

KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination

2021



Chuck Medley – St. Xavier

Former Head Cross Country Coach

Former Head Track and Field Coach

Former Assistant Track and Field Coach for Distance

Education

St. Rita Grade School – 1966

DeSales High School – 1970

University of Kentucky – BS 1974

University of Louisville – MAT 1993

Teaching and Coaching Experiences

St. Xavier High School Mathematics Teacher for 32 years.

St. Xavier High School Assistant Cross Country Coach for 8 years.

St. Xavier High School Assistant Track and Field Coach for 16 years.

St. Xavier High School Head Track and Field Coach for 13 years.

St. Xavier High School Head Cross Country Coach for 21 years.

Coaching Accomplishments

Ten KHSAA State Cross Country Championships – 1999, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016 and 2017

The 10 championships are tied for most championships all time.

Four KHSAA State Cross Country Runner Up – 2008, 2010, 2014 and 2018

Three KHSAA State Track and Field Championships – 2001-2002 and 2003

Five KHSAA State Track and Field Runner Up – 2004, 2006, 2009, 2010 and 2011

Three KHSAA State Track and Field 3rd Place teams – 2000, 2005 and 2008

Three Mason Dixon Games Indoor State Championships – 2002, 2007 and 2009

Two Mason Dixon Games Indoor State Runner Up – 2001 and 2005
Nike Cross Nationals Team qualifier in 2005, 2012 and 2016
#20 National Cross Country Ranking in 2005
#5 National Cross Country Ranking in 2012 and 2017
Out of the 15 lowest scores in AAA Cross Country history, Coached 5.
Out of the 15 largest margins of victory, Coached 7.
5 individual Cross Country State Champions
Coached 24 individuals and 8 relay track and field state champions.
Founder of the Kentucky Dream Mile. (Five out of the top 10 mile times ever by Kentuckians)
Meet organizer for the Brother Borgia/Frank Cooper Track and Field Invitational
Meet Organizer for the Tiger Run Cross Country Invitational
KHSAA Regional Cross Country Manager
KHSAA Regional Track and Field Manager
Designed the cross country course at Champion Park
Coach of NCAA College Track and Cross Country All-American Bobby Curtis
Coach of NCAA College Track and Field All-American Chip Heuser
Coached 60 plus athletes who have gone on to run in college.

Coaching Honors

KTCCCA Area 3 Cross Country Coach of the Year numerous times.
KTCCCA Area 3 Track and Field Coach of the Year numerous times.
KTCCCA Cross Country Coach of the Year 1999, 2001, 2005, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 and 2016
KTCCCA Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2001, 2002 and 2003.
2011 HHSACA Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year Finalist (One of Eight)
US TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY COACHES ASSOCIATION Boys Cross Country Coach of the Year 2015, 2016 and 2017.

KHSAA Boys' State Cross Country Meet

Team Score Records (as of 11/23/20)

36 - Trinity, 1992
 37 - Ballard, 1975
 37 - Trinity, 1976
 37 - St. Xavier, 2015
 42 - Trinity, 1985
 44 - Trinity, 1991
 45 - Atherton, 1978
 47 - St. Xavier, 2005
 47 - DeSales, 1969

Lowest Team Score (runner-up)

47 - St. Xavier, 1977
 47 - Thomas Jefferson, 1969
 53 - Trinity, 1979
 54 - St. Xavier, 1976
 55 - St. Xavier, 1995
 57 - Ballard, 1974
 59 - Trinity, 1984
 62 - Trinity, 2005
 62 - Trinity, 1978
 66 - Stuart, 1975
 67 - Daviess Co, 1992
 73 - Trinity, 1982
 75 - Atherton, 1967
 78 - Trinity, 1998
 79 - Stuart, 1971
 79 - Trinity, 1987

