Wilson Daily Times Track Classic title and Strickland claiming top honors in the Big Eight conference meet. Cooper made two attempts at seven feet before passing on his final attempt to return to the triple jump competition.

"The high jump today was all motivation," Cooper said. "I didn't make it to the state meet last year, and that really upset me because I knew I should have been there. That pushed me a lot. I knew I could do it (clear 6-10) all along, but it did come as a surprise."

Cooper also posted second-place finishes in the long and triple jumps. He led the long jump until Goldsboro's Travis Coleman topped him by an inch and 3/4 on his final attempt. Cooper's teammate, Julius Peppers, the NCHSAA Male Athlete of the Year, captured the triple jump.

"I'm awestruck," Southern head coach Alton Tyree said of his team's third regional title in the past four years. "These guys never cease to amaze me. We put on some outstanding performances today. We've practiced since Day One with the goal of winning the state championship. We feel really good about next week."

3-A boys results

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Class 3-A
EASTERN REGIONAL
Boys Track Meet
(at Southern Nash High School)

TEAM RESULTS

Southern Nash (SN) 171. Washington (Wj 60, Fike (F) 48, Havelock (Hav) 40, White Oak (WO) 38, Pender County (PC) 36, Charles B. Aycock (CBA) 33. Goldsboro (G) 22, Hunt (H) 22, Beddingfield (B) 22, Kinston (K) 20, Southwest Edgecombe (SWE) 17. Hertford County (HC) 14 North Lenoir (NL) 8, Manteo (M) 5, Bertie (Ber) 1.

SHOT PUT — Burgess (W) 51 feet, 8 1/2 inches; Earp (SN), Howell (PC), Rose (H), Breen (H), Peppers (SN)

DISCUS — Rowell (PC), 162-1; Burgess (W), C. Rogers (SN), Reddick (W), Dickens (SWE), T. Rogers (SN).

LONG JUMP — Coleman (G), 21-11 3/4; Cooper (SN), B. Perry (SN), Langston (B), Dailey (Hav), Carver (M).

TRIPLE JUMP — Peppers (SN), 45-8 3/4; Cooper (SN), Atkinson (F), Foster (F), Perry (SN), Carver (M).

HIGH JUMP — Cooper (SN), 6-10; Strickland (H). Blount (B). Joyner (B), Bowen (W), Coleman (G), Bass (Ber)

POLE VAULT — Howard (SN). 11-6; Butler (CBA), Winstead (SN). Corbitt (CBA), Thomas (SN), Archbell (M).

3,200 RELAY — Southern Nash (Keen, Daniels, McGarvey, Evernham), eight minutes, 33.4 seconds; White Oak, Havelock, Hertford Co., Beddingfield, C B. Aycock.

110 HURDLES — A. Deans (SN), 14.4; Richardson (SWE), Gibbs (W), Dunn (CBA), Joyner (SN), Smith (SN).

100 — Hardy (K), 10.5; Macklin (F), Phelps (Hav), Musgrave (G), Dailey (Hav), Hardy (NL).

800 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones, High, Deans), 1:28.3; Fike. Pender Co., North Lenoir, Washington, Goldsboro.

1.600 — Mollahar. (WO). 4:42 4; Hubbard (CBA), McGarvey (SN), Long (H), Roseboro (NL), R Perry (SN)

400 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones Peppers, High), 42.7; Fike. Goldsboro, Havelock, Kinston. North Lenoir.

400 — Bowen (W), 50.8; Wells (F), Boney (PC) McKinney (SWE), Ward (K), R Deans (SN).

300 HURDLES — Gibbs (W), 39.7; Gary (SN), Deans (SN), Butcher (H), Matthews (F), Willis (M).

800 — Bell (Hav), 2:02.8; McNeil (HC), Williams (B), Evernham (SN), Valentine (HC), Dupree (SWE).

200 — Gentry (WO), 22.0; High (SN), Hardy (K), Phelps (Hav), Dailey (Hav), Bowen (W)

3.200 — Mollahan (WO), 10:37.2; Hubbard (CBA), McGarvey (SN). Mucci (Hav), White (W). Waters (M).

1.600 RELAY — Southern Nash (Gary, Jones. Peppers, High). 3:26.3; Pender Co., Washington, Fike, Southwest Edgecombe.

Ladybirds get second crown

(Continued from page one)

Track Complex. The only event the Ladybirds did not post a top-four showing (the requirement for advancing to the state meet) was the 100-meter dash.

The Ladybirds will be joined by area rivals and fellow Big Eight conference members Fike, Beddingfield, SouthWest Edgecombe and Charles B. Aycock at the state meet. Hunt was the only area school that failed to post a state qualifier.

"I think it is nice for the girls to be rewarded for their hard work," Southern head coach Brian Foster said. "I think these girls represent themselves well everywhere, not just on the track. It's good to see people like that win."

Southern posted just two individual wins, but Ladybirds were omnipresent in the second, third, and fourth places slots. Junior Kineta Williams captured the shot put competition, and sophomore Meka Battle soared past teammate Felecia Harris in the triple jump to give Southern its individual wins. Harris and Battle finished second and third, respectively, in the long jump. Havelock's Christia Wallace sailed 16 feet, IO 1/2 inches on her final attempt to edge Harris by a half inch.

The Ladybirds also took wins in three of the four relay races. Fike took top honors in the 3200 relay to prevent the Southern sweep, and sophomore Carin Burkett was a big reason why.

Burkett turned in the day's most impressive individual performance by sweeping the distance events. As well as running the anchor leg on the 3200 relay, Burkett also placed first in the 800-, 1600-, and 3200-meter runs. Any track observer will testify that Burkett pulled off a grueling quartet of victories, Burkett only seemed to get stronger as the day went on. Her margin of victory in the 3200, her last race, was 30 seconds.

"When I first started running, I thought I'd have more competition than I iiad," said Burkett. "I just know that I have to keep everyone behind me. If they are behind me, I know I'm doing good."

Fike junior Tiffany Smith was the only other area competitor to capture a first-place finish. Smith bested Charles B. Aycock junior Stephanie Schmidt by nearly three seconds to take top honors m the 300-meter hurdles.

3-A girls results

N.C. HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION
Class 3-A
EASTERN REGIONAL
Girls Track Meet
(at Southern Nash Senior High)

TEAM RESULTS

Southern Nash (SN) 170, Fike (F) 78, Havelock (Hav) 62, Hertford County (HC) 58, Kinston (K) 27, Southwest Edgecombe (SWE) 26, Beddingfield (B) 25, Washington (W) 22, Charles B. Aycock (CBA) 12, North Lenoir (NL) 12, Hunt (H) 9, Manteo (M) 6, Pender County (PC) 4, Bertie (Ber) 3.

SHOT PUT — Williams (SN), 37 feet, 5 1/2 inches; Sessoms (HC), Whitley (SN), McNeil (Hav), Sparrow (NL), Dunston (SN).

DISCUS — Sessoms (HC), 112-10; McNeil (Hav), Sparrow-(NL), Whitley (SN), Dunston (SN), Williams (SN)

LONG JUMP — Wallace (Hav), 16-10 1/2; Harris (SN), Battle (SN), Graham (NL), Burton (SN), Harrell (Ber).

TRIPLE JUMP — Battle (SN), 37-9; Harris (SN), Hinnant (F), Fonville (WO), Williamson (SN), Corrigan (H).

HIGH JUMP — Wallace (Hav), 4-10; Pierce (SN), Foster (SN), Lewis (HC).

3,200 RELAY — Fike (Thomas, Bond, Moore, Burkett), 10 minutes, 37.4 seconds; Beddingfield, Southern Nash, Havelock, Hunt.

100 HURDLES — Burgess (W). 14,8; Smith (F), Pope (SN), Schmidt (CBA), Anderson (K), Dawes (SN).

100 — Burgess (W), 12.4; Williams (K), Picott (HC), Jackson (K), Street (SWE), McNeil (HC).

800 RELAY — Southern Nash (Hunter, Harris. Battle. Parker). 1:44 8; Southwest Edgecombe, Fike, Hertford Co., Havelock, Kinston.

1.600 — Burkett (F), 5:32.4 Bronars (Hav), Newsome (HC), Joyner (SN), McIver (M), Cook (WO).

400 RELAY — Southern Nash (Parker, Pope, Dawes, Hunter), 50.3; Southwest Edgecombe. Hertford Co., Beddingfield, Kinston. White Oak.

400 — Davis (Hav), 1:00.3; Parker (SN), Harris (SN), Hayes (PC), Corrigan (H), Pope (B).

300 HURDLES — Smith (F), 46 3; Schmidt (CBA). Burton (SN), Foster (SN), Joyner (HC), Pope (SN).

SOO — Burkett (F), 2:31.1; Marshburn (SN), Hall (Bedd), Smith (K), Abell (WO), Newsome (HC)

200 — Picott (HC), 26.3; Hunter (SN), Williams (K), Street (SWE), Thompson (H), Burgess (W).

3,200 — Burkett (F), 12:27; Joyner (SN), Bronars (Hav), McIver (M), Flowers (H), Pittman (W).

1.600 RELAY — Southern Nash (Hunter, Pope, Battle. Parker), 4:18.5; Fike. Beddingfield, Southwest Edgecombe, Bertie, White Oak.

Reid, Brown spearhead Greene Central advance

SNOW HILL — Reginald Reid id Alfae Brown paced Greene central's boys track team to a lurth-place finish in the N. C. High School Athletic Associaon's 2-A Eastern Regional at reene Central High School Sat-day afternoon.

Reid earned a pau of berths to the NCHSAA 2-A Championship meet in Charlotte Wednesday with championships in the long and triple jumps. Reid leaped distances of 21 feet, nine inches and 44-6, respectively.

Brown claimed invitations with a first-place effort in the 200-meter dash (22.8 seconds), and a tie for second (10.9) in the IOO meters.

Their respective showings, along with a first-place finish from the 400 -meter relay team and a runner-up effort by Tony Darden in the 400-meter dash garnered the Rams a total of 57 points.

Whiteville took the team championship with 85 points.

The Lady Rams qualified only one individual (top four finishers are state bound). Freshman Amette Pridgen placed fourth in the shot put. The Lady Rams' 800-meter relay team placed second to advance to Wednesday's meet.

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THE WILSON DAILY TIMES

Sports

Southern Nash three-sport standout Julius Peppers, left, accepts his award from former NCHSAA board member Ronald Chavis, center, and Que Tucker. (Photo by Phil Goble JD

Peppers named top male athlete

By Phil Goble Jr.
Daily Times Sports Editor

CHAPEL HILL — For the past four years, Southern Nash three-sport star Julius Peppers has won nearly every award he could think of — All-Class 3-A Big Eight Conference in football and basketball; Wilson Daily Times all-area in football and basketball; Firebird f(x)tball and basketball MYP; Parade football All-American.

Thursday afternoon inthe Dean Smith Center, Peppers won one he did not know existed — and it may have been one of the sweetest.

In front of a crowd of nearly 300 coaches, athletics directors and adminLstrators, the 6-foot-7, 250-pound Peppers was named the 1998 N.C. High School Athletic Association's Male Athlete of the Year.

The award, presented at the NCHSAA's annual meeting, is in its 13th year and has been bestowed upon such athletes as Robert Siler of Jordan Matthews (1986-87), CTiester McGlockton of Whiteville (1987-88), Rusty LaRue of Northwest Guilford (1991-92), Na Brown of Reidsville (1994-95) and Tyrell Godwin of East Bladen (1996-97).

"I found out about it last week," said Peppers, accompanied to the ceremony by coaches Ray Davis and Brian Foster as well as a small army of family members. "I didn't even know they had one. I don't think it's sunk in yet."

Peppers was chosen from more than 120,000 athletes that complete in 22 NCHSAA-sanctioned events across the state The final field for the Pat Best Memorial Award was narrowed to eight, according to NCHSAA Associate Executive Director Rick Strunk.

Receiving the Female Athlete of the Year award was Clifeteana McKiver of East Duplin High School. McKiver excelled in volleyball, basketball and track for the Lady Panthers of the 2-A East Central Conference. The two-time ECC Player of the Year led East Duplin's basketball team to a 29-0 record and the state 2-A title this year, finishing her career with 1,924 points, 1,330 rebounds and 555 blocked shots,

Peppers' basketball numbers were nearly identical — more than 1,600 career points, 1,000 rebounds and more than 500 assists!

See Peppers, page 3B

Championship day in the Big Eight

Pike, Hunt share soccey baseball titles; C.B. Aycock claims softball crown

Pike senior Stacey Radford (18) kicks ball as Hunt freshman Sara Beth Cox defends Thursday at Pike. (Photo by Scott Jones)

Demons tie for title with 1-0 decision

By Scott Jones
Daily Times Staff Writer

A few youthful Fike fans pointed towards the scoreboard and gave Hunt senior soccer player Camille Harrison a bit of a razzing as she walked down the sideline Thursday night, to which she replied, "It ain't over."

In a way she was right, but not on this night.

With Fike leading 1-0 with six minutes and 30 seconds left. Harrison and the rest of the visiting Lady Warriors thought they were headed to their bus to wait for some still-distant bad weather to pass. However, 20 minutes later, the officials ended the game because of lightning, and the Lady Golden Demons broke into a celebratory frenzy when they learned their upset of the state No. 4-ranked Lady Warriors was official.

The controversial outcome left the two tied atop the Big Eight Conference standings at IM — and co-champions. Fike, now 14-1-1 overall, travels to Hunt, 15-2, Wednesday night at 7 for a game to decide which team earns the Big Eight's No. I seed in the upcoming N. C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs. Hunt won a coin toss prior to last night's game to earn the right to be the home team.

So, as Harrison said, it ain't over yet.

But Thursday's game is definitely history, and a happy bit of history it is for the Lady Demons. Fike freshman Kelly Reid scored on a breakaway seven minutes into the second half, then the Golden Demons defense, anchored by junior Elizabeth Spencer and senior Stacy Radford, combined with the weather to hold Hunt scoreless for the first time in league play since Fike accomplished the feat in 1995.

As the played developed, Reid's gem did not immediately have the look of a Golden Demons goal. Fike freshman Jamie Crocker won a loose ball just on Fike's side of midfield and booted the ball long tow'ards Hunt's goal, apparently to no one in particular. However, Reid quickly emerged with a burst of speed, controlled the ball, and looked goalward. A Hunt defender moved in, but Reid stopped and drilled the ball into the right portion of the goal

See Demons, page 2B

Warriors top SN to share crown

By Tom Ham
Executive Sports Editor

Hunt High varsity baseball players barely celebrated Thursday afternoon.

And they had earned every right.

But head coach Stevie Hinnant and his Warriors sensed they had survived a flat performance in seizing a share of the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference championship with archrival Fike by turning back Southern Nash, 7-2, on the Hunt diamond.

Hunt, 13-5, 10-4 in the Big Eight, emerged the co-champion after coming off a disappointing 1997 season. A year ago, the Warriors were projected Big Eight contenders — but finished 4-10 in the league.

"To be the conference co-champion is overwhelmingly good," Hinnant said. "We were very much overlooked at the beginning of the year. To lose seven seniors off a team that went 4-10 in the conference, you've got to be happy with the conference championship.

"I'm thankful we got it done, but I am badly disappointed in the way we got it done. We had no enthusiasm at all."

But Hunt took command with six unearned runs in the second inning against a Firebirds' squad, that in the opinion of head coach Tommy Warrick, was not especiaUy motivated to deprive the Warriors the crown.

"This is the way it has been all year," Warrick said, "it has been a long year."

Southern Nash, a playoffs contender until the final week, exited 10-9, 7-7 in the conference.

Senior shortstop Bert Boswell, who triggered Hunt's big second with a bases-loaded double, echoed his head coach's sentiments.

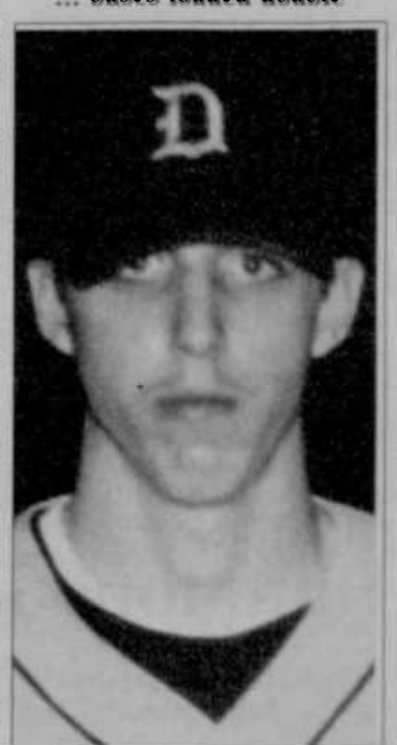
"I thought we were in a good frame of mind and ready to play before the game," Boswell said. "I don't know what happened. It was like we knew what we had to do to get it (win the championship) done, but we didn't know that we were getting it done.

"We didn't have any enthusiasm and didn't play like we are supposed to play. Once we got up six runs, I thought we would have a little more enthusiasm. It never showed. It had better change."

The Warriors struck for the *six* runs after starting Southern Nash junior right-hander Jeremy Hardy (2-2) retired the first two batters in the bottom of the second. Left fielder Blake Weller

See Hunt, page 3B

Bert Boswell
... bases loaded double



Brent Bissette
... 3-for-4 afternoon

Pike enjoys third game with Bruins

By Jay Mumford
Daily Times Staff Writer

For Fike's varsity basebaU team, the third meeting against county and Class 3-A Big Eight Conference rival Beddingfield was extremely charming.

The Golden Demons manufactured a five-run fifth inning rally and went on to secure a 10-7 victory, to claim a share of the conference championship with its other archrival, Hunt.

I^le blasted 15 hits in the win to improve to 13-6, 10-4 Big Eight, while Beddingfield, the 1997 champion and N.C. High School Athletic Association 3-A runner-up, completed its season with marks of 9-10, 7-7 Big Eight.

The (bolden Demons and Hunt, who defeated Southern Nash, 7-2, Thursday afternoon. The Warriors and Golden Demons will collide in a special playoff game on the Fike diamond at 7 p m. Saturday to determine the Big Eight's Nos. I and 2 berths in the N. C. High School Athletic Association 3-A playoffs, scheduled to begin next week.

Fike won the coin flip this morning to determine Saturday's playoff site.

Several "thirds" led to Fike's victory:

• The go-ahead rally in the fifth was the third inning in which the (bolden Demons scored.

• Junior third baseman Chris Harrell provided the go-ahead hit, a two-run double to right. The hit was his third in his third at-bat. The RBIs were Harrell's second and third.

• Senior left fielder Justin Toms followed Harrell's double with a two-run homer to left — on the third fastball he received from losing pitcher Kris BosweU.

But as charming as it was, F'ike's fifth-inning rally almost failed to materialize.

Tied 3-3 entering the bottom of the fifth inning, Fike opened its rally with an infield hit by junior center fielder Brent Bissette. Senior right fielder Brandon (Godwin popped to second, but junior second baseman Erie Pierce allowed the ball to drop to the ground.

He picked up the ball, and threw to second to retire Bissette. Godwin, who seemed to be in a daze, stood watching the developments a few feet before reaching first, but quicldy recovered and beat the relay throw to the bag.

Junior catcher Jonathan Stancil singled for the

See Fike, page 3B

Lady Golden Falcons wrap up first Big Eight title in first year of fast-pitch

Softball

Charles B. Aycock wrapped up sole possession of the top spot, and Hunt settled for a share of second place in the conference and Beddingfield slipped past Fike in high school varsity fast-pitch softball competition Thursday.

CBA tops Big Eight

PINETOPS — In its first year of fast-pitch and in its first year as a member of the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference, Charles B. Aycock captured the league championship, blanking host Southwest Edgecombe, 3-0.

The Lady Golden Falcons of coach Al Yelverton enter the N.C. High School Athletic Association playoffs with an 18-3 record, finishing 12-2 in the Big Eight. SouthWest's season ends at 8-12, 6-8 in the league.

"We are very pleased," Yelverton said of the Lady Falcons topping the Big Eight after shifting from the 2-A East Central Conference. "I think we're shocked. You certainly can't do anything but praise the girls for adapting to the hitting, pitching style and basic rule changes in fast-pitch."

Emily West, a senior right-hander, stopped the Lady Cougars on four hits. West struck out three and walked one.

CBA managed eight hits off losing pitcher Audrey Eason and got a run in each of the first, second and sixth innings.

Kathy McClenny doubled and scored on senior third baseman Stephanie Cannon's single in the first. Senior Jeri Lynn Coker singled arni scored on senior Amanda Bardin's hit in the second. Bardin tripled in Coker in the sixth.

Cannon batted 3-for-3, while Bardin was 2-for-3.

Tile Lady Falcons will play at home in their playoff opener.

Hunt edges Firebirds

STANHOPE - Visiting Hunt claimed the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference's No. 2 spot in the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs by outlasting Southern Nash, 10-8 in

See Hunt, page 2B

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Local weekend racing

SNS features Late Model Sportsman 100-lapper

KENLY — An 100-laps Late Model Sportsman race headlines the Spring (lassie 275 auto racing program scheduled at Southern National Speedway Saturday night.

features in all divisions are planned for the first time in four weeks.

The lineup includes features of 75 laps in Late Model Stock, 40 laps in Pro Trucks, 35 laps in Super Stock and 25 laps in Four Cylinder Stock.

The green flag drops for the first feature at 7:30.

SOUTHERN NATIONAL SPEEDWAY
Points standings
(Through races of May 2)

Late Model Stock

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1.Hank Jarman	Kinston	4	172
2. Deac McCaskill	Raleigh	08	164
3. Jamey Caudill	Four Oaks	50	162
4. Jay Crawford	Durham	69	142
5. Marty Ellis	Wilson	11	140
6 David Humphrey	Raleigh	IO	130
7. Cam Strader	Wilson	16	128
8.Billy Ray Lucas	Wilson	0	122
9 Tony Grady	Raleigh	I	116
IO. Jake Yelverton	Selma	6	110

Late Model Sportsman

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1 Randy Renfrow	Raleigh	87	IOO
2. Eddie Massengill	Goldsboro	1	99
3. Jim Kelley	Newport	K7	98
4. Shelton McNair	Plymouth	M3	97
5. Barry McCaskill	Wendell	2	96
6. John Jones	Goldsboro	5	95
7 Tony Jackson	Chocowinity	3	94
8. Ricky McKeel	Black Creek	42	93
9. Chris Dunn	Raleigh	14	92
10. Tony Pendley	Chocowinity	4	91

Pro Trucks

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Pat Patterson	Fuq-Varina	33	192
2. Tom Usry	Broadway	OO	182
3. Ronald Brown	Kinston	24	172
4 Stan Perrine	Raleigh	15	170
5. Linwood Mozingo	Pikeville	22	166
6 Trouble Gray	Fremont	3	162
7. David Warren	Goldsboro	81	150
8 Wayne Skinner	Wilson	31	148
9 Danny Vuricannan	Holly Spgs	44	146
IO. Danny McDonald	Lillington	17	138

Super Stock

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Brandon Head	Goldsboro	16	299
2. Allan Head	Goldsboro	32	297
3. Stacey Pate	Pikeville	5	291
4 Ricky Brantley	Zebulon	7	282
5. Ron langley	Elm City	39	281
5. Russell Barbour	Smithfield	73	281
7. Perry Bauer	Clayton	92	290
8. Mack Best	Mount Olive	6	277
9. Stacy Wood	Benson	8	272
10. Sherm Davis Jr.	F'ville	28	268

Four Cylinder Stock

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Wil Smith	Raleigh	23	300
2. Pat Renfro	Warsaw	13	291
2. Andy Smith	Goldsboro	44	291
4 Roy Creech Jr.	Clayton	16	289
5. Ed Little Jr.	Princeton	24	284
6. Bob Brink	Wendell	50	282
7. R.Schnegelbergr	Raleigh	31	279
8. Tom Justice	Franklinton	74	278
9. Jason O'Brien	Clayton	5	277
10. Gary Poythress	Wilson	12	275

Regular program planned at County Line

ELM CITY —Timed trials to determine starting positions are on the agenda in Saturday night's auto racing program at County Line Raceway.

Heat races are set in the Limited Sportsman, Super Street, Economy Street, Modified Four Cylinder and Stock Four Cylinder divisions.

The lengths of the "Mothers' Day" observance main events will be 40 laps in Late Model Sportsman, 25 laps in Limited Sportsman, 20 in Super Street and Modified Four Cylinder and 15 in Economy Street and Modified Four Cylinder.

Racing begins at 8 p.m.

COUNTY LINE RACEWAY
Points standings
(Through races of May 2)

Late Model Sportsman

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Jimmy Edwards	Hope Mills	48	142
2. Cy Nelms	Rocky Mt.	37	132
3. Roger Lucas	Benson	79	122
4 Randy Lucas	Apex	15	120
4 Tater Liles	Bailey	L1	120
6. Ervin Rigsbee	Knightdale	R5	114
7. James Batten	Rocky Mt.	21	108
8. Chrlie Stephensn	Raleigh	85	104
9. Neal Sykes	Apex	11	88
10. Jimy Holcombe	Elm City	3	80

Limited Sportsman

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. John Fulghum	Kenly	50	150
2. Bobby Whitley	Rocky Mt.	6	138
3. Bobby Bottoms	Elm City	47	136
4 Al Boykin	Kenly	11	130
5. Spencer Liggon	I^icama	9	128
6 Tom Knghtmger	Rocky Mt.	5	126
7. Dykes Maynard	Raleigh	65	112
8. John Whitley	W'alstonburg	I	106
9 Buddy Garten	New Bern	57	64
9. David Upchurch	Saratoga	05	64

Super Street

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Jmmy Hndrcks	Btleboro	17	154
2. Steve Messer	Wendell	15	144
3. Scooter King	Rocky Mt.	10	136
4. Mike King	Rocky Mt.	7	118
5. James Cascell	Rocky Mt.	56	110
6. Pat Ferrell	Rocky Mt.	43	108
7. Jay Pender^ass	Rocky Mt	11	102
7. Wade Ferrell	Rocky Mt	42	102
9 Kenneth Corbitt	Rocky Mt.	07	86
IO. Junior Pearce	Pine Level	8	76
IO. J. R Bryant	Macclesfld.	B3	76

Economy Street

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. J. P. Cascell	Battleboro	56	154
2. Mike Wall	Elm City	1	140
3. Jeff Horne		94	124
4. Billy Poythress	Rocky Mt.	31	120
4 Jerry Baker		50	120
6. Bill Dale	Smithfield	79	114
7. Ronald Beichnr	Wilson	88	112
8. Jim Upchurch	Nashville	5	100
9. Mark McKenzie	Sharpsburg	18	94
10. Mike Ridgeway	Sharpsburg	15	92

Modified Four Cylinder

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Greg Williams	Bailey	03	152
2. Ronnie Johnson	Pine Level	5	144
3. Matthew Barnes	Lucama	87	128
4. Ken Pearce	Bunn	15r	122
4. Lee Brinson	Bailey	15w	122
6. Jimmy Hughes	Creedmoor	13	120
7. Jim Massengill	Wilson	88	114
8. Victor May	Middlesex	I	106
9. Tom Ridgeway	Spring Hope	49	94
IO. Terry Thompson	Smithfield	T2	78

Stock Four Cylinder

Driver	H'town	Car	Pts.
1. Johnny Wood	Nashville	27	180
2. Tom Balance	Bunn	51	176
3. Ricky Webb	Elm City	99-B	154
4. Jim O'Neal	Louisburg	4-Y	150
5. Michael Webb	Elm City	98	144
5. Greg Worley	Wendell	21	144
7. Chet Christman	Rocky Mt.	37	138
7. Kyle Banks	Louisburg	28	138
9. Chris Ellington	Creedmoor	4	136
10. Lee Bailey	Wendell	12	124

Race to benefit Duke Children's Hospital

The Duke Children's Hospital and Health Center or the Duke Children's Miracle Network will benefit from the inaugural Race for the Champions, scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 30, at Southern National Speedway near Kenly.

The plans were announced this week by NASCAR Late Model Stock driver Cam Strader of Wilson and his father, R.B. Strader The endeavor involves Team Wilson, the sponsor of Cam Strader's Thunderbird.

The Late Model Stock drivers in the race will collect donations from fans by passing helmets through the grandstands. In addition, proceeds from designated box-seat tickets will be donated to the Duke Children's Hospital for pediatric health care, basic and applied research, health care education and children's health advocacy.

Bardin's courage saluted by NCHSAA

CHAPEL HILL – May, 1997, is a month Rosalie Bardin will never forget.

Walking away from a softball game her Southern Nash Ladybirds were playing at SouthWest Edgecombe, Bardin was struck by a bolt of lightning.

Just a few feet from the bus, Bardin was jolted backwards and knocked unconscious.

Amazingly, a few days later, she was back at school, getting the team ready for the playoffs.

Bardin's comeback from such a tremendous shock was saluted Thursday afternoon at the Dean Smith Center in front of a crowd of nearly 300 coaches, athletics directors and administrators with an N.C. High School Athletic Association Courage Award

"I got a letter last week saying I was going to be honored, but I didn't know what it was," said Bardin, who admits to staying indoors more when storms begin to swell. "It's great. I've been really blessed."

Blessed not only with life, but with a position as assistant principal at Nash Central Junior High, a job Bardin believes helps her affect more lives than ever.

"I used to think I made a difference in a lot of young athletes' lives," she said. "Now, I think I make a difference in a lot more lives at the middle school level."

But that is not to say her decision to leave Southern Nash Senior and the coaching ranks was easy — Bardin led her 1995 team to the state 3-A slow-pitch softball championship and the 1996 squad finished second in the state fast-pitch softball playoffs.

"It was a tough decision and a good decision," Bardin said. "It was tough to leave the players and kids (at Southern Nash)."

Bardin was one of three recipients of a Courage Award — football and softball coach Walt Davis of Yatesville Northside and soccer coach George Kennedy of Western Guilford were the others.

Davis' award was given after his successful return from a mowing accident that left him impaled on a stake. Kennedy suffered a heart attack- and endured to return to coaching.

The awards were presented to the trio by former world heavyweight boxing champion James "Bonecrusher" Smith.

-- Phil Goble Jr.

Former Southern Nash coach Rosalie Bardin, left, stands with award presenter James "Bonecrusher" Smith Thursday.
Photo by Phil Goble jr>

Peppers honored as best male athlete in state

(Continued from page one)

In football, the running back gained 3,501 yards and scored 38 touchdowns.

A national Junior Olympics long jump finalist in 1996, Peppers competes in the long jump, triple jump, shot put and the 400-meter relay for the Firebirds.

"I'm going to miss it all," said Peppers of his high school days. "Playing in our gym when it was packed — it was a great atmosphere."

Next season, Peppers will bring his talents the to another great atmosphere — the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Julius signed a letter-of-intent to play football for the Tar Heels and expects to see some playing time in the Smith Center on the basketball team as well.

"I think it (college) is going to be a lot of fun," he said.

But for now, the son of George Peppers and Bessie Faye Brinkley was just proud to be honored. Proud not because of the personal glory, but proud because of the reflection the honor brings to Southern Nash and his teammates.

"It's a reflection on our school." said Peppers, who was given his award by NCHSAA Deputy Executive Director Dick Knox, Assistant Executive Director Que Tucker and former NCHSAA board member Ronald Chavis. "There's a lot of people who helped me out — my coaches in football, basketball and track and the players who pushed me to get better."

Not only better, but, at least for 1998, the best in the state.

Lenoir, Southeastern advance

Charles B. Aycock High products B.J. Smith and Noah Edens sparked Lenoir Community College to a 9-7 conquest of the University of South Carolina at Salkehatchie in the opening round of the National Junior College Athletic Association Region X baseball tournament in Fleming Stadium Thursday.

Smith, a freshman third baseman, rapped three hits in four trips and drove in two runs. Edens, a freshman right-hander, was the winning pitcher in relief of starter Jon Smith. In seven innings, Edens scattered six hits, allowed one run, walked two and struck out six.

Shortstop Mike Elswick, a product of Southern Nash, added two hits.

Southeastern Community College outlasted Louisburg, 10-9 in IO innings, in the other opening-round game.

Action was scheduled to resume in Fleming Stadium at IO this morning, with Southeastern opposing Spartanburg (S.C.). Lenoir was scheduled to test Brevard at I.

Losers' bracket games are scheduled for 4 and 7 this evening. The winners' bracket final is set for I p.m. Saturday. The championship series begins at I p.m. Sunday.

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All-Area Football Team 97

Ironman

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
Mark Strickland, Hunt	Back	6-3	225	Senior
Julius Peppers, So. Nash	Back	6-7	247	Senior
Antwane Yelverton, Greene Ct.	Back	6-0	190	Senior
Virgil Parker, Hunt	Back	5-9	215	Senior
Rayvonne Newkirk, Fike	Back	6-0	185	Junior
Kelsie Langston, Beddingfield	Back	6-0	190	Senior
Johnny Aytch, Greene Ctrl.	Line	5-7	170	Senior
Kyle Creech, No. Johnston	Line	6-3	330	Senior
Dominique Lindsay, Beddingfield	Line	6-2	190	Senior
J.T. Windham, Fike	Line	5-10	180	Senior
Adam Pittman, C.B. Aycock	Line	5-10	157	Senior
Terrell Bright, Greene Ctrl.	Line	6-2	225	Senior

Ironman of the Year: Mark Strickland

Offense

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
Jermaine Moore, Greene Ctr.	Back	6-0	157	Senior
Tavarus Redmond, SW Edge.	Back	6-0	200	Junior
Alfae Brown, Greene Ctrl.	Back	5-11	173	Senior
Anc McClennahan, ENCSD	Rec.	6-0	150	Senior
Reginald Reid, Greene Ctrl.	Rec.	6-3	182	Senior
Shaun Breen, Hunt	Line	6-5	300	Senior
Adam Mills, Southern Nash	Line	5-6	200	Senior
Preston Anders, Beddingfield	Line	6-3	255	Senior
Mark Barnes, Hunt	Line	6-3	215	Soph.
Brad Walston, SW Edge.	Line	6-0	210	Junior
Mitch Gay, Greene Ctrl.	Line	6-0	195	Junior
John Hyde, Hunt	Kick.	5-10	165	Junior

Offensive Player of the Year: Mark Strickland

Defense

Player, Team	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Class
A W. Abbott, Greene Ctrl.	Back	6-1	170	Senior
Ron Harris, Southern Nash	Back	5-9	149	Senior
Antonio Jones, Greene Ctrl.	Back	5-10	160	Junior
William Barnes, Fike	Back	5-9	170	Senior
Chico Deberry, Hunt	LB	5-11	210	Soph.
Mike Marcello, Hunt	LB	5-10	185	Senior
B J. Deans, Hunt	LB	6-1	200	Junior
Trevlan DeVaughn. Bedd.	LB	5-10	215	Senior
Shaun Rose, Hunt	Line	6-6	310	Senior
Chris Wilder, Southern Nash	Line	6-1	280	Junior
Georgic Bullock, SW Edge.	Line	6-1	280	Soph.
Demetrius Blount, Hunt	Line	6-1	220	Senior

Defensive Player of the Year: Shaun Rose

Player of the Year: Mark Strickland, Hunt

Ironman

Peppers

Yelverton

Newkirk

Langston

Parker

Windham

Aytch

Creech

Pittman

Lindsay

Bright

Offense

Moore

Redmond

Brown

McClennahan

Reid

Hyde

Breen

Mills

Gay

M. Barnes

Anders

Walston

Warriors, Rams dominate

Hunt's Strickland and Rose collect more individual accolades

By Daily Times Sports Staff

Hunt, after a losing wake-up call at Hertford County, proceeded to simply dominate the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference varsity football ranks.

The Warriors claimed revenge against Hertford County and were again the last Big Eight team left standing in the N.C. High School Athletic Association Class 3-A playoffs.

A classification lower, Greene Central was the scourge of the Eastern Plains Conference. The Rams' exit in the opening round of the 2-A playoffs was a shocker.

But the dominance of Hunt and Greene Central of the 1997 Wilson Daily Times All-Area lineup comes as no shock.

The Warriors set the pace with IO representatives among the 36 players selected to the Ironman, Offensive and Defensive units. Greene Central landed nine.

Senior tailback Mark Strickland and mammoth defensive tackle Shaun Rose of the Warriors garnered the Big Eight's top individual accolades. Ditto among the All-Area elite.

Strickland emerges as the landslide choice of the Daily Times sports staff as the Player of the Year. The 6-foot-3, 225-pound, multi-purpose performer reigns as the Ironman of the Year and the Offensive Player of the Year in the process.

Rose, at 6-6, 310 pounds and a Shrine Bowl selection, stands huge as the Defensive Player of the Year. Rose has verbally committed to continue his career at East Carolina University.

Strickland, who also excelled defensively and as a punter, is joined by senior teammate Virgil Parker, a fullback-linebacker on the Ironman unit.

Greene Central is the Ironman front-runner with the senior trio of Antwane Yelverton, also headed for ECU, Johnny Aytch and Terrell Bright.

The exclusive unit also features 6-7, 245-pound senior Southern Nash running back-defensive end Julius Peppers. Peppers, who verbally committed to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, will also be showcased in Saturday's Shrine Bowl in Charlotte.

Other Ironmen are senior J.T. Windham and junior Rayvonne Newkirk of Pike, seniors Kelsie Langston and Dominique Lindsay of Beddingfield, senior Kyle Creech of North Johnston, and senior Adam Pittman of Charles B. Aycock.

Single-season 1,000-yard rushers Tarvarus Redmond of South-West Edgecombe and Alfae Brown of Greene Central trigger an offensive unit, directed by senior Greene Central quarterback Jermaine Moore.

Mark Strickland
... Player of the Year

Shaun Rose
... top defensive player

Honorable Mention 97

BEDDINGFIELD — Brandy Barnes, James Williams, Kelvin Beamon, Tuck Thomas.

FIKE — Justin Mason, Antonio Rogers, Johnny Coley, Rod Harris, James Roundtree, Philip Bissette, Frank Sasser.

HUNT — Montae Ruffin, Derrick Gray, Donnelle Knight, Anthony Barnes, Robert Best, Cedric Williams, William Hesmer, Mike Linsey, Bobby Hinnant, Kedran Bynum, Eddie Barnes.

SOUTHWEST EGECOMBE — Bash Knight, Clifton Wooten, Brandon Hussey, Quarry' Williams, John Pittman, Frank Barnes, Brad Cobb, William Autry, Deshawn Richardson, Jerard Wiggins.

SOUTHERN NASH — Travis Battle, Derrick High, Cornelius Gary, Terrell Taybron, Jason Earp, Derrick Lucas, Jon Keen, Demario Daniels, Derrick Jones.

CHARLES B. AYCOCK — C.C. Dunn, Edwin Finch, Nelson Cunningham, Jerry Johnson, Adam Butler, Les Stewart, Ardar Hicks, Matt Rast, Stevie Parrish, Bryant Hoots.

GREENE CENTRAL — Jody Ginn, Matt Noble, Irvin Perkins, Tamarka Davis, Michael Croom, Dennis Hines, Austin Suggs, Ben Harper.

NORTH JOHNSTON — Dennis Brockington, Devon Hinton, Lee Melvin, Antonio Stanch, Jay Creech, Dusty Johnson, Scott Miles, Greg Sawyer.

ENCSD — Patrick Squire, Jamaine Black, Bruce Fritz, Patrick McMillan, Edrick Webb, Richard McClennahan.

Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf senior Aric McClennahan and Rams' senior Reginald Reid are the receivers, while Hunt junior John Hyde is the kicking specialist.

The linemen are 6-5, 300-pound senior Shaun Breen of Hunt, senior Adam Mills of Southern Nash, junior Brad Walston of Southwest, senior Preston Anders of Beddingfield, sophomore Mark Barnes of Hunt and junior Mitch Gay of Greene Central.

Rose anchors the defensive front that includes junior Chris Wilder of Southern Nash, senior Demetrius Blount of Hunt, and sophomore Georgic Bullock of Southwest.

