

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

May 25, 2001

Mr. Brad A. Lampley
Stokes, Bartholomew, Evans & Petree
424 Church Street, Suite 2800
Nashville, TN 37219-2386

Dear Mr. Lampley:

I received your letter of May 17th regarding a perceived injustice involving your father, Dennis Lampley, and the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I knew when the Hall of Fame was developed, more people would have family members or friends they feel should be considered or inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame than there are spaces available. There is no doubt in my mind that your father has the coaching credentials to qualify him for the KHSAA Hall of Fame, but it is not as easy as you would think to get into this Hall. I want you to know that as Commissioner, I do not make the decision of who is elected, I am only one person who sits on the committee and I have one recommendation and one vote.

There are several things I don't like about the Hall of Fame process, however, I will tell you that no one who has been nominated is overlooked. It is a difficult process because we have so many applications considered each year and only twelve or thirteen members who meet specific criteria in established categories are finally selected. Each section of the state has to be considered and represented, in addition to specific representation for females, minorities, retired athletes or coaches, and senior (age 65+) or deceased individuals. In addition, we must balance the induction of these individuals across the twelve KHSAA sports. The criteria listed here makes sure that every area involving high school athletics is considered. Each Board of Control member who serves on the selection committee has the opportunity to promote a candidate from their designated area (example: 6th & 7th region). Lastly, please note that an individual nominated as a coach must be retired three years, so this year's balloting represented his third year as an eligible nominee. Previous years required a greater time after having retired, and that requirement was revised in 2000.

The committee doesn't think of how crowds support one school over another or for that matter, any given section of Kentucky over another. The Sweet 16® crowds have been around for a long time, and I remember their cries for a small school who never had as many opportunities to advance to the state tournament as the Louisville schools have had, but I can't control that and wouldn't try. I take offense to your implication that because your father coached at Trinity High School somehow makes a difference or is the reason he has not been selected as a member of the KHSAA Hall of Fame. If I thought that the committee was that narrow minded in their thinking, I would discontinue my association with the program entirely.

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If you have not submitted supplemental information regarding your father's credentials and coaching record while at Trinity, I implore you to do so immediately and I will make sure his name is the one "I" nominate for the 2003 list to be screened for consideration by the selection committee. I would note that presently, your letter contains more information supporting his induction than the total information contained previously in his file. This is my 37th year involved in high school athletics and I have never been associated with any schemes to defame or hinder anyone's just place in the annals of Kentucky high school sports and would not have any respect for anyone who chose to arbitrarily deny a qualified applicant induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame or any other recognition.

I have a great deal of respect for Coach Dennis Lampley and appreciate his contributions to high school football in Kentucky, whether he is at a public or private school. Now that we have a better understanding with each other, let's work together to get your father in the Hall of Fame, because I believe he deserves to be inducted.

Sincerely,



Louis Stout
Commissioner

LS:dk



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May 17, 2001

Mr. Louis Stout
Commissioner, Kentucky High School
Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Mr. Stout:

I am writing this letter to bring to your attention what I feel is an incredible injustice. Since 1997, my father, former Trinity High School football coach Dennis Lampley, has been eligible for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Nevertheless, he has not yet been inducted despite having what many feel is a resume that is second to none.

Let me take just a moment to share with you some of my father's accomplishments. Over 12 years as head coach of Trinity, he compiled an incredible record of 138 wins and 21 loses, with five state championships. Each of those five state championships was amassed over a 10-year period - truly a herculean task. In addition, he served as defensive coordinator for four more state championships, making for a total of nine state championships in which he was either head coach or defensive coordinator. Moreover, his teams still hold the state record for most consecutive wins (50), which is even more impressive when one considers the level of competition that exists in Class 4A, and the fact that no 4A team has ever come close to winning so many consecutive games, before or since. It may very well be years before this record is ever broken, and then it is highly unlikely that a 4A school will be the one to do it. In addition, no coach in Kentucky high school history has ever coached a team to three consecutive undefeated state championships.

Dennis Lampley's accomplishments have had a nationwide impact as well. Throughout his tenure as head football coach at Trinity, his teams were a mainstay in USA Today's Super 25, and became known across the country as one of America's truly elite high school football programs. While this garnered a great deal of publicity for Trinity, it also provided well-deserved recognition

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for Kentucky high school football in general. Also a benefit to Kentucky high school football is the fact that he helped establish the Trinity/St. Xavier rivalry as perhaps the premier high school football rivalry in America, with attendance that now regularly exceeds 30,000. However, his accomplishments have not been limited to the playing field. He is presently the Athletic Director at Trinity, and remains a strong advocate of Kentucky high school athletics. In addition, as evidence of the impact he has had on his former players, a great number of his former players have gone on to tremendous success after graduation – not only in college and professional football, but also in the areas of business and community leadership.

While the above is a tremendous list of accomplishments, there are many more which I simply do not have time to mention. Obviously, Dennis Lampley is more than qualified to be a member of the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have read on the KHSAA website the biographies of each and every one of the Hall's current members. While all of the members are certainly deserving in their own right, it would not be a stretch to say that few, if any of the current members of the Hall of Fame have a record of accomplishments that is more impressive than that of Dennis Lampley.

That being said, it is with much concern that I write this letter. I simply cannot understand why a person with Dennis Lampley's qualifications is not in the Hall of Fame. Personally, I have a number of suspicions, some of which I will share with you at this time. First and foremost, it is my sincere belief that there is, and has always been, a real bias in Kentucky against recognizing both coaches and student-athletes from Louisville schools in general. Never is this more evident than when one attends the boys' Sweet 16 in Rupp Arena. Invariably, about 90% of the entire Arena will be in solid opposition to the Louisville school.

