

Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination Form**Information about Nominee**

Name:	Thomas Grant Williams
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Is the nominee deceased? (circle) **YES***(if nominee is not deceased, please fill out address information below)*

Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone (list day and night)	

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

Name:	Joseph W. Mattingly
Address:	439 Bloomfield Rd
City, State, Zip	Bardstown, KY 40004
Phone (list day and night)	502-249-1140

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)–

	COACH		
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Birth Date of Nominee	3/2/1947
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Sex (circle one)	Male	
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Is the nominee a minority (African American and others) as defined in 2(c)	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)	Bardstown High School
Year of Retirement	Deceased prior to retirement
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	Region 5

(over for remainder of application)

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

High School Attended	Bardstown High School	
Graduation Year		
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	Region 5	

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

Primary Officiating Accomplishments at the High School Level	No, although Tom was a Basketball and Track official
--	--

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.

Coach Tom Williams coached baseball, boys and girls' basketball, boys and girls' cross country and boys and girls' track at Bardstown High School. He was a "player's Coach" and successful in multiple sports, but excelled in coaching track and field. Tom was Head Boys Track Coach at Bardstown High School for twenty-eight years. Through the 2010 track season, his teams had a record of 1863 wins and 322 losses. Included in that record are five (5) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A track championships winning in 1977, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition, his teams have four (4) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A runner-ups (1980, 1991, 2002, and 2009). In addition to the outdoor championships, his teams have won two Mason Dixon State Indoor championships (2004 and 2010) as well as two state indoor runner-ups (1997 and 2003). His teams have won twenty-two (22) regional championships and six (6) regional runner-ups. As well as two (2) sectional championships and two (2) sectional runner-ups which are no longer contested in the state of Kentucky and numerous invitational tournaments. He has coached thirty-six (36) state champions. He has had two (2) high school All-Americans and five (5) athletes to go on and earn All-American honors in college.

Even though Bardstown is a Class A school in size, it consistently competes successfully against the largest schools in the state. Coach Williams also served seventeen (17) years as the girls head track coach with a record of 710 wins and 363 losses while winning six (6) regional championships and four (4) regional runner-ups. He served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Track Advisory Committee in 1976 -1981 and again in 2000 - 2010. In addition, he served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Cross Country Advisory Committee from 2000- 2005. He was selected to serve on the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association All-State Selection Committee in 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition to serving as track coach at Bardstown, Coach Williams was head boys basketball coach, head girls basketball coach, head baseball coach, head boys and girls cross country coach, and assistant football coach during his tenure at the school.

Coach Williams received many coaches awards over the years: Inducted into the Kentucky Fifth Region Athletic Director's Hall of Fame - 2006; Inducted into the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Hall of Fame - 2007; Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009; Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year - 2006, 2008; Nominee for National Track Coach of the Year by Kentucky High School Coaches Association - 2005; National High School Athletic Coaches Association Region 3 selection for National Coach of the Year - 2005; and National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Track Coach of the Year - 2006

Please list any other factors about this individual that you would like for the Hall of Fame Committee to consider.

1. Inducted into the Kentucky Fifth Region Athletic Director's Hall of Fame - 2006
2. Inducted into the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Hall of Fame - 2007
3. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2004
4. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2005
5. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2006
6. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2008
7. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2009
8. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year - 2006
9. Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year - 2008
10. Nominee for National Track Coach of the Year by Kentucky High School Coaches Association - 2005
11. National High School Athletic Coaches Association Region 3 selection for National Coach of the Year - 2005
12. National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Track Coach of the Year - 2006