Largest Margin of Victory

95 - 1986 (Trinity 20, Daviess Co 115)
 89 - 2011 (St. Xavier 31, Trinity (Lou.) 120)
 80 - 2013 (St. Xavier 53, Trinity (Lou.) 133)
 77 - 2009 (St. Xavier 72, Daviess County 149)
 73 - 1997 (Trinity 49, Covington Catholic 122)
 72 - 2016 (St. Xavier 33, Trinity (Lou.) 105)
 72 - 2006 (Trinity 69, Woodford Co. 141)
 72 - 1985 (Trinity 42, St. Xavier 114)
 69 - 2001 (St. Xavier 48, Shelby Co 117)
 67 - 2012 (St. Xavier 20, Trinity (Lou.) 87)
 60 - 1968 (DeSales 26, Atherton 86)
 58 - 2018 (Trinity (Lou.) 54, St. Xavier 112)
 53 - 1999 (St. Xavier 60, Daviess Co 113)
 53 - 1973 (St. Xavier 67, Westport 120)
 50 - 1991 (Trinity 44, Daviess Co 94)
 50 - 2015 (Trinity (Lou.) 37, South Oldham 87)

Smallest Margin of Victory

0 - 1969 (DeSales 47, Thomas Jefferson 47)
 1 - 2014 (South Oldham 84, St. Xavier 85)
 2 - 1987 (Pulaski Co 77, Trinity 79)
 2 - 2003 (Daviess Co 88, Greenwood 90)
 2 - 2019 (Trinity (Lou.) 111, St. Xavier 113)
 3 - 1990 (Shelby Co 77, Holy Cross 80)
 3 - 1972 (Ballard 100, Stuart 103)
 4 - 1974 (St. Xavier 53, Ballard 57)
 5 - 1995 (Daviess Co 50, St. Xavier 55)
 5 - 1967 (Trinity 70, Atherton 75)
 5 - 1988 (Trinity 83, Pulaski Co 88)
 8 - 1989 (Shelby Co 74, Holy Cross 82)
 10 - 1984 (St. Xavier 49, Trinity 59)
 14 - 2010 (Trinity 91, St. Xavier 105)
 14 - 1982 (Daviess Co 59, Trinity 73)

Boys Overall

Lowest Team Score for Winning Team

20 - St. Xavier, 2012 (AAA)
 20 - Trinity, 1986 (AAA)
 20 - St. Xavier, 1979 (AAA)
 23 - Cordia, 1988 (A)
 26 - St. Henry, 2005 (A)
 26 - DeSales, 1968 (AAA)
 27 - Trinity, 1977 (AAA)
 31 - Bowling Green, 1996 (AA)

31 - St. Xavier, 2011 (AAA)
 32 - St. Henry, 2004 (A)
 33 - St. Xavier, 2016 (AAA)
 35 - St. Henry, 2006 (A)
 36 - Trinity, 1992 (AAA)
 37 - Ballard, 1975 (AAA)
 37 - Trinity, 1976 (AAA)
 37 - St. Xavier, 2015 (AAA)

Lowest Team Score (runner-up)

47 - St. Xavier, 1977 (AAA)
 47 - Thomas Jefferson, 1969 (AAA)
 53 - Trinity, 1979 (AAA)
 54 - St. Xavier, 1976 (AAA)
 55 - St. Xavier, 1995 (AAA)
 57 - Ballard, 1974 (AAA)
 59 - Trinity, 1984 (AAA)
 62 - Trinity, 2005 (AAA)
 62 - Trinity, 1978 (AAA)
 66 - Stuart, 1975 (AAA)
 66 - Cordia, 1991 (A)
 67 - Daviess Co, 1992 (AAA)
 68 - Model, 1978 (A)
 69 - Covington Catholic, 2013 (AA)
 71 - Trinity, 1960
 71 - Bishop Brossart, 1980 (A)
 71 - Highlands, 2015 (AA)

