



West Carter High School

Jim Webb
Principal

John Gabbard
Assistant Principal

Jeffrey Huffman
Counselor

Patti Stamper
Counselor

Kim Johnson
Secretary

365 West Carter Drive
Post Office Box 1479
Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164
(606) 286-2481
FAX (606) 286-8026

June 12, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

It is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to write a letter of support for Coach "Hop" Brown. He and I have been good friends for over 30 years, from being teammates on the athletic field, to working together as basketball coaches and fellow faculty members, and currently as principal and coach.

"Hop" turned the Lady Comets into a dynasty as evidenced by eight regional titles, 18 district championships and a state title in 2000. At the conclusion of his 25th and last season, Coach Brown had a career record of 514 and 201 for a winning percentage of 72%, which placed him 6th on the all time girls win list. Also, the lady Comets under the leadership of Coach Brown won thirteen Eastern Kentucky Conference titles and twelve conference tournament championships.

Besides all the championships, Coach Brown has won numerous coaches of the year awards and accolades. "Hop" has become one of the most colorful and well-liked coaches in the state, not only among peers but also the press and anyone associated with the game.

As far as personal traits, "Hop" continually displayed a respect for opposing teams, coaches and officials and set a high standard of excellence both on and off the floor by his players. The Lady Comets always played under control and never attempted to intimidate or trash talk opposing players, coaches and officials. His teams gained statewide respect for the way they played and conducted themselves.

All of "Hops" family has been involved in basketball. His three daughters all played for him and his youngest daughter is a member of the Morehead State University Lady Eagles.



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In April 2002 "Hop" was diagnosed with brain cancer. Coach fought through the 2002-2003 season and resigned as Lady Comet coach on May 5, 2003. As I mentioned on the application, the prognosis is not good and medical experts say that he will not make it to the eligibility date.

I personally would like to appeal to the board to look at this closely and make an exception for membership in the Dawahares Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall Of Fame. His record and credentials speak for themselves but this is one area that he will need an assist. Your consideration for him would be greatly appreciated, not only in this area of the state but the entire Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,

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May 20, 2003

Ms. Brigid DeVries
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Commissioner DeVries:

If you recall, last spring I appealed to the association about allowing Coach John "Hop" Brown's induction in the Dawahares/ Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. My request was denied on the grounds that nominees must meet exacting standards and exceptions to these standards would not be allowed. Obviously, I was disappointed that the request was denied and Coach Brown and the community would not be able to celebrate what we all consider to be the crowning achievement in high school sports.

Again, I am appealing to the committee to make an exception to the rule and allow Coach Brown's induction. Please consider the following facts before making a final decision: First, effective May 5, 2003, "Hop" has retired as basketball coach of the Lady Comets. He retired not because he wanted to, but because his health would not allow him to effectively do the job that he knew had to be done. His final won/loss record was 514 wins and 201 losses over a 25-year period. Second, his health has deteriorated to the point that the experts privately tell his family that he only has a short period to fully enjoy the blessings that have come his way. To be blunt, he would defy all medical odds if he lived to become eligible for induction under the current guidelines.

In this business we are constantly faced with rules and regulations that we all must follow. If administrators followed every rule to the letter and enforced every penalty as it was written, we would be involved in constant turmoil. My point is that rules should not be set in stone and those that enforce the rules should not be blinded by the fact that exceptions can and should occur.



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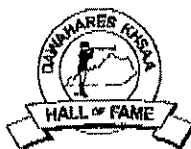
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**DAWAHARES/KHSAA
Hall Of Fame
Golf Outing
Golf Club of the Bluegrass
(Formerly Widow's Watch)
June 21, 2004**

John "Hop" Brown
Inductee

Golf Outing

- Yes, I will individually participate in the golf outing.
- Yes, I will be participating with guests (listed bellow).
- No, I will not be able to participate.

Names of Golfers (\$225 per foursome)

Check Enclosed

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number/Exp. Date

Luncheon

- Yes, I will attend the luncheon.
- No, I will not be able to attend.

5 Number of Luncheon Guest(s)

List the local media outlets you want to receive the KHSAA official release announcing the 2005 Selection Class:

Outlet	Phone/Fax
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>WUGO Radio</u>	<u>(606) 474-5144 / 474-7777 (FAX)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Daily Independent</u>	<u>(606) 326-2600 / (606) 326-2678 (FAX)</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Olive Hill Times</u>	<u>(606) 286-4201 / (606) 286-4201 (FAX)</u>

Please fax or mail this form to the KHSAA office by June 14:

Fax (859)293-5999
Mailing address
KHSAA
Hall of Fame Golf
2280 Executive Dr.
Lexington, KY 40505

John "Hop" Brown

John "Hop" Brown was the dean of 16th Region girl's basketball coaches working 25 straight years for the same team. He led his West Carter girls to the State championship, as well as 8 Region championships, 18 District titles, 10 Eastern Kentucky Conference championships and 12 EKC tournament titles. The accomplishments include a string of ten straight 62nd District titles, five consecutive 16th Region titles, ten consecutive years of EKC tourney champs and eight consecutive EKC regular season, first place finishes. West was one of seven teams in the state to win five or more region crowns in a row.

His 514 victories is fourth on the all-time state list, but the second best percentage of any coach at the same school for his career – 71.7%. Howard Beth, who has coached at Marshall Co. 23 seasons, has an 85.9 winning percentage. Brown's eight appearances at the Sweet Sixteen are also among the top five. No other girl's 16th Region coach has more than four region wins.

Coach Brown was instrumental in leading the effort to persuade state officials to allow girls basketball to use a smaller basketball than what the boys used.

Coach Brown was selected KY-Indiana All-Star coach in 2002, Mountain Shoot-out Coach in 1989, Key-Ohio All-Star Coach, four times. The MVP trophy for the Eastern Ky. Junior All-Star Girls Classic is named in his honor. He has been EKC Coach of the Year, seven times, All-Area (Independent newspaper) Coach of the Year, eight times. State Coach of the Year, twice. He has received the Best Bencher award in the region from officials, seven times. KABC (Ky. Association of Basketball Coaches) Award in the region, eight times. He was Sportsman of the Year, 2001 in the Independent newspaper, Ashland.

During Coach Brown's 25 years at West Carter he had three seasons of 30 wins or more, thirteen, 20-win seasons, and only four season, below .500.

Coach Browns best records: 38-1 '00; 31-3 '96; 29-4 '99.

Coach Brown retired as the Lady Comet head coach in March of 2003. In 25 years at West Carter, Coach Brown compiled a record of 514 wins and 201 losses. On August 27, 2003, lost the battle with his toughest opponent, cancer. Coach Brown leaves behind his wife Sharon, daughters, Kim, Karla, Kandi, and a son Kyle.