

2607 Hwy. 191
West Liberty, KY 41472
October 9, 2008

Brigid DeVries, Commissioner
Kentucky High School Athletics Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Commissioner DeVries:

I submit this letter of recommendation for the Kentucky High School Athletics Association Hall of Fame on behalf of Mr. Donnie McKenzie of West Liberty, KY, with much pride, honor, and confidence. In an era of bottom lines and a "faster-is-always-better" mentality, this Morgan County icon has proven time and again that dedication, patience, perseverance, and fundamentals are still the true keys to success.

For over thirty years, Donnie has been a permanent fixture on the sidelines, baselines, and fields of Morgan County athletics. At an age where most people would be calling it a day and ready to kick back, Mr. McKenzie is not showing the first signs of slowing down. Donnie has been working with the Morgan County High School football program for a countless number of years, helps organize and supervise the community's Little League football and baseball programs, and is the coordinator of the Men's Softball League.

However, it has been as the Morgan County High School football student manager that I have been privileged to have seen Mr. McKenzie going about his important work on a regular basis. Donnie's managerial duties consist of ordering and making sure supplies for the team are never short in supply; ordering and preparing food for the team on game days; setting up the field for practice and games; and making sure that the team has water for practice. As the reader of this letter, one might say that this is nothing extraordinary in and of itself. The exceptionality of Mr. Donnie McKenzie goes much further than his 30 year dedication, though.

For example, Donnie is always the first person to arrive at the field and is typically last to leave. Still not convinced of his worthiness for the Hall of Fame? Imagine this dedication without a driver's license. Mr. McKenzie does not drive, so passersby often see him walking to and from the field. Of course, Donnie has several friends who drive him from time to time. The amazing part is that he is never late, has the practice field ready, and water waiting. The numerous

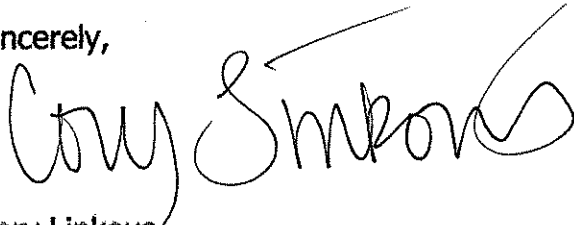
coaching staffs Mr. McKenzie has helped point to the fact that Mr. McKenzie ensures that coaches are left to coach as one of his greatest testaments.

While Donnie has dedicated much of his life to athletics in our community, his accomplishments are all the more remarkable considering that he does all this while still running his own local business. Throughout this and surrounding communities, he is known as a hardworking man who puts the youth of the community on a pedestal.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. McKenzie's relationship with athletics is not limited to our high school football program. When most sports coaches in the community need supplies ordered, or advice on a certain topic, Donnie takes care of things with a smile on his face and a hop in his step. To the best of my knowledge, Donnie has not taken any payment for his services when it comes to the things that he does. He does everything simply for the love of the sport and the youth of the county. Again, in an age of "me-me-me," Mr. McKenzie puts others first.

In closing, I can honestly say that I do not have more respect for a person than Donnie. He is man of great moral value, whose countless number of hours and years has made him Hall of Fame material in my book.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cory Linkous". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "C" and a long, horizontal stroke extending from the "s".

Cory Linkous
Morgan County High School
Football Student Manager

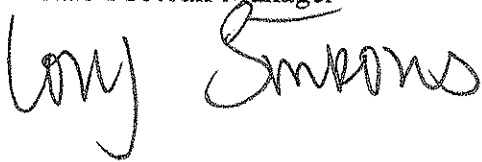
Aug. 29, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Cory Linkous and I am a sophomore at Morgan County High School. The purpose of this letter is that I am working on a write-in to the KHSAA Hall of Fame urging them to honor our very own Mr. Donnie McKenzie for all of his years of service promoting the various sports in Morgan County. I believe that he cares about our athletes and is a valuable asset to the programs, students and coaches. He is the constant one who you see whether rain or shine on the High School/Middle School football field, little league football, little league baseball fields, and basketball games. He is the one you go to if you need something or need something worked on. He is our Cougar Pride and he asks for nothing in return.

I am asking you to write down your thoughts on what Mr. McKenzie did and meant to your involvement during your time at Morgan County whether as a player, coach, coordinator of a program, active participant, or a supporter of Morgan County Athletics. If you know of someone that would be a good reference from outside of our county I would appreciate if you could send me their name and address. I would appreciate if you would return this to me as soon as possible so we can begin the needed process to make others aware of our Mr. Cougar Pride. I would also appreciate it if you would keep this matter confidential and appreciate your taking the time to help me in this process.

