

October 23, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to take an opportunity to offer a formal recommendation for Brian W. Collins. I have known Brian for approximately 25 years and feel that he is a deserving candidate for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Brian swam for numerous recreational and competitive swim clubs during his childhood and adolescent life. Demonstrating an incredible love of the sport and a strong dedication, he continued swimming throughout his high school and college career.

Brian strongly feels that the person he is today is a direct result of his swimming career. He is President and owner of Commonwealth Inc Warehouse and Distribution Company headquartered in Cincinnati. He founded this company in 1985 and it continues to be successful with expanded locations in Georgia and California. The company's website can be visited at [www.commonwealthinc.com](http://www.commonwealthinc.com). Brian is also an owner of Cincinnati Railway Company. This company involves luxurious private rail charters. Additional information regarding this company can be found at [www.cincinnati-railway.com](http://www.cincinnati-railway.com).

As a result of his successful career, Brian has recently purchased and renovated the swim club he belonged to where his swimming all began. The pool was in a state of disrepair and was unusable for the past three years. Brian purchased the pool, made all necessary repairs and reopened Cherry Hill Swim Club in Erlanger, KY this past summer season. Brian wanted to give back to the community what it had provided to him while growing up. Brian leads by example and many people here find his enthusiasm and dedication both inspiring and motivating.

Brian's involvement in swimming and his achievements have made him into the person he is today. A strong, motivated, self disciplined, loving father and husband.

I highly recommend Brian W. Collins for induction into your program and hope that you will carefully consider this nomination.

Sincerely,



Vicky L. Collins  
Wife of Brian W. Collins

October 22, 2006

To Whom It May Concern,

Mr. Collins has been involved in swimming throughout his entire life. He began his career as a six year old swimming for the Cherry Hill Dolphins of the Northern Kentucky Swim League (N.K.S.L.). during his youth, he swam on teams including Covington YMCA, Tri-City YMCA, Cincinnati Coke, Northern Kentucky Piranhas, Boone County High School as an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and finally Conner Senior High School. He even coached the Triple E Sailfish of the N.K.S.L. during 1975 and 1976.

In 1997 he was inducted into the inaugural class of the Conner High School Hall of Fame.

Mr. Collins is the owner of Commonwealth Inc. Warehousing and Distribution Company based in Blue Ash, Ohio with locations in Kentucky, California, and Georgia. He lives in Fort Mitchell with his wife Vicky and daughter Katie. Their son Brent graduated from Hanover College in 2005 and is currently working as the Sales & Marketing Manager at Commonwealth.

Mr. Collins is an active Republican and has held several fundraisers at his home for Senators Bunning and McConnell, Governor Fletcher, Congressman Geoff Davis, and Rick Robinson.

I urge you to honor Mr. Collins by inducting him into the Northern Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

William E. Comley, Jr.

# New School Is Tops

If the first six months of a new school are any indication of what to expect in the future, Conner Senior High School will probably be known as the "school of champions." Already students, because of various activities, have brought five awards to be proudly displayed in the trophy case.

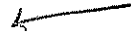
The awards and honors include the "It's Academic" team which consists of Joby Allen, Jackie Fryman, and Janet Godsey, and coached by Mr. Donald Bornhorst, Guidance Counselor; the band which won a Superior rating at the Lexington Lions Club Invitational under the direction of Mr. Wendell Hull; the basketball team, coached by Mr. Bill Warfield which won the 33 District championship; the Wrestling team, which, through the efforts of Senior Mike Holloway, won first place in an Invitational Wrestling Meet; and Brian Collins, who as a one man swimming team, returned with honors.

Mascot for the Conner Senior High is the Cougar. Therefore, the band is known as "Marching Cougars," the girls drill team is known as the "Cougar Kittens," school paper bears the banner "Cougar Capers" and the girls basketball team is named "Cougarettes."

As we toured the new two-story, 35 classroom structure, we were especially impressed by the colorful decor of the building and modern equipment and teaching facilities. The students we encountered and observed were neatly dressed and polite. And, it was evident from the appearance of the corridors that the young people take pride in their school.

