

KHSBCA

Hall of Fame

1st Induction Class

January 17, 1998

Louisville, Kentucky



Jan. 17, 1998

RON MYERS

COACH MYERS BEGAN HIS BASEBALL COACHING CAREER AT FT. KNOX HIGH SCHOOL IN 1968-69. HE MOVED ON TO ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL WHERE HE HAS BEEN THE HEAD COACH FROM 1970-1997. HE HAS BEEN A HEAD COACH FOR 30 YEARS. HIS RECORD IS 654 WINS AND 287 LOSSES.

COACH MYERS HAS WON 19 DISTRICT TITLES, 17 REGIONALS, 5 SECTIONALS, 2 STATE RUNNER UPS, 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS. COACH MYERS WAS THE FIRST SECRETARY/TREASURER FOR 3 YEARS OF THE KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION. HE WAS VOTED AREA COACH OF THE YEAR 3 TIMES. COACH MYERS HAS BEEN VOTED THE KENTUCKY COACH OF THE YEAR 3 TIMES BY THE NATIONAL COACHES ASSOCIATION.

HALL OF FAME K.H.S.B.C.A.



KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

Row 1 L-R Ron Myers, Larry Gumm, Billy Anderson, Charles Taylor, Bill Miller Row 2 L-R Greg Shelton, Bill Tom Wayne, Mac Whitaker, Charles Adkins
Row 3 L-R G. J. Smith, Louis Stout, Larry Conrad, Don Lee, Bob Mantooth not pictured: Mike Fields, Jack Hicks. VSN Photo 606-278-5170

E'town's Myers earns win No. 700

By MARTIN HEPNER
Sports Writer

The final chapter of Ron Myers' brilliant coaching career had another paragraph written Saturday.

Myers, completing his 30th season as the Panthers' head baseball coach, earned victory No. 700 with a 6-5 win over Greenwood at Panther Park.

"It's not really something I thought about," Myers said. "It was just another game to me."

Myers said the realization of his accomplishment wasn't even a thought until he was preparing the field for a junior varsity game that followed the varsity contest.

"I was out there raking for the JV game and I thought, 'gosh. That's 700,'" Myers said. "It does feel good to be able to do something like that, because there are not too many people who can say they have."

Myers, however, said one coach doesn't earn 700 victories by himself. It was the sum of a lot of efficient parts working in unison over the years.

"I didn't do much to win all those games," Myers said. "It was a lot of good baseball players down through the years. It was the good coaches I

had working with me. A lot of it was the program and the school. That's where all the credit goes."

Myers spent his first two years coaching Fort Knox, before moving to Elizabethtown for the last 30.

He began his coaching career in 1968 and has a 700-322-3 record, which includes state championships in 1970 and 1975 and state runner-up finishes in 1978 and 1992. He has coached 19 district champions and 16 region champions.

"I thought I might get it last year," Myers said of a Panther team that went 20-15, before losing in the first round of the sectionals. "But that's how it goes sometimes."

Myers said 700 is "really no different than" 600, 500, 400 and so on.

"It just shows your longevity," said Myers, who won 100 in 1972, No. 200 in 1976, No. 300 in 1979, No. 400 in 1985, No. 500 in 1989 and No. 600 in 1993.

Win No. 700 came the hard way Saturday, as the Panthers rallied for a run in the bottom of the seventh inning to pull out the victory.

In that seventh inning, Corey Yates led off with a single and went to second base on a wild pitch. Yates

■ MYERS See Page 5B

PROOF of
727
WINS
in Career

BY THE NUMBERS WITH RON MYERS

YEAR-BY-YEAR RECORD AT FORT KNOX

1968: 12-12

1969: 24-6

OVERALL RECORD: 36-18

AT ELIZABETHTOWN

1970: 28-9

1971: 21-7

1972: 20-8

1973: 22-3

1974: 33-6

1975: 30-8

1976: 38-3

1977: 30-6

1978: 26-9-1

1979: 24-9

1980: 8-16

1981: 14-13

1982: 15-16-1

1983: 19-11

1984: 20-8

1985: 18-18

1986: 29-5

1987: 25-12

1988: 23-7

1989: 24-7-1

1990: 28-8

1991: 33-8

1992: 27-11

1993: 20-9

1994: 21-14

1995: 14-22

1996: 7-18

1997: 19-12

1998: 20-15

1999: 29-3

OVERALL RECORD: 685-

301-3

YEARS AS A HEAD COACH:

32

THE CHAMPIONSHIP YEARS

DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS (20)

1970, 1971, 1972, 1974,
1975, 1976, 1977, 1978,
1979, 1981, 1983, 1984,
1985, 1986, 1987, 1988,
1990, 1991, 1992, 1999

REGION CHAMPIONSHIPS (17)

1970, 1974, 1975, 1976, 1977,
1978, 1979, 1981, 1983, 1984,
1985, 1987, 1989, 1992, 1994,
1995, 1998

SEMI-STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (5)

1976, 1977, 1978, 1984, 1992

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS (2)

1970, 1975

STATE RUNNER-UP (2)

1978, 1992

Going on 30

E'town's Myers says he'll return

by DAVID RUEHLING
Sports Writer

Ron Myers wasn't about to go out this way. No way, not after nearly 30 years, was Myers, the highly successful Elizabethtown High school baseball coach, going to hang up his stopwatch and his cleats after the first back-to-back losing seasons in a long coaching career.

Especially not after this past season when the Panthers struggled through a miserable 7-8 campaign.

Rumors, which had been hispered for the past couple of seasons, turned up in volume that Myers was, like what he teaches at Elizabethtown, history.

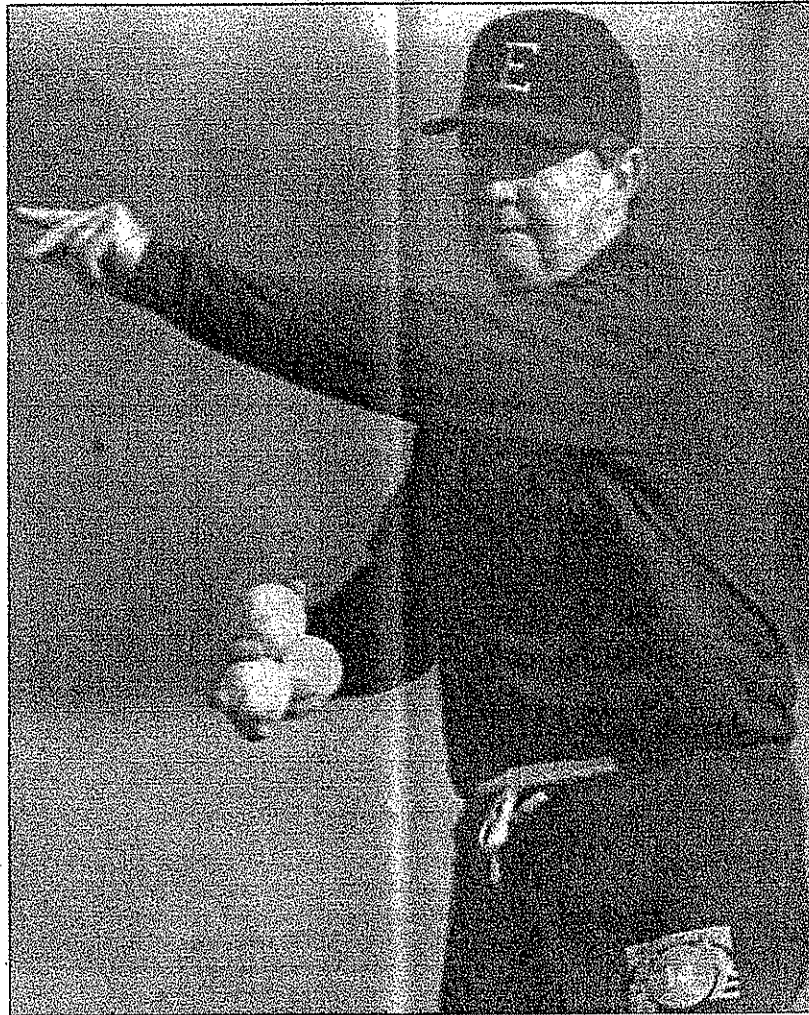
After 27 seasons at Elizabethtown as the top cat, with 10 state championships, two state runners-up, 16 region championships and 653 career wins, Myers would step aside.

He isn't. The losing played a part in the decision, Myers acknowledged, but that's not the overriding factor that will bring him back for his 8th season at Elizabethtown in 1997, and his 30th year overall as head coach.

Myers wants to become a scout for a major league baseball team, and truth be told, he couldn't find position open.

"Yeah, I thought about it," said Myers when asked if he thought about retiring as the Panthers' baseball coach. "It had a lot to do with what I had lined up to do during the year. I didn't get much lined up. I'm going to come back at least one more year.

"The (major league baseball) strike really messed everything up last year," he added. "Teams cut back here and cut back there. It's



N-E/Patti Longmire

just that the timing was bad. I didn't really pursue it as much as I should have and that was because of the strike.

"I would like to be a full-time scout for any organization," Myers said. "I applied to all the teams. All I got in return is that they would put it on file. I've got a few people I'm talking to."

The back-to-back losing seasons didn't drive him to return to Elizabethtown.

"No, not really," Myers said. "I

RON MYERS

would like to go out on a higher note than that, but if I had had a scouting job open, I probably would have gone.

"The program speaks for itself," Myers said. "You're not going to win every year. I would like to go out winning a state championship.

"That's a dream. It probably won't happen like that." ■

RON MYERS YEAR-BY-YEAR	
AT FORT KNOX	
1968:	12-12
1969:	24-6
AT ELIZABETHTOWN	
1970:	28-9
1971:	21-7
1972:	20-8
1973:	22-3
1974:	33-6
1975:	30-8
1976:	38-3
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1986:	29-5
1987:	25-12
1988:	23-7
1989:	24-7-1
1990:	28-8
1991:	33-8
1992:	27-11
1993:	20-9
1994:	21-14
1995:	14-22
1996:	7-18
OVERALL RECORD:	
653-289-3	
DISTRICT TITLES: 20	
REGION TITLES: 16	
SECTIONAL TITLES: 6	
STATE TITLES: 2	

Baseball at E'town High: Tradition, pride and winning

by BOB WAKINS
Sports Editor

After Elizabethtown High won its second state baseball title in 1976 with a club that is still widely considered one of the best high school teams ever, fans might have expected a rebuilding year in 1976. Not so. The tradition was carried on.

