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Lexington Herald Leader

Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)

September 26, 1989

CARL ELOVITZ: HE COULD EASILY BE CALLED THE OFFICIAL REFEREE OF KENTUCKY FOOTBALL

Author: Mike Fields Herald-Leader staff writer

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Article Text:

Carl Elovitz whistles while he works, and not just because it's pretty much mandatory in his role as a football official.

Here is a man in love with his job. Why else would Elovitz spend nearly 40 years wearing a striped shirt, sidestepping trap plays and having his ears bent by disagreeable coaches.

Elovitz will turn 68 in a few weeks, and while other guys his age are watching football from a sofa, he's out there running up and down the field officiating.

Not only that, he's one of the best in Kentucky high school football. Elovitz was the top-rated referee in the Central Kentucky Football Officials Association last season.

"I think it keeps me young, or at least makes me feel young," Elovitz said. "I guess that's only natural when I'm out there with all those youngsters.

"I'd like to go on forever, but I know I can't. But I think I've got a couple or three years left calling games. It's a lot of fun."

! Elovitz can't seem to get enough of football. This past weekend, for example, he worked junior varsity games in Powell County on Thursday night, the Lafayette-Tates Creek game on Friday night, and the Woodford County- Western Hills game on Saturday.

"I wish I'd kept track of how many games I've worked over the years," he said. "But I didn't realize I'd have a career this long."

Elovitz has been a member of the Central Kentucky officials organization for 36 years, but he actually got his start a couple of years before that.

The first high school game he worked was Danville-Harrodsburg back in 1951.

"I've worked in every corner of this state at one time or another," he said. "Back before there were very many certified officials, it wouldn't be unusual for me to work a playoff game in Belfry on Saturday night, then be in Paducah the next weekend. It was a lot of travel, but I had a good time."

Elovitz is a native of Fleming in Letcher County! , but has lived in Lexington since getting out of the Navy in 1945.

His high school basketball coach, Vincent Vaughn, introduced him to officiating when Vaughn was doing post-graduate work at UK and helping coordinate basketball leagues at the YMCA.

Elovitz soon after got into football refereeing, too, and he found a home.

Not only has Elovitz been a fixture in high school circles since the early 1950s, he's also been a friend of UK football for that long.

In Bear Bryant's last year as Wildcat football coach, Elovitz started refereeing UK's pre-season scrimmages. He's been doing it ever since, helping out six head coaches: Bryant, Blanton Collier, Charlie Bradshaw, John Ray, Fran Curci and Jerry Claiborne.

"It's nice because you get to know all the coaches and the players," he said. "And when you work those scrimmages, you get sort of an inside look at what kind of team UK has coming up."

Elovitz is also part of the UK team on game days. He worked the scoreboard at old Stoll Field in 1971 and '72, and ! he's had the same duties at Commonwealth Stadium since it opened in 1973.

Elovitz can also be found at all Lexington Catholic home basketball games. Former Knights coach Tommy Starns asked Elovitz, a friend, if he'd help out at a Christmas tournament back in the mid-1960s. So, naturally, Elovitz has been there ever since.

But high school football is first on Elovitz's list. Two nights after working the Lafayette-Tates Creek game, he was at home watching the replay on a local cable station, critiquing himself.

"I like to watch and see if I was in the right place at the right time in a given situation," he said. "If I wasn't, I want to know why. You have to improve as an official. When you get to the point that you think you've mastered it, you're in trouble."

And Elovitz doesn't change his stripes depending on who's playing.

"I guess one of the biggest games I ever worked was St. X-Trinity when there were about 28,000 people (at Fairgrounds! Stadium)," he said. "That was exciting.

"But I also believe th at the majority of officials have the attitude that a Casey County-Rockcastle County game is just as important to those small schools as St. X-Trinity is in Louisville. You've got to do your best whenever you step on the field, and that's what I try to do."

Caption:

Photo by Breck Smither CARL ELOVITZ, right, has been a high school football ref since 1951

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LEXINGTON
HERALD-LEADER

To the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame committee

Carl Elovitz is one of a kind.

I have never met anyone quite like him in my 31 years as a sports writer.


It was my privilege to do a story on him in the late 1980s. At the time he was 68 years old, but he exuded the feistiness of a 28-year-old. He was still chasing teenagers up and down the football field as an official, and loving every minute of it.