When we questioned Mr. Paul Hogan, Principal about this, he quickly and with modest pride admitted that the 585 students display much "school spirit." He also speculated that perhaps the student body itself and the "fine faculty" should be credited with the winning attitude.

Whatever factor deserves the credit, the Dixie News wishes continued success to the new Conner Senior High School.



## OHIO ASSOCIATION OF THE AAU SWIMMING RECORD



SWIMMER Boss, Schizzer  
Collins, Boeing

AFFILIATION Cincinnati Lakes WHEN SET 1970

CLASSIFICATION Open WHERE SET Dayton, Ohio

EVENT 200 Meter Free Relay TIME 1:48.5  
Short course

# Swimmers also have hobbies

Two members of Paul Hartlaub's famous Coca-Cola swim team manage to find time for unusual hobbies.

Brian Collins, a sophomore at Conners High in Boone County, became interested in sky-diving last summer. To date, he has made 11 jumps and says the thrill is indescribable. He looks forward to making many more.

"I'd have to say my first was the most exciting," Brian explained. "I didn't really know what would take place. But the second time is thrilling because you know when the chute will open, and how the jerk will feel."

Brian said before each jump now he tries to pick a definite spot for landing, and generally be a bit more professional about the whole adventure.



Brian Collins

One of Brian's 15-year-old swimming mates on the team, Paula Piepmeier of Oak Hills High, dabbles in painting when Coach Hartlaub doesn't keep her too occupied. She has en-

joyed the pastime for as long as she can remember, and studies painting under Louis Koenig at Oak Hills. Currently Paula's work is on exhibit in a downtown store.—Vicki Peeno



—Enquirer (Tom Hubbard) Photo

Paula Piepmeier puts the finishing touches on one of her paintings here for Enquirer lensman Tom Hubbard.



Brian Collins recently became a state champion by competing as Conner's one-man team on February 13 at the state Class AA swim meet in Lexington, Kentucky. Brian, a sophomore, has been competing in swim meets for ten years. He is a member of the Cincinnati Coke swim team, and swims for the Cherry Hill Swim Club in the summer.

Swimming is Brian's main extra-curricular activity, although he recently took up sky diving. He plans to continue swimming in college and is working for a scholarship from a medium sized university.

In the state meet, which had eleven events, Brian competed in the 50 and 100 yard free--style. In the finals he set a 23.6 second state record for first place in the 50 yard free-style, and placed second in the 100 yard free=style, .02 second out of first place with a time of 53.2 seconds.

Out of the twenty-five competing teams, Brian's finishes gave Conner enough points to place eighth. Other Northern Kentucky participants in the meet

were Highlands, which won the meet, Beechwood, Simon Kenton, Dixie, & Bellevue.

Mr. Levi attended the meet as Brian's coach, and Mr. Carlton Anderson is credited with making the arrangements for Brian's entry.

the 50-yard freestyle mark.

The results:

Team Totals: Richmond Model 202, Covington Catholic 197, Hopkinsville 163, Highlands 161, Louisville Country Day 69, Ft. Knox 57, Newport Catholic 49, Dixie Heights 47, Christian County 40, Conner 29, Campbell County 26, Bellevue 22, Ft. Campbell 13, Simon Kenton and Lexington Catholic 12 each, Erlanger Lloyd 8 and Bourbon County 2.  
Individual results: 200 Medley Relay—Covington Catholic (Brent Rutenmiller, Bob Chalfant, Warren Whalen, Mike Thompson) Time 1:49.6 (Record) Hopkinsville, Highlands.  
200-Freestyle—Pete Watkins (Model), 1:56.3; Tom Klumper (Cov. Cath.), Butch Clause (Model).  
200-Individual Medley—Dave Redmond (NC), 2:12.2 (Record), Bob Chalfant, (Cov. Cath.), Dale Bryant (CD).

same team that managed only a place finish last year.

Only one major addition to High strength was in evidence. And it was David Redmond, who last year cor for Newport Catholic.

"David is a tremendous swimmer," Faith said, "and he helped us a lot. We would have won even without him."

