





KHSAA Hall of Fame Letter of Recommendation

Chris Hernandez

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of **Freddie Maggard** to be nominated to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Freddie and I were teammates in baseball and football at Cumberland High School located in Cumberland, KY from 1983-1987. During these years Freddie was not only the best athlete in our school but one of the best in the entire state. Cumberland High School competed in basketball, baseball and football at a very high level due to having such a great athlete like him. Freddie was awarded many MVP, Player of the Year, All-County, All-District, All-Region, All-Tournament and All-State Awards to justify his nomination to the Hall of Fame. These awards and accomplishments later granted him a football scholarship to the University of Kentucky that made everybody in the state of Kentucky proud of his success.

It was an honor and a joy to able play with Freddie during those years, and I appreciated every moment we spent accomplishing many of our dreams in sports at Cumberland High School. These dreams would have never happened without having such a great athlete at our school. Please consider his nomination and feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Chris Hernandez

Cumberland High School 1987

To whom it may concern:

As a former sports editor of The Courier-Journal and sports columnist for The Herald-Leader, I've known a lot of outstanding athletes over the past 50-plus years. One of the best, both as an athlete and a person, is Freddie Maggard, and it is my honor and privilege to nominate him for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I admit that I had a reason to like Freddie even before we met: His father, also named Freddie, was a starter on the 1956 Carr Creek basketball team that won the Kentucky State High School Basketball Tournament. But good as his father was, Freddie's high school career was even better. A three-sport standout and 12-letter winner at Cumberland High, Freddie was all-state in football, a three-year starter in basketball and four-year pitcher and outfielder in baseball who was drafted by the Kansas City Royals after his high school senior season.

He decided to play football for Coach Jerry Claiborne at the University of Kentucky, and he lived up to Coach Claiborne's high standards both on and off the field. Besides distinguishing himself at quarterback, Freddie was a team captain as a senior and an honor-roll student. He so respected Coach Claiborne that he named one of his sons after him.

Since graduation, Freddie has served his nation with honor and distinction as a member of the Kentucky National Guard. Unlike many former great athletes, Freddie is all about humility and service. I'm sure that after meeting Freddie, many young men have been attracted to a military career. If I had a son, I would want him to grow up to be a man like Freddie.

I humbly urge that you give Freddie Maggard serious consideration for the Hall of Fame. He is more than worthy and he represents Kentucky at its best. Thank you.

Billy Reed

Courier-Journal sports editor, 1977-'86.

Sports Illustrated writer, 1968-'97.

Herald-Leader sports columnist, 1959-'66 and 1987-2001.

As a lifelong sports fanatic who has written about the games he loves for four decades, I understand better than most how easy it is to get carried away about the accomplishments of former players.

The years often seem to make players better than they really were in the eyes of fans, of even crusty old sports writers like me. I can say without doubt or fear of exaggeration that Freddie Maggard was the best all-around athlete I've covered in Harlan County since I started writing about sports in 1985 at the Harlan Daily Enterprise.

Not to take time away from writing about Maggard's accomplishments to tout mine, but I can say without question that no one has written about more 13th Region sports events than I have in a 28-year career that included 25 years at the Harlan Daily Enterprise. I've also written for the Cats Pause for approximately 20 years as the correspondent for the 13th and 14th regions, and my stories have also been published by the Associated Press and appeared in most, if not all, of Kentucky's daily newspapers.

I was fortunate that I arrived at the Harlan Daily Enterprise to see a special era of sports in Harlan County and southeastern Kentucky. In addition to Maggard, I covered Richie Farmer and company in Clay County's three trips to the basketball state finals in the 1980s, I watched Tim Couch's emergence as the nation's top prep quarterback at Leslie County in the early 1990s, and I covered the Charles Thomas-Michael Jones-Todd Cox led teams at Harlan that won three regional titles and two All "A" Classic state championships in the mid 1990s.

My first trip to the state football finals was in 1986 when Maggard led Cumberland to its third and final appearance in the Class A state championship game. Maggard was the unquestioned leader of that team as an Associated Press all-state selection as both a quarterback and safety.

Even though Maggard went on to start at quarterback for three seasons at the University of Kentucky, I've often said that I don't believe football was his best sport.

Maggard was drafted by the Kansas City Royals organization after his graduation in 1987. He starred on three straight 13th Region championship teams at Cumberland as a center fielder and pitcher and his 1985 team made it all the way to the state final four. Maggard and teammate Otis Lewis were the two best pitchers I've covered in the 13th Region and were a big reason why Cumberland was able to run off an amazing string of eight straight regional titles despite being a Class A school.

Maggard was also a three-year starter in basketball and was a key member of the 1985 team that lost in the final seconds of the regional finals to Clay County. The Tigers went on to finish as state runner-up that year to Hopkinsville and Clay County legend Bobby Keith has told me that the 1985 Redskins were as good as any team in the state that season.