The 1976 team won district and region honors again and advanced to the state where it lost to Newport Catholic, 5-4. Final record: 37-4, best

in history.

That club featured excellent hitters including two that Myers still rates among the finest in Panther history—Donnie Thomas and Todd Overton. But again it was the pitching that made the difference behind staff ace Tim Brandenburg who would be drafted by the Kansas City Royals. Steve Kerrick and Matt Knowles provided solid backing.

By 1977 most of the big names were gone from E'town's roster but the nucleus remained and so did the tradition of winning. The team won the district, region and semi-state,

before losing to eventual state champion Lexington Bates Creek, 5-4. Final record: 30-6.

Standout members of the club were Thomas, Kerrick, Overton, Knowles, Richie Hart, catcher Tim Pickerrell and another southpaw pitching ace Scott Fiepke (now with Nashua, the Pirates Class 2-A affiliate in the Eastern League).

The 1978 team was 12-8 in early May, but won 14 in a row down the stretch earning another trip to the state tournament. E'town beat Paintsville, then lost to Lexington Bates Creek again. Final record:

26-9-1.

The club's "big noise" makers were Knowles, Overton, Hart, Fiepke, Farley Brashear, Jim Eifner, Tim Brashear and John Nusz, among others.

The 1979 club was, in many ways, a mirror-image of the '78 team. A late season rush—11 straight wins—carried E'town to the semi-state where the Panthers lost to Louisville Durrett, 4-3. Standouts were Fiepke, Pirates that summer, David Davis, Knowles and Joe Pre-witt.

Footnote. In 1976, '77 and '79, E'town made it to the state and then was eliminated in three one-run games. In '76 to Newport Catholic, 5-4; in '77 to Bates Creek, 5-4; and in '79 to Durrett, 4-3.

The 1980 E'town team earned the infamy of producing the poorest win-loss record in a quarter century at 8-16. Said coach Myers, "We were ahead through five innings of 22 games that year and wound up losing about 14 of them. There were a lot of one-run games."

Teaching more than 'think fastball'

By DON BRADLEY
Sports Writer

Ron Myers is not one to look back and yearn for what might have been.

But entering his 20th season as head baseball coach at Elizabethtown High School today, Myers' thoughts still return occasionally to the spring of 1958.

A freshman outfielder at Western Kentucky University that year, Myers signed a contract with the Detroit Tigers and reported to spring training in Florida.

"I went down there with the philosophy that if I didn't make it, then I was going to get as much out of the experience as I possibly could," Myers said. "It was a tremendous experience. My gosh, it was just like being in heaven for me.

"Baseball, baseball, baseball. You just went from seven o'clock in the morning to six o'clock at night. It was fantastic and I loved every minute of it."

For a freckle-faced youngster from E'town, spring training with the Detroit Tigers was a dream come true.

"I met Al Kaline, Harvey Keuhn and all the guys," Myers said. "I remember they had a documentary film where they would have a Major Leaguer come in and do something, and then a minor leaguer would come behind him and do the same thing. I remember Al Kaline fielding a ground ball and throwing it, and then I came along behind him and I fielded a ground ball and threw it. It was a tremendous experience."

Myers was a young left-handed outfielder at the time. After hitting .489 his junior year and .466 as a senior at Elizabethtown High, Myers drew the attention of Tigers' scout Woody Blackburn.

"It's hard to believe now, but I had a lot of speed and a real strong throwing arm back then," said Myers, who will turn 50 on Tuesday. "I threw left handed and batted right, and I think that hurt me. They tried to make me a switch hitter.

"I did everything wrong," Myers remembered. "I gripped the bat wrong, I overstrided and I used a big old long bat to compensate for that. I did all those things because I had never been taught different, and because I had been successful at it. I hit .367 in college and I probably could have hit .420 if somebody had worked with me.

"I had two high school coaches and one in college and the only coaching tip I ever

DISTRICT TOURNEY BASEBALL HISTORY

Results of the 17th District baseball tournament championship since Ron Myers came to Elizabethtown in 1970.

Year	Winner	Run-up	Score
1988	E'town	North Hardin	27-6
1987	E'town	North Hardin	8-2
1986	E'town	East Hardin	5-1
1985	E'town	North Hardin	9-5
1984	E'town	North Hardin	6-4
1983	E'town	North Hardin	8-3
1982	North Hardin	Fort Knox	12-0
1981	E'town	West Hardin	10-1
1980	Meade Co.	North Hardin	8-2
1979	E'town	Meade Co.	3-0
1978	E'town	West Hardin	7-2
1977	E'town	North Hardin	4-3
1976	E'town	North Hardin	11-0
1975	E'town	East Hardin	9-3
1974	E'town	East Hardin	28-2
1973	North Hardin	Fort Knox	4-2
1972	E'town	North Hardin	2-1
1971	E'town	North Hardin	5-0
1970	E'town	West Hardin	5-1

got was from my high school coach Jim Pickens. He told me to always think fastball. He said you can always adjust to a curveball, but you can't adjust to the fastball if you're thinking curve. That's the only coaching I ever got."

During this, the most exciting time of Myers' life, a personal tragedy intruded and perhaps changed the course of his life.

"I had been down there about five weeks and my grandmother died," Myers said. "I was very close to both my grandmothers, so I came home to attend the funeral. I missed three days of practice, and when I came back I had been moved down the list. I don't know if that had anything to do with it, but in my mind it did.

"That next year, I met Blackburn at Murray where he was scouting some players," Myers said. "He told me, 'I really thought you had all the tools to make it. I fought for you and fought for you and fought for you, but they just didn't want to give you any more opportunities. I really thought you had it all.'"

After his release by the Tigers, Myers returned to Western where he played "probably illegally" for three seasons. If he had it to do over, he would have taken a different course.

"I made a big mistake," Myers said.

"When they released me, I could have gone anywhere I wanted to. The Louisville Colonels were right down the road about 30 miles. In 1958, they didn't have a major league affiliate and they were looking for ball players and I got on a stinking bus and came home. ... I guess I was just so disappointed in not making the Tigers. It was a dream I had and the dream was shattered. My grandmother's death was still on my mind, but I could kick myself now for even coming home for her funeral. I really do, because there was nothing that I could do for her and everybody knew how much I loved her.

"My career was on the line, and I really think that trip home had a lot to do with my not making it."

After graduation from Western, Myers took a teaching position at Fort Knox and his baseball coaching career began. After serving as an assistant for two seasons, Myers took over as head coach in 1968. After two seasons and a 36-16 record, Myers returned to his alma mater in 1970 and immediately guided Elizabethtown to a state championship.

The rest, as they say, is history.

Myers has collected 441 wins against 172 losses, a 71.9 winning percentage, at Elizabethtown. There are 16 district titles, 11 region titles, four semi-state and two state championships to his credit.

Jack Dupin was a third baseman on the 1970 team. He remembers Myers as a teacher as well as a coach.

"I learned everything I know about baseball from him," Dupin said. "He has the desire to win, he knows the game and he loves it. He gives his players a sense of responsibility. He didn't tell you the same thing over and over. He said, 'You know what you've got to do. I'll help you learn to do it. They it's up to you to get it done.' I think that has a lot to do with his success."

As the distance between himself and that magic spring in 1958 widens, Myers believes that he has done the next best thing with his life, coaching the game he loves and teaching English at E'town.

"I enjoy coaching and I enjoy teaching," Myers said. "As coaches, we have an opportunity to do something that other teachers don't have. We have the opportunity to get very close to a group of people. I really can't visualize myself not being a baseball coach. I can't visualize not being in a classroom. I can't visualize myself sitting in the stands here at Panther Field and watching somebody else coach the E'town High baseball team."

E'town ends district drought

Panthers hold off North in final, 6-5

By MARTIN HEPNER
Sports Writer

BRANDENBURG — Blake Bramblett is someone who doesn't mind bypassing the frying pan and leaping right into the fire. That was the perilous situation facing the sophomore pitcher Wednesday in the 17th District Tournament baseball championship game at Meade Olin Park. Bases loaded, no outs with North Hardin trailing 6-4 after knocking out starter David B. Hughes.

"That's a lot of pressure for a young underclassman like me," Bramblett said. "But I was pumped. I really didn't have time to be nervous. I had to throw strikes."

And he did, needing just two pitches to record three outs and douse the fire to help give the Panthers a 6-5 victory and their first tournament title since 1992.

"Blake stepped up in the clutch," said Hughes, who struggled through his worst game of the season. "We needed something positive and he made it happen."

Bramblett also got help from his defense and the Trojans' aggressiveness to push across the tying run.

The fireworks started when Hughes walked Gerron McKnight to lead off the inning. Kyle Johnston rapped a 1-2 pitch to center and the bases were loaded when shortstop Nick Whobrey failed to field Harley Tucker's high-hopper over the mound.

The decisive at-bat for Hughes came against Jacob Fogle. Hughes appeared to throw three straight waist high fastballs, but each was called a ball. Frustrated by not getting a strike, Hughes' fourth pitch was low and outside, as he walked Fogle to core McKnight and make it 6-3.

"I was trying to paint the outside corner. North is such a good hitting team but I didn't want to give them a fat part of the plate," Hughes said. "Unfortunately, I didn't get the calls and that shook my confidence."

So much so, Hughes was nowhere near the plate against the next batter, walking Garrett Kizinkiewicz on four pitches to see Johnston.