Thank you,
Cory G. Linkous
MCHS Football Manager

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cory Linkous", written over the typed name.

October 15, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

My family and I recently moved to West Liberty, Kentucky as I accepted the head football coaching position. I was immediately greeted into the community by Donnie McKenzie, without whom this program would not function. He has given me immeasurable assistance on and off the field, and is such an asset to the community of Morgan County and the athletics of this town beyond which I have ever seen in my twenty years of coaching.

Donnie puts the youth and school athletics above and beyond anything else, and his love of the community is obvious in every encounter you have with him. Whether it be running the concessions, doing laundry, or making 100 sandwiches for the players, Donnie is doing it all. My wife often complains to him that he never allows her to help. The thing is, Donnie never asks anyone for help and will scold you if you do pitch in!

When I entered this town, someone told me how much Donnie would help me along the way. I can honestly say I never imagined to what extent. As a new coach in a new town, his support has and will forever be appreciated by me and my family. If you are ever looking for him, look no further than any athletic field in our county. That's where you will find him doing what he loves most, helping the kids and the community.

With great honor,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linwood B. Purnell II', written in a cursive style.

Linwood B. Purnell II
Head Football Coach
Morgan County High School

Chris Trusty
Athletic Director
Morgan County High School
West Liberty, Kentucky 41472

KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination

RE: Donnie McKenzie
Morgan County High School
Football Volunteer
Equipment Manager

To whom it may concern,

It is with tremendous honor that I write this letter of recommendation for Donnie McKenzie, a long time football equipment manager, volunteer, and president of the Morgan County Quarterback Club. Without a doubt, Donnie McKenzie is most influential person in the community of West Liberty in terms of helping children and student-athletes. His more than three decade service to Morgan County High School is recognized by all whom reside in our town and county. Donnie is well known throughout the region and area among officials, players, and coaches as being the ambassador for Morgan Co. Sports.

For over thirty years, Donnie McKenzie has helped Morgan County football as the primary equipment manager and volunteer with the football program. He has been with every football coach and all have agreed that without Donnie McKenzie, our football program does not go on. He is the closest resemblance to the University of Kentucky's Bill Keightly in terms of what he does for our program and how well liked he is by all, not just Morgan Countians.

Donnie McKenzie is worthy of the highest Kentucky High School Athletic Association honor. In addition, Donnie has managed the Little League Baseball Program and is the President of the Quarterback club. His long hours and dedication to Cougars sports must be recognized and it is with great honor to recommend "Donnie" for this distinguished service award.

Without Donnie McKenzie, we simply don't operate with effectiveness and precision. His personality, contributions, and work ethic for Morgan County Schools are simply the best.



Chris Trusty
Athletic Director
Morgan County High School

Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame
Re: Donnie McKenzie

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to recommend Donnie McKenzie for the Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame. For as long as I can remember, Mr. McKenzie has dedicated himself to improve the sports programs at Morgan County High School and in the community of West Liberty.

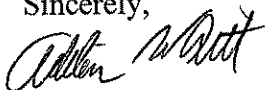
Every year, Mr. McKenzie spends countless hours working with the football programs at the high school, middle school, little league and little league baseball. Mr. McKenzie does this without every asking to be compensated for this time. Examples of his dedication to our football program would include; being in charge of the concession stand, lining the field before every game, arranging meals for the team on travel days, ordering and taking care of the players equipment, and washing their uniforms after games.

Donnie McKenzie performs similar task for little league baseball in our community and has been honored by having one of the fields named after him.

Most importantly, Donnie is a positive role model for our students. The way he carries himself around our students, his unselfishness, and hard work are just some of the positive attributes that our students can learn from Mr. McKenzie.

It is for these reasons that I am proud to recommend Donnie McKenzie for the Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Addison Whitt
Principal
Morgan County High School

565 Main Street
West Liberty, Kentucky 41472



606-743-3330
Fax 606-743-2202
TDD 606-743-4385

October 21, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Donnie McKenzie of West Liberty in Morgan County. Donnie McKenzie has devoted his life to the youth and sports of this county.

Mr. McKenzie is always involved in the organization and participation of various sports in Morgan County. Mr. McKenzie spends tireless hours working for our youth before, during and after any game. He takes care of fields, equipment, concessions and other details that need to be handled. He has helped build programs for countless youth in Morgan County.

Mr. McKenzie never asks for anything in return and seems content to just be able to benefit our youth. We feel that devotion and dedication such as this needs to be recognized. If every county had a Donnie McKenzie maybe he would not seem so remarkable, but we feel that he is one of a kind.