Coach Williams had been a regular speaker at the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association annual coaching clinic primarily presenting ways to organize a successful track and field program. Bardstown has consistently hosted K.H.S.A.A. regional events as well as summer youth track meets. Coach Williams initiated and wrote the guidelines that established the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Tom retired from active teaching in 2004 in order to coordinate a Foundation for Healthy Kentucky health and physical education grant. He served on a committee that was responsible for upgrade and renovation of the football field/track complex. In addition, he served as a member of the Coordinated School Health Committee for Bardstown City Schools and was the Truancy Mediator for the school system. Coach Williams and long-time friend and coaching colleague, J.W. Mattingly, initiated and wrote the guidelines that established the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Tom was instrumental in establishing a walking/Cross Country course that is available to the community on a historical piece of property, Wickland, Home of Three Governors, that belongs to the county. In addition, he was active in his church having served as church moderator, chairman of Deacons, chairman of a building committee, Sunday School teacher, singing in the choir, member of a touring singing quartet, serving on the church Ministry Council and helping in the UPWARD basketball program. He also volunteered his time working on the support staffs for the basketball and football teams of Bardstown High School.

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) _____ Date _____

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.

Coach Tom Williams Team and Personal Accomplishments

Through the 2010 track season, Tom's boys' track teams:

- Compiled a record of 1863 wins and 322 losses.
- Won Five (5) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A track championships winning in 1977, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008
- Won Four (4) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A runner-ups (1980, 1991, 2002, and 2009).
- Won Two Mason Dixon State Indoor championships (2004 and 2010) as well as two state indoor runner-ups (1997 and 2003).
- Won twenty-two (22) regional championships and six (6) regional runner-ups.
- Won Two (2) sectional championships and two (2) sectional runner-ups which are no longer contested in the state of Kentucky and numerous invitational tournaments

In addition, Tom:

- Coached thirty-six (36) state champions.
- Coached two (2) high school All-Americans and five (5) athletes to go on and earn All-American honors in college.

During 17 years as Girls' track coach, Tom's lady Tigers:

- Compiled a record of 710 wins and 363 losses
- Won six (6) regional championships
- Won four (4) regional runner-ups

As a result of the success of his teams, Tom was recognized by being:

- 2009 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year
- 2008 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year
- 2008 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year
- 2007 Inducted into the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Hall of Fame
- 2006 National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Track Coach of the Year
- 2006 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year
- 2006 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year
- 2006 Inducted into the Kentucky Fifth Region Athletic Director's Hall of Fame
- 2005 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year
- 2005 Nominee for National Track Coach of the Year by Kentucky High School Coaches Association
- 2005 National High School Athletic Coaches Association Region 3 selection for National Coach of the Year
- 2004 Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year

KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL COACHES ASSOCIATION



Jimmie Reed - Executive Director
101 Bethany Court
Bardstown, KY 40004
Home/Office (502) 348-4624
Fax (502) 331-0052
Email: jreed@bardstown.com
www.khsca.org



September 15, 2012

Dear KHSAA/Dawahares Hall of Fame Selection Committee;

The Kentucky HS Coaches Association and its Executive Director would like to recommend Coach Tom Williams of Bardstown HS to be considered for induction into the KHSAA/Dawahares Hall of Fame.

Coach Tom Williams was a long time coach of ALL sports at Bardstown HS but in particular boys track where he won state championships in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2008. He was named the National HS Athletic Coaches Associations "National Coach of the Year" in 2006 in Boys Track and Field!

Your consideration for this prestigious award to Tom Williams, his family and Bardstown High School will be greatly appreciated.

Yours in sport,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmie Reed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Jimmie Reed, KHSCA Executive Director
KHSAA/Dawahare Hall of Fame Inductee Class of 2006

Date: October 16, 2012

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame
ATTN: Nominations
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

From: Dr. Joseph W. Mattingly
439 Bloomfield Rd
Bardstown, KY 40004

Re: Nomination for Tom Williams

Dear Selection Committee:

I have known Coach Tom Williams since I started in Coaching in 1975 at a competing school. I served as Tom's assistant basketball coach from 1980-1986. He was a fellow coach during my eight years as track coach at Bardstown High. We taught together, coached together, and advocated Bardstown Sports for over 30 years together. His death left me contemplating the many projects he and I had planned when we both really retired as both of us had retired and come back to work for the school district. Tom was representative of those qualities you would want in a coach. He was concerned for the whole athlete, not just athletic talent and accomplishment. He truly cared about the young men and women he coached in sports and in life. I truly miss him as does this sporting community.