For most of the last 25 years, I've run into Carl at any number of sports events. Besides wearing a striped shirt and keeping order in football, he has served as a clock operator in basketball, worked the gate handing out press credentials at regional and state tournaments, and best of all, been an avid fan and supporter of Kentucky high school sports.

Halls of Fame are supposed to honor people who have not only excelled in their endeavors, but have also enhanced the experience for those around them. Carl Elovitz did just that. Kentucky high school athletes, coaches, media and fans fed off his spirit, dedication and remarkable longevity. He deserves to be honored for that spirit, dedication and remarkable longevity.

Carl Elovitz deserves to be in the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Mike Fields



Lexmark International, Inc.
740 West New Circle Road
Lexington, KY 40550
USA

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

This letter is in support of the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame nomination of Carl Elovitz.

I had the privilege of being introduced to Carl Elovitz as a freshman at the University of Kentucky. I was a scholarship student athlete, playing football at U of K from 1977 through 1981, a three year starter at Kentucky and then drafted by the Atlanta Falcons in the spring of 1982. During my career at UK, Carl Elovitz was always present at each of the inner squad scrimmages. My experience with Carl during those tough days at UK was always positive, Carl always took time to not only officiate but also teach the players. Carl would also spend time to talk with the players after practice ... his enthusiasm for the game was contagious. His small frame of 5'6" would have discouraged most men to participate in a game of giants, but not Carl, Carl's love for the game elevated him above the games biggest.

Several years after graduating from UK I joined the Central Kentucky Football Officials Association in the fall of 1984. It was there Carl and I joined up once again, Carl brought me to his officiating team to fill the position of umpire. For the next 12 years I would spend every Friday night during Football season and post season with my good friend and mentor Carl Elovitz. It is extremely difficult to capture all of the positive experiences and benefits while working with Carl Elovitz, but I can share with you those of which I use on a daily basis.

- **Accountability** – cover your position with a sense of accountability, knowing when to apply a rule and when to apply your good judgment.
- **Preparation** -- for the game is critical, knowing your mechanics, rules and your position and your teammate's position. Along with understanding the teams, their tendencies, and personalities.
- **Details** – the importance of the details will place you in the right position at the right time to make you successful.

It was through Carl's mentorship that I elevated myself to the next level, by making the SEC pool officials list. My success as an official as well as a professional can be credited greatly to one man – Carl Elovitz

I close with this thought; Carl's success was mainly fueled by two things, a love for the game and a sense of duty to others. He has demonstrated this in his service to others his entire life, be it his family, US army, work and even his fellow officials, players, coaches and fans, through out his 50 years being associated with the KHSAA. And he did all of it out of love.

It is with great honor and privilege to nominate Carl Elovitz to the **Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame.**

Sincerely,

David E. Bond
Lexmark International Inc
Regional Sales Manager



COVINGTON INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CHARTERED 1850

25 East Seventh Street / Covington, Kentucky 41011
Telephone (859)392-1000 / TTY (859)292-5801 / FAX (859)292-5916

Jack Moreland
Superintendent of Schools

November 12, 2004

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame
Atten: Nominations
2281 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Committee Members:

It is an honor and pleasure to write a letter of recommendations for Mr. Carl J. Elovitz to the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Mr. Elovitz, should be considered in two categories, contest official and contributor. Professional, hardworking, dedicated, caring, and honest are the words that anyone who knows or has worked with Carl would use to describe him. His commitment to the youth of Kentucky has spread over a period of fifty years.

Ethical conduct, moral character, a great contribution to high school sports, those are the things that qualify him for membership in the Hall of Fame. Carl is well qualified. He worked the back door, the score table, the court, the field, and any other job that was ever needed. You could never say anything but GOOD JOB! He cared about kids, his fellow officials and the schools that were involved. He did everything first class. He dressed the part, he worked the part and he spoke the part. He is a pro.

As I said at the start of this letter its, an HONOR and a PLEASURE to make the recommendation.

Now you know why!!!!!!!!!!!!

With my deepest respect,



Stan Steidel
Covington Independent Schools

Covington Board of Education

Glenda Huff / Rita Wilson / Mike Fitzgerald / Col Owens / Jim Vogt

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November 18, 2004

Dear Hall of Fame Screening Committee:

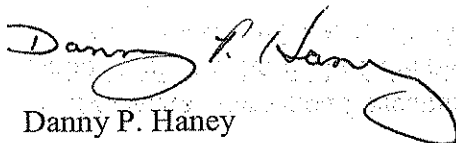
I am writing this letter to recommend Carl Elovitz for the Kentucky Hall of Fame. I have known Mr. Elovitz for 38 years and have witnessed his contributions and dedication to youth sports in the Commonwealth.

