

October 24, 2008

KHSAA
Hall of Fame Committee
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Hall of Fame Committee,

My name is Chris Hart and I am the head softball coach at Corbin High School. I am writing this letter to recommend Jim McAlister be selected as a hall of fame inductee.

As a female sports coach it is wonderful to have someone like Jim be an advocate of your program and female sports in general. In the few years I have known Jim you can see his love of the kids and the game in the work he does in promoting softball in Kentucky.

In the past several years Jim has helped our program by being the tournament director for our Cumberland Falls Classic Softball Tournament. He does all the preliminary work in getting the tournament ready and that take a lot of time off of the coaches. Jim has also been instrumental in the promotion of softball by his association with the Kentucky Softball Coaches Association. He helped start and continues organizing the Kentucky East/West all star program and is also largely responsible for the Kentucky / Tennessee all star softball game.

If you ask coaches around the state to name a person outside of the coaching world who has done the most for softball in Kentucky, I'm sure the name of Jim McAlister will come up with many. I really cannot say enough about the help he has given me and job he as done in our area in promoting softball.

I believe you would be making a fine choice and a deserving choice if you select Jim McAlister to be in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Chris Hart
Head Coach
Corbin High School Softball

During my years of coaching, I have worked with many local sports writers. Some are more superior to others. However, there is one that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help serve our local coaches and athletes. I am writing this letter to recommend Mr. Jim McAlister be placed into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Dawahares Hall of Fame, as an outstanding contributor to high school sports. Jim is currently the sports editor for the Corbin News-Journal, which serves the counties of Whitley, Laurel, and Knox.

Throughout my career as a high school coach for Whitley County High School, Jim has made and continues to make a noticeable impact on our community. By keeping his readers informed on the latest sports news from everything from track to football, he has allowed local athletes to receive a large amount of publicity from the surrounding areas; which increases their chances of being discovered by college coaches.

Over the past seven years that I have been the head coach of the Whitley County High School Lady Colonel Softball team, Jim has been a frequent viewer at most of our games, regardless of whether it is played at home or on the road. He is always very positive and accurate in his sports articles, and I can't ever recall being misquoted. This is especially important to me, as I would never want anything I said misconstrued to the public. Jim is a true professional in every aspect of sport reporting. Jim has also devoted a tremendous amount of time in developing and founding the Kentucky Prep organization. This has allowed hundreds of opportunities for young ladies across the state to be recognized and showcase their talents on a much broader stage.

Also, for the past two years I have been the head coach of the Whitley County High School Lady Colonel Volleyball team. Jim was a tremendous help to me personally in getting acquainted with the sport. Having not had much experience with the sport, he made the transition more trouble-free. Jim followed our season every step of the way. From regular season games, to District, and then to Region, Jim has been fantastic about covering our most important games.

In closing, I would have to say that it is a pleasure to get to work with Jim McAlister. He is a very dedicated and diligent sports writer. He makes sure that each sport has equal amount of coverage throughout their season, and is conscious about people's feelings. He has done so much for the advancements in female sports in Southeast Kentucky. Consequently, Jim is well-deserved of this honor and I highly recommend him for the position of contributor in the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

David Halcomb
Head Coach WCHS Volleyball & Softball

187 Blueberry Point
Brandenburg, KY. 40108

KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to recommend Jim McAlister to be inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have known Mr. McAlister since 1995 when I began coaching the Meade County High School girl's softball team. As a news reporter from London, he saw a need for the softball players to receive the recognition the athletes of other sports were getting, and he acted upon it with a vengeance. His sole purpose at the beginning was to help the softball athletes receive recognition and scholarships to play in college. Through his efforts our sport has grown exponentially to new heights with our athletes being recognized with some of the best in the country.

Jim has been at the forefront of promoting our sport by initiating the Top 25 Coaches Poll, East-West All Star Game, the all state selections, Miss Softball, the Softball Coaches Association, the Softball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and the Kentucky-Tennessee All Star Game. Recently, he has initiated a preseason poll and magazine that forecast the districts and regions outlook. It highlights the players that coach's feel will make an impact in the upcoming year.

Jim McAlister is most worthy of this prestigious award. His time and commitment to making high school athletics rewarding for student-athletes is to be commended. Because of Jim, our athletes benefit from a multitude of great things. I have had the honor to serve as an East-West Coach and was fortunate enough to coach the first Kentucky All-Star Team. These two events are something the KHSAA can be extremely proud of. They are conducted with the utmost class and dignity. Please give Jim McAlister strong consideration when making selections for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. He is most deserving of this award.

Sincerely,

Mike Harreld
Meade County Softball Coach

October 25, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is George Randolph and I'm writing in regard to Jim McAlister. I'd like to recommend Jim to be inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame for his accomplishments dealing with fast pitch softball in the state of Kentucky. Since the inception of the game in 1995, Jim has been instrumental in promoting this sport in our state.

Some of Jim's achievements include starting up an organization called Kentucky Preps softball, which facilitated the recognition not only for fast pitch softball, but also for the young lady's and the high school teams they played for.

Jim along with Ky. Preps began and organized an East/West all-star game to be played the week after the state tournament concluded. That series has been ongoing since 1998 at various locations across the state, which allows the sport of softball and the girls to garner more recognition and build relationships with one another.

Also, four years ago, Jim initiated discussions with Tennessee for a Kentucky/Tennessee all-star game, which became a reality the following year in 2006. That all-star series continues today with this past year being Kentucky's first year to win a game and also won the series.

I have known Jim since I became head coach of Owensboro Catholic Softball in 1996. I think of Jim as one of my close friends and can depend on him if I am ever in need of anything. He is a man of high character and integrity who puts others before himself. I feel Jim is one of a few people in the state that deserves of this honor and advocate his being accepted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame based on his love for the game of softball and the advances he's made on behalf of fast pitch softball in the state of Kentucky.

Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter, and if you should have any further questions please feel free to contact me at (270) 684-3215.

Sincerely,

George Randolph
Teacher/Coach Owensboro Catholic High School

