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FEB - 6 2003

January 15, 2003

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed please find a completed nomination form for Paul B. Stevens along with letters of reference. This nomination is being made by Coach Norman Monasco.

Mr. Stevens is a very respected gentleman in our town as well as being respected as a great coach. Mr. Stevens does not demand respect he has earned it through all the children he has mentored over the years. Mr. Stevens was not only a great athlete himself, he has served as a coach, teacher, and principal beginning in 1934 and ending in his retirement in 1975. He has been the only coach to take Dawson Springs to the state finals in basketball and compiled a very impressive 119-46 record.

Mr. Stevens will not talk about himself, but he is ready to tell you about his children and grandchildren. His son is a retired professor from UK, his son-in-law is the assistant to Attorney General John Ashcroft. One of his granddaughters is the head of urban development in Washington, D. C. and two of his grandchildren are teachers, one at Harvard and the other at Augustina College. Mr. Stevens has been married to Mary Frances for 64 years and it is very rare to see one without the other.

It is with great pride that we nominate Mr. Paul B. Stevens to the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Lori J. Wooton

Stacia Peyton  
Mayor



Denise W. Ridley, CMC/AAE  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## CITY OF DAWSON SPRINGS

January 15, 2003

Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern:

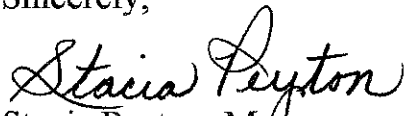
As Mayor of the City of Dawson Springs, I wholeheartedly support the induction of Paul B. Stevens into the Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame.

The Dawson Springs Community School System is a very important part of our community. As the Dawson Springs Panthers head basketball coach from 1945-49, Mr. Stevens coached one of the best teams to come out of our school system. In addition, Mr. Stevens coached baseball and football. It is evident that Mr. Stevens is committed to his family, his community, his church, our school and the students.

The Dawson Springs Community School System is significant to our city and will continue to be an important asset to our community. Mr. Stevens played a very important role in the history of our school's basketball program and for that we are very proud of him and his accomplishments.

I believe that Paul B. Stevens would make an excellent choice as an inductee into the KHSAA Hall of Fame and therefore recommend him for this esteemed honor.

Sincerely,

  
Stacia Peyton, Mayor  
City of Dawson Springs

SP/dwr

200 West Arcadia Avenue, P.O. Box 345, Dawson Springs, KY 42408

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Stacia Peyton  
Mayor



Denise W. Ridley, CMC/AAE  
City Clerk/Treasurer

## CITY OF DAWSON SPRINGS

Dear Sirs,

It is with great pleasure that I nominate Mr. Paul B. Stevens for admission to Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Mr. Stevens retired from the Dawson Springs Independent School system in 1975 after 31 years as teacher, coach, principal and acting superintendent. He served under four superintendents. He attended Western Kentucky Teacher's College (Western Kentucky University) on a football work-scholarship and was selected to the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference all-state team and the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association all-star team.

After graduation, Stevens came back to his Dawson Springs roots, began teaching and coached the school's athletic teams. When World War II began Paul Stevens went to Memphis, Tennessee, where he was a supervisor at a war plant. Upon returning to Dawson Springs he took over coaching the basketball team in 1945, known to many as the "46 Team." They turned out to be the most successful team in the history of the Dawson Springs School System.

Stevens led the squad to a 24-1 regular season record (they were 2-3 in invitational tournaments). From there they captured the district and regional tournament championships and became the *first and only* Dawson Springs team to win a state tournament game. But they didn't stop there as Stevens' Panthers advanced all the way to the finals of the Kentucky High School Basketball Tournament in Louisville and, although defeated by Breckinridge Training in the finals, wrote their name on the record books of Kentucky high school basketball. (The Panthers attended the state basketball tournament three years in a row under coach Stevens.)

The following year Stevens led his team to the state tournament, but was defeated in the first round game. After the 1948-49 season Stevens ended his coaching career at Dawson Springs. During the two seasons in which he was the only coach, Stevens' teams compiled a 52-12 regular season record and a 14-2 post-season record.

Paul Stevens, reflecting on this period in his career said, "My biggest thrill was probably the state tournament in '46."

I am proud to submit his name in nomination for this award.