As a former high school coach, I highly recommend Donnie McKenzie for membership in the KHSAA Hall of Fame because it is character like his that should be shaping our youth.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and allow me once more to say that Donnie McKenzie is a great person and a dedicated individual that should be recognized for his efforts.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Nickell, Mayor

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

Re: Consideration of recipient for Hall of Fame Award

To Whom It May Concern,

What qualities enable a person to be recognized as a "Hall of Famer"? Could it be outstanding merit, longevity in a program, success, championships and trophies or could it be loyalty, dependability, and efficiency? Perhaps, it is simply one who is hard-working, loved, inspirational, willing to give freely of his/her time for the sake of a program's success (without asking for pay or compensation).

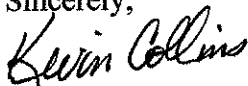
While all of these qualities seem to be quite fitting of any potential candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame, it might come as a surprise that I know of a person beholding all of those qualities. From Morgan County, this local "Hall of Famer" and our own Mr. Cougar Pride is none other than Donnie McKenzie. While he is infamous, in our small town, for the many good deeds that he has done for 30+ years, we felt it was time that the rest of KY became aware of our crown jewel.

Donnie McKenzie isn't a coach, nor does he have a son/daughter or grandchild in an athletics program to keep him involved in Cougar athletics. No, Donnie McKenzie is involved in Morgan County Sports because he loves it! Donnie, as the kids, youth, teens and adults call him, works tireless hours volunteering for little league, middle school and high school athletic programs. Did you read that carefully? Volunteering... How many people are willing to order all equipment, line and stripe the ball fields, run the concession stands, wash the uniforms, set up before the games, clean up after the games and be the first person there and the last one to leave? Remember, this is for all little league, middle school and high school athletic programs for football and baseball.

That's right... Donnie volunteers because he loves the youth and the sporting programs. What's more unimaginable, Donnie does all of this without a driver's license. He made a personal choice to never get behind the wheel of a car after being involved in a serious car accident in his youth. Now, nearly 68 years old, Donnie walks to the fields, to the meetings, often carrying bags in his hands, and equipment on his back.

I can't think of a more deserving person in the state of KY than Donnie McKenzie of West Liberty for a Spirit Award. For this and many more unstated reasons, I wish to encourage you to support the most deserving candidate in all of the Bluegrass State, Mr. Donnie McKenzie, our Cougar Pride and hopefully a future KHSAA Hall of Famer.

Sincerely,



Kevin Collins

Class of '84

Morgan Co. Little League Football Coach

Hello,

My name is Jerry Allen. I am a teacher and assistant football coach at Morgan County High School. I am writing to try and persuade you to consider our most valuable athletic supporter (Donnie McKenzie) for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have been here for the past two years and have come to realize that Donnie is an absolutely essential individual, when it comes to Morgan Co. Athletics! He is always there when we need him.

He organizes annual fundraisers for sports like Football, Baseball, etc. He keeps the facilities in excellent condition. He is present for every home game, and most of the away games. He is the backbone of the football program. We would be lost without him. He lines our fields, provides meals, water/gatorade, manages all the equipment... all the way down to mouthpieces, etc.

He also makes it possible for us to focus on coaching, because he handles everything else related to football. He has been doing all this for over twenty years. He is the most recognizable figure in our community. Everyone knows his name and they know how important he is.

I strongly urge you to "write - in" Donnie McKenzie, to be considered for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Thank You So Much,

October 23, 2008

TO: KHSAA
Hall of Fame Committee

FROM: Jerry Hopkins
3414 Liberty Rd
West Liberty, KY 41472

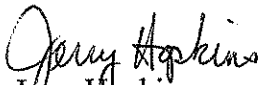
Dear Committee,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for the nomination of Mr. Donnie McKenzie for his outstanding lifelong commitment to the sports programs and the youth of Morgan County. I feel he would be very deserving of an honorary member position due to his outstanding commitments and efforts.

Donnie has served in many capacities from manager to coach of many of our youth programs as well as High School athletics. His devotion has paved the way for the success of our youth and served to set them up for success both during their playing careers as well as throughout life's journey.

Donnie would be a fine addition to your outstanding list of athletes, coaches, and administrators. Just as the efforts of your existing members have set them apart from the rest, his efforts set him apart from all the others and make him a true hall of famer!

Sincerely,



Jerry Hopkins

Former player, coach, and community member

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Brian Turner. I was born in Ft. Thomas, Ky., and my family re-located to Breathitt County when I was eight years old. I did not grow up in Morgan County. I came to live in Morgan County in 1996.

