



The Basketball Officiating Career of Gerald L " Jerry " Gilbert

Became Registered to Officiate Basketball as a KHSAA Official in 1956
Officiated approximately 40 Junior Varsity games in the season of 1956-1957.
Went with Howard Gardner and Bill Osborne the entire season and officiated all of their JV games.

Officiated every year after that until the season of 1982-1983 with the exception of a 3 year break when I did not officiate because I had changed jobs and I felt my new position could possibly create a conflict of interest situation. However, I was encouraged by Mr Gardner to renew my career as he felt that my fears were unfounded. Thus, I returned to what I had loved for a long time. I had officiated on the college level during that 3 year period but now I was returning to my first love and that was to be part of Kentucky High School Basketball. I have enclosed a list of what I consider the highlights of my officiating career. I am providing the large majority of this information from memory, which at the age of 74 is certainly not as sharp as it once was.

1961 My first District Tournament at Meade County High School

Worked a total of 19 District Tournaments at some of the following sites, some of which were multiple times:

- Bowling Green High School Owensboro Sportscenter
- Hart County High School Nelson County High School
- Muhlenberg Central High School E A Diddle Arena
- Memorial Coliseum Henry County High School

1965 My first Regional Tournament at E A Diddle Arena that was won by Glasgow High School, coached by Jim Richards over Bowling Green High Street, coached by Mr F B Moxley.

Worked 12 more Regional Tournaments including the 4th Region 8 times, the 8th Region 3 times, the 12th Region 2 times and the 11th Region 1 time My final Regional Championship was at Boyle County High School where Laurel County, coached by Chuck Broughton defeated Pulaski County by one point. In the 13 Regional Tournaments that I worked, I was either selected by the coaches or assigned by the Commissioner to work the Regional Championship Game in all of them but one.

1970 Had the honor of working my first State Championship and with working with some of the elite officials in the state. I worked the following games at that tournament.

- First Round Trigg County- Wheelwright
- First Round Shelby County- Paducah Tilghman
- Quarterfinal Pleasure Ridge- Hazel Green
- Semifinal Trigg County- Richmond Madison

1971 Had the honor again of working my 2nd State Championship and worked the following games.

- First Round Louisville Male- Carlisle County
- First Round Lexington Lafayette- Ashland
- Quarterfinal Louisville Central- Ashland
- Championship Game Louisville Male- Anderson County

1979 Worked my 3rd State Championship Tournament after being out of officiating for 3 years and was thrilled to be back and to work at Rupp Arena for the first time. I worked the following games at that tournament.

First Round Mayfield- Harrison County
First Round Warren East- Pulaski County
Championship Game Lexington Lafayette- Christian County

1981 Worked my 4th State Championship Tournament. What a wonderful way to cap off my career. I worked the following games.

First Round Mayfield- Boyd County
Quarterfinal Shelby County- Mason County
Championship Game Mason County- Simon Kenton

To further explain my officiating philosophy, I will relate a story from my final game at the 12th Region at Boyle County. I had called a young man from Pulaski County for goal-tending. My partner came out from under the basket calling a technical foul on a Pulaski County player. Consequently, we shot the free throws and the Laurel County player made both free throws. Afterward, the scorekeeper called us to the scorer's table to ask who the technical was on. My partner said it was on #52. The scorekeeper then said that there was not a #52 in the game. I then asked him who the technical was on. He then pointed to the player that I had called for goal-tending. I asked him if the technical was for vibrating the backboard. He said yes. I told him that we could not call him for a technical for that as he hit the ball and was charged with goal-tending. So, we then had a correctable error situation and I informed the scorekeeper to erase the two points and play from that point with Pulaski County to put the ball in play. The coach from Laurel County then proceeded to say that I had let the other coach talk me out of this. My response to him was that the other coach had not said a word about the situation and he wasn't going to influence my decision either as I don't owe either of you anything. My obligation is to the ten young men on the floor to be as fair as I can possibly be to them and what we were about to do was not fair and it was correctable and I was going to correct it with no regard how the coaches felt about my decision. The one person I have to please is me. As long as I have done all I can do to be fair to the players on that floor, then I feel I have done my job.

