

Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination Form

KHSAA Form GE30
Rev. 4/03

Information about Nominee

Name:	James Drake McCarthy
Is the nominee deceased? (circle)	YES NO
<i>(if nominee is not deceased, please fill out address information below)</i>	
Address:	1315 Worth Avenue
City, State, Zip	Shepherdsville, Kentucky 40165
Phone (list day and night)	Home (502) 957-6225 Cell (502) 645-8149

Information about person making nomination (list "self" if self-nominating)

Name:	Kristin Reynolds Hawkins
Address:	496 Mulberry Street
City, State, Zip	Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754
Phone (list day and night)	Day (270) 259-4175 Night (270) 287-0332

Important Information Needed for ALL Nominees. This information is important to the Selection Process in helping to ensure that the desired objectives with regard to the consideration of nominees and the induction process is satisfied. (Application will not be accepted without this information)

Please list the primary category of nomination (circle)-

PLAYER	COACH	OFFICIAL	CONTRIBUTOR
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Birth Date of Nominee	April 5, 1954
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Sex (circle one)	Male	Female
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Is the nominee a minority (African American and others) as defined in 2(c)	Yes	No
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If this person is being nominated as a Coach, please complete the following additional information-

Coached at which High School(s)	Bullitt East High School
Year of Retirement	Coaching 1993 teaching 2003
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	Section 2 Region 8

(over for remainder of application)

If this person is being nominated as an Athlete, please complete the following additional information-

High School Attended	
Graduation Year	
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	

If this person is being nominated as an Official, please complete the following additional information-

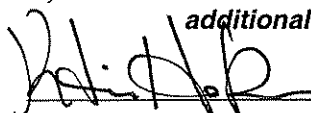
Primary Officiating Accomplishments at the High School Level	
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For persons being nominated in all categories, please complete the following additional information

Please summarize this person's accomplishments as a coach, player, official or contributor at the high school level in Kentucky.
Head Softball Coach (1982-1993) / 290 wins - 116 Losses / .714 winning percentage
State Runner-up 1991, 1992 and 1993 / 3rd in State 1985 / Regional Winner 1985, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993 / Regional Runner-up 1988 / District Runner-up 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993
District Winner 1985 and 1987 / Lady Colonel Classic 3rd Place 1991
Early Bird Tournament 2nd Place 1990 / Mercy Classic Tournament 2nd 1987
Bullitt East Tournament 1st Place 1989, 1992 and 1993

Please list any other factors about this individual that you would like for the Hall of Fame Committee to consider.
Played a vital role in helping me attend the college of my choice on both an academic and athletic scholarship.
Bullitt East Softball Best Record (41-7) 1993

I certify that I have truthfully completed this information about the nominee with the permission of the nominee, that he/she will accept induction if selected, and I will cooperate with the KHSAA should additional information be needed for his/her consideration.

Signature  Name (print) Kristin Hawkins Date 9/22/03

Attach any relevant press clippings and materials which would verify coaching win-loss records, or other statistical information. Also attach any other letters of recommendation of other information which may be helpful to the committee in making a final selection.



Bullitt East High School

11450 Highway 44 East
Mt. Washington, Kentucky 40047



(502) 538-7322 / 955-8433

Fax: (502) 538-8368

~ "It's A Matter of Pride" ~

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to support the nomination of Drake McCarthy to the softball Hall of Fame.

I have known Drake for the past eighteen years and he has always gone out of his way to support softball in the state of Kentucky. You will always see him at District, Regional and State tournaments even though he has been out of coaching for several years now.

I had the pleasure of watching his teams play in the late 80's and early 90's and you would always be entertained by an extremely well coached ball club.

Drake also took great pride in the softball field and spent many long days either making improvements or dealing with the task of up-keep on the facility. The softball field at Bullitt East High School was a source of pride for many families in the Mt Washington community.

This is our opportunity to honor a man who has literally dedicated his life to the game of softball and to the young ladies who played for him.