Without Redmond—who won the 50-yard freestyle event, was third in the 200 individual medley and swam a record-breaking 400 freestyle team score might have been close. Without him it wasn't.

Practice at 6 a.m.

Hopkinsville, the pre-meet finished up third with just 133 points compared to Highlands' total of 260. Newport Catholic came defending champion with 154 points.

"Our kids don't have it as easy as most," Faith commented after the meet. "We don't have our own pool, and we have to be up at 6 a.m. to practice. I'm proud of this team. They've improved incredibly."

Faith appeared to be in a mellow state of mind as the final point total was announced. But he was, in fact, still cooling off from a king-sized display of anger he showed early in the meet over a series of disqualifications.

Highlands' 200 individual medley entries had, certainly, a rough time of it. One was disqualified during the morning preliminaries. Then, in the consolation finals, Randy Daley was given the axe by judges.

QUODDIE BY ALSO style.

TEA  
1. Ft. Thomas High School (Mod), 154; 3. Hopkinsville Catholic (Cov.), 133; 5. Conner (Con), 69; 6. Christian County (CC), 40; 7. Christian County (KCD), 44; 10. Franklin County (Lloyd), 32; 12. 13. Danville (Dan), 29; 15. Beechwood (Bee), 26; 19; 17. Apollo (Ap), 17; 6; 18. Woodford County (JC), 5; 21. Danville Hopkins (WH), 1; Bourbon County (Bour), 2; 2. Hopkinsville (H), 163; 4. Highlands (High), 161; 8. Louisville Country Day (LD), 69; 9. Newport Catholic (NC), 49; 11. Dixie Heights (Dix), 47; 14. Christian County (CC), 40; 16. Campbell County (CC), 26; 18. Bellevue (Bel), 22; 19. Ft. Campbell (FC), 13; 20. Simon Kenton and Lexington Catholic (SKL), 12 each; 22. Erlanger Lloyd (EL), 8; 23. Bourbon County (BC), 2.

INDIVIDUAL A  
200-yard medley relay (state record); 2. Model (Mod), 1:56.3; 3. Butch Clause (Mod), 1:56.3; 4. LeVasseur (FK), 2:00; 5. Rozen (Mod), 3; 6. David Collins (Con), 3; 7. Metrens (High), 3; 8. C diving—1. Buddy Rus Consiston (Mod), 3; 2. 100 butterfly—1. Dan record); 2. Rozen (Mod), 3; 3. Metrens (High), 3; 4. style—1. David Redmond (Dix), 3; 2. Brownfield (Dix), 3; 3. 1. Rush (KCD), 1:00; 2. Jeff Cavena (Bel heat) Tim Vasant (Cov); 3. Mark Hungerland (Highlands (Doxch, mond); 3:33.32 (stat); 3. Model, 3:33.32 (stat)

# Cov-Cath Second In Boys' Swim

Northern Kentucky boys swimming teams made their best showing in years in the Class AA State Swim Meet in Louisville but had to be content with a runnerup position.

Richmond Modal repeated as state champion with a total of 202 points, barely nosing out Covington Catholic, which was second with 197 points. Former state champions, Hopkinsville and Highlands finished third and fourth respectively with 163 and 161 points. The local ninth region had seven schools among the first 12 finishers with Newport Catholic seventh, Dixie Heights, eighth; Conner, tenth; Campbell County, 11th and Bellevue 12th. Simon Kenton tied for 14th place and Erlanger Lloyd was 16th.

Covington Catholic's 200-yard medley relay team won a first with a state record of 1:49.6. Dave Redmond of Newport Catholic set records in the 200-yard individual medley and the 400-yard freestyle. Brian Collins of Conner broke the 50-yard freestyle mark.

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200-Freestyle—Pete Watkins (Model), 1:56.3; Tom Kluemper (Cov. Cath.), Butch Clause (Model).

200-Individual Medley—Dave Redmond (NC), 2:12.2 (Record), Bob Chalfant, (Cov. Cath.), Dale Bryant (CD).