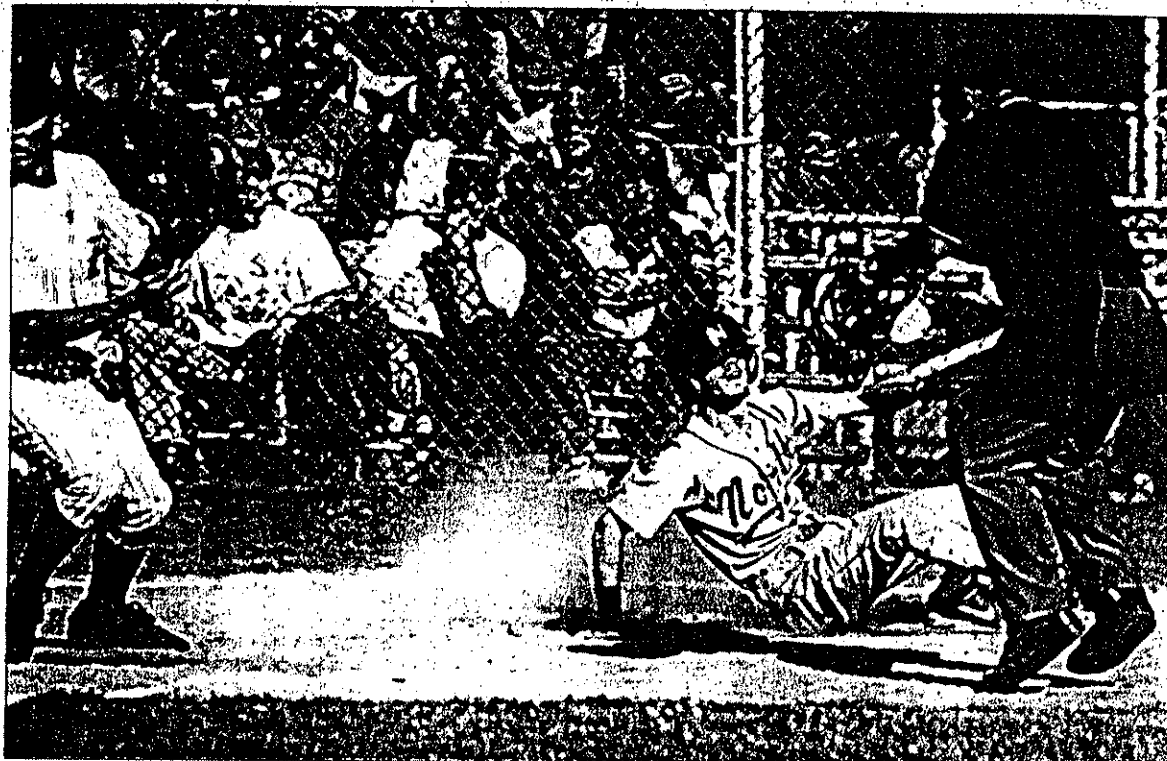
On came Bramblett, facing the biggest situation of his young varsity career despite having six victories in six starts this year.

"It helped that I pitched last night," said Bramblett, who struck out the side in the seventh inning of Tuesday's 4-0 final victory over Meade County. "And I didn't want to lose it for the seniors and the rest of the team."

Bramblett did nothing fancy, zipping in a fastball.

The first was Ryan Wheeler, as he moved to second baseman Corey Yates, who fielded and fired to second to get Kizinkiewicz. Whobrey tried to double up Wheeler, but the throw was high to first baseman Adam Wyatt.

On the play, North Hardin coach Greg



N-E/Joyce Burden
Above, North Hardin's Andy Bell is called out at the plate as Elizabethtown pitcher David Hughes made the tag. At right, Brandon Quick gets back to first base as North first baseman Kyle Johnston waits for the ball.

5TH REGION FIELD
The field for next week's 5th Region Tournament at Hart County High School.

- 17TH DISTRICT:** Elizabethtown (W), North Hardin (RU)
- 18TH DISTRICT:** LaRue County (W), Green County (RU)
- 19TH DISTRICT:** Washington County (W), Nelson County (RU)
- 20TH DISTRICT:** Campbellsville, Adair County

Campbellsville and Adair County played in the 20th District Tournament final Wednesday night.
W-indicates tournament winner.
RU-indicates tournament runner-up.



Gumm waved Fogle home. Wyatt recovered quickly and threw a strike to catcher Steven Brandenburg.

The meeting at the plate was instantaneous, as Fogle slid head first and Brandenburg turned and dove at the target.

The park went silent as the dust filled the air. When it cleared, Brandenburg showed the ball in his glove and the umpire nailed Fogle with an emphatic out sign.

■ E'TOWN See Page 6B

Meade topples North to win district crown

SPORTS

Regional Champs 3 WINS 1999

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BY JEFF C.

5TH REGION BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

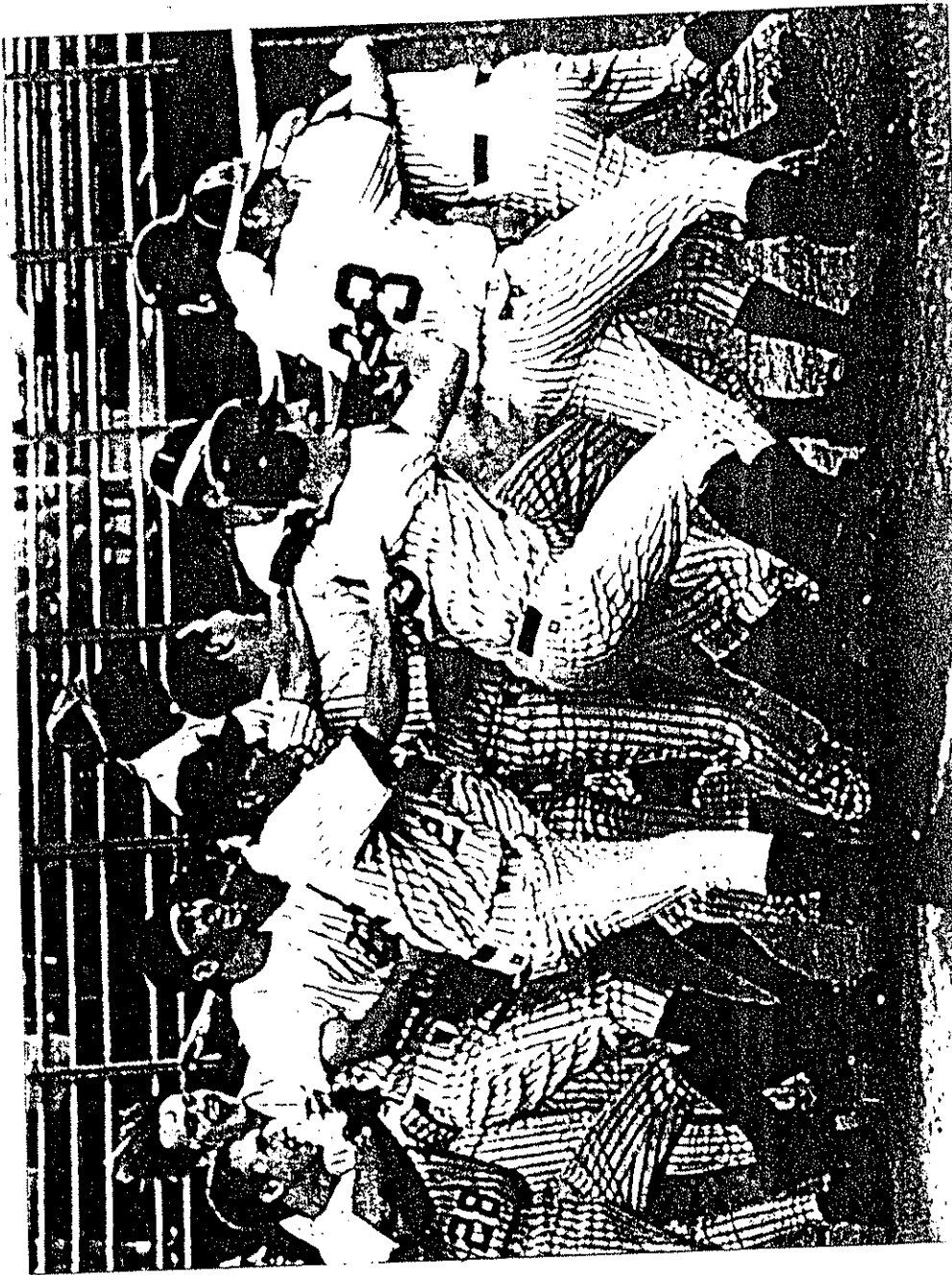
Panthers prevail, 6-5

E'town knocks off LaRue for region title

BY MARTIN HEPNER

It was a close, hard-fought game, but the Panthers of E'town prevailed over LaRue of LaRue in the final game of the 5th Region Baseball Tournament on Wednesday night.

The Panthers, coached by Coach [Name], won the game 6-5. The game was played at [Location]. The Panthers scored runs in the [Inning] and [Inning] innings. LaRue scored runs in the [Inning] and [Inning] innings. The game was a pitchers' duel between [Pitcher Name] and [Pitcher Name].



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1- Won Sem. State 1999

One down, three to go

Panthers stay in state title hunt by beating Ballard

BY MARTIN HEPNER
Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE — Ron Myers hasn't won more than 700 games and become a Hall of Fame coach without expounding some wisdom over his 30-plus years.

With Elizabethtown's season hanging in the balance Wednesday night in the Section II tournament, a sprinkling of that wisdom rubbed off on the Panthers.

"Follow a mistake with an out," Myers said at the Pleasure Ridge Park High School field. "I've always preached to follow a mistake with an out."

In Elizabethtown's case, it was following a positive with a negative. And those positives added up to a 3-2 victory over Louisville Ballard and put the Panthers into today's 7 p.m. title game with PRP.

"We never let the mistakes get to us," said Panther pitcher Mark Galvin, who tossed one of his finest games of the season. "It seemed like somebody was always there to make something good happen."

The examples are numerous, starting with a team mental error in the second inning that allowed Ballard's first run to score.

■ There was second baseman Corey Yates and first baseman Adam Wyatt making terrific plays on tricky ground balls for key outs.

■ There was Steven Brandenburg catching a terrific game and throwing out two base stealers in a pressure-packed game.