The linebacking quartet is the Hunt trio of senior Mike Marcello, junior B.J. Deans and sophomore Chico Deberry and senior Trevlan Devaughn of Beddingfield.

In the secondary are the Greene Central tandem of senior A.W. Abbott and junior Antonio Jones, senior Ron Harris of Southern Nash and senior William Barnes of Fike.

Strickland became the Warriors' all-time top single-season rusher with 1,970 yards and scored a whopping 31 rushing touchdowns. He averaged some 35 yards per punt and, at crunch time, was situated in the defensive secondary.

"Mark developed into a much better football player every year," said Hunt head coach Randy Raper. "He's very aggressive and just has that natural knack."

Strickland demonstrated abilities as a power runner his junior season at fullback. He proved he could block, but his senior campaign saw him step out with above-average speed and mobility.

"We didn't really know how well he would do," Raper said. "A tailback must have a certain vision and feel for the game. Mark had it."

Raper proudly describes Rose as "a man among boys." His all-star foundation is not based on statistics — but impact. Rose didn't just occupy a sizable amount of space.

"He creates his own space," Raper said. "Teams ran away from him a lot this year, or they were trying to double-team, chop or cut him. He runs the 40 (-yard dash) in 4.9 (seconds) and has great feet. He was dominating player. He was just about our whole defense."

That's a powerful statement, considering the presence of Parker, Strickland, Marcello, Deans, Deberry and Mark Barnes. But Raper explains teammates enjoyed all-star seasons because of Rose's presence.

Deberry and Deans became a lethal pair well into the season. Parker was there on defense, and provided running room for Strickland. Hyde seldom missed on extra-point and short field-goal kicks. Mark Barnes excelled as a blocker and became a capable receiver. Strickland couldn't be blamed for following Parker and Breen.

McClennahan ranked as the area's top receiver, while Moore was the most accurate passer — benefiting from targets such as Reid, Jones and Bright. Yelverton filled multiple Greene Central roles despite a nagging injury and Brown stepped up to join Strickland, Redmond and Peppers as backs piling up more than 1,000 yards rushing.

Peppers cracked the 1,000-yard plateau for the third consecutive season, but his greatest value may have been defensively. Peppers, Harris, the leading tackler; Wilder and Mills guided the Firebirds into the playoffs for the second straight year.

Deserving much credit for the Fike turnaround is the trio of Newkirk, William Barnes and Windham.

Defense was rugged for Greene Central because of a secondary, where Abbott was solid, and Jones was spectacular. Aytch's quickness plagued Rams' opponents both sides of the football.

Mainstays Langston, Lindsay, Anders and Devaughn were bright spots during a bleak Beddingfield season.

Defense

Abbott

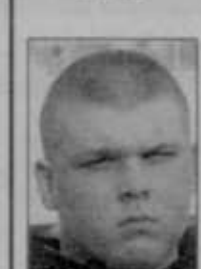
Harris

W. Barnes

Devaughn

Marcello

Deans

Deberry

Wilder

Jones

Bullock

Blount

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE
Wilson Daily Times, December 16, 1997,Pg. 16, Wilson, North Carolina, US
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Peppers, Lewis repeat atop All-Area lineups

By Sports Staff

For the second consecutive season, junior 6-foot-6 center Julius Peppers of Southern Nash and senior 5-10 guard Tynesha Lewis of Southwest Edgecombe have been named The Wilson Daily Times male and female Player of the Year, respectively, but the remainder of the 1996-97 All-Area 15-player rosters include many new faces.

Peppers is joined by by Beddingfield senior forward Grady Farmer and Hunt senior forward Reggie Farmer as boys repeaters. Each, a second-team choice last season, joins Peppers, Hunt senior center Corey Cooper and Beddingfield senior guard Garrison Harris on the first team.

Lewis, an N.C. State signee, enjoyed another phenomenal season for the Lady Cougars, who were 109-12 during her four years. She is joined on the first team by Fike senior guard Roc Canady, junior Charles B, Aycock guard Jeri Lyn Coker, North Johnston senior forward Heather Casey and senior Southern Nash forward Rikki Cockrell.

The girls team lists seven repeaters. Lewis and Canady have been first-team selections the past three seasons (each was also named her freshman season). Coker and Casey were second-team picks a year ago while Cockrell is a newcomer.

Second-team picks for the boys are Greene Central's Antoine Davis, Hunt's Jeff Strunk, CBA's Ray Potts, Southwest Edgecombe's Willie McGhee and Fike's Derrick McDowell.

The third team: Eastern N.C. School for the Deaf's Jamaine Black, Fike's Johnnie Lucas, Greenfield's Jason Gunnin, North Johnston's D.J. Brockington and Southern Nash's Demario Daniels.

The girls second team is North Johnston's Sora Standley, Greene Central's Jameka Dixon, Fike's Shemkia Reid, Hunt's Chavonne Pippiens and Southern Nash's Kari Ezzell.

The third team: Emily West and Susan Herndon of CBA, North Johnston's Kelly Holland, Hunt's Natasha Locus and Southwest Edgecombe's Susie Beamon.

Players of Year

The unselfish, low-key Peppers, a flamboyant dunker with the capability to dominate games, turned in an outstanding all-around performance.

Southern (14-13) finished second in both the Big Eight regular season and tournament, and head coach Rick Ruffin says Peppers deserves much of the credit.

"I think in some people's eyes, he didn't have as good a year," Ruffin said, "but percentage wise, he shot better and his assists were way up."

The high-flying Peppers shot a torrid 60,1 percent from the field (179-298), averaging 16.9 points, 9.7 rebounds, three assists, 2.1 steals and 1.7 blocks — usually with two or three defenders surrounding him. He averaged nearly 18 points and 10.4 rebounds in Big Eight games.

Ruffin emphasizes that Peppers "still has a lot of ability. He hasn't really shown all of his capabilities. I feel like he'll reach that — maybe next year."

Like Peppers, Lewis spent much of her season helping teammates develop confidence, but, when the game was on the line, she took control. With superior ballhandling, slashing moves to the basket and a long-range jumper, the two-time Big Eight Player of the Year dominated.

Lewis averaged an area-high 22.4 points, eight rebounds, 5.5 assists and four steals. She is also ranked 12th in her class academically and is the student government president.

"She is a complete player," Langley said. "She can score, plays outstanding defense and is an excellent leader. I have no doubt she could have averaged 30-35 points a night, but she wanted to get her teammates involved.

"Looking at all the girls I've coached, I think Tynesha may have the best chance to make it big at the collegiate level because of her versatility."

Supporting casts

Cooper, the Big Eight Player of the Year, was runner-up for All-Area Boys Player of the Year — averaging 15.4 points and nine rebounds. Reggie Farmer averaged 10.5 points and helped trigger Hunt's defense en route to Big Eight regular-season and tourney and Eastern Carolina Classic championships. Grady Farmer was the steady player for the Bruins, knocking down 16.4 points per game. Harris (14.7 ppg), the All-Area Offensive Player of the Year in football, was Beddingfield's primary outside threat.

On the second team, Greene Central's Davis scored at a 14.6 clip and Strunk ignited many rallies during a precedent-setting Hunt season. Potts pumped in 16.4 points per game for CBA; McGhee worked hard inside for his 14.7 points for SWE and McDowell netted 13.7 ppg for Fike.

ENCSD's Black emerged the top area scorer at 21 points per game. Lucas jump-started struggling Fike when he joined them in late December; Gunnin powered Greenfield's attack at 17.3 ppg; Brockington averaged 11.5 points for the Panthers; and Daniels was Peppers' capable sidekick.

On the girls first team, Canady sacrificed personal goals for team goals and it netted the Lady Demons sectional and regional championships and a state runner-up trophy. She averaged 11.6 points and five assists. Coker was CBA's catalyst, averaging 16.9 points. Casey averaged 12.1 points and Cockrell led Southern to its best record, 17-11.

The second team includes three centers. Standley was North Johnston's top scorer at 13.3 per game; Reid averaged 12 points; and Ezzell (13.3 ppg) joined Cockrell to provide Southern with a solid one-two punch. Forward Pippiens (17.7 ppg) powered Hunt and Dixon (16.9 ppg) was Greene Central's leading scorer in all but one game.

West (15.5 ppg) and Herndon (10.0) were tough inside for CBA. Locus, a four-year starter, and Holland, ran the show for Hunt and North Johnston, respectively, while SWE's Beamon used her 6-1 frame to average 10 points an outing.

Second teams

Strunk

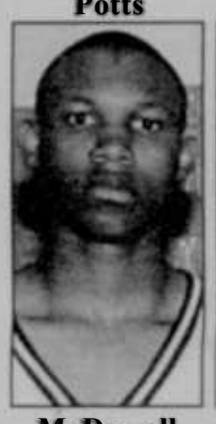
Standley

Davis

Dixon

Potts

Pippiens



McDowell

Reid

McGhee

Ezzell

Third teams

Black

West

Lucas

Holland

Gunnin

Herndon

Brockington

Locus

Beamon

Daniels

All-Area First Teams

Boys

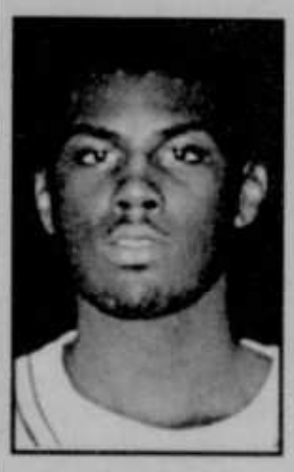
Player of the Year

Julius Peppers

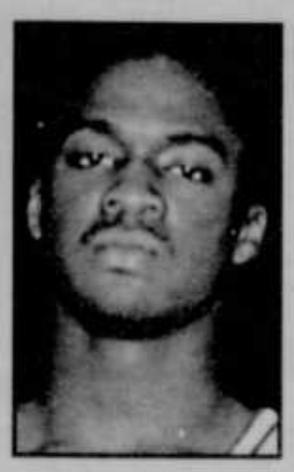
Southern Nash

Junior 245 pounds 6-foot-6

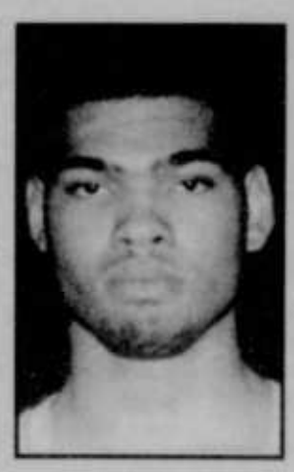
Peppers led the Firebirds to second-place finishes in the Class 3-A Big Eight Conference regular-season race and league tournament. He averaged 16.9 points and 9.7 rebounds, 3.0 assists, 2.1 steals and 1.7 blocks per game.



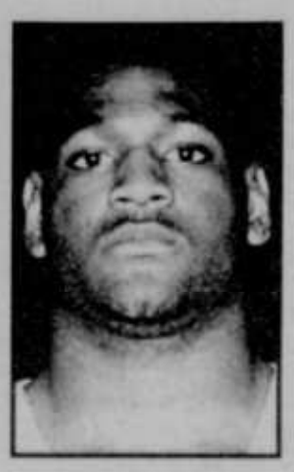
Corey Cooper ... Hunt senior



Reggie Farmer ... Hunt senior



Grady Farmer ... Bruins senior



Garrison Harris ... Bruins senior

Girls

Player of the Year

Tynesha Lewis

SouthWest Edgecombe

Senior Guard 5-foot-11

Lewis led the Lady Cougars to their third consecutive undefeated Class 3-A Big Eight Conference record, their third straight league tournament championship and into the state playoffs. Lewis, whose defending 3-A state champs lost in the sectionals, signed a letter-of-intent to attend N.C. State.

Roc Canady ... Fike senior

Jeri Lyn Coker ... C.B. Aycock junior

Heather Casey ... N.J. senior

Rikki Cockrell ... So. Nash senior

All-Area boys roster

First team

PLAYER	SCHOOL	POS	HGT	YR
Julius Peppers	S. Nash	C	6-6	JR
Corey Cooper	Hunt	C	6-6	SR
Grady Farmer	Beddingfield	F	6-4	SR
Reggie Farmer	Hunt	F	6-3	SR
Garrison Harris	Beddingfield	G	6-3	SR

Second team

Antoine Davis	G. Central	F	60	SR
Jeff Strunk	Hunt	F	6-3	SR
Ray Potts	C.B. Aycock	C	6-4	SR
Willie McGhee	SW Edgecombe	C	6-3	SR
Derrick McDowell	Fike	F	6-2	JR

Third team

Jamaine Black	ENCSD	F	6*2	JR
Johnnie Lucas	Fike	G	5-8	SO
Jason Gunnin	Greenfield	F	6-4	SR
D.J. Brockington	N. Johnston	F	6-0	JR
Demario Daniels	S. Nash	F	6-5	JR

Honorable mention

BOYS

BEDDINGFIELD — Kelly Winstead, Travia Taylor

CHARLES B. AYCOCK — Bobby Byers, Kamaal Goyens, Parker King.

ENCSD — Anc McClennahan, Patrick Squire.

FIKE — Idris Talib, Rashaun Sauls.

GREENE CENTRAL — Antwane Yelverton, Jermaine Moore, Devone Duncan.

GREENFIELD — Paul Gay.

HUNT — Keji Dickerson, Greg Ward, Kevin Wiggins, Tony Clay, Tim Carmichael.

NORTH JOHNSTON — Jason Morgan, Travis Barnes, Tim Cuddington.

SOUTHERN NASH — Derrick High, Darius Newkirk.

SOUTHWEST EDGECOMBE — Leon Dupree, Jay McKinney, Jovie Sumner.

WILSON CHRISTIAN — Bert Harris, Andrew Perry, Robbie Bennett, Dennison Dew.

GIRLS

BEDDINGFIELD — Katherine Bagley, Ashley Green.

CHARLES B. AYCOCK — Stephanie Cannon, Stephanie Lawrence.

ENCSD — Mellisa Chatman, Melissa Hargrove.

FIKE — Carolyn Gillikin, Elizabeth Spencer, Beth Foster, Kalita Marsh.

GREENE CENTRAL — Key$ Darden.

HUNT — Vakesha Thomas, Jennifer Laughridge.

NORTH JOHNSTON — Melody Toole, Dana Evans, Amy Hicks.

SOUTHERN NASH — Julie Pitts, Anna Tharrington, Melissa Pendley.

SOUTHWEST EDGECOMBE — Loni Ayers, Chessins Thigpen

WILSON CHRISTIAN — Julie Jones, Stephanie Bogue.

All-Area girls roster

First team

PLAYER	SCHOOL	POS	HGT	YR
Tynesha Lewis	SW Edgecombe	G	5-11	SR
Roc Canady	Fike	G	5- 8	SR
Jeri Lyn Coker	C.B. Aycock	G	5- 4	JR
Heather Casey	N. Johnston	F	5-10	SR
Rikki Cockrell	S. Nash	F	5-10	SR

Second team

Sora Standley	N. Johnston	C	5-10	JR
Jameka Dixon	G. Central	G	5- 7	JR
Shemkia Reid	Fike	C	5-11	JR
Chavonne Pippiens	Hunt	F	5- 7	SO
Kari Ezzell	S. Nash	C	5-11	JR

Third team

Emily West	C.B. Aycock	C	5-11	JR
Kelly Holland	N. Johnston	G	5- 8	JR
Susan Herndon	C.B. Aycock	F	5-10	JR
Natasha Locus	Hunt	G	5- 4	SR
Susie Beamon	SW Edgecombe	C	6- 1	SR

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Wilson Daily Times, April 05, 1997,Pg. 20, Wilson, North Carolina, US

https://newspaperarchive.com/wilson-daily-times-apr-05-1997-p-20/

Majors

Friday's boxes

American League

Devil Rays.....4
Orioles.....1

TAMPA BAY	ab	r	h	bi	BALTIMORE	ab	r	h	bi
Winn rf	4	1	2	0	ByAdsn cf	4	0	1	0
McCkn cf	2	0	0	1	EDavis rf	3	1	1	1
[illegible] db	4	0	1	0	RAtmr 2b	4	0	1	0
Srff lb	4	0	0	0	Carter dh	3	0	1	0
MKelly H	4	1	2	1	Baines dh	1	0	0	0
Ldsma 3b	4	1	2	0	RPtmr 1b	3	0	0	0
DiFlce c	4	0	0	0	CRpken 3b	4	0	0	0
Stocker ss	4	1	1	1	Surhoff lf	4	0	1	0
Cairo 2b	3	0	1	1	Holies c	3	0	1	0
					Hmnds ph	1	0	0	0
					Bordick ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	33	4	9	4	Totals	32	1	6	1

Tampa Bay	020	010	001	—	4
Baltimore	000	001	000	—	1

E—Ledesma (1). DP—Tampa Bay 2, Baltimore 1. LOB—Tampa Bay 4 Baltimore 7. 2B—Ledesma (3). 3B—Winn (1). Stocker (3). HR—MKelly (3). EDavis (7) S—McCracken SF—McCracken

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Tampa Bay						
Alvarez W,4-4	7	6	1	1	2	3
Mecir	1	0	0	0	0	1
RHe'ndez S,5	1	0	0	0	0	0
Baltimore						
Key L,4-2	7⅓	10	0	3	3	2
Charlton	1⅔	1	1	1	0	1

Alvarez pitched to 2 batters in the 8th
HBP—by Alvarez (Bordick).
Umpires—Home. Reed; First, O'Nora; Second. Tschida, Third. Denkinger
T—2:33 A—47.421 (48,262)

Blue Jays.....9
Angels.....1

ANAHEIM	ab	r	h	bi	TORONTO	ab	r	h	bi
Erstad 1b	4	0	0	0	Stewart cf	3	1	1	0
GAndsn lf	4	0	1	0	SGreen rf	4	2	1	1
Edmnd cf	4	0	0	0	Cnseco lf	3	1	1	1
Fielder dh	2	0	0	0	JoCruz cf	0	0	0	0
Nevin ph	1	0	0	0	CDlgdo 1b	5	1	1	0
Bolick 3b	3	0	0	0	Stanley dh	2	1	1	2
Wlbeck c	4	0	0	0	TFrndz 2b	3	3	2	2
Mshore rf	3	0	0	0	Sprgue 3b	3	0	2	1
NMritn 2b	3	1	1	0	Fltcner c	4	0	1	2
DSrcna ss	2	0	1	0	AGnzlz ss	4	0	1	0
Shipley ss	1	0	0	0	Grbeck ss	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	1	3	0	Totals	31	9	11	9

Anaheim	000	001	000	—	1
Toronto	440	000	10x	—	9

DP—Anaheim 2 LOB—Anaheim 5, Toronto 7 2B—GAnderson (9), SGreen (6), CDelgado (8), TFernandez (11). HR—TFernandez (3) SB—Stewart (12), SGreen (7), Canseco (10). CS—Stewart (6) SF—Stanley

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Anaheim						
KHill L,6-2	12⅓	5	8	8	5	1
Hasegawa	4*3	6	1	1	1	0
Cadaret	1⅔	0	0	0	1	3
Toronto						
Hentgen W,5-3	7	2	1	1	1	5
Carpenter	2	1	0	0	1	2

HBP—by KHill (Stewart). WP—Hasegawa, Hentgen
Umpires—Home. Brinkman; First, Cousins; Second, Welke; Third, Cederstrom
T—2:32 A—26,644 (51,000).

Red Sox.....5
Royals.....2

KANSAS CITY	ab	r	h	bi	BOSTON	ab	r	h	bi
Damon cf	4	0	1	0	DLewis rf	4	0	0	0
Halter ss	4	0	1	0	Buford cf	4	0	1	0
Offmn 2b	4	1	2	0	MVghn 1b	4	0	0	0
Mack dh	4	0	1	1	Leyritz dh	4	2	2	1
Conine lf	4	0	0	0	O'Lry lf	4	1	1	0
JKing 1b	3	0	2	0	Vantek c	4	1	1	0
Pndlton 3b	4	1	1	0	Bnjmin ss	3	1	1	1
Dye rf	3	0	0	0	Merloni 3b	2	1	2	3
Sutton ph	1	0	0	0	Lemke 2b	3	0	0	0
Fasanoc	3	0	1	1					
Totals	34	2	9	2	Totals	32	5	8	5

Kansas City	000	001	100	—	2
Boston	050	000	00x	—	5

DP—Boston 1. LOB—Kansas City 6, Boston 4. 2B—Mack (7). Fasano (1), Buford (6), Leyritz (3). Benjamin (5), Merloni (1). HR—Leyritz (7), Merloni (1). CS—Halter (1).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kansas City						
Rosado L,0-3	6	8	5	5	1	2
Bevil	$3	0	0	0	0	0
Whisenant	1⅓	0	0	0	3	0
Boston						
Wfield W,5-1	7	7	2	2	1	6
Corsi	1	1	0	0	0	0
Eckersley S,1	1	1	0	0	0	0

Umpires—Home. Ford; First. Hendry; Second. Culbreth; Third, Coble
T—2:13. A—31,466 (33.925)

White Sox.....6
Mariners.....3

SEATTLE	ab	r	h	bi	CHICAGO	ab	r	h	bi
Amaral rf	5	0	1	0	Cmeron cf	3	0	0	1
Cora 2b	3	1	1	0	Snopek 2b	4	1	2	0
Grfy Jr cf	3	0	1	0	FThms dh	4	1	1	0
ARdrgz ss	4	0	0	1	Belle lf	4	1	1	3
EMrtnz dh	3	0	0	0	Vntura 3b	4	0	0	0
GHill lf	4	0	0	0	Sierra rf	4	0	1	0
RDavis 3b	3	1	0	0	MOrdz rf	0	0	0	0
Mrzano c	3	0	1	0	Norton 1b	4	2	2	0
Ducey ph	1	0	0	0	O'Brien c	4	1	3	0
Huson 1b	4	1	1	2	Caruso ss	3	0	1	1
Totals	33	3	7	3	Totals	34	6	11	5

Seattle	000	100	200	—	3
Chicago	320	100	00x	—	6

E—RDavis (11), Swift (2). DP—Chicago 1. LOB—Seattle 7, Chicago 6. 2B—Cora (8), FThomas (12), Norton (5), O'Brien 2 (4) HR—Huson (1), Belle (9) CS—Cameron (3), Caruso (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Seattle						
Swift L,2-3	3⅔	7	6	4	1	1
Lira	4⅓	4	0	0	0	6
Chicago						
Navarro W,4-3	7⅓	7	3	3	2	2
Foulke S,1	1*5	0	0	0	0	1

HBP—by Navarro (RDavis), by Swift (Caruso), by Navarro (Cora) WP—Navarro
Umpires—Home, Evans. First, McCoy; Second. Foster, Third, Meriwether
T—2:25 A—16.127 (44.321).

Majors

By The Associated Press

All Times EDT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
New York	26	9	743	—	z-7-3	L-2	11-3	15-6	0-0
Boston	25	15	625	3½	4-6	W-1	15-5	10-10	0-0
Baltimore	20	20	500	8'5	4-6	L-2	10-10	10-10	0-0
Toronto	19	21	475	9'5	Z-7-3	W-2	8-9	11-12	0-0
Tampa Bay	17	22	436	11	5-5	W-1	8-12	9-10	0-0

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
Cleveland	22	18	550	—	z-4-6	W-2	12-7	10-11	0-0
Minnesota	18	22	450	4	6-4	W-4	8-13	10-9	0-0
Chicago	17	21	447	4	z-6-4	W-2	8-7	9-14	0-0
Kansas City	16	24	400	6	z-4-6	L-1	6-15	10-9	0-0
Detroit	13	23	361	7	6-4	W-3	7-8	6-15	0-0

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
Texas	25	15	625	—	6-4	L-1	15-7	10-8	0-0
Anaheim	20	19	.513	4½	3-7	L-2	12-12	8-7	OO
Seattle	19	21	475	6	z-5-5	L-3	12-11	7-10	0-0
Oakland	16	23	410	8**	z-3-7	L-2	9-13	7-10	0-0

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
Atlanta	31	11	738	—	z-9-1	W-7	18-6	13-5	0-0
New York	19	17	528	9	z-6-4	L-2	13-9	6-8	0-0
Philadelphia	20	18	526	9	7-3	W-1	14-7	6-11	0-0
Montreal	14	25	359	15'5	z-4-6	L-2	11-13	3-12	0-0
Florida	14	28	333	17	3-7	W-1	10-15	4-13	0-0

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
Houston	25	15	625	—	z-6-4	L-2	11-6	14-9	0-0
Chicago	23	18	561	2†	Z-7-3	L-1	14-8	9-10	0-0
Milwaukee	20	18	526	4	3-7	L-1	10-10	10-8	0-0
Cincinnati	21	20	.512	4's	Z-6-4	W-3	10-9	11-11	0-0
St Louis	19	20	487	5**	z-3-7	L-3	12-6	7-14	0-0
Pittsburgh	19	21	475	6	z-7-3	W-1	13-11	6-10	0-0

West Division

	W	L	Pct	B	LIO	Str	Home	Away	Intr
San Diego	26	14	650	—	z-5-5	W-2	12-4	14-10	0-0
San Francisco	23	18	561	3*2	z-7-3	W-2	12-6	11-12	0-0
Los Angeles	19	21	475	7	3-7	L-1	10-6	9-15	0-0
Colorado	17	24	415	9!5	z-3-7	L-4	4-13	13-11	0-0
Arizona	9	31	225	17	z-2-8	W-1	5-11	4-20	0-0

z-first game was a win

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Thursday's Games
Minnesota 2, Boston 1, 12 innings
Kansas City 10, Tampa Bay 2
Detroit 8, Oakland 3
Toronto 5. Anaheim 4
Cleveland 5, Baltimore 4
Chicago White Sox 5, Seattle 3
Texas 7, N Y. Yankees 5,13 innings

Friday's Games
Detroit 8. Oakland 3
Cleveland 3, Texas 2, 14 innings
Toronto 9, Anaheim 1
Tampa Bay 4, Baltimore 1
Boston 5, Kansas City 2
Minnesota 7, N Y Yankees 6
Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 3

Saturday's Games
Anaheim (Dickson 1-4) at Detroit (Worrell 2-4). 1:05 p m

Texas (Witt 4-1) at Cleveland (Burba 3-4), 1:05 p.m.

Seattle (Fassero 4-1) at Toronto (Guzman 1-5), 1:05 p m.

Kansas City (Walker 0-0) at Boston (Avery 0-0), 1:05 p.m.

Tampa Bay (Arrojo 5-2) at Baltimore (Erickson 4-3), 1:35 p m,

Minnesota (Tewksbury 3-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Mendoza 2-1), 1:35 p m.

000 Oakland (Stein 0-1) at Chicago
010 White Sox (Castillo 1-2), 7:05 p m
000
121

Sunday's Games
Anaheim at Detroit, 1:05 p.m.
Texas at Cleveland, 1:05 p m.
Kansas City at Boston. 1:05 p.m.
111 Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 1:35 p m,
123
000

585 Minnesota at N Y. Yankees, 1:35 p.m.

Oakland at Chicago White Sox, 2:05 p m
Seattle at Toronto, 8:05 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Thursday's Games
San Francisco 6, Montreal 1, 1st game
San Francisco 2, Montreal 0, 2nd game
Chicago Cubs 9, Colorado 7
San Diego 3, N Y. Mets 1, 1st game
San Diego 6, N Y Mets 2, 2nd game
Cincinnati 11, Florida 8
Pittsburgh 7, Houston 2
Atlanta 7, St. Louis 3
Philadelphia 4, Los Angeles 0
Arizona 4, Milwaukee 1

Friday's Games
Late Games Not Included
Cincinnati 11, Chicago Cubs 3
Atlanta 3, Houston 2
Florida 8. St. Louis 7
Milwaukee at Colorado, (n)
Pittsburgh at Arizona, (n)
Montreal at Los Angeles, (n)
Philadelphia at San Diego, (n)
N Y. Mets at San Francisco, (n)

Saturday's Games
Milwaukee (Kart 4-1) at Colorado (Ritz 0-1), 3:05 p m.
N Y Mets (Reed 3-2) at San Francisco (Rueter 4-2). 4:05 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Clark 2-5) at Cincinnati (Remlmger 3-4). 7:05 p m
Atlanta (Maddux 5-2) at Houston (Reynolds 3-2). 8:05 p m
Florida (Hernandez 2-3) at St. Louis (Stottlemyre 4-3), 8:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh (Schmidt 5-1) at Arizona (Anderson 1-4), 10:05 p m
Montreal (Vazquez 1-4) at Los Angeles (Dreifort 0-4), 10:05 p m.
Philadelphia (Beech 1-2) at San Diego (Brown 3-2), 10:05 p m.

Sunday's Games
Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 1:15 p.m.
Florida at St. Louis, 2:10 p m.
Atlanta at Houston, 2:35 p m
Milwaukee at Colorado, 3:05 p m
Montreal at Los Angeles, 4:05 p.m.
Philadelphia at San Diego, 4:05 p.m.
N Y Mets at San Francisco. 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Arizona. 9:05 p.m.

Twins.....7
Yankees.....6

MINNESOTA	ab	r	h	bi	NEW YORK	ab	r	h	bi
Meares ss	5	1	2	0	Knblch 2b	5	0	0	0
Lawton cf	5	1	2	1	Jeter ss	5	1	2	2
Molitor dh	3	1	0	1	O'Neill rf	5	0	1	0
MCdva lf	4	1	2	3	BWlms cf	4	0	0	0
Coonier 1b	5	1	1	2	TMrtnz 1b	4	1	2	0
Ochoa rf	3	0	1	0	Raines dh	4	1	1	0
Stnbch c	4	0	1	0	Curtis lf	3	2	1	2
Shave 3b	4	1	2	0	Brosius 3b	3	1	3	2
Hoking 2b	3	1	1	0	Girardi c	2	0	0	0
					Posada c	1	0	0	0
Totals	36	7	12	7	Totals	36	6	10	6

Minnesota	204	100	000	—	7
New York	030	002	100	—	6

DP—New York 3. LOB—Minnesota 7, New York 6. 2B—Lawton (10), MCordova (5), TMartinez 2 (13), Brosius 2 (10). HR—Coonier (7), Jeter (7), Curtis (5) SB—Shave (1), Hocking (1). CS—Brosius (2). SF—Molitor.

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Minnesota						
Milton W,3-4	5	8	5	5	2	0
Trombley	1	1	1	1	1	1
Swindell	2	1	0	0	0	1
Aguilera S,8	1	0	0	0	0	0
New York						
Pettitte L,5-4	7	12	7	7	4	4
Nelson	2	0	0	0	0	1

Milton pitched to 2 batters in the 6th, Trombley pitched to 1 batter in the 7th.
Umpires—Home, Garcia. First, Reilly; Second. McClelland, Third. Hirschbeck
T—3:27 A—31,272 (57,545).

Indians.....3
Rangers.....(14) 2

TEXAS	ab	r	h	bi	CLEVELAND	ab	r	h	bi
TGdwin cf	4	1	3	0	Lofton cf	6	0	1	0
McLmr 2b	5	0	0	0	Vizquel ss	5	0	1	1
Greer lf	6	1	1	0	Justice dh	5	1	3	1
JuGnlz rf	6	0	0	1	Thome 1b	5	0	1	0
WClark 1b	5	0	2	1	MRmrz rf	4	0	0	0
IRdrgz c	5	0	1	0	Giles lf	6	1	1	1
Stevens dh	5	0	2	0	SAlmr c	5	0	2	0
Cedeno dh	1	0	0	0	Frymn 3b	5	0	0	0
Elster ss	5	0	0	0	DaBell 2b	5	1	1	0
FTatis 3b	3	0	1	0					
Alicea 3b	2	0	0	0					
Totals	47	2	10	2	Totals	46	3	10	3

Texas	100	001	000	00	— 2
Cleveland	110	000	000	01	— 3

No outs when winning run scored
DP—Texas 2, Cleveland 3. LOB—Texas 8. Cleveland 9. 2B—TGoodwin (3), WClark (6). 3B—Greer (3). HR—Justice (9), Giles (9). SB—TGoodwin (16), McLemore (8). CS—TGoodwin (6).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Texas						
Burkett	7	6	2	2	3	5
Gunderson	lb	1	0	0	0	1
Crabtree	1^3	0	0	0	1	1
Bailes	2	1	0	0	0	3
Wetteland	1	0	0	0	0	2
Levine L,0-1	1	2	1	1	1	0
Cleveland						
JrWright	7	5	2	2	4	5
Assenmacher	2s	0	0	0	0	1
Mesa	IIa	1	0	0	0	1
MJackson	I	1	0	0	1	1
Villone	%	0	0	0	0	0
Plunk	2'a	2	0	0	0	3
Krivda W,2-0	1	1	0	0	1	1

Levine pitched to 1 batter in the 14th.
Umpires—Home, Joyce; First, Clark; Second, Craft; Third, McKean.
T—4:00 A—41,128 (43,863)

National League

Marlins.....8
Cardinals.....7

FLORIDA	ab	r	hbi	ST. LOUIS	ab	r	hbi
Cnglosi cf	3	0	0	DeShds 2b	4	1	1
Rnteria ss	4	2	3	RLnkfd cf	5	2	2
Floyd lf	4	1	1	2M2Gwr1b	2	1	1
DLee 1b	5	1	1	BJrdan rf	4	1	2
Kotsay rf	5	3	2	Gaetti 3b	5	1	1
Zaun c	5	1	1	Mabry lf	5	0	4
Cunsell 2b	5	1	0	Clayton ss	3	0	0
Berg 3b	4	2	1	Painter p	0	0	0
FHrdia p	0	0	0	Gant ph	1	0	0
JPwell p	0	0	0	Acvedo p	0	0	0
Mdows p	3	2	1	McGee ph	0	0	0
Drnsbr p	0	0	0	Lmpkin c	3	0	0
Stnifer p	0	0	0	Pgnozzi c	2	0	1
Wehner 3b1	0	0	0	Raggio p	0	0	0
				CKing p	0	0	0
				BRHntr ph	1	1	1
				Bttnfld p	0	0	0
				DHwrd ss	2	0	0
Totals	39	8	15	8 Totals	37	7	13

Florida	700	100	000	—	8
St. Louis	101	040	001	—	7

E—Clayton (7). DP—Florida 3, St Louis 1. LOB—Florida 8. St Louis 10 2B—Renteria (6), Mabry 2 (4) HR—RLankford 2 (4), BRHunter (2). SB—DeShields (9). CS—Renteria (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Florida						
M'dows W,4-4	5	8	6	6	4	1
Darensbourg	1	1	0	0	0	2
Stanifer	1⅓	1	0	0	1	0
FHeredia	1⅔	1	0	0	1	1
JPowell S,2	1	2	1	1	1	0
St. Louis						
Raggio L,0-1	2⅓	7	7	2	0	
CKing	2*3	1	0	0	0	0
Bottenfield	2	3	1	1	1	1
Painter	⅔	0	0	0	0	2
Acevedo	⅔	2	0	0	1	0

WP—BottenfieW, Acevedo
Umpires—Home, Poncino; First, Ripp ley; Second. Darting; Third, Winters
T—3 13 A—45,451 (49,676)

Braves..3
Astros...2

ATLANTA	ab	r	h	bi	HOUSTON	ab	r	h	bi
OGllen ss	4	0	0	0	Biggio 2b	3	0	1	0
Lckhrt 2b	4	0	0	0	DeBell rf	4	0	0	1
ChJnes 3b	4	0	0	0	Alou lf	4	0	1	0
Girrga 1b	3	0	0	0	Berry 3b	4	1	1	0
Klesko lf	2	1	1	0	Hidalgo cf	4	0	2	0
GerWm lf	1	0	0	0	Howell 1b	3	0	1	1
Tucker rf	4	0	1	0	Gterrez ss	4	0	0	0
EddPrz c	3	2	2	3	Asmus c	3	1	1	0
AJones cf	3	0	0	0	Lima p	1	0	0	0
Neagle p	3	0	0	0	Spiers ph	1	0	0	0
DeMrtz p	0	0	0	0	Ntkwsk p	0	0	0	0
					Esebto ph	1	0	0	0
					DHenry p	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	3	4	3	Totals	32	2	7	2

Atlanta	001	020	000	—	3
Houston	000	000	011	—	2

DP—Atlanta 2. LOB—Atlanta 3, Houston 5 2B—Biggio (16). Berry (6). Howell (4). HR—EddPerez 2 (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Atlanta						
Neagle W,5-1	7⅓	6	1	1	2	5
DeMnez S,1	1*3	1	1	1	0	0
Houston						
Lima L,6-2	6	2	3	3	1	5
Nitkowski	2	2	0	0	1	1
DHenry	1	0	0	0	0	1

Umpires—Home, Reliford, First, Schrieber; Second, Montague; Third, DeMuth.
T—2:23. A—38,941 (54.370).

Golf

PGA

Byron Nelson Classic

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Scores Friday after the second round of the $2.5 million Byron Nelson Classic, played on the 6,924-yard, par-70 (35-35) TPC at Las Colinas and 6,846-yard, par-70 (34-36) Cottonwood Valley course:

Hal Sutton	66-65	— 131
Harrison Frazar	64-68	— 132
Fred Couples	66-67	— 133
Robert Damron	68-65	— 133
Bob Friend	63-70	— 133
Bob Estes	66-68	— 134
Jeff Sluman	67-67	— 134
Ted Tryba	66-68	— 134
Phil Mickelson	66-68	— 134
Tom Watson	64-70	— 134
John Cook	66-68	— 134
Scott Gump	65-70	— 135
Russ Cochran	68-67	— 135
Jay Don Blake	67-68	— 135
Payne Stewart	68-67	— 135
Jim Carter	68-68	— 136
Jim Furyk	66-70	— 136
Tiger Woods	65-71	— 136
Mark O'Meara	67-69	— 136
Donnie Hammond	66-70	— 136
Gabriel Hjertstedt	70-66	— 136
Bob Tway	70-66	— 136
Doug Martin	69-68	— 137
LenMattiace	71-66	— 137
Willie Wood	69-68	— 137
Frank Lickliter	65-72	— 137
Glen Hnatiuk	68-69	— 137
Blaine McCallister	65-72	— 137
Steve Flesch	71-66	— 137
Chris Perry	67-70	— 137
Rocco Mediate	67-70	— 137
Corey Pavin	70-67	— 137
Justin Leonard	68-69	— 137
Craig Barlow	69-68	— 137
LeeRinker	69-68	— 137
Omar Uresti	69-68	— 137

LPGA

McDonald's Championship

ROCKLAND, Del. (AP) — Scores Friday after the second round of the $1.3 million McDonald's LPGA Championship. played on the 6,386-yard, par-71 DuPont Country Club course:

Se Ri Pak	65-68	— 133
Usa Walters	66-69	— 135
Usa Hackney	70-66	— 136
Dale Eggeling	68-69	— 137
Donna Andrews	71-67	— 138
Wendy Ward	71-67	— 138
Jane Geddes	69-69	— 138
Emilee Klein	72-67	— 139
Tammie Green	72-68	— 140
Meg Mallon	71-69	— 140
Dawn Coe-Jones	71-69	— 140
Annette DeLuca	70-70	— 140
Chris Johnson	69-71	— 140
Kelly Robbins	69-71	— 140
Cathy Johnston-Forbes	71-70	— 141
Maria Hjorth	71-70	— 141
Juli Inkster	70-71	— 141
Michele Redman	70-71	— 141
Liselotte Neumann	73-69	— 142
Joanne Morley	73-69	— 142
Michelle Estill	72-70	— 142
Missie Berteotti	72-70	— 142
Kris Tschetter	71-71	— 142
Rachel Hetherington	71-71	— 142
Helen Alfredsson	71-71	— 142
Catrin Nilsmark	69-73	— 142
Michelle McGann	68-74	— 142
Jenny Lidback	70-73	— 143
Penny Hammel	70-73	— 143
Kim Saiki	69-74	— 143
Vickie Odegard	69-74	— 143

Seniors

Saint Luke's Classic

BELTON, Mo (AP) — Scores Friday's after the first round of the $1 million Saint Luke s Seniors Classic, played on the 6,539-yard, par 35-35—70 Loch Lloyd Country Club:

Fred Gibson	32-33	— 65
Bruce Summerhays	32-36	— 68
Larry Ziegler	34-35	— 69
Isao Aoki	35-35	— 70
Bob E Smith	35-36	— 71
Bob Duval	36-35	— 71
Don Klenk	35-36	— 71
Ed Sneed	36-35	— 71
Charles Coody	33-38	— 71
Tom Wargo	35-36	— 71
Chuck Thorpe	39-33	— 72
Don Maddox	35-37	— 72
Dana Quigley	35-37	— 72
Jim Colbert	36-36	— 72
Bob Murphy	36-36	— 72
Mike McCullough	36-36	— 72
Bobby Stroble	35-37	— 72
Tom Jenkins	38-35	— 73
Rik Massengale	36-37	— 73
Jerry McGee	35-38	— 73
Miller Barber	36-37	— 73
Tom Shaw	38-35	— 73
Dave Eichelberger	36-37	— 73
Gibby Gilbert	36-37	— 73

Transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES—Purchased the contract of RHP Bobby Munoz from Rochester of the International League. Optioned C Charlie Greene to Rochester.