In addition to his accomplishments in athletics, Maggard was one of the most intelligent and humble young men I covered and always remembered to say hello

when I covered him at the University of Kentucky, even though he had become a statewide celebrity by then.

He's continued to play an important role in the lives of many Kentuckians in his career with the Kentucky National Guard. He is clearly proud of his Harlan County heritage and has never forgotten his roots, always ready to serve as a role model for our youth at summer football and baseball camps, showing new generations of Harlan Countians what is possible when talent is combined with hard work.

The numbers and accomplishments of his career speak for themselves. By any measure used, Freddie Maggard is a Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Famer.

John Henson

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI RECOGNIZED

The Harlan County School District is recognizing outstanding graduates of the county's schools. The program honors graduates of Harlan County Schools who have made a difference at home, in the state, across the nation and around the world. Ceremonies have taken place at home games during the football and basketball seasons. The following individuals have been recognized by the Harlan County Schools as Distinguished Alumni for their successes.



Freddie Maggard is a 1987 graduate of Cumberland High School. He is the National Guard Bureau Director of Community Outreach, responsible for program management in all aspects of Army and Air National Guard Outreach in 54 states and territories in support of the Total Force Readiness Program. He has been a career public servant both as a Kentucky National Guard Officer and now in his position with the National Guard Bureau. His prior duties included state marketing director, recruiting command advertising director, medical recruiting officer and numerous other leadership positions.

While maintaining strict academic standards, Maggard was a 12 time letter winner and finished his athletic career with numerous local, state and national awards. On the football field, he was honored as a first team all-state quarterback and defensive back. He was a three-year starter on the basketball team and was selected to several all-state teams on the baseball diamond as a four-year starting pitcher and outfielder. Following his senior season, he was drafted to play professional baseball by the Kansas City Royals.

During his stay at Cumberland, the Redskins twice won regional football championships and advanced to two state championship games. The basketball team earned two 52nd District titles. The baseball team won four district and region titles, including the school's first trip to the Final Four.

Following high school graduation, he accepted an athletic scholarship to the University of Kentucky. He went on to be a three-time Academic All Southeastern Conference selection as the starting quarterback and team captain. At the end of his career, he was the seventh ranked quarterback in school history while earning a communications degree and graduating with



honors. In addition to being named to the Athletic Director's Advisory's Committee, he earned the distinguished Academic Achievement Award. He resides in Lawrenceburg. He is married to Chief Warrant Officer Jennifer Maggard who currently serves as a US Army Aviator stationed at Fort Rucker, AL. He is the father of one son, Claiborne Wesley. His hobbies include writing, high school and college football, and walking with his Great Dane, Chief.. Maggard is a member of the Anderson County Fire Board, National Guard Border Bowl Committee, National Guard Monument Committee, Harrodsburg Bataan Memorial Committee, and active member of the Hope Community Church, focusing on Appalachian Missions.

Legends award a legend

by PAMELA SCOTT JOHNSON Sport Editor

3 months 6 days 23 hours ago | 6 Views |



The 26th annual Community Trust Bank/WYMT-TV Pike County Bowl held its media day Tuesday and the 2010 Legends Award recipient was announced.

Joining 14 greats from the past is this year's legend, Freddie Maggard.

While Maggard grew up in Whitesburg, Ky. in Letcher County, he traveled across Cumberland Mountain to play ball for Cumberland High School.

While playing football for the Redskins, Maggard won two regional football championships and advanced to two state championship games.

After, he accepted a scholarship to play for the University of Kentucky. While there, he went on to be a three-time Academic All Southeastern Conference selection as the starting quarterback and team captain. At the end of his collegiate career, Maggard was the seventh ranked quarterback in UK's history. But it wasn't the pigskin Maggard would throw. Following his senior season, he was drafted to play professional baseball by the Kansas City Royals.

Maggard is a member of the Anderson County Fire Board, National Guard Border Bowl Committee, National Guard Monument Committee, Harrodsburg Bataan Memorial Committee, and active member of the Hope Community Church, focusing on Appalachian Missions.

He is the National Guard Bureau Director of Community Outreach, responsible for program management in all aspects of Army and Air National Guard Outreach in 54 states and territories in support of the Total Force Readiness Program. He has been a career public servant both as a Kentucky National Guard Officer and now in his position with the National Guard Bureau. His prior duties included state marketing director, recruiting command advertising director, medical recruiting officer and numerous other leadership positions.

On Aug. 5, UK head Coach Joker Phillips took the Wildcat squad to the Wendell H. Ford Regional Training Center outside of Greenville to meet with troops from the 149th Maneuver Enhanced Brigade, learn about the military effort and form a relationship that will transcend Operation Win far beyond the borders of the Lexington area.