■ There was David B. Hughes, sprinting far into right-center field from shortstop to snag the game's final out on the dead run.

■ And there was Galvin, who was masterful on the mound and at the plate.

"I take my hat off to him (Galvin)," said Ballard pitcher Mike Gardner, who pitched a solid game but took the loss with three unearned runs. "It may look like we beat ourselves with the errors, but he beat us tonight."

The Bruins' pivotal errors came in the third inning

■ ETOWN See Page 3B



"Then they play like killers. You're playing their game instead of your own and you're beaten."

That mind game is called a guilt trip.

"Then there's the 'I Don't Care,' techni-

"What McEnroe is doing is pumping himself up. A certain amount of agitation can be helpful for some people.

More is being learned all the time on this subject, Golden said. "This research is just beginning." ■

Panthers counting on experience, tradition in state tournament

1984

By DARRELL BIRD
Assistant Sports Editor

Elizabethtown High's baseball Panthers will be looking to a pair of intangibles for an edge against East Carter in Thursday's State Tournament game at Paintsville.

Some might call it, "The Mind Game."

First, this is East Carter's first trip to a state tournament in any sport since the school was formed 13 years ago.

"Maybe they'll be awed by it all," E'town coach Ron Myers said. "I'll take anything I can get right now.

"But I don't think our kids will be taken aback," he added. "If they were going to be overwhelmed they would've been against a Southern team that beat us twice. But they wouldn't hear of it."

Second, Elizabethtown is tradition-rich in baseball. It has a reputation that reaches as far as the mountains of eastern Kentucky where East Carter coach J.P. Koons praised his opponent.

"When you are this far along you don't really know much about who you are playing," Koons said Tuesday. "But we've heard of E'town and it's baseball tradition. And we know about (Tony) Compton, the pitcher, and the (Jamie) Fiepke kid."

E'town High was baseball state champion in 1970 and 1975. The Panthers have won four Semi-State, nine Region and 12 District crowns in 15 years.

All of this, Myers is hoping, will give the Hub City team an advantage before a pitch is thrown Thursday. If it does not then Plan II surely will. That has to do with surviving the tough Semi-State last week.

"A lot of times the State is easier than our Semi-State because of those tough Louisville teams," Myers said, explaining his team's approach to the hoopla of a State Tournament

For the record

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH BASEBALL

Since 1970, when Ron Myers took over as coach at Elizabethtown High, the Panthers have won 73 percent of their games (346-129-3), including 12 District and nine Region crowns in 15 years. Elizabethtown has been to Semi-State play six times and to the State tournament seven times.

State champions

1970—def. Tighman 6-2

1975—def. Somerset 9-2

Semi-State champions

1976—def. St. Xavier 5-2

1977—def. Iroquois 3-1

1978—def. Bowling Green 10-9

1984—def. Southern 10-9 12 Inn.

Region champions

1970—def. Auburn 4-0

1974—def. Metcalfe County 3-2

1975—def. Campbellsville 5-0

1976—def. Green County 1-0

1977—def. Taylor County 2-0

1978—def. North Bullitt 11-3

1979—def. North Bullitt 9-0

1983—def. LaRue County 7-2

1984—def. North Hardin 4-3

District champions

1970—def. West Hardin 5-1

1971—def. North Hardin 5-0

1972—def. North Hardin 2-1

1974—def. East Hardin 28-2

1975—def. East Hardin 9-3

1976—def. North Hardin 11-0

1977—def. North Hardin 4-3

1978—def. West Hardin 7-2

1979—def. Meade County 3-0

1981—def. West Hardin 10-1

1983—def. North Hardin 8-3

1984—def. North Hardin 6-4

finals. But this is the first time we've ever been this far. So you can imagine we're pretty tickled about it.

"There's a lot of enthusiasm in the school and the community," he added. "And it's being played more or less in our backdoor over at Paintsville. That's about 30 to 40 miles away."

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■ From Page 1B

the people who win games, his presence made a huge impact on this year's squad.

David B. Hughes, who was named The News-Enterprise Player of the Year, called Myers "a main driving force" for this season.

"We want a state championship bad, of course, but it would mean even more to get it for coach Myers," said Hughes, a junior pitcher/shortstop for the Panthers. "He won a state championship the first year he coached here. It would be special give him another one in his last year."

With players like Hughes surrounding Myers, that could be a possibility.

Hughes was but one of the many key components of Elizabethtown's regular-season success. But it is hard to argue that his all-around production game in and game out made him one of the standout players in the area.

At the plate, Hughes caught fire over his final 15 games. In that span, he hit .553 (26-of-47), which included 13 of his team-high 20 doubles and two home runs. He had 16 of his 24 RBIs and scored 24 runs, while striking out just once.

Hughes finished the regular season batting .500 (46-of-92) and added 12 stolen bases.

On the mound, he posted a 5-1 record with a no-hitter at Southern. In 46 innings, he had a 0.30 earned run average. Over his first 31 innings in six-plus games, Hughes didn't surrender an earned run.

He finished with 72 strikeouts and only 12 walks. Opponents hit just .153 against Hughes.

"It a great honor because there were so many great players out there," Hughes said. "It was a real competitive year. I can see a lot of players who could have easily won it."

Myers said Hughes is deserving of the award.

"He is such a positive influence on this team," Myers said. "And it isn't always with his bat or arm."

Another positive influence this season was North Hardin's Gerron McKnight, who was named The News-Enterprise Sophomore of the Year.

McKnight was one of the key players for a young Trojan team that finished the regular season 17-16 and second in the 17th District.

The left-fielder led the team with a .400 batting average, collecting 40 hits in 100 at-bats. He had 10 doubles, three home runs and two triples in those totals.

McKnight was tied for the team lead in runs scored with 27 and was second in RBIs with 23.

In the field, he produced a .897 fielding average with 23 putouts, three assists and three errors. ■

The News-Enterprise

1999 ALL-AREA BASEBALL TEAM

Selected by the sports staff of The News-Enterprise. Voting based on regular season only. ALL TIES ARE HONORED.

DAVID B. HUGHES, ELIZABETHTOWN, JR.
ERIC ALLEN, LARUE COUNTY, JUNIOR
JAKE BRAMBLETT, ELIZABETHTOWN, SR.
MARK GALVIN, ELIZABETHTOWN, JUNIOR
GERRON MCKNIGHT, NORTH HARDIN, SO.
JIMMY SHAW, LARUE COUNTY, SENIOR
TUCKER MCEWEN, CENTRAL HARDIN, SR.
DEREK SHELTON, LARUE COUNTY, JUNIOR
BRANDON QUICK, ELIZABETHTOWN, SENIOR
CARL BAKER, NORTH HARDIN, JUNIOR
CHASE CRUSE, CENTRAL HARDIN, JUNIOR
KYLE JOHNSTON, NORTH HARDIN, JUNIOR
ADAM WYATT, ELIZABETHTOWN, SENIOR
CORY ENGLE, LARUE COUNTY, JUNIOR
BEN COTTRELL, CENTRAL HARDIN, SOPH.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

DAVID B. HUGHES, ELIZABETHTOWN, JR.

SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

GERRON MCKNIGHT, NORTH HARDIN

COACH OF THE YEAR

RON MYERS, ELIZABETHTOWN

HONORABLE MENTION

CENTRAL HARDIN: Kyle Lewis.
ELIZABETHTOWN: Blake Bramblett, Steven Brandenburg, Corey Yates.
FORT KNOX: Wilfredo Rivera, Zach Stone.
LARUE COUNTY: Jack LaRue, Curtis McCubbin, Brad Toohey.
MEADE COUNTY: Levi Adkisson
NORTH HARDIN: Andy Bell, Jacob Fogle, Demontre Robinson.

The News-Enterprise

1999 ALL-AREA SOFTBALL TEAM

Selected by the sports staff of The News-Enterprise. Voting based on regular season only. ALL TIES ARE HONORED.

AMANDA EASTRIDGE, JR.
ALEXIS RANKEY, NORTH HARDIN
JULIE RIGGS, LARUE COUNTY
AMANDA HOBSON, NORTH HARDIN
CASSY BURNETT, MEADE COUNTY
PAM WALTERS, ELIZABETHTOWN
REBECCA BLOOMER, CENTRAL HARDIN
MARY RAMSEY, LARUE COUNTY
TESSA BROWN, ELIZABETHTOWN
CARRISA MCCOY, MEADE COUNTY
LISA PICKERELL, ELIZABETHTOWN
CHEREAL WIMPEE, LARUE COUNTY
CAROL RICHARDSON, NORTH HARDIN
HAYLEY YOUSOUF, NORTH HARDIN
LAURA MENCHACA, FORT KNOX
SARAH JONES, MEADE COUNTY
SARAH MURRAY, NORTH HARDIN

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

AMANDA EASTRIDGE, JR.

CO-SOPHOMORES

PAM WALTERS, ELIZABETHTOWN; HAYLEY YOUSOUF, NORTH HARDIN

COACH OF THE YEAR

PETER DISTEFANO, LARUE COUNTY

HONORABLE MENTION

CENTRAL HARDIN: Kelly Amanda Peters.
ELIZABETHTOWN: LaToya Rightmyer.
LARUE COUNTY: Morgan Routt.
MEADE COUNTY: Kelly G.
NORTH HARDIN: Leslie H.

State baseball Hall of Fame inducts Myers

By TODD GARVIN
Sports Writer

The inaugural class into the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame was inducted recently, and veteran Elizabethtown coach Ron Myers was among the inductees.

Myers, preparing to enter his 29th season at the high school, has two state titles and two runner-up finishes to his credit and was among the first members of the KHSBCA.

To be considered for induction, a coach must have at least 300 wins and 10 years of coaching, numbers easily reached by Myers, who was more than honored with his induction.

"It's a very good honor to be recognized by your peers and being a part of the inaugural group makes it more special," Myers said. "I'm in very good company because they're some very successful coaches. It's quite an honor."

Myers began his career at Elizabethtown in 1970, winning

the state championship his first season. The Panthers claimed the title again in 1975 and have a rich history among district teams.