My first encounter with him was when I was nine years old and playing football at Southland Park, in a league organized by the city's Parks and Recreation. Mr. Elovitz was a referee for the league. He was not your typical referee; he was very involved with all of the kids whether they were on the field or standing on the sidelines. He "coached" the kids about the rules of the game and how important good sportsmanship was whether you won or lost. This was my first experience in organized sports. I can honestly say that he made it a great learning one for, not only me, but all of the kids in the league.

Twelve years later when I became a teacher, coach and Athletic Director for Lexington Catholic High School I had the pleasure of meeting up with Mr. Elovitz again. For the next 23 years while I was the basketball coach and Athletic Director at Lexington Catholic, he was our official scorekeeper for all of our home basketball games in addition to the many tournament games we hosted over the years. There were days he worked nine games in a row without taking a break. Mr. Elovitz never expected to be paid; his precious time was volunteered as he felt he was contributing to the youth in our community. Our coaches, players, parents and fans all came to know, love and respect him. We considered him part of our Lexington Catholic family.

Carl Elovitz has been involved with the kids in our community for over 41 years. His dedication to them and to the Officials of the State of Kentucky should, by all means, warrant him a place as prestigious as the Kentucky Hall of Fame. Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Elovitz.

Best regards,


Danny P. Haney

THE NORTH BROWARD PREPARATORY SCHOOLS

January 24, 2005

Mr. Ken Tippet
KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505


Ref: Carl Elovitz KHSAA Hall Of Fame Nomination

Dear Ken,

Would you please include the attached letter from Mr. Jim Daopoulos, NFL
Supervisor of Officials, with the other letters of recommendation for Mr. Elovitz.

I appreciate your assistance with this matter.

Regards,



Sam Dunn
2204 Peppertree Ct.
Lexington, KY 40513



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

December 14, 2004

Sam,

I certainly apologize for the tardiness in getting this letter out to you but hopefully you can get it to the committee and it would help in Carl's nomination to the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

If you need any additional information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Daopoulos".

Jim Daopoulos
Supervisor of Officials



NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

There are not too many mentors like Carl Elovitz. I was thinking recently about how lucky I was to have learned from him—to have learned from the best—and how his lessons really have stayed with me throughout my career. Would I have been as buttoned-up had Carl not been such a stickler for professionalism? Would I have been as enthusiastic about working with kids had Carl not consistently demonstrated his love of high school officiating? And would I have had the drive to take my officiating career all the way to the NFL field and then to the NFL corporate headquarters had Carl not taken me under his wing and shown me what officiating really meant to him?

Carl's commitment to officiating has always been intense. He was an official whose standards are top-notch, as were his expectations of those with whom he worked. When I first started working with Carl, I knew right away that I would have to not only perform well, but also consistently demonstrate the drive and dedication to excel. First and foremost, Carl knew that the kids were watching us as leaders, and therefore he believed that our professionalism would impact them both on and off the field. And just as the kids were watching us, I was watching Carl, learning how to be a consummate professional on and off the field.

Carl approached each and every game with the same amount of fervor as he would a championship game. His passion was simply being out on the field, showing the high school students that every game mattered. It was impossible not to feel his excitement, and when I saw how the kids responded to him, I knew that I too wanted to have that kind of influence on younger generations. I was inspired to not only continue officiating at the high school and eventually college level, but to pursue sports education and coaching.

Eventually, I left teaching, but still continued to progress in officiating. It's funny, as ardent as I became about furthering my officiating career, that's how satisfied Carl was about remaining at the high school level, continuing to influence the up and coming officials that passed through his fields. But I truly believe that had I not learned from Carl, I never would have had the chops to make it in the NFL. Although our aspirations were different, Carl's love of officiating motivated me to achieve the highest level of success in that particular profession.

All in all, Carl taught me about the power of not only surpassing one's own standards on and off the field, but also about surpassing the standards of those with whom one is affiliated. Whether it be for the students in the game, for fellow crew members on the NFL field, or for associates in the NFL's headquarters, I have always credited my own professionalism and integrity to the precedent Carl set for me a long time ago.