Sincerely yours, I remain

Michael S. Egan
Asst. Athletic Director
Bullitt East High School



Grayson County Middle School

BILL EMBRY
Principal
MATT DENEEN
Associate Principal
MARCIA DOWNS
Assistant Principal

726 John Hill Taylor Drive
Leitchfield, Kentucky 42754-1599
(270) 259-4175

SHIRLEY HOUSE
Secretary
NANCY VINCENT
Counselor
LEANN MAJORS
Counselor

FAX (270) 259-5005
e-mail: type first initial and last name@grayson.k12.ky.us

To Whom It May Concern:

James Drake McCarthy was a special kind of coach. He was the kind of coach that touched your life and instantly instilled a desire to excel. A coach that made you want to work hard and play your best, every second of every game.

Every practice was an opportunity. An opportunity to better yourself as an athlete, and as a team. He was a motivator. He gave every ounce of himself to the game and expected you to do the same. I can still remember the first time I was rounding second heading to third. In the coach's box, I saw him fly up into the air, and land on his stomach. I later learned, this was his exaggerated way of letting me know to get down.

Coach McCarthy gave of himself what few other coaches would. Every spare second he had was spent constructing and tending to a field we would be proud to play on. He built our field with his bare hands. Every inch of the diamond was carefully manicured. Coach wanted only the best for us.

After most practices, I would ask him to stay a little longer to hit me balls. Not once did he say, "No." Ball after ball, bucket after bucket, he continued to hit until we couldn't see, or his hands started to bleed. It wasn't until I had a family of my own that I realized all the sacrifices he made. All the extra time and energy I requested, yet, not once were my requests denied. He was the kind of coach that cared about you, not only as a ball player, but also as a person.

Coach McCarthy also stressed the importance of teamwork. Our team wasn't exactly blessed with athletic ability. But, he created an environment in which we were destined to achieve our goals.

I have been blessed to have played for many talented coaches in my career, including Women's Class "A" ball, and I can honestly say Coach McCarthy gave more of himself to the sport than any of them. It was an honor to have played for him.

Thank you for your consideration in my nomination of Coach James Drake McCarthy into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. He truly deserves the honor.

Sincerely,

Kristin Hawkins

"An Equal Opportunity Employer"



Bullitt East High School

11450 Highway 44 East
Mt. Washington, Kentucky 40047



(502) 538-7322 / 955-8433

Fax: (502) 538-8368

~ "It's A Matter of Pride" ~

September 23, 2003

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been informed that Drake McCarthy has been nominated for the KHSAA Softball Hall of Fame. Drake McCarthy was my softball coach at Bullitt East High School from 1989 through 1992. In my softball career, his team went to the state tournament all four years and placed second in 1991 and 1992. His motivation and determination bled onto his players. Every year he made us see that the sky was the limit. He believed in us. Drake McCarthy is a memorable coach. He created a new field for us; he worked every day to give his players the best that he could. However, most of all, he provided an atmosphere that we had fun in. He taught us many things including respect, dignity, honor, determination and most of all pride. We were proud to be a member of Bullitt East Softball and walked tall everywhere we went.

Now, I am 29 years old and a teacher at Bullitt East High School. Because of his hard work and drive, I still play softball and am the softball coach at Bullitt East. I am working hard to bring back the great team Bullitt East once had; and it was all because of Drake McCarthy. I am proud to recommend him as a member of the Hall of Fame.

Thank you,

Sarah Hardin
Math Teacher and Softball Coach
Bullitt East High School

NORTH BULLITT HIGH SCHOOL

HOME OF THE EAGLES

3200 EAST HEBRON LANE
GREG SCHULTZ, PRINCIPAL
ROBERT WILLIAMS, ASST. PRIN./AD
PATRICK SHOCKEY, ASST. PRINCIPAL

SHEPHERDSVILLE, KY 40165
PHYLLIS NIECE, COUNSELOR
CRYSTAL BARR, COUNSELOR
PH: 957.2186 FAX: 957.6762

September 22, 2003

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of James Drake McCarthy to be considered for the Kentucky Softball Coaches Hall of Fame. Drake is much deserving for this award for many reasons.

Drake built the program from scratch around 1981. Drake literally built the field that the Lady Chargers now play. He spent countless hours on the field making sure that it would be one of the area's finest playing fields. He wanted his fields to be in immaculate condition when his teams played on the field. I can recall when Drake used a push broom on the field to make sure there were no pebbles on the field. He most definitely would go the extra mile for his players and his program. When the school could not afford a lawn tractor to drag the field, Drake would use his own vehicle to drag the field. In fact, his transmission went out on him one evening while dragging the field.