The list of Coach Tom Williams' coaching accomplishments is extensive. I will list the most notable in this letter. Tom coached baseball, boys and girls' basketball, boys and girls' cross country and boys and girls' track at Bardstown High School. He was a "player's coach" and successful in multiple sports, but excelled in coaching track and field. Tom was Head Boys Track Coach at Bardstown High School for thirty years. Through the 2009 track season his teams had a record of 1778 (1863 - Year 2010) wins and 314 (322 - Year 2010) losses. Included in that record are five (5) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A track championships winning in 1977, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition, his teams have four (4) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A runner-ups (1980, 1991, 2002, and 2009). In addition to the outdoor championships, his teams have won two Mason Dixon State Indoor championships (2004 and 2010) as well as two state indoor runner-ups (1997 and 2003). His teams have won twenty-two (22) regional championships and six (6) regional runner-ups. As well as two (2) sectional championships and two (2) sectional runner-ups which are no longer contested in the state of Kentucky and numerous invitational tournaments. He has coached thirty-six (36) state champions. He has had two (2) high school All-Americans and five (5) athletes to go on and earn All-American honors in college. Even though Bardstown is a Class A school in size, it consistently competes successfully against the largest schools in the state. Coach Williams also served seventeen (17) years as the girls head track coach with a record of 710 wins and 363 losses while winning six (6) regional championships and four (4) regional runner-ups. He served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Track Advisory Committee in 1976 -1981 and again in 2000 - Present. In addition,

he served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Cross Country Advisory Committee from 2000- 2005. He was selected to serve on the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association All-State Selection Committee in 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition to serving as track coach at Bardstown, Coach Williams has been head boys basketball coach, head girls basketball coach, head baseball coach, head boys and girls cross country coach, and assistant football coach during his tenure at the school.

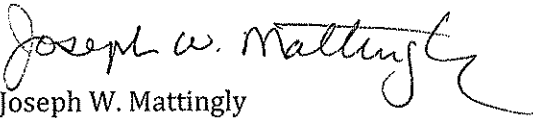
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Coach Williams had been a regular speaker at the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association annual coaching clinic primarily presenting ways to organize a successful track and field program. Bardstown has consistently hosted K.H.S.A.A. regional events as well as summer youth track meets. Coach Williams initiated and wrote the guidelines that established the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was instrumental in establishing a walking/Cross Country course that is available to the community on a historical piece of property that belongs to the county.

Tom will be a great addition the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I feel he exhibited the qualities that were common to all Hall of Famers inducted. He always took such pride in the accomplishments of his athletes, fellow coaches, and community. I will be so proud to see him inducted.

Thank you for your consideration. Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Joseph W. Mattingly

Fall 2012

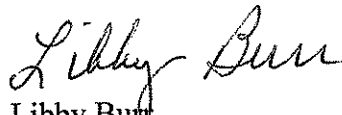
To Whom It May Concern

It is a real pleasure for me to recommend Coach Tom Williams for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. He served as coach in football and basketball (assistant and head coach) but his biggest contribution was as Bardstown High Track Coach.

I have known Tom for over thirty years, taught with him, coached with him, and watched as he coached my son. He was dependable and dedicated to his teaching, coaching, and his athletes.

He won numerous district, regional, and state championships and dedicated a tremendous amount of time to Bardstown High and its athletes. He was well thought of among his peers and leaves a vacancy by his untimely death that will never be 100% filled. He would be an outstanding choice for this award.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Libby Burr".

Libby Burr

Former coach at Bardstown High

Tigers dominate at state

By Peter W. Zubaty, Sports Editor
Saturday, May 31, 2008 at 8:00 pm

LOUISVILLE — Bardstown won its ninth boys KHSAA Class 1A State Track and Field championship Saturday and fourth in the past five years, blowing away second-place finishers St. Henry and Ballard Memorial by a staggering 119-59 margin.