TAMPA BAY DEVIL RAYS—Recalled LHP Scott Aldred from Durham of the International League Optioned LHP Ramon Tatis to Hudson Valley of the New York-Penn League Transferred RHP Bryan Rekar from the 15-day to the 60-day disabled list, retroactive to March 31.

Pacific Coast League
CALGARY CANNONS—Activated LHP Rich Pratt from the disabled list Released INF Rene Gonzales.

Midwest League
WISCONSIN TIMBER RATTLERS—Placed LHP Ryan Anderson on the disabled list, retroactive to May 12. Recalled RHP Harold Koehler from Lancaster of the California League

Texas-Louialana League
LUBBOCK CRICKETS—Signed C Bray Woodruss

Western League

2017 NBNO Mike Byrnes Coach of the Year: Alton Tyre

Jun 30, 2017by Steve Underwood

Quietly Building a Legacy

Some folks might think a national track and field coach of the year award is reserved only for those whose athletes win national titles, rack up All-American honors, or at least accumulate a couple handfuls of state championships.

But sometimes it's the individual who has the ability to be among those who quietly advance the sport, positively affect lives in different ways, and become forces for good in their communities who merits such an honor. Sometimes it's

that person whose influence gradually begins to outgrow the coach's community and region, to the point where folks start to feel this person deserves recognition at a higher level.

Alton Tyre has become that person. And if ever there was a coach who did not seek out such recognition and thereby was stunned to learn he'd receive such an award, it's this **Southeast Guilford, N.C.** boys and girls T&F mentor – who will be honored as the **2017 Mike Byrnes Coach of the Year** at this year's NBNO.

"I'm shocked," he said, "and I'm grateful and deeply honored." It's not just Coach Tyre's humility, but the fact that his primary focus was basketball and football for the first third of his 39-year coaching career. He'll tell you when he tried track and field a few years in high school, he was awful, and while he was better at football and basketball, he began to quickly gravitate toward coaching during his college days.

Tyre's first gig out of college was as a social studies teacher and coach at **Bunn High School** in N.C. in 1978. His dream was to become a "big-time head basketball coach." By 1989 he was at **Southern Nash HS** in Bailey, N.C., coaching four sports with some success, but ultimately not completely satisfying.

It took then-Southern Nash AD **Ray Davis** to change and reset Coach Tyre's focus. "He said, 'Your strength is coaching track.' I needed to embrace that." Tyre knew how to identify talent, and he was getting better and better at developing it. That first became clear in '79 at Bunn when he helped a barely known rising star named **William Baker** get a scholarship at St. Augustine College with legendary Coach George Williams – where he would unexpectedly become an NAIA All-American. "That kind of put me on the map," he said. "I do know talent when I see it."

Coach Tyre didn't know everything there was to know about the sport, but he knew if you wanted to get better, you learned from the best. He connected with track and field coaching legends like **George Williams** at St. Augustine College, and **Dr. Russell Blunt**. Like Tyre, Blunt juggled basketball and track.

It's not surprising that Tyre's greatest success during his Southern Nash years came while **Julius Peppers** was on his team in in the late 1990s. Peppers' story is legend from those parts – not just that he would later become a UNC All-American and 3-time first team All-Pro NFL star, but that he didn't even try football until his sophomore year in high school. But Peppers had long loved hoops, and T&F was up there, too. Even better, Coach Tyre loved the type of kid Peppers was. "He would make plays or have performances where you say, 'I didn't believe what I just saw.' You didn't trust your own eyes … But Julius was never full of himself. He was just one of the guys." And, despite being 6-7 and 255 pounds, according to Tyre, he was 2nd in the state meet triple jump and ran on the winning 4x400. Then Southern Nash defended its title in 1999, after Peppers had graduated.

Coach Tyre was at Southern Nash for 17 years, through the 2006 season, but the 164-mile round trip daily commute had been wearing on him and it was time to work a little closer to home. He loved the school, but that summer he took teaching and coaching positions at Southeast Guilford – and went about building a great program again.

During the 2012 indoor season, Tyre's boys' squad tied for the state title with Knightdale. Then in 2016, the coach was surprised and delighted when his school's big early-season meet was renamed the **Alton Tyre Invitational Relays.**
"A lot of my former athletes were there," he said. "It was an incredible day."

Hopefully, June 18, 2017 will be just as incredible a day for Alton Tyre.

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Julius Peppers calls it a career

JULIUS PEPPERS

Mark Cone •
Southern Nash graduate and Carolina Panthers defensive end Julius Peppers is hanging up his helmet. Peppers, who currently is fourth on the NFL's all-time sack list, announced his retirement after 17 NFL seasons on Friday.

Hailing from Bailey, NC Peppers, 39, is heavily favored as a first-ballot NFL Hall of Fame selection in five years when he becomes eligible to receive the honor.

In his NFL career which included stints with The Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers before returning home to where he started his career in Charlotte Peppers' total 159.5 career sacks putting him firmly in the fourth place position over Terrell Suggs of the Baltimore Raven who has 132.5. Peppers trails Kevin Greene by only .5 at 160. Bruce Smith (198) and Reggie White (200) round out the elite top five.

Across 17 seasons Peppers missed only six games, amassing a game playing total of 266 making him the sixth highest in games played by defensive player during their career in NFL history. Peppers is ending his career by playing 176 consecutive games, the second-longest active streak among active players behind NC State alum and Chargers quarterback Phillip Rivers.

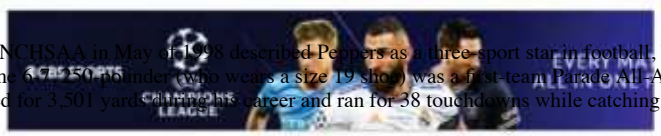
Peppers said his goodbye to fans worldwide in a video release that said:

"Thank you. For the victories and the good times," Peppers said in a video announcing his retirement. "For the lessons and the times we desired more. For the sacrifices, the belief, the confidence and the unwavering support - I'm thankful. Because without you, this wasn't possible. Thank you for the spirit, the resolve and the attitude to Keep Pounding. It's not something we just say around here, it's how we live. I'm thankful for the things you showed me about life that were bigger than football and for a second chance - a new beginning. See the players, we come and we go, but the constant is you. And as the saying goes, 'Once a Panther, always a Panther.' Thank you for the memories, the friendships, the laughs and the culture we created. For the understanding and for being family. Thanks for all the years, and cheers. And for being home now and forever. I wouldn't change a thing about this journey. It was the best teacher I've ever had and was everything I could've hoped for. The tough times never lasted and the tough people inspired me to be better and give more. I hope I did the same. Only time can reveal what's next, but my time here is up. No regrets, no looking back and nothing left to give. It's not goodbye, it's kinda like, 'I'll see you later' But until then I'm grateful, I'm satisfied and at peace with all that comes next."

"Julius is one of the greatest to ever play the game of football," head coach Ron Rivera said in a statement. "To put up the numbers he did for as long as he did speaks to his incredible talent and commitment. He is a leader in the locker room and in the community. Getting to know him over the last two seasons has been tremendous because of the type of person he is. What he did for the people affected by Hurricane Florence, getting involved and bringing them hope, says a lot about who he is. I'm proud that I get to say that I was one of his coaches, and I think it's fitting that he gets to end his career as a Carolina Panther."

Peppers started his football journey in a small metal building that served as the field house for Southern Nash High School in the fall of 1994. In 1995 as a sophomore he emerged as one of the premier high school running backs in the state gaining 1044 yards and scoring 15 touchdowns in his first year of varsity play. He finished his career with 3501 total rushing yards, which put him in the number two position behind Lamont Avent, he now sits in the number six position on that list.

By the time he graduated in 1998, Peppers had been named the NCHSAA male athlete of the year for his performance in football, basketball, and track. He is one of only two Firebirds to receive statewide Athlete of the Year honors in school history. He was also the first Firebird to be named as an All-American.



An article published by the NCHSAA in May of 1998 described Peppers as a three-sport star in football, basketball and track, headed to the University of North Carolina on a football scholarship. The 6-foot-6, 245-pounder (who wears a size 19 shoe) was a first-team Parade All-American in '97 and was his team's Most Valuable Player for three consecutive years. He rushed for 3,501 yards [illegible] career and ran for 38 touchdowns while catching passes for six more scores.

In basketball, he was the Big Eight Conference Player of the Year in 1996 and finished his career with the Firebirds with over 1,600 career points, 1,000 career rebounds and over 500 assists. He earned all-conference honors and all-area honors all four years he played. In track, he competes in four events, including the triple jump, shot put, 400 meters and the four by 100 relay, and was third in the state meet in the triple jump in 1996.

Former Southern Nash Football Coach and athletic director Ray Davis of Southern Nash says that Julius "is the most unselfish individual I have ever coached. He is truly a phenom."

Longtime Southern Nash Head Coach Brian Foster was an assistant coach at the school until the year Peppers graduated. "Julius...to me he is not Julius Peppers the NFL star, he is just Julius...is one of the most genuine people you will ever know," said Foster. "The things with the Hurricane victims recently, that is genuine Julius...that's not a photo op, he truly cares and he has always been very caring and giving. He has done things for people and schools and communities that nobody will ever know about, he doesn't want credit - that's just the person he is. When Kim and Zack were in the wreck Julius showed up at the hospital - he didn't have to do that, but he did and nobody ever knew it."

As a senior at Southern Nash, Peppers selected “The greatness of work is inside man” as his senior quote. He played his college career at UNC where he was awarded the Chuck Bednarik Award, the Bill Willis Trophy, and the Lombardi Award. He is ranked second in All-Time UNC history for 30.5 sacks.

Peppers also is in a rare class of athlete that has played in both an NCAA Final Four and the Super Bowl. A search of sports history could find only one other athlete, Donovan McNabb that was part of a team that was in both, but McNabb did not see Final Four playing time as a walk-on reserve at Syracuse, making Peppers the only athlete to have actually played in both.

Peppers was nominated by the Carolina Panthers for this year’s Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Award for his humanitarian efforts in eastern North Carolina after two devastating hurricanes left the area in ruins in the fall of 2018. The winner of that award will be announced this Saturday at NFL Honors in Atlanta.

"He did things the right way, which is what we try to get all of our athletes at Southern Nash to do," said Foster. "He associated with the right people, he worked hard, and he had a great career. I am really proud of Julius for all his accomplishments as an athlete and a family man, I am thankful that he stayed healthy so that now he can enjoy what he has earned."

Reader Comments
Jill
FEB 01, 2019 • Can I come and work for y'all? Your writing is grammatically incorrect three times in the first paragraph! **Publisher's note: The first 'paragraph' is two sentences long. I did review those two sentences and did not find any grammatical errors in them. In response to your request; at this time I would have to respectfully decline as the use of the word "ya'll" is never considered grammatically correct in the English language.**

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FOOTBALL

WRAL Storytellers: Julius Peppers in his unbelievably dominant days in high school

Tags: Julius Peppers, football, High School Football

Julius Peppers as a high school running back!?!? Former WRAL sports director Bob Holliday shares tales on how much bigger, stronger and faster Peppers was in the mid-1990s at Southern Nash compared to his opponents.

Reporter: Jared Fialko

8:06 p.m., Jun 21, 2020

Hide Transcript

Transcript:

RUSSELL WILSON MAKES $35 MILLION, AND BIG BEN $34 MILLION. >>> THE FORMER PANTHERS SACHAR, JULIUS PEPPERS, ONE OF THOSE IN THE RUNNING FOR THE HALL OF FAME, BUT HIS CAREER HAD QUITE A DIFFERENT START, AS WE EXPLAIN IN THIS EDITION OF WRAL STORYTELLERS. >> ONE OF THE BIGGEST ASSETS, THE MOUNT KILIMANJARO LEVEL OF PLASTIC WE HAVE THAT IS THE ARCHIVES, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF ANYBODY HAS SHOWN ME A CLIP THAT HAS MADE MY JAW DROP TO THE FLOOR AS MUCH AS THE TIME SOMEONE SHOWED ME A PIECE OF VIDEO FROM SOUTHERN NASH HIGH SCHOOL WHERE JULIUS PEPPERS WAS PLAYING RUNNING BACK.>> QUITE SIMPLY, JULIUS PEPPERS IS ONE OF THE GREATEST ATHLETES THE STATE HAS EVER TURNED OUT, WE SAW THAT HIS FRESHMAN YEAR, THE COACH WAS DETERMINED TO PERSUADE HIM TO GIVE FOOTBALL A TRY, AND I DON'T KNOW THIS FOR SURE, I HAVE AN IDEA THAT HE OFFERED JULIUS THE CHANCE TO PLAY WHEREVER HE WANTED AS AN ENTICEMENT. JULIUS CHOSE RUNNING BACK, HE TOLD ME I WANT TO TOUCH THE BALL AND HAVE SOME FUN.>> Reporter: SUCH A LARGE RUNNING BACK AT SOUTHERN NASH, NORTH CAROLINA RECRUITED HIM FOR DEFENSIVE END. >> WHEN YOU ARE ON THE SIDELINES FOR FOOTBALL FRIDAY, HOW DO NOT GET CAUGHT UP IN THE SPECTACLE. >> SPELLBINDING, HE COULD GET 7 YARDS, 12 YARDS.>> Reporter: A 21 YARD TOUCHDOWN PASS TO JULIUS PEPPERS. JULIUS PEPPERS WILL GO 47 YARDS. >> THEY HAD A TRADITION OF BIG RUNNING BACKS, THEY HAD A GUY NAMED ABE JONES, AND JULIUS WAS 6 FOOT SEVEN, 250 AS A SOPHOMORE, THE COACH TOLD ME. >> HE RAN A FOUR POINTS SIX 40, HE COULD GET TO THE CORNER BEFORE OTHER BIG GUYS. 4.6, AND I SAID IS IT OKAY TO DRAG THEM, AND HE SAID YES, THEY GET AROUND MY ANKLES, I LIKE TO DRAG THEM AS FAR AS THEY CAN, HE WOULD DRAG DEFENDERS FOR 3500 YARDS AND 38 TOUCHDOWNS. >> IT'S WILD, HE'S LIKE TWICE THE SIZE OF MOST OF THE PLAYERS. >> THAT WAS OUTRAGEOUS.

MORE ON THIS

- Mack Brown, Julius Peppers among NC Sports Hall of Fame 2020 class
- Julius Peppers among NFF College Football Hall of Fame nominees
- Julius Peppers: 'It's see ya later' in retirement from Carolina Panthers

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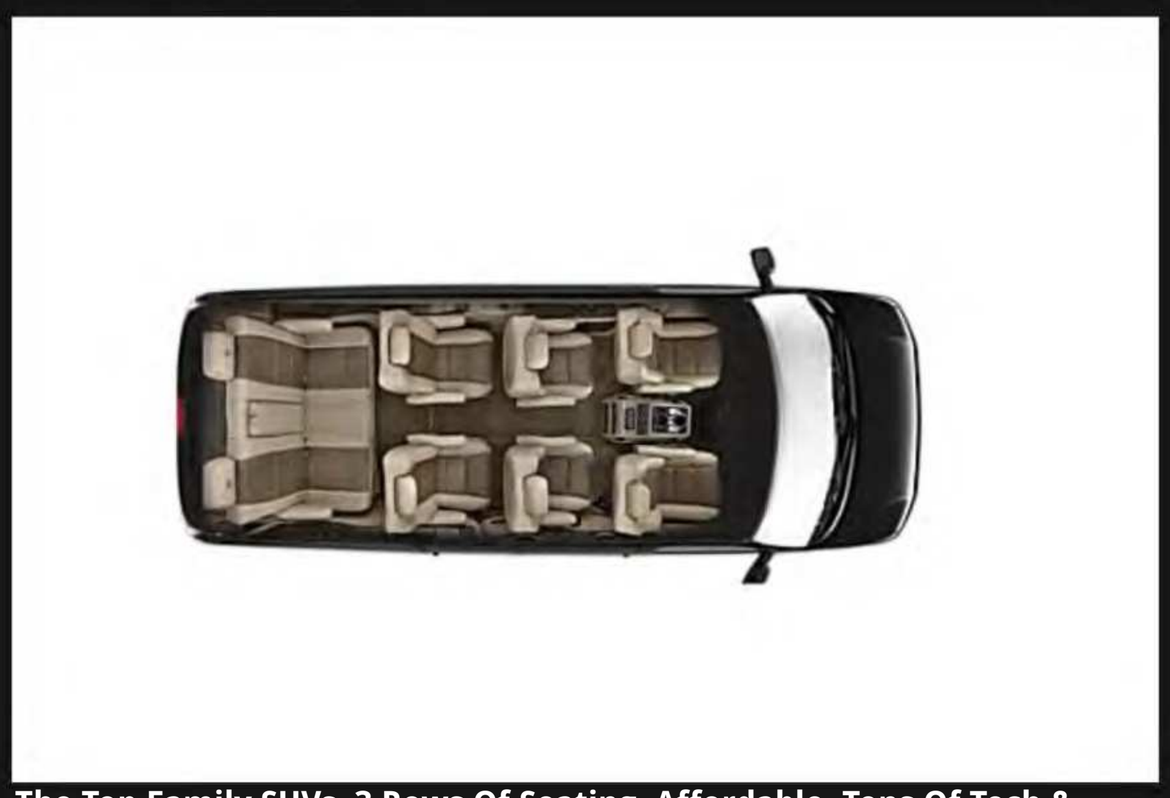

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2018 NFL Man of the Year – Fact Sheet

Link to the Application
Link to application here: http://www.nflfoundation.org/applications/programs/campaign/MOY

How has your nominee shown dedication and commitment to community efforts this year?

Always someone who has aimed to avoid the spotlight, Panthers defensive end Julius Peppers has never enjoyed the talking-to-the-media part of being an NFL player.
He prefers to talk when he has something to say.
After seeing the photos and videos of the hurricane damage along the coast, Peppers, who grew up in eastern North Carolina and played football (and basketball) at UNC, had something to say and wanted to help.
He partnered with the Foundation for the Carolinas and started the Julius Peppers Hurricane Florence relief fund by donating $100,000 and encouraging his teammates and other NFL players to do their part, as well.
"I think it would be a great statement if we had 100 percent participation," Peppers said of fellow Panthers supporting the cause. "To be honest, I think that would say a lot to these fans and the community. We rely on their support every week to come to the games and buy our jerseys. It's only right for us to give the same support back to the them and help them in their time of need."
Funds will be directed to nonprofit recipients of grants from Foundation For The Carolinas' Hurricane Florence Response Fund, which is providing relief to victims of the storm.
"When these disasters happen you don't have the basic necessities. Sometimes we take those things for granted," Peppers said. "That's what's on my mind. I'm just trying to do something to help."
However, his donation was only the beginning of his commitment. Since his donation, he's spent two of his off-days visiting hurricane-ravaged areas - Robeson County in North Carolina and Marlboro County in South Carolina, both impoverished areas that reminded him of his hometown where people were too busy picking up the pieces of their lives to gawk at an NFL star.
Peppers understood. And he wasn't too busy to listen, to help, to take the time in the midst of the football season to travel five hours roundtrip to see how he could assist in some small way those struggling in the wake of a natural disaster.
"Home is a couple of hours away, and it reminds me of Bailey a lot," Peppers said, referencing his North Carolina hometown that was spared when Hurricane Florence tore through his home state three-plus weeks ago. "It hits home. It's tough to see people in these situations. They're just regular people who don't have very much to fall back on, don't have many resources.
"It's one thing to write a check. That's great, but it's another thing to come out, be on the ground and actually see the devastation, see the effects with your own eyes."

How has your nominee shown dedication and commitment to community efforts in years past?

Historically someone who prefers to contribute "behind the scenes," Peppers has donated more than $300,000 to the University of North Carolina's Light on the Hill Society Scholarship fund that supports African-American students. Peppers gave $100,000 to the fund in 2009 and $250,000 to the fund in 2012. The scholarship program is a tribute to Carolina's earliest African-American graduates and a vehicle for alumni and friends of the university to support African-American freshman who exhibit academic excellence and the potential to contribute while at UNC and after graduation. The Light on the Hill Society Julius Peppers Scholar receives an annual 1,000 award, renewable for up to three years.

Peppers has made donations to various churches in Charlotte, Nash County (NC), Houston and Dallas for projects, including youth development, transportation, radio devotionals and building repair. From 2005-08, he funded the Julius Pepper Project, youth development programs in Charlotte, Nash County and Chapel Hill that secured motivational speakers to discuss social and educational issues with area youth.

In Chicago from 2010-12, he made financial contributions and organized youth development through Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Chicago.

How does your nominee demonstrate consistency in positive character and how does he model a lifestyle of giving back?

Selected to the All-Decade team for the 2000's, Peppers is universally regarded by teammates and players throughout the League as one of the game's great ambassadors and someone who plays the game "the right way." Reflective of his positive leadership and the respect he garners from his teammates, Peppers has been selected a team captain six times, including four seasons in Carolina and twice in Chicago. During his three-year stint in Green Bay, the Packers did not select captains for the season but was selected as one of the team's postseason captains in each of his three seasons with the team.
While he is a star player in the NFL, Peppers has always been reserved in his demeanor. However, he recognized the need to help others in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence and has devoted his resources and, more importantly, his time to helping the low-income rural areas that are often left behind in relief efforts.

How has your nominee demonstrated excellence on the field during his career?

Selected by the Panthers second overall in the 2002 draft, Julius Peppers is the only player in NFL history with 150 sacks and 10 or more interceptions. He (156.5) leads all active players in sacks, including an all-time franchise record of 94 with the Panthers. The 17-year veteran needs four to surpass Kevin Greene (160.0) for third in NFL history since sacks became an official statistic in 1982. He needs two forced fumbles to surpass Robert Mathis (52) for the most forced fumbles since 2000 and his 33 career forced fumbles for Carolina rank first in team history. With one more game played, he will increase his total to 256, an amount that ranks sixth in NFL history among defensive players. Peppers has also played in 166 consecutive games, the second-longest streak among active players.

Is there anything else we should know about your nominee?

JULIUS PEPPERS – DEFENSIVE END (2002-2009, 2017-2018)

Honors

- NFL All-Decade Team – 2000s, 2010s
- Pro Bowl – **2004**, **2005**, **2006**, **2008**, **2009**, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2015
- AP All-Pro First Team – **2004**, **2006**, 2010
- AP All-Pro Second Team – **2008**, **2009**, 2012
- College & Pro Football Weekly All-Pro – **2004**
- Football Digest All-Pro – **2004**
- Pro Football Weekly All-NFL – **2004**, **2006**, 2010
- Pro Football Weekly All-NFC – **2004**, **2006**, 2010, 2012
- Sporting News All-Pro – **2004**, **2006**, **2008**, 2010
- NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year – **2002**
- USA Today Sports Weekly All-Pro – **2006**

(Bold =With Panthers)

NFL Superlatives

- 266 games played are the sixth most by a defensive player in NFL history.
- Ranks fourth in NFL history with 159.5 sacks.
- Finished in top 10 in NFL in sacks six times – 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2012.
- Produced 10 seasons with double-digit sacks, the fourth most in NFL history.
- Only player in NFL history with 150 or more sacks and 10 or more interceptions.
- 11 career interceptions are the second most by a defensive end in NFL history.
- Ranks second in NFL history with 51 forced fumbles (since 2000 when the statistic became available).
- Credited with 82 career pass deflections, the second most in NFL history by a defensive end (since 2000 when the statistic became available).

Panthers Accomplishments

- Led/tied for team lead in sacks seven times – 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2017.
- Recorded a career-high 14.5 sacks in 2008, equaling the third most in team history.
- Totaled 143 interception return yards in 2004, the second most in team history and an NFL record for a defensive lineman at the time.
- Key member of Panthers defense that finished in top 10 six times – 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2017.
- Helped Panthers defense rank among the NFL's top 10 in sacks per pass attempt five times – 2002, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2017.
- Named Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year nominee in 2018.

Panthers Team History Ranks

- 5 Pro Bowls – 2nd (Tied)
- 97 Sacks – 1st
- 23 Multi-Sack Games – 1st
- 583 Tackles – Most by a defensive lineman
- 34 Forced Fumbles – 1st
- 10 Opponent Fumble Recoveries – 3rd
- 9 Blocked Field Goals – 1st

Career Statistics – Season-By-Season

Year	Team	GP	GS	Tot	T	A	Sack	Yds	Int	PD	FF	FR	TD
2002	Carolina	12	12	54	37	17	12.0	78.0	1	4	5	0	0
2003	Carolina	16	16	65	48	17	7.0	39.0	0	6	3	0	0
2004	Carolina	16	16	85	63	22	11.0	71.0	2	6	4	1	1
2005	Carolina	16	16	70	46	24	10.5	61.5	0	4	2	1	0
2006	Carolina	16	16	75	61	14	13.0	89.0	0	6	3	2	0
2007	Carolina	14	14	55	37	18	2.5	22.5	1	3	3	2	0
2008	Carolina	16	16	63	41	22	14.5	82.5	0	7	5	0	0
2009	Carolina	16	14	56	35	21	10.5	52.5	2	4	5	1	1
2010	Chicago	16	16	64	47	17	8.0	54.0	2	7	3	0	0
2011	Chicago	16	16	43	31	12	11.0	60.0	0	1	3	2	0
2012	Chicago	16	16	43	33	10	11.5	73.5	0	0	1	4	0
2013	Chicago	16	16	47	35	12	7.0	44.0	1	4	2	1	0
2014	Green Bay	16	16	45	33	12	7.0	41.5	2	11	4	3	2
2015	Green Bay	16	16	42	31	11	10.5	57.0	0	0	2	0	0
2016	Green Bay	16	11	30	22	8	7.5	47.5	0	3	2	1	0
2017	Carolina	16	5	33	27	6	11.0	61.0	0	0	2	2	0
2018	Carolina	16	8	27	19	8	5.0	47.5	0	7	2	1	0
Career Totals		**266**	**240**	**897**	**646**	**251**	**159.5**	**982.0**	**11**	**73**	**51**	**21**	**4**
Carolina Totals		**154**	**133**	**583**	**414**	**169**	**97.0**	**604.5**	**6**	**47**	**34**	**10**	**2**

Julius Peppers caps year of community service with celebration at charity sneaker ball

Feb 15, 2019 at 09:27 AM

Max Henson

CHARLOTTE – For Julius Peppers, Thursday night at the Harvey B. Gantt Center was the culmination of nearly a year's worth of community service.

Peppers, who was Carolina's 2018 NFL Man of the Year nominee, hosted a formal sneaker ball in support of three charities that he handpicked.

RELATED LINKS

Julius Peppers pens "thank-you" note to coaches, teammates, fans

Julius Peppers' coach and teammates marvel at Man of the Year nominee

Must-See: Julius Peppers' childhood photos

"I'm excited. All this stuff started out with the hurricane relief fund," Peppers said just before the party began. "We decided to do a charity ball for All-Star Weekend with the spotlight on the city of Charlotte and we wanted to celebrate as well.

"It's great to go out and have a good time and also have it benefit a good cause. That means a lot."

Peppers, usually known for backing away from the spotlight, was basking in the glow throughout the night. Since announcing his retirement, he's been overwhelmed by the collective love and support, and he was happy to mingle with guests and pose for a photo with anyone who asked.

This was a charity event, but it was also a chance to celebrate the close of a legendary career.

Several coveted pieces of sports memorabilia were up for grabs at the event. Among the items on display? A Steph Curry signed jersey, a signed Saquon Barkley helmet, a Drew Brees autographed ball and a signed Patrick Mahomes jersey.

And of course, several current and former Panthers were on hand to share in the celebration.

Julius Peppers Charity Sneaker Ball

View photos from Julius Peppers' charity sneaker ball in Charlotte at the Harvey B. Gantt Center.

1 / 89

Brandon Todd

"A lot of support from my teammates, well, former teammates," Peppers said with a chuckle. "Everyone has been congratulating me on a great career and it feels good to be appreciated."

The community is certainly appreciative of Peppers for all the work he's done during and after his final NFL season.

Here's what he had to say about the three charitable organizations his gala supported:

"The Young Black Leadership Alliance – they give exposure to youth locally and around the world. I thought they were great when I went out and visited them. I fell in love with it."

"The Girl Talk Foundation is run by someone that I know from my first stint with the Panthers. They are empowering young girls to be strong women. It's great."

"The Center for Community Transitions – they offer stability and assistance to families dealing with someone who has been incarcerated. A lot of people deal with that at one point or another, and that hit home for me.

Best NC Athlete ever? How about Julius Peppers

https://www.wralsportsfan.com/best-nc-athlete-ever-how-about-julius-peppers/19204859/

Posted July 25, 2020 4:54 p.m. EDT
Updated July 27, 2020 6:44 a.m. EDT
By Bob Holliday, WRALSportsFan columnist

RALEIGH, N.C. — Recently I stumbled onto a social media thread asking opinions about the best high school athletes who competed in North Carolina. I immediately thought of Julius Peppers.

It's not just the fact that Peppers ran for more than 3500 yards and 38 touchdowns in three years as a running back at Southern Nash High School, though I must say the images of the big teenager running over and even running past would be defenders are indelible. But Peppers was about more than just running the ball, and he was about more than just football. In fact, until his sophomore year, there was no football.

Peppers, as a freshman, made his mark at the school in Stanhope on the basketball court and on the track. He would ultimately score 1661 points and haul in almost 960 rebounds playing hoops. The sport of track and field afforded Peppers even more ways to showcase his extraordinary gifts. He helped the Firebirds win the NCHSAA 3A Championship in two entirely different ways: He ran one leg of Southern Nash's first place 4x400 meter relay team; then as an individual he competed in the triple jump and finished second in the state. Ironically, it was the triple jump that brought Peppers and Southern Nash football coach Ray Davis together.

Davis one day watched Peppers practicing the triple jump-he fashioned a distance of 37 feet even as a freshman. Davis told Peppers he needed to come out for football the next fall. Legend has it Davis promised Peppers he could be a Hall of Famer if he worked hard.

Julius joined the Firebird football squad in the fall of 1995. Perhaps as part of the enticement to get him on the gridiron, Davis allowed Peppers to play any position he wanted. The sophomore chose running back.

Now Southern Nash has some tradition playing big running backs. In the early Nineties the Firebirds unleashed the 6'4 240 pound Abe Jones on opposing defenses. But as Davis later told me, "Julius makes Abe look like a little baby." Indeed. Peppers stood 6'7 and weighed 250 pounds. But his prowess was about more than size. He ran a 4.6 40 yard dash, which gave him the speed to get around those players big enough to tackle him-and there weren't many. He also had the strength to drag smaller tacklers for extra yards, often many extra yards. Think of Gulliver in the land of the Lilliputians in Jonathan Swift's "Gulliver's Travels."

Ray Davis understood that ultimately Peppers would be playing against men more his own size in college and beyond, and that that might warrant a position change. Yet he believed that for Southern Nash, using Peppers primarily as a ball carrier, helped the team more than putting him somewhere else.

As for Julius, I asked him why he chose running back. "I want to touch the ball, have fun," he told me.

Southern Nash, like many high schools, makes use of two way players. Davis experimented with playing Peppers at defensive end. As his stamina improved, the big guy played more and more defense. By his senior year, Peppers played every down on defense. Although he was still the team's running back it just made sense to give the burgeoning number of recruiters a thorough look at a potential college superstar defensive end.

On to Chapel Hill

Peppers understood his future lay in the trenches but the amount of time he spent playing running back meant that he arrived at UNC having taken fewer reps at defensive end than if he had specialized. As things turned out, Peppers red-shirted during the 1998 season in Chapel Hill, which gave him time to focus full-time on defensive end-for the first time.

Peppers started for Coach Carl Torbush from the very first game in 1999, even though his techniques for defeating college level blocks needed some refinement. His size and quickness more than compensated for what he might have lacked in knowhow. He caught on quickly-also got busy in the weight room. The 250 pound high school running back became a 290 pound college defensive end.

#49 led the Tar Heels in sacks and tackles for loss that first campaign (he didn't become #90 until the NFL), then put together a monster season in 2000. Peppers led the entire

country in sacks with 15 and ranked third in tackles for loss with 24. Though just a sophomore, he made All-ACC and All-America.

John Bunting, a top NFL defensive coach, took over as head coach at UNC in 2001, leading the Tar Heels to an eight win season that included a bowl victory over Auburn. Peppers again flourished despite facing frequent double teams. He won the Bednarik and Lombardi Awards as the nation's top defensive player, and made unanimous All-America. He finished tenth in balloting for the Heisman Trophy. Having scaled college football's highest heights, Peppers entered the NFL draft for 2002.

Bunting wanted NFL scouts to get a good look at this big athletic defensive end. He organized a pro timing day for Peppers, Ryan Sims, and UNC's other NFL prospects. Scouts spent time evaluating Peppers' skill at trench warfare; there was a lot of hand fighting that day I remember. Peppers impressed the Carolina Panthers enough that they used the #2 pick in the entire draft on him.

Julius Peppers' three year legacy at UNC compares favorably with any in school history, even those who played four varsity seasons. He ranks second in career sacks with 30 and second in career tackles for loss with 53. But that's just the beginning. He was credited with 42 quarterback hurries. He defended 13 passes, an extraordinary number for a defensive end, deflecting the ball while rushing the passer on most of the 13, but he was also known to drop back into coverage. Peppers forced five fumbles and recovered two more. He intercepted five passes. And when he got his hands on the football, Julius knew what to do with it-he was first a running back after all. Peppers scored three defensive touchdowns at UNC. Small wonder he was recently nominated for the College Football Hall of Fame.

Basketball, too

On top of his football accolades, Peppers in 2001 was voted the top two sport athlete in America by the Sporting News. A former all state basketball player at Southern Nash, Peppers joined Bill Guthridge's team as a walk on following the 1999 football season. It took some time for Peppers to adapt his now 290 pound body to the hardwood, as well as to learn the nuances of UNC's offensive and defensive principles. But as January lapsed into February and March, Peppers saw more and more playing time.

The football star certainly won over his basketball teammates. That was evident in a television story we did in 2000. Point guard and team leader Ed Cota was Peppers' biggest booster. "I played a lot of pickup with Julius this summer," Cota said, "and I knew what he was capable of doing out there." Peppers confided that "Ed was telling me all the time you can play on our team." Did he ever!

Peppers came off the bench and got rebounds at both ends of the court. As you might imagine, he excelled at defense, making steals and blocking shots. He could also put the ball in the basket, hitting all four shots in a game at Duke and knocking down 6-7 in a 14 point outing against Georgia Tech. As teammate Joe Forte put it, “Julius is the best athlete I’ve seen in my life. The sad part is he’s just playing the game for fun.”

Peppers probably had the most fun in his brief college basketball career one March Saturday against #1 seed Stanford. The Cardinal boasted a huge front line, three players 6’10 or bigger, all of whom were quite muscular. Carolina countered with 7’0 Brendan Haywood and Kris Lang, who although 6’10 was more of a finesse player. Peppers, who played with both Haywood and Lang in their AAU days, became the great equalizer against Stanford. Peppers, by now known as the “super sub,” came off the bench late in the first half against the Cardinal and converted a critical three point play to give UNC a 28-27 lead at intermission-and belief in the possibility of an upset. Peppers played most of the second half, 24 minutes in all, recording six points, three rebounds, two steals, and three blocked shots.

North Carolina, a 20-13 team some said didn’t even belong in the NCAA Tournament, took down 27-4 Stanford 60-53.UNC’s interior defense, led by Peppers, held the Cardinal’s formidable front court to 7-29 from the floor. As Bill Guthridge was later to say, “Julius Peppers has been a godsend to our team. We wouldn’t be here without Julius.”

That UNC team went all the way to the Final Four in Guthridge’s final season. Peppers played an even greater role as a sophomore, averaging 7 points and 4 rebounds. Impressively, he led the team in field goal percentage, hitting 64% of his shots from the floor. Peppers so impressed new coach Matt Doherty that he suggested if Julius gave up football and concentrated solely on basketball he could be an NBA player. Peppers, of course, went in precisely the opposite direction.

No one who watched his Hall of Fame worthy NFL career could ever second guess his decision to concentrate on football, yet the notion that he could possibly have had a pro career in a different sport adds another layer to the legacy of one of America’s great all around athletes.

Favorite memory

My favorite memory covering Mr. Peppers comes from Super Bowl Media Day in 2004. Members of the media know Julius never sought the spotlight. He wanted to let his play speak for itself and let his teammates do the talking. When Julius gave interviews he answered questions thoughtfully, but quietly. As he became an NFL veteran, Peppers did fewer and fewer interviews. But on Tuesday in Houston, five days before the

Panthers' showdown with the New England Patriots, Peppers made himself available. There were just a few of us at Peppers' booth. Most crowded around Jake Delhomme and Steve Smith. I practically had a one on one with the Panthers' young star.

"Julius," I said, "as you look all the way back to your days as a running back for Coach Ray Davis at Southern Nash, can you put into words what getting the chance to play in the Super Bowl means to you?"The smile on his face said it all. I never shall forget that smile.

CHICAGO'S LEAP OF FAITH

HTTPS://VAULT.SI.COM/VAULT/2010/09/06/CHICAGOS-LEAP-OF-FAITH

- **DAMON HACK**

GETTING TO THE QUARTERBACK IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER, WHICH IS WHY THE BEARS TOOK A $91.5 MILLION CHANCE ON DEFENSIVE END JULIUS PEPPERS—HIS CRITICS BE DAMNED

When the wind blew, the tobacco stalks would shake and the trailer in which Julius Peppers lived would rock. In his bed, which was too short for his long legs, he would sometimes lie still and listen to that double-wide groan. But other times the growing boy would rise, duck his head beneath the low roof and take off with the gusts blowing through Bailey, N.C. "Running to get in shape," he says, "or just running for no reason."

He was impossible to miss: 6'3" by the time he was in middle school, already broad and thick and muscular. Just about everyone in Bailey (pop. 670), famous for its Country Doctor Museum, knew of Julius's sporting prowess and quiet nature. One youth coach would pick him up at home for a game, and a different coach might drop him off afterward. On certain days the townsfolk would talk about what Julius could do on the basketball court. Other times it was Julius and that football. And sometimes it was Julius running around that oval. All the while Julius's mother, Bessie Brinkley, worked long hours in a ceramics shop.

"I've known Julius since the fifth grade," says Alton Tyre, who coached him in track and field at Southern Nash High. "I was in Wilmington when Michael Jordan was there. I coached against Clyde Simmons. Julius is the greatest athlete I have ever seen. A guy that big and that strong is not supposed to be that fast."

Julius was one of the few not trumpeting his gifts. Although he was already bigger than almost everyone he met, he was happy to share the spotlight, even when many of the people in the bleachers just wanted to see him dunk. "He was very introspective and reserved," Tyre says. "I taught him African-American history and U.S. history, and he used to answer essay questions with a level of depth you don't see from a lot of kids. At the eastern regional track meet when he was a sophomore, this kid took the lead on him in the triple jump and starts pointing at Julius's chest, as if to say, You're not man enough to do what I did. Julius gets on the track with these beautiful phases and jumps 46' 11½" to beat the kid. Julius got out of that sand and didn't say a word. He didn't even look at the kid. He just walked around the track with his teammates, high-fiving."