As far as coaching, Drake's teams won 7 regional titles. I believe his team finished state runner-up 3 times in '91, '92, and '93.

I was the baseball coach at Bullitt East the same time that he was coaching. His style and dedication to the school motivated me to emulate him. He ate, slept, and breathed Lady Charger Softball. I am sure his players would all rally for him, as he is deserving of this award.

Drake retired from coaching in 1993. The state added fast pitch softball and Drake did not feel comfortable coaching fast pitch. I really believe if slow pitch was still offered that he would not have retired.

There is one situation that I need to tell you about. I hope that it does not keep him from being selected to the Hall of Fame. A student at Bullitt East accused Drake of sexual abuse in 1995. I attended the trial for the 1 ½ days. He was acquitted of the charge. Drake was not rehired by the Bullitt County School System but was hired by the Christian County Public Schools and worked for CCPS for 4-5 years until he recently retired from teaching.

Since I am now an athletic director at North Bullitt High School and a member of the Metro Louisville Athletic Director's Hall of Fame selection committee, I would always like to have all information on the candidates. I do feel that Drake was wrongly accused and that he deserves to be in the Hall.

In summary, there could not be another coach in Drake's era that was more committed and dedicated to his team and program than Drake. Building the team from scratch, building the facility practically by himself, and establishing the Lady Chargers into a perennial state power are reasons enough to place him into the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Rob Williams
Asst. Principal
NBHS

RECORDS FOR BULLITT EAST SOFTBALL

1982-1993

At Bat	181	A. Bass	(92)
Hits	93	K. Reynolds	(91)
Batting Avg.	.660	K. Reynolds	(91)
1 Base	68	K. Hardman	(92)
2 Base	19	J. Feedback	(91)
3 Base	13	K. Reynolds	(90)
	13	M. Maloyed	(93)
Home Runs	22	K. Reynolds	(91)
RBI'S	98	J. Feedback	(92)
Run's Scored	86	K. Reynolds	(91)
Walks	23	K. Reynolds	(91)
Put Outs	222	B. McKinley	(91)
Assists	150	K. Reynolds	(91)
Fielding Avg.	.988	B. McKinley	(90)
Best Record	41-7 State Runner-Up		(93)
Most Wins	41		(93)
Bullitt East Round Robin Tour.		First Place	(89, 92, & 93)
Mercy Classic Tour.		Second Place	(87)
Early Bird Tour.		Second Place	(90)
Lady Colonel Classic		Third Place	(91)
District Runner-Up	1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993		
District Winner	1985 and 1987		
Regional Runner-Up	1988		
Regional Winner	1985, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993		
Third in State	1985		
State Runner-Up	1991, 1992, and 1993		
Head Coach	James Drake McCarthy (1982-1993)		
	290 Wins-- 116 Losses	.714%	

Bullitt East Softball has retired Number 24 Kristin Reynolds.

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame
Attn: Nominations
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

To the Members of the Selection Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Mr. Drake McCarthy, a role model of mine, and a candidate for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Mr. McCarthy, or "Coach" as I fondly know him, is an exemplary human being, and I am pleased to write this letter of support on his behalf.

I attended Bullitt East High School from the fall of 1989 to the spring of 1993. I played Varsity softball each year, and was even offered the opportunity to play in a few varsity games my 8th grade year while attending Mt. Washington Middle School. When I was in high school, softball was a huge priority in my life, and I spent many hours preparing for BE's championship seasons. Since my father had previously been a baseball coach at Bullitt Central, and had been teaching me ball since I could walk, I was a strong player when I reached high school. I was a first baseman with a strong arm and a powerful bat. Coach McCarthy saw straight through my overconfidence however, and when I was in the 10th grade, he began to start me at the catcher's position. I was livid! I couldn't believe he had the nerve to put me in a position that I had no knowledge of, and expected me to excel at it. That was probably one of the best things that Drake McCarthy could have done for me. Becky McKinley, future Kentucky Miss Basketball, was the starting first baseman. With me behind the plate, All-Star Kristin Reynolds on shortstop, and Becky at first, we now had a powerful triangle of defense. Not only that, I figured out very quickly how to turn a bad situation into a good one, and as a result, during my Senior season, I was elected to the All State team. Being taken out of my comfort zone was scary at first, but I learned how to adapt, and eventually thrive in uncomfortable situations. I have taken that very lesson into my adult life.

