

May 11, 2020

Members of the Selection Committee  
KHSAA  
2280 Executive Dr  
Lexington, KY 40505

RE: Nomination of Coach Don Adkins to the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to nominate Don Adkins for your consideration to the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame. His main achievements were as a Basketball Coach, but he has a long list of accomplishments in athletics. He was an assistant basketball coach at Bates Creek High School for 20 years. His Junior Varsity teams had an outstanding record of 299 wins and 69 losses, and he contributed greatly to the Varsity team's 400 wins during those years. In 1990-1991 the Bates Creek team was the State High School Basketball Tournament Runner-up due in large part to his contribution on the coaching staff. He was named the Head Basketball Coach at Lafayette High School in 1995, and was able to develop the program in a short time to win the Kentucky High School Basketball championship in 2000-2001.

Don attended Catlettsburg High School and lettered in Football, Basketball, Baseball, & Golf. He graduated from the University of Kentucky where he was the student manager for the Basketball team under Coach Joe Hall. He has served as the Fayette County High Schools and Middle Schools Athletic Director since 2006. He has been involved with the radio Broadcast of regular season & state tournament basketball games since 2002. He has served as Athletic Director at both Bates Creek & Lafayette High Schools. Don Adkins received the Jim Host Youth Sports Award in 2015 for outstanding contributions to the youth in the community. He was highly respected as an outstanding member of the faculty at both high schools.

My admiration, appreciation, and respect for his professional achievements with the high quality skills he possesses as a coach and teacher along with his character and integrity as a person are the reasons that I believe that he deserves to be honored as a new member to the KHSAA Basketball Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Nolan Barger  
1216 Kannapolis Place  
Lexington, KY 40513  
(859) 420-9420

May 2020

TO MEMBERS OF THE KHSAA HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE:

It is with great enthusiasm I nominate Don (Donnie) Adkins for selection to the (Dawahare's) Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I have known Donnie Adkins for over 30 years – He is someone I am proud to call a trusted colleague and friend.

When I first came to Lexington in the fall of 1985, I worked as a sports television reporter and anchor at WLEX-TV. Donnie already had been a teacher and coach for a number of years and would go on to become head coach of boys basketball at Lafayette High School, rebuilding the Generals' proud tradition and leading the team to the 2001 KHSAA Boys Sweet 16 State Championship at Rupp Arena. In addition to his demonstrated prowess as a basketball coach, Adkins served as athletic director at Lafayette and was highly respected across Central Kentucky and the entire state as a very capable administrator. In fact, after a brief retirement, Donnie was asked to return to interscholastic athletics and served several years as director of athletics for all of Fayette County's public high schools.

Donnie Adkins has an abiding love and passion for education and athletics, clearly understanding the vital ways these activities can work together to help develop future leaders for our communities. In addition to high school teaching and coaching, he served for several years as a valued adjunct faculty member in the University of Kentucky's College of Education.

For the past 23 years and counting, Donnie has served as spotter for my public address announcing duties for UK Wildcat home football games at Kroger Field and more recently during the KHSAA Football Championship games at Kroger Field. He always does a great job in this role and works extremely well with our other 'teammates' in the booth.

Adkins' commitment to the community and to athletics is further evidenced by his many years of serving as shot clock operator for UK men's basketball home games. On top of that, each Friday night during the high school sports seasons, Donnie's voice can be heard on the radio and online across the Commonwealth as he co-hosts the Kentucky Schoolboy Radio Network's two-hour scoreboard and interview show with Rick Shaw.

Donnie Adkins is most deserving of selection to the KSHAA Hall of Fame.

Thanks very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Nathe

May 6, 2020

To: Members of the Selection Committee

Please accept this letter as my recommendation for Donnie Adkins to be selected into the Kentucky Hall of Fame. Donnie has been solid as a rock supporting athletics in the Commonwealth. Besides serving as a state championship basketball coach at Lafayette High School in Lexington, Donnie continued his service as the district wide athletic director over all athletic programs in the 38,000 student district. I personally worked with Donnie when he served in this role and can attest to his dedication and love of athletics for your kids. He goes the extra mile in every aspect to help and encourage all sports programs.

In addition to his service as a coach and athletic director I must add that Donnie is a person of high integrity. He is a very honest man who has high expectations while at the same time providing high levels of support. He understands the value of strong relationships will make a tremendous ambassador for the hall of fame.

Donnie comes to you with my highest recommendation.