Asked about his muted response to his own athletic feats, Peppers says, "I think I was just born like that, a personality trait. I'm an observer."

Peppers's power and perspective helped make him an All-America defensive end at North Carolina (where he also walked on to the basketball team), an All-Pro with the Panthers and, last March, the key free-agent pickup of the off-season. When he signed a six-year, $91.5 million deal with the Bears it underscored the importance of the pass rusher in the era of the quarterback. Chicago already had the face of its franchise in middle linebacker Brian Urlacher, but Peppers gave the team a big-play threat—a player with strength, speed and quickness honed on the track and the basketball court as well as the football field. "I'm sure every sport he [competed in] played a part in what he's able to do," says Brian Foster, who was Peppers's defensive coordinator at Southern Nash, "but he always had that first step and that freakish ability. I think his burst is from God."

Just as significant, signing with the Bears ended Peppers's 30 years in North Carolina, during which he had been called everything from a boyhood legend to the greatest pass rusher since Lawrence Taylor to an underachiever who didn't bring it on every play. The charge that Peppers's fire didn't always match his physical gifts first surfaced shortly before the Panthers drafted him second overall out of UNC—despite the fact that he used to run sprints with the defensive backs because his fellow linemen were too slow. The talk was heard as recently as last season, when with the Panthers off to an 0--3 start, linebacker Jon Beason told a radio station that he wanted to see more "intensity" from Peppers. The following week Beason said he had been wrong to go public with a team matter, and both players and coaches came to Peppers's defense. "I never saw the kid take a practice off," says Browns quarterback Jake Delhomme, a teammate of Peppers's in Carolina for seven seasons. "I never saw him miss a practice in training camp. I never saw him miss practice during the season. I never saw him gloat. He came to play, he came to work. Julius is a quiet guy, and people might misunderstand him because he keeps to himself."

Delhomme remembers that the negative chatter about Peppers was loudest in 2007, when Peppers had just 2½ sacks. "We were 7--9, and he was just crucified," Delhomme says. "People seem to forget, we weren't winning games, so teams were running the ball late in the game and you're not going to get sacks. And then the next year he has a good year [a career-high 14½ sacks], but we were 12--4 and teams had to throw it. You have to look at the big picture."

Peppers says the criticism used to bother him, but he understands that it's inevitable, given his nature. "You can be an emotional, high-strung guy, and that might work for you," he says. "I think I can be reserved and quiet and play as well as the next guy."

Sal Sunseri, the linebackers coach at Alabama, was a Panthers' defensive coach from 2002 to '08. "There was never a guy I coached who was better prepared," Sunseri says. "Sometimes a young man gets frustrated when they're sliding protection over and doing everything they can to block his ass. When you're the top dog, they're doing everything they can to keep you from the

quarterback. If you're an offensive coordinator, you better know how you're going to block Julius Peppers."

Even though he had allies among the Panthers, Peppers admits he had been thinking about leaving Carolina for two years. After he turned down a four-year, $54 million offer from the team before the 2009 season, the Panthers placed a franchise tag on him, which meant he made more than $18 million last year. This season, citing financial reasons, the organization decided against using its franchise tag on him (it would have cost more than $20 million), leaving Peppers free to test the market.

Departing meant leaving behind a remarkable legacy of triumph—and controversy. Peppers was named Defensive Rookie of the Year for 2002 after a season in which he had 12 sacks in 12 games, but he missed Carolina's last four games for violating league policy on banned substances. (Peppers, who has said the positive test was the result of a diet supplement containing ephedra that he obtained from a friend, called it "crazy" for people to think he needed steroids to boost his performance.) The following season he helped lead Carolina to the Super Bowl, which the Panthers lost to New England on a late Adam Vinatieri field goal. Carolina hasn't made it that far since.

"It was time for a change, not only from that franchise but from the state," says the 30-year-old Peppers. "I'm from a small town, and I've lived in Charlotte, which is really a small city and a small town too, but I've never lived in a big city or had to perform under the spotlight in one. That's a challenge in itself. I like those things. I wasn't going to shy away."

Peppers has quickly warmed to Chicago, where he plans to start a foundation to help at-risk young men. He also embraced the city's fast pace: Following his introductory press conference in March, Peppers ventured out to the club Crescendo and bought 25 bottles of Perrier Jouet Fleur de Champagne (about $350 per bottle) for the patrons. Captured on YouTube, it's a big-city moment light years from Bailey: As bottles lit by sparklers are passed around the room, the DJ can be heard shouting his appreciation over the thumping sound system. "Make some noise for the new Chicago Bear, J. Peppers in the building!" the DJ says. "Super Bowl, next year, 2010, Chicago Bears. Thank you, Julius."

The Bears see Peppers as a complete defensive end who can help stop the run and cause general discomfort to opposing offenses, but it's his ability to pressure the quarterback that makes him most valuable. "Our scheme is predicated on the pass rush," says Chicago general manager Jerry Angelo. "We think third down on first down, so a player of Julius's skill set really accentuates what we want to do on defense."

His teammates are already getting a taste of the discomfort Peppers can cause. At a recent practice he lined up at right end. At the snap he engaged the left tackle, freed himself, rushed the

quarterback, leaped into the air as the quarterback threw a screen pass into the flat, spun around and chased down the running back, who saw the ball sail over his head. Peppers did it all so quickly that he made it look easy.

"You go up to block him, and you don't expect to get pushed back, because it doesn't look like he's coming off real hard," says Bears tight end Desmond Clark. "Then you lock onto him, and you find yourself backpedaling. As soon as you meet that force and he's pushing you back, it doesn't matter what it looks like. It didn't look hard for Michael Jordan, but he always got it done."

Urlacher shakes his head. "Three hundred damn pounds," he says. "I don't know how a man his size moves as good as he does. This dude busts his ass every day. I don't understand [the criticism]. The expectations for him are so high, people wanting him to get a sack every single play—you can't do it."

Coach Lovie Smith and defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli plan to take advantage of what Smith says are "a couple of outstanding [pass-rushing] moves and a great countermove off them." The more attention an opposing offensive line pays to Peppers, the more it opens up chances for other pass rushers. "Everybody you talked to about Julius said the same thing," says Smith. "A guy like Ron Meeks, his defensive coordinator [with Carolina last season], said, 'This is one of the best guys you will ever be around.' And Julius did his homework on us too. I talked to him about the teachers we had on our staff. Stern teachers. We're not going 'm-f' and cursing guys out on the football field, but each day we're going to coach them hard and try to teach them exactly what we want them to do."

Marinelli, a former defensive line coach to Warren Sapp and Simeon Rice, says of Peppers, "It's his work habits, attention to detail, his presence at meetings, how he takes notes. He's a pro, and he's setting a standard on how to be a pro, and he doesn't even have to say anything."

And so Peppers doesn't. The giant man maintains a low profile as usual. But one thing about him has changed. Never a stat hound in his career, Peppers has made it known that he has his eye on Michael Strahan's single-season sack record of 22½. "Realistically, who knows if I ever get there, but if you don't shoot for it, you never will," he says.

He'll have to run like the wind to do it.

- *CLOCKWORK FOOTBALL*

PEPPERS BENEFITED FROM HIS THREE-SPORT BACKGROUND, BUT, SAYS HIS HIGH SCHOOL COACH, "I THINK HIS BURST IS FROM GOD."

Recruiting History: Julius Peppers, The Freak

Julius Peppers was a once-in-a-generation talent at Southern Nash High School — and North Carolina.

https://247sports.com/college/north-carolina/article/julius-peppers-unc-recruiting-history-north-carolina-tar-heels-football-basketball-149482487/

SHERRELL MCMILLAN Jul 24th, 2020, 9:32 AM50

The stories appear to be more myth than truth.

Hear them and it's hard to tell if years distorted memories or minor exploits created unbelievable legends.

"I saw him block a punt and return it for a touchdown while outrunning a cornerback… at 240 pounds."

“We decided to put him at running back because he was as quick as other players on the team. It was just that he did it at 6-5, 230 pounds."

“I remember him hitting a quarterback as he threw, tipping the ball in the air and diving for an interception in a flash."

“In our final game of the season, he intercepted a pass and ran it back all the way for a touchdown. You’re not supposed to do that at his size.”

“I really believe this, but he could’ve played any position on the football field and been an All-American. He was that talented.”

“He’s probably the best player to ever come through North Carolina.”

Sound unbelievable? Sound made up?

They aren’t.

All those things were said by people who coached, covered or followed Julius Peppers.

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Basketball, not football, was Julius Peppers’s first love. As a kid, it’s what he most enjoyed. He dreamed of hitting game-winning shots and playing in college, before making it to the NBA.

His first year at Southern Nash High School, Peppers didn’t even go out for football. He was intent to play basketball as his primary sport and, hopefully, earn a scholarship offer to his favorite school—North Carolina.

Ray Davis, the football coach at Southern Nash, couldn’t let that stand.

“The first time I ever noticed him was when he was in middle school,” Davis says. “He was really a big kid for a seventh grader. He was gangly and a little awkward I remember. I’d say he was like 6-foot-1 then.”

What surprised Davis the most about watching Peppers was the position he was playing.

“It was strange because he was the tallest guy on the team and he’s out there playing running back,” explains Davis. “He was just super dominant because he was so much bigger than everybody else. He had his eye on basketball, but this was a kid who we knew could be great.”

Davis set up a meeting with Peppers one winter afternoon after basketball practice to discuss his sophomore season and the football team.

“I tried to tell him that he was going to be a dime a dozen size-wise on the basketball court,” says Davis. “But on the football field, his size, his speed and his athleticism could be special.”

In the end Peppers, who loved competing and loved sports, said he’d play football. His one major concern, though, was possibly being forced to play on the offensive line.

“I said, ‘Son if you play football for me I’ll make you a running back,’” Davis recalls. “Maybe that sold him, I don’t know. But he showed up that summer ready for conditioning.”

During the 1995 season, Peppers’s sophomore year, he rushed for 1,000-plus yards and intimidated opponents, media members, fans and even players on his own team.

Running backs weren’t supposed to be 6-foot-5.

They weren't supposed to weigh 230 pounds and have basically no body fat. And if they did do all those things, they were supposed to be slow and plodding, not fast and effortless.

Davis even caught flak for not taking better advantage of Peppers's size.

"As a coach, I always favored big running backs and we always had them at Southern Nash," he says. "I didn't think I was playing him out of position."

If there's one thing 6-foot-5 running backs get, it's attention.

Just a few weeks before playing his first high school football game, Peppers received his first attention from colleges.

"Donnie Thompson, who was an assistant coach at North Carolina, was the first person I talked to about Julius," Davis says. "He had seen him at track meets the prior spring just like I did and couldn't believe his combination of strength, athleticism, speed and everything else."

Thompson was a Carolina assistant coach under Mack Brown and Carl Torbush. He coached some of UNC's best defensive players, NFL first-round picks like Greg Ellis, Ebenezer Ekuban and Marcus Jones.

Thompson recruited southeast Florida and eastern North Carolina for the Tar Heels. When he saw Peppers—in person and on film—his talent jumped out of the VCR.

"Even then, he was a man amongst boys," Thompson says. "Every chance we got we started monitoring him and dropping him letters about Carolina. He was already a Carolina fan, but he was more in his early years because he was an AAU basketball phenom."

Peppers's love of basketball played right into UNC's recruiting pitch. Thompson regularly talked about his friendship with Rocky Mount, N.C. native and Tar Heel assistant coach Phil Ford.

"The first time I saw him play football, he was playing against a school out of Wilson and we were recruiting Octavus Barnes and he was the best player on the field," says Thompson. "He's running and jumping and we're like, 'Wow, this young kid is good.'"

Carolina sent coaches to Southern Nash whenever they could go, sent letters as often as possible under NCAA rules, and invited him to football camp during the summer.

"By the time he became a national recruit, everyone knew they had to beat Carolina," says Thompson. "We were really locked into his mind. We felt good during his junior year and at that point our focus was to keep it a local battle and keep him from making those national visits."

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Davis admits he was a little overwhelmed by the spring of Peppers's junior season. The phone calls never stopped. The interview requests kept coming in. Coaches constantly dropped by.

"I'd get through teaching classes and there'd be a couple or three coaches sitting outside my office waiting to talk to me. From the west coast, to Florida, to Michigan, to everywhere. Stanford, even Big 10 schools."

Peppers's recruitment became national, just as Thompson had feared. He had offers from Florida State, Florida, Miami, Nebraska, Penn State, USC and a host of other national powers.

“Basically anyone you can think of was after him,” Torbush says. “I don’t feel like he would’ve gone more than four or five hours from home, so he basically was going to stay in the southeast. He was that type of kid.”

Thompson, Torbush and Mack Brown worked on Peppers throughout the summer and just after leaving UNC’s summer camp, he gave the Tar Heels a verbal commitment. Though he liked the coaching staff, especially Thompson, it was another UNC assistant that sealed the deal.

“That camp was the first time we met Coach Brown in person,” says Davis. “But what locked him in on Carolina was when Phil (Ford) came by the office and told him that if he wanted to play basketball then he was welcome to do both. Coach Brown nodded his head in agreement and (Julius) said ‘I’m coming.’”

Adds Thompson: “I have to give credit to Dean Smith and Phil Ford. They really extended themselves in the recruiting process by committing to him at least being on the junior varsity team when he got to Carolina.”

His commitment was a seminal moment for UNC’s recruiting efforts. Before most other schools had a chance, the Tar Heel staff had discovered, evaluated, offered, pursued and eventually gotten a commitment from the state’s best.

Thompson says it was the model for how Brown approached recruiting.

“We shut down the borders, that’s what Mack wanted to do,” he says. “We believed in our heart that you can go with the Tidewater (Virginia) and North Carolina and you could beat anybody in the country anytime, but you’ve got to get them all. … We went to every coach in the state. If you can control those regions, that’s the formula for UNC to be successful.”

He continues: “That was the strategy. We’d recruit the top 25 players in the state, but we had to have 12 or more of them. Getting Julius gave us No. 1 and we worked our way down from there.”

Peppers’s senior season wrapped up one of the most accomplished high school careers in state history. He finished his career with 3,501 rushing yards and 46 touchdowns. He was a Parade All-American, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Male Athlete of the Year, and earned all-state honors as a junior and senior.

“When we got his high school film, on the defensive end he kind of relaxed a little bit because people were scared to run his way,” says Thompson. “Every now and then they’d test him and then he’d run some guy down from 50 yards out. Most of the time, though, he got no defensive action. We were intrigued by his offensive skills and how we [maybe] could mold him a little.”

Peppers also helped Southern Nash win the state championship in track, as part of the 4 x 200 relay team and as a triple jumper.

“I just can’t tell you how amazing he was athletically,” says Davis. “A kid that size, with feet that big, he could do standing back somersaults all the way down the football field in full gear. He could throw the football 60 yards. He just had God-given things the rest of us didn’t.”

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Two months after Peppers committed to UNC, John Mackovic was preparing his Texas team to host No. 11 UCLA more than 1,300 miles away.

Mackovic had won a share of the Southwest conference title in 1994, won it outright in 1995 and captured the inaugural Big 12 championship in 1996.

The UCLA game was the beginning of the end, however. The Bruins handed the Longhorns a 66-3 loss, the worst home defeat in school history. Mackovic and his team limped through the season finishing 4-7.

After a season-ending loss to rival Texas A&M on Nov. 26, 1997, Mackovic was fired. Eight days later, Dec. 4, 1997, Brown was introduced at a press conference as the Longhorns' new coach.

Torbush was named UNC's interim head coach.

Twenty-four hours after Brown's press conference, Peppers informed Thompson he was thinking of decommitting from UNC.

All of Thompson and Torbush's work from the previous three years was in jeopardy.

"We had to hold onto him after Mack left," Thompson recalls. "When that happened his phone started ringing, but he was really only listening to Florida State, Clemson and us."

Florida State was—arguably—the country's top program at that point. The Seminoles were coming off an 11-1 season that ended with a Sugar Bowl blowout win over Ohio State.

Peppers thought about visiting, but again UNC's basketball and football coaches—Torbush, Ford and Thompson—assured him he could play both sports at UNC.

"That was meaningful for his appetite," says Thompson. "They (Florida State) came up to Southern Nash and he was about to visit them, but our combination of football and basketball at the time, no one could touch it."

Still, the thought of not playing for Torbush and Thompson, who had recruited and coordinated some of the best defenses in UNC history, bothered Peppers.

After UNC's dismantling of Virginia Tech in that year's Gator Bowl, Torbush permanently kept the head coaching job.

And the Tar Heels kept Peppers. He signed a letter of intent in February of 1998.

"The biggest thing that kept him was Carolina hiring Torbush and him keeping quality people on staff," says Thompson. "I was able to continue his recruitment with no breakup. Coach Torbush was able to step right in and Julius came on in."

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(Photo: Craig Jones / Staff, Getty)

The other part of Brown and Torbush's philosophy was to recruit athletes and figure out what position to put them at after they arrived on campus.

Ideally, Thompson says, the Tar Heels would recruit multiple players to fit a certain profile and—through weightlifting, nutrition and practice—convert them to specific positions as needed.

“We started him as a fullback and tight end,” Torbush said. “Honestly, I’m not sure if any of us knew where he’d line up long term, but we thought that was a good place to start.”

Thompson had no doubt about where Peppers needed to be.

“I recruited Ebenezer (Ekuban) and he was a tight end and then (Alge) Crumpler,“ says Thompson. “Julius came in and he beat out Ebenezer and so they moved Ebenezer to defensive end. We had just lost Greg Ellis to the (Dallas) Cowboys. So we decided to redshirt Julius, let him get his weight up a little bit and have him play for me at defensive end, because Alge was very good.”

The results were immediate and startling. During UNC’s pro day in the spring of 1999, Ekuban gave a confession to scouts in attendance.

“They kept asking him how good he could be and he jokingly said ‘I’m not even the best defensive end on our football team,’” Thompson remembers. “There’s a guy named Julius Peppers who’s going to be twice as good as I am.”

Ekuban obviously knew what he was talking about.

In Peppers’s first season, he led the Tar Heels in sacks and tackles for loss and was named a Freshman All-American.

The itch to play ACC basketball, however, remained. Not just junior varsity basketball, but for the Tar Heels who were fresh off a Final Four appearance.

Peppers came to Thompson before his redshirt sophomore season and asked his position coach for a favor.

“He said, ‘Coach, if you let me go play basketball in summer league, I will come back and I’ll outrun everybody on the team in our conditioning test,’” Thompson says.

The test was a series of “suicides,” where each team member lined up on the goal line then ran to the 10-yard-line and back. Then to the 20. Then to the 30. Then to the 40. And so on and so forth until they reached the other goal line.

“He said ‘I guarantee you I’ll have the best time on the team if you let me play basketball this summer,’” Thompson says. “So, we let him out of summer conditioning to play basketball.”

On the first day of fall camp, Torbush told the team it was time for the conditioning test.

“He outran everyone,” Thompson says with a laugh. “The defensive backs, the running backs, the quarterbacks, everyone. That’s just the kind of athlete he was.”

He played so well in the summer league that Ford asked Thompson and Torbush if he could join the basketball team in December.

They obliged and he played an integral role, helping the 1999-2000 basketball team make its third Final Four in four years.

Peppers played two more football seasons at UNC, becoming arguably the most decorated player in school history.

Torbush only coached him for three of his four years in Chapel Hill, however. He was fired following the 2000 season and replaced by John Bunting.

“One of the best plays he ever had, it ended up being my last game at Carolina,” Torbush says. “We were playing Duke and he dropped into coverage. The quarterback thought he could get it by him, but Julius got the interception and took it back for a touchdown. Those kinds of things just make you shake your head. He was unreal.”

He was named a first-team All-American by The Sporting News, the Associated Press, the AFCA and took home the Chuck Bednarik Award in 2001, given annually to the nation’s best overall defensive player.

He finished his Carolina career second on the school’s all-time list for tackles for loss (53) and sacks (30.5) in just three full seasons.

Peppers opted to forego his senior year and enter the NFL Draft. He was the No. 2 overall pick—the highest ever for a UNC player—of the Carolina Panthers in 2002.

His NFL career ultimately spanned 17 seasons. He was named to nine Pro Bowls, ranks fourth all-time in sacks, and is the only player in NFL history with at least 150 sacks and 10 interceptions.

“When he went hard, if he decided he wasn’t, he wasn’t going to get blocked by anyone,” says Thompson. “I’ve seen him dominate an entire offensive line by himself. He was the best I’ve ever coached—by far.”

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/expaned 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/AFCF 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 and 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,

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.

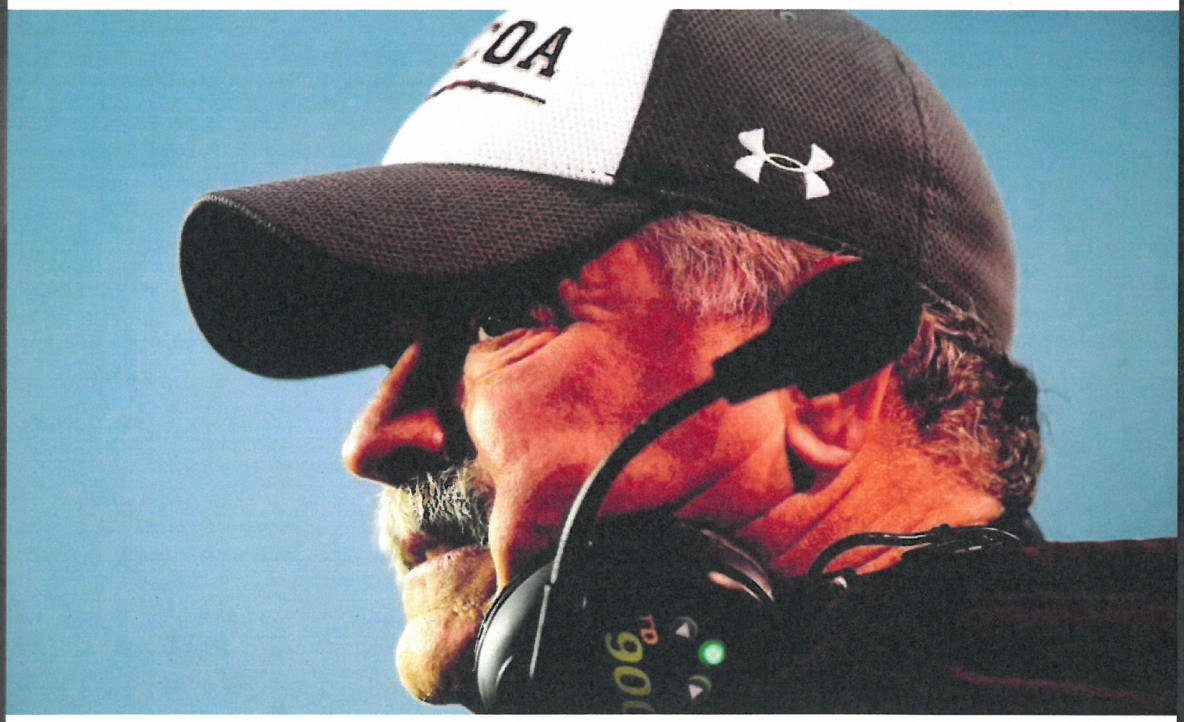
Sincerely,

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 lpqhoLGb-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 theTennessee 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."

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Sunrise Christian Academy beats IMG Academy to win inaugural NIBC title

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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.

MAIN STREET PREPS
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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 Pobieglo 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, Glencliff, 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

MAIN STREET PREPS

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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.

Alcoa

Tony Romo

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Antonio (Tony) Ramiro Romo
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Stephanie Hauser

Phone: 715-883-1168

Street Address: 5516 Vern Holmes Drive

City, State, Zip Code: Stevens Point, WI 54482

Signed: _____

Date: 11/10/2022

Email: shauser@wiaawi.org

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

☒ Athlete ☐ Coach ☐ Official ☐ Administrator ☐ Performing Arts ☐ Others

Name of Nominee: Antonio Ramiro Romo
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 18 Ash Bluff Lane
(street address)

Dallas, TX 75248
(city, state, zip)

Email: rjromo@arrpromo.com

Phone: 262-391-5691 Date of Birth: April, 21 1980

School Affiliation (if any) Burlington High School

City: Burlington State: WI

Place of Birth: San Diego, CA Date of Retirement: April 4, 2017

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:
National Football League - Analyst for CBS

If deceased, date of death:
[Tab here]

Name of Spouse or Closest Living Relative: Candice Romo (spouse)

Address: 18 Ash Bluff Lane Dallas, TX 75248

Phone: 972-345-3141

Schools Attended:

Name of School	City and State	Year Graduated	Degree
High School: Burlington High School	Burlington, WI	1998	N/A
College/University: Eastern Illinois Universtiy	Charleston, IL	2003	[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

ATHLETE

Athletic Participation in Senior High School [give complete details concerning specific performances, years, records, etc. Please note the classification of the high school (A, AA, etc.) and how many classes the state had in that sport.]

Tony Romo, class of 1998, participated in football, basketball, and golf during his career at Burlington High School. Tony is the first Burlington High School athlete to receive All-State recognition in 3-spots.

Tony was a standout football player for the Demons. As a two-year starting quarterback he passed for 3,732 yards and 42 touchdowns.

Football in the State of Wisconsin at that time had 6 divisions, in which Burlington competed in Division 2 (2nd largest division).

Many considered basketball Tony's best sport and as a 3-year letter winner he averaged 24.3 points, 8.8 rebounds, 3.1 steals, and 4.7 assists per game.

Basketball in the State of Wisconsin at that time had 4 divisions, in which Burlington competed in Division 2 (2nd largest division).

Golf is a sport that Tony continues to play competitively, and he developed some of his skills as a 4-year letter winner for the Demon golf team.

Golf in the State of Wisconsin at that time had 3 divisions, in which Burlington competed in Division 1 (largest division).

Honors (give complete details of high school and post-high school athletic honors and achievements, awards, and recognition received as a result of high school achievements)

High School
Demon Award - 1998, which is given to the most outstanding student-athlete in the class.
Football
1st team All-Southeast Conference honors - 1996, 1997
1st team All-Area, All-County, and All-Region - 1996, 1997
AP All-State Teams from the Associated - 1997
All-State Wisconsin Football Coaches Association - 1997
Racine County Player of the Year - 1997
Burlington High School Wall of Fame - 2008
Burlington High School - Field Dedication "Tony Romo Field" - 2022

Basketball
Southeast Conference Champions - 1997
Conference Player of the Year - 1998
All-Racine County - 1997, 1998
Racine County Player of the Year - 1998
Associated Press All-State - 1998

Golf
Most Valuable Player - 1997, 1998
All-Racine County - 1997, 1998
Southeast Conference Champion - 1998 (74)
WIAA Regional Champion - 1998 (72)

College
Walter Payton Award - 2002 (Top Division 1-AA Player)
All-American - 2000, 2001, 2002
All-Ohio Valley Conference - 2000, 2001, 2002
Ohio Vallery Conference Player of the Year - 2000, 2001, 2002
Eastern Illinois record - 85 career TD passes
Eastern Illinois record - 34 TD passes in a season - 2002
Eastern Illinois University - 1st player to have number retired
Eastern Illinois University - Hall of Fame 2009
Inducted in the NCAA College Football Hall of Fame - 2021

Professional
NFL Pro Bowl selection - 2006, 2007, 2009, 2014
NFL All-Pro - 2nd Team - 2014
NFC Passing Yards Leader - 2009
NFL Passer Rating Leader - 2014
NFL Completion % Leader - 2014
NFC TD Leader - 2007
Ed Block Courage Award - 2011
NFL Record - 41 consecutive road games with at least 1 TD pass
Dallas Cowboys record - 34,183 career passing yards
Dallas Cowboys record - 248 career touchdown passes
Dallas Cowboys record - 40 games with 3 TD passes
Dallas Cowboys record - 46 games with 300 yards passing
Dallas Cowboys record - 38 consecutive games with TD pass

Other information *(not previously listed)*

Broadcasting
Nominated for Sports Emmy - Outstanding Sports Personality/Analyst - 2018, 2019
Announcer - Super Bowl LIII, Super Bowl LV

Letters of Recommendation

WISCONSIN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

5516 Vern Holmes Drive • Stevens Point, WI • 54482-8833
Phone 715-344-8580 • FAX 715-344-4241 • email info@wiaawi.org • Web site www.wiaawi.org

November 14, 2022

NFHS Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Committee Members,

The WIAA proudly nominates Mr. Tony Romo for induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame.

A 1998 graduate of Burlington High School in Burlington, WI, Mr. Romo exemplifies success both in athletics and life. Starting out as a soccer player, Tony excelled in football, basketball and golf in high school eventually playing NCAA Division I football at Eastern Illinois (where he is a member of their Hall of Fame). Mr. Romo had a very successful career in the NFL and now as a sports broadcaster, both of which are evident in our supporting documentation attached to this nomination. Tony positively represents his Burlington community and the entire state of Wisconsin and is very deserving of this honor.

We recognize that there are many fine and deserving nominees for this Nation Federation recognition, but we firmly believe that Tony Romo must be recognized among the very best of the best for his contributions to high school sports and beyond.

Please accept this nomination of Tony Romo for inclusion in the class of 2023 National Federation of High Schools Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Hauser
Executive Director
Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association

October 31, 2022

Dear Hall of Fame Director/Selection Committee:

The reason for my reaching out to you today is to ask for your consideration of Tony Romo as a candidate for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame.

My name is Steve Gerber and for 35 years I was a teacher and coach in the Burlington Area School District. With pride, I was Tony's head football coach during his junior and senior years (1997-1998).

In a short period of time it became abundantly clear that Tony was an incredibly gifted athlete. Graduating in 1998, he was recognized by the state of Wisconsin as an all-state athlete in football, basketball and golf. But he was much more than just a gifted athlete. He was also a young man that possessed the unique and frequently uncommon ability to lead and/or follow, depending on the situation and circumstance.

To elaborate, as I spent more time working with and around Tony, it became very apparent that there was a close, mutual respect that existed within his family. His upbringing clearly laid a foundation for balancing activity time with family time as he was involved in multiple sports throughout high school. As he progressed through high school, family support was something that was always present and he was extremely loyal to this responsibility.

When interacting with his teammates and peers, Tony could identify with just about everyone. Having so much success in athletics could have made it difficult for him to relate to others, yet he seemed to learn at a young age the importance of kindness, patience and frequently, trust. He absolutely led by his performance on the field, but also by his actions off the field.

Tony loved to compete. All the time. He seemed to gain amazing confidence and experience from placing himself in competitive situations. Over time, one could see and feel his leadership presence on the field, the court or even golf course and how it frequently served to elevate other teammates performances.

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to hear Tony speak to the crowd at half time of a recent Burlington High School football game. He spoke on a number of topics but at the very end of his talk, he chose to share some advice. Tony encouraged the people in attendance to never hesitate to tell a person that they are special, that they matter and that you believe in them. He went on to explain that he heard similar words of encouragement, from a highly respected coach, over 25 years ago, when unsure about how interested he was in playing the sport of football. Of course Tony did opt for football and this "highly respected coach" mentioned was also my coaching predecessor and for certain, a wise mentor for me as well.

In conclusion, to the selection committee, thank you for your time and consideration of Tony Romo as a candidate for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame. I believe Tony is

more than worthy and a prime example of an athlete who represented and continues to represent, all the great ideals of high school sports.

Sincerely,

Steve J. Gerber
Burlington High School
(teacher/coach 1979-2014)

(Home)
517 Walnut Street
Burlington WI 53105
(262)-210-0452

BURLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL
A Community of Learners

400 McCANNA PARKWAY
BURLINGTON, WISCONSIN 53105
(262) 763-0200
FAX (262) 763-0216

11/08/22
To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to give the highest recommendation to Tony Romo for consideration into The National Federation of High School Association Athletic Hall of Fame. I had the extreme privilege of being Tony's high school basketball coach while he attended Burlington (WI) High School. One can determine from reading the biography on the NFHS nomination form about Tony's athletic talents and realize what an accomplished athlete he was at every level. However, what I found inspiring was what made his tremendous athletic success possible. During the duration I have known him, Tony has amazed me time and time again with his leadership, passion, purpose, hard work, and kindness as he conquered challenges and obstacles that happened to have gotten in his way. From his high school days to his professional football career, and now in his broadcasting role, Tony has seized every opportunity to hone his innate talents and attributes and his imprint will be forever left on our school and community.

A notable quality Tony exhibited was his natural and very keen leadership ability. This intrinsic capacity to lead spans multiple venues yet always made an impressionable impact on those around him. Tony was a very driven and direct leader but he did so prudently and with purpose. This ability allowed him to channel his desire for success for himself and others with an approachable demeanor thus creating an environment that created lasting connections with those associated with him. Though he was soft-spoken he was still able to use his quiet yet fierce confidence to exude acceptance while still making connections. Tony did this with a positive force by encouraging, supporting, and demanding teammates to give their very best. Elevating others and inspiring those around him, Tony continued to vigorously lead with passion that was never blinding.

Tony also possessed a relentless pursuit of perfection that moved above and beyond what most others do for success in athletics. Tony was different as his thirst for the chance to learn and grow was simply much larger than the average athlete. This ambition brought a constant curiosity to explore, research, and practice various ways to reach the top. From throwing a football, to shooting a basketball, to hitting a golf shot, Tony always searched to find every advantage possible. Combined with countless hours of purposeful practice to master his desired craft he never stopped working until he reached his desired level of success. As an ambitious and talented student of any game he played he was always looking for an edge. He defines what it takes to be a winner as he continued to seek ways to overcome challenges while never wavering from the high standards set by Tony, himself. Tony desired to be directly involved in learning by incessantly questioning and actively participating in the process. However, what always separated him from others was using his perfectionistic tendencies to inspire others around him to follow in his lead.

Being a student-athlete also served Tony well when one looks at what challenges awaited ahead during his post-high school years. During his more difficult moments his perseverance always rose to the forefront, and was recognized by his teammates, coaches, and needless to say, his fans. Tony approached professional challenges with a positive mindset while staying true to his commitments and his desire to do what he believed was in his best interest. His unyielding quest to reach his goals and dreams did not go without making service to others a priority, and that quality continues to exist today. Tony exemplified leadership, sportsmanship, and citizenship that also exceeded his competitive spirit while always remaining kind and humble. Tony is an ideal candidate for induction into the NFHS Athletic Hall of Fame because he chose to always show value in responsibility and character throughout all levels of his career. His drive for excellence is a representation of what we want today's student-athletes to all strive to embody. If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call (262) 763-0190.

Sincerely,

Steve Berezowitz
School Counselor/Head Basketball Coach
Burlington High School (WI)

Hans Block
316 Hickory Dr.
Burlington, WI. 53105
262-492-0035

October 26, 2022

To Whom it may Concern,

It is a privilege to write a letter of recommendation for Tony Romo supporting his nomination and consideration for induction into The National Federation of High School Association Athletic Hall of Fame. Tony was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Burlington High School. He participated in football, basketball, and golf. Tony is a gifted athlete, and he went on to obtain all-state honors in all three sports while in high school.

I was a member of the Burlington High School Football staff when Tony played for us. It was a blessing to work with him and to be around him for those seasons. He was incredibly competitive and the ultimate team player. He always encouraged his teammates while also being a tireless worker at practice and during the off-season. Tony had the ability to understand abstract concepts and recognize things that other players did not see. His ability to quickly identify a situation, adjust, or make quick decisions fostered his competitive spirit. Tony has always exhibited incredible leadership. He had a knack for saying the right thing, to the right people, at the right time. He had the ability to make the other people around him better and challenged his teammates to step up, play smart, and work together. Tony went on to have an elite career playing college football at Eastern Illinois University. He was recognized for his great play and was awarded the Walter Payton Award given annually to the most valuable player in Division 1AA Football. He went on to an illustrious career in the NFL with the Dallas Cowboys, where he played for 14 years and was the starting quarterback for 10 seasons. Tony currently holds the position of lead football analyst covering NFL Football for CBS Television.

I was fortunate to be the head football coach at Burlington High School for twelve years. During those years, Tony would return to Burlington, Wisconsin, and conduct a youth fundamental football camp for 15 consecutive summers. During those days at camp, it was easy to see the wonderful people skills that Tony possesses being put into practice. He worked directly with kids of all ages and abilities. He made it a point to high-five every kid at camp each year. Tony provided free t-shirts for all campers and treated everyone involved like they were family. Tony Romo, with his personal approach, his positive outlook, and his kindness, is a perfect representative of what we as educators and high school coaches look for in our future leaders. He is the ideal example and role model of how we want the young people we work with to become successful and to go on to bigger and better things while still retaining the class, high level of character, and wholesome values. Tony still returns to Burlington annually and continues to be very supportive of our high school athletic programs. He's a terrific young man. It is with the highest level of support that I recommend Tony Romo for consideration for induction into the NFHS Hall of Fame. I can think of no one that I have ever worked with to be more deserving of such an honor.

Respectfully,

Hans Block
Former Head Football Coach
Burlington High School - Burlington Wisconsin

Support Data

Romo kicks soccer habit

BY JON COCA
Journal Times

Two years ago, Tony Romo walked into Burlington High School a soccer player. Today, he's the most prolific quarterback in Racine County.

How did that come about? You might suspect Burlington football coach Steve Gerber — who'll watch Romo lead his Demons (9-2) against Cudahy (10-0) in a WIAA Division 2 state quarterfinal game at 1 this afternoon at Cudahy — either was responsible for the school's 1994 soccer schedule or still owes a favor to whomever did.

"We didn't really have a freshman (soccer) team, so we played three games in a row against the same team, and that didn't sound like a lot of fun to me," Romo said. "I wasn't good enough for the junior varsity (soccer) team, so I tried out for football."

Romo, 6-foot-2 and 200 pounds, had never played football before he tried out for the freshman team; he made the team but didn't start. In his sophomore year a broken left middle finger prevented him from having any impact at the junior varsity level.

So two years into his newly-found fall sport he'd seen only minimal playing time. Many players would have given up the sport at that point, knowing that limited experience would hinder their playing time at the varsity level.

In a spring scrimmage with Park, Romo dislocated the middle finger on his right (throwing) hand after earning the starting position. Luckily for this year's Demons, Romo is no quitter.

"I didn't really know a lot about him, but when we started working together in summer practice you could just see that he was head and shoulders above the other kids athletically," Gerber said. "He just had to catch up a little bit with knowledge of our offense, because they didn't do exactly the same thing at the sophomore level."

After sitting out the first game — a 15-0 loss to Hartford — Romo made his first start against Elkhorn. Although Burlington lost 34-14, Romo put a stranglehold on the position, completing 26 of 33 passes for 308 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

"Before the year started, I knew I had a shot at being the quarterback but I didn't really think I was actually going to do this well in the passing offense," Romo said. "It's working out great."

Entering today's game Romo has completed 117 of 173 passes (67.6 percent) for 1,688 yards, 24 touchdowns and just six interceptions. More importantly, he's led the Demons to nine straight victories.

Not bad for a soccer player.

"I think the quarterback always has to be the person who steps up and I think he knew that, when he came in and knew he was starting," senior wide receiver Steve Tenhagen said. "We let him know he was going to have to be a leader."

Romo
Demons

Leadership is a role Romo, a point guard on the Demons' basketball team, is used to. But it's still tough to step in as an unproven junior and lead seniors used to winning. Romo had to earn the confidence of his elder teammates.

"They obviously accept him for his leadership and abilities because the kids have seen that he can do it on the field," Gerber said. "A lot of times we'll talk on the sidelines and — I hate to give him credit for it — but he'll see things or recommend things, as a 17-year-old, that I didn't see," Gerber said. "When you have a kid on the field that is a student of the game it just makes things so much easier."