While one might think the championship teams were his favorite, Myers insists that each squad holds a special place in his heart.

"Every team had its own personality and standout moments," he said. "I'm just proud to be part of making baseball an important sport instead of something you just played after basketball. That's what is important to me."

Another highlight of Myers' career, according to him, is the players who have been able to further their education or even make a career by playing baseball.

"It's hard to point your finger at one player but we have had over 60 go to college and five people drafted," Myers said. "These are the highlights of coaching. Prolonging someone's education or giving them a career is really what

■ MYERS See Page 2B

Jan. 1998 Myers

■ From Page 1B

all coaches are working for." Myers was quick to point out, however, that none of this would be possible without his players and the school, two things that he is very thankful for, and insists that it is their honor as well.

"It's a very big honor not only for me, but for the school," he said. "Without the school, there would be no job."

"I would like to thank all the players from the beginning to the present, because a coach is only as good as his players. All of them are special to me and I've enjoyed being around them."

"I guess if I hadn't I wouldn't have been around so long, and I'm really looking forward to starting this 29th season." ■

For the best in local sports coverage read The News-Enterprise

JUNE 1, 1992

The News-Enterprise

All-Area Baseball Team

Selected by The News-Enterprise's 4-person sports staff. Teams chosen at conclusion of regular season. Top 15 selected. Ties honored.

PLAYER	SCHOOL
Ryan Wheeler	Elizabethtown
Chip Davis	Elizabethtown
Jeff Lowman	North Hardin
Chad Ferry	Meade County
Bryan Lewis	Central Hardin
Andy Bennett	LaRue County
Chris Williams	Central Hardin
Todd Thompson	Elizabethtown
Clint Carrington	LaRue County
Josh Thompson	Meade County
Chris Daniel	North Hardin
Myong Kim	North Hardin
Jerry Sherrard	Elizabethtown
Gregg Carter	LaRue County
James Franklin	LaRue County
Johnny Hardesty	Meade County
Mike Hannah	Elizabethtown

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

RYAN WHEELER, E town, Shortstop

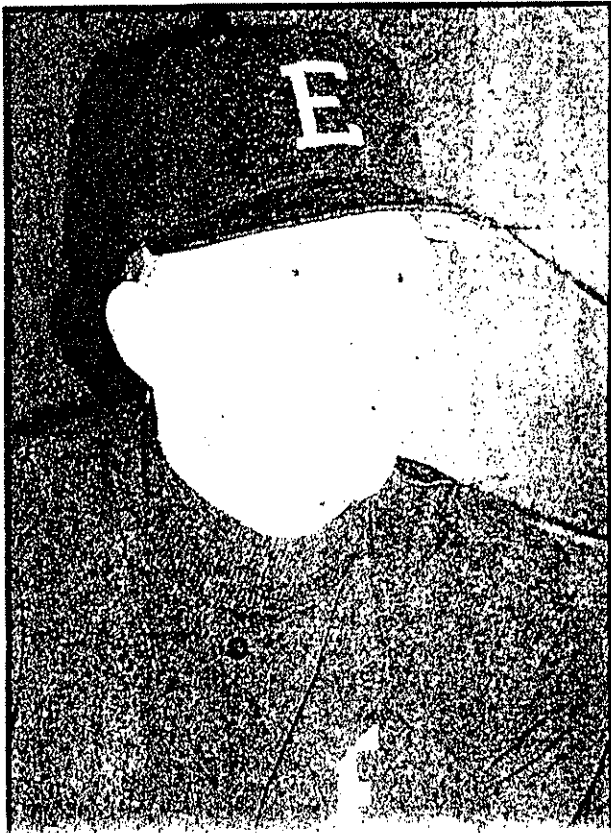
COACH OF THE YEAR

RON MYERS, Elizabethtown High

SOPHOMORE OF THE YEAR

CHIP DAVIS, E town, DH/Catcher

HONORABLE MENTION



Passion for game has kept Myers successful

Maybe it's just that Ron Myers loves winning baseball games.

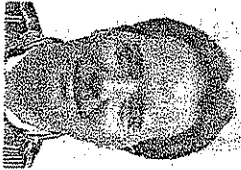
Maybe the glare or the head shaking he gives his own hitters when they fail to catch up to a fastball or can't lay off a breaking pitch out of the strike zone, is just a reflection of the high expectations placed upon his program every year.

There's a simple motto: To be the best you have to expect to be the best.

Looking for a program to emulate, don't look past the last 30 years of baseball at Elizabethtown High School.

Myers started his coaching career at Elizabethtown with a state championship and he's hoping to close it the same way.

Talk about a storybook ending to a career: The coach who has won over 721 games is carried off the field in mid-June with a state championship trophy in his grasp in his final game in Panther pinstripes.



JEFF D'ALESSIO
Sports Editor

The thought has certainly crossed the mind of the 60-year-old Myers.

He has been overly demanding at times and understanding at others in his long stint in the Panther dugout.

"I don't know if some see it, but I've mellowed over the years," he says as the end of his coaching career moves closer with every day. "I used to be a lot worse than I am now. I just expect a lot out of our players and I think that has made us a good program over the years."

He gets the burning passion to be good honestly.

As a child growing up, he'd come home from a game and tell his grandfather, Howard Lee Milby, how he had three hits in four at-bats.

Without hesitation, his grandfather would respond.

"He'd ask me why I didn't go 4-for-4," Myers said smiling. "That's the way he was. I guess a lot of the way I am goes back to my grandfather."

"I know we're not going to be perfect," Myers says, "but we're going to keep trying to get there. You should just never short change yourself."

Over the years, Myers has built a Panther program that has been a model of efficiency.

While many teams struggle to post a winning season, it is rare at Elizabethtown when the winning season doesn't have at least 20 wins or a region championship attached to it.

In his 30 years, only three teams had losing records and 22 of them won at least 20 games and there have been 17 region titles.

Maybe this success explains why opponents take such great satisfaction when they can beat Elizabethtown because they know they have beaten one of the best programs in the state.

But it has been the few failures that have placed life as a baseball coach in perspective.

"Sometimes you learn more about yourself and your program and your players from the losing seasons," says the man who has won two state titles. "Losing is tough, but it can also open your eyes."

For as long as he can remember, baseball has been his constant companion.

He graduated from Elizabethtown

MYERS See Page 8B

Myers

From Page 1B

High School in 1957, long before some of the parents of his players of today were even born.

He signed a contract with the Detroit Tigers as an outfielder, but was cut.

Shortly after he arrived in camp, his grandmother died.

He came home for the funeral, went back to camp and suddenly, the dream that started when he was a child, was over.

"When I was released, they told

me I could tryout for other teams," Myers says. "Crazy me, I didn't do it. I was really lost. I got on a bus and I came home."

Still, there was never any doubt that baseball would stay with him.

If he couldn't play, coaching was the next best thing and there was no more special a place to coach than at his alma mater.

"It has been very special to me," he says.

He has been a driven man doing what he loves to do best.

Even in retirement, it is baseball that will occupy his time. He's a partner in a baseball facility on Commerce Drive called

the Players Dugout that hasn't opened.

"I cannot just retire," he says. "I'm a person who needs to always be doing something."

Now the end of a coaching career that has spanned four decades is close.

"In a lot of ways it just looks like it's all flashed by," Myers said. "Then you go back and you think of 1970 or your first head coaching job (at Fort Knox) and it does seem like a long time ago. It's just all meant a great deal to me to be able to do what I've been able to do all these years." ■



...to perfection
...that I would never get there, but
...something to strive for.

Q: Now that your coaching career is almost over, does it seem like your first game was not all that bad?

A: In a lot of ways it just looks like it's all flashed then you go back and you think of 1970 or your first coaching job at Fort Knox, it does seem like a long time ago.

Q: The first year you go back to your alma mater and you win the state championship, that had to be a big thrill.

A: They were a team that was kind of hard to get a control with. Whenever you take over a team and you've got seniors and people have been playing two or three years under a different head coach, you have to establish that control. I think I was fortunate to have had a lot of help from the coaches we served. I was an assistant coach. They knew that situation and something else that helped me was I had several of the players in class. I've always taught senior English. They knew what type of person I was.

Q: We went down to Greensburg (for the regional) and we weren't focused at all. I said guys if you're not careful you're going to get beat. Donnie Walters said, "Coach, we've got it all together. We look out there in the seventh and we're down 7-2. We're batting in the top of the seventh and we end up tying the ballgame. We go 12 and Glenn Petersen goes the distance and we win it. I think that was the turnaround. After that, we weren't really touched. I was sitting in the dugout and already thinking of telling them, 'Well, we've had a good season and we have some juniors coming back.' And then they start hitting the ball, and there's an error made, and another hit and they start coming back. It's ironic because Donnie got the base hit to tie the ballgame."

Q: You have a pretty good team coming next year. Why leave now?

A: It's a good time for me. This indoor baseball/softball facility that I want to open, the opportunity is there... I thought I'd get out of teaching and still coach and the principal had also suggested that. Then I thought, well, know, if I had a bad team coming back would I do that and the answer would be no. So,

N-FLOYDE PUGHEN

Q: Did that season teach you that the best teams don't always win the state championship?

A: Absolutely. A break here and a right draw there can mean a lot.

Q: You've had a lot of great players over the years, is there one that stands out as the best?

A: I guess you would have to say Mark Bradley. As a position player, drafted in the first round by the Dodgers and he made it all the way. He could do it all. Pitcher-wise, we had three. Ernie Lewis was one of them. Tim Brandenburg and then Scott Fiepke. And Brandenburg and Fiepke were also drafted and Lewis would have been but he went to Kentucky.

Q: Your biggest thrill at Etown?

A: That's hard to say. That first year at Etown, I had never really played on any kind of big championship team... Always seemed to be denied that opportunity and then it came and that was big. The players are another big thing. There's so many you can't name them all. I always try to build my teams around seniors.

Q: Worst time as a head coach?

A: '76 was a disappointment. Some teams that had some expectations and we had placed some expectations on them and we didn't even come close to those expectations. There haven't been many disappointments.