Sincerely,

Stu Silberman

Stu Silberman

Retired Superintendent Fayette County

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Don Adkins to nominate him for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. "Donnie" has spent his entire professional lifetime coaching, teaching, and promoting Kentucky High School sports and specifically basketball! He has spent 35 years to be exact, in one capacity or another as a teacher, athletic director and basketball coach (27 years) in the Fayette County Public Schools System.

Donnie has played a big role in the promotion of Kentucky High School sports as well. He not only has broadcast as color analyst many hs games over the years, but is also co-host of the KHSAA Score Board Show for IHeart Radio. He has also found time to be a member on too many Boards for me to list, as well as be a spotter for the UK football broadcast and even keep the shot clock for all UK Basketball home games!

Some coaches coach a lifetime and never make the sweet 16. However, in his relatively short time as a head basketball coach, Donnie was able to win a KHSAA State Championship for Lafayette HS in 2001.

I believe Don Adkins deserves special consideration from your committee. Some coaches are inducted into the KHSAA Hall based only on the fact they won basketball games. Donnie has won a State Championship, but more importantly he has dedicated his life to Kentucky High School Sports in multiple capacities. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Kyle Macy

Robert J. Bell, Ed.D.  
1814 Browning Trace  
Lexington, Kentucky 40509  
robertjbell@twc.com  
859.230.4504

May 15, 2020

Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my understanding that Don Adkins is being nominated for induction into the Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame. This letter is written on his behalf.

Having known Don for many years, and having worked with him, I have observed him as a dedicated professional who has performed as a teacher, coach, and athletic director in an exemplary manner. He embodies the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and moral character and strives to instill these qualities in others. He possesses a high level of energy and formed solid, positive relationships with players and colleagues. As a coach, he realized that young men came with gifts and talents, which only needed to be uncovered and developed. He was extremely skilled at doing so. As a result, he has been a mentor to many and an inspiration to all.

Don has contributed a great deal to high school athletics. His records and awards speak for themselves. He continues to actively promote the KHSAA and is a positive force on its behalf. It is for these reasons that I enthusiastically support the recommendation of Don Adkins for the honor of selection into the Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Please contact me if I can provide additional information. Thank you for your consideration of his nomination.

Sincerely,

*Robert J. Bell*

Robert J. Bell, Ed.D.  
Retired Principal

Julian Tackett, Commissioner  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Julian,

I am pleased to recommend Donnie Adkins for induction into the Dawahare's Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

I had the pleasure to work with Donnie in two capacities: as principal at Tates Creek High School Donnie was an assistant men's basketball coach and department chair for the Health/Physical Education Department -- as Director of High Schools for Fayette County Schools Donnie was the head men's basketball coach at Lafayette. His contributions to Lafayette were outstanding not only coaching basketball and in the classroom but likewise being involved with district wide athletic decisions. His coaching tenure at Lafayette is highlighted by winning the 2001 Boy's State Basketball Tournament.

Donnie began his athletic accomplishments at Catlettsburg High School where he was a four sport student/athlete. He continued his athletic involvement while a student at the University of Kentucky serving as a student manager for Joe B. Hall.

Donnie, as you will see on his resume' has spent his career involved with many athletic activities in addition to coaching. Each of these endeavors has benefited the enhancement of programs for not only Fayette County student/athletes but student/athletes in our Commonwealth. Donnie's passion has always been and continues to be the total education of student/athletes.

As a two term Board of Control member and being involved with the selection of Hall of Fame Inductees -- I am familiar with the criteria and characteristics for induction. I can state without reservations Donnie Adkins meets and exceeds each of the induction criteria and characteristics.

Again, it is my pleasure and honor to recommend Donnie Adkins for induction into the Dawahare's Kentucky High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Ken Cox



May 15, 2020

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame Screening Committee

Re: Nomination of Don Adkins

It is my honor to recommend Mr. Don Adkins for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I served as an assistant boys basketball coach to Coach Adkins at Lafayette High School from 1995-2002. During that time his leadership took a tradition-rich program and restored success to levels that had not been seen since 1979, and has not been achieved since his tenure as coach.

As a student at the University of Kentucky I knew I wanted to be a basketball coach. Having no experience and no connection to any high school coaches in Kentucky, Coach Adkins and Lafayette were recommended to me by acquaintances as someone who would be a good person to learn from. He hired me as an assistant freshman coach and allowed me to learn, grow on the job, and move up the coaching ladder in a way that I will always be grateful for.