But good quarterbacks are nothing new to Burlington High School football. The past two seasons the Demons had a pair of Ryans, Hoffman and Dussalt, who threw for 19 and 29 touchdowns respectively. Both made the All-Racine County first team.

Even though both were accomplished high school quarterbacks, they made the first team for different reasons. Dussalt had a strong arm and did a lot of three-step drops. He knew the game and, because of his preparation, he knew where a window would be to put the ball.

Hoffman threw on the run and didn't often stay in the pocket. Gerber liked to get him on the corner and send him on a bootleg play.

"He (Romo) is kind of a combination of both of them," Gerber said. "He has a decent arm and yet he can move on the run and can throw effectively that way.

"It gives us some more vesatility. I know we can drop back five steps, and I know he is going to throw the ball where there is a window. It provides a lot of flexibility."

Versatility and flexibility are terms that fit Romo: In the 1995-96 school year he made the All-County first team in golf and received All-County honorable mention in boys' basketball, his first love.

"I've been playing basketball since I was three, so it just comes easiest for me," Romo said. "Football has gotten a lot more fun. I'd have to say it's passed up golf."

Burlington (9-2) plays at Cudahy today at 1 p.m. in a WIAA Division 1 quarterfinal game; Racine Lutheran plays Stevens Point Pacelli in a WISAA Division 3 semifinal today at 1:30 p.m. at Horlick Field.

38°

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(Spectrum News 1/Dan Molloy)

SPORTS

Burlington High School dedicates Tony Romo Field

BY DAN MOLLOY | MILWAUKEE
PUBLISHED 1:30 PM ET OCT. 01, 2022

BURLINGTON, Wis. — Tony Romo returned to his hometown Friday for his first Burlington football game since his 1997 senior season. In a special halftime ceremony, the school dedicated its new synthetic turf surface as Tony Romo Field.

As the Demons ran wild in a 47-14 win over Beloit Memorial, two of Romo's three sons supplied water to players on the Burlington sideline. Their first experience of

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those players. They're like heroes to you.

By the time he graduated in 1998, Romo was a star in football, basketball and golf — the first student-athlete at BHS to earn All-State honors in three sports. He was a three-time All-American at Eastern Illinois, earning the 2002 Walter Payton Award as the top player in Division I-AA (now known as FCS).

The Dallas Cowboys gave him a chance as an undrafted free agent, and Romo went on to become the face of the franchise, retiring in 2017 as the team's all-time leading passer.

In a speech at Friday's field dedication, Romo told the Homecoming crowd his football career was only possible because people in Burlington believed in him.

> *I just want to do a small part to hopefully help out and give back the same way people did for me.*

"[It was] the teachers, the coaches, the community, and how much that affected me growing up," Romo said. "I just want to do a small part to hopefully help out and give back the same way people did for me."

Romo continues to give back to his hometown school. He hosted football camps at his alma mater from 2004 to 2019, and joined local donors to fund the new playing surface at Don Dalton Stadium. With his family, former teammates and coaches beside him at halftime, Romo repeatedly thanked his hometown for its support.

"I don't take it for granted," Romo said. "Burlington is home. It always will be, and I love coming back and seeing you guys, so thank you for that."

Romo's stop in Burlington coincides with a CBS Sports assignment in Green Bay. He and broadcast partner Jim Nantz will be on the call for Sunday's 3:25 p.m. game between the Packers and Patriots.

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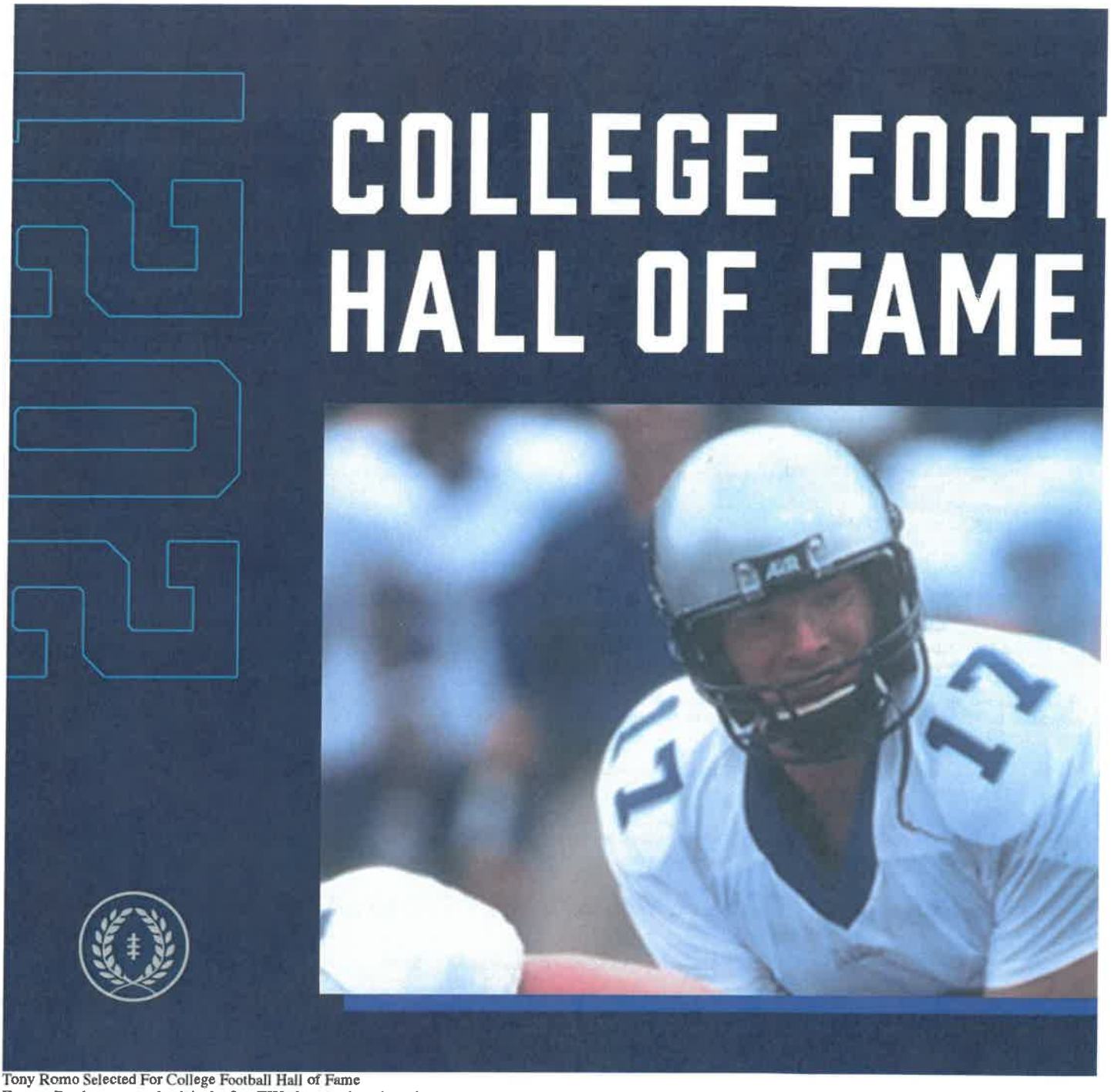

Tony Romo Selected For College Football Hall of Fame
Former Panthers quarterback is the first EIU player to be selected
Football
Posted: 1/11/2021 11:45:00 AM
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IRVING, Texas (Jan. 11, 2021) – The National Football Foundation (NFF) & College Hall of Fame announced today the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class during "SportsCenter" on ESPN.

Included in today's select group of inductees is former Eastern Illinois quarterback Tony Romo. Romo becomes the first Eastern Illinois player selected to the College Football Hall of Fame and joins former EIU head coach Darrell Mudra as inductees from EIU.

The winner of the 2002 Walter Payton Award as the top player in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS), Tony Romo goes down as one of the greatest players in Eastern Illinois history. He deservedly becomes the first Panther player to enter the College Football Hall of Fame.

A First Team All-American in 2002, Romo became the first three-time Ohio Valley Conference Offensive Player of the Year in league history. The Walter Payton Award winner led the Panthers to consecutive conference titles (2001, 2002) and three-straight FCS Playoff berths. EIU was 25-10 overall and 17-2 in OVC games with Romo as the starter, and the team was nationally ranked during his final three seasons.

A three-time First Team All-OVC selection, Romo set conference and school records for single-season (34 in 2002) and career (85) touchdown passes, which remained unbroken for more than a decade. The 2001 Third Team All-American owns the school record with a 157.5 career passing efficiency, and he ranks third in career passing yards with 8,212. In 2009, Romo was inducted into the EIU Athletic Hall of Fame; the same day, he became the first player to have his number retired by the Panthers.

After going undrafted in 2003, Romo would put together a standout NFL career with the Dallas Cowboys from 2003-16. The four-time Pro Bowl selection holds Cowboy records for career passing yards and passing touchdowns.

Off the field, Romo has annually hosted youth football camps in his hometown of Burlington, Wisconsin. He is also heavily involved with the United Way, Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Since retiring with the Cowboys, Romo has served as the lead color analyst for CBS' NFL telecasts, working alongside Jim Nantz.

Romo becomes the third player that played in the Ohio Valley Conference to be inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame joining Jim Youngblood from Tennessee Tech and George Floyd Jr., from Eastern Kentucky. Three former head coaches from the OVC have also been inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame with Roy Kidd (Eastern Kentucky), James "Boots" Donnelly (Middle Tennessee/Austin Peay) and Frank Beamer (Murray State).

The remainder of the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class is listed below with additional information on the ceremony. Information on each 2021 HOF Inductee is available at https://www.cfbhall.com/

2021 COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME CLASS

PLAYERS:
* Harris Barton – OT, North Carolina (1983-86)
* David Fulcher – DB, Arizona State (1983-85)
* Dan Morgan – LB, Miami [FL] (1997-2000)
* Carson Palmer – QB, Southern California (1998-2002)
* Tony Romo – QB, Eastern Illinois (1999-2002)
* Kenneth Sims – DT, Texas (1978-81)
* C.J. Spiller – RB/KR, Clemson (2006-09)
* Darren Sproles – RB, Kansas State (2001-04)
* Aaron Taylor – OT, Notre Dame (1990-93)
* Andre Tippett – DE, Iowa (1979-81)
* Al Wilson – LB, Tennessee (1995-98)

COACHES:
* Rudy Hubbard – 83-48-3 (63.1%); Florida A&M (1974-85)
* Bob Stoops – 190-48-0 (79.8%); Oklahoma (1999-2016)

The 11 First Team All-America players and two standout coaches in the 2021 Class were selected from the national ballot of 78 players and seven coaches from the Football Bowl Subdivision and the 99 players and 33 coaches from the divisional ranks.

"We are extremely proud to announce the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class," said Archie Manning, NFF Chairman and a 1989 College Football Hall of Famer from Mississippi. "Each of these men has established himself among the absolute best to have ever played or coached the game, and we look forward to immortalizing their incredible accomplishments."

The 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class will officially be inducted during the 63rd NFF Annual Awards Dinner on Dec. 7 alongside the 2020 Hall of Fame Class (the 2020 event was canceled due to COVID-19).

The inductees will also be recognized at their respective collegiate institutions with NFF Hall of Fame On-Campus Salutes, presented by Fidelity Investments, during the fall. Their accomplishments will be forever immortalized at the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame in Atlanta, and each inductee will receive a custom ring created by Jostens, the official and exclusive supplier of NFF rings and awards.

"With two College Football Hall of Fame classes, the NFF Annual Awards Dinner will prove to be one of the biggest events in the NFF's history when it returns this December," said NFF President & CEO Steve Hatchell. "We are beyond excited to announce the 2021 electees and look forward to making induction worth the wait for the 2020 class."

The announcement of the 2021 Class was made today during the Noon ET edition of "SportsCenter" on ESPN.

"We want to thank ESPN for the opportunity to announce the 2021 College Football Hall of Fame Class during 'SportsCenter,'" said Hatchell. "Today's announcement shines a light on the accomplishments of some of college football's greatest legends."
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Tony Romo lands second Emmy nomination for broadcast talents

By PATRIK WALKER - Apr 4, 2019

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Tony Romo has taken over.

The former franchise quarterback for the Dallas Cowboys has rapidly seen himself go from America's favorite sports figure to hate to the broadcaster they absolutely can not live without. The 2016 season was an emotionally tumultuous one for the four-time pro bowler, who went down on Aug. 25 with another back injury in what could've been the most dynamic season of his career. That would open the door for fourth-round pick Dak Prescott, who took the reins and never looked back. Romo, being the class act and consummate leader he is, conceded the starting role officially that November and went out with a bang against the Philadelphia Eagles — effortlessly marching the Cowboys down the field on a six-play, 81-yard drive punctuated by a touchdown dime to wide receiver Terrance Williams.

He'd then leave the field, and his playing days in the NFL, for good.

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His release in Spring 2017 was amicable, and even included the Cowboys relinquishing his football rights — something they weren't required to do. He'd immediately take up the post as No. 1 color commentator for CBS Sports, and Romo hasn't just been colorful. He's been an 800-count pack of Crayola. In other words, he's pretty good at what he does. As evidence to that compliment, the four-time pro bowl QB has been named Sports Illustrated's "Media Person of the Year" in 2017 and his tandem with Jim Nantz was dubbed No. 1 broadcasting duo in the NFL that same year.

He was also nominated in 2017 for an Emmy, and he's now achieved that feat in both of his first two seasons in the booth — with CBS Sports announcing Romo has landed the nomination yet again for 2018.

He's up against veterans Kirk Herbstreit and John Smoltz for the honor, with the former having beaten Romo out one year ago.

That's stiff competition, but given just how much Romo has already changed the genre, he'll no doubt hold his own in the discussion for who deserves to land the coveted award. His brand of enthused (nearly giddy) coverage that includes using his alien football IQ to predict plays is infectious, and has many tuning more to find out what he'll say next as opposed to watching the game he's covering. After all, this is the same guy who kept the world entertained by analyzing a cat running onto Lambeau Field during a lightning delay in 2017.

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Win or lose, thanks to him, sportscasting will never be the same. Between that and receiving sponsor exemptions to participate in PGA Tour events, it's safe to assume the once most vilified sports figure on Earth is now the polar opposite and enjoying every minute of it.

Move over Raymond Barone. It's taken only two short years, but now everybody loves Romo.

Start the Conversation

Amari Cooper trade: Cowboys send WR to Browns for NFL Draft picks

By BRAD CRAWFORD - Sat Mar 12 2022

Share 3 Comments

The Dallas Cowboys traded wide receiver **Amari Cooper** and a sixth-round pick to the Cleveland Browns for a firth-round selection and sixth-round pick in the upcoming 2022 NFL Draft, **ESPN's Adam Schefter reports**.

Cooper was due $20 million in fully-guaranteed money on the fifth day of the new league year, March 20. Moving Cooper to another teams saves Dallas $16 million against the 2022 cap. Cooper is midway through a five-year, $100 million contract that runs through the 2024 season. He has been with the Cowboys since they traded for him in the middle of the 2018 season. Last year, in 15 games, Cooper caught 68 passes

PRO FOOTBALL REFERENCE

Ep. 6 of the For Your Reference Podcast is out now! Listen on Spotify, Youtube, Apple or Google Podcasts.

Tony Romo

Antonio Ramiro Romo
Position: QB **Throws:** Right
6-2, 230lb (188cm, 104kg)
Born: April 21, 1980 in San Diego, CA (Age: 42-207d)
College: Eastern Illinois
Weighted Career AV (100-95-...): 95 (196th overall since 1960)
High School: Burlington (WI)
Instagram: tony.romo

4x Pro Bowl

Passing

Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	QBrec	Cmp	Att	Cmp%	Yds	TD	TD%	Int	Int%	1D	Lng	Y/A	AY/A	Y/C	Y/G	Rate	QBR	Sk	Yds	Sk%	N
2004	24	DAL	QB	9	6	0		0	0		0	0		0			0				0.0			0	0		
2005	25	DAL	QB	9	16	0		0	0		0	0		0			0				0.0			0	0		
2006*	26	DAL	QB	9	16	10	6-4-0	220	337	65.3	2903	19	5.6	13	3.9	144	56	**8.6**	8.0	13.2	181.4	95.1	63.5	21	124	5.9	7
2007*	27	DAL	QB	9	16	16	13-3-0	335	520	64.4	4211	36	6.9	19	3.7	216	59	8.1	7.8	12.6	263.2	97.4	76.9	24	176	4.4	7
2008	28	DAL	QB	9	13	13	8-5-0	276	450	61.3	3448	26	5.8	14	3.1	149	75	7.7	7.4	12.5	265.2	91.4	60.8	20	123	4.3	7
2009*	29	DAL	QB	9	16	16	11-5-0	347	550	63.1	4483	26	4.7	9	1.6	203	80	8.2	8.4	12.9	280.2	97.6	65.5	34	196	5.8	7
2010	30	DAL	QB	9	6	6	1-5-0	148	213	69.5	1605	11	5.2	7	3.3	73	69	7.5	7.1	10.8	267.5	94.9	66.4	7	41	3.2	7
2011	31	DAL	QB	9	16	16	8-8-0	346	522	66.3	4184	31	5.9	10	1.9	203	77	8.0	8.3	12.1	261.5	102.5	69.0	36	227	6.5	7
2012	32	DAL	QB	9	16	16	8-8-0	425	648	65.6	4903	28	4.3	**19**	2.9	232	85	7.6	7.1	11.5	306.4	90.5	65.4	36	263	5.3	6
2013	33	DAL	QB	9	15	15	8-7-0	342	535	63.9	3828	31	5.8	10	1.9	198	82	7.2	7.5	11.2	255.2	96.7	61.9	35	272	6.1	6
2014*	34	DAL	QB	9	15	15	12-3-0	304	435	**69.9**	3705	34	**7.8**	9	2.1	191	68	**8.5**	9.1	12.2	247.0	**113.2**	**79.7**	29	215	6.3	7
2015	35	DAL	QB	9	4	4	3-1-0	83	121	68.6	884	5	4.1	7	5.8	47	39	7.3	5.5	10.7	221.0	79.4	50.5	6	35	4.7	6
2016	36	DAL	QB	9	1	0		3	4	75	29	1	25	0	0	3	15	7.3	12.3	9.7	29.0	134.4	99.0	0	0	0	7
Career					**156**	**127**	**78-49-0**	**2829**	**4335**	**65.3**	**34183**	**248**	**5.7**	**117**	**2.7**	**1659**	**85**	**7.9**	**7.8**	**12.1**	**219.1**	**97.1**		**248**	**1672**	**5.4**	**7**

24 comebacks, 29 game-winning drives - full summary

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Adjusted Passing

Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	QBrec	Att	Y/A+	NY/A+	AY/A+	ANY/A+	Cmp%+	TD%+	Int%+	Sack%+	Rate+
2006*	26	DAL	QB	9	16	10	6-4-0	337	**135**	**131**	123	122	117	118	88	104	119
2007*	27	DAL	QB	9	16	16	13-3-0	520	125	124	121	121	113	133	90	111	121
2008	28	DAL	QB	9	13	13	8-5-0	450	114	116	112	114	101	119	98	112	110
2009*	29	DAL	QB	9	16	16	11-5-0	550	122	121	123	122	107	107	118	101	117
2010	30	DAL	QB	9	6	6	1-5-0	213	108	115	106	110	128	110	95	123	112
2011	31	DAL	QB	9	16	16	8-8-0	522	119	116	122	120	120	119	115	98	123
2012	32	DAL	QB	9	16	16	8-8-0	648	109	110	105	106	117	100	97	109	106
2013	33	DAL	QB	9	15	15	8-7-0	535	100	99	109	108	109	116	113	102	113
2014*	34	DAL	QB	9	15	15	12-3-0	435	**131**	126	131	128	**130**	**138**	108	101	**134**
2015	35	DAL	QB	9	4	4	3-1-0	121	102	107	78	82	123	96	38	111	85
Career					**156**	**127**	**78-49-0**	**4335**									

Rushing & Receiving

					Games		Rushing							Receiving										Total Yds			
Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	Rush	Yds	TD	1D	Lng	Y/A	Y/G	A/G	Tgt	Rec	Yds	Y/R	TD	1D	Lng	R/G	Y/G	Ctch%	Y/Tgt	Touch	Y/Tch	YScm	RRTD
2005	25	DAL	QB	9	16	0	2	-2	0		-1	-1.0	-0.1	0.1												2	-1.0	-2	0
2006*	26	DAL	QB	9	16	10	34	102	0	9	16	3.0	6.4	2.1												34	3.0	102	0
2007*	27	DAL	QB	9	16	16	31	129	2	8	17	4.2	8.1	1.9												31	4.2	129	2
2008	28	DAL	QB	9	13	13	28	41	0	4	15	1.5	3.2	2.2												28	1.5	41	0
2009*	29	DAL	QB	9	16	16	35	105	1	5	17	3.0	6.6	2.2												35	3.0	105	1
2010	30	DAL	QB	9	6	6	6	38	0	2	14	6.3	6.3	1.0	0	0	11		0	0	11	0.0	1.8	0.0%		6	8.2	49	0
2011	31	DAL	QB	9	16	16	22	46	1	4	17	2.1	2.9	1.4												22	2.1	46	1
2012	32	DAL	QB	9	16	16	30	49	1	6	15	1.6	3.1	1.9	1	1	-1	-1.0	0	0	-1	0.1	-0.1	100.0%	-1.0	31	1.5	48	1
2013	33	DAL	QB	9	15	15	20	38	0	5	15	1.9	2.5	1.3												20	1.9	38	0
2014*	34	DAL	QB	9	15	15	26	61	0	6	21	2.3	4.1	1.7												26	2.3	61	0
2015	35	DAL	QB	9	4	4	4	13	0	1	12	3.3	3.3	1.0												4	3.3	13	0
Career					**156**	**127**	**238**	**620**	**5**	**50**	**21**	**2.6**	**4.0**	**1.5**	**1**	**1**	**10**	**10.0**	**0**	**0**	**11**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**100.0%**	**10.0**	**239**	**2.6**	**630**	**5**

Defense & Fumbles

					Games		Def Interceptions					Fumbles					Tackles					
Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	Int	Yds	TD	Lng	PD	FF	Fmb	FR	Yds	TD	Sk	Comb	Solo	Ast	TFL	QBHits	Sfty
2006*	26	DAL	QB	9	16	10						0	9	3	-20	0	0.0						
2007*	27	DAL	QB	9	16	16						0	10	5	-4	0	0.0						
2008	28	DAL	QB	9	13	13						0	13	3	-29	0	0.0						
2009*	29	DAL	QB	9	16	16						0	6	2	-5	0	0.0						
2011	31	DAL	QB	9	16	16						0	6	6	-3	0	0.0						
2012	32	DAL	QB	9	16	16						0	6	2	-15	0	0.0						
2013	33	DAL	QB	9	15	15						0	4	4	-6	0	0.0						
2014*	34	DAL	QB	9	15	15						0	7	3	-13	0	0.0						
2015	35	DAL	QB	9	4	4						0	1	1	0	0	0.0						
Career					**156**	**127**						**0**	**62**	**29**	**-95**	**0**	**0.0**						

Scoring Summary

Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	RshTD	RecTD	PR TD	KR TD	FbITD	IntTD	OthTD	AllTD	2PM	2PA	D2P	XPM	XPA	FGM	FGA	Sfty	Pts	Pts/G
2006*	26	DAL	QB	9	16	10									1								2	0.1
2007*	27	DAL	QB	9	16	16	2							2									12	0.8
2009*	29	DAL	QB	9	16	16	1							1									6	0.4

Snap Counts

					Games		Off.		Def.		ST	
Year	Age	Tm	Pos	No.	G	GS	Num	Pct	Num	Pct	Num	Pct
2012	32	DAL	QB	9	16	16	1089	99%	0	0%	0	0%
2013	33	DAL	QB	9	15	15	920	99%	0	0%	0	0%
2014*	34	DAL	QB	9	15	15	968	97%	0	0%	0	0%
2015	35	DAL	QB	9	4	4	232	82%	0	0%	0	0%
2016	36	DAL	QB	9	1	0	7	13%	0	0%	0	0%
Career							**3216**		**0**		**0**	

Similar Players

NumYrs	Players whose career was of similar quality and shape
3	Chad Pennington, Trent Green, Bubby Brister, Tommy Kramer, Gary Danielson, Alex Smith, Mike Phipps, Greg Landry, Eric Hipple, Scott Mitchell
4	Philip Rivers, Matthew Stafford, Joe Montana*, Greg Landry, Jeff Blake, Trent Green, Drew Brees, Tommy Kramer, Randall Cunningham, Troy Aikman*
5	Trent Green, Matt Hasselbeck, Colin Kaepernick, Jeff Blake, Jim Hart, Philip Rivers, Tommy Kramer, Drew Brees, Matthew Stafford, Roger Staubach*
6	Trent Green, Jeff Blake, Carson Wentz, Dak Prescott, Matt Hasselbeck, Roger Staubach*, Matthew Stafford, Mark Rypien, Drew Brees, Steve McNair
7	Brian Sipe, Jameis Winston, Matt Hasselbeck, Mark Rypien, Scott Mitchell, Roger Staubach*, Ken Stabler*, Colin Kaepernick, Matt Schaub, Doug Williams
8	Aaron Brooks, Brian Sipe, Matt Hasselbeck, Roger Staubach*, Terry Bradshaw*, Kirk Cousins, Ken Stabler*, Michael Vick, Jim Everett, Derek Carr
9	Terry Bradshaw*, Joe Namath*, Drew Bledsoe, Matt Hasselbeck, Boomer Esiason, Ken Stabler*, Roger Staubach*, Jim Everett, Matthew Stafford, Ron Jaworski
10	Mark Brunell, Drew Bledsoe, Terry Bradshaw*, Matthew Stafford, Steve McNair, Boomer Esiason, Joe Namath*, Trent Green, Ken Stabler*, Joe Montana*
11	Matthew Stafford, Terry Bradshaw*, Steve McNair, Mark Brunell, Boomer Esiason, Joe Namath*, John Elway*, Ken Anderson, Roger Staubach*, Ken Stabler*
12	Matthew Stafford, Mark Brunell, Joe Namath*, Boomer Esiason, Terry Bradshaw*, Roger Staubach*, Steve McNair, Ken Stabler*, Michael Vick, Joe Theismann
13	Matthew Stafford, Mark Brunell, Alex Smith, Roger Staubach*, Joe Namath*, Steve McNair, Michael Vick, Joe Theismann, Boomer Esiason, Ken Stabler*
Career	Matthew Stafford, Mark Brunell, Roger Staubach*, Joe Namath*, Steve McNair, Joe Theismann, Alex Smith, Michael Vick, Jim Kelly*, Jim Everett

Appearances on Leaderboards, Awards, and Honors

Awards	AP MVP Shares	AP OPOY Shares	Pro Bowls
Player of the Week	**Player of the Month**	**Approximate Value**	**Approximate Value (Weighted)**
		2007 NFL 17 (7)	Career 95 (196)
Passes Completed	**Pass Attempts**	**Passing Yds**	**Passing TD**
Career 2829 (38)	Career 4335 (53)	Career 34183 (37)	Career 248 (24)
Passer Rating	**Long Pass**	**Passes Intercepted**	**Sacked**
2014 NFL 113.2 (1/13)		**2012 NFL 19 (1)**	Career 248 (87)
Career 97.1 (11)		Career 117 (93)	

Career 7.9 (8)

Pass Attempts/Game
Career 27.8 (75)

Adj Yds/Pass Att
Career 7.81 (9)

Net Yds/Pass Att
2006 NFL 7.76 (1/42)
Career 7.09 (4)

Adj Net Yds/Pass Att
Career 7.03 (9)

Passes Completed/Game
Career 18.1 (50)

Pass Completion %
2014 NFL 69.9% (1/21)
Career 65.3% (13)

Pass Intercept. %
Career 2.7% (49)

Passing TD %
2014 NFL 7.8% (1/53)
Career 5.7% (21)

Sack %
Career 5.41% (38)

QBR
2014 NFL 79.7 (1/11)

Game-Winning Drives
Career 29 (22)

Comebacks
2012 NFL 5 (1/11)
Career 24 (21)

Pass Completion % Idx
2014 NFL 130 (1/64)

Yds/Pass Att Idx
2006 NFL 135 (1/50)
2014 NFL 131 (1/76)

Adj Yds/Pass Att Idx

Net Yds/Pass Att Idx
2006 NFL 131 (1/44)

Adj Net Yds/Pass Att Idx

Pass Intercept. % Idx

Sack % Idx

Passing TD % Idx
2014 NFL 138 (1/29)

Passer Rating Idx
2014 NFL 134 (1/45)

2-pt. Conv. Made
Career 2 (114)

Total Offense
Career 33131 (39)

Fumbles
Career 62 (94)

Fumbles Recovered
2011 NFL 6 (1/52)
Career 29 (35)

Hall of Fame Monitor

PFR HOF Monitor: **45.78** (57th among QB, average HOF QB is 104.14)

All-Pro Teams

Year	Tm	Level	Pos	Voters
2014	2nd Tm		QB	Associated Press

Fantasy

Year	Age	G	FantPos	FantPt	VBD	PosRank	OvRank
2004	24	6				75	
2005	25	16	QB			77	
2006	26	16	QB	174		16	
2007	27	16	QB	295	91	2	10
2008	28	13	QB	204		12	
2009	29	16	QB	274	46	6	34
2010	30	6	QB	99		29	
2011	31	16	QB	276	53	7	25
2012	32	16	QB	279	28	8	51
2013	33	15	QB	261	2	10	71
2014	34	15	QB	266	1	11	73
2015	35	4	QB	41		41	
2016	36	1	QB	5		58	
				2174			

Combine Measurements

Year	Pos	Ht	Wt	40yd	Bench	Broad Jump	Shuttle	3Cone	Vertical
2003	QB	74	230	5.01		105	4.20	7.11	30.0

Transactions

April 4, 2017: The Dallas Cowboys released QB Tony Romo.

November 16, 2016: The Dallas Cowboys activated QB Tony Romo.

November 13, 2016: De-Activated

November 9, 2016: The Dallas Cowboys activated QB Tony Romo.

November 6, 2016: De-Activated

Show 19 more transactions

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: [signature]

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 indiviudal 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 slection 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.

Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer

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,

Robert A. Lombardi

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,

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

Support Data

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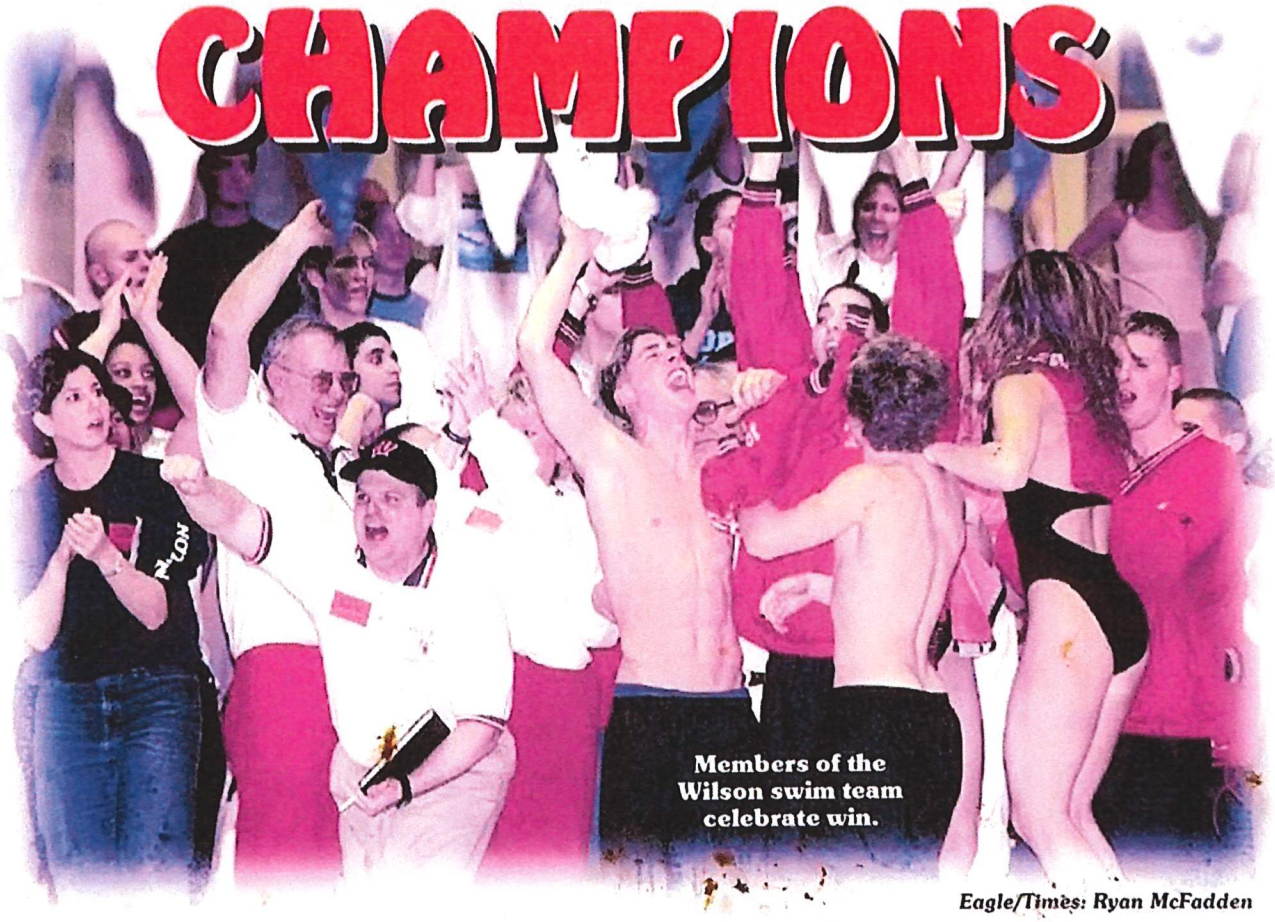
SUNDAY, MARCH 11, 2001 www.readingeagle.com $1.50 SINGLE COPY

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 everything 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 McLin set a tone that the Bulldogs maintained for the rest of the day.

McLin 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, McLin 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."

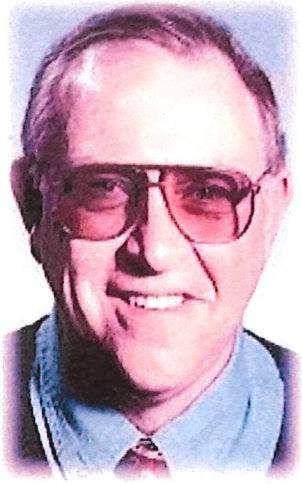
So did Robinson's win in the 500 free. Seeded third going into the meet, he swam his preliminary heat next to Thomas Fletcher of Seneca Valley, the sixth seed.

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



Coach Roy Snyder

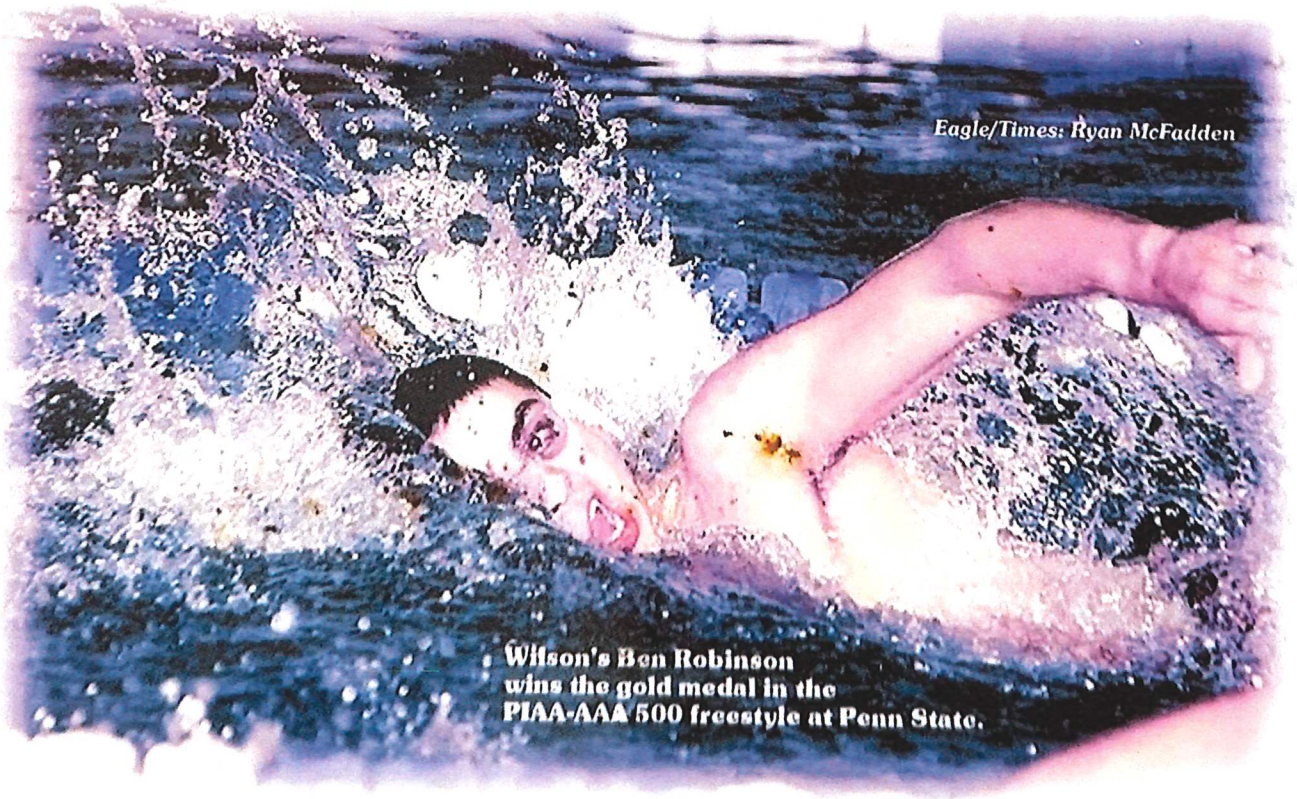
The Bulldogs punctuated their championship by winning the meet-ending 400 free relay – their seventh medal of the weekend and third gold – and did it in grand style.

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.

SUNDAY • MARCH 10, 2002
Reading Eagle SPORTS Reading Times
www.readingeagle.com

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.