50 Freestyle—Brian Collins (Conner) 23.8 (record), Thompson (Cov. Cath.), Mike Gayce (High).

1 Meter Diving—Brent Congleton (Model), 356.8; Buddy Russell (Hop.), Matt Lukens (High).

100 Butterfly—Dan LeVasseur (Ft. Knox) :59.95; Bobby Rozar (Model), Jeff Brandt (H).

100-Freestyle—Pete Watkins (Model) 51.9 (record), 2. Brian Collins, (Conner), Tim McCallum (H).

400-Freestyle—Dave Redmond (NC), 4:08.1 (Record), 2. Kluemper (Cov. Cath.), Butch Clause (Model).

100 Backstroke—Dan LeVasseur (Ft. Knox) 1:01.2, Rutenmiller (Cov. Cath.), Mike Gallagher (Lex. Cath.).

100 Breaststroke—Dale Bryant (CD) 1:07.6, Bob Chalfant (Cov. Cath.), Greg Thoenker (SK).

400-Freestyle Relay—Model (John Clark, Bobby Rozen, Butch Clause, Pete Watkins) 3:38.5 (Record) Covington Catholic, Hopkinsville.

## By BILL AMICK

Courier-Journal & Times, Correspondent

RICHMOND, Ky.—Ft. Thomas lands yesterday captured the State AA Boys' Swimming Championship Donald Combs Natatorium on the Ft. Kentucky University campus.

And to the delight of Highlands Mike Faith, it did so with essentially same team that managed only a place finish last year.

Only one major addition to High strength was in evidence. And h David Redmond, who last year cor for Newport Catholic.

"David is a tremendous swimmer," Faith said, "and he helped us a lot we would have won even without him."

Without Redmond—who won the 200 individual medley and swam a record-breaking 400 freestyle team score might have been close. Wit it wasn't.

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Combs calls victory

This bothered Faith.

When Steve Hassman became Highlands' third swimmer in the event to be disqualified—for breaking stroke during the finals—Faith hit the ceiling.

"He (Hassman) has been swimming breaststroke all his life," Faith fumed. "One judge saw a violation and called it. The stroke judge didn't call anything, and as far as I know nobody else saw it either."

Don Combs, Eastern Kentucky's athletic director and swim coach, made the disqualification.

"The boy had taken two strokes before he came out of the water," (on a turn during the breaststroke portion of the race) Combs said. "I saw it, and I call 'em like I see 'em, buddy," he told Faith.

"It's too bad nobody else did," Faith countered.

After the meet, Faith admitted he was still angry, but also allowed that the championship soothed matters somewhat.

## Collins breaks two records

A number of individuals registered outstanding performances and a total of seven State Class AA records fell.

Brian Collins of Conner broke his own 50 freestyle record and also set a new standard in the 100 freestyle.

For Ft. Knox, Dan LeVasseur, who also swims for Louisville's Lakeside Swim Club, set two state records during the preliminaries. That, apparently, didn't satisfy him, though, as he eclipsed both of his own marks during the finals.

Brent Rutenmiller of Covington Catholic set a record in the 100 backstroke during preliminaries, but lost to Kentucky Country Day's Charlie Rush, at a slower time, during the finals. Rush put together a "double" by also winning the 200 freestyle.

## TEAM FINISH

1. Ft. Thomas Highlands (High), 260; 2. Richmond Model (Mod), 154; 3. Hopkinsville (Hop), 133; 4. Covington Catholic (Cov), 121.5; 5. Dixie Heights (Dix), 67; 6. Conner (Con), 67; 7. Fort Knox (FK), 64; 8. Christian County (CC), 49; 9. Kentucky Country Day (KCD), 44; 10. Franklin County (FC), 38; 11. Erlanger Lloyd (Lloyd), 32; 12. Newport Catholic (NC), 28; 13. Danville (Dan), 27.5; 14. Bellevue (Bel), 23; 15. Beechwood (Bee), 20; 16. Campbell County (Camp), 19; 17. Apollo (Ap), 17; 18. Lexington Catholic (LC), 6; 19. Woodford County (WC), 6; 20. Jessamine County (JC), 5; 21. Daviess County (DC), 4; 22. West Hopkins (WH), 1; Bourbon County 0, Elizabethtown 0, Greenville 0.