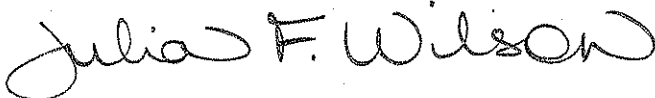
While playing softball at Bullitt East, I was part of a family. We were taught that, in order to reach our goals, determination and dedication were essential ingredients and that there is no "I" in team. We were taught accountability and responsibility, and each of us were appreciated for what we brought to the team. I will forever remember the lessons that Drake McCarthy taught me.

I am currently a science teacher at Central High School in Louisville, Kentucky. I have completed my Master's Degree and Rank I in Educational Leadership and will become a Principal Intern at Doss High School in January. I hope to secure an Assistant Principalship within the next year in the Jefferson County Public School System. I also plan to work on my Ph.D. and Superintendent Certification in the near future. Many of the skills that I need to be successful in these positions were obtained within the time period that Drake McCarthy was a dynamic influence in my life.

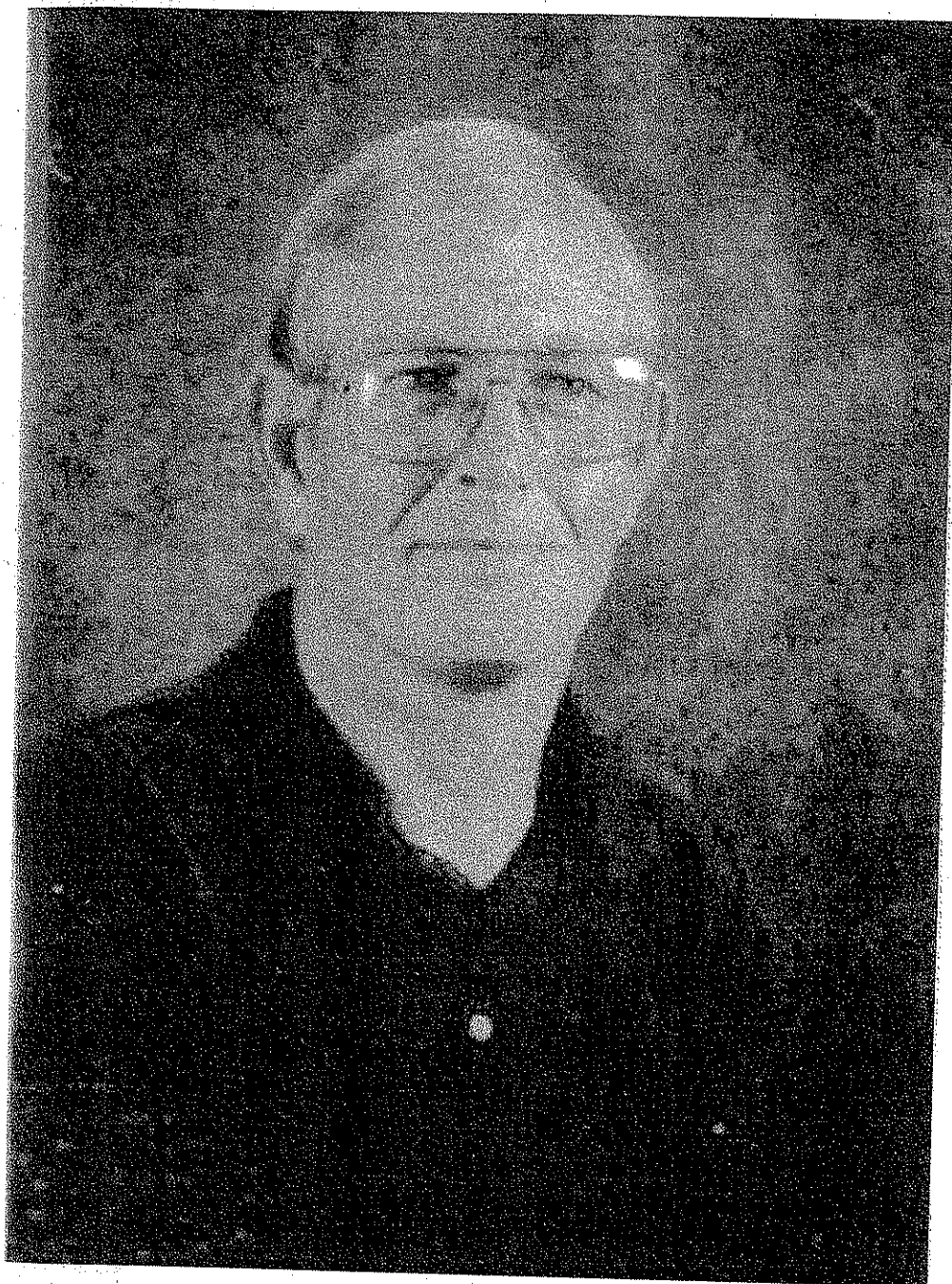
I strongly recommend the recognition of Mr. Drake McCarthy as an model teacher, coach, and person. Therefore, I fully support his induction into the Dawahares/Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. He has dedicated his life to both softball and the fostering of success in young people and I believe this is an honor of which he is worthy.