Reading Eagle SATURDAY • MARCH 9, 2002 SPORTS Reading Times
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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, incuding 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

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

MORE HIGH SCHOOL

2023 FHSAA 2A ROUNDUP: REGIONS HIGHLIGHTS AND STATE QUALIFIERS

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 Walker, Tatlow, Molacek

Video Interview: Logan Lassley of OBU on Breaking the NAIA 50 Free Record »

LEAVE A REPLY

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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

KAII 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

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

Load Rest of Comments

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

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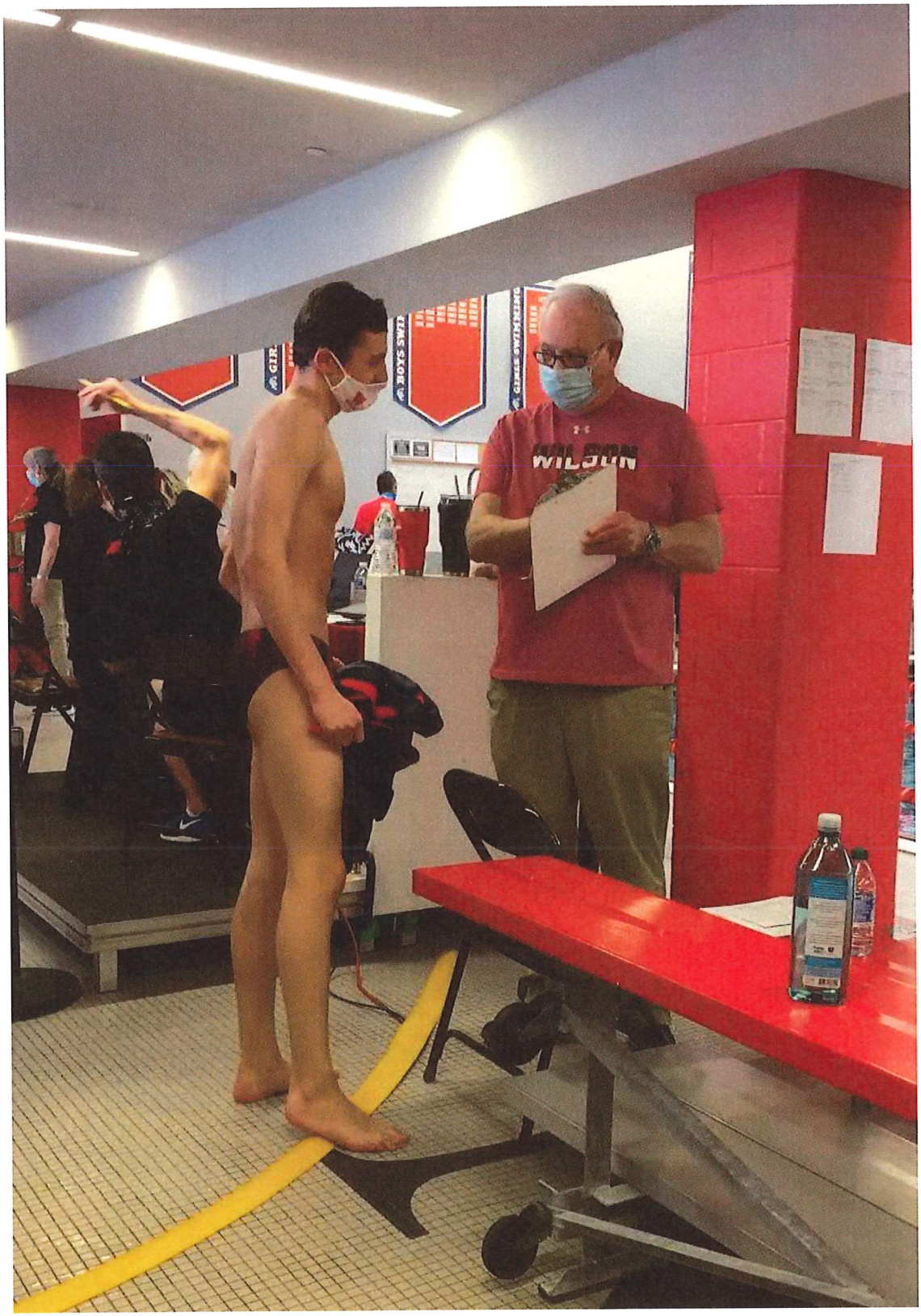
Wilson boys swimming coach Roy Snyder still going strong at age 83



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 or 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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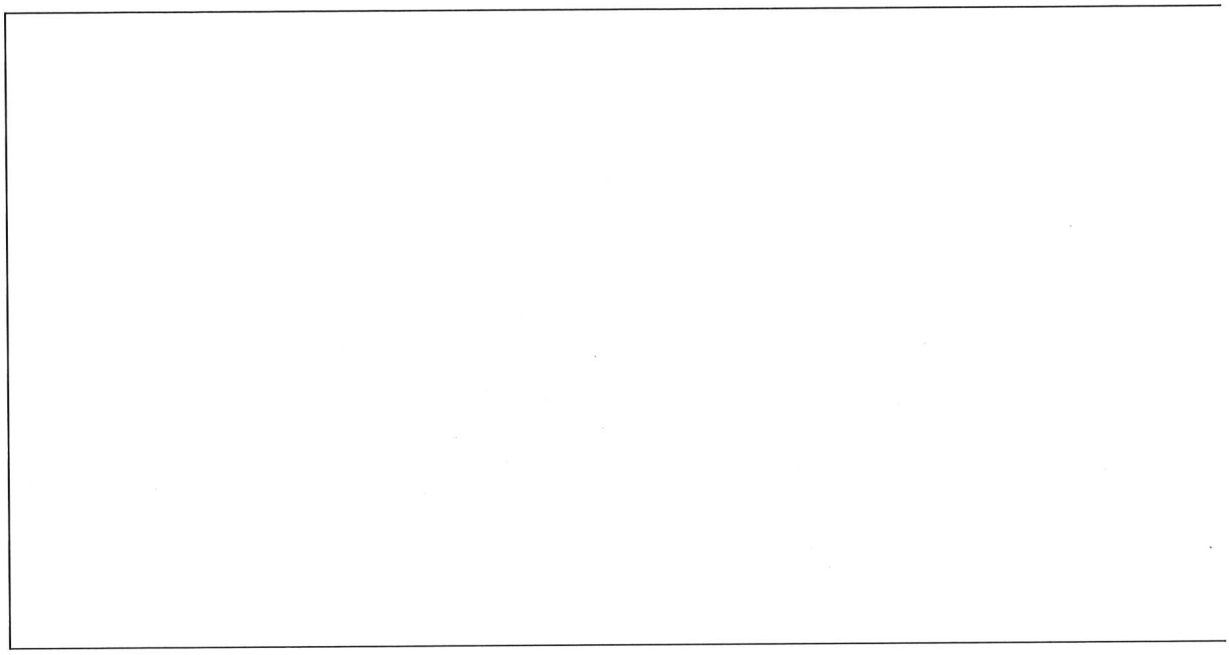

LATEST HEADLINES

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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Marcus Spears

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Marcus Rayshon Spears
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Karen Hoyt

Phone: 2253004215

Street Address: 12720 Old Hammond Hwy

City, State, Zip Code: Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Signed: Karen Hoyt

Email: khoyt@lhsaa.org

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Marcus Rayshon Spears
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 5802 Chamberlyne Drive
(street address)

Frisco, Texas 75034
(city, state, zip)

Email: marcus.spears@espn.com

Phone: 404-840-7653 Date of Birth: 3/8/1983

School Affiliation (if any) _____

City: Baton Rouge State: _____

Place of Birth: Baton Rouge, Louisiana 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:
Marcus is a NFL analyst for ESPN covering NFL news and live games.

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: Southern Lab	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	2001	
College/University: LSU	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	2005	
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Marcus Spears attended Baton Rouge's Southern University Laboratory School, where he excelled not only on the football field but on the basketball court as well. He finished his final prep season with 28 receptions for 435 yards and three touchdowns and 245 rushing yards and six touchdowns on offense and 22 tackles for losses, 11.5 quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries on defense. As a senior, Spears led Southern Lab to the 1A state runner up finish in football, the 1A state title in basketball, and to a third place showing in track and field. Spears was also one of the nation's top basketball prospects. He played in the first ever U.S. Army All-American Bowl game on December 30, 2000. Spears went on to play football at LSU where he played tight end, fullback, and defensive end from 2001-2004.
Football is classified 1A - 5A. Basketball is classified C - 5A.

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

Spears was named first team All-State in football on both offense and defense; the first player to be honored on both sides of the ball in Louisiana in any class since 1991. Spears hails from Baton Rouge, La, where he was a highly sought after two-sport high school athlete, recruited for both basketball and football. He played tight end, fullback and defensive end for LSU's football team under Nick Saban from 2001-04. During his sophomore year he became a full-time defensive player and his contributions to the team helped lead the Tigers to two SEC Championships titles (2001, 2003) and a win in the 2004 BCS National Championship. The 2002 season marked his first as a full-time defensive player, in which he recorded 46 tackles, 16 quarterback pressures, 3.5 tackles for losses and three sacks. In 2003, during LSU's national championship season, Spears contributed 49 tackles, 23 quarterback pressures, 13 tackles for losses, six sacks and six passes defensed to earn First-team All-SEC honors.
During his 2004 senior season, Spears put together a career year, earning first-team All-America honors from the Walter Camp Foundation, American Football Coaches Association, and AP, and second-team All-America honors from Sports Illustrated, first-team All-SEC honors, and was a semifinalist for the Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award. He finished the year tying his career-high in tackles (49) while setting career-highs for tackles for losses (17) and sacks (nine, a figure that ranks fourth in the LSU single-season records). He also recorded 21 quarterback pressures to help the Tigers finish the year third in the country in total defense.
Football: The No.1 rated tight end prospect in American listed as the No. 3 overall prospect by Superprep, a consensus All-American. Listed as an All-American by Parade Magazine, ESPN, Fox Sports, Superprep, Prepstar, The Sporting News, USA Today Dick Butkus High School All-American and Rivals.com. Strength Shoe/Louisiana Football Magazine High School Player of the Year. Touchdown Club of Atlanta-Bobby Dodd National High School Awards Program-2000 Lineman of the Year. Named 1st Team 1A All-State on both offense and defense.
Basketball: Played on Class 1A State Championship Team twice named 1A State Championship Game MVP named State Tournament MVP 2001. Twice name to 1A All State Team/Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year 2001. Played in Nike Basketball Classic in Louisville, Kentucky 2001. Invited to Nike All-American Camp in 1999 and 2000 was ranked No. 11 Power Forward in the nation by Sporting News.
College – Louisiana State University: Played tight end, fullback and defensive end as a freshman. Earning freshman All-SEC Honors. Returned an interception 20 yards for a touchdown to give the tigers a 21-7 lead enroute to a 21-14 win over Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl to claim the National Title. Finished LSU career with 34.5 tackles for loss, 19 sacks (fifth most in school history). Senior season earned 1st team All-American Honors from the Walter Camp Foundation and American Football Coaches Association. 1st team All-SEC.

Pro Football: Was the 20th pick in the first round of the 2005 NFL draft by the Dallas Cowboys. Earned All-Rookie Honors from Pro Football Weekly. Has been a starter since rookie season named to the Dallas Cowboys All-Decade team.

Professional Achievements

Other Information

Drafted in the first round of the 2005 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys, Spears played defensive end for nine NFL seasons, retiring in 2014.

Marcus Spears is an NFL analyst for ESPN who appears daily on NFL Live. The former NFL defensive end initially joined ESPN as a college football analyst for the SEC Network in April 2014. Spears began appearing on NFL Live in 2019, which led to his new pro football-centric analyst role in June 2020. In addition to appearing on ESPN's weekday NFL news and information show, Spears is a regular contributor to Get Up, SportsCenter, First Take and other ESPN television and radio shows.

Prior to focusing on the NFL, Spears provided analysis on SEC Network's popular Saturday morning football pregame show SEC Nation alongside Tim Tebow, Paul Finebaum and host Laura Rutledge. He also launched Thinking Out Loud on SEC Network, joining Greg McElroy and Alyssa Lang for a weekly hour of SEC football banter.

Letters of Recommendation

EDDIE BONINE, M.Ed., CAA
Executive Director

LEE SANDERS
KAREN HOYT
ADAM MACDOWELL
MICHAEL FEDERICO
Assistant Executive Directors

October 31, 2023

NFHS Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

On behalf of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) and as the Executive Director, I am writing to recommend Marcus Spears for the National High School Hall of Fame. As you read the accompanying documents, you will find that Marcus was a tremendous high school, college, and professional athlete from the state of Louisiana. I have only been in the state of Louisiana for a decade, so I respectfully yield to the historians written submissions to the committee. I had the privilege and honor to induct Marcus into the Louisiana High School Hall of Fame Class of 2021. It is my hope you will give National Hall of Fame consideration to Marcus, who is very deserving and stands out amongst several outstanding athletes from the great state of Louisiana.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eddie Bonine
Executive Director
LHSAA

Support Data

Most people know his name and face from appearances on several ESPN-based programs these days. There is much more to Marcus Spears' life and story.

He was a star at LSU and helped the Tigers win a national title before moving on to the Dallas Cowboys and the NFL. But the story that best illustrates who Marcus Spears is comes from his high school career at Southern Lab School in Baton Rouge, La.

Yes, there were championships in basketball and one finals appearance in football too. All these accolades were packed into just two years of varsity competition while playing for his father's alma mater

Spears was ruled ineligible to play his sophomore season by the LHSAA based on an interpretation of parental custody after his parents were divorced.

Fast-forward 20 years and an athlete like the 6-foot-5, 270-pound Spears would likely have moved to another state or enrolled at a prep school. Spears stayed and became a star.

The courage and inner strength it took for Spears to navigate a year away from high school sports spoke volumes about his character, along with the strength of his family. Those qualities have served Spears well throughout his adult life.

Of course, once Spears got the chance to play, his mix of speed, strength and skill made his two years competing for Southern Lab exceptional. Some recruiting experts thought Spears was Louisiana's top football recruit in 2001 as a tight end-defensive end. But he also excelled in basketball.

Spears was selected Louisiana's Gatorade Player of the Year in basketball in 2001 for a Southern Lab program that played in multiple national tournaments each year. He was adept at making 3-pointers and averaged a double-double in points and rebounds.

On the football field, Spears led the Kittens to the Class 1A title game in 2000. He had more than 400 yards receiving and also led Southern Lab in sacks and tackles for loss.

For good measure, he even threw a 75-yard touchdown pass on what looked like a running play in Southern Lab's Class 1A title game loss to Haynesville. And at the end of his senior season, Spears was The Advocate newspaper's Boys Athlete of the Year, beating a talented field of athletes, including future LSU teammate and NFL player Michael Clayton.

Some high school standouts play for four or more years. Marcus Spears did not have that option. But Spears made the most of opportunities that he had … something I think makes him a worthy candidate for NFHS Hall of Fame consideration.

Robin Fambrough
High School Sportswriter
The (Baton Rouge) Advocate newspaper

Hardwood to Gridiron: Basketball players who ended up in the NFL

- October 4, 2021
- By Rene Nadeau
- Category: Analysis, LSU, Pro Basketball, Pro Football, Saints

DE Marcus Spears (6-5, 300)

He attended Southern Lab (Baton Rouge) where he was All-State in both football and basketball. On the hardwood, he averaged 23.7 points and 15 rebounds as a senior. He was considered the #1 tight end prospect in the country in the 2000 recruiting class and a top three overall prospect. During his college recruitment, he actually had an offer from the Duke Blue Devils for basketball but decided on football at LSU where Nick Saban moved him to defensive end. The Tigers captured a BCS National title in 2003, and Spears intercepted a pass, returning it for a touchdown in the national championship game. He was the first round draft pick of the Cowboys in 2005 and played in Dallas through 2012 in Dallas. He capped his career with the Ravens in 2013. Marcus totaled 236 career tackles and 10 sacks.

Category: Gatorade Awards & Honors

Award: Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year

Awards By Season

International Format

SORT: SEASON ↓ COLUMNS: SWIPE

Season	Player	Pos	HT	WT	Birth City	Birth Date	High School	HS Grad	Draft Year	College
2023	Chris Lockett, Jr.	F	6-5	205	New Orleans, LA	Nov 6, 2004	Isidore Newman School	2023	2027	Boise State
2022	Solomon Washington	F	6-7	220	New Orleans, LA	-	Carver High School	2022	2026	Texas A&M
2021	Carlos Stewart Jr.	G	6-1	193	Baton Rouge, LA	May 6, 2003	The Dunham School	2021	2025	LSU
2020	Reece Beekman	PG	6-3	190	Milwaukee, WI	Oct 8, 2001	Scotlandville High School	2020	2025	Virginia
2019	Jalen Cook	PG	6-0	194	Walker, LA	Mar 25, 2002	Walker High School	2020	2025	LSU

2015	Wayde Sims	PF	6-6	217	Baton Rouge, LA	Dec 13, 1997	Louisiana State University Laboratory School	2016	2020	LSU
2014	Trey Touchet	G	6-2	190	Lafayette, LA	Nov 15, 1995	St. Thomas More School	2014	2019	McNeese State
2013	Trey Touchet	G	6-2	190	Lafayette, LA	Nov 15, 1995	St. Thomas More School	2014	2019	McNeese State
2012	Rico Gathers	PF	6-8	275	LaPlace, LA	Jan 7, 1994	Riverside Academy	2012	2016	Baylor
2011	Rico Gathers	PF	6-8	275	LaPlace, LA	Jan 7, 1994	Riverside Academy	2012	2016	Baylor
2010	Matt Derenbecker	SF	6-7	219	Baton Rouge, LA	Aug 30, 1991	Metairie Park Country Day	2010	2015	New Orleans
2009	Matt Derenbecker	SF	6-7	219	Baton Rouge, LA	Aug 30, 1991	Metairie Park Country Day	2010	2015	New Orleans
2008	Greg Monroe	FC	6-11	265	Harvey, LA	Jun 4, 1990	Helen Cox High School	2008	2010	Georgetown
2007	Greg Monroe	FC	6-11	265	Harvey, LA	Jun 4, 1990	Helen Cox High School	2008	2010	Georgetown
2006	Tweety Carter	PG	5-11	185	New Orleans, LA	Oct 25, 1986	Reserve Christian School	2006	2010	Baylor
2005	Tasmin Mitchell	SF	6-7	245	Denham Springs, LA	Jun 25, 1986	Denham Springs High School	2005	2010	LSU
2004	Glen Davis	PF	6-9	289	Baton Rouge, LA	Jan 1, 1986	Louisiana State University Laboratory School	2004	2007	LSU
2003	Brandon Bass	PF	6-8	250	Baton Rouge, LA	Apr 30, 1985	Capitol High School	2003	2005	LSU
2002	Darrel Mitchell	PG	5-11	175	New Iberia, LA	May 3, 1984	St. Martinville High School	2002	2006	LSU
2001	Marcus Spears	F	6-5	285	Baton Rouge, LA	Mar 8, 1983	Southern University Laboratory School	2001	2005	LSU
2000	Chris Duhon	G	6-1	190	Mamou, LA	Aug 31, 1982	Salmen High School	2000	2004	Duke

Takeo Spikes

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Takeo Gerard Spikes
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: James R Hines, Jr.

Phone: 4783386029

Street Address: 151 S Bethel St

City, State, Zip Code: Thomaston, Georgia 30286

Signed: James R Hines, Jr.

Email: robin.hines@ghsa.net

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Takeo Gerard Spikes
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 3475 Roxboro Rd NE, Unit 11
(street address)

Atlanta, Georgia 30326
(city, state, zip)

Email: tko51@me.com

Phone: -4046686585 Date of Birth: 12/17/1976

School Affiliation (if any) Washington County High School

City: Sandersville State: Georgia

Place of Birth: Augusta, Georgia Date of Retirement: 8/1/2013

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:
Takeo Spikes is an analyst for the ESPN/SEC Network. He is currently on the show SEC Now and has his own show called Out of Pocket.

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: Washington County High School	Sandersville, Georgia	1995	diploma
College/University: Auburn University	Auburn, Alabama	1998	Communications
Post Graduate School: University of Miami	Coral Gables, Florida	2017	MBA

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Washington County High School (1991-1995) AA (there were A, AA, AAA,and AAAA at the time).
4 year letterman in football and track and field
Takeo was a multi-event participant in track and field receiving region and state honors as a sophomore, junior and senior.
He led his football team to a 41-3 record (15-0 as a senior) his last three years in high school.
Washington County had won only three playoff games in the previous three decades prior to his arrival.

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

1st Team All Region in Football 1992, 1993 and 1994
Region Player of the Year 1994
1994 Macon Telegraph Player of the Year
Macon Telegraph All Middle Gerogia
Augusta Chronicle 1st Team All CSRA
All State Football 1993 and 1994
1994 Parade All American
1994 USA Today All American
Georgia All Classification Defensive Player of the Year
Selected to the Georgia/Florida All Star Team 1995
Georgia Player of the Game in the 1995 GA/FL All Star Game
Three Year Starter at Auburn University
Two-Time All SEC selection
All American as a Junior (left for the NFL after his Junior Year)
13th pick overall by the Cincinnati Bengals in the 1998 NFL Draft
Two-time Pro Bowl selection
One time All Pro
Played for Cincinnati, Buffalo, Philidaelphia, San Francisco and San Diego in the NFL
One of 7 linebackers to achieve more than 200 career starts in the NFL (219 total)
Only once did Takeo fail to record at least 70 tackles in a season
He was a team captain in 13 out of his 15 NFL seasons

Professional Achievements

Other Information

Takeo Spikes, a NFL linebacker Legend, excelled in both football and photography. He was a two-time All-Pro, Pro Bowl selection, and one of only seven linebackers in NFL history with more than 200 starts. Spikes also played college football at Auburn University and won numerous awards.
He began his broadcasting career while still playing football and has since appeared on numerous TV and radio programs. He also launched the award-winning podcast, "Behind the Mask" featuring conversations with top athletes and celebrities. As a photographer, he published a book, "Behind the Mask" featuring stories and photos of some of the greatest NFL linebackers. After retirement, Spikes completed his Bachelor's degree at Auburn and his MBA at the University of Miami. He was inducted into Alabama and Georgia Sports Hall of Fame and now is a nominee for the college and Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Spikes contributes to his community by mentoring middle and high school students at his annual TKO Camps, speaking at symposiums, and serving as an advisor to the NFL's football operations department.

Letters of Recommendation

GEORGIA

DR. JAMES R. HINES, JR., Executive Director
151 S. BETHEL STREET
THOMASTON, GA 30286-0004
TELEPHONE 706-647-7473
FAX 706-647-2638
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ERNIE YARBROUGH, Asst Executive Director
STEVE FIGUEROA, Media/Information Services
TANYA ANDERSON, Associate Director
DON CORR, Associate Director
DARRELL LANE, Associate Director
PENNY PITTS MITCHELL, Associate Director
JAY RUSSELL, Associate Director
CARROR WRIGHT, Associate Director

HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Mr. Bruce L. Howard
Director of Publications and Communications
Director, National High School Hall of Fame

Dear Mr. Howard:

It is with confidence and enthusiasm that I nominate Takeo Spikes for the 2024 class of the National High School Hall of Fame. I have admired Takeo throughout his high school, college, and professional careers and through this nomination process my esteem for him has only grown. His athletic accomplishments at all levels speak for themselves and his character is beyond reproach.

Takeo graduated from Washington County High School and was an outstanding athlete in both football and track. He was a dominant player on a dominant team. He lettered four years in both sports and was arguably the most awarded player in Georgia. He received regional and state honors in track as a sophomore, junior and senior and was a three time all region selection, region player of the year, two time All State, Defensive Player of the Year and the Georgia Player of the Game in the Georgia-Florida All Star Game. He also earned All-American honors from Parade and USA Today.

Of course, Takeo was a national high school recruit and signed with Auburn University and continued his award-winning career. At Auburn, he was a three-year starter, two-time All SEC player, All American and the thirteenth pick of the NFL draft in 1998.

After being selected by the Cincinnati Bengals, Takeo continued to excel. He was a two-time All-Pro, Pro Bowl selection and had over 200 starts in the NFL. Only once in his 15 year NFL career did Takeo record less than 70 tackles in a season.

Spikes continues to serve his community by mentoring middle and high school students at his annual TKO Camps and numerous speaking engagements for our state's youth. By all accounts, Takeo Spikes was a great teammate and student and he continues to lead and provide inspiration to countless students in Georgia.

Thank you for your consideration for Takeo's induction into the National High School Hall of Fame and please let me know if I can provide further information to aid in his selection.

James R. Hines, Jr.
Executive Director, GHSA

Mr. Bruce L. Howard
Director of Publications and Communications
Director, National High School Hall of Fame

Dear Mr. Howard

It is my honor to nominate Takeo Spikes for the 2024 Class of National High School Hall of Fame. I had the privilege of being Takeo's High School Head Football Coach and Athletic Director. I also taught Takeo in class and observed all of his high school extra-curricular as well as his academic success.

In the classroom, Takeo followed a college prep curriculum and maintained an A - B academic average and was a regular on the school's honor roll. All of Takeo's teachers enjoyed having him in their classroom and every single one loved him dearly! I would go so far as saying Takeo was one of the most popular students in school among his academic teachers and school administrators. Takeo never had any type of disciplinary issue, in fact, he befriended students of varying backgrounds and they admired, respected, and trusted Takeo.

On the athletic field Takeo was spectacular! Takeo lettered four years straight in football and track. In track, Takeo was a multiple event participant, receiving regional and state honors in his sophomore, junior, and senior year.

In my observation, which goes beyond forty plus years, I have never witnessed a better high school football player in any classification than Takeo Spikes! Takeo was our team leader, our bell cow! Takeo was the best team leader I have ever observed!

We had some great football teams during Takeo's high school career. Many sports journalists have rated our 1994 State Championship Team as the greatest football team in Georgia History! During Takeo's final three years of high school our team record was forty-one and three, we won three Regional Championships, were State Runners-up, a State Semi-Finalist and a State Champion! In 1994 we were fifteen and zero and broke the All-Time Georgia Scoring Record with six hundred and forty-one points.

In 1994 Takeo was selected as Prep All-American, First Team All-State, State Defensive Player of the year. First Team All-Region, and Region Player of the year. Takeo was a two-way player and played on special teams. During Takeo's Senior year he led our team in tackles, scored seventeen touchdowns at tight end, blocked two punts and scored a defensive touchdown as well.

Some of Takeo's High School Football Honors were:
Prep All American 1994
All State 1993 & 1994

All Region 1992-93-94.
Selected to play in the 1994-95 Georgia – Florida All Star Game and was selected as the Georgia Player of the game!
Takeo was a national high school recruit and had offers from all over the country. Takeo chose to sign with Auburn University where he was the team leader, a three-year starter, a two time All SEC Selection, chosen to the All -American Team, and was the thirteenth pick of the 1998 NFL Draft by the Cincinnati Bengals.

Takeo Spikes is the perfect example of the great student – athlete, displaying tremendous leadership, character, academic success, athletic championship success, displaying great esprit de corps with his teammates, coaches, school and community.

I cannot imagine there being a better representative of the standards, expectations and qualifications for the National High School Hall of Fame!

With sincerest regards,

RICK M. TOMBERLIN

Coach T – Rick Tomberlin
Retired Coach & Educator.

November 18, 2023

Mr. Bruce L. Howard
Director of Publications and Communications
Director, National High School Hall of Fame

Mr. Howard:

I am writing to nominate Takeo Spikes of Washington High School in Georgia for the National High School Hall of Fame.

I am the historian for the Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame, a co-founder of the Georgia High School Football Historians Association, the editor of Georgia High School Football Daily and a sports reporter for more than 30 years with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

As historian for the Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame, I make the recommendations and research and compile the bios that lead to the ballot off which the board chooses its inductees.

I consider Spikes to be one of the 25 best high school football players in state history. A strong case could be made that he belongs in the top 10. In 2007, I wrote an article for the AJC that ranked the best 25 high school players in Georgia history. Spikes came in at No. 7. That was based entirely on his high school career and the evaluations of coaches and media who saw Spikes play and not his great accomplishments at Auburn and in the NFL.

A few things set Spikes apart to give him such as lofty ranking in such a rich high school football state.

1. Spikes was a two-way player. Contemporary newspaper articles credit him as a senior with 33 tackles for losses as a linebacker on defense and 22 touchdowns as a tight end on offense on a 15-0 team that won a championship.

2. Spikes was the best player on a great team. Washington County's 1994 Class AA champion set the all-time scoring record (since broken). It was the fourth team in history (and still one of only about six) to defeat every opponent by more than 15 points. It is arguably the most dominant "middle-sized school" champion that Georgia has ever produced.

3. Washington County was not a factor on the state level until Spikes played there. Spikes' teams were 41-3 over his final three seasons. The school had won only three playoff games over the previous three decades.

Around 2012, I did a survey of Georgia current head coaches, and one of the questions was, ''Who is the best player you've ever seen?" Spikes was the fourth-highest vote getter, and the ones ahead of him were all more recent, such as Eric Berry and Greg Reid from 2005-10. Spikes had been out of the game for more than 15 years. Said J.B. Arnold of Jefferson County: "Just dominating on both sides of the ball. Played with great intensity that he still has today." Scott Jackson of Decatur added: "He was a man amongst boys and played the game with relentless abandon."

Spikes' greatness has aged well. His character and popular continue to shine through in his TV work today.

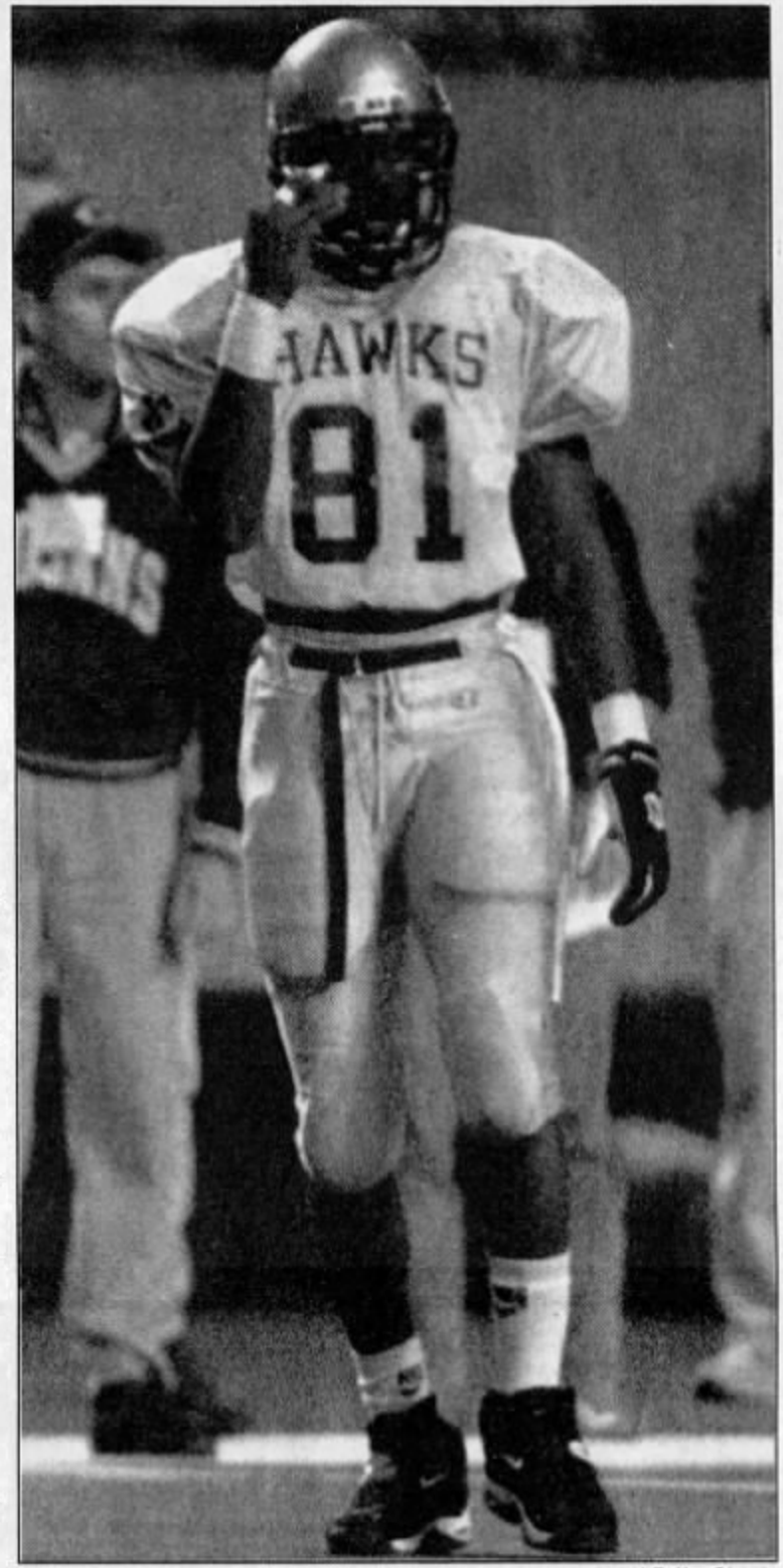
Hope that you will give Takeo Spikes the consideration he deserves. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Todd Holcomb

Todd Holcomb
AJC
GHSF Daily
Georgia High School Football Hall of Fame
Georgia High School Football Historians Association

Support Data



James Borchuck/The Macon Telegraph

Linebacker Takeo Spikes had 228 tackles for Class AA champion Washington County

Washington County won the state championship with a 15-0 record after being ranked No. 1 each week of the season. Two important parts of the Golden Hawks' title drive were tight end/linebacker Takeo Spikes and third-year coach Rick Tomberlin, who gave Sandersville a new address for Class AA football:

Title Town, Ga.

By J.J. Cooper
The Macon Telegraph

Player of the year

SANDERSVILLE — When Takeo Spikes was growing up, he was a Chicago Bears fan. What he wanted more than anything was to be Walter Payton. He could picture himself dodging potential tacklers and running over a linebacker before diving into the end zone with a winning touchdown.

But things didn't work out that way for Takeo (pronounced Ta-KEY-o). He still would love to imitate his boyhood hero, and he even got a chance in a playoff game this year to do that. Against Mary Persons, in a goal-line situation, Spikes had his only carry of the season, but he was tackled short of the end zone.

Spikes, a 6-3, 225-pound senior, spent much more time this year imitating his other boyhood idol, former Chicago All-Pro linebacker Mike Singletary.

The result was 228 tackles, 33 tackles for losses, three interceptions and two blocked punts. Spikes helpod lead Washington County to a 15-0 record and the Class AA title, earning him the 1994 Macon Telegraph Middle Georgia Player of the Year award.

Spikes did get some chances to copy Payton's running style after catching passes as a tight end. When Spikes, who has been timed at 4.5 in the 40-yard dash, turns up field, he has the ability to run around or over defensive backs. Many of his 688 receiving yards came after the catch.

"What happens is he will catch a short pass and then break three or four tackles to take it all the way," Washington County coach Rick Tomberlin said.

But he is equally intimidating to running backs and quarterbacks as he is to defensive backs. Even though most teams ran away from him, Spikes led the team in tackles by 17. His speed made him a nightmare for offensive tackles.

"To me he may be the best defensive player in the state," said Baldwin coach Bill Young, whose Class AAAA team lost to Washington County 38-0. "The way he carries out his assignments, he made us change our whole offensive approach. When he played that defensive end technique, he took our offense away. He's that type of force. He's as good a defensive player running right at him or running away from him."

As a sophomore, Spikes was a 6-1, 180 pound tight end/linebacker who had a 4.9 time in the 40-yard dash. Tomberlin brought in the Bigger-Faster-Stronger Weight Training Program and no one worked harder at it than Spikes, who hasn't missed a

Please see SPIKES, 7D ➡

Spikes provides double threat for state champion Hawks

Continued from page 1D

weight-lifting session in three years. He has twice been named the Golden Hawk Award winner, which is given to the Washington County player who works hardest in the weight room. It didn't take long for the work to pay off.

"I had wanted to go into the Army, but in my first game in Dublin (as a sophomore) I caught a pass and broke it for a 40-yard touchdown," Spikes said. "They told me I was doing good, so I decided, I'm not going into the Army."

When Spikes' friend Robert Edwards signed a scholarship with Georgia at the end of the 1992 season, Spikes realized he could earn a college scholarship in football as well.

"I never did expect that to happen in a small town like Sandersville," Spikes said.

Late in his sophomore season, Auburn sent him his first recruiting letter. Since then a flood of letters and phone calls have followed. Now, Spikes gets between eight and 10 phone calls from recruiters a day.

He has scheduled official visits with Georgia, where Edwards plays; Auburn, which sent him the first letter; Florida State, where friend and former teammate Demetro Stephens plays; and Tennessee.

Watching Edwards and then Stephens deal with the recruiting process has helped prepare Spikes.

"I was excited to see Demetro and Robert get recruited, but they told me, when the time comes you'll want to sign and get it over with," Spikes said.

They were right, while Spikes parents are still enjoying all of the phone calls, but there are days when Spikes wishes he could take the phone off the hook and relax.

"In a way I am looking forward to signing day to put all of this past me," Spikes said.

Several of his teammates are going through the same process. Quarterback George Askew, running backs Edward Swint and Andre Battle, linemen Quartez Brown, Dante Haynes and Jeremy Brett, linebackers Jimmy Dudley and Mike Parker and safety Tony Wilson are meeting with recruiters.

"That makes it a whole lot easier. We get together and talk about it," Spikes said.

There was actually a time last year when Spikes thought about giving up football. The 14-13 overtime loss in the semifinals to Mary Persons in 1993 was devastating enough that he wanted nothing to do with football.

"I didn't want to play," he said. "It seemed like all the long hours, all the time in the weight room had gone down the drain. We didn't accomplish our team goal."

Unfortunately for the rest of Class AA, running track helped to revitalize Spikes. After seeing players from other teams at track meets, Spikes decided he had something to prove in his senior year.

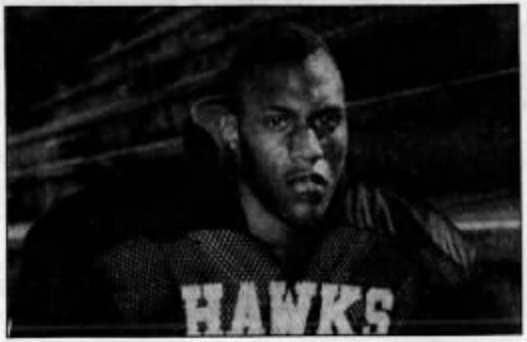
When the team buses finally finished the 90-minute drive back to Sandersville from the state championship game in Sylvania last Saturday night, Spikes was one of the first ones off the bus and onto the goalposts. A mangled upright at the "House of Pain" stands testament to the Hawks state title.

"I was the first one on it," Spikes said. "They wouldn't let us tear down the goalposts at Screven County, so we had to go home to the House of Pain. We brought it all down."

Washington County's Spikes drawing raves, recruiters

By Matt Winkeljohn
STAFF WRITER

PLAYER OF THE YEAR



RICH MAHAN / Staff

Washington County opponents lining up on either side of the ball won't miss the icy stare of Takeo Spikes next season.

It doesn't take a program to pick out Takeo Spikes on a football field, nor does anybody need to point him out in a room.

The Washington County senior linebacker-tight end will jump out at you anywhere.

The Golden Hawks (15-0) won the state Class AA title, giving up a mere 78 points, just 70 (4.7 per game) by the defense.

Spikes, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's player of the year, had a lot to do with that. The pass-rushing outside linebacker had 181 tackles, 33 for losses, 21 sacks, two blocked punts, three interceptions, three pass deflections and two fumble recoveries.

Washington County also scored a state-record 630 points (one more than Valdosta did in 13 games in 1971). Spikes did his part, catching 40 passes for 751 yards — 22 for TDs, many when he outjumped, or outwrestled defenders for the ball. He also had 31 "pancake" blocks.

"I've never had a complete high school player like Keo," said Washington County coach Rick Tomberlin, whose team went 41-3 the last three years. "His attitude is 'You do what you have to do, and I'll be first in line, and the last to leave.' If there's a better high school player in America, I'd like to see him, and shake his hand. I'm hearing that from a lot of college coaches."

In a room full of students, Spikes stands out right away.

He's big to begin with, 6-feet-2½, 220 pounds. Factor in his chiseled features, and the icy stare that hints at his unequaled concentration, and it's easy to see why Spikes will be missed next season.

Tomberlin coached Georgia linebacker Randall Godfrey at Lowndes, and linebacker Demetro Stephens last year at Washington County before he went to Florida State.

Like Spikes, Godfrey was a USA Today first-team All-American. Stephens was second team.

"Randall and Demetro were great linebackers, but I've never had a guy contribute on offense, defense and special teams like Keo," Tomberlin says. "His concentration is so complete; he doesn't want to talk about recruiters or college visits. He just wants to talk about Screven County, or Carrollton, or Mary Persons, or whoever we're getting ready to play. He doesn't even want to read. The Macon Telegraph did a big story on him, and I cut it out, and he said, 'Give it to me after the season.'"

College recruiters have recently almost outnumbered Washington County coaches at the east-central Georgia school, scouting a dozen players.

Spikes still stands out.

He bench-presses 390 pounds, has run the 40-yard dash in 4.58 seconds and is considered one of the top prospects in the nation.

Spikes, who also runs track, will take the SAT a second time. He has better than a 3.0 grade-point average in core classes.

Selection process

All-state teams were selected by the Journal-Constitution sports staff after consulting with coaches and sportswriters around the state. Selections were made on high school accomplishments, not college potential.