Q: The biggest difference between players today and when you started as a head coach?

A: I don't think today's athlete, and it's not just baseball players, really knows as much about the sport that they're playing.

Q: Is winning the only lesson that can be taught in sports?

A: It's not the end with the victory, but the progression to the win. The friendships that are made and the lessons. Sports are a great lesson teacher... Our society puts too much emphasis on winning. Not that it's not important. I'd rather be 293 than 3-29. I can tell you that right now, but it's not the whole thing.

Q: The perfect ending to this season would be....?

A: A state championship. We established that goal very early. I think these kids will give a great effort to reach that.

RON MYERS

All-Pak 7 baseball team should be stand

Pak 7 Conference baseball coaches met Friday to discuss, persuade and vote for the second annual all-conference baseball team.

Congratulations to the young men listed here. There were some difficult choices to close votes. Coaches voted for players at their respective positions on a 14-14-14 basis as top vote-getters made first team.

Some examples: At shortstop, Jeff Hawkins of E-town beat out Doug Mettling by one point, 27-26, at second base, East Hardin's David Compton edged E-town's Joe Schumuck by two points, 23-25.

At third base, Trent Evans of LaRue County 25, Tommy Hulsey of East Hardin, 26, designated hitter, Steve Skaggs of LaRue 26, Mark West of West Hardin 25. The one unanimous selection was first team pitcher—E-town's Thad Elmore.

Permit me to add a postscript to that one. I like to believe the late Jimmy Elmore was up there watching his kid this spring.

Individual honors: Player of the Year, T.J. Skaggs of East Hardin. Sophomores of the Year Mark West of West Hardin and Jamie Skayton of LaRue County, and

The ongrowth of the coaches' efforts manifests itself in a number of ways.

■ First, the youngsters listed above own the satisfaction of having received recognition for their dedication to playing well. ■ Second, it is conceivable that one or more of the honorees will get the attention of a college coach, perhaps even a professional baseball scout, as a result of making all-conference.

Former Major League pitcher Doug Flynn told Sports and a few months ago that a new professional league is being formed in the Kentucky-Ohio-Indiana area expressly for ex-high school players who may not be quite physically mature yet to play at the college level, or might not be good enough at this point in their lives to be drafted by a professional team.

Two players I can think of who started their trek to the big leagues by way of a college team and subsequent tryout are Ken Griffey of the Atlanta Braves and Eric Davis of the Cincinnati Reds.

I might have all started with the high school team, making an all-conference team.

■ And third, whatever happens or does not happen with the players listed here, making the all-league team, being chosen



Bob Watkins
Sports editor

E-town's Bob Myers as Coach of the Year. Skaggs was co-MVP last spring with E-town's Chad Clark. The criteria here was based on the total contribution a player made to his team's success.

The gratifying thing about all this—and I sincerely hope that fans and players realize it—is that the coaches got together, took time to discuss theirs and other players' skills, sportsmanship, attitudes, dedication to academics, things that matter. Then they did something special for prep baseball in Kentucky: showcased the best in the league.

Instead of sitting back and grumbling about the lack of attention given their sport, like some coaches have done, the Pak 7 Conference baseball coaches are doing something to try and elevate their sport.

and for other conferences

PLAYER OF THE YEAR - JIM SIGOURT (East Hardin)
SCHOOLBOY OF THE YEAR (HAWK) (West Hardin)
SCHOOLBOY OF THE YEAR (MAYNARD) (Leflore County)
COACH OF THE YEAR (MAYNARD) (Leflore County)

by the coaches, is special, according to the coaches as the years go by.

In a broader sense, I believe the Pak 7 coaches should be commended for caring enough to acknowledge these young men. To my knowledge, nowhere else in Kentucky is an all-conference team selected in baseball.

Once more, local baseball has something special, a model for other areas to take a look at, consider adopting to upgrade interest in baseball in other communities.

Certainly getting an idea off the ground making it work takes the kind of caring that Pak 7 coaches have demonstrated here.

How hard is it to make something a reality?

An example: In conjunction with the weekly statewide night school baseball poll the last two springs, coaches around the

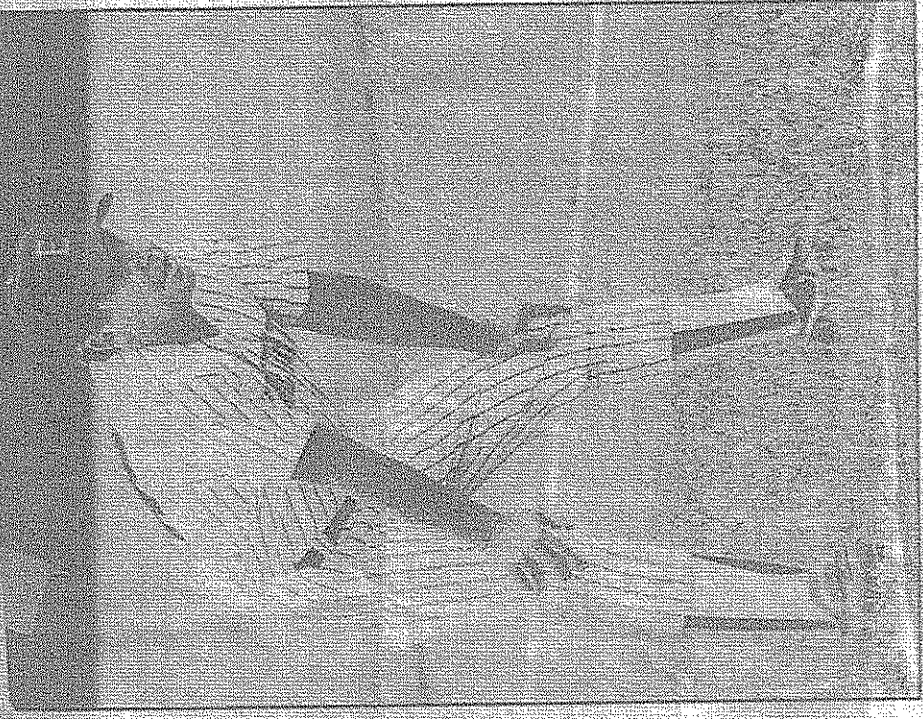
state have been selected to participate in selecting an all-state team.

A few coaches have responded enthusiastically. Larry Conrad at Bourbon County, Bill Wayne at Henderson County, Sam Ray, Sr. at Glasgow, Terry Yates at Mercer County, Bob Trifure of Lexington, Henry Clay, Bob Hancock of Owensboro, Apollo, Jack Hamilton at Ashland, Paul Blazer, Rich Kovel at Louisville Trinity, John Finn at Simon Kenton, Russ Van Zant at East Hardin.

Maybe coaches in the Pak 7 Conference have started something, a move in the right direction toward helping high school baseball in a state known for its basketball and in some areas, football.

Stay tuned. Meanwhile, congratulations to all the young men on this year's Pak 7 all-conference team. And so it goes.

Sunday, May 17, 1987



Coach Ron Myers has been voted Pak 7 Coach of the Year

145/Steve Eaton



National High School Athletic Coaches Association

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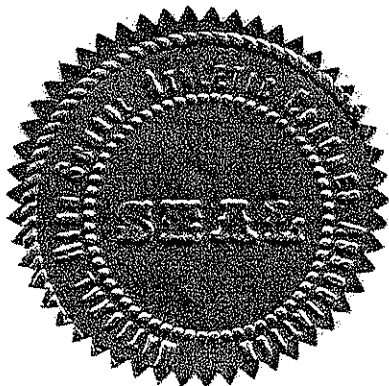
Ronald J. Myers

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

is a nominee for

National High School
Baseball
Coach of the Year

*This nomination is in recognition of his
over-all coaching record, professional honors
and contribution to the sport.*



Date JUNE, 1984

Edward Rantz

PRESIDENT

Carey E. Wood

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



National High School Athletic Coaches Association

This Certifies that

Ronald J. Myers

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL - ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

is a nominee for

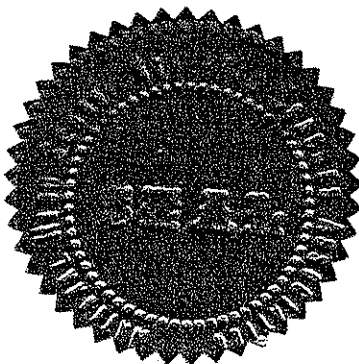
National High School
Baseball
Coach of the Year

*This nomination is in recognition of his
over-all coaching record, professional honors
and contribution to the sport.*

Date MAY, 1982

Joe Tunnell
PRESIDENT

Carey E. McDonald
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR





National High School Athletic Coaches Association

This Certifies that

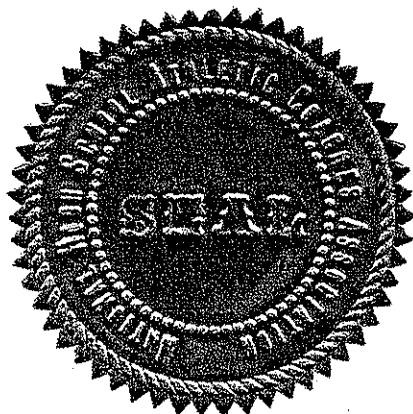
Ronnie Meyers

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL - ELIZABETHTOWN, KY.

is a nominee for

National High School
Baseball
Coach of the Year

*This nomination is in recognition of his
over-all coaching record, professional honors
and contribution to the sport.*



Date APRIL 1, 1976

Lloyd E. Gaskill
PRESIDENT

Carey E. Mc Donald
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The
Elizabethtown - Hardin County
Chamber of Commerce

PRESENTS A

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FOR

Service

Elizabethtown High State Baseball Champions

August 6, 1970
Date

Jack Scott
President

Kathie Miller
Executive Secretary

Sam R. Burkman
Vice President

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Describe the factors that influenced you to 1) become a teacher, and 2) remain in the teaching profession. What do you consider to be your greatest contribution to, or accomplishments in education?