Perhaps even greater than the "Louisville factor" is the fact that Trinity is a private, all-boys Catholic school. One does not need an intimate knowledge of the day-to-day workings of Kentucky high school athletics to realize that there has been, and always will be a rift between public and private institutions in this state. There has always been a great deal of jealousy and hatred aimed toward Trinity, both in the city of Louisville and in the state as a whole. This largely stems from the amount of success that Trinity's football program has enjoyed through the years. However, as one who spent four years in the program myself, I can honestly tell you that 99.9% of our success was attributed to the tremendous work ethic instilled in us by Dennis Lampley and his coaching staff. It was always our belief that the team that worked the hardest deserved to win. We were taught that Trinity Football was a 12-month a year sport that required tremendous dedication. It takes a tremendous motivator and teacher to install such work ethic in 15, 16 and 17 year-old young men, particularly in this day and time. Nevertheless, that may be Dennis Lampley's greatest legacy to each and every one of the players he has coached. Indeed, he instilled in us the fact that the four words on the side of Trinity's helmet - Pride, Discipline, Loyalty and Achievement - are far more than just words on a helmet decal. They form an honor code that you live by for the rest of your life.

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While I do have many well-founded theories as to why Dennis Lampley has not been inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame, I fear that one factor may be solely my own responsibility. I am very concerned that some people refuse to vote my father into the Hall of Fame simply because I chose to attend the University of Tennessee on a football scholarship. That decision earned me a great deal of hate mail from UK fans throughout my career, but it is a decision that I will never regret. Furthermore, had anyone else been in my position, I have no doubt that they would have done precisely the same thing. Indeed, no one ever questions the decision of a student-athlete from Tennessee who is fortunate enough to receive a scholarship to play basketball at UK, and elects to do so. Nevertheless, I truly hope that a decision I made on my own volition over eight years ago is not a major factor keeping my father out of the Hall of Fame; he should not be punished for decisions I have made.

I am writing to you, Mr. Stout, simply to make you aware of what I am absolutely convinced is a grave injustice. I encourage you to use your influence on the selection committee to convince the other committee members to overlook their own selfish biases and select this year's class based solely on merit, pursuant to the Policies and Operating Procedures of the Hall of Fame. If they actually base the decision on merit, Dennis Lampley's name will be at the top of the list. If they do not, I am quite certain that my father will once again be snubbed. Respectfully, if this happens again, there can be no other explanation but to say that the selection committee is doing nothing more than "playing politics." As someone who was born and raised in Kentucky, learned more of life's lessons from participating in KHSAA-sanctioned activities than from sitting in any classroom, and who remains an avid supporter of Kentucky high school athletics, I truly hope this is not the case.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad A. Lampley', with a stylized, cursive flourish extending to the right.

Brad A. Lampley

HOLLENBACH & ASSOCIATES

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L.J. HOLLENBACH III
Managing Partner

October 27, 1999

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame
Attn.: Nominations
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

RE: Hall of Fame Nomination
Coach Dennis E. Lampley
Director of Athletics
Trinity High School
Louisville, Kentucky 40207

Dear Hall of Fame Committee Members:

Please accept my nomination of Coach Dennis E. Lampley for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

If recognizing, preserving and promoting the heritage of interscholastic sports in Kentucky is a primary mission of the Hall of Fame, then Coach Lampley certainly is worthy of your consideration.

If making extraordinary contributions and having had superb accomplishments in high school sports are an important criteria, then Coach Lampley should be given your further consideration.

And, if statewide recognition of individuals who are outstanding examples for young Kentuckians to emulate is important in the selection process, then Coach Lampley's personal and professional credentials should warrant your support for his selection to the Hall of Fame.

The contributions of Coach Lampley to the history of Kentucky high school football best reflect the heritage of Kentucky high school interscholastic sports.

As head coach at Louisville Trinity High School, Coach Lampley posted 138 victories against only 21 losses - a winning percentage of .86% against the best teams in Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. In a ten year period, his teams won five Kentucky 4-A football championships. Between 1988-1991, his teams smashed a half century Kentucky record by winning 50 straight games. And, for four years, his teams were recognized by USA Today as amongst the best high school football teams in America.

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Dennis Lampley was named the National High School Coach of the Year in 1990; and, was three times selected Kentucky Coach of the Year (1985-86; 1990-91; 1994-95). In 1995 he was chosen "Best of the Best" high school coaches (WHAS); and, was selected by the Courier Journal as Kentucky's outstanding high school coach over the last 35 years.

Coach Lampley has also represented our Commonwealth multiple times throughout the nation as a guest lecturer and speaker for the National Football Association in Louisiana, Washington, California, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and Florida.

I am honored to present to the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Screening and Selection Committee the nomination of Trinity High School Athletic Director Dennis E. Lampley for consideration, selection and induction into the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame.

Hundreds and hundreds of young Kentuckians (including my sons) have gone forward to become positive and productive citizens of our Commonwealth because of the academic and athletic leadership of Coach Lampley. His insistence on honor, integrity, discipline, honesty, teamwork and caring not only set the example for unparalleled championship teams; but, more importantly, set the highest standards for these young Kentuckians to emulate in their personal lives.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. Hollenbach, III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above it.

L. J. Hollenbach, III

LJH;ckmt