After living in Morgan County for two years, I got involved in coaching football. At this time, I came to know Donnie McKenzie. Don served, (and still does today), as President of the Quarterback Club.

As President, you might think Donnie's role in our football program has been to organize meetings, delegate committees and oversee football fundraising activities. However, Donnie is actually the exact opposite of a typical executive officer. He handles most of the day-to-day management of the football program. His duties include: painting the game field, arranging pre-game meals, washing the uniforms, managing the concession booth, ball-boy during games, overseeing all off-season fundraising projects, serving on the Little League Football Board, and equipment repair and management.

The most remarkable thing of all is that Donnie has worked under eight head coaches(to my knowledge), including myself, and every one of them would agree that Don has played a major role in their ability to function as a football coach. Don McKenzie does not drive, and has walked the streets of West Liberty back and forth from his business to the Cougar Den literally thousands of times to make sure things got done. No one from West Liberty is more deserving of being recognized in the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Thank You for Considering This Matter,

Brian S. Turner

West Liberty, Kentucky
September 12, 2008

Concerning the KHSAA Hall of Fame:

As parents of three sons who participated in most all of the sports teams at Morgan County Elementary, Middle, and High School for 27 years, we knew the head coaches, their assistants, and managers. We also knew another fellow who was quite a bit of all of the three - and then some! He was not an employee of the Morgan County Schools, yet he was always around the sports programs even before and after his children were involved. He was constantly on the run - he rarely walked - from his place of business in town, or his late brother's, to the football and baseball fields, or the gymnasium, usually carrying water, sports drinks, towels, or even ~~an~~ a watermelon. He is small in stature but strong in heart!

If the fields were being marked off, he was there helping. During games if the coaches needed something from the locker room, he was like a mind reader and back with the item in seconds. He has carried chains, dug baseball diamonds, swept the gym, and managed uniforms, especially in Little Leagues. He has been the water boy, assistant medic, and comforter to hundreds of student athletes at in the Morgan County Schools. He is Donald (Donnie) McKenzie, now 69 years active and

still doing what he loves to do, volunteering his time for Morgan County Athletics, as he has for decades. His character and his willingness, along with the previous attributes, make him a wonderful candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Henry L. and Anna Jean Allen

Bill C. Allen
791 Rebecca Road
Lexington, KY. 40502

Perry P. Allen
1353 Redstone Drive
Lexington, KY. 40509

I was asked to write a letter about Donnie McKenzie as a recommendation for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. It took me quite a while to finally write the letter because I did not really know what to say.

I served as Head Football Coach at Morgan County High School from 2004 through the 2006 seasons. From the moment I interviewed for the job, I began to hear the name Donnie over and over, yet I still had not met the man. I was given numerous descriptions of Donnie's role in the program. Some called him the Unofficial Athletics Director; while others talked about him as the Booster President. Still more would simply refer to him as Morgan County's number one fan. I remember AD Kathy Frederick describing him as totally devoted and how she would never really know for sure what he thought of me until I left, because win or lose he would support the coach. From the moment I met him, I realized this description to be true. I was in the Library meeting with several people, when I noticed Donnie bumping his way through everyone as he was trying to get to me. Even though he is only about 5'5" and maybe 165lbs. he easily moved through everyone. He was not trying to be rude or mean; he just had to get to the new coach. From that moment on I realized that everything I had heard about Donnie was true. On Friday nights for many years, Donnie has been the guy standing on the sidelines serving as the Ball Boy for Morgan County. Of course this alone does not make Donnie anymore special than anyone else around the state, it is the work he does outside the games that no one sees that makes Donnie stand out. Donnie lines off the field, sets up the concession stand (including arranging the workers), cleans the bleachers, runs the Booster Booth at the yearly Bluegrass and Sorghum Festivals, and sets the officials with drinks and food at halftime of the games. Donnie has never received a dime for anything he does and would not accept it if anyone offered.

I was told once because of him being in his late 60's that I should try to slow him down and take some of the burden off of him, but when I asked him about it he just said I am ok and I will do it as long as I can. Donnie does what he does because he loves to help. He cares about the programs and he cares about the kids. He does not do it for attention. In fact he would be rather upset if he knew I was typing this letter to recommend him for the Hall of Fame.

In closing, I do not know if you guys will even seriously consider choosing him, but I will say that every program would be a lot better off if it had a Donnie McKenzie. I know I would love to have Donnie here at my current school. For me, Donnie became more than just a helper to take care of all the junk I did not want to do; he also became a friend.