“Everybody stepped up,” said Tom Williams, who won his fifth title as Tiger coach. He said the 119 points was the most he can remember any Bardstown team scoring in state competition.

Bardstown seniors Matt Case (pole vault) and DeMorrio Leggett (triple jump) won individual state championships, and Leggett was part of the Tiger 400-meter relay squad that won the state title in a photo finish. The Tiger boys picked up big points for second-place finishes in seven other events.

“It feels good knowing that in my senior year we had the best track team ever at Bardstown,” said Leggett, who picked up second-place medals in the long jump and 110-meter hurdles, and was part of the 400 relay state champions. “We were solid as a rock.”

The youthful Bardstown girls team improved dramatically upon last year’s 28th-place finish, scoring 23 points and ending up ninth overall. Daizah Kimberland, Ericha Eggins, Kourtney Rogers and Ciera Allen came home second in the 400 relay, and Tiger girls medalled in four other events.

Bethlehem junior Angela Musk made major improvements in her times in the 800- and 1600-meter runs, outrunning her projections and picking up a pair of medals. Banshee senior Madelynn Ringo improved on her region long jump by eight inches and grabbed a seventh-place medal.

Nelson County’s Thad Hardin shaved four seconds off his personal best time in Saturday’s Class 3A 800-meter run and posted an eye-popping fourth-place finish after being projected 10th.

“It’s great to end my senior year like that,” he said. “My whole family’s been wanting me to go to the state, and finally in my last chance I made it.”

His 1:56.82 time is the Nelson County record. Scott County’s Trent Halasek (1:55.04) was the state champ, and Henry Clay’s Brendan Kelly (1:56.05) and Terrell Horton (1:56.43) just narrowly held off Hardin.

“It was tough, and it was hard,” Hardin said. “But I feel really good.”

Look for more coverage in Wednesday’s issue of The Kentucky Standard.

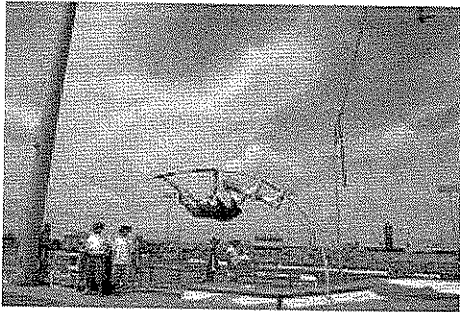
Peter W. Zubaty can be reached at 348-9003 Ext. 115 or by e-mail at pzubaty@kystandard.com.

Kahleifeh, Willett grab state crowns

Tiger seniors exit on top

By Peter W. Zubaty, Sports Editor
Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 8:00 pm

LOUISVILLE — Two Bardstown seniors participated in the final track meet of their high school career Saturday, and both experienced the joy of bowing out on top.



Forrest Berkshire/Special To The Standard

Bardstown senior J.P. Willett said he had trouble with the heat and humidity on some of his early attempts, but recovered to win his second state championship in a row.

For one, it was the realization of finally snaring that state championship after a career's worth of always being right there in contention, but having to settle for second.

"It was great," said Adam Kahleifeh, who drilled the rest of the field by almost four full seconds in capturing the 800-meter run after running fourth (2009) and fifth (2008) in previous years. "I just told myself I was going to go out quick the first lap and I was just going to give it all I had on the second, but I guess nobody decided to go with me. I kind of wish I'd have had some competition to get a faster time."

For another, it was living up to heavy personal expectations and maintaining what has become a Bardstown dynasty.

"It felt good," J.P. Willett said of winning the pole vault, his second straight in the event to extend the streak of Bardstown pole vault state champs to five. "It felt good knowing I wasn't the one to slip up and not get the job done."