During our time together, he showed me how to build a program the right way: through hard work, being professional, and following rules every step of the way. Coach Adkins led the gradual rebuilding from a 10-win season in year one, to a regional tournament appearance in year five, to the 2001 KHSAA State Championship in year six. This was accomplished by developing our student-athletes as players and people, by instilling discipline in their daily lives, and by never looking for a short-cut that could hurt long-term success.

Don Adkins is well-respected throughout Kentucky by administrators, coaches, and fans. He is appreciated by me for the opportunity to be on his coaching staff, mentoring me, and showing me how to be a high school coach. His morals and ethics are what high school sports should be about, and his successes as a coach are worthy of the Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration of Coach Don Adkins for this prestigious honor.

Damon Kelley  
Boys Basketball Coach  
West Jessamine High School



## WOODFORD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Where Great Minds Meet*

330 FISGAH PIKE • VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY 40383-9214 • (859) 879-4600

D. SCOTT HAWKINS, SUPERINTENDENT

June 1, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to write a letter of support for Don Adkins as a candidate for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Coach Adkins' career spanned thirty-five years including roles as an assistant coach, head coach, and district athletic director. I had the privilege of working with Don while serving as Fayette County's director of high schools. Before taking this position, I knew of Mr. Adkins' outstanding coaching abilities, but through our professional relationship, discovered him to be an even better person. He is one of kindest and most giving people I know.

Coach Adkins learned his craft from two of the most famous coaches in the University of Kentucky's history. He was a student manager for the legendary Adolf Rupp and Joe B. Hall. Upon graduating from UK, he spent twenty years serving as a teacher and assistant basketball coach at Tates Creek High School. During this time, he also served as both athletic director and department chair. The 1991 Tates Creek High School boys' basketball team was the runner up in the Sweet Sixteen Tournament.

Coach Adkins took over as head basketball coach at Lafayette High School in 1995. His most memorable year as head coach occurred in 2000-2001 when his Generals won the prestigious King of the Bluegrass Tournament and captured the boys' state championship title. Additionally, Coach Adkins was named the Eleventh Region Basketball Coach of the Year in 2000. His leadership roles at Lafayette also included athletic director and department chair.

In addition to being a teacher and coach, Mr. Adkins has promoted high school athletics through broadcasting and serving on numerous sports' advisory boards, such as Bluegrass Sports Commission, The Tenth and Eleventh Region Policy Board, Lexington Fayette County Urban Government Parks and Recreation Board, and The KHSAA Middle School Sports Commission. He won the of the Jim Host Youth Sports Award in 2015 for his dedication to enhancing the lives of young people through sports.

As a current member of the Kentucky High School Athletic Board, I understand the significance of Hall of Fame selection. Coach Don Adkins' personal qualities and professional accomplishments are outstanding by all measures and embodies what it means to be a Hall of Fame inductee. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this recognition than Coach Adkins. He has literally touched the lives of thousands of students through the avenue of high school sports, a primary mission of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

Sincerely,

D. Scott Hawkins

BOARD MEMBERS

DEBBY EDELEN, CHAIR • DANI BRADLEY, VICE CHAIR  
ALLISON RICHARDSON • SHERRI SPRINGATE • AMBROSE WILSON, IV

EQUAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee,

It is my distinct honor to recommend my former high school basketball coach at Bates Creek High School for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. During Coach Don Adkins' distinguished athletic career, he has epitomized all that the Hall of Fame seeks to honor. He has excelled as a teacher, an assistant coach, a head coach, an administrator and as an athletic community volunteer.

Throughout his stellar career, Coach Adkins handled himself in an amazingly professional way. He has been a mentor to so many outstanding students and coaches over the years. During the years I was a player for Coach Adkins, I witnessed a compassionate and understanding person that challenged his students and players on a daily basis. He had an unbelievable knack of getting the most out of each of my teammates by mixing tough love with a great sense of humor. His ability to laugh and enjoy coaching is something that I have tried to mimic in my own coaching career.