Growing up in Elizabethtown and spending forty-one years in the Elizabethtown Schools as a student and a teacher has influenced me greatly as an individual. I am the younger of two children both of which were college educated even though our parents did not have formal educations. My father died when I was nineteen, and my sister married and moved to Michigan at about the same time, leaving my mother and me with only each other.

My mother has been one of my greatest supporters throughout my life, first insisting that I finish my college education and completely financing this venture by taking a job in a school cafeteria at Fort Knox High School. She also financed my Masters and Rank I degrees. In addition to her financial support, she has always supported my athletic playing and coaching careers by watching me play when I was eight years old through high school and college and supporting my coaching career from the first time I coached through several games last spring. Yes, my mother has been a great friend, and I give her a great deal of credit for my becoming a teacher and coach and continuing in this profession for thirty-six years.

After graduating from college, I sought a teaching position in Elizabethtown. However, at the time, Mr. Paul Kerrick, a person whose educational opinion I highly respected, told me that I needed some experience away from Elizabethtown so I applied at Fort Knox Dependent Schools and was hired as a Science/English teacher and coach. After spending seven years at Fort Knox, I reapplied at Elizabethtown and was hired this time by Mr. T.K. Stone to teach twelfth grade English and to coach baseball - positions I have held for the past twenty-nine years.

During these thirty-six years of teaching and coaching, I have had the privilege to work with many outstanding educators but none have influenced me more than Mr. Kerrick. First I knew him as my principal when I was a student, then I knew him as my principal when I worked for him as a teacher, and finally I knew him as a friend and advisor after he retired and would visit the school frequently.

I spent the last twenty-nine years of my teaching and coaching career at Elizabethtown High School, never having a thought of leaving due to the Tradition of Excellence and the focus on education of young people exemplified by the administrative staff, my colleagues, the parents, and the very special students in the Elizabethtown school system. I know that no other profession affords a greater opportunity to impact the lives of young people and to shape their futures as does the teaching profession.

Another of my greatest encouragers in my teaching and coaching careers has by my wife Brenda, who was a secretary in the counselor's office at Elizabethtown High School. She has always been there to "pick me up" when I become discouraged in my teaching and help me recover from those discouraging losses on the baseball field. Additionally, teaching and coaching has been a family investment for allowing me to teach and/or coach all three of my children.

My teaching and coaching experiences have been so fulfilling for me that it is very difficult for me to single out a greatest contribution or accomplishment. I feel that whether I have made any significant impact in education should be left up to the judgment of my peers and the perception of my students and players. However, I am particularly proud when a student or player comes up to me after graduation and gives me a big hug and says "Thank you for being my teacher." There is nothing more rewarding.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Include information regarding your educational preparation, professional association memberships, offices held, training undertaken, professional training conducted, membership on professional task forces and committees, professional awards and recognitions and other relevant activities.

My post-secondary education consists of a BS degree in Physical Education, English, and Science from Western Kentucky University in January 1961 and participating in three years of college baseball on an athletic scholarship. I also completed my MA in counseling at Western Kentucky University in 1979 and a Rank I in education in 1984 also from Western. I have been a member of the National Council of the Teachers of English as well as being a member of NEA, KEA, and EEA throughout my professional career. In baseball, I am a member of the Kentucky High School Coaches Association (KHSCA) and the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Association (KHSBCA). I was instrumental in helping the KHSBCA get its start in 1983 and served as its secretary for the first four years.

I was the chairman of the Elizabethtown High School English Department, the Writing Component Manager for our schools' Transformation Plan, and the school sponsor for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

I was awarded the "Big E" award in the 1980's for my work in the classroom and in coaching, and have been selected as Kentucky Baseball Coach of the Year four times, becoming the United States Southern Region Coach of the Year in 1982. I was elected to the KHSBCAs' first Hall of Fame, to be inducted in January 1998. I was also nominated as Teacher of the Year by the Elizabethtown Jaycees in the early 1970's.

PHILOSOPHY OF TEACHING

Describe your philosophy and beliefs about teaching. Highlight what makes you an outstanding teacher, why teaching is a rewarding profession, and the benefits to students having you as their teacher.

Every student is a unique individual with his or her own particular background. This situation means that each student comes to us with very specific needs and abilities. As teachers, we must assess the needs and abilities of each individual in order to know where each is in his/her educational development, and then we must set realistic goals for each student to reach. Students tend to perform at the level of expectations set for them, thus higher expectations result in bigger performances. I try very hard to let each student know that I believe in his/her ability. I also strive to treat each student fairly. Students must be treated differently because of their varying needs and abilities.

Although I knew that my position required that I teach English and coach baseball, I felt I had a more critical responsibility to teach them proper values and good character. The level of English knowledge and baseball understanding will only determine how well he/she performs in an English related occupation or on the baseball field in high school; whereas character traits will determine how well he/she may be able to function in society as a whole. I spent an enormous amount of time talking "life" to my player/students. Teacher-student relationships often involve situations where honesty and integrity are vitally important and I made it crystal clear to my students what was necessary in order to function in society today.

I believe that hard work and dedication are essential ingredients to success and that generally there is no acceptable substitute for either of these. I strived to demonstrate a work ethic both in the classroom and on the baseball field that was a worthy model for my students and players to follow. I firmly believe the most effective teaching is done by example whether it is in teaching English or in coaching baseball. I also believe that whatever a person does, he/she should do it to the best of his/her ability. Winners are those individuals who do their best at whatever they attempt every time they attempt it.

Because of the way I approached my job, I hoped that students learned that teaching was a profession to be proud of and a desirable career to consider for themselves. I also hope my enthusiasm for teaching/coaching made it obvious to my students/players that I was a teacher/coach because I loved my profession and I was genuinely interested in their welfare and in their successes. My philosophy is evident in William Shakespeare's quotes from "Hamlet", when he states "What is a man *(human being), if his chief good and market of his time be but to sleep and feed? A beast, no more." Another quote reads "What a piece of work is a man *(human being)! How noble in reason! How infinite in faculty! In form and moving how express and admirable! In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god!

* parenthesis mine

I feel students benefited from having me as their teacher because I would strive long and hard to make them see that they are more than mere "beasts", they are "pieces of work...like gods." Education will accomplish this end, and I am always there for them whether it is before school or after school; I also encouraged students to feel free to call me at home.

Many times the rewards are not as easily seen in the classroom as they are on the baseball field because students often do not appreciate what they have been taught until later in their lives. I have never had a student tell me my expectations for them were too high. On the contrary, I have had many who have thanked me for the hard work that was part of preparing them for college and/or life. These instances made teaching a most rewarding and worthwhile profession.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Describe your involvement in community activities including volunteer work, civic, business, religious, social, athletic, and other group activities; and community awards and recognitions.

Much of my time outside of teaching and coaching is spent in Christian-related activities through involvement in my church, Memorial United Methodist Church, and the Emmaus Community. In my church, I have served as Sunday School Superintendent, taught several different Sunday School classes from youth to adult. I am also very involved in the Emmaus Community having served as Lay Director on both the Chrysalis's and Emmaus Walks as well as taking part on several Emmaus and Chrysalis's teams serving in different capacities and serving on both boards. One of the very special opportunities I have had the privilege to be involved in is a Christian Prison Ministry, "Residents Encounter Christ" (REC). In all of these activities I have always received much more than I have given.

Other areas of community involvement include work on a mission trip to Appalachia with the youth of my church, refereeing high school basketball for several years, and helping prepare and distribute food baskets for Helping Hand. In addition, I have participated in two "Promise Keepers" gatherings, one in St. Louis and one in Memphis. Along with these activities, I have led several educational trips to Europe and Australia, taking students from Elizabethtown High School. Also, I have been very much involved in the "Salvation Army Bell Ringing" fundraiser. I believe these activities keep me involved with my community.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Ron Myers for the Hall of Fame for Kentucky. I have known Ron for over 35 years, and I coached baseball with him for 27 years. In that time together, I got to see the kind of coach & the kind of man that he is. In both respects, he is the best! As a coach, I saw him motivate, develop, and inspire student-athletes to achieve at their very best; I saw him get athletes to work hard, to care about each other, and to play the game the "way - it is suppose to be played;" I saw him encourage players to work together and to never give up. He was a marvel to watch year after year; he developed a program that our players, our fans, our school, and our community are extremely proud of; the Elizabethtown

High School program is known & respected throughout the state; I saw him win 2 State Championships, 2 State Runner-up trophies, 23 or 24 District Championships, 18 or 19 Regional Championships, and over 700 games. He made baseball come to life in our community: he helped build our current baseball facility, he developed a rapport with local youth coaches, he helped establish the Kentucky High School Baseball Association, he helped start the East-West All-Star games, he made baseball a major sport in Elizabethtown, and most of all he helped mold and develop hundreds of young men. As fine as Ron is as a coach, he is an even better person: considerate, caring, determined, insightful, understanding, forgiving, hard-working, selfless, Christian. I am very fortunate to be able to call him "Friend." Please give Ron Myers your highest consideration for the Hall of Fame.

Thank-you,

Don Mullins

July 29, 2007

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

Dear Nomination Committee:

Wow! Where do I begin? What an honor and pleasure to write on behalf of Coach Ron Myers for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Of course it came as a shock when I learned that he was not a member of this distinguished group, but maybe this year we can all pull together and have this wonderful man elected into the Hall.

I have known Coach Myers for thirty eight years, and what a Great Mentor he has been for many students and athletes over five decades. Let me first start off with what a fabulous English Teacher he was with the Elizabethtown Independent School System for over thirty years. He challenged, motivated, disciplined, cared, organized and nurtured thousands of students at Elizabethtown High School, and truly had an interest in the students post High School Careers. Many of these fine traits carried over to his Baseball Coaching Career where Coach Myers led the Elizabethtown Panthers to two State Titles in 1970 and 1975. Along with the two State Titles, there were over twenty District Titles, and over fifteen Fifth Regional Baseball Titles.