Ray Bochert City Councilman  
Dawson Springs, Ky

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# THE DAWSON SPRINGS PROGRESS

*"Serving Our Community Since 1919"*

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Jan. 15, 2003

Dear Sir or Madam:

I take a great deal of pleasure writing this letter of recommendation urging the induction of Paul B. Stevens into the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame. At age 92, the honor is well past due.

Paul, or Mr. Stevens as I called him when he coached my high school baseball team my senior year, would be worthy of the recognition for no other reason than being coach of the Dawson Springs High School Panther basketball team for four seasons in the mid-to-late-1940s. It truly was our glory years.

The highlight, of course, was a runner-up finish to Breckinridge Training in the 1946 State Tournament. The Panthers finished 36-3 in Paul's first season as head coach. Although that was four years before I was born, through stories in *The Progress* and from "old-timers," it's apparent that except for having to face an exceptional high school basketball team in that championship game, Paul and his Panthers would have captured the coveted title.

He and his players followed that with 32-9, 24-17 and 27-17 seasons before he left the basketball coaching ranks. But he didn't leave sports, or, more importantly, high school sports in Kentucky.

Paul and his long-time friend and fellow Panther football player from the early 1930s, D. Fletcher Holeman, spent many fall and winter days and nights officiating high school football and basketball games in the commonwealth. Again, I can't speak from personal knowledge, but from talking with a number of people, Paul and Fletcher were among the best officials in both sports.

And Paul, Fletcher and another friend at Dawson Springs High School played football at Western Kentucky State Teacher's College (now, of course, WKU). I remember being told that at one time three of the members of the Western line were from the small town of Dawson Springs.

Back to his coaching. A story which I never get tired of telling is that during a basketball game which the Panthers were expected to win, they got behind and the players got worried. At that time, players weren't permitted to huddle with their coach during time-outs. So, one of the players, when close to Mr. Stevens on the bench, yelled, "Coach, what are we supposed to do?" Paul said simply, "You got yourselves in this mess, get yourselves out."

That simple breakdown of basketball strategy—especially now that coaches seem to overcoach what is a relatively simple game—should be included in every book on coaching.

And one more story, this from his officiating days. He and his friend Fletcher (who will match Paul's 92 next month) were officiating a basketball game (I believe it was at Frances—or Francis—where Paul's wife is from.) and Fletcher made a call against the home team which got the crowd riled up, despite being far ahead. It was a small, cramped gym which was full. A friend of Paul's yelled, "Hey Steve (which many of his friends from long ago call him), what's wrong with Holeman?"

In his dry style, Paul replied, "Looks like he's trying to steal the game."

And one last thing, which isn't likely to be a reason for inclusion in a hall of fame, involves Mr. Stevens' stint as baseball coach my senior season (1968). I forget the record; we were usually competitive, but not among the best teams in the area. But I'll long remember that Mr. Stevens came out of coaching retirement to ensure that we would have a baseball season after the former coach left for another school system. He didn't have to do that. I'm sure he didn't relish spending the after-school time at practices and then at the games, especially the away games. But he did, if you will, the right thing. I hope you will do the right thing.

Sincerely,



Jed Dillingham  
Editor/Sports Editor

**CHARLES SIMONS**  
**518 PARK AVENUE**  
**DAWSON SPRINGS KY 42408**  
**(270) 797-2406**

*February 1, 2003*

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*I would like to submit Mr. Paul Stevens of Dawson Springs, Kentucky for consideration into the Basketball Hall of Fame.*

*Paul was my basketball coach and teacher in the mid 1940's. He led our team to the finals of the Kentucky State High School Basketball championships in 1946. He was a fine disciplinarian, who believed that the majority of coaching and game preparation should be done prior to the game. He never believed profanity to be a necessary part of ones vocabulary and I have never known him to raise his voice in anger or speak an unkind word to anyone.*

*This soft-spoken, humble man has led by example all of his life. His association with our school as coach, teacher, and principal for over forty years has influenced countless young people. He is one of the finest Christian men I have ever known and is loved and respected by all.*

*Paul Stevens would do honor to the Basketball Hall of Fame and I can think of no one more deserving of this recognition.*

*With Best Regards,*

  
*Charles Simons*