In the final analysis, I can honestly say that my years of officiating has been a complete joy to me to be connected to Kentucky High School Basketball for so many years. Also, I really appreciate the relationships that I have developed with some of the finest people involved in High School sports. There are so many that if I attempt to name them all, I fear I would forget someone that I should mention. Several of those have passed on but I still remember many of them. One in particular is the one that I call my mentor, Mr Howard Gardner, who I must say in all honesty was one of the finest people I have ever known. I also have the utmost regard and respect for former Commissioner Billy Wise, who will be submitting my application for induction. I submit this information with much humility and gratefulness to be considered among such an elite group.

Respectfully submitted

Billy,

I am submitting to you some information about my career and some comments about my officiating philosophy through the years that I tried to live by in the decisions that I would make as an official.

Also, I have asked some individuals to write testimonials for me if they would consider trying to help me in this endeavor. All of them agreed that I deserved to be there. Below is the list of individuals that will be writing some statements on my behalf.

Hardin McLane, Hall of Fame Member, Former Coach, Elizabethtown Catholic

Ray Vencill, Hall of Fame Member, Former Coach, Elizabethtown H.S.

Ron Bevars, Hall of Fame Member, Coach, North Hardin H.S.

Don Morris, Hall of Fame Member, Former Coach, 1964 State Champion

Breckinridge County H.S., Former Coach, East Hardin H.S.

Carl Deaton, Hall of Fame Member, Former Coach, Green County H.S.

Lyle Dunbar, Hall of Fame Member, Former Coach, Christian County H.S.

Coach, 1979 State Runner-Up

Larry Miller, Former Coach, Meade County H.S, Coach, Simon Kenton H.S

1981 State Champion.

Louis Stout, Hall of Fame Member, Former Commissioner, Kentucky High

School Athletic Association.

I knew several more but they had either passed on or I could not locate them.

Billy, your help in this matter is so important to me that it is not possible for me to express to you just how much. Thanks again.

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Also, as a PGA Member, I served as a Rules Official on 3 occasions for the Boy's State Golf Championship played on the Anderson Golf Course at Fort Knox and on 2 occasions for the Girl's State Golf Championship at Elizabethtown Country Club. I also put on Instructional Clinics on those occasions for the Girl's Tournament.

In the final analysis, I can honestly say that my years of officiating has been a complete joy to me to be connected to Kentucky High School Basketball for so many

years. Also, I really appreciate the relationships that I have developed with some of the finest people involved in High School sports. There are so many that if I attempt to name them all, I fear I would forget someone that I should mention. However, many of those have written testimonials for me in an effort to support my decision to seek such a terrific ending to my officiating career. Those testimonials are attached to this application. Several of those have passed on but I still remember many of them. One in particular is the one that I call my mentor, Mr Howard Gardner, who I must say in all honesty was one of the finest people I have ever known. I also have the utmost regard and respect for former Commissioner Billy Wise, who will be submitting my application for induction.

I submit this information with much humility and gratitude to be considered among such an elite group.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerry Gilbert". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gerald L " Jerry " Gilbert

Ray Vencill
152 Roundtop Rd.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701
(270) 765-4389

February 2, 2012

Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame
ATTN: Nomination Committee
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

RE: Jerry Gilbert

Dear Nominating Committee Members,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Jerry Gilbert, one of the finest basketball officials that ever called high school basketball games in the state of Kentucky. I coached for several years at Richmond Madison High School along with many years at Elizabethtown High School and Jerry called numerous games while I was coaching.

During the 1970 State High School Basketball Tournament, I first became aware of what an outstanding basketball official Jerry Gilbert was. I watched him call three games during that tournament and I quickly recognized what an outstanding job he did. My team played in the semi-final game that year, and it was my hope that it would be Jerry to call that game. Jerry ended up being one of the officials and that night I became a Jerry Gilbert fan right then and there. Jerry had a demeanor about him and everyone in the gym knew that he was in charge of the game and he was confident about what he was doing...this included coaches, players, and fans. He had an uncanny ability to make the right call even in tough situations. Jerry always remained cool in tight games even when there was a lot of hostility between rivalries.