Before Willett, Matt Case (2008) and Michael Seaman (2006-07) had captured the event for Bardstown.

"I think he kind of had some pressure on him," Bardstown coach Tom Williams said. "Each year the pressure mounts."

Willett said he missed his first two opening bars at 12-00, and “I was kind of feeling it after that — I was kind of torn up after that.”

But Willett, who has gotten recruiting interest from Kentucky, Western Kentucky and Mississippi, recovered nicely to clear 12-06, and keep the legacy alive.

“Michael and Matt — all of us — have built pole vaulting into something people really want to do around school,” Willett said. “Before this, they’d never heard of it. I think we’ve made something out of nothing over the past five years.”

For Kahleifeh, it was about finally grabbing that elusive state title to cap off a career that has seen the University of Kentucky-bound distance runner garner four runner-up finishes among his 11 state meet medals. That, and to make up for a disappointment earlier in the day.

“To be honest, it was all out of anger from my mile run; it was one of my worst miles ever,” Kahleifeh said of his third-place finish in the 1600-meter run after being projected to win it.

“That 800 — I just told myself that I need to win one race, and I just gave it all I had.”

It was rewarding for Williams to watch, especially knowing how badly Kahleifeh wanted a state title.

“The state championships in his individual events have been elusive,” Williams said. “He showed the mark of a true champion by coming back and winning the 800 in convincing fashion.”

In addition, Kahleifeh was awarded the Forcht Bank Group KHSAA Sportsmanship Award for the meet. Kahleifeh won the same award after a second-place finish at the state cross country championships in November, and Damian Edelen won the award for Bardstown at the 2009 state track meet.

“I think that’s a tribute to the school, individuals, parents and everyone involved,” Williams said. “I’m real happy our kids show that kind of character.”

Bardstown cleans up in All State awards

By Peter W. Zubaty, Sports Editor
Tuesday, June 10, 2008 at 8:00 pm

Bardstown dominated the boys 2008 Class 1A All State teams, with senior DeMorrio Leggett named Class 1A boys Athlete of the Year and Tiger coach Tom Williams winning the overall boys Coach of the Year for all classes.

It was the second time Williams was honored as overall boys coach of the year by the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association — the first was in 2006 — but this time around was sweeter, he said.

“We had so many athletes that were honored — you don’t win an award like (coach of the year) without great athletes,” Williams said. “I’m more pleased for them than I am for myself.”

The Tiger boys grabbed first-team honors in 10 of the 18 events. Two first-team athletes and two second-team athletes were honored in the 18 events run at Kentucky high school track meets.

On the way to winning the boys Class 1A Athlete of the Year award, Leggett picked up first-team All State honors in three individual events — 110-meter hurdles, long jump and triple jump — and was part of Bardstown’s first-team 400-meter relay squad.

Leggett had just found out about it Tuesday morning, and was surprised by the award.

“It’s an honor just to be a part of a program like Bardstown,” he said.

Leggett has been in contact recently with Western Kentucky University and Union College about continuing his track career at the college level, but in the meantime he was able to reflect a bit on his time at Bardstown. When he’s older, he said, he’ll be able to show his family and friends all his medals and say, “I’m a legend in Bardstown history.”

Leggett is the second Bardstown athlete to be named Athlete of the Year; Kwasi Obeng was so honored in 2004.

“He just had a tremendous spring,” Williams said of Leggett. “To be recognized by the coaches for that, it’s quite an honor for him and Bardstown.”

Bardstown’s boys also got first-team honors in the 1600- and 3200-meter relays, 300-meter hurdles, pole vault, 100-meter dash and discus (see below for full list).

Bardstown’s girls picked up a first team award in the 400-meter relay, and Ciera Allen was second-team All State in the 100-meter dash. Nelson County’s Thad Hardin was voted second-team All State in Class 3A in the 800-meter run.

“It’s a tremendous honor,” Nelson County coach Dan Bradley said. “It’s a testament to Thad’s determination and hard work.”