Class AAAA All-State Team

Pos.	Player	School	Ht./Wt.	Yr.
QB	Jon England	Norcross	6-1, 180	Sr.
RB	Jonathan Butler	Bainbridge	6-0, 195	Sr.
RB	Greg Manson	Northside	6-1, 200	Sr.
RB	Mark Townsend	Brookwood	6-1, 185	Sr.
WR	Karsten Bailey	E.Coweta	6-2, 185	Sr.
WR	Ronald Bonner	Colquitt Co.	6-1, 170	Sr.
OL	Matt Stinchcomb	Parkview	6-7, 300	Sr.
OL	T.J. Meers	McEachern	6-6, 275	Sr.
OL	Steven Herndon	Troup	6-5, 275	Sr.
OL	Jim Niedrach	LaGrange	6-3, 260	Sr.
OL	Justin Harrell	Coffee	6-4, 240	Sr.
DL	Demarcus Hillman	Winder-Barrow	6-4, 295	Sr.
DL	Jason Jones	Redan	6-5, 300	Sr.
DL	Jerry Jones	Colquitt Co.	6-3, 245	Sr.
DL	Marcus Larry	Osborne	6-4, 232	Sr.
DL	Darius Walker	SW DeKalb	5-10, 245	Sr.
LB	Vinson Cooper	Groves	6-3, 230	Sr.
LB	Thomas Diggs	Lovejoy	6-0, 220	Sr.
LB	Jesse Tarplin	Cross Keys	6-4, 215	Sr.
DB	Larry Mans	Dunwoody	6-3, 185	Sr.

Washington County's Spikes measures up to best

By J.J. Cooper
The Macon Telegraph

Rick Tomberlin has seen plenty of talent through the years. Georgia stars Randall Godfrey, Jeff Thomas and Robert Edwards and Florida State linebacker Demetro Stephens all played high school football under him, but one current Golden Hawk may be better than all of them.

"Takeo Spikes is the best player I have coached, period," Tomberlin said. "It's hard to compare one player to another — they're like you're kids, — but he's got it all. He's a talent."

When you consider the source, that is quite a statement. Godfrey has been named first-team All-SEC; Edwards is considered the best athlete on the Bulldog team, and Stephens was considered the best high school linebacker in Georgia last season. Spikes may be better than all of them.

Takeo Spikes

"I don't worry about (the comparisons), I just play my game," Spikes said.

Askew has helped lead the top-ranked Golden Hawks to a 12-0 record. This Friday they will face their toughest test of the season as they travel to Forsyth to face undefeated Mary Persons. Last season the Bulldogs eliminated Washington County in the state semifinals 14-13 in overtime.

When comparisons are made to Tomberlin's other star players, Spikes measures up favorably.

"Randall ran people down. Demetro bloodied your nose. Takeo is a skilled blocker, pass receiver and he's tough. He has strengths in all areas," Tombelin said.

Few opposing coaches are going to argue with that. He may be the best outside linebacker in the state with his speed and size, and he also may be the best tight end in the state.

"He's as good on either side of the ball as I've seen this year," Dublin coach Sam Barrs said. "I've never seen the kid take a play off. That's the best compliment I can pay on a kid."

"He's the best player in the state," Tomberlin said.

Spikes' stats back Tomberlin up, as he has 28 catches for 578 yards and 22 touchdowns. No other tight end, or receiver in the midstate has close to that many touchdowns. Only a couple of running backs in Middle Georgia had that many points. During the two weeks of the playoffs, Spikes has five touchdowns.

He has already done one thing that none of Tomberlin's former stars did. He has twice won Tomberlin's Golden Hawk award, which

Please see SPIKES, 3C ➡

Spikes has size and speed

Continued from page 1C

is given to whoever shows the most dedication during the summer weightlifting program.

"Randall (Godfrey) never did that. I think that was the first thing I noticed — his character," Tomberlin said.

He also noticed the talent. Spikes has started all 42 games at both linebacker and tight end since Tomberlin arrived before his sophomore year. Golden Hawk quarterback George Askew, who is also a top prospect, has also started every game since Tomberlin arrived. As a result they have developed an understanding of each other's games.

"(Askew) knows where I want the ball placed and he puts it there," Spikes said.

If the Hawks are going to change their fortunes against Mary Persons, Spikes will be one of the reasons. What makes him tough to handle is his combination of size (6-3, 220) and speed (4.58 in the 40).

"He's as good a blocking tight end as we've faced," Barrs said.

He's also one of the few tight ends who is a true deep threat. This season he has caught four touchdown passes of more than 40 yards. He's averaging more than 20 yards per catch.

"What happens is he will catch a short pass and then break three or four tackles to take it all the way," Tomberlin said.

As a result, the time between now and national signing day in early February will be a busy one for Spikes. He isn't worrying about narrowing his college choices yet, as he will wait until after the football season is over to begin narrowing down his selections. But it's safe to say that he can go wherever he wants.

But that opportunity doesn't come without a price. Already he is getting a little bit tired of the phone calls from coaches.

"It's be a pretty fun to a certain extent, but not during the week when you're doing homework and you're getting three and four calls a night," Spikes said.

Spikes will probably end up at outside linebacker in college because of his pass rushing ability, which suits him perfectly, as he prefers sacking the quarterback to catching a touchdown pass.

Said Tomberlin: "I think he'll be a linebacker in college. He could play several positions and do it well. He could also play tight end or as a down lineman."

In fact, Tomberlin has always wondered what Spikes could do as a running back. But with 1,000 yard rushers in each of his three seasons at Washington County, he never has needed to find out.

Opposing coaches are pretty happy about that.

Spikes named state's top football player

By J.J. Cooper
The Macon Telegraph

Washington County linebacker Takeo Spikes is The Associated Press' Georgia High School Football Player of the Year, one of five Golden Hawks named to the Class AA All-State team.

Spikes, a 6-3, 225-pound senior, finished the season with 228 tackles, 33 tackles for losses, three interceptions and two blocked punts to lead Washington County to a 15-0 record and the Class AA championship. He added 45 catches for 688 yards and 16 touchdowns as a tight end.

"Takeo Spikes is the best player I have coached, period," Washington County coach Rick Tomberlin said.

Takeo Spikes

Spikes, The Macon Telegraph's Middle Georgia Player of the Year, was part of a defense that allowed only 57 points. In the Class AA championship game, he helped to hold the state's leading rusher, Audrell Grace of Screven County, to 59 yards rushing in Washington County's 31-7 win.

"This season turned out about the way we wanted it to turn out," Spikes said.

Spikes is the second-consecutive defensive player to win the award. Dunwoody defensive lineman Travis Stroud, now at Georgia, was the 1993 player of the year.

Washington County also had quarterback George Askew, running back Edward Swint, defensive lineman Jeremy Brett and linebacker Mike Parker on the AA All-State team.

Also joining Spikes on the Class AA team was Grace, who broke former Worth County running back Robert Toomer's state record for rushing yards as a sophomore. Grace finished the season with 2,345 yards rushing to break Toomer's record by 50 yards.

Spikes, who received his first recruiting letter when he was a sophomore at Washington County, now has at least eight calls from recruiters each night. He has scheduled official visits to Georgia, Auburn, Tennessee and Florida State.

"In a way I'm looking forward to signing day so I can put all of this past me," Spikes said. "But it only gets bad when you let it get bad. I don't let it go to my head."

Other Middle Georgia players who were selected for the team include: Greg Manson (Northside, running back); Kinte Morgan (offensive lineman, Crisp County); Nathan Dardy (defensive lineman, Dublin); Ryan Taylor (defensive back, Dublin); Patrick Horne (defensive lineman, West Laurens); Demedrick Mays (linebacker, Mary Persons); Quentin Davis (defensive back, Mary Persons); Jeston Grady

Please see STATE'S, 2C ➡

A STATE OF PLENTY

Transplanted coaches agree that Georgia's **high schools** stand apart for their brand of football and a richness of talent that makes the Peach State a premium destination for recruiters.

By TODD HOLCOMB
tholcomb@ajc.com

FROM HIGH SCHOOL PROSPECTS to college All-Americans to NFL draft picks, it can be measured at every level in Georgia, and it adds up to one thing:

The state is brimming with some of the most gifted high school football players in the nation.

"I thought the league I came from, where every team had won a state championship, was probably the best in Michigan, and I thought those were talented kids," said Irv Sigler, who came to Kell High of Marietta in 2005 after 12 seasons as a head coach in his native state. "But the football down here, the way they play it, the way they coach it, is far and above anything I've ever seen. It's night and day."

Drawn by the talent in the high schools and the passion in their communities, many top coaches are coming to Georgia to find a similar thing.

Randy McPherson at Lowndes, Blair Armstrong at Peachtree Ridge (now at Banks County), Roger Holmes at Dublin and Rich McWhorter at Charlton County are coaches who started their careers in other states but won state championships in Georgia in the past two years.

Sigler says he gets more recruiting visits from college coaches in one month than he did in full years in Michigan.

Buzz Busby, who came from Alabama and won a state title at Kendrick of Columbus in 1991, believed the coaching was better in his native state 15 years ago, partly because of the lingering influence of Bear Bryant.

Now, Busby believes Georgia leads the South because good coaches are drawn by thriving booster clubs that supplement a coach's income. That's not allowed in many states, including Florida.

The coaches also want the chance to coach some of the nation's finest players, Busby says.

"The talent here was always different," he said. "You can take the top 20 teams in Alabama, and there will be 75 teams in Georgia as good as they are."

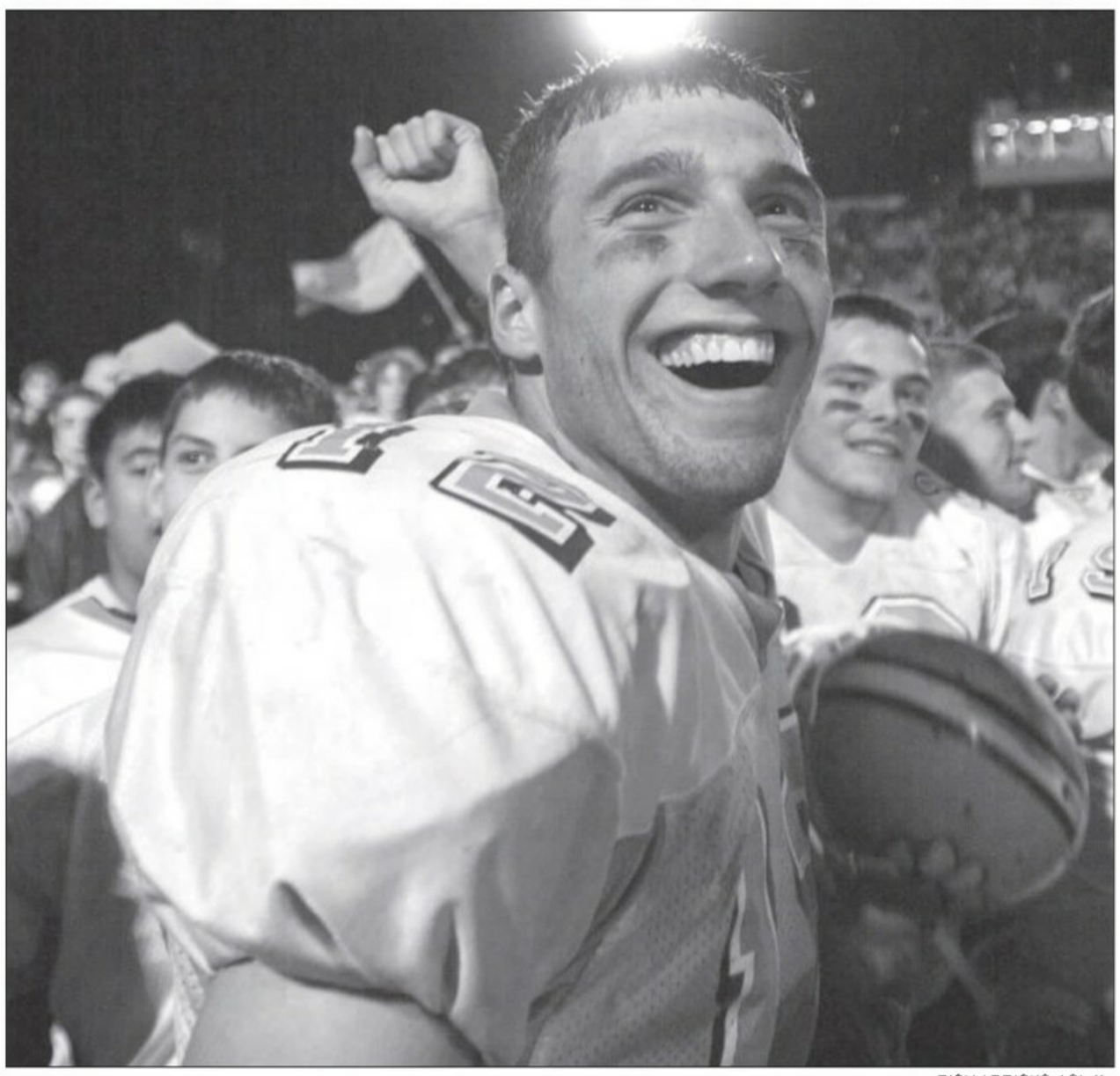
But Sigler says the heart of high school football in Georgia remains the parents, students and the fans.

"You have a sense of taking your school and your community out on the field with you that you don't have in the North," Sigler says. "In Michigan, the custodians get the field ready. Here, people can't imagine not getting fields ready for the kids and their fans.

"It's little things like that that creates the passion you have in Georgia. That's why it's so thrilling to be here."

The best

The AJC's top 25 all-time high school football players from the state of Georgia.



RICH ADDICKS / Staff

Current Braves right fielder **Jeff Francoeur** signed to play football at Clemson after finishing his high school career in 2001 with back-to-back state titles as a two-way player at Parkview.

1. Herschel Walker

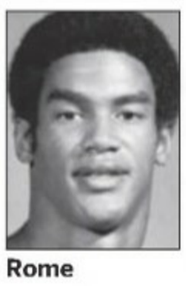
Johnson County (1979)

Walker was already the No. 1 recruit in the country before his senior season of 3,167 rushing yards and 45 touchdowns, which remained state records for more than 20 years.

2. Clint Castleberry

Boys (1941)

Boys High of Atlanta won three state titles and went 31-1-2 in Castleberry's three seasons. A year out of high school, he finished third in the Heisman voting for Georgia Tech.



Rome

3. Stan Rome

Valdosta (1973)

The 6-foot-4 Rome set a national record with 4,477 career receiving yards and had 72 receptions as a sophomore on Valdosta's national championship team in 1971.

4. Larry Kinnebrew

East Rome (1977)

Georgia's first 15-0 state champion shut out nine opponents with this monster 240-pound middle linebacker, who was also the fullback and Class AA 100-yard dash champion.

5. Charles Grant

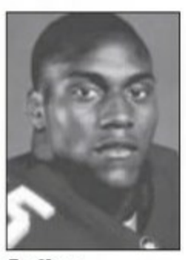
Miller County (1997)

Class A defensive player of the year in 1996, then Class A offensive player of the year in 1997. Tied Walker's state record with 45 touchdowns.

6. Garrison Hearst

Lincoln County (1989)

Hearst was the first-team all-state punter in Class A in 1989, among other things. Also the AJC's all-class player of the year, he rushed for 2,216 on his state-winning team.



Spikes

7. Takeo Spikes

Washington County (1994)

No opponent came within 15 points of beating WaCo in 1994 when Spikes was a tight end/defensive end and Parade and USA Today All-American. He was easily AJC's all-class player of the year.

8. Eric Zeier

Marietta (1990)

Threw for 2,477 yards as a senior and returned Marietta to state-power status before becoming UGA's all-time leading passer.

9. Mackel Harris

Americus (1975)

A linebacker on a hallowed defense that shut out 13 of 14 opponents, Harris also was the Class AA champ in the 100-yard dash and a feared wideout when needed.

10. James Brooks

Warner Robins (1976)

Future Auburn and Bengals standout rushed for more than 1,800 yards on a national title team whose average margin of victory was 47-7.

11. Deon Grant

Josey (1996)

USA Today All-American caught 30 passes and was a bone-crushing safety who gave Augusta its first state champion in 30 years.

12. Andre Hastings

Morrow (1989)

Sports Illustrated projected him as a future all-Pro — while he was still in high school. Hastings was a Parade and USA Today All-American.

13. Andy Johnson

Athens (1969)

Led improbable state championship team in rushing, passing, punting, kick and punt returning and interceptions. Later Georgia's quarterback for three years.

14. Larry Morris

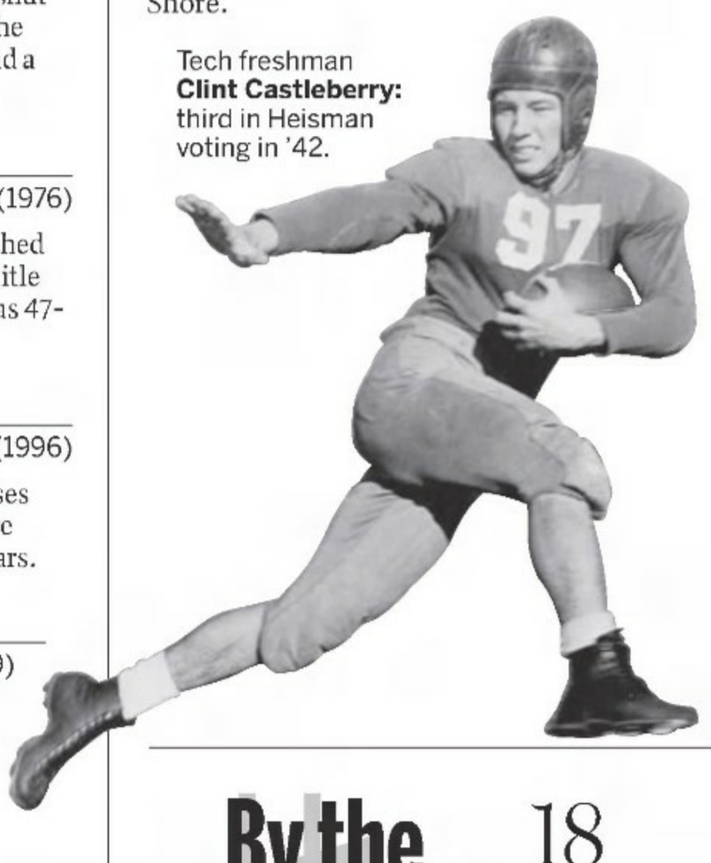
Decatur (1950)

Back of the Year for Class AA champions in 1949 and 1950, then a four-year starter on fabled Georgia Tech teams, then a star lineman in the NFL.

15. Emerson Boozer

Laney (1961)

Scored the winning touchdown in the 1961 championship game of the old Georgia Interscholastic Association. Dreamed of playing for Georgia or Georgia Tech, but segregation led him to Maryland Eastern Shore.



Tech freshman **Clint Castleberry:** third in Heisman voting in '42.

16. Ray Guy

Thomson (1968)

His 47.6 punting average as a senior would have led the NFL, but this four-sport legend also was a great quarterback, defensive back and place-kicker on back-to-back state champs.

17. Reggie Brown

Carrollton (1998)

Rated the No. 1 wide receiver prospect in the nation. Carrollton was 50-6 in Brown's four seasons.

18. Monte Williams

Commerce (2000)

Georgia's career rushing leader with 8,844 yards. The speedy Williams didn't make it in college football.

19. Champ Bailey

Charlton County (1995)

Before being a two-way player at Georgia, Bailey played quarterback, running back, linebacker and safety and helped put this Okefenokee Swamp school on the Georgia football map.

20. Charlie Dudish

Avondale (1967)

The No. 1 recruit in the country was the quarterback and biggest star of Avondale's dynasty that went 101-10-1 for the decade of the '60s.

21. Jeff Francoeur

Parkview (2001)

Caught 29 touchdown passes, intercepted 19 passes and won 30 games for Class AAAAA champions in 2000 and 2001.

22. Jeff Backus

Norcross (1997)

This AJC Super 11 and USA Today and Parade All-American was a four-year starter at Norcross before becoming a four-year starter at Michigan. Now starts in the NFL.

23. Milton Byard

Risley (1950)

Legendary runner who played in the all-black GIA before it merged into the GHSA scored 50 touchdowns in a season for his state-winning Brunswick school.

24. Darius Walker

Buford (2004)

His 46 touchdowns in a season are a GHSA record. So are Buford's 47 consecutive victories as Buford went 45-0 with Walker as its tailback.

25. William Andrews

Thomasville (1974)

Rushed for more than 1,600 yards for each of back-to-back Class AAA state champions. The '74 team was declared a national champion.

— Compiled by Todd Holcomb

By the numbers

18 Georgia high school players who are rated 4-star or higher by Rivals.com, the fourth-most among states in the nation.

44 USA Today high school All-Americans from Georgia since 1982.

28 Consensus college All-Americans from Georgia since 1982.

1 Number of black players from Georgia high schools who were taken in the first round of the NFL draft before 1979.

35 Number of black players from Georgia high schools who have been taken in the first round of the NFL draft since 1979.

830 All-time victories by Valdosta, a national record.

Matthew Stafford

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: John Matthew Stafford (Matt)
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Logan Lawrence

Phone: 512-636-2779

Street Address: 1701 Manor Rd.

City, State, Zip Code: Austin, Texas 78722

Signed: Logan Lawrence

Email: llawrence@uiltexas.org

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: John Matthew Stafford (Matt)
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: N/A
(street address)

N/A, California N/A
(city, state, zip)

Email: N/A

Phone: N/A Date of Birth: 2/7/1988

School Affiliation (if any) _____

City: _____ State: _____

Place of Birth: Tampa, Florida 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:
Quarterback for the Los Angeles Rams

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: Dallas Highland Park High School	Dallas, Texas	2006	Diploma
College/University: University of Georgia	Athens, Georgia	N/A	N/A
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Matthew Stafford
HIGH SCHOOL
Dallas Highland Park (2003-05)
Dallas, Texas
Football
2003: 13-2, 3,182 yards-38 TD, District Champion, State Semifinalist
2004: 8-2, District Champion, Missed multiple games due to injury
2005: 15-0, Class 5A State Champion, 4,013 yards-38 TD, Team averaged 48 PPG, First-Team All-State, State Offensive MVP, Parade Magazine All-American, EA Sports National Player of the Year
Baseball
2004: Played catcher and caught Clayton Kershaw: Regional Semifinalist
2005: District Champions
COLLEGE
University of Georgia (2006-2008)
Athens, Georgia
2006: 1,749 yards-7 TD, 6-2 record as a starter, Chick-Fil-A Bowl MVP, SEC All-Freshman Team
2007: 2,523 yards-19 TD, 11-2 record as a starter, Sugar Bowl Champions, Final National Ranking #2
2008: 3,459 yards-25 TD, 10-3 record as a starter, Capital One Bowl MVP, Pro Football Weekly All-America
NFL
Detroit Lions (2009-2020)
-Selected 1st Round- 1st overall in 2009 NFL Draft
-Led Lions to Playoffs-2011, 2014, 2016
Los Angeles Rams (2021-)
-Led Rams to Super Bowl-2021
Career: NFL Comeback Player of the Year (2011), Pro Bowl NFC Starting QB (2014), Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Nominee (2018), holds Detroit all-time passing yards and passing TD records
Career Accolades
-Texas High School Football Hall of Fame

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

Professional Achievements

Other Information

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Marcus Rayshon Spears
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Karen Hoyt

Phone: 2253004215

Street Address: 12720 Old Hammond Hwy

City, State, Zip Code: Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Signed: Karen Hoyt

Email: khoyt@lhsaa.org

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Marcus Rayshon Spears
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 5802 Chamberlyne Drive
(street address)

Frisco, Texas 75034
(city, state, zip)

Email: marcus.spears@espn.com

Phone: 404-840-7653 Date of Birth: 3/8/1983

School Affiliation (if any) _____

City: Baton Rouge State: _____

Place of Birth: Baton Rouge, Louisiana 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:
Marcus is a NFL analyst for ESPN covering NFL news and live games.

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: Southern Lab	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	2001	
College/University: LSU	Baton Rouge, Louisiana	2005	
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Marcus Spears attended Baton Rouge's Southern University Laboratory School, where he excelled not only on the football field but on the basketball court as well. He finished his final prep season with 28 receptions for 435 yards and three touchdowns and 245 rushing yards and six touchdowns on offense and 22 tackles for losses, 11.5 quarterback sacks and four fumble recoveries on defense. As a senior, Spears led Southern Lab to the 1A state runner up finish in football, the 1A state title in basketball, and to a third place showing in track and field. Spears was also one of the nation's top basketball prospects. He played in the first ever U.S. Army All-American Bowl game on December 30, 2000. Spears went on to play football at LSU where he played tight end, fullback, and defensive end from 2001-2004.
Football is classified 1A - 5A. Basketball is classified C - 5A.

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

Spears was named first team All-State in football on both offense and defense; the first player to be honored on both sides of the ball in Louisiana in any class since 1991. Spears hails from Baton Rouge, La, where he was a highly sought after two-sport high school athlete, recruited for both basketball and football. He played tight end, fullback and defensive end for LSU's football team under Nick Saban from 2001-04. During his sophomore year he became a full-time defensive player and his contributions to the team helped lead the Tigers to two SEC Championships titles (2001, 2003) and a win in the 2004 BCS National Championship. The 2002 season marked his first as a full-time defensive player, in which he recorded 46 tackles, 16 quarterback pressures, 3.5 tackles for losses and three sacks. In 2003, during LSU's national championship season, Spears contributed 49 tackles, 23 quarterback pressures, 13 tackles for losses, six sacks and six passes defensed to earn First-team All-SEC honors.
During his 2004 senior season, Spears put together a career year, earning first-team All-America honors from the Walter Camp Foundation, American Football Coaches Association, and AP, and second-team All-America honors from Sports Illustrated, first-team All-SEC honors, and was a semifinalist for the Bednarik Award and Lombardi Award. He finished the year tying his career-high in tackles (49) while setting career-highs for tackles for losses (17) and sacks (nine, a figure that ranks fourth in the LSU single-season records). He also recorded 21 quarterback pressures to help the Tigers finish the year third in the country in total defense.
Football: The No.1 rated tight end prospect in American listed as the No. 3 overall prospect by Superprep, a consensus All-American. Listed as an All-American by Parade Magazine, ESPN, Fox Sports, Superprep, Prepstar, The Sporting News, USA Today Dick Butkus High School All-American and Rivals.com. Strength Shoe/Louisiana Football Magazine High School Player of the Year. Touchdown Club of Atlanta-Bobby Dodd National High School Awards Program-2000 Lineman of the Year. Named 1st Team 1A All-State on both offense and defense.
Basketball: Played on Class 1A State Championship Team twice named 1A State Championship Game MVP named State Tournament MVP 2001. Twice name to 1A All State Team/Louisiana Gatorade Player of the Year 2001. Played in Nike Basketball Classic in Louisville, Kentucky 2001. Invited to Nike All-American Camp in 1999 and 2000 was ranked No. 11 Power Forward in the nation by Sporting News.
College – Louisiana State University: Played tight end, fullback and defensive end as a freshman. Earning freshman All-SEC Honors. Returned an interception 20 yards for a touchdown to give the tigers a 21-7 lead enroute to a 21-14 win over Oklahoma in the Sugar Bowl to claim the National Title. Finished LSU career with 34.5 tackles for loss, 19 sacks (fifth most in school history). Senior season earned 1st team All-American Honors from the Walter Camp Foundation and American Football Coaches Association. 1st team All-SEC.

Pro Football: Was the 20th pick in the first round of the 2005 NFL draft by the Dallas Cowboys. Earned All-Rookie Honors from Pro Football Weekly. Has been a starter since rookie season named to the Dallas Cowboys All-Decade team.

Professional Achievements

Other Information

Drafted in the first round of the 2005 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys, Spears played defensive end for nine NFL seasons, retiring in 2014.

Marcus Spears is an NFL analyst for ESPN who appears daily on NFL Live. The former NFL defensive end initially joined ESPN as a college football analyst for the SEC Network in April 2014. Spears began appearing on NFL Live in 2019, which led to his new pro football-centric analyst role in June 2020. In addition to appearing on ESPN's weekday NFL news and information show, Spears is a regular contributor to Get Up, SportsCenter, First Take and other ESPN television and radio shows.

Prior to focusing on the NFL, Spears provided analysis on SEC Network's popular Saturday morning football pregame show SEC Nation alongside Tim Tebow, Paul Finebaum and host Laura Rutledge. He also launched Thinking Out Loud on SEC Network, joining Greg McElroy and Alyssa Lang for a weekly hour of SEC football banter.

Letters of Recommendation

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

P.O. Box 8028
Austin, Texas 78713-8028
(512) 471-5883
Theatre (512) 471-9996

November 14, 2023

To the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee,

The Texas University Interscholastic League (UIL) submits Matthew Stafford from Dallas Highland Park High School for induction into the National High School Hall of Fame. Matthew exemplifies the character, sportsmanship, class, and integrity that we expect from high school athletes. From his high school career, through his college playing days and his professional career, he has carried himself with great talent and dignity. We believe he belongs in the National High School Hall of Fame.

Matthew led his Dallas Highland Park football team to a Texas Class 5A State Title, was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 NFL Draft and won a Super Bowl with the Los Angeles Rams. Undoubtedly, he has cemented himself as one of the all-time greats at the quarterback position.

During his time in high school, Stafford led Highland Park to a 28-2 record in his two-plus seasons as a starter. His senior season he guided the Scots to a State Championship with a perfect 15-0 record. Stafford was selected as the state's Offensive Most Valuable Player, *Parade Magazine* All-American, and *EA Sports* National Player of the Year.

Stafford continued that success into College Football where he led Georgia to a Sugar Bowl Victory and #2 Final ranking in 2007. He was named all-America by Pro Football Weekly his final season with the Bulldogs.

In the NFL, Stafford spent 12 seasons with the Detroit Lions and finished as the franchise's career leader in passing yards and passing touchdowns. After being traded to the Los Angeles Rams, he led the squad to a Super Bowl Title in 2021.

Throughout his career and life, he has conducted himself on and off the field in exemplary fashion. This is noted by being a finalist for the NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year award, and his many philanthropic ventures.

It is with great honor that I submit to this committee the outstanding attributes and character traits of Matthew Stafford. I believe that he deserves induction into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Charles

Dr. Charles Breithaupt
Executive Director Texas UIL

UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE

P.O. Box 8028
Austin, Texas 78713-8028
(512) 471-5883
Theatre (512) 471-9996

November 14, 2023

To the NFHS Hall of Fame Screening Committee,

Please find attached to this email the official nomination form and supporting documents for our nomination of Matthew Stafford to the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Stafford has had success at every stop in his career as a quarterback in football. He has led his teams to titles in high school, college, and the NFL. His leadership, sportsmanship and dedication to community service all make him an excellent addition to the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you have pertaining to our nomination. I want to thank you and the committee for your consideration of Matthew Stafford for the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,

Logan Lawrence
Communications Specialist
University Interscholastic League (Texas)

Attachments: NFHS Hall of Fame Nomination Form
Letters of Recommendation
Photos of nominee Matthew Stafford
Support Articles and Documentation

Support Data

Matthew Stafford

HIGH SCHOOL

Dallas Highland Park (2003-05)

Dallas, Texas

Football

2003: 13-2, 3,182 yards-38 TD, District Champion, State Semifinalist
2004: 8-2, District Champion, Missed multiple games due to injury
2005: 15-0, Class 5A State Champion, 4,013 yards-38 TD, Team averaged 48 PPG, First-Team All-State, State Offensive MVP, *Parade Magazine* All-American, *EA Sports* National Player of the Year

Baseball

2004: Played catcher and caught Clayton Kershaw: Regional Semifinalist
2005: District Champions

COLLEGE

University of Georgia (2006-2008)

Athens, Georgia

2006: 1,749 yards-7 TD, 6-2 record as a starter, Chick-Fil-A Bowl MVP, SEC All-Freshman Team
2007: 2,523 yards-19 TD, 11-2 record as a starter, Sugar Bowl Champions, Final National Ranking #2
2008: 3,459 yards-25 TD, 10-3 record as a starter, Capital One Bowl MVP, Pro Football Weekly All-America

NFL

Detroit Lions (2009-2020)

-Selected 1st Round- 1st overall in 2009 NFL Draft
-Led Lions to Playoffs-2011, 2014, 2016

Los Angeles Rams (2021-)

-Led Rams to Super Bowl-2021

Career: NFL Comeback Player of the Year (2011), Pro Bowl NFC Starting QB (2014), Walter Payton NFL Man of the Year Nominee (2018), holds Detroit all-time passing yards and passing TD records

Career Accolades

-Texas High School Football Hall of Fame

SPORTS

Matthew Stafford's HS Teammates Never Doubted He'd Play in the Super Bowl

The Los Angeles Rams quarterback was the "comeback king" of Highland Park's 2005 run to the Texas state championship.

By Robert O'Connell

February 9, 2022

Matthew Stafford after the Rams' win in the NFC Championship Game.
Christian Petersen/Getty

For high school quarterbacks of a certain pedigree, toughness can be theoretical. As a senior at Highland Park High School in 2005, Matthew Stafford had plenty of brawn to him—anyone could see that. His size and strength had college recruiters making repeat trips to Dallas and NFL scouts reserving draft slots: six foot two and 210 pounds, with an arm that fired ballistic spirals. His face ended in a big slab of chin, and his legs, when a defender tried to tackle him, seemed reinforced with rebar. He was the rare prep athlete whose football pads didn't make him all that much larger than he already was.

Still, even though he looked tough, the game came so naturally to him that he rarely needed to prove it. The Scots lost only two regular-season games in Stafford's three seasons as their starting quarterback; he went long stretches arcing deep shots or bull's-eyeing crossing routes before defenders could get within arm's reach of him. "They were usually winning by a lot," is what Stafford's mother, Margaret, mostly remembers about her son's high school days.

One afternoon at practice, during a drill designed to overload the offensive line and let Stafford work out of danger, a stray cleat landed on his foot. The fear of a broken bone soon passed, but Stafford had already undergone an operation on his knee over the summer, and Randy Allen, Highland Park's coach, reckoned there was no sense in putting the country's top high school prospect in harm's way, so he shelved the drill. A couple weeks later, after a pair of lackluster outings, the player walked up to the coach.

"I've got to do that drill again," Stafford said. "I've got to feel pressure."

Careful what you wish for. On Sunday, the now-34-year-old Stafford will lead the Los Angeles Rams in the Super Bowl against the Cincinnati Bengals, a reward for a decade spent facing every sort of hardship pro football has to offer: seasons ending with double-digit losses or in last-second heartbreak, a **separated shoulder**, a **broken back**. Over twelve years with the Detroit Lions, the franchise that selected him out of the University of Georgia as the first pick in the 2009 NFL Draft, Stafford played through injuries to put up sublime numbers for a cursed club. (He completed a league-best 435 passes

for nearly five thousand yards in 2012, for example—as the Lions finished 4–12 and last in their division.)

POPULAR VIDEOS

Even though Stafford is finally enjoying the perks of a championship-worthy roster, thanks to an off-season **trade** that sent him to L.A., it hasn't been a smooth ride. The Rams' divisional-round win over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers required him to go **toe-to-toe with Tom Brady** in the last pivotal moments; in the NFC title game against the San Francisco 49ers, he spearheaded the Rams' **comeback** from a ten-point deficit in the fourth quarter.

Stafford's taking the long way to the sport's peak is fitting. He is the golden-armed wunderkind turned underdog, the prodigiously gifted grinder. Former teammates and coaches who have known him all his life note two essential qualities in the quarterback: he makes it look easy, and he knows it has to be hard.

One of Stafford's oldest friends, Pan Lucas, grew up on a long, straight street, in a house next door to Allen's. It was here that Allen saw his future quarterback, then twelve or thirteen years old, throw for the first time. Playing catch, Stafford sent his friend down the block 70 yards, by Allen's

estimate, and hit Lucas in mid-stride. (The longest NFL completion this season, by air yardage, traveled 66.) “That’s pretty impressive for an eighth grader,” Allen says, chuckling the way one might when calling a thunderstorm a drizzle.

Stafford’s childhood was a montage: he starred in soccer, basketball, baseball, and football, flashing in those last two sports the sort of throwing ability Texans credit to something in the state’s soil. His time competing **alongside Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw** has been documented ad nauseam. (The popular telling is that Kershaw was Stafford’s center and Stafford Kershaw’s catcher, but Margaret says her son more often played shortstop behind his now fellow L.A. icon. “I’m out there bored to death, because nothing gets hit to me,” she says he told her when he set baseball aside early in high school.) “He was just this humble kid with a great arm,” Lucas recalls. “I thought it was normal to have friends like that. Sixth, seventh grade, we’re throwing fifty-yard bombs down the sideline, and that’s when I started to realize other teams weren’t doing that.”

His instincts might have been even rarer. Stafford’s father, John, remembers a middle-school game in which his son strayed from the coach’s play call, instead flipping a quick pass out to a receiver who made a cut and scampered to the end zone. The coach asked Stafford what he’d seen. “The cornerback’s feet were pointed inside,” a twelve-year-old Stafford replied. “There was no way he was gonna stop him.”

By the time Stafford settled in as a starter at Highland Park in his sophomore year, he and Allen had set a ritual. They’d meet during free periods and Allen would lay out checkers: eleven red ones for the offense, on Stafford’s side, and eleven black for the defense, on his own. Allen moved his pieces quickly, miming all-out blitzes or intricate combination coverages, trying to outmaneuver his quarterback. When he took his fingers off the plastic, Stafford had already mapped out the needed adjustments, a tight end dispatched to shore up protection or a receiver shuttled into an open zone.

Stafford piled up stats over runs of blowout wins, tallying 38 touchdowns and more than 4,100 yards over fifteen games as a senior. But he savored the rare

close calls. Early in his last playoff run, Stafford threw for 411 yards and four scores to bring the Scots back from a seventeen-point deficit against Texarkana, the team that had eliminated them the previous year. In the state semifinal a few weeks later, Highland Park trailed Stephenville by four points with a minute and a half left, and Stafford marched his offense the length of the field.

"We were in no-huddle; he'd run us back to the line, get the calls out there," remembers Reid Prince, Highland Park's left tackle. "It was just a smooth-running machine." Stafford's last pass of the day was a game-winning touchdown drilled past tight coverage into the chest of receiver Holt Martin. What stands out in the video of the play is the comfort with which Stafford pulls it off: a turn of the helmet, a flick of the wrist. A checker sliding across a desk. Highland Park beat Marshall 59–0 the next week for the state championship.

Ahead of the 2009 draft, some analysts speculated that Stafford might—or argued that he should—try to maneuver away from Detroit, which held the top pick. (John Elway and Eli Manning are among the big-name passers who pulled off similar power moves in the past.) The Lions were fresh off a winless season; ninety-plus years into their existence, Detroit's NFL franchise remains best known for squandering the transcendent talent of

running back **Barry Sanders**. At a predraft dinner, Troy Aikman asked Stafford whether he'd prefer to drop in the draft, whether it mattered to him to go number one. John Stafford recalls his son's response: "Yes, it does," Matthew told Aikman. "I want to go with whoever wants me."

By the standards of franchise quarterbacks, Stafford's stretch in Detroit was an unsuccessful one. The Lions racked up ten or more losses six times and made the playoffs only three times during his twelve seasons at the helm, losing on each occasion in the first round. From another vantage, though, those years were a study in resilience. In one game during his rookie season, Stafford threw five touchdowns in a 38–37 win, the last of those coming after he separated his shoulder and doctors cautioned against his returning to the field. Stafford missed the last few games of that year with a knee injury and much of the next year with shoulder troubles, but then made 136 consecutive starts before missing time again in 2019 with a fractured back. The dearth of talent around him, save for the now–Hall of Fame receiver Calvin Johnson, had the effect of isolating certain core characteristics. The Lions won 74 games with Stafford under center; in 31 of those, Stafford led **fourth-quarter comebacks**.