## INDIVIDUAL AND RELAY RESULTS

200-yard medley relay—Covington Catholic, 1:48.05 (state record); 2. Model; 3. Highlands, 200 freestyle—Charlie Rush (KCD), 1:53.95; 2. Bill Gradel (Dix); 3. Butch Clause (Mod), 200 individual medley—1. Dan LeVasseur (FK), 2:06.51 (state record); 2. Bobby Rozen (Mod); 3. David Redmond (High), 50 freestyle—Brian Collins (Con), 23.27 (state record); 2. Don Mettens (High); 3. Chuck Reed (High); One-meter diving—1. Buddy Russell (Hop), 388.60; 2. Brent Congleton (Mod); 3. Matt Lukens (High).

100 butterfly—1. Dan LeVasseur (FK), :54.64 (state record); 2. Rozen (Mod); 3. Jeff Brandt (Hop), 100 freestyle—Collins (Con), 1:29.99 (state record); 2. Mettens (High); 3. Lance Dosch (High), 200 freestyle—1. David Redmond (High), 4:12.15; 2. Doug Brownfield (Dix); 3. Clause (Mod), 100 backstroke—1. Rush (KCD), 1:00.3; 2. Brent Rutenmiller (Cov); 3. Jeff Cavena (Bel), 100 breaststroke—1. (dead heat) Tim Vasant (Cov) and Jeel Baer (Dan), 1:08.46; 3. Mark Hungerland (Mod), 400 freestyle relay—1. Highlands (Dosch, Kevin McGee, Mettens, Redmond), 3:33.32 (state record); 2. Hopkinsville; 3. Model.

Sports

# Highlands boys really

Highlands High's win in the boy's state swim meet Saturday in Lexington came as no surprise. Everyone figured it would be a minor miracle if coach Mike Faeth's Bluebirds didn't win for the second straight year.

Even Faeth was a confident rookie coach going into Saturday's meet, but he admitted he found a way to at least try to prevent overconfidence by his swimmers.

"WELL, FIRST of all,

I warned them that all swimmers down here had to be good, or they wouldn't be here at all," said Faeth yesterday.

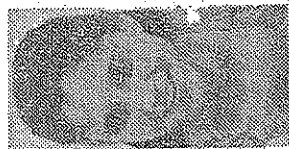
"And I said that in any sport kids always like to beat the favorites.

"But then I added that we should try for some revenge on the kids from Richmond Model," added Faeth. "I said, 'remember, the girls from that school beat our girls' state yesterday (for the girls' state title): Let's make sure we whip

them in our meet.'

"Well, I don't know if all that talk made any difference," said Faeth after the meet. "But I just wanted to make sure we weren't cocky. We swam real well as a team, and I'm quite proud of all my boys."

Carla Austin  
...champ  
in  
butterfly



more important, the Ft. Thomas squad had at least one swimmer in the top five finishers in 10 of the 11 events.

And that's why the Bluebirds and a 296-point total, and Model was far back, in third place, at 195. In between was Hopkinsville with 222 points.

The 200-yard relay squad drew the most praise from Faeth, and for good reason. The team of Dick Dierigh,

# have 'Faeth'

# have 'Faeth'

Doug Crooks, Allan Harper, and Steve Lunsford set a new meet record with a 1:51.72 time.

lins of Conner High in Hebron. Collins' winning time was :23.8.



Tina Newport  
... won  
girls  
medley

OTHER FIRST-place finishers were Lunsford in the 100-yard butterfly (:58.97, the fastest time in the state this year); Mike Blades in the fancy diving (318.25 points).

Mark Wilson was highly favored in the 50-yard freestyle, but he was upset by unheralded Brian Col-

linson of Conner High in Hebron. Collins' winning time was :23.8. Conner, incidentally, as a team, finished in a tie for eighth place with Danville with 29 points. Simon Kenton was 10th with 25 points, Bellevue 13th with eight, and Dixie 14th with five points.

So, for the second straight year, Highlands boys rule the swim world, and the school's girls rate second.