Thank you for your consideration of Coach McCarthy. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Julia F. Wilson



After 12 years at top, McCarthy resigns BE softball

By MIKE FARNER

Sports Editor

Drake McCarthy's Coaching Legacy

(From 1985 to 1993)

1985	21-6	29th District Winner Regional Champion 3rd Place State Tournament
1986	22-9	District Runner-up Regional Champion
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Last 9 years — 263-81

(Overall coaching record for 12 years — 290-116

.714 winning percentage)

MOUNT WASHINGTON — The numbers don't lie. In 12 years at the helm, Bullitt East softball coach Drake McCarthy was the most suc-

cessful coach in county history.

The years of building the Lady Chargers into one of the state's top programs came to an end recently when McCarthy announced his resignation. He had talked about it often over the past several seasons but finally put it in writing at the end of this year.

(McCarthy also resigned the boys' golf coaching position he has held for the past two seasons.)

The program's post-season success said it all.

Over the past nine seasons, the red and gold have competed in every regional softball tournament.

Since the 1985 season, Bullitt East has won seven of the nine regional crowns up for grabs. In one of the two years that the team did not win the regional, 1988, the Lady Chargers lost in the regional final to eventual state champion North Bullitt.

After tasting some success at the state tournament in 1985 with a third-place finish, the program broke through in 1991 with a state runner-up finish. Incredibly, the team reached the final each of the next two seasons, only to lose in the championship game each time. Two of the three losses in the final game were by a single run.

There was also a .714 winning percentage over 12 years.

With success, though, came certain pressures. In recent seasons, McCarthy has gone through periods of sleepless nights and times when he could not eat. It even got to the point where he didn't want to play ball with his 3-year-old son when he did get home.

"I am proud of my accomplishments," McCarthy said last week. "I would like to win every game and win a state title but we did well. I'm proud of the facilities. That impresses a lot of teams when they come in and see what we have.

(Continued next page)

Bullitt East coach

leaves with

solid foundation

under program

"But, I was putting too much pressure on myself," he added. "I couldn't sleep. When that happens, it's time to get out. It's just a game."

Being the father to 3-year-old Matthew has changed some of McCarthy's goals in life. There is now a greater need to spend time at home.

"I have a son and I need to be there," the coach said. "I'll be with him. You have to be a father. Before we (with wife Vickie) had a child, the softball players were like my children. When they cried, I cried."

McCarthy is the first coach in Bullitt County history to retire and have fans wonder if he was disappointed in not winning a state championship.

"I always wanted to win it all," he said. "I can stick around 20 more years and never win it all. Or, maybe one or two more years and I would have won it. I'm still pleased with what we accomplished."

Unlike all but a handful of programs in the state, Bullitt East's top goal each season was more than winning the district tournament. Each bit of winning raised those levels.

"I think after a point, with the state runners-up and getting to state, that your goals and expectations go higher," McCarthy explained. "When you have been second, you don't want to fall below what the team did the year before. Every since 1985, my expectations have been to win the regional."

In the beginning

It wasn't always that way. Before 1982 there was no softball at Bullitt East. North Bullitt had a team at the club level under the direction of Bob Wagoner (soon to be taken over by

Clyde Muncy). There was no state tournament for the teams.

McCarthy smiles now as he thinks back to that first season. There was only one senior (Deidre Maloyed, the older sister of present BE shortstop Missy Maloyed) and the uniforms were handed down from the basketball program and they had no numbers.