Stafford's trade to Los Angeles last January—one mutually and cordially pursued by the Lions and Stafford himself, once both parties agreed on the need for a fresh start—has let other traits shine through. For stretches of this season, he looked like an MVP candidate, opening the schedule with nine touchdowns and just one interception over three wins. Despite some later turbulence, such as a three-game skid at the turn of the year in which he threw seven picks, Stafford has been just what the savvy and star-studded Rams were looking for: a quarterback who can execute head coach Sean McVay's elaborate passing offense and, at key moments, expand upon it. Stafford tallied 4,886 yards and 41 touchdowns during the regular season, the third- and second-highest totals in the NFL. His teammate Cooper Kupp, a fine receiver who before 2021 had never made a Pro Bowl, set an all-time NFL record for yardage.

“We went out and got him because we thought it was a chance to be able to get a great player of his magnitude,” **McVay said** after the Rams knocked off the Niners. “He’s elevated everybody around him. He’s made me a better coach. He’s made his teammates better. He’s such a great person. . . . Love Matthew Stafford.”

Stafford’s playoff run has had the feel of a fable with a none-too-subtle moral: hardship is a gift. In the divisional round against Tampa Bay, Los Angeles built a 27–3 lead, but, Margaret says, “Against Brady, we weren’t letting ourselves get too confident.” A run of fumbles and some Brady theatrics produced a tie game late, and the Rams had the ball with 42 seconds left. It was the kind of circumstance Stafford had asked for in practices a decade and a half ago, the conditions he had thrived under in the Texas state tournament, the last-minute magic he had mastered while dragging Detroit to more wins than they deserved. “There’s nothing Matthew likes better than having the ball in his hands with a chance to win the game,” Margaret says.

Stafford connected with Kupp on a 20-yard breaking route and, on the next snap, saw his favorite target slip past the deepest defender. He lofted the ball and let Kupp run under it: 44 more yards. A field goal later, McVay was smacking Stafford’s helmet in celebration.

> BIG PLAY STAFFORD 44-YD PASS TO KUPP .. FGA COMING UP#**Rams** 27 #**Buccaneers** 27 Q4 **pic.twitter.com/Vutzah1Egj**
>
> — SPORTs 24/7⁑ (@Sports_24x7_) January 23, 2022

Stafford’s old teammate Prince was watching at home, as he did the next week when the Rams came back against San Francisco. During both games, he felt the same way he had in those 2005 Highland Park huddles: calm. “I kind of thought he’d have two or three rings by now,” Prince says. “But he’s doing what we always thought. If they leave too much time, he has the skills; he has the weapons. And he’s the comeback king.”

Matthew Stafford's high school number retired by Highland Park

By FOX 4 Staff | Published September 10, 2022 | Highland Park | FOX 4 |

HIGHLAND PARK, Texas - Highland Park High School retired the number of alum Matthew Stafford Friday night.

The Super Bowl winning quarterback was humbled.

"I just want to say this is an unbelievable night for myself, my family, hopefully for all th guys that I played with," Stafford said.

It was a packed stadium for the ceremony to retire the Highland Park Scots #7 jersey

In 2005, he led the team to a state championship and a 15-0 record.

During his 13th season in the NFL, he won his first Super Bowl with the Los Angeles Rams earlier this year.

Stafford said he's busy during football season and he hasn't been able to get back to Highland Park to watch the Scots, but the Rams played Buffalo Thursday night, so ar day Friday meant a special night for him and his family.

"Even driving up here tonight to come do this, watching everybody kind of walk to the game, the guys out there warming up before the game, just brought back a lot of memories and it was fun for my family to see that too," Stafford said. "My wife, my fou

girls, oh this is where daddy played football when he was a kid and all that, so it's a lo of fun."

4 to Watch: Highland Park to retire Matthew Stafford's number

Each week, FOX 4 Sports reporter Jeff Kolb previews four of the week's biggest high school games. This week, one of those games is the Lake Highlands vs. Highland Pa game. Former Highland Park star quarterback turned Super Bowl champion, Matthew Stafford, will have his high school jersey retired during halftime.

RELATED: North Texas High School Football 2022 Week 3 Highlights

Stafford has tied Drew Brees by reaching 50,000 passing yards the fastest, doing it in 183 games.

Only 11 other QBs have reached that milestone.

The Scots ended up beating Lake Highlands 52-14.

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Stafford stays cool under pressure

Jon Mahoney, ESPNHS.com
Oct 13, 2009, 12:51 PM ET

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Editor's Note: This story first appeared in the October 2005 Dallas-Fort Worth issue, 3 1/2 years before the Detroit Lions took Stafford with the No. 1 pick of the 2009 NFL Draft

Some quarterbacks just have "it" -- the poise and composure to lead their teams to victory, no matter what the situation. Sure, a strong arm and speed are nice, but having "it" puts you on a whole other level.

SCOTS
7

At Highland Park, Matthew Stafford modeled his game after the legendary John Elways. Vernon Bryant\ESPN RISE

Joe Montana, John Elway and Tom Brady can all be placed in that category. And these days, on the high school level, so can Highland Park (Dallas, Texas) senior quarterback Matthew Stafford, whose favorite player is, fittingly, Elway.

Stafford's ability to lead under pressure, along with his considerable physical talents, are the main reasons why the 6-foot-3, 220-pounder is rated the nation's No. 1 signal caller and No. 10 overall recruit.

Highland Park head coach Randy Allen first got a glimpse of those skills back during Stafford's freshman season. Allen, who is in his seventh year coaching the Scots and 32nd year of coaching overall, put Stafford in the game late during a blowout first-round playoff victory over Sulphur Springs.

During his tenure at Highland Park, Allen usually had a junior quarterback waiting in the wings to take over the following season. But this time, Stafford, who started for the freshman team, was going to be the varsity starter his sophomore year. And that playoff game was Allen's chance to see if Stafford had the goods.

"We only got him in for three plays against Sulphur Springs," says Allen. "He threw it very hard, and you could tell he had some talent. We knew he was going to be the quarterback for the next year, so we wanted to get him some game experience."

Although it was only three plays, that little bit of playing time -- along with some practice experience with the varsity -- did wonders for his confidence.

"It was awesome," says Stafford, who has committed to play his college football at Georgia, where his sister, Page, is currently a freshman. "It was just a good experience. Just going through practice made me feel comfortable for the next year. Even just that little playing time helped me understand the speed of the game, and it slowed things down."

Heading into his sophomore campaign, Stafford felt like he was comfortable running the show for the varsity and was ready to have a big year. But describing his sophomore season as simply "big" would be like saying Terrell Owens sometimes likes to talk.

Exploding onto the scene, Stafford put up monster numbers that even Peyton Manning would be proud of. The sophomore gunslinger completed 173-of-307 passes (56.4 percent) for 3,182 yards, 38 touchdowns and just five interceptions while leading Highland Park to a 13-2 record and the District 12-4A title.

The stats were incredible, but it was the poise and leadership he showed in the pocket that opened many people's eyes. Those traits were especially evident in the Class 4A regional semifinals against Ennis, which was led by quarterback Graham Harrell.

Harrell, who's now at Texas Tech, wasn't any ordinary high school signal caller. He broke the state record for career touchdown passes with 167 and earned a reputation for being a big-game quarterback. With Harrell's impressive resume, no one would have faulted Stafford if he wilted under the pressure.

But Stafford was unfazed and even outplayed Harrell, passing for 403 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Scots to a 38-28 win.

"He had played good in other games," says Allen. "But this was just a game where he made good decisions and showed a strong arm in a real pressure situation."

"We had a good game plan and a really good team around me," adds Stafford. "I tried not to lose the game. For some reason, I really don't get nervous in those situations."

That isn't the only time Stafford has come up big in the clutch. After defeating Ennis in the regional semifinals, Stafford led Highland Park on a two-minute drive toward the end of the game for the winning score against Kilgore in the regional finals, sending the Scots to the state semifinals, where they ultimately lost to Denton Ryan.

Then last season, Highland Park was staring at 4th-and-goal from the 10-yard line and trailing Wylie, 34-28, in a game for the district title. Only 45 seconds remained on the clock, and failure to score would end the game.

Stafford took the snap and was flushed out to the left by the oncoming pass rush. He kept his composure, however, and threw a perfect pass across the field, finding Holt Martin in the back of the end zone to tie the game. The ensuing extra point then gave the Scots a 35-34 victory and the district crown.

"The play didn't work as it was designed," says Allen. "He had to create something, and he made a throw that I think no other high school quarterback could make. I haven't seen anyone make those throws."

The game proved once again that Stafford has ice water in his veins, but it ended up being a bright spot in a tough season. Stafford still put up good numbers (1,748 yards and 18 touchdown passes in 10 games), but the Scots were bounced by Texarkana in the first round of the playoffs.

"My junior year was pretty frustrating," says Stafford. "Teams were using three-man lines and dropping eight back into coverage. We had a good enough team to go further, but we lost in the first round."

Since then, Stafford has been an animal in the weight room to make sure his senior season ends on a high note. He worked four days a week with a personal trainer over the summer, and he also eliminated any recruiting distractions in May when he committed to Georgia over Florida State, Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas.

Stafford's hard work this past summer has paid off in the eyes of Allen, who believes Stafford looks even better this fall.
"The strength of his arm is what sets him apart," says Allen. "He's very strong and has a quick release. He's really developing as a quarterback right now in terms of not just relying on his arm."

Add that to his unwavering confidence in pressure situations and you're looking at one scary quarterback for opponents to deal with.

"He's got a background of enjoying clutch situations and having the confidence that he can bring his team to victory," says Allen.
Something Stafford hopes to do even more of this season.

Jon Mahoney covers high school sports for ESPN RISE Magazine.

Texas High School Football Hall of Fame Inductees: Matthew Stafford

MATTHEW STAFFORD

Highland Park

Matthew Stafford started as quarterback for the Highland Park Scots his sophomore, junior and senior years under Coach Randy Allen. During those three seasons, he threw for 9,000 yards and 94 touchdowns, leading the 2005 Band of Brothers to a 15-0 record and the first State Championship in 48 years for the Highland Park Scots. In his senior season he threw for 4,000 yards and 38 touchdowns. Stafford's high school awards and accolades include: QB 2005 5A All-State Champions, 2005 5A All-State QB, All-State Team 4A Offensive Player of the Year, and First Team Offense. He was named to the Parade (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parade_(magazine)) All-America Team, the USA Today (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USA_Today) Preseason Super 25 in 2005, won the MVP and Best Arm awards at the 2005 EA Sports (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/EA_Sports) Elite 11 Quarterback Camp (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ESPN_RISE_Elite_11) and was named the 2005 EA Sports National Player of the Year. Regarded as a five-star recruit by Rivals.com (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rivals.com), Stafford was listed as the No. 1 pro-style quarterback prospect in the class of 2006. Other awards include: Chevrolet Team Player of the Year, Gatorade Texas Player of the Year, All State (AP) First Team Offense, All Area – Offensive Player of the Year, All District – Most Valuable Player of the Year, Texas Sports Writer Assoc.

Stafford went on to star at the University of Georgia, where he threw for 7,731 yards and 51 touchdowns in three seasons. He was the No. 1 pick in the 2009 NFL Draft, chosen by the Detroit Lions, where he played for 12 seasons. Traded to the Los Angeles Rams in 2021, Stafford led the Rams to victory in the Super Bowl LVI Championship. Entering his 15th NFL season, Stafford has passed for more than 52,000 yards and 333 touchdowns.

Matthew and his wife Kelly live in California with their four daughters, Chandler, Sawyer, Hunter and Tyler.

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Texas High School Football Hall of Fame: Highland Park set Stafford on successful path

From the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame Class of 2023 series

Brice Cherry
May 5, 2023

Matthew Stafford, who led Highland Park to a state championship as a senior before going on to success in college and the NFL, will be inducted into the Te High School Football Hall of Fame on Saturday.
Steve Slate, Texas HS Football Hall of Fame

Brice Cherry

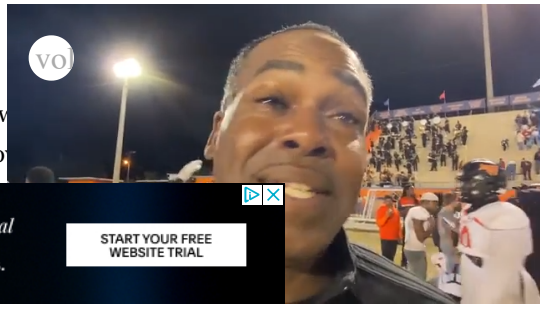
Each level of football is unique in its own way. High school is not completely like college, and the college game differs greatly from the NFL.

Matthew Stafford has experienced it all, and some of his fondest football memories can be traced to his days flinging the pigskin around for Highland Park.

Stafford, 35, will be inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame on Saturday in the nine-member Class of 2023. The Super Bowl-winning quarterback of the Los Angeles Rams considers those Highland Park memories precious. What made that time unique is that he didn't just go back with those guys, he went way, way back.

We're talking pool parties, sleepovers and backyard barbecues.

"To me, it was just the relationships you have," Stafford said. "I grew ended up playing high school football with. I know their moms, kno br tra sc

Lake Wales wins 25th straight Florida high school football ... close


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Stafford was born in Tampa, Fla., but his family moved to Texas when he was 3 years old, so being a Texan is really all he ever remembers.

He and his buddies dreamed of growing up and becoming high school football stars for the Highland Park Scots, one of the state's most successful all-time programs. They ended up living out that dream in the richest of ways. As a senior in 2005, Stafford passed for 4,000 yards and 38 touchdown passes, as the Scots went 15-0 and captured the Class 4A Div. I state championship.

There's not much better than winning state with your friends, Stafford said.

"It's way up there for sure," he said. "As much as I remember the games we played and stuff like that, the experiences with teammates and coaches, high school football is a really unique experience, especially at Highland Park. You're kind of going to school with the same people for a long, long time, and to get the opportunity to go out there and play football with them for a bunch of years and then to be able to culminate that our senior season with a state championship was a real special experience. A lot of memories along the way."

One of Stafford's high school friends was Clayton Kershaw, now a three-time Cy Young Award-winning pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers. Stafford even acted as Kershaw's occasional battery mate during his youth.

So, what's tougher — standing in the pocket amid an oncoming NFL pass rush, or catching a Kershaw fastball?

"Oh, standing in the pocket for sure," Stafford said. "At least I knew where Kershaw's fastball was going, I have no idea where it's coming from when it comes to a pass rush."

After his heroics at Highland Park, Stafford was ranked as a five-star prospect and he had his choice of college destinations. He ended up signing with Georgia, where his father John attended grad school years before. Stafford started as a true freshman for the Bulldogs, and ended up throwing for 51 touchdowns in three seasons before opting to forgo his senior year and enter the NFL Draft in 2009. He left with a 3-0 record in bowl games and a 6-3 record in rivalry games against Florida, Auburn and Georgia Tech.

Lake Wales wins 25th straight Florida high school football ... close

Georgia remains a special place to Stafford, and he has definitely en
Bulldogs these past couple of seasons as they've claimed consecutive

"It's been pretty incredible," Stafford said. "What Kirby (Smart) has
been really great. I feel like they've got a good thing going, and looki
ahead."

With his elite arm strength and his experience playing at top-flight high school and college programs, Stafford was viewed as a can't-miss prospect entering the draft. The Detroit Lions took him with the No. 1 overall pick, and he became the face of that franchise, spending 12 seasons in Motown.

Asked if he believes his time at Highland Park prepared him well for what he faced ahead at Georgia and in the NFL, Stafford didn't hesitate.

"The competition is as good as it gets," he said. "There are great players in the state, obviously, and I think even more so great programs. From the coaches and the schools, it's an important thing for a lot of the schools out there. They invest in it with their coaching staffs and their facilities, and the support they give the players, it's not like that in every state. I was lucky to grow up in a state like Texas where they're doing everything they can to try to support us as student-athletes, and that was fun."

Stafford experienced his share of highs and lows during his time leading the Lions. He missed all but three games in his second season due to a shoulder injury. But he returned with a bang the next year in 2011, becoming the third NFL quarterback to pass for 5,000 yards in a season while winning the league's Comeback Player of the Year honor.

Following the 2020 season, the Lions traded Stafford to the Rams in a blockbuster deal. It worked out pretty nicely for both Stafford and his new team, as the QB scripted a Hollywood ending to his first season in Los Angeles. He threw for 41 touchdowns in leading the Rams to a 12-win regular season. Better yet, he piloted L.A. to a 4-0 run through the playoffs, including a 23-20 win over the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl LVI.

"It's been an unbelievable ride," Stafford said. "Coming up on Year 15 now, it's crazy to look back on it every once in a while and think about all the time and the teammates and games and experiences that I've had, it's pretty incredible, honestly. I loved my time in Detroit, my 12 years there, and then my first year here, being able to win a Super Bowl with a great group of guys. Being able to experience that was something I'll never forget and still working to try to do it again."

His old buddy Kershaw cheered him on at that game, as Stafford and the Rams were able to celebrate in front of their home fans at SoFi Stadium.

"Clayton was obviously a special guy to go to school with and grow up with," Stafford said. "I've always kept up with him. I was a baseball player and a fan growing up, and I think he loves football as well. So it's been fun to watch his career from afar, how dominant he's been. It's been really impressive. I was so happy for him to get a World Series ring (in 2020) and I'm definitely excited to have won a Super Bowl, and it's kind of fun doing it in the same city."

Stafford was able to play only nine games in the 2022 season due to multiple injuries, including two concussions and a spinal cord contusion. But he said he feels re
2023 season. Even after 15 years and more than 52,000 passing yar
still has more gas in the tank.

Lake Wales wins 25th straight Florida high school football ... close

"It's been good. Never going to be perfect," he said. "I've played 15 y
that'll take a toll on you. But I'm excited about some of the new piec
the guys that we've got returning. Obviously it's a blessing to be able
do it at a high level, and I'm looking forward to the opportunity to d

Stafford said he still keeps up with several of his Highland Park pals. One of his high school friends was the best man at his wedding. Those guys are teammates for life.

Some bonds never break.

“When you’re in college, I was the only guy from Texas on my college team for a long time, and then in the NFL you get new teammates every week,” Stafford said. “So you get to know some of the guys who stick around for a long time, but that doesn’t happen very often. So, just the relationships that you get to build over time with kids, from elementary to middle to high school, is a special part of playing high school football.”

Lake Wales wins 25th straight Florida high school football game

TEXAS HS FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME

This is the ninth and final story in a series of profiles on the 2023 induction class to the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame, who will be enshrined Saturday. A live stream of the banquet, beginning at 6 p.m. from the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, will be available at www.texanlive.com.

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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

Thursday, November 10, 2022

2022-2023 NCHSAA Board of Directors
Rob Jackson, President
Buncombe County Schools
Chris Blanton, Vice President
Watauga High School
Bobby Wilkins, Past-President
Hendersonville High School
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Troy Lindsey
Gray's Creek High School
Fred Lynch
Laney High School
Andy McCormick
Union Pines High School
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Wake County Schools
Tod Morgan
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Cabarrus County Schools
Tanya Turner
Perquimans County Schools
Larry Williford
Farmville Central High School
Affiliate Members
Vernon Aldridge
N.C. Athletic Directors Association
Elbert Lassiter
North State Football Officials Association
Joe Franks
N.C. Coaches Association
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,

Marilyn Que Tucker

Que Tucker
NCHSAA Commissioner

Pitt County Schools

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

1717 West Fifth Street
Greenville, North Carolina 27834
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TEL: 252-830-4200
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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

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 and attention to this,

Clay Medlin
Athletic Director
J.H. Rose High School

National Federation Of State November 12,2022

High School Association

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

Support 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

39°
Greenville, NC

News First Alert Weather Sports ENC At Three Watch Live

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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BASEBALL

RV KEEPS ON ROLLING

Record-breaking, youth mentor RV in his own class

By Ronnie Woodward Sports Writer Jul 1, 2021

1 of 7

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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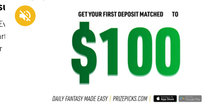

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Get to know the winningest HS baseball coach in N.C. history, Ronald Vincent

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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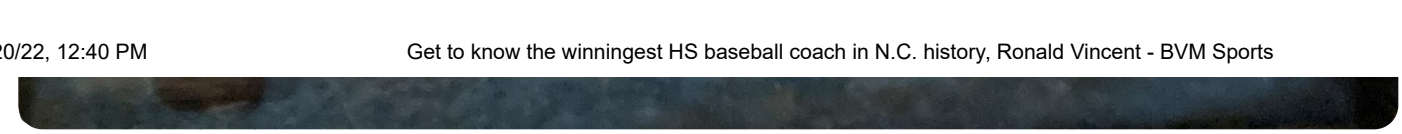

Not only was he dedicated to the baseball program at Rose, he was also a Social Studies teacher from 1973 until 2009. For 40 years he was committed to the educational growth of his students.

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 put

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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.

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

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 NCAAs in 2011 and set a school record of 144.51 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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Tyrone Wheatley

Nomination Form

HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: Tyrone Anthony Wheatley
(first, middle, last)

Individual Submitting Nomination:

Name: Geoffrey Kimmerly - MHSAA

Phone: 5173325046

Street Address: 1661 Ramblewood Drive

City, State, Zip Code: East Lansing, Michigan 48823

Signed: Geoffrey Kimmerly - MHSAA

Email: geoff@mhsaa.com

State Association Verification? True

NOMINEE INFORMATION SHEET

Please Check Appropriate Nomination Category:

Athletes

Name of Nominee: Tyrone Anthony Wheatley
(first, middle, last)

Current Address: 4356 Hickory Ridge Court
(street address)

Plymouth, Michigan 48170
(city, state, zip)

Email: _____

Phone: 5109675744 Date of Birth: 1/19/1972

School Affiliation (if any) _____

City: _____ State: _____

Place of Birth: , Michigan 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? __No_____

If yes, please explain:

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: Dearborn Heights Robichaud	Dearborn, Michigan	1991	
College/University: University of Michigan	Ann Arbor, Michigan	2008	kinesiology
Post Graduate School:			

Athletes

Participation/Career Description/Biography:

Football: Over three varsity seasons ran for a combined 4,257 yards and 67 TDs, including 2,010 yards and 33 touchdowns on 208 carries as a senior in 1990 -- the latter despite playing quarterback half of that season (and throwing for five TDs). He played quarterback, running back, defensive back, punter, kicker and returned kicks, and he scored 252 points over 13 games as a senior and 484 over 38 career games. Led Robichaud to its only football state championship, in Class B (4 classes, second-largest schools) in 1990, when he ran for 168 yards and 3 TDs, kicked three extra points, punted and made 13 tackles in the title game. During his team's regular-season finale that fall, he ran for a school-record 344 yards and 5 TDs on 18 carries, with a sixth TD on a 62-yard interception return.

Basketball: Averaged 14 points and 16 rebounds per game as a senior in earning all-Metro Detroit honorable mention from the Detroit Free Press -- when the first team included future NBA standouts Chris Webber, Jalen Rose and Voshon Lenard. He had averaged 18 ppg as a junior.

Track & Field: Won nine MHSAA Finals individual championships over his final three seasons, including an unprecedented four titles as a junior in 1990; he was the first (and remains one of only two) to do so in a Lower Peninsula Final, and he scored 40 of his team's 49 points in winning the Class B championship (4 classes, second-largest schools) that season. The four individual titles were in the 100 meters, 200 meters, 110-meter hurdles and long jump. His meet records of 13.7 seconds in the 100 at the 1991 LP Class B Final and 23-10.75 in long jump in 1989 still stood when the four-Class format was retired after the 1999 season. He also won the 100 three times at the prestigious Mansfield Relays in Ohio, among several similar accomplishments.

Contributions Athletics/NFHS/Education Philosophy:

Personal Records/Honors/Awards

Named as the top high school athlete in Michigan high school history by State Champs! Sports Network (as selected by longtime Detroit News sportswriter Tom Markowski) and considered the top high school athlete covered over the 50-year career by Detroit Free Press sportswriter Mick McCabe.

Named to Michigan Sports Hall of Fame in 2013.

Football: Named consensus all-stater (AP, Detroit Free Press, Detroit News) as a defensive back as a junior in 1989 and running back as a senior in 1990. Named to the Parade All-America team as a defensive back in 1990. Selected as the state's No. 1 "Blue Chip" college prospect in 1991 by both the Detroit Free Press and Detroit News.

Basketball: Earned all-league recognition and all-Metro Detroit honorable mention.

Track & Field: His MHSAA championships came three times in the long jump, three times in the 100, two times in the 110 hurdles and once in the 200. His performances were among the best all-time in state history (and remain so), and he ran among the nation's fastest high school sprinters as a senior in 1991.

Professional Achievements

Other Information

The stories are things of legend ... he won the hurdles state championship two months after teaching himself the event ... he ran so fast at the 1991 state meet that he caused a timing system malfunction because he was so far out in front ... he could dunk from the free throw line ... he started his first football game as a freshman at quarterback, but moved to tailback and scored an 85-yard touchdown on his first carry.

Wheatley went on to run for 4,187 yards and score 53 total touchdowns at Michigan, and he was a Big Ten outdoor champion and All-American in track while earning three letters.

Wheatley was drafted in the first round of the 1995 NFL Draft by the New York Giants and played 10 seasons, concluding his playing career with the Oakland Raiders.
He returned to Robichaud as its varsity coach in 2007 and led that team to a 9-2 record -- after the team finished 0-9 the previous season, and as the team went on to finish 0-9 the following season after he'd left. That 2007 team made the MHSAA Playoffs for the first time since 1994.
Wheatley served as an assistant football coach at four college programs including U-M and Syracuse and with the Buffalo Bills, Jacksonville Jaguars and Denver Broncos. He served as Morgan State University's head coach from 2019-21 and just completed his first season as head coach at Division II Wayne State University.

Letters of Recommendation

michigan high school athletic association

1661 Ramblewood Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823-7392
Phone: 517/332-5046
Fax: 517/332-4071

November 10, 2023

Mr. Bruce L. Howard
Director of Publications and Communications
National Federation of State High School Associations

Dear Bruce:

I am pleased to write on behalf of Tyrone Wheatley in support of his nomination to the National High School Hall of Fame.

Outside of the state of Michigan, Tyrone Wheatley is best known for his accomplishments on the football field – indeed, he was a fine player for Dearborn Heights Robichaud, leading his team to a state championship in 1990 and earning a Parade All-America honor before starring at University of Michigan and then playing 10 seasons in the NFL. On his football achievements alone, he is a candidate for the Hall of Fame – not to mention he was an all-Metro Detroit selection in basketball as well, which has been all but forgotten three decades later.

However, the legend of Tyrone Wheatley in our state is based on his accomplishments in track & field, especially as a junior in 1990. While the well-told story that he single-handedly won a team state championship that spring isn't accurate – Robichaud needed two more top-eight finishes to clinch – he did score 40 of his team's 49 points that day in the most dominant performance in our state's championship history in that sport. That afternoon, Wheatley became the first (of only two) athletes to win four individual events at an MHSAA Lower Peninsula Finals, taking first in the 100 and 200-meter dashes, 110-meter high hurdles and long jump. (Michigan's four Lower Peninsula championship meets include 92 percent of the state's schools, making this on par with a statewide accomplishment.)

Wheatley completed his high school career in 1991 with three more Class B individual track & field championships and nine total over his final three seasons. Interestingly, neither of his MHSAA Finals records for his division were achieved during his four-championship meet in 1990; he set the Class B Finals long jump record in 1989 and the 110 hurdles record in 1991, and those still stood when those classifications were retired after the 1999 season.

Michigan has produced nearly 50 Olympians in track & field alone, and our state's longest-tenured sportswriter – who also is writing a letter of recommendation for this nomination – has called Tyrone Wheatley the "greatest athlete" he's covered during a career spanning more than 50 years. Surely this Michigan great has earned a place in the National High School Hall of Fame as well.

Sincerely,

Mark Uyl
Executive Director

November 12, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am honored to nominate Tyrone Wheatley to the National High School Hall of Fame. As a multi-sport athlete at Robichaud High School in Dearborn Heights, Michigan, Wheatley might be better known in football. But in the sport of track & field, his achievements were legendary. He regularly competed in four events—the 100, 200, 110 hurdles and long jump—and mastered them all to become one of the best in the nation in each.

As a sophomore in 1989, he broke a state finals long jump record that had stood for 17 years when he leaped 23-10.75. That same meet he also tied the Class B meet record in the 100-meters at 10.5 (hand-timed).

His junior year, 1990, Wheatley became the first Michigan athlete in 38 years to win four individual titles at the state finals. He battled strong headwinds in winning the 110 highs (14.85) and the 100 (10.8 hand). He further added the 200 (21.9 hand), and capped his momentous day by barely missing his own long jump record with a 23-10. He scored 40 of his team's 49 points to capture the team trophy.

During his senior year (1991), he showed his multi-sport versatility in his very first meet. The night after his team was eliminated in the early rounds of the state basketball tournament, he ran an indoor 55-meter dash and finished second in a state record 6.28, missing the win by just a thousandth of a second in what was at that point the fastest race in the nation that year.

Moving outdoors, Wheatley became the only athlete to win the 100 three times at the prestigious Mansfield Relays in Ohio. He did that in addition to winning the 110 hurdles in 13.87 and taking second in the long jump all within a span of an hour. He came back later and captured the 200 in 21.63. At his regional meet, he again won all four of his events, highlighting the day by long jumping 24-7, at the time the longest leap ever in MHSAA competition.

Expected to again win all four at the Class B Finals that year, he came close before being foiled by an injury. He jumped once in the long jump but won for the third straight year at 23-0. Then he successfully defended his hurdle title, but was victim of a timing snafu. According to meet referee Blake Hageman: "Wheatley was so far out in front it caused the timing device to malfunction. All the runners were in the picture but him." He was given a hand time of 13.7, a mark that surpassed the state record. Then he won his third straight 100 in 10.67, but halfway through he pulled his hamstring and crossed the line injured. That ended his hopes of competing in the 200 final and repeating his record 4 wins.

His career tally of 9 individual MHSAA final titles matched the most ever won, marking him as one of the sport's legends. However, in interviews after his final prep meet, he said he just wanted to be remembered as a "nice person."

Had he specialized in the sport of track & field, as many athletes do today, there is no doubt that Wheatley would have made an even bigger impact on the record books. Instead, he represented the ideal of the multi-sport athlete, and left a legacy that has been an inspiration for the many student-athletes who have attempted to follow in his footsteps.

Jeff Hollobaugh
President, Michtrack
A non-profit organization dedicated to the history of track & field in Michigan

To Whom It May Concern:

I began covering high school athletics for the Free Press in 1970 so over the last 50-plus years I have covered every high-level athlete in the state.

Earvin (Magic) Johnson, Derek Jeter, Dathan Ritzenhein, Dena Head, Jerome Bettis, Shane Battier, Antonio Gates, Jalen Rose, Charles Rogers, Rickea Jackson, Dan Majerle . . . I could go on and one. I've seen them all.

But of all of the great athletes Michigan has produced over the last 50 years, one stands above the rest: Tyrone Wheatley.

Tyrone is best known for his exploits as a football player and justifiably so. As a senior at Dearborn Heights Robichaud he literally carried his team to a state championship.

Travel to the small town of Kingsford in the state's Upper Peninsula and you will find that they are still talking about his two-way performance against the Flivvers (you have to love that nickname) to give Robichaud the state title.

The state has had a tremendous amount of standout football players, but Tyrone was also an excellent basketball player. He was a 15-point,10-rebound guy every night and you couldn't find a seat at a game because of the expectation of what he might do.

In one game, Tyrone was driving to the basket and took off one step inside the free throw line and threw down a thundering dunk.

I happened to look at the official under the basket and his whistle tumbled out of his mouth as he looked on in amazement. I guess it was a literal jaw-dropping moment.

Then came track season and a case could be made that it was Tyrone's best sport. I truly believe that had he given up football and concentrated on track he could have become an Olympic sprinter, hurdler or long jumper . . . or decathlete.

In his senior year he won the state title for Robichaud by winning the 110-meter high hurdles, the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the long jump (by over two feet).

That was quite a career, but I think the separates Tyrone from many of the other athletes is the man he has become.

Before his senior football season I went home with after a practice. He and his siblings were living in a small house with his aunt and uncle and their kids. He was there because his father had been murdered and his mother was a junkie.

When we arrived he said he would be with me in a couple of minutes because he had to do the dishes, one of his daily chores.

His neighborhood was filled with gangs and a lot of drug activity. The gangs and drug dealers would have loved to have gotten Tyrone to go with them, but he refused.

I left the house that day thinking this was a kid who could go one of two ways. He could fall in with a gang or a drug dealer or he could stay on the path to becoming an amazing athlete. I had a feeling he was going to turn out to be just fine.

We all know which way he went.

Tyrone is now the head coach at Wayne State in Detroit. Just before he was hired, a former Wayne State player who had left the team at the start of the previous season committed suicide.

Despite never meeting the young man and not even knowing the names of all of his players yet, Tyrone rented a bus and took them to the hometown of the young man, over two hours away, for the funeral because he could tell his players were hurting.

Add all of that together and I think you've got someone worthy of your Hall of Fame.

Mick McCabe

Detroit Free Press

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Why Tyrone Wheatley is the greatest athlete Mick McCabe has covered in 50 years

Mick McCabe Special to the Detroit Free Press

Published 3:07 p.m. ET July 28, 2020

The question comes with greater frequency now than it did before.

Especially now, as I put the finishing touches on the upcoming book: “Mick McCabe’s Golden Yearbook: 50 Great Years of Michigan’s Best High School Players, Teams & Memories," people want to know who was the best athlete I’ve covered since I began at the Free Press on June 3, 1970?

Easy question (“Love Actually” reference).

Tyrone Wheatley is, was and forever will be the best athlete I’ve covered. Case closed.

The former Dearborn Heights Robichaud star was an amazing three-sport athlete, earning all-state honors in football, basketball and track and field.

Jim Paciorek, who was an all-stater in football, basketball and baseball at Orchard Lake St. Mary’s and went on to become an All-America for Michigan baseball and played in the majors, was tremendous in his own right, but there was only one Tyrone Wheatley.

[Pre-order Mick McCabe's new high school sports book! Here's how to do it]

As fate would have it, it is just a few weeks shy of the day I attended Robichaud’s preseason football scrimmage 30 years ago and then spent a few hours with the young man.

The scrimmage was not going well and on a fourth-down play Wheatley, who was moved to quarterback again to begin that season, dropped into punt formation.

He received the snap from center, glanced quickly at the defense and took off running. By the time he reached the line of scrimmage he was at full speed.

He zigzagged across the field and you felt bad for the defenders. They had no chance of catching him, falling for his jukes and dropping to the ground while he zoomed untouched into the end zone.

After the scrimmage, his Robichaud teammate Ernie Baskin rattled off Wheatley’s list of nicknames: “Ty, T, Skywalker, T-Ball, ‘Rone. Some people just call him Superman.”

Yeah, that pretty much encapsulates Wheatley and his athletic abilities.

Two months earlier, at the 1990 Class B track state championship meet his junior year, Wheatley won four individual state titles — the 100 meters (10.81 seconds), 200 meters (21.90), the long jump (23-feet, 10 inches) and 110-meter hurdles (14.85). It was maybe the fifth time in his life he had run the hurdles.

That day, including the preliminaries, he ran nine races and made six jumps.

“I was tired because running the 100 into a strong wind took a lot out of me,” he said. “Then going into the 200 my legs were worn out. But my coach was telling me that ‘you came too far,’ and: ‘you’re the man. If you win the 200 we’ll win the state title.’“

Then coach Leit Jones added even more motivation: “Coach told me I could be the only high school athlete to win four events,” he said.

Wheatley won the 200 after starting in the seventh lane and became the first male to win four events in a Lower Peninsula state meet.

“I like track because it’s not like football or basketball,” he said. “It’s just you. It’s what you put into it.”

He put a lot into basketball, too, progressing from someone who could just dunk — he first dunked in the seventh grade — when he began his all-state candidate.

As a junior he averaged 18 points and at least one breath-taking highlight every game.

“I had them last year and Tyrone picked up a loose ball alone,” an official told me. “He took off at the free throw line, but he didn’t just take off — he soared to the basket. I know my chin just dropped and the whistle fell out of my mouth.”

And then there was football.

When Wheatley entered Robichaud as a freshman, coach Bob Yauck started him at quarterback in the season opener against Birmingham Detroit Country Day, even though he wanted to be a wide receiver.

“But I was playing quarterback until the third quarter,” he said. “Coach told me to play tailback and the first time I carried the ball I went like 85 yards for a touchdown."

I had seen Wheatley play several times over his first three years of high school and was impressed with his pure athletic ability.

At the time, I had no idea he would go on to gain 4,178 yards on 688 carries (6.12 yards per carry) and score 47 touchdowns at Michigan or play for 10 years in the NFL until a hamstring tear would end his career in 2004.

Back then, I had never had the opportunity to sit down with him for an extended period of time to really get to know the youngster who was the best athlete I had seen in my first 20 years at the Free Press.

So after the scrimmage I drove him to a small home in Inkster, which was part of Robichaud’s school district.

It was the home of his aunt and uncle, Jeanette and Mike Boyd. He was living with them because his father had been murdered, his stepfather died of a heart attack and his mother had an alcohol problem and moved to Mississippi.

When we walked in, he said: “Have a seat, I’ll be with you in a minute. There’s something I have to do.”

I sat down and waited while he ... washed the dishes.

I wondered if he was putting on a show for a visitor.

“No, washing the dishes was not an act,” said his aunt. “He helps around the house. He’s got his chores. They’re supposed to be done earlier than he does them sometimes, but he gets around to them.”

It was impossible to find anyone who had a bad word to say about Wheatley. He was not an honor student, but he did his work and actually tried in the classroom.

He was a leader in the school and one of the kids other students admired.

“Tyrone is the type of kid anybody would want as their son,” said Yauck, who doubled as the school principal. “He is a great athlete on the field and a great young man off the field. He cares about other people. He seems to have his act together.”

That much was clear when we spoke that evening. He was in the process of trying to decide which schools he would visit. He admitted to being a Michigan State fan growing up — he loved Lorenzo White, Carl Banks and Andre Rison.

Yet, he was enamored with U-M’s academic reputation and enjoyed his relationship with head coach Gary Moeller.

He talked about the coming season and how badly he wanted to win a state championship with the guys he had played with for four years.

Despite playing half the season at quarterback before moving to tailback, Wheatley ran for 2,010 yards and scored 33 touchdowns. In Robichaud’s 21-7 Class B state championship victory over Kingsford, he ran for 168 yards and a touchdown on 22 carries and added 13 tackles from his defensive back spot.

He talked about how he got a big head as a sophomore until a bad game against River Rouge brought him back to earth.

He also spoke about what he was hearing from college coaches, some of whom wrote letters containing only three words: “We need you!”

“The college coaches say I can be great,” he said. “They say I’m on the road to greatness. I want to be a little more than great. I want to be phenomenal.”

As I drove away that night, I thought that this is a kid who could go either way. Given his start in life, it would have been phenomenally easy for him to head down the path taken by other family members.

But I was struck by his maturity, which may have been the result of the path taken by other family members. I am not surprised one iota that he went into coaching in college and NFL and went on to become the head coach at Morgan State.

I am not surprised at all because as much as I was impressed with him as an athlete, I was even more impressed with him as a phenomenal young man.

What else would you expect from Superman?

Mick McCabe is a former longtime columnist for the Detroit Free Press. Contact him at mick.mccabe11@gmail.com. Follow him on Twitter @mickmccabe1. Save $10 on his new book, “Mick McCabe’s Golden Yearbook: 50 Great Years of Michigan’s Best High School Players, Teams & Memories,” by ordering right now at McCabe.PictorialBook.com.

Mac Whitaker

New
Information

Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org º (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,

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 Thorobreds. 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 Thorobreds 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 Thorobreds' 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 º (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 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 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,

Julian Tackett
Commissioner

Support Data