Largest Margin of Victory

112 - 1996 (Bowling Green 31, Green Co 143, AA)
 102 - 2012 (North Oldham 110, Bullitt East 212, AA)
 95 - 1986 (Trinity 20, Daviess Co 115, AAA)
 95 - 2017 (Lexington Catholic 39, Warren East 134, AA)
 89 - 2011 (St. Xavier 31, Trinity (Lou.) 120, AAA)
 87 - 2011 (North Oldham 63, Collins 150, AA)
 81 - 1994 (St. Henry 44, Ft. Knox 125, AAA)
 80 - 2013 (St. Xavier 53, Trinity (Lou.) 133, AAA)
 79 - 1965 (Trinity 52, Bishop David 131, AA)
 78 - 2018 (Lex. Catholic 85, Boyd County 163, AA)
 77 - 2009 (St. Xavier 72, Daviess County 149, AAA)
 77 - 1970 (Owensboro 47, Covington Catholic 124, AA)
 73 - 1997 (Trinity 49, Covington Catholic 122, AAA)
 72 - 1985 (Trinity 42, St. Xavier 114, AAA)
 72 - 2006 (Trinity 69, Woodford Co. 141, AAA)
 72 - 2016 (St. Xavier 33, Trinity (Lou.) 105, AAA)
 72 - 2017 (Holy Cross (Lou.) 68, Owensboro Catholic 140, A)

Smallest Margin of Victory

0 - 1969 (DeSales 47, Thomas Jefferson 47, AAA)
 1 - 1997 (Bishop Brossart 114, KY Country Day 115, A)
 1 - 2014 (South Oldham 84, St. Xavier 85, AAA)
 2 - 1963 (St. Xavier 102, Flaget 104, A)
 2 - 1987 (Pulaski Co 77, Trinity 79, AA)
 2 - 1992 (Elizabethtown 81, South Oldham 83, AA)
 2 - 1995 (Cordia 74, St. Henry 76, AAA)
 2 - 2003 (Daviess Co 88, Greenwood 90, A)
 2 - 2019 (Trinity (Lou.) 111, St. Xavier 113 AAA)
 3 - 1990 (Shelby Co 77, Holy Cross 80, A)
 3 - 1982 (Ft. Campbell 96, Dayton 99, A)
 3 - 1972 (Ballard 100, Stuart 103, A)
 4 - 2005 (Owensboro Catholic 109, Warren East 113, AA)
 4 - 1974 (St. Xavier 53, Ballard 57, AA)
 4 - 1978 (Lloyd Memorial 83, Daviess Co 87, AAA)
 4 - 1972 (Bishop Brossart 95, Frankfort 99, AAA)
 5 - 1995 (Daviess Co 50, St. Xavier 55, AA)
 5 - 1981 (Ft. Campbell 68, Dayton 73, AA)
 5 - 1967 (Trinity 70, Atherton 75, AA)
 5 - 1988 (Trinity 83, Pulaski Co 88, AA)
 5 - 1972 (Daviess Co 93, Owensboro 98, AAA)
 5 - 1999 (Warren East 127, Highlands 132, AAA)

KHSAA Boys' State Cross Country Meet

Team Score Records (as of 11/23/20)

Class A

Lowest Team Score for Winning Team

23 - Cordia, 1988
 26 - St. Henry, 2005
 32 - St. Henry, 2004
 35 - St. Henry, 2006
 40 - St. Henry, 1996
 44 - St. Henry, 1994
 46 - St. Henry, 2002
 49 - Model, 1979
 50 - St. Henry, 1990
 51 - St. Henry, 2003
 52 - Somerset, 1978
 52 - Bishop Brossart, 1991
 55 - Holy Cross (Lou.), 2019
 56 - Bishop Brossart, 2014
 59 - St. Henry, 2007

Lowest Team Score (runner-up)

66 - Cordia, 1991
 68 - Model, 1978
 71 - Bishop Brossart, 1980
 73 - Bishop Brossart, 1977
 73 - Dayton, 1981
 76 - St. Henry, 1995
 77 - Somerset, 1979
 77 - Dayton, 1989
 80 - Holy Cross (Lou.), 2015
 80 - Bishop Brossart, 2005
 80 - Walton Verona, 1988
 80 - Walton Verona, 1990
 83 - Christian Academy-Louisville, 2007
 83 - St. Henry, 2020
 84 - Bishop Brossart, 1998