Randall Wood
WJHS Teacher
WJHS Head Football Coach

Letcher County Central High School

435 Cougar Drive
Whitesburg, KY 41858
Phone: (606) 633-2339, ext. 1103; Fax: (606) 633-2447
E-mail: Stephen.Boggs@Letcher.kyschools.us
Website: www.letcher.k12.ky.us/lcchs

September 18, 2008

Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Attn: Nominations

Dear Members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame Nominating Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Donnie McKenzie of Morgan County as a candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I have coached at Whitesburg High School, Breathitt County, and Letcher County. During my affiliation with athletics, I have never witnessed such dedication as shown by Donnie.

During my tenure as Head Football Coach at Morgan County High School (1999-2002), Donnie served as President of the Football Boosters. He repeatedly demonstrated his dedication to the student-athletes of Morgan County by relentlessly organizing fundraisers. He gave without selfishness his time to work at all fundraising events.

In addition to his work with the Morgan County High School Football Team, Donnie has been instrumental in establishing and maintaining the "pee wee" football teams. He is in charge of equipment, scheduling of officials/games, fundraising, etc.

After football season has ended, Donnie's dedication to student athletes does not. He gears up to prepare for baseball season. His duties are similar to those in football and his commitment remains the same.

Kentucky High School Athletic Association
September 18, 2008
Page Two

He is most deserving of induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame and would most certainly be a hallmark of the KHSAA. I strongly encourage your consideration of Donnie McKenzie.

Sincerely,

Larry Maggard
Assistant Head Football Coach
Letcher County Central High School

Linkous, Keith -- MCES

From: Hill, Bernard J.
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 1:16 PM
To: Linkous, Keith -- MCES
Subject: FW: help

During my tenure as Morgan County Middle School Head Football Coach (2003-2006) and High School Assistant Coach (2006), Donnie McKenzie was an invaluable part of the football program. Donnie was always available to answer questions I had when starting out as a 1st year coach. He helped with ordering equipment and scheduling officials. Donnie also helped run the quarterback club, which was one of the main sources of funding for the Morgan County Football program. Donnie always provided a check from the Quarterback Club to feed the middle school team when we were on road trips. He ran the concession stand and repaired equipment for the program. Along with his extensive service to the Middle and High School Football programs, Donnie also was an active member of the Little League Football Board and worked closely to ensure that that program ran well. And if all of this wasn't enough, Donnie took care of marking the field for games and got water ready for practice and games. He kept dry footballs available on the sidelines during Varsity games as well and washed the High School Varsity game uniforms. Donnie McKenzie did all of this and more with a cheerful attitude and a kind word for anyone he came into contact with. He is a fine gentleman and a grand friend of the Morgan County Football Program at every level.

Joey Hill

Keith, tell Corey I hope this helps.

From: Hill, Bernard J.
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2008 9:28 AM
To: Hill, Bernard J.
Subject: FW: help

From: Linkous, Keith -- MCES
Sent: Friday, September 12, 2008 9:06 AM
To: Hill, Bernard J.
Subject: help

How are you doing. Cory still mentions you all the time. Still married? My son needs a big favor from you. He is doing a write-in to the KHSAA Hall of Fame hoping they will in some way honor Donnie McKenzie. He is asking that you write about what all Donnie helped with while you were at Morgan during your coaching at both MS and HS. Write about what Donnie meant to you. List the titles you had and the time period. He is wanting to keep this quiet so Donnie won't find out. Any help with this will appreciated.

Thanks,
 Keith

PS You can e-mail it back to me and I can print it off for him or send it to

Cory Linkous
 2607 Hwy. 191
 West Liberty, Ky.

9/15/2008

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination Committee

I take pride in nominating our very own Morgan Countian, Donnie McKenzie as a possible candidate for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I have been involved with the youth of our county for twenty-five years either through the schools or little league programs. The children, parents, and coaches have come and gone, but not Donnie McKenzie. He is there rain or shine, hot or cold, good times or bad times seeing to the needs of each program. He is there for the athletes seeing that they have what they need to participate and get better. He is there for the coaches trying to make their jobs easier so they can coach and concentrate on the athletes. He is there marking the fields, filling the concession stands, ordering supplies or equipment, food if needed and getting water. He comes early and stays late and if you need something he will get it. His actions speak volumes. If you ask him if he needs any help he will respond by saying "No, I'll get it." With a smile on his face and a hop in his step he will continue on his mission.

I strongly feel that Donnie's mission in life is that of our youth and wanting to help every child he comes in contact with whether they participate in a sport or not. I have witnessed his acts of kindness on many occasions throughout the years. He asks for nothing in return, just wanting those around him to go out and represent Morgan County. When it comes to Donnie, a child does not have a

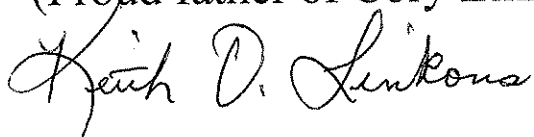
last name. He treats all of them the same and not based on their parents.