One of the most impressive things about Coach Adkins was his grace in transitioning from each of his athletic responsibilities to next. As an assistant coach, he was vital in the success of many Bates Creek championship basketball teams. After being named head coach at Lafayette High School, he was able to make his own mark on Kentucky high school basketball. After earning an 11<sup>th</sup> Region Coach of the Year award in 2000, he led his General on a historic run to the Kentucky State Boys Basketball Championship the following season. I was extremely proud as a former student-athlete of Coach Adkins to watch him lead his team to the ultimate prize, a KHSAA State Championship in Rupp Arena.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some personal reflections on my experience with Coach Don Adkins. There is no way that I could be the coach I am today without the mentoring and constant support that I have received from Coach Adkins. He taught me how to be a better player but more importantly how to be a better person. He taught me to treat everyone with respect and dignity and he taught me to always strive to be my best each and every day. I am forever grateful to him and his family for their commitment to young people in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Brian Lane  
Transylvania University  
Head Basketball Coach



College of Education  
Master of Arts in Teaching Program  
601 Ginger Hall | Morehead, KY 40351  
P: 606-783-2079 | F: 606-783-9132  
[www.moreheadstate.edu](http://www.moreheadstate.edu)

June 9, 2020

Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Selection Committee:

It is my understanding that Don Adkins is being nominated for induction into the Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame. This letter is written on his behalf.

Having known Don all the years he has been in Lexington, I have known him as a dedicated professional who has served and performed as a teacher, coach, and athletic director and role model to kids in an exemplary manner. Donnie's love of the game began with his athletic accomplishments at Catlettsburg High School where he was a four sport student/athlete. Determined to continue his athletic involvement while a student at the University of Kentucky, he worked as a student manager with the basketball program for Joe B. Hall.

His love for sports and serving young people has been his focus always. He began his journey as the assistant Basketball Coach at Tates Creek High School where he taught and Coached for 20 years. He was recognized by the school with an outstanding record of 299 wins and 69 losses. He did it all. He coached Girls' Basketball and was Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach, Tates Creek High School's Athletic Director, and Department Chair for Health and Physical Education. There he coached his boys to Basketball State Runner Up in 1991.

Donnie moved his talents and commitment to serve Lafayette High School as a teacher and coach in 1995. In 2000-01 year, he coached his boys to a most memorable game during the regular season when they won "King of the Bluegrass Tournament". That same year, he took this beloved team to the 2001 State Championship and won the title on his birthday. That year, he was chosen 1999-2000 Eleventh Region Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year.

Donnie is known for his advocacy of all high school sports as he was asked to be the District Athletic Director for Fayette County Schools. He amazed everyone by is "on the job always" attitude. He created and oversaw programing for all schools, middle and secondary. He was as committed to the excellence of Cheerleading and Lacrosse as he was to any of the major sports.

Using his vast experiences and knowledge of sports, he served as spokesman for broadcasting the Game of the Week for WLAP Radio. He also worked the WKYT television Boy's Championship Game and worked on the KHSAA Score Board Show for I Heart Radio WLAP as well as Color Analyst for Prep-Spin Communications.

Among his many recognitions and accolades, he was honored to serve on the Bluegrass Sports Commission Board and received the Jim Host Youth Sports Award in 2015 for outstanding contributions to the youth in the community. His hard work and dedication has placed him on

Many community boards: UK K Association Board of Directors, Bluegrass Sports Commission, Tenth and Eleventh Region Policy Board and Athletic Association Advisory Group, Lexington Fayette Urban County Government Parks and Recreation Board, National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Association, Kentucky High School Athletic Directors' Association, and Lexington Country Club Board of Directors, KHSAA Middle Schools Sports Commission Athletic Advisor appointed by Commissioner Julian Tackett, Bluegrass Special Olympics and remarkably has time for his beloved church work as Centenary United Methodist Church with "I Am Third Recreation".

It bears mentioning as we pile on Donnie's ability to work hard while spreading the joy of it... He continues to this day, carrying on the legacy of commitment and dedication he began some 50 years ago. Donnie still serves the University he loves by keeping the Shot Clock for UK Men's Basketball and Spotting for Carl Nathe for UK Football games.

I know I speak for many others who say that athletics and sports would look a whole lot different without Donnie Adkins and his lifelong dedication to not just the games we play but the many, many students who still lovingly call him "my Coach".

Sincerely,



Marian Moore Sims

Coordinator

Master of Arts in Teaching

Morehead State University

606 783 2079

859 536 5030

June 9, 2020

Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame

2280 Executive Drive

Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Selection Committee:

This is to nominate Don Adkins to the Kentucky High School Sports Hall of Fame.

No one in the history of high school sports in Fayette County has done more or has been more closely identified as a coach, and as an Athletics Director for high school sports, than Don.