That first season, the home games began at Mount Washington Middle School until the team was run out of that area. The season ended with the games being played on the baseball field. A year later, McCarthy had worked the field at the middle school into condition for an entire season.

McCarthy chuckles now when he points out that his replacement will have \$4,000-\$5,000 in the bank.

"We didn't even know what that kind of money looked like," he laughed.

Work began in 1985 on the field

behind the school. It is now one of, if not the best, high school field in the state. That first season, one game was played before McCarthy discovered that underground springs would ruin that season.

Still, the upward spiral continued on the field as the program won its first regional crown with a group of seniors that had started in 1982 with the program. That group included Andrea Brewer, Stacy Morgan, Debbie Mills, Jodi Hicks and Kara Calvert.

"That group in '85, they were the babies of the program," McCarthy recalled. "They started the program. It all started with them."

At roughly the same time that Bullitt East started its incredible run, the Mount Washington Youth Baseball and Softball program began putting more and more emphasis on softball. That program has been feeding the Lady Chargers' program since, although a number of players continue to be developed out of the traveling teams in Louisville.

Success blossoms

The hurdle at the state tournament championship game was cleared in 1991 fueled by the All-State play of shortstop Kristin Reynolds and catcher Julie Feedback.

"They were all special," McCarthy said of the players. "Two that will always come to mind, along with those first five are Kristin Reynolds and Julie Feedback. They were all special, but those two were just...."

"Julie was very talented. Kristin,

she just worked so hard," the coach said. "I never saw a player work so hard. She wore me out before a game or after practice hitting ground balls to her."

The coach has also been blessed with strong assistant coaches. He did it all himself the first few seasons. Since that time, his only assistants have been Glenn Tyler and Jeff Richardson.

McCarthy does not leave at a time when the talent pool has run dry. Quite the contrary, the best may lie ahead for the program.

"You know what I have coming back. The cupboard isn't bare. Far from it," he pointed out. "We finished up the state tournament with five freshmen on the field. All of the seniors we lose (four), we have people who have stepped in and played. The cupboard is far from bare."

The one number that does not add up for McCarthy is his record in 29th District championship games. While the program has been to every regional tournament since 1985, only in 1985 and 1987 did it go as champions.

The graduating seniors in the program this year played in three state championship games, won five consecutive regional crowns, but will leave without a single 29th District championship crown.

"I don't know what it is," he said with a big grin. "I haven't figured it out. I'll never figure it out. I just look at the years I went to state. That's seven of the last nine."

That is a good number to look at.

'McCarthy Field' seems a way to

honor coach's efforts

MOUNT WASHINGTON — I can't be the first person to think it is the right thing to do but it sure does appear obvious that outgoing Bullitt East softball coach Drake McCarthy could be honored in no better way than having the field he built from scratch bear his name.

While the 12-year veteran will be remembered more for seven regional championships in a nine-year span along with three consecutive state runner-up finishes, he was never prouder than when he talked about his beloved field.

By any measure, the diamond is one of the finest softball facilities in the state owned by a school. There is a press box, dugouts, complete fencing and an electronic scoreboard.

On a beautiful spring day, you would have thought that McCarthy cut each blade of grass by hand. No infield had truer bounces. When I jokingly commented a few years ago about a dome being added to the facility, you could almost see the wheels turning in the coach's head as to how it could be done.

Even when the fences needed to be moved back this spring in anticipation of a smaller ball being used in the next few seasons, the outfield was still immaculate.

Some of those things are quite



By MIKE FARNNER
Sports Editor

possible when you are an industrial arts teacher. A willingness for hard work and pride in a job well done don't hurt either.

"I think I did a lot to change the facilities for baseball and softball," McCarthy said recently. "We (at Bullitt East and North Bullitt) have dugouts and press boxes now."

There could be no more fitting honor for the coach than for the facility he built to bear 'McCarthy Field.'

McCarthy was quick to admit during our interview last week that he was not alone in his efforts to

build Bullitt East softball into what it is today.

It's kind of the 'chicken and the egg' question when it comes to softball in Mount Washington. It was around 1985, when Bullitt East was winning its first regional crown, that the Mount Washington Youth Baseball and Softball League began to put more emphasis on softball.