Donnie after all of these years still gives of his time freely with the greatest of attitudes and a kind uplifting word to those he comes in contact with. Donnie is a friend to all. He would fuss if he knew about the letters that have been written on his behalf. To Donnie, what he is doing is what he thinks everyone should be doing and that is being involved with our youth and just lending a helping hand wherever needed. It is about the children, coaches, the various programs and not about him!

Whether or not Donnie is selected for the KHSAA Hall of Fame, he is a hall of famer to many in our community and surrounding area. He has made a tremendous influence on my son who wanted to honor this fine man for all of his countless hours of hard work and devotion to the youth of Morgan County. My son feels that Donnie has and is still making a difference in the lives of our young people.

If anyone deserves to be honored for promoting the youth and athletics of Morgan County, it would be Mr. Donnie McKenzie.

Thank you,
Keith O. Linkous
(Proud father of Cory Linkous)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith O. Linkous". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Linkous, Keith -- MCES

From: McKenzie, Stephen P -- Woodsbend
To: Linkous, Keith -- MCES
Cc:
Subject: RE: Donnie
Attachments:

Sent: Mon 9/15/2008 9:33 AM

Donnie has meant so much to the baseball and football programs in our county.

He has worked with little league and high school baseball for countless seasons, doing the jobs that are sometimes taken for granted by the general public: lining the field, supplying the concession stand, ordering and distributing the uniforms and equipment, etc. I can't remember him ever turning down a request if it had to do with helping the kids out in some way.

Football programs require many resources, both from the school system and from the community. Small, rural districts like Morgan County face these problems year after year. I truly feel that football would have been dropped here if it were not for the efforts of Donnie. As with baseball, Donnie does it all for both the little league, middle school, and high school football programs. From ordering and organizing equipment, preparing pre-game and after game meals for road trips, making sure the water is set up for practices and games, lining the fields, etc. Head coaches don't have to worry about things like the chain crew, game balls, taking care of officials, and fund raisers. Donnie is always there to take care of those things.

I have coached baseball and football at all levels during my 18 years at Morgan County High School, and I can't think of anyone who has done more for those programs than Donnie. He is one of the most selfless people I know, and has thanklessly helped so many sports programs in Morgan County. If anyone deserves to be honored or recognized for promoting athletics, it is Donnie McKenzie.



From: Linkous, Keith -- MCES
Sent: Thu 9/4/2008 1:04 PM
To: McKenzie, Stephen P -- Woodsbend
Subject: Donnie

Steve, Cory is working on something in trying to get Donnie honored at the KHSAA Hall of Fame. He is getting Chris T. to work on it from the HS side. He is wanting for people to write about what Donnie has meant to the various sport programs. You can share from both the student and coaches point of view. He has put a lot of work into this, so any help will be appreciated.

Thanks,

Keith

PS – You can either e-mail or send something by your wife.

To Whom It May Concern:

It gives me great pleasure to reflect on the youth athletic programs in Morgan County in that we as a community have the greatest asset of all in an individual, Donnie McKenzie. I became involved in youth football when my son was in kindergarten and have had the honor of knowing Donnie McKenzie for about 25 years. I never really knew of all the work Donnie contributed to the Morgan County youth programs until my son became a participant. The ultimate volunteer- Donnie, for longer than I know has taken care of kids, fields and equipment for all, from youth to high school for football and baseball. This includes but is not limited to managing the food booths at the annual county festival to making sure the ball fields get cleaned up for the next game, painting the fields and keeping the footballs dry on rainy Friday nights. Always a pleasure to work with, always there to support youth athletic programs and always a part of Morgan County Pride – Donnie McKenzie.

Joe Curd
Chairman
Morgan County Little League Football Board

Terry Chin
Rowan County Senior High
499 Viking Drive
Morehead, Kentucky

September 29, 2008

To whom it may Concern:

When I first heard there was a movement to have Donnie McKenzie inducted into the Hall of Fame, I was thrilled. I was the Head Football Coach at Morgan County for a short time, three seasons and then remained as a teacher.

During my tenure as a coach, Donnie was indispensable. He was my equipment man, manager, bookkeeper, grounds keeper, therapist, and took care of any duties that had to do with football and our players. More important, Donnie was also a father figure to all our players. Any problem, any issue, player or coach, the man had time to listen and care for you.