Winner as a coach of the High School Basketball Boys Championship, and serving as a coach and Administrator for 35 years puts him in a position very few people in Kentucky and no one in Fayette County have ever served working with young people at the High School age.

I don't know how many administrators with coaching experience are members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame - but I doubt no one who has made the contribution of Don Adkins.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jim Host

June 12, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been asked to write a letter in support of Don Adkins nomination to the Hall of Fame. It is an honor and privilege for me to write such a letter of support. I have known Don since 1996, first as his supervisor and later as a friend.

I first came to know Don when I was principal of Lafayette High School and Don was a teacher and basketball coach at Lafayette. I very quickly became impressed with Don, both as a coach and as a teacher. Perhaps what impressed me most about Don was he embraced the notion that the roles of coach and teacher were intertwined. He realized and demonstrated for dozens of future teachers that strategies for working with young people in the gym were just as successful in the classroom. And vice versa. One strategy he mastered was the ability to know and understand each of his players and students as individuals. He made it a point to know the kids and their families, whether the kids were on the gym floor or in the classroom. He clearly understood the importance of building relationships.

Another strength of Don's is his ability to see the big picture with his students. He knew that he was teaching them more than x's and o's and more than health concepts. He was taught students and players the same life lessons-responsibility, teamwork, communication skills and integrity. He taught them that family is important, however their individual family was defined. And he did it in a way that the kids who came into contact with Don learned those lessons.

Don embraced kids from all parts of society. Regardless of their background, history or challenges they faced, Don saw the inherent value in each and every student. He worked with students and players to overcome life's obstacles and challenges. Most often this was done behind the scenes with little knowledge by others. And this continues to this day and time.

As a former principal, looking back and reflecting, the most significant observation I can share is that every student, teacher and colleague who has crossed paths with Don is a better person. All of us, myself included, are better people for having known Don. And this impact is felt across generations. Young parents are sharing the life lessons learned from Don with their own children. His positive impact crosses generations and will be felt for years and decades.

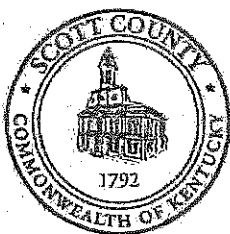
I can recommend Don's nomination to the Hall of Fame without hesitation. I can think of no finer person. He represents himself, his family, Lafayette High School and the greater community with class and character.

Sincerely,

Michael McKenzie

Retired Principal, Lafayette High School

CEO/National Director, The Dream Factory



## JOE PAT COVINGTON

SCOTT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE

Scott County Courthouse  
101 East Main Street, Suite 210  
Georgetown, Kentucky 40324

Telephone  
(502) 863-7850  
Fax  
(502) 863-7852

KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 4050

June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear KHSAA Hall Of Fame Committee:

It is with great honor that I write this recommendation for Mr. Donnie Adkins. I have known Donnie for close to 30 years. I served as a High School teacher and basketball coach and worked with Donnie as a fellow assistant coach at Tates Creek High School. I can say with full confidence that he is a quality individual who is deserving of your consideration for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Donnie is an example of what a Coach should be, he was a teacher first and he made it a priority to not only teach the skills of the game of basketball but also what it took to develop into a young man of character. Donnie stands out as an example of an individual that exemplifies hard work, determination and character over his entire career.

As a young coach, I was blessed to have Donnie as a mentor. I witnessed his efforts day in and day out to mold young people into better players and men. Coach Adkins teams always reflected his leadership, and his 2001 State Championship team did as well. He always taught that things might get tough but you have to find a way to work thru the tough times. That team had some adversity but with Coach Adkins guidance they fought past that ended up on a 12 game winning streak to win the Sweet 16 Championship.

Donnie not only served as a Coach, but also as Athletic Director of Fayette County Schools. He always had the ability to bring people to a consensus to do what was best for young people. His leadership helped revise athletic guidelines district wide and to provide guidance to over 500 coaches and 5000 student athletes. Donnie made every effort to be a resource for Coaches and parents. His service did not stop there, he has served on a multitude of boards and councils, to name just a few; the Board of the Bluegrass Sports Commission, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Region Policy Board, Lexington Fayette Parks and Recreation Board, and the KHSAA Middle School Athletics Commission.

In closing, I maintain that Donnie Adkins is an individual who most certainly deserves your consideration. His record of service as a Coach and Athletic Administrator deserves admission into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. His success and long-term dedication to teaching young people is exemplary. Your support to Donnie would be well-deserving. Thank you for your time and in closing, Coach Adkins has my *highest* recommendation.

