

JIM BOYD
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February 21, 1997

Dear Selection Committee:

The purpose of this letter is to submit the name of Ray Pigman as a candidate for the K.H.S.A.A. Dawahare Athletic Hall of Fame.

Ray Pigman was born in Knott County, Kentucky on April 3, 1917, and moved to Whitesburg, Kentucky in 1928. He entered Whitesburg High School in 1934 and was a valuable member of the football and basketball team all four years. He graduated in 1938.

Millard Tolliver was his coach in both sports. Coach Tolliver believed in high moral standards, hard work, discipline and fair play. Under his guidance and direction, Whitesburg won the district basketball tournament all four years that Ray was a member of the team. In 1936, the team won the 14th Regional Tournament and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen in Lexington. Ray was selected to the All 14th Region Team as a sophomore that year. Football under Coach Tolliver was equally successful, producing winning teams all four years.

Ray went to Georgetown College from 1938-42 on a football scholarship, playing the half back position. He also played basketball at Georgetown College for four years. Ray made his name in football in college, however. He was on the All K.I.A.C. second team as a sophomore in 1939. The teams at that time which made up the K.I.A.C. were Eastern, Western, Louisville, Georgetown, Morehead, Union and Murray. During Ray's junior and senior years at Georgetown in 1940 and 1941, he was chosen to the first team All K.I.A.C. in football. Ray's exploits as a runner at Georgetown earned him the nickname of "The Flying Pig" from his fans at Georgetown. During the early part of the 1941-42 basketball season, Ray, as a senior, was a member of the Georgetown basketball team which, on a road trip down south, won three of four games played in five nights. Teams on this trip included Duke and North Carolina State. In 1942, Ray was selected to "Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities".

Upon graduation from Georgetown College in 1942, he accepted the position of head coach in football and basketball at Pomeroy, Ohio High School. In his first year of coaching, his football record was 7 wins and 2 losses. His basketball team won 18 and lost 9.

After that one season at Pomeroy, he entered the Navy and served with distinction from 1943 to 1946. Upon being discharged in 1946, he began graduate work at the University of Kentucky where he eventually acquired his master's degree.

In 1947, Ray accepted the position of football and basketball coach and athletic director at his alma mater, Whitesburg High School. In his six years as head football and nine years as basketball coach, he had outstanding success. His best season in football was in 1951...9 wins and 0 losses. His most losses in one season was 3. His career record in football was 48 wins, 12 losses and 2 ties. His basketball teams were in the 14th Region Tournament on nine consecutive years. In 1951, they won the regional tournament and finished fourth in the state tournament. The team's record that year was 33 wins and 4 losses. At that time, Ray was the only Letcher County athlete to play and coach in the Sweet Sixteen. To my knowledge, Ray never had a losing season in football or basketball as an athlete or as a coach.

From 1956 to 1959, Ray was at Trimble County High School as assistant principal, athletic director and basketball coach. Under his leadership the school won two district championships, one conference championship and Ray was chosen as coach of the year in the conference that year.

Ray's career in education ended in the State of Indiana. From 1959 to 1961, he served as assistant principal at Southwestern High School in Hanover, Indiana. From 1961 to 1978, he served as principal of Southwestern Elementary and Junior High School in Hanover. He retired in 1978.

Ray and his wife Lucy reside at Milton, Kentucky in Trimble County.

May I add an interesting side-note concerning Whitesburg's trip to the 1936 state tournament in Lexington, Kentucky?

The team had planned to leave by automobile the morning of the day they were to play. Due to a heavy snowfall that morning and mountain roads not as good in those days, the coaches decided that one car with the first team and Coach Tolliver would go by way of Hazard, Kentucky to reach Lexington and the other car with the second team and assistant coach would go by way of Harlan, Kentucky. Hopefully, both cars would get there but only the car that contained the first team and Coach Tolliver made it in time for the game. They played Inez with only five players since the other car failed to arrive in time. Inez won the game and since Whitesburg had one player to foul out, Coach Russ Williamson, the outstanding Inez Coach, removed one of his players to make the teams even. Coach Williamson was that kind of man.

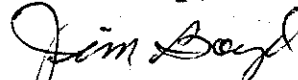
I can personally recommend Ray Pigman to you for this honor. As a youngster in elementary school, I saw his exploits as an athlete. I also had the good fortune to serve under him as an assistant coach at Whitesburg in 1950 prior to being drafted into the Army due to the Korean War. After being discharged, I came back and worked as his assistant for two years before coming to Anderson County High School, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, as basketball coach and assistant football coach. He influenced me greatly.

Ray Pigman was an outstanding athlete at both the high school and college levels. He had a very successful and distinguished career as a high school coach and administrator.

His teams were known for being well-grounded in strong fundamentals, very disciplined and they always played hard and fair. His players had much respect for him. As a person, Ray Pigman was and is a man of integrity with character above reproach.

Thank you for your consideration of this most deserving athlete, coach and human being.

Sincerely,


Jim Boyd

P.S. Ray's current address is:

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