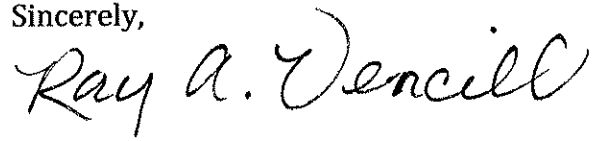
Jerry officiated during a time when the coaches voted on the officials to call the tournament. Jerry was voted to work countless District and Regional Tournament games. This clearly explains what coaches thought of him as an official. Not only was he voted to call the tournaments, but he worked the championship games in almost every District and Regional Tournament that he was officiating. I believe that says it all about Jerry as a basketball official.

To my knowledge, Jerry worked the Basketball State Tournament in 1970, 1971, 1979, and 1981. During these years, he officiated the championship game three times and one State semi-final game. It would be hard to find any other official who has a record that would match Jerry's.

Not only was Jerry one of the best officials that ever put the stripes on, he is a class act as a person. He is what people should be. I, as well as, those who know him have the highest regard and respect for him as a person.

It is my hope that you will give Jerry Gilbert the consideration he deserves and honor him by inducting him into the 2012 Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray A. Vencill". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Ray A. Vencill

277 Winning Colors Blvd.
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701
February 4, 2012

To Selection Committee KHSAA Hall of Fame:

I would like to bring favorable attention to the application for induction of Jerry Gilbert into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Jerry qualifies for this high honor with a distinguished 25+ years career of officiating basketball for KHSAA schools in which he was always described by coaches as honest, professional, sincere and a class act. I observed Jerry's work as a player, fan and later as a head coach and always believed I was seeing quality work from a man who knew the game, enjoyed working the game and let the players decide the outcome of the game.

Jerry worked 19 District Tourneys, 12 Regionals (11 of which he was selected to work the finals) and 4 State Championships. His selection to work the championship game in three of these tournaments speaks volumes for his ability and integrity.

If I can be of further assistance feel free to contact me at 270-307-1331 or email me at jlmler03@windstream.net.

I enthusiastically recommend Jerry Gilbert for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Larry S. Miller
Former Head Coach, Simon Kenton High and Meade County High

December 26, 2011

Commissioner Julian Tackett

Kentucky High School High Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive

Lexington, Kentucky 40505


Hello Commissioner:

I hope you have had a wonderful holiday season as I would imagine that you and Donna made your way to Florida for Christmas or to the mountains. My reason for writing is very simple and easy to do for I am going to recommend an individual that we both know and one who we have been associated with for several years. I'm recommending that strong consideration be give to Mr. Jerry Gilbert who now resides in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Jerry and I worked many basketball games together in the early eighties and during this time he was one of the best friends and officials that the KHSAA could have. His career stems back to 1961 when he worked his first district basketball tournament at Meade County High School and from that point on he worked several district tournament throughout the sixties through the early eighties. He worked his first Regional Tournament in 1965 at E.A. Diddle Arena for Glasgow high school against the famed F. B. Moxley of Bowling Green High Street, the last existing year for the all black school.

He has worked in the 12th region, the 4th region and also in the 8th and 11th throughout his storied career as one of our top basketball official's the Commonwealth. He had the privilege to work his first State Sweet Sixteen basketball tournament in 1971 and again in 1972 where he worked the championship game that showcased Louisville Male vs. Anderson County. He worked the state championship for the KHSAA again in 1979 and had the final game that saw Lexington Lafayette battle Christian County and in 1981 he was again called on by the KHSAA to work the KHSAA Sweet Sixteen where he also worked the final game with Mason County vs. Simon Kenton. This man's record in high school basketball officiating is know all across the Commonwealth and is still talked about today ranking him among the finest that we have had working for the KHSAA.