Largest Margin of Victory

81 - 1994 (St. Henry 44, Ft. Knox 125)
 72 - 2017 (Holy Cross (Lou.) 68, Owensboro Catholic 140)
 70 - 2004 (St. Henry 32, Hancock County 102)
 70 - 2019 (Holy Cross (Lou.) 55, Pikeville 125)
 59 - 1986 (Trigg Co 75, Bishop Brossart 134)
 57 - 2006 (St. Henry 35, Bishop Brossart 92)
 57 - 1988 (Cordia 23, Walton Verona 80)
 56 - 2002 (St. Henry 46, Bishop Brossart 102)
 54 - 2005 (St. Henry 26, Bishop Brossart 80)
 46 - 1996 (St. Henry 40, KY Country Day 86)
 45 - 1999 (Bishop Brossart 87, St. Henry 132)
 43 - 2018 (Holy Cross (Lou.) 62, Lex. Christian 105)
 42 - 2001 (Bishop Brossart 71, Lou Christian Academy 113)
 39 - 1973 (West Hardin 70, Frankfort 109)
 38 - 2016 (Lexington Christian 68, Holy Cross (Lou.) 106)

Smallest Margin of Victory

1 - 1997 (Bishop Brossart 114, KY Country Day 115)
 2 - 1995 (Cordia 74, St. Henry 76)
 3 - 1982 (Ft. Campbell 96, Dayton 99)
 4 - 1972 (Bishop Brossart 95, Frankfort 99)
 5 - 1981 (Ft. Campbell 68, Dayton 73)
 6 - 2015 (Lexington Christian Acad. 74, Holy Cross (Lou.) 80)
 7 - 1980 (Ft. Campbell 64, Bishop Brossart 71)
 7 - 2010 (St. Henry 78, Bishop Brossart 85)
 8 - 1975 (St. Henry 111, Pulaski Co 119)
 9 - 1977 (Somerset 64, Bishop Brossart 73)
 10 - 1998 (St. Mary 74, Bishop Brossart 84)
 12 - 1974 (West Hardin 88, Providence 100)
 14 - 1991 (Bishop Brossart 52, Cordia 66)
 14 - 2009 (St. Henry 97, Owensboro Catholic 111)
 15 - 1984 (Bishop Brossart 96, Dayton 111)
 15 - 2013 (Bishop Brossart 85, St. Henry 100)

Class AA

Lowest Team Score for Winning Team

31 - Bowling Green, 1996
 39 - Lexington Catholic, 2017

47 - Owensboro, 1970
 47 - Ft. Campbell, 1988
 48 - Daviess Co, 1971
 49 - North Oldham, 2014
 53 - Ft. Campbell, 1989
 53 - North Oldham, 2013
 55 - Lloyd, 1974
 57 - Pulaski Co, 1976
 61 - Lexington Catholic, 2016
 61 - North Oldham, 2015
 63 - Pulaski Co, 1981
 63 - North Oldham, 2011
 65 - Owensboro Catholic, 2007

Lowest Team Score (runner-up)

69 - Covington Catholic, 2013
 71 - Highlands, 2015
 73 - North Oldham, 2016
 73 - Rowan Co, 1988
 73 - Bates Creek, 1974
 73 - Knox Central, 1981
 73 - Calloway Co, 1985
 78 - Owensboro, 1975
 80 - Paducah Tilghman, 1976
 83 - South Oldham, 1992
 87 - Daviess Co, 1978
 89 - Elizabethtown, 1995
 90 - Covington Catholic, 2009
 90 - Lloyd Memorial, 1977
 92 - Danville, 1987