Many coaches and players have been through Morgan County and if you asked any of them, I'm sure they will tell you that Donnie McKenzie is the Most Valuable Cougar. To me **Mr. Donnie McKenzie** is Morgan County Football and will be a great representative in the Hall of Fame.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 606-784-8956, ext. 2680. My e-mail is terry.chin@rowan.kyschools.us.

Sincerely,

Terry Chin

Donnie McKenzie has put more time and energy into Morgan County football than anyone I know. As a middle school football assistant coach for the 2000-2001 and 2006 seasons, as well as a high school assistant football coach for the 2003 and 2006 seasons, I have had the opportunity to see all the work Donnie does for the program. He was over the painting of the field, even on weeks the middle school played and the high school did not. He brought water and food for the kids to a summer camp we had for the younger kids in the system. He washes the high school uniforms on the weekends so the coaching staff can prepare for the next opponent. He works every Fall weekend at the little league football games, overseeing concessions and the gates.

Donnie has accomplished all of these things over the years, and more, while owning and running his own place of business. He always makes it a point to shake my hand or say hello every time we meet. Several times I have wondered how much the football program will change when he finally decides to take a rest from all of this work, and I just cannot imagine anybody that will be able to do all that he has done, and still does, for Morgan County football. He will be extremely hard to replace, and even when that happens it will not be the same.

Kelley Hammonds

September 16, 2008

RE: Donnie McKenzie

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to nominate Mr. Donny McKenzie for consideration into the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Mr. McKenzie lives in West Liberty, KY and serves the students of Morgan County High School in whatever capacity he is needed. Donny has not only served the high school teams, but also the youth league teams for as long as I can remember.

Donny is a tireless worker especially for our football program and baseball program and any other service where he is needed. He takes care of our fields and uniforms and has been the main man behind the scenes for many years and through many coaches. He is a local business owner in West Liberty and all of his services are strictly volunteer in nature. He travels to all of the football games and takes care of the equipment on the sidelines. Morgan County sports could probably not function without him, especially our football and baseball programs. I would like for you to consider him for nomination in our high school hall of fame. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kent Nickell", written in dark ink.

Dr. J. Kent Nickell, OD

FARMERS & SHOPPERS NEWS

To Whom It May Concern:

In the 35 years that I have known Donnie McKenzie, I have been impressed with his dedication in helping the youth sports in Morgan County.

Donnie demonstrates a giving and generous nature in his free time. During the past 30-plus years Donnie has given his time back to the community in so many ways. He has been involved in our youth baseball and football programs and our high school baseball and football programs. He works seven days a week for the youth programs here in Morgan County. He does so many little things behind the scenes that no one really is able to see. For instance he always orders and purchases food and drinks for all little league, middle school, and high school football and baseball games. He arrives at the games two hours early so he can begin setting up the concession stand and can make sure everything is in working order. He spends long, tireless hours putting the lines on the baseball fields and football fields for every little league, middle school, and high school game. He orders and purchases all football and baseball equipment and sizes each kid to make sure they are properly fit for safety. Donnie McKenzie is a pillar of the community and I recommend him for the Hall of Fame.

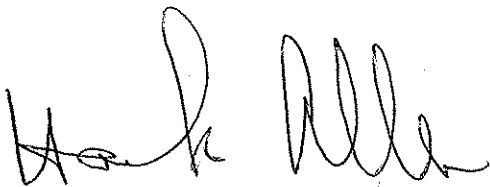
He also demonstrates his kind heart to many kids who can not afford to eat. In his pool hall, where he is known for his famous fish sandwiches, many kids go there with little money to pay for food. These kids may have enough money to play a game of pool and talk sports with Donnie, but nothing more. However, Donnie will never let any kid leave his business without something to eat. His famous fish sandwiches, his kind heart, and the millions of hours he donates for the community will never be forgotten by the youth or anyone in Morgan County.

I hope you will give serious consideration to Donnie for the High School Hall of Fame. I feel that there is no one who deserves it more.

Sincerely,
Dewey Blevins, CEO

Donnie Mckenzie is Mr. Cougar! Morgan County Athletics could not be what it is today without the decades of service and commitment by Donnie. His endeavors have served all sports from little league thru high school. Countless hours have been used for these young men and women from washing uniforms, to lining the fields, his longtime dedication as president of the Quarterback Club and the list goes on and on.

Donnie has given much, but his greatest sacrifice is his time. Many students who might practice late or wait to get a ride home would be hungry and might not have a penny to their pocket – would never go without food as Donnie would provide them a fish sandwich or a hamburger from the pool room.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Allen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M" and a series of connected loops for the surname "Allen".