Three Babe Ruth national championships later provide plenty of evidence that the effort has been a success.

"Especially in the Mount Washington area, there were a lot of people who believed in softball," McCarthy noted. "There were the St. Clairs and the Clements and Leon Remington have really worked hard to improve softball in the area. Bullitt East benefitted from that."

In the early days of softball at Bullitt East, the top players either didn't play in the summer or were part of a traveling team in Louisville. That is slowly changing.

First, there was the team that Joe Hardman took four years ago and using Mount Washington players as a foundation, turned it into a traveling squad for a season. The next year, the Mount Washington League took it over and started sending teams to USSSA events to face

stronger competition.

Now, three different teams, one coached by Hardman, take part in the Tuesday night leagues run by the USSSA at the Bullitt County Parks and Recreation.

Of course, no talk of McCarthy can be complete without a mention of his rivalry with North Bullitt head coach Clyde Muncy. From 1987 to 1990, there may not have been a

hotter competitive fire in the state than the one that existed between the two programs.

That peaked in 1988 and 1989 when the two teams met for the Eighth Region title each year. North Bullitt won in 1988 and went on to win the state title. McCarthy feels that he had the second best team in the state that year.

In 1989, it was Bullitt East that won the regional title on Julie

Feedback's bases-loaded double on the Lady Charger's home field.

"He and I have done more for softball in Bullitt County, along with Chuck Fischer, than anyone," McCarthy said. "We never let softball become second class like a lot of regions. We never just threw the bases out there and just let them play."

For that, we can all be very thankful.

Coach McCarthy

&

Matthew



Drake McCarthy holds son Matthew after the state touney

After 12 years at top, McCarthy resigns BE softball

By MIKE FARNER
Sports Editor

Drake McCarthy's Coaching Legacy

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(Continued Next Page)

Bullitt East coach leaves with solid foundation under program

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"I always wanted to win it all," he said. "I can stick around 20 more years and never win it all. Or, maybe one or two more years and I would have won it. I'm still pleased with what we accomplished."

Unlike all but a handful of programs in the state, Bullitt East's top goal each season was more than winning the district tournament. Each bit of winning raised those levels.

"I think after a point, with the state runners-up and getting to state, that your goals and expectations go higher," McCarthy explained. "When you have been second, you don't want to fall below what the team did the year before. Every since 1985, my expectations have been to win the regional."

In the beginning

It wasn't always that way. Before 1982 there was no softball at Bullitt East. North Bullitt had a team at the club level under the direction of Bob Wagoner (soon to be taken over by

Clyde Muncy). There was no state tournament for the teams.

McCarthy smiles now as he thinks back to that first season. There was only one senior (Deidre Maloyed, the older sister of present BE shortstop Missy Maloyed) and the uniforms were handed down from the basketball program and they had no numbers.

That first season, the home games began at Mount Washington Middle School until the team was run out of that area. The season ended with the games being played on the baseball field. A year later, McCarthy had worked the field at the middle school into condition for an entire season.

McCarthy chuckles now when he points out that his replacement will have \$4,000-\$5,000 in the bank.

"We didn't even know what that kind of money looked like," he laughed.

Work began in 1985 on the field

behind the school. It is now one of, if not the best, high school field in the state. That first season, one game was played before McCarthy discovered that underground springs would ruin that season.

Still, the upward spiral continued on the field as the program won its first regional crown with a group of seniors that had started in 1982 with the program. That group included Andrea Brewer, Stacy Morgan, Debbie Mills, Jodi Hicks and Kara Calvert.

"That group in '85, they were the babies of the program," McCarthy recalled. "They started the program. It all started with them."

At roughly the same time that Bullitt East started its incredible run, the Mount Washington Youth Baseball and Softball program began putting more and more emphasis on softball. That program has been feeding the Lady Chargers' program since, although a number of players continue to be developed out of the traveling teams in Louisville.

Success blossoms

The hurdle at the state tournament championship game was cleared in 1991 fueled by the All-State play of shortstop Kristin Reynolds and catcher Julie Feedback.

"They were all special," McCarthy said of the players. "Two that will always come to mind, along with those first five are Kristin Reynolds and Julie Feedback. They were all special, but those two were just...."

"Julie was very talented. Kristin,

she just worked so hard," the coach said. "I never saw a player work so hard. She wore me out before a game or after practice hitting ground balls to her."