Largest Margin of Victory

112 - 1996 (Bowling Green 31, Green Co 143)
 102 - 2012 (North Oldham 110, Bullitt East 212)
 95 - 2017 (Lexington Catholic 39, Warren East 134)
 87 - 2011 (North Oldham 63, Collins 150)
 78 - 2018 (Lex. Catholic 85, Boyd County 163)
 77 - 1970 (Owensboro 47, Covington Catholic 124)
 66 - 1989 (Ft. Campbell 53, Warren East 119)
 63 - 1998 (Green Co 72, Lexington Catholic 135)
 63 - 1973 (Owensboro 73, Daviess Co 136)
 60 - 2007 (Owensboro Catholic 65, Pendleton County 125)
 55 - 2020 (North Oldham 78, Corbin 133)
 54 - 1971 (Daviess Co 48, Owensboro 102)
 49 - 2003 (Paducah Tilghman 67, Lloyd Memorial 116)
 47 - 2000 (Warren East 122, Highlands 169)
 47 - 2014 (North Oldham 49, Webster County 96)

Smallest Margin of Victory

2 - 1992 (Elizabethtown 81, South Oldham 83)
 4 - 2005 (Owensboro Catholic 109, Warren East 113)
 4 - 1978 (Lloyd Memorial 83, Daviess Co 87)
 5 - 1972 (Daviess Co 93, Owensboro 98)
 5 - 1999 (Warren East 127, Highlands 132)
 7 - 1985 (Highlands 66, Calloway Co 73)
 7 - 2002 (Warren East 96, Lloyd Memorial 103)
 7 - 1982 (Covington Catholic 106, Knox Central 113)
 8 - 1975 (Lloyd 70, Owensboro 78)
 9 - 2009 (South Oldham 81, Covington Catholic 90)
 9 - 2019 (Corbin 134, Boyd County 143)
 10 - 2015 (North Oldham 61, Highlands 71)
 10 - 1981 (Pulaski Co 63, Knox Central 73)
 11 - 1994 (Covington Catholic 87, Elizabethtown 98)
 11 - 2001 (Owensboro Catholic 89, Warren East 100)

Class AAA

Lowest Team Score for Winning Team

20 - St. Xavier, 1979
 20 - Trinity, 1986
 20 - St. Xavier, 2012
 26 - DeSales, 1968
 27 - Trinity, 1977
 31 - St. Xavier, 2011
 33 - St. Xavier, 2016

5/15

Dear Hall of Fame Committee:

April 1, 2021

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter to nominate Chuck Medley for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. However, I will not be telling you what an amazing coach he is: his accomplishments speak for themselves. I want to tell you what an outstanding person he is.

In 1998 I was a new coach, just coming onto the scene and upon our first meeting, Coach Medley took me under his wings. I know in those initial years I was probably bombarding him with questions, but Chuck was always there to support me. He was always readily available to offer advice and help with any questions I had. Many veteran coaches do not want to spend time “coaching up” other coaches that are not a part of their program, but Coach Medley was never like that with me. He always took time to help me. In those initial years, I was one of the youngest head coaches in our sport and I was one of the few females in the city, but Coach Medley always made sure that I felt comfortable and equal to the others.

Although initially I was a tiny bit intimidated by his successes, Coach Medley always made me feel welcome. There wasn't a meet, or even a practice when we were at the same location, that Chuck did not greet me with the biggest smile and always a hug. It was our thing. His love for people and the sport are just infectious. Watching him with his runners and other coaches, he was the epitome of a role model.

Several years into my coaching career I was going through a rough patch. Without going into details, Chuck was the one coach friend that was there for me throughout the whole storm. This season in my coaching career lasted about a year and Chuck always made sure to reach out to see if I was okay and offer encouraging advice.

There is not another coach in the state that is equal to Chuck Medley. He is the epitome of what any coach in any sport should strive to epitomize. Chuck Medley is more than just a coach with hundreds of accolades to his name, he is a human that more of us should try to be like. The KHSAA should bestow this honor on a man that has brought such pride to our sport and our state.