Bradley said it was the first time any of his athletes made the All State team.

“These are the best athletes in the state, and Thad’s name is right there with them,” he said.

Bardstown also had five boys and two girls named to the Academic All State team.

Peter W. Zubaty can be reached at 348-9003 Ext. 115 or by e-mail at pzubaty@kystandard.com.

2008 All-State Track

Girls

Class 1A first team

400m relay

Bardstown

Class 1A Second team

100m dash

Ciera Allen — Bardstown

Boys

Class 1A first team

100m dash

Kebbie Scott — Bardstown

110m hurdles

DeMorrio Leggett — Bardstown

300m hurdles

Jacob Leachman — Bardstown

400m relay

Bardstown

1600m relay

Bardstown

3200m relay

Bardstown

Discus

Jacob Carter — Bardstown

Long Jump

DeMorrio Leggett — Bardstown

Triple Jump

DeMorrio Leggett — Bardstown

Pole Vault

Matt Case — Bardstown

Class 1A second team

400m Dash

Damian Edelen — Bardstown

1600m Run

Adam Kahleifeh — Bardstown

Pole Vault

J.P. Willett — Bardstown

Class 3A second team

800m Run

Thad Hardin — Nelson Co.

Academic All State

First Team

Girls

Brooke Ahern — Bardstown

Daizah Kimberland — Bardstown

Boys

Jacob Carter — Bardstown

Adam Kahleifeh — Bardstown

Jonathan Kays — Bardstown

Jacob Leachman — Bardstown

Nick McCarty — Bardstown

Honorable mention

Girls

Kori Shannon — Bardstown

Boys

Matt Case — Bardstown

Congrats to Tiger track team

By Staff

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 8:00 pm

If there was any doubt before this past weekend that Bardstown High School is the dominant small-school track and field program in the state, the Tiger boys wiped it away along with the competition at the KHSAA State Track and Field Championships.

Bardstown scored more than twice as many points (119-59) as its nearest competitors on the way to winning the ninth team state championship in school history, breezing by second-place St. Henry and Ballard Memorial.

Tiger coach Tom Williams said afterward it was the most he can remember any Bardstown team scoring at any state meet. If anyone should know, it would be Williams, who has coached four of the past five Class 1A boys state champions, and has won five overall in a wildly successful coaching career that dates back to the 1970s.

The Tigers didn't shrink from the pressure of coming into the meet as the favorite, and Williams said he stressed to his athletes to be "solid as a rock" by staying focused on the task in practices leading up to state. While at state, the Tigers delivered by qualifying into the finals in most every running event, and avoiding mental mistakes such as fouls and false starts.

Bardstown's boys won first-place honors in three events — pole vault, triple jump and 400-meter relay — and came in second in seven other events, never giving opposing schools a chance to make up any ground in the points standings.

Congratulations to Williams and the Tigers for adding another state championship to the already full trophy case at Bardstown High School.

TRACK AND FIELD: Tiger coach adjusting to new role

Loss of Williams tough to bear, but BHS athletes still have same goals

By Peter W. Zubaty, Sports Editor
Tuesday, April 12, 2011 at 3:07 pm

Jeremy Dale inherited a dual-edged sword of pressure in the form of lofty expectations with the potential of huge rewards when he took over total control of the Bardstown track and field program.



Peter W. Zubaty

Deion Tonge captured first place in the long jump at Bardstown's All-Comers meet last week. Tiger coach Jeremy Dale said his team should be much-improved in the field events this season.

Dale is in his first season as boys' head coach, an unexpected promotion that came following the death of longtime Tiger coach Tom Williams in November. Dale took over the girls' program three years ago, but the two shared a lot of the duties with the girls' and boys' teams.

Williams won five boys' state outdoor championships and two indoor titles during his tenure, which stretched back to the 1970s. Dale isn't sure he can ever replace everything Williams meant to the program and Bardstown High School in general, but what he can do is apply the lessons he learned from him over the years.