I strongly recommend that because of his dedication and ability as one of our outstanding officials that he be given all of the consideration that one can acquire for he has truly serve our high school basketball programs extremely well throughout his storied career. I know that you will have several recommendations regarding the KHSAA Hall of Fame and I also know that it is not an easy decision when trying to be fair in the selection process, however if Jerry Gilbert could be so fortunate to be one of the chosen few to be so honored it will not be because of friendship or favors, it will be because he is most deserving of the honor. Hope things are going well for you and your staff at the KHSAA and from all I gather you guys are doing a great job, I'll stop before I bring you bad luck.

Best Regards



Louis Stout

As a former coach in the 5th Region, I would like to applaud the efforts of one of our former officials, Jerry Gilbert, in his attempt to become a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I know that will mean a lot to Jerry and I am proud to offer my support to him and to help him achieve that goal. I don't know of an official in the State of Kentucky who would be more deserving.

Although Jerry and I have had disagreements along the way, as all coaches and officials do, I have always admired Jerry for his honesty, his fairness, his feel for the game and his ability to be under control and in control in tight situations. I have always felt that in close games, Jerry was always at his very best.

I wholeheartedly endorse Jerry as a member of the Hall of Fame Family as I feel very strongly that is where he certainly belongs.

With kindest regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carl Deaton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the text "With kindest regards,".

Carl Deaton
Hall of Fame Member
Former Coach
Green County High School

650 Lombardy Drive
Cecilia, KY 42724
270-862-9045

January 2, 2012

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame

Dear Committee Members:

When Jerry Gilbert contacted me asking I write a letter for him to be considered as a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame, I immediately told him I would send a letter to the selection committee.

I have known Jerry for many years. We first were acquainted while playing high school basketball. Jerry played for Vine Grove High School, and I played for Sonora High School. Both of these schools are now consolidated schools in Hardin County.

After several years, we renewed our acquaintance. Again, our association was involving basketball. This time, I was coaching at Breckinridge County High and East Hardin High, and Jerry was a basketball official. I found him to have knowledge of the game. He was informed of the rules and was aware of game situations. He had perception of game situations, and insight as to how to control a game to keep fans and players from becoming involved in emotional displays that would result in unsportsmanlike behavior. I found him to be enthusiastic, and he seemed to enjoy being involved with basketball.

Jerry's officiating ability speaks for itself as he was chosen for 19 District Tournaments, 13 Regional Tournaments, and 4 State Tournaments. Three of these State Tournaments he officiated the championship game. I feel sure that each year he had a full schedule of games for the regular season.

Thank you for consideration of Jerry Gilbert as a candidate for membership into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,




Don Morris
Former Basketball Coach

The following statement is intended to be an endorsement for the induction of Jerry Gilbert as a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I consider Jerry to be very deserving of such an honor.

For several years, when I was a young coach and Jerry had coal black hair instead of his now white hair, I often referred to him as a promising young official. It is obvious that Jerry more than lived up to that promise but also became what I considered and many other coaches that I knew considered as well among the very best in this state. From there, Jerry very well could be considered the very best as he officiated 3 State Championship games. As a sportscaster at the time, I recall that all 3 games were played without any controversies. Also, as I recall, there were no comments after each of those games, either positive or negative, about the officiating. That says volumes about the efficiency of the officiating. It has always been said that if the officials are not noticed, then they were very effective. Also, the one common denominator in those games was Jerry as the other official was three different officials.

I can recall through my years as Coach at Elizabethtown Catholic High School that Jerry has worked games for me in some of my most memorable wins as well as some of my most gut-wrenching losses but not once did I ever feel anything but comfortable when Jerry walked on the floor to officiate one of my games. I knew the officiating was in good hands and that was one thing I did not have to worry about.

It is my humble opinion that Jerry Gilbert is very deserving of such an honor and as a Hall of Fame member myself, I would be very proud to welcome Jerry into our fraternity.


Hardin McLane
Hall of Fame Member
Former Coach
Elizabethtown Catholic High School