The coach has also been blessed with strong assistant coaches. He did it all himself the first few seasons. Since that time, his only assistants have been Glenn Tyler and Jeff Richardson.

McCarthy does not leave at a time when the talent pool has run dry. Quite the contrary, the best may lie ahead for the program.

"You know what I have coming back. The cupboard isn't bare. Far from it," he pointed out. "We finished up the state tournament with five freshmen on the field. All of the seniors we lose (four), we have people who have stepped in and played. The cupboard is far from bare."

The one number that does not add up for McCarthy is his record in 29th District championship games. While the program has been to every regional tournament since 1985, only in 1985 and 1987 did it go as champions.

The graduating seniors in the program this year played in three state championship games, won five consecutive regional crowns, but will leave without a single 29th District championship crown.

"I don't know what it is," he said with a big grin. "I haven't figured it out. I'll never figure it out. I just look at the years I went to state. That's seven of the last nine."

That is a good number to look at.

'McCarthy Field' seems a way to

honor coach's efforts

MOUNT WASHINGTON — I can't be the first person to think it is the right thing to do but it sure does appear obvious that outgoing Bullitt East softball coach Drake McCarthy could be honored in no better way than having the field he built from scratch bear his name.

While the 12-year veteran will be remembered more for seven regional championships in a nine-year span along with three consecutive state runner-up finishes, he was never prouder than when he talked about his beloved field.

By any measure, the diamond is one of the finest softball facilities in the state owned by a school. There is a press box, dugouts, complete fencing and an electronic scoreboard.

On a beautiful spring day, you would have thought that McCarthy cut each blade of grass by hand. No infield had truer bounces. When I jokingly commented a few years ago about a dome being added to the facility, you could almost see the wheels turning in the coach's head as to how it could be done.

Even when the fences needed to be moved back this spring in anticipation of a smaller ball being used in the next few seasons, the outfield was still emaculate.

Some of those things are quite



By MIKE FARNER
Sports Editor

possible when you are an industrial arts teacher. A willingness for hard work and pride in a job well done don't hurt either.

"I think I did a lot to change the facilities for baseball and softball," McCarthy said recently. "We (at Bullitt East and North Bullitt) have dugouts and press boxes now."

There could be no more fitting honor for the coach than for the facility he built to bear 'McCarthy Field.'

McCarthy was quick to admit during our interview last week that he was not alone in his efforts to

build Bullitt East softball into what it is today.

It's kind of the 'chicken and the egg' question when it comes to softball in Mount Washington. It was around 1985, when Bullitt East was winning its first regional crown, that the Mount Washington Youth Baseball and Softball League began to put more emphasis on softball.

Three Babe Ruth national championships later provide plenty of evidence that the effort has been a success.

"Especially in the Mount Washington area, there were a lot of people who believed in softball," McCarthy noted. "There were the St. Clairs and the Clements and Leon Remington have really worked hard to improve softball in the area. Bullitt East benefitted from that."

In the early days of softball at Bullitt East, the top players either didn't play in the summer or were part of a traveling team in Louisville. That is slowly changing.

First, there was the team that Joe Hardman took four years ago and using Mount Washington players as a foundation, turned it into a traveling squad for a season. The next year, the Mount Washington League took it over and started sending teams to USSSA events to face

stronger competition.

Now, three different teams, one coached by Hardman, take part in the Tuesday night leagues run by the USSSA at the Bullitt County Parks and Recreation.

Of course, no talk of McCarthy can be complete without a mention of his rivalry with North Bullitt head coach Clyde Muncy. From 1987 to 1990, there may not have been a

hotter competitive fire in the state than the one that existed between the two programs.

That peaked in 1988 and 1989 when the two teams met for the Eighth Region title each year. North Bullitt won in 1988 and went on to win the state title. McCarthy feels that he had the second best team in the state that year.

In 1989, it was Bullitt East that won the regional title on Julie

Feedback's bases-loaded double on the Lady Charger's home field.

"He and I have done more for softball in Bullitt County, along with Chuck Fischer, than anyone," McCarthy said. "We never let softball become second class like a lot of regions. We never just threw the bases out there and just let them play."

For that, we can all be very thankful.

Coach McCarthy
&
Matthew



Drake McCarthy holds son Matthew after the state tourney