WYMT reported the idea of the two teams meeting formed a little over a month ago by Maggard. As a former UK quarterback, Maggard was well informed of Operation Win and Phillips' fascination with the military.

When Maggard started thinking about his former team and his current team preparing for the upcoming missions - one for a football season and the other for deployment to Iraq in less than a year - he thought it would be brilliant to bring the two teams together.

"We just thought about with Operation Win going on at UK and how beneficial that would be for our soldiers to have Coach Phillips and his staff come visit them and provide a connection between

Operations Win and the 149th and the soldiers and officers that are training down there," Maggard said. "This event meshed up two teams that require discipline, teamwork, hard work and dedication." "It's an incredible boost of morale to know that Coach Phillips and his staff would take the time to come down there and visit," Maggard said. "There's a mutual appreciation between the service and athletics regardless of which team you follow. A lot of soldiers training today are UK fans and to have Coach Phillips and his staff go down there today means so much to them. For the soldiers, it's their game day." Last years Legend Award Recipient was Pikeville High Schools Gene Davis. Maggard will be honored during the halftime festivities of the Pikeville vs. Boyd County game held Aug. 28 at PHS.

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY FOOTBALL SIGNEES

(As of Monday, Feb. 16)

Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Hometown/School
Jerry Bell	DL	6-3	260	Louisville DeSales
Steve Kelley	LB	6-2	225	Hopkinsville
Larry Jackson	DB	5-11	170	Mayfield
Courtney Longacre	C	6-2	223	Louisville Fairdale
Jim Graves	OL	6-6	240	Lexington Henry Clay
Shawn Evans	TE	6-6	220	Madison Central
David Scott	RB	6-1	195	Jeffersontown
Jeff Houk	QB	6-2	200	Louisville St. Xavier
Freddie Maggard	QB	6-2	180	Cumberland
Todd George	OL	6-5	235	Covington Catholic
Billy Swanson	LB	6-0	220	Paducah Tilghman
William Dishman	RB	6-0	198	Lex. Bryan Station
Derrick Thomas	LB	6-2	215	Lex. Bryan Station
Joey Couch	LB	6-2	225	Paintsville
Phil Logan	RB	6-3	180	Louisville Holy Cross
Glenn Fohr	QB	6-4	206	Hudson Valley (N.Y.) JC
Daniel Lee	TE	6-6	235	Cottontdale, Fla.
Chris Tolbert	RB	6-0	193	Pensacola, Fla.
Layne Vargo	DE	6-0	220	Akron, Ohio
Jim Wetta	WR	6-2	170	Hutchinson (Kan.) JC
Gary Willis	DB	6-0	170	Gainesville, Fla.
Greg Hunt	DB	6-0	185	Fork Union Mil. Acad.
Kevin Disotelle	OL	6-3	255	Houston, Texas
Mark Peterson	DL	6-4	245	Virgina Beach, Va.



Jim Graves



William Dishman



Derrick Thomas



Freddie Maggard



Courtney Longacre



Joey Couch

Grid Recruits

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Steve Parker's Bryan Station club. Said Parker about his former linebacker, "Derrick has not totally tapped his potential. In a couple of years I feel like he will be playing a lot...if not some next season. That is if he doesn't get redshirted." Thomas has been clocked at 4.6 in the 40-yard dash. . . Paducah's **Billy Swanson** was high on the "Cats' list of "must" catches. The 6-1, 220-pound linebacker was one of four finalists for Kentucky's first-ever Mr. Football award, which was won by Jacobs. Is a hard-nosed performer. Swanson is Mr. Everything. Named as an all-state defensive end following his junior campaign. Also carried the football last season for 870 yards on 110 carries and 10 touchdowns. . . **Freddie Maggard** of Cumberland is like Swanson, as he, too, can burn an opponent on either side of the ball. UK recruited Maggard as a defensive back. During his Redskin career he intercepted 23 passes. And as a quarterback last season he completed 105 of 195 for 1,401 yards. He also rushed for 959 yards in '86. Is a standout on Cumberland's basketball and baseball squads. Carries a 3.5 GPA. . . Madison Central's **Shawn Evans** will be a big target for future Wildcat quarterbacks. The 6-6, 220-pound tight end earned all-State honorable mention status last season. Evans is considered an excellent catch as Notre Dame and Georgia had an eye on him. Academic All-American. Evans considered Eastern and Western before choosing Big Blue. . . **Todd George** of Cor-

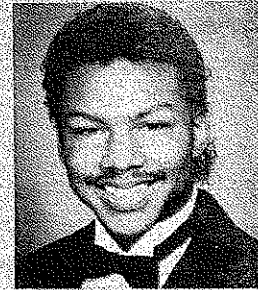
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Daniel Lee



Shawn Evans



Chris Tolbert



David Scott



Jeff Houk



Jerry Bell