“I always thought I might have the opportunity (to be head coach), but I always thought I could pick up the phone and call him if I needed to,” Dale said. “Everything I know in track has come from him.”

It won't be easy, but already being involved in the program for a few years helped ease the transition for Dale and the athletes.

“It would have been tougher for a new person,” he said. Williams made such an impression upon everyone around him, Dale said it's only natural that the team will carry a great deal of emotion with it throughout the season.

“It's just different not having Coach Williams there,” senior sprinter Ben Lyvers said. “You know he's always watching you.”

Williams' laid-back personality and motivational style resonated with the athletes, said freshman distance runner Zach Kahleifeh, who also ran cross country for Williams in the fall. Williams died on the eve of the 2010 state cross country meet, but the squad voted to go ahead and compete at state in his memory.

“It's going to be very hard this year,” said Kahleifeh, who medaled at Mason Dixon in the 1500-meter run.

Dale's personality and coaching style is in contrast to Williams' reserved demeanor.

“I get pretty excited — I get real fired up,” he said. “He always kept me in check, kept me calm.”

If early results are an indicator, Dale is well on his way to making his own name. He said many of the athletes started showing up early and motivated when practices started for the indoor track season in December. That led to a second-place overall finish in the team competition at the Mason Dixon Games — which doubles as the indoor track state championship — in March, despite several athletes being unavailable that weekend. On top of that, the Tiger girls did the boys one better by winning the whole thing, the first state championship of any kind for a Bardstown girls' team.

The goals haven't changed at all for the boys, who are coming off a third-place finish at outdoor state last year, and Dale said he puts a lot of pressure on himself to live up to them.

“That comes from being around him all these years,” Dale said. “He had great expectations.”

The athletes show a maturity that's uncommon among high school kids, to the point of welcoming those expectations.

“Personally, I like pressure on my back,” said junior Josh Ceasar, who medaled in the 800 meter run at state last year, and was runner-up in that event at Mason Dixon. “It just helps me improve.”

Cesar assumes a leading role among the distance runners in the absence of Adam Kahleifeh — Zach's brother — who now runs for the University of Kentucky's track team. Adam Kahleifeh capped off his career last spring with an individual state championship in the 800; J.P. Willett won the other of Bardstown's two individual championships with his score in the pole vault, the fifth straight for the school in that event. Junior Clay Donaldson, who was fifth at outdoor state last year, will anchor the pole vaulters.

Dale said he's trying to find out who excels in what events, and filling in the holes from there.

"Tommy had a knack for it," Dale said. "He could look at a kid and say, 'He's going to be able to do this.' I'm still learning it."

Overall, Dale said it should be a pretty well-rounded boys' team, with opportunities for picking up points all across the board. Several new faces are out for track, and there are some new faces involved with the coaching staff as well.

Lyvers, who won the 400-meter dash at Mason Dixon, leads a group of sprinters who figure to improve over last season, and Dale said the Tigers should be stronger in field events as well. Relay events figure to be a strength as well; the Tigers were no worse than third in the relays at Mason-Dixon and swept those events on the way to a team title at last week's Bardstown All-Comers Meet.

"The kids work hard, and I think that was evident from the way they did in the Mason Dixon Games," Dale said.

In a change from last season, Dale has reshuffled the schedule, eliminating regular-season Saturday meets to avoid conflicts with athletes who also participate in other sports. The schedule is an end-loaded one, with invitationals at Elizabethtown, Central Hardin and Bardstown, as well as the Heartland Conference Meet in the latter half of the season to get kids peaking at the right time.

The Tigers host their second all-comers meet Thursday and travel to meets at Elizabethtown and Danville next week.

The Tiger boys feel confident they'll be a force to be reckoned with all season.

"I definitely think we can make a run at state," Kahleifeh said.

Lyvers went one better.

"That's the goal. I'll say it right now — we're going to win state."