As a 1975 Graduate of Elizabethtown High School, I worked with Coach Myers and the Baseball Program as a student athletic trainer for five years and went on to Western Kentucky University as a athletic student trainer. His organizational and discipline skills assisted me in my career endeavors and I am finishing my 28th year as a Senior Vice President with First Federal Savings Bank. While with the bank, I have had time to coach youth baseball in Elizabethtown over twenty years and was elected to the Elizabethtown Area Baseball Hall of Fame in 2004. Many of the Coaching skills that I taught my kids can be directly attributed to my time serving with Coach Myers. Two of the young men I coached were my sons who went on to play for Coach Myers for 5 years each. My sons do not talk about Championships they were a part of, but the steps and preparation it took to become a Champion. My oldest son has his Rank I in education and is the Head Golf Coach, and Assistant Softball Coach at North Hardin High School, where they finished 3rd at the 2006 State Softball Tournament. The youngest son is an Economics/Finance Major at Western Kentucky University and plans to get an MBA in Sports Administration. The reason I mention my sons is that this is just two examples of Coach Myers influence on young men. Also, his faith in his Lord and Savoir, Jesus Christ, and being a member of Memorial United Methodist Church for over 40 years taught him to have patience and understanding with his ballplayers and his team.

Finally, in watching the Major League Baseball Hall of Inductions today, Cal Ripken mentioned that if you take care of the little things you don't have to worry about the big things. Well, Coach Myers took care of the little things in his coaching career, and now we can step up to the plate and take care of the big thing, which is electing Coach Myers to the Hall of Fame.

Thank you so much for your consideration and time in your decision making process, and I know Coach Myers will be both Humbled and Honored to be a member of your distinguished Hall of Fame. Also, you will be greatly honored to have a man of this Character and Ability as a member of your Hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan R. Howell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Alan R. Howell

ELIZABETHTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Panther Lane, Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701 (270) 769-3381

Phone: (270) 769-3381

Fax: (270) 769-2539

Nate Huggins, Principal

Lisa Mudd, Counselor
Melissa Butler, Counselor

Doug Barnes, Dean of Students
Athletic Director

July 30th, 2007

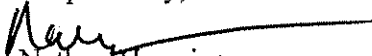
Subject: Letter of Recommendation for Coach Ronnie Myers Dawahares /KHSAA Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern: It is with great pleasure I submit this letter of recommendation for Coach Ronnie Myers to be inducted in the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. I had the pleasure of attending Elizabethtown city schools for eleven years. In August 1963 our family was stationed in Butzbach Germany. After six months in country my father passed away of a heart attack at the age of 43 leaving my mother alone to raise six school age children. We returned back to Elizabethtown to live and our residence was close to Coach Myers. As a young adolescent I walked down many roads that placed me in harms way. This all changed when Coach Ronnie Myers came into my life at age eleven and I thank god that he is still in my life today.

I can honestly say that my success in the military and in the education profession are largely due to Coach Myers' influence, direction, caring, and the motivation to work hard in everything I did as a young adult. I can still hear him say, "Huggins you must be dedicated to what you believe in and always do your very best".

Words can not express my thanks to what Coach Ronnie Myers has done for me. Hopefully the life lessons I have learned from this distinguished man will continue to guide and direct me each and every day of my life. I without reservation recommend Coach Ronnie Myers as a new inductee into the Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Respectfully,


Nathan Huggins
Principal EHS
LTC ® US Army



Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I would like to recommend that Coach Ronnie Myers be inducted into the Dawahares KHSAA Athletic Hall of Fame. While there are many reasons why Coach Myers is deserving of this honor, his ability to teach the game of baseball, outstanding accomplishments, and personal character are most obvious.

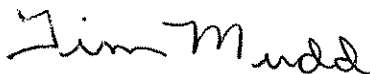
Coach Myers believed strongly in teaching the game, not just coaching. He was the best teacher I ever had, even though I never had the privilege of being a student in his classroom. He made sure that every player knew and understood his role. While I was not a star player, I knew my role and he made me realize how important I was as a contributor to the team. In 1984 in the finals of the Semi-State I was called in to get our team out of an extra-inning, bases loaded situation. Coach had always told us "You never know when you may be called upon but always be ready". He had a great way of letting his players know that he had the utmost confidence in them, regardless of the situation. When I came into the game he simply handed me the ball and said "Bow your neck". I knew with this that he thought I could get us back to the dugout without any more damage being done and it gave me the confidence I needed. Three pitches later the inning was over and we went on to win the Semi-State that year. This is just one of many different ways that Coach Myers expressed confidence in and motivated his players to be the best they could be, regardless of their role.

Coach Myers is a winner. He won over 700 games in over 30 years of coaching. During that time he won 20 district titles, 18 region titles, 5 Semi-States, and 2 State Championships. He was not a "one hit wonder" – he withstood the test of time. He could coach talented players and develop young teams into region champions.

While all the wins and titles certainly make Coach a great candidate for the Hall of Fame, what is more important is his character. Winning was always important but not most important. He taught us to represent our parents, school and team with pride. How we conducted ourselves during the battle was always of utmost importance to Coach Myers. You always knew where you stood with Coach and if you did make a mistake off the field he would treat you with respect, but you would be held accountable for your actions. I always thought of Coach Myers as my second Dad because of the great deal of respect I had for the man, not just the coach. Having become a coach myself, albeit not a baseball coach, there are often times when I find myself thinking "how would Coach Myers handle this". He has made an impact on my life as a player, teacher, coach, husband, and father.

I hope you will elect Coach Ronnie Myers as a member of the Hall of Fame because not only did he win many titles, he did so with dignity and class.

Sincerely,



Tim Mudd
Former Elizabethtown High School Baseball player
Current Elizabethtown High School Head Girls Basketball Coach

City of Elizabethtown

COUNCIL
MRS. PAT DURBIN
M. B. CARROLL
E. DRAKE
L. W. GREEN
W. B. HAWKINS
D. L. WILLMOTH

J. R. PRITCHARD
Mayor

P. O. BOX 550
CITY HALL, 111 WEST DIXIE AVENUE
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701
502/765-6121

June 11, 1975

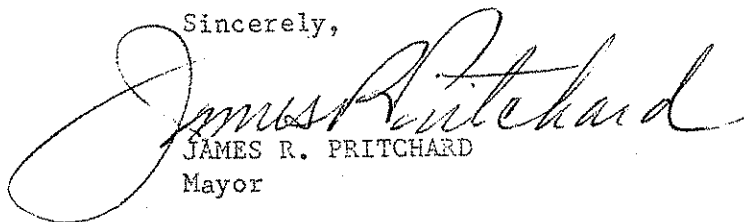
Mr. Ronald Myers
105 Westwood Drive
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701

Dear Mr. Myers:

The City Council and I send our congratulations to you upon winning the State High School Baseball Championship at Morehead last week.

We are proud of you and commend you for the fine sportsmanship displayed by you during this past extremely successful season.

Sincerely,



JAMES R. PRITCHARD
Mayor

JRP:ef

City of Elizabethtown

COUNCIL
MRS. PAT DURBIN
M. B. CARROLL
L. W. GREEN
W. B. HAWKINS
C. R. ISHAM
D. L. WILLMOTH

J. R. PRITCHARD
Mayor

P. O. BOX 550
CITY HALL, 111 WEST DIXIE AVENUE
ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY 42701
502/765-6121
May 27, 1977

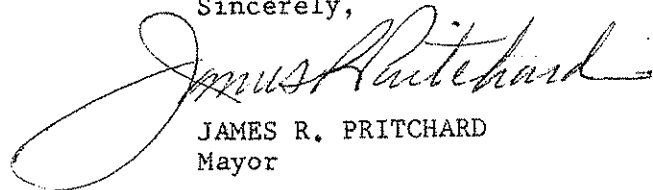
Mr. Ronald Myers
105 Westwood Drive
Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Dear Ron:

It was my privilege and good fortune to watch both of the Elizabethtown victories over St. Xavier and Iroquois. Congratulations on these important victories that stemmed not only from team play by a fine group of young men, but also sound coaching and excellent leadership on your part.

As great as it is to win, its even more satisfying to see the type leadership and character building exemplified by this team. Your handling of the team under the stress that occurred in both games is an example that neither the players or spectators will forget. It was good to see such a performance on the part of a coach and I know that the teams reaction must have been and must still be a tremendous satisfaction to you. Again, congratulations for a great job.

Sincerely,



JAMES R. PRITCHARD
Mayor

JRP:wy

John Winston Nusz
18703 SW 93 Court / Miami, FL 33157
(305) 256-9075 / Voice Mail (305) 256-7779

E-mail jnusz@ft.newyorklife.com

May 11, 1999

Dearest Coach Myers,

I've just heard the remarkable news of your pending retirement and had to sit and write to you. As our lives move through the different stages, it's important to know that we've made a difference in people's lives. And in your case I'm sure that you've made a big difference in a lot of our lives. I'd like to take a moment and thank you in the best way that I possibly can.

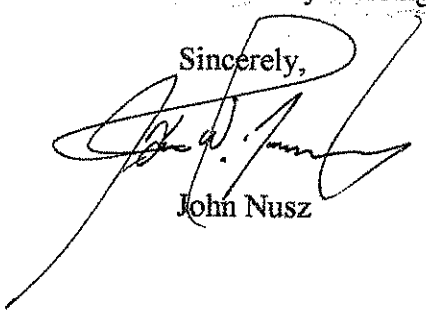
WOW, where has time gone? It's been over 20 years since I looked at you in the parking lot in Owensboro and cried because I had realized that I would be taking the E off my chest for the very last time. You were there for me then and many times that you never even knew about. I so looked up and admired you. You were one of the most important role models in my life. And now you look at taking the E off your chest for the last time. It won't be easy, just be proud that you have had the support and health to make a difference in so many lives.

Watching my daughter start third base this year (her sophomore) on her fast pitch high school team brought back so many memories of the good time that we had together. The long rides and the stories of previous E'town hero's were always a joy to hear. You know the old saying that you can take the boy out of the country but you can't take the country out of the boy? Well, its' so true. And you are a major part of that to many, many E'town boys.

There is no other way to say it, other than THANKS COACH for being you and being there for all of us.

My blessings to you and your family. Godspeed to you.

Sincerely,



John Nusz

