

JAMES C. TIDWELL
2500 MARSHALL AVENUE, APT. 321
PADUCAH, KY 42003

July 10, 2008

To Whom It May Concern

Subject: Letter of Recommendation for David "Dody" Carlson

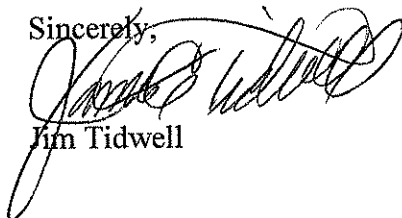
Dear Ladies and/or Gentlemen:

I was delighted to learn that my friend Dody Carlson has been nominated for the KHSAA Football Hall of Fame, Officials' Division. This certainly would be a very well deserved and long over due honor for this dedicated man who labored so long in an avocation that subjects one primarily to ridicule and abuse in exchange for miniscule pay. Only love of the game and the ultimate satisfaction of doing great service for the young football players, their families and fans of Western Kentucky could have motivated Dody to sacrifice his time and energy to officiate during 315 varsity games over a period of 42 years from 1945 through 1987.

Dody's modesty and lack of desire for acclaim have caused him not to seek the honor of Hall of Fame membership before this. However, now at age 87 he has finally yielded to the urging of his officiating peers and friends to allow himself to be nominated to the KHSAA Football Hall of Fame.

Please accept this letter as my recommendation that you accept the nomination of this fine man and make the appointment to the Hall of Fame during the next round.

Sincerely,



Jim Tidwell

7/7/08

To Whom It May Concern:

Just a note to ask you to consider David (Dody) A. Carlson as an inductee into the Kentucky's High School Football Official's Hall of Fame. I have known David since my days as Principal and coach in Ballard County and working with him at Union Carbide.

It was his love and dedication for the sport of Football that made him eligible for this recognition of years of service. As he once told me that after watching a high school football game, he knew that he could do a better job officiating. This statement has proven to be true as the records have shown. David knows what it takes to be a good official. He put this belief into practice every time he went on the field to work a football game.

If you had known (Dody) as I have, you would know he belongs in the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely yours, *John R. Carlisle*
2500 Marshall Ave.
Paducah Ky. 42003

June 23, 2008

**TO: The KHSAA Football Hall of Fame Nomination
Committee of David Carlson**

Dear Committee:

I had the pleasure of officiating with David for many years. I consider him a true sportsman. We worked many games together. I didn't keep an exact number of games but over the years there were many, not only Varsity, but Junior Varsity, Freshman and Middle School games.

David was a great linesman. He was the type of official that always made the correct call, stayed on top of the game and out hustled many of the players. He was dependable, accepted criticism, and also able to criticize.

We went over the rules many times, especially going to and from games.

David was a master in his performance on the football field and his love of the game certainly deserves his nomination to the KHSAA Football Hall of Fame.

Sincerely



**Lyn Thomas
1437 Carolina Street
Calvert City KY 42029**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter to recommend David Carlson for the K.H.S.A.A. Football Hall of Fame.

Over the course 42 yrs. Mr. Carlson officiated over 315 varsity games. He also worked junior varsity games, Freshman and middle school games.

His love for the game and his love for the youth, I feel, qualify him for the K.H.S.A.A. Hall of Fame.

Sincerely

Roger Lueda
Former Athletic Director
Basketball Coach
Mayfield High School

Kara Allard, M.S. CCC-SLP

2500 Marshall Avenue Suite 201

Paducah, KY 42001

Phone (270) 554-3135

Fax (270) 554-3136

karaallard@yahoo.com

August 2, 2008

RE: High School Football Hall of Fame Nomination

To Whom It Ma Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend a dear friend of mine, David Carlson, for the High School Football Hall of Fame. I had the experience to meet this wonderful person and learn of his story and I feel he is a perfect and worthy candidate for this honor. He is known by all as "Dody" and he has quite an impressive story.

He was a high school referee for 42 years, officiating 315 high school Varsity games including a 4A state championship game in Louisville in 1978 against Lexington and Tates Creek. He was Referee #3 and has officiated games all over the state of Kentucky and southern Illinois. Mr. Carlson was injured by breaking his leg while officiating a game, being run over by several players, although his buddies like to tease that he was watching the cheerleaders. I do not believe that I have ever met a person who loves the game of football quite like Mr. Carlson. He has all of his old uniforms, his All Sports Examinations, Official Football Signals sheets, pictures, newspaper clippings, and much more memorabilia of the game. He truly loved and was dedicated to officiating.

Mr. Carlson turned 85 this year and has always hoped to someday be a part of the High School Football Hall of Fame. Please seriously consider this request and take this nominee where he deserves to be! Thank you for your time.

Kara Allard M.S. CCC-SLP

Kara Allard

M.S. CCC-SLP

1942

No. 1 Tornado Fan?

David Carlson, 1401 Broadway, won't see the Tilghman-Mayfield game Thanksgiving day. Neither will lots of other people, but it's a little different in Carlson's case. For it will mark the first game Tilghman has played since 1937 without him in the stands. And that means on the road as well as at home.

Altogether, Carlson has seen Tilghman play 54 games—saw 44

of them go into the win column against seven losses and three ties. And he's seen the Tornado, in that unbroken stretch, roll up 1,402 points.

David attended school at Tilghman, and since graduation has been employed in the Illinois Central shops here.