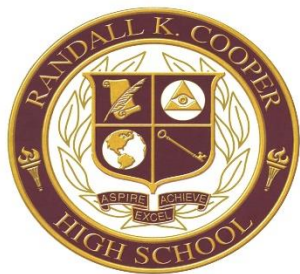
Sincerely,

Stephanie Barnes

Butler Traditional High School

Head Cross-Country Coach

Head Girls Track & Field Coach



RANDALL K. COOPER HIGH SCHOOL

2855 Longbranch Road – Union, Kentucky 41091 – 859-384-5040

D. Michael Wilson, Principal

Chandra Dixon, Assistant Principal Malinda Brooks, Vice Principal
James Schroer, Vice Principal Randy Borchers, Athletic Director
Matthew Dryden, Guidance Counselor Lesley Vickers, Guidance Counselor
Stacey Guthrie, Guidance Counselor

March 24, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing this letter in support of Chuck Medley's nomination to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have known Coach Medley for about 20 years as a coaching peer at Cooper High School (as well as Notre Dame Academy before that) and he is by far the most successful cross country coach in Kentucky state history. I also had the unusual twist of competing against his athletes in the 1990's when I was a high school athlete. Coach Medley has had many top notch runners and talent and got a lot out of those athletes. They were determined runners and difficult to compete and coach against. Since 2008 we have had teams competing against each other, and his St. Xavier teams have always been my standard of excellence. I started a program from scratch at a new school and dreamed of having a team that could compete on the same footing as his. In 2014 I finally had one. One of my teams' greatest achievements is beating them *one time* that season and nearly defeating them at the state meet.

Coach Medley's teams raised the level of expectation for cross country in the state of Kentucky. I watched as his team achieved unparalleled success, winning 10 state championships and 7 in 9 years from 2009-2017. Those teams also reached new heights on the national stage, qualifying for the NIKE Cross National meet 3 times. This was a very new thing I observed in Kentucky cross country. No team had every achieved so much and I knew if I wanted my team to win a state championship, then they would have to be able to compete on the national level. Competing against Coach Medley made me a better coach and made my team a better team. The dream of what was achievable now seemed a possibility due to the St. Xavier success we witnessed first-hand.

St. Xavier also had many elite individual performers during Coach Medley's tenure. Bobby Curtis is one of the greatest runners to ever come from Kentucky and he dominated Track and Cross Country in the state for 4 years in the 90's. Other athletes like John Perkins, Connor Sheryak, Zack Beavin, Chris Striegel, Patrick Schaefer, and many others have been State Champions as well as seen success beyond college thanks to Coach Medley's guidance.

Not only is Coach Medley a great coach and competitor but he is a class act and extremely friendly and helpful to other coaches. It was tough to compete against his teams and easy to be jealous of their success but Coach made it very hard to dislike him. The first time I met him as a coach, we showed up at his Cross Country Invitational and he told me he had my picture on his wall in his basement. I thought that was odd until he reminded me that I'm in the background of a photo of one of his athletes. Every time I encountered Coach Medley he had a kind word or friendly hello for me, even when I was the coach of a weak program with no history. I always appreciated that the best coach in the state recognized my program and who I was.

Coach Medley also was a leader in promoting the sport hosting a huge invitational at the beginning of the season that always drew the best teams in the state. Coach was also a big

proponent of getting the best athletes in Kentucky to race each other. Creating and hosting the Dream Mile was a terrific idea that has put many Kentucky runners on the National map. He is a leader in the state in coaching circles and development of athletes.

In closing, there is no coach who has had more success than Chuck Medley. He raised the bar for achievement in cross country in Kentucky and I would be surprised if anyone ever exceeds the number of state championships and dominant teams he had. Year in and year out St. Xavier was always a powerhouse in that state. No hall of fame would be complete without his inclusion.