Respectfully,

Joe Pat Covington  
Scott County Judge/Executive

Wm. Craig Turner  
1637 Ashwood Road  
Lexington, KY 40502

June 15, 2020

Dawahare's-KHSAA Hall of Fame  
The Selection Committee  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

Re: Hall of Fame nomination  
Don Adkins

Dear Selection Committee Members,

I have had the honor to know Don Adkins since 1985, first as a neighbor and later as a close friend. Over the past 35 years I have witnessed his impact on student athletes and his passion to instill respect, discipline and belief in one's self. His commitment to the student athlete to make them a better person and citizen has changed many lives. As a former college athlete, I know the commitment he has made to do "the job". One he has done with his heart and soul.

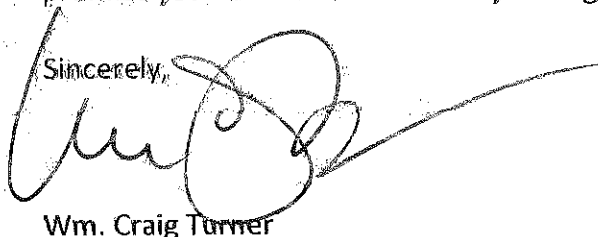
Don has always been proud of his Catlettsburg, KY roots. He was an athlete at Catlettsburg High School where he lettered in 4 sports. He was the student manager of the University of Kentucky basketball team under Coach Joe B. Hall. He applied the skills he learned to become the Assistant Head Basketball Coach at Tates Creek High where they were runner up in the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in 1991. His efforts and drive led him to being named Head Coach at Lafayette High School, where he was named Eleventh Region Boys' Basketball Coach in 1999-2000. The highlight of his career was winning the Boys' State Basketball Tournament in 2001.

The importance of recognizing a leader for such an honor should reflect integrity, passion, sacrifice, morals, community and family. Don Adkins epitomizes all these traits and actions. He has always been fully committed no matter the cause or need. He has always led by example and has challenged everyone around him to be better. He instilled these characteristics to all his students.

His love of the game has continued past his retirement. Don has provided insight and knowledge through broadcasting on radio and tv. In 2015, he received the Jim Host Youth Sports Award in 2015, one of the many honors bestowed. He is a teacher, volunteer and remains involved in the community today, serving on numerous boards.

Don and his family are close personal friends who are always willing to lend a helping hand. He is the perfect candidate to represent the Dawahare's-KHSA Hall of Fame. I ask for your consideration to recognize someone who would be honored to be apart of the "team". I promise you he will be an asset to your organization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wm. Craig Turner', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Wm. Craig Turner

June 17, 2020

It is my privilege to recommend Don Adkins for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have had the honor of knowing Coach Adkins since I was fifteen years old having played for him while a student at Tates Creek High school. I thought him then to be competent, fair, and caring. I think him now to be one of the finest men and coaches I have ever known. He was impactful to those of us he coached both on the court as players and off the court as young men. Now, thirty plus years later I have the unique perspective of having been a coach myself at the Division 1 level for over 20 years. As a recruiter, I have observed literally hundreds of high school coaches. No one has cared more, given more, taught better, or was more committed to winning and doing right than Coach Adkins.

Being in a Hall of Fame is about excelling, and maybe more specifically, doing this over time. It is about having impact - there's that word again - that is far reaching, unique and exceptional. Don Adkins career, list of accomplishments, and varied areas of impact touches on every possible metric for being induction worthy. He has been a Championship and Hall of Fame worthy coach, but also so much more. He has been an outstanding administrator. He has fought for high school sports in general, not just basketball. He has promoted high school basketball and athletics. He has served on boards. He has been a leader in multiple capacities and he has impacted young people, our game, and high school sports both deep and wide for over thirty years.

My greatest fear as a college coach is not that there will fail to be talent to recruit. There will always be talent. My greatest concern is Hall of Fame caliber people and coaches like Don Adkins - that develop young men and prepare them for college - are becoming increasingly hard to find. Sometimes decisions like these are hard. There is a gap somewhere, not enough of something in some area that raises a question as to whether someone belongs in such an elite group. This is not one of those times. This one is easy. Don Adkins should be in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Darrin Horn  
Head Men's Basketball Coach  
Northern Kentucky University