But he won't see the Tilghman-Mayfield game. You see, he enlisted with a special I. C. battalion, and was called to active duty with the armed forces Wednesday.

Thomas to ref at 4A final

Lyn Thomas, a Calvert City resident, will be among the crew selected to referee the Kentucky 4A championship football game this Saturday in Louisville between Louisville St. X and Lexington Tates Creek.

The crew, including three Paducah men and one

Fulton City resident, was the top rated group of officials in the Western Kentucky Conference, and Thomas said he felt this was the reason for their being selected to officiate the game.

Other members of the crew include L.V. McGinty,

referee; David Carlson, head linesman; Harry Johnson, back judge; and Joe Treas, umpire. Thomas serves as the crew's field judge.

"It is quite an honor for me," Thomas said. This is his seventh year as an official.

Carlson's love of football reason milestone reached

By KEVIN STEWART

Sun Sports Writer

There's no doubt David Carlson loves officiating high school football. What else would keep a person at a job with a measly a \$2.50 increase in 39 years?

Although he makes only \$27.50 for a varsity contest compared to the \$25 he got in his first game between Trigg County and Princeton, Oct. 12, 1945, Carlson eventually got hooked.

"I don't know why I've stayed in it as long as I have. It got to sort of turn into a challenge for me," said Carlson, a 62-year-old who calls Paducah home after moving here from Water Valley, Miss., at a young age.

Carlson, whose nickname is Dody, is in his final and most satisfying year. On Sept. 22 in a game at Hopkinsville between Trigg County and Christian County, he officiated his 300th varsity contest.

Although the state doesn't keep such records, Carlson began keeping his own records in 1947.

"My wife (Ann) says I keep everything, that I don't throw anything away," said Carlson, pointing to a spiral notebook with a year-by-year rundown.

Ironically, Carlson came ever-so-close to not reaching his 300th game. A year ago July 23, he was clipping some branches from a tree in his backyard when he grabbed a stub for support. The rotted limb gave way and he fell.

"I must have fell about 12 to 14 feet and landed right on my rear," he said.

He broke his back, missing the entire prep season as well as 16 weeks at his maintenance job at what was then Union Carbide. "They (the doctors) didn't really encourage me to come back and officiate this year," said Carlson, who got back in shape by running in the rear parking lot of the First Baptist Church.

The only time Carlson was injured on the field came in 1967 when he broke a leg in a game at Fulton City.

"I was by the sidelines and Fulton City had been gang-tackling Trigg all night. I got caught up in one and my whole body twisted except for my knee...I got a lot of kidding because people said I was watching the cheerleaders when I got run over. That's what they say, but it's not true."

Carlson, who has officiated countless other junior high, freshman and junior varsity contests, would like to go out in a blaze by officiating in post-season play.

He usually gets a playoff game, and in 1978 was the head linesman for the state championship contest won by Louisville St. Xavier 42-21 over Lexington Takes Creek.

Like all officials, Carlson has had his share of good-natured kidding as well as outright vocal abuse from fans and coaches. He says he tries to keep a level, cool head.

"When you go into a game you've just got to think football and that's all. What you're saying to yourself is 'I can handle any situation that can come up.'"

"Working a ballgame is just like playing in a ballgame — you've got your good ones and bad ones. A lot of people don't understand that."

With 39 years of experience, there's no doubt Carlson knows what it takes to be an official.

"You've got to be able to take criticism, because you're going to get it. You've got to be fair and know the rules, and you've got to be in good physical and mental shape before a game.

"I've had a few bad things happen to me, but all in all officiating has been pretty good to me. I'm just thankful that I have recovered from the injuries I've had and that I've never had a serious injury. I've really enjoyed officiating."



Officially 300

David Carlson of Paducah has officiated over 300 high school football games in his 39-year career in western Kentucky.

(Staff photo by Kevin Stewart)

Before I worked my first varsity game at Trigg County, I worked Junior High games..

The first part of this article is not correct. My first game at Trigg County I received \$12.00 plus \$1.00 for travel pay. Most of the games over the years I did receive \$27.50. The game that I broke my leg was played at Trigg County. I officiated for 42 years for a total of 315 varsity football games.

David A. Carlson

David A. Carlson
2500 Marshall Avenue, Suite 123
Paducah, KY 42003

TO: KHSAA Hall of Fame
FROM: L. V. McGinty, Jr.
RE: David A. Carlson—Nomination to Dawahare's KHSAA Hall of Fame
DATE: August 20, 2008

Dear Selection Committee:

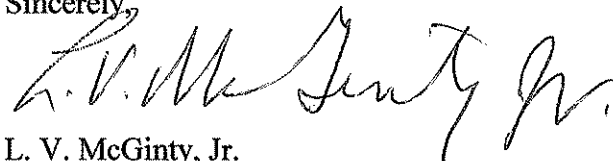
It is my great pleasure to support the nomination of David A. Carlson to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have known and worked with David for over thirty-five years.

He worked on my high school football officiating crew for a number of years and worked the 1978 4-A State Championship game as part of my crew. I could always count on David to be in the right place and to make the tough calls. He worked as linesman and had the ability to get along with the coaches on the sidelines.

David was also willing to help younger officials and never hesitated to work 7th and 8th grade games, freshmen games and junior varsity games. He always showed up on time and was a very willing participant in pre-game and post-game discussions.

David has worked over 300 high school varsity football games in his career spanning over forty years. It is with great pleasure that I support his election to the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. V. McGinty, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

L. V. McGinty, Jr.