Sincerely,

Eric Van Laningham

Eric.vanlaningham@boone.kyschools.us

Cooper High School

Math Department

Boys/Girls Cross Country & Boys Track Coach

Mr. Denny Williams, Athletic Director
St. Xavier High School
1609 Poplar Level Rd.
Louisville, KY 40217

Dear Mr. Williams,

My name is Scott Holzknecht (Trinity '97) and I have been a cross country and track & field coach at Trinity High School since 2004. Over these last seventeen years, I have coached teams that raced Chuck Medley's Tiger countless times. I am writing today to advocate for his admission into the KHSAA Hall of Fame, which I understand you are also working towards.

Chuck's victories and championships—both team and individual—are documented and extravagant. When examining the history of Kentucky distance running, Chuck stands alone and unchallenged in his accumulation of cross country and track & field trophies. When comparing total impact across both sports, Chuck has no equals. Not only did his runners often win, they often won by significant and record-book margins. All of this is on record, and easy for anyone to see, so I won't expound here.

What I would like to reflect on, and what many outside the Kentucky-coaching community might not be aware of, is how Chuck has transformed Kentucky running. One clear way to understand this would be to look at the average miles-per-week Kentucky runners run. Up until the late 1990's and early 2000's, the most decorated cross country coach in the state was Trinity's much-respected Rich Rostel (who was my coach). He won 10 state champions during his tenure with the Rocks. His athletes ran around 40-45 miles a week. As dominant as they were in Kentucky, it was not uncommon for his teams to travel to meets involving Cincinnati schools and find themselves in 2nd, 3rd, or 4th places. Most years, Kentucky state champions were good *Kentucky* teams, but outside of the state would have stood little chance against the state champions from Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, etc.

Chuck though, started having his runners complete 70-mile training weeks with 15-mile long runs. His teams began not only completely dominating the state, but also scoring victories against nationally recognized programs, qualifying for national championship races, and performing well at them. Although St. Xavier certainly had supremely talented runners come through the program over the years, there's no way of accounting for the incredible depth and year-after-year dominance St. Xavier showed under the Medley years other than to acknowledge the talent of the coaching staff. Chuck's mandate for his runners to run—and to run more than anyone else in the Bluegrass state—has caused many other programs in the state to demand more from their athletes, and as a result, Kentucky's entire distance running scene has reached previously unattained heights. I write this letter less than a week after an annual "5k on the track" race that witnessed two runners run under 15:00 for the 5000m, which is very strong, but not unheard of for this race over the last 10 years. This simply *would not have happened* in the 90's or 80's. Although there were no Chuck-Medley trained athletes in the field, those athletes—whether they knew it or not—owed some measure of their success to a coach who taught the rest of the state what hungry young men can accomplish when asked to do momentous things.

On a personal note, I served as an assistant cross country and track coach here at Trinity for most of my coaching years. I was then asked to take over as head coach of the programs. Before I officially took the reins as head coach, I asked Chuck if I could meet with him to learn more about what he did and how he did it. Amazingly and generously, he sat with me, showed me some training logs, discussed workouts, and answered every question I had for him. His willingness to let a coach from his primary rival peak in through the window at the house he had built was a profoundly kind and open-handed act. Chuck has also been a founding block and cornerstone of a once-weekly (pre-COVID) meet-up amongst local high school coaches. Distance coaches from Male, Manual, St. X, Trinity, Sacred Heart, Fern Creek, Ballard,

and others have the chance to meet, discuss, laugh, and learn from each other. This too has been invaluable to creating a culture in Louisville of coaches that are informed and have each other's backs. Putting on a cross country or track meet is always a community-wide team effort and having a sense of community improves the meets, the races, and the athlete-experience in ways that are true but not always easy to measure. By reaching out to others and organizing these weekly meet-ups, Chuck has led the way in this community-creation.

Clearly, I give Coach Chuck Medley the highest recommendation I can muster. He is a straight forward, hard-working, caring, and admirable man.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do as you work through this process.