Thomas Grant “Tom” “Coach” Williams Sr., 63

Monday, November 15, 2010 at 5:10 pm

Thomas Grant “Tom” “Coach” Williams Sr., 63, Bardstown, died Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, at Flaget Memorial Hospital. He was born March 2, 1947, in Harrodsburg. He was a teacher for Bardstown High School, coached many sports, presently coaching track and cross county, and was a truancy mediator. He was 2006 National Track Coach of the Year, coached track championships in 1977, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008 and coached indoor track championships in 2004 and 2010. He was in the Army National Guard, an avid hunter, fisherman and singer.

Williams' loss will be felt beyond athletic fields

Tuesday, November 16, 2010 at 7:03 pm

With a trophy case full of region and state titles to his credit, Tom Williams left behind a legacy of success at Bardstown High School that won't soon be matched.

But the impact of his death will ripple far beyond the field of athletic competition.

Williams died Friday at age 63, just hours before his cross country teams were set to compete in the Class 1A state championships. A memorial service in his honor is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday at the Bardstown High School auditorium.









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**BARDSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL
ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME**



Tom Williams
Coach
1969-2010

Coach Tom Williams coached baseball, boys and girls' basketball, boys and girls' cross country and boys and girls' track at Bardstown High School. He was a "player's" and successful in multiple sports, but excelled in coaching track and field. Tom was Head Boys Track Coach at Bardstown High School for thirty years. Through the 2009 track season his teams had a record of 1778 (1863 – Year 2010) wins and 314 (322 – Year 2010) losses. Included in that record are five (5) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A track championships winning in 1977, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition, his teams have four (4) K.H.S.A.A. state outdoor Class A runner-ups (1980, 1991, 2002, and 2009). In addition to the outdoor championships, his teams have won two Mason Dixon State Indoor championships (2004 and 2010) as well as two state indoor runner-ups (1997 and 2003). His teams have won twenty-two (22) regional championships and six (6) regional runner-ups. As well as two (2) sectional championships and two (2) sectional runner-ups which are no longer contested in the state of Kentucky and numerous invitationals. He has coached thirty-six (36) state champions. He has had two (2) high school All-Americans and five (5) athletes to go on and earn All-American honors in college. Even though Bardstown is a Class A school in size, it consistently competes successfully against the largest schools in the state. Coach Williams also served seventeen (17) years as the girls head track coach with a record of 710 wins and 363 losses while winning six (6) regional championships and four (4) regional runner-ups. He served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Track Advisory Committee in 1976 -1981 and again in 2000 - Present. In addition, he served on the K.H.S.A.A. State Cross Country Advisory Committee from 2000- 2005. He was selected to serve on the Kentucky Track and Cross Country Coaches Association All-State Selection Committee in 2002, 2005, 2006, and 2008. In addition to serving as track coach at Bardstown, Coach Williams has been head boys basketball coach, head girls basketball coach, head baseball coach, head boys and girls cross country coach, and assistant football coach during his tenure at the school.

Coach Williams received many coaches awards over the years: Inducted into the Kentucky Fifth Region Athletic Director's Hall of Fame - 2006; Inducted into the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Hall of Fame - 2007; Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) Class A Coach of the Year - 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2009; Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association (KYTCCCA) State Track Coach of the Year - 2006, 2008; Nominee for National Track Coach of the Year by Kentucky High School Coaches Association - 2005; National High School Athletic Coaches Association Region 3 selection for National Coach of the Year - 2005; and National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Boys Track Coach of the Year – 2006.

Coach Williams had been a regular speaker at the Kentucky Track Cross Country Coaches Association annual coaching clinic primarily presenting ways to organize a successful track and field program. Bardstown has consistently hosted K.H.S.A.A. regional events as well as summer youth track meets. Coach Williams initiated and wrote the guidelines that established the Bardstown High School Athletic Hall of Fame. He was instrumental in establishing a walking/Cross Country course that is available to the community on a historical piece of property that belongs to the county.

INDUCTED SEPTEMBER 26, 2011