"Hi their old pal. How are you doing?" This is the usual upbeat greeting you receive from "Donnie" Mckenzie, with a smile and a handshake or a hug. Mr. Mckenzie could easily win a election for any county office he choose in Morgan county. Don loves kids and has devoted his life to Morgan county high school sports.

This man should have been a motivational speaker. If you are down and depressed he always has a way to put a smile on your face. Don has put a smile on many young cougar football player after a tough loss or setback. Mr. Mckenzie has been a assistant football coach with the cougars for as long as I can remember. He is the equipment manager, the grounds crew, the concessions manager and any thing else that needs to be done. Don still marks off the field at 69 years young.

One the most remarkable things about Don is that he has never had a drivers license or owed a automobile. In this modern day and time this seems very odd. But, this is not a hardship for don. He walks to work and to the football field. If he needs to go elsewhere he has no trouble getting a lift. Because, how could you turn him down? He would gladly give you anything he owned.

Don is involved and leads in just about every youth sports program in the county. Don has aided many student athletes and has been a positive role model for all the youth of Morgan county.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jackson Burr".

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee:

I was introduced to Don McKenzie at a very young age. In fact, if you played any sort of sport in our town Don was one of the first people you got to know. He was the short-statured man always dressed in Morgan County apparel that you could see roaming the sidelines of a football practice, working the concessions, or chalking the lines of a baseball field. He was the person responsible for most everything that went on with sports in our small town. He was the person responsible for ordering and distributing all the uniforms, for keeping concessions, for chalking the fields, for chasing down foul balls, and for so many other things that it would be nearly impossible to mention them all here in this letter. He was literally the first person to show up before a practice or game and the last person to leave the practice or game. Everything he has done is unbelievable. He has been the one true fixture in our athletics program and without him I'm certain the programs would not have operated as well as they have.

Personally, he has treated me like family since the moment I met him. He motivated me to play hard, he taught me to respect people, and he taught me to have pride in myself, team, and county. I cannot count the number of smiles and hugs I have received from Don after scoring a touchdown, making a tackle, or getting a base hit. However, his response was always the same even if you happened to miss a tackle or strike out. He was always proud of you and our teams. He was a true fan. He loved all the players and always supported the teams through the good seasons and the bad. I will never forget when I broke my arm during my freshman year of football. Don had followed our coach out to where the ambulance was waiting to pull away. I had noticed that tears had filled his eyes when he caught sight of me, and then he bent down to tell me that he loved me and that everything would be alright. That was truly the type of man Don was. This was how he was with everyone that crossed his path, not just me. He truly loved everyone, and this showed in everything that he did.

In closing, there are so many things that make Don special. I wish I could bring to light all those things that he has done for the people and athletic programs of our town, but I'm afraid I don't have that ability. Don has had a lasting impact on the people in our community, and I'm certain that his legacy will continue long after he is gone. It is always difficult to put into words or describe the character of a person, but I hope this attempt clearly shows that there are few people like Don. I am certain that there has been no one in our county, maybe even the state, who has had such an important impact on the sports program of a city. He has touched the lives of countless individuals in ways that cannot ever be measured. His love for the people and the youth of our small town was evident in the things he did. He has truly dedicated the greater part of his life to ensuring that young people in our community have the opportunity to participate in sports. He has done all this without any form of compensation and little recognition. He has always been the man on the sideline, the man in the background. This is why I nominate Don McKenzie for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. In my opinion, there is no other person that deserves it more. He truly deserves to be recognized.

Sincerely,

Justin Perry (*baseball, basketball, and football*)

Jonathan Perry (*baseball, basketball, and football*)

Johnny Perry (*high school baseball coach*)

Cory,

Donnie is a great guy all around. He is a great asset to our community. I have known Donnie McKenzie (from the pool room) since my first experience with sports in Morgan County. As a youngster, I played minor league baseball and Donnie was around then helping out and organizing everything. Then as a teenager I played Senior League baseball and high school softball, once again he was there.

When I became head coach of the Morgan County softball team, Donnie helped me out. He approached me and said "anything I can do, you just let me know and I will help, Kid-o (as he would call me and almost everyone else)". He is true to his word. Donnie helped me to order uniforms and get equipment and when it came time to have home games he would go down to the field and help get the field ready with a big old smile on his face. If I ever needed anything, all I had to do was go to Donnie and ask.

Now my son is playing little league, and once again Donnie is there every day rain or shine. He gets the food started in concessions and gets the field ready. He always has a smile on his face and a kind word to say to everyone that he runs into. I am glad to know that my children are getting the opportunity to know Donnie McKenzie because I was fortunate to have a personal connection with him.

Leigh Ann Wireman