Sincerely,

Scott Holzknecht
Trinity High School
Cross Country and Track & Field

To Whom it May Concern;

I am writing to strongly recommend Coach Chuck Medley to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Since my freshman year in high school in 1994 until the present, my 18th year as a track and cross country coach, Coach Medley has demonstrated over and over again to be the absolute best coach of this generation in cross country and as a distance coach in track and field.

Coach Medley has coached the best individual distance runner ever from Kentucky, he has coached arguably the best ever cross country team from Kentucky, and he has coached some of the most remarkable track and field performances ever from distance runners. He also maintained a remarkably high level of performance over the entirety of his career. I am also struck by the mastery he demonstrated in different domains of track and field over the years. He spent much of his career primarily focused on distance runners, but also showed mastery of the pole vault (the most technical domain in track) and proved to be an outstanding head track coach.

Perhaps more impressive than the incredibly impressive statistical success he achieved were the many young coaches he mentored, the character and leadership he demanded from the young men he coached, and the standard of excellence he set that truly lifted the entire sport of cross country and distance running in Kentucky.

Coach Medley mentored Bobby Curtis, the top distance runner ever from Kentucky, during his career at St. X. Bobby is the fastest over 1600m and 3200m ever from Kentucky. He competed at the national level, earning multiple All-American honors during his time as a Tiger. He is the singular runner that advanced the expectations of generations of Kentucky runners to expect that they can compete on the national level. Coach Medley pushed him to great success in high school, but also set him on a course for much future success. Bobby went on to win a national championship in college and had a long and successful professional running career, the best ever from a Kentuckian. He represented Team USA at World Championships and won National Championships as a professional.

But Coach Medley mentored so many successes. He coached 11 runners under 4:20 in the mile, a feat accomplished less than 100 times in KY history. I remember watching the Kentucky Dream Mile, an event Coach Medley created himself, in 2012 watching 4 St. X runners finish between 4:19 and 4:21 thinking it may have been their best day of miling a team of Ky runners had ever performed. Then the very next year despite graduating the top runner from the previous season, they had 5 runners between 4:18 and 4:21. Truly remarkable.

He may have been even better as a cross country coach than track. He won 10 state titles from 1999-2017. His teams regularly qualified for the Nike Cross National Championship after the scholastic season ended. He had 5 individual state champions in that same time. His 2012 team is tied for the lowest score ever in state championship history scoring only 20 points. His teams have 6 times scored fewer than 40 points, winning in absolutely dominant fashion.

By every metric one could consider he is the best. He took talented runners and made them champions, but he also developed mediocre talent to greatness over and over. His second team could have made it to the state championship podium on more than one occasion.

I think the greatest accomplishment of his career is the impact that he has had on so many coaches and programs other than his own. As a young, motivated coach in the Chuck Medley era I knew that if I wanted my teams to be successful that the bar was high. Teams from all over Kentucky worked exceptionally hard knowing that to win in Kentucky meant beating a very good St. X team. The bar would not go any lower while Chuck Medley was a coach. From the time Chuck Medley took over as head coach at St. X until the time he retired I know that the level of quality in Kentucky track and cross country made huge leaps forward. While there are certainly many reasons for such a surge, Chuck Medley was at the core. He brought, hard working, high level, national class training to Kentucky more than any other coach I can think of.

I have coached for 18 years. Even in my team's best years (twice 3rd in Kentucky AAA) I never beat Chuck Medley at the state meet. But his teams surely drove us to that podium. I know there are many, many coaches like me. Some have learned directly from Coach Medley at clinics, over dinner, or chatting after a meet. Many more have used Chuck as an aspirational target, guiding them to be more excellent and hard working themselves.

If there has ever been a cross country coach worthy of the KHSAA Hall of Fame it is Chuck Medley. He has defined quality for two decades and will continue to set an aspirational goal for coaches long into the future as his record of accomplishment and positive impact will remain for a long, long time!

I sincerely and earnestly recommend Chuck Medley for inclusion in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Mike Horan
Eastern High School
Track and Cross Country