

August 6, 2021

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Mr. Al Baker in consideration for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I am George Radford, retired educator, and former Track coach at Trigg County High School, where I coached Al Baker from his 8th grade year through grade 12.

Al Baker's father, Mr. Norris Baker was my 8th grade math teacher, and later a mentor for me when I began teaching at Trigg County Middle School. Mr. Norris Baker made sure all 11 of his children gave 100% in whatever they chose to do. Al gave 100% in the classroom, on the track, and on the football field. Academics was not a problem when Al was being recruited because he qualified academically for most of the schools throughout the nation. Al's performance on the track was outstanding. Along with a 4.5 time in the 40 yard dash, Al still holds the Kentucky High School State Class A record in the 100 meter dash with a time of 10.70. In football, Al Baker has several accolades from high school All-American, to being selected in the 10th round of the 1991 draft by the New York Jets. Al was also inducted into the inaugural class of the Trigg County High School Hall of Fame.

I have followed Kentucky high school sports closely since 1973, and I have only seen a handful of athletes with the combination of size, speed, agility, strength, and competitiveness that Al possessed.

Although most people know how great Al Baker was in sports, he is also an outstanding gentleman. Al is respected by all who know him because of his character, integrity, and mild mannered disposition. He is one of the most outstanding young men I had the pleasure of coaching during my 21 year tenure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George Radford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

George Radford

Retired Teacher/Administrator/Coach

August 5, 2021

To whom it may concern:

It is my pleasure to recommend Al Baker for nomination into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I served thirty-five years as a teacher, coach, principal, and may last ten years as Superintendent in the Trigg County School System. During that time, I watched Al develop into a great student athlete.

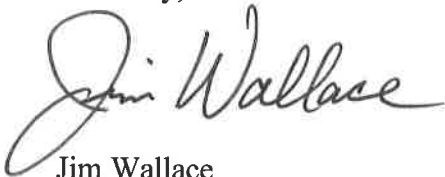
Al came from an exceptional family of eleven children. He was the youngest son. All eleven children earned college degrees. His parents are in my Education Hall of Fame.

Al's blend of size, strength, and speed gave him talent that very few have. He excelled in football and track at Trigg County High School, graduating in 1986. Al played football at the University of Kentucky and the New York Jets drafted him after college.

Over the past sixty years, I have closely followed Kentucky high school sports. In my opinion, Al Baker was one of the top running backs in Kentucky during that time.

Again, I highly recommend Al for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Wallace". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jim Wallace

Retired Superintendent

Trigg County Schools

August 5, 2021

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to recommend Al Baker for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Al is considered one of the best high school running backs to come out of the state of Kentucky and was often compared to Hershel Walker as a high school player. In 1985, he was selected as a National High School All-American and Parade High School All American. He was also selected as a Gatorade National Player of the Year. Al was named to the All State team two times (1984 & 1985) and he was also selected as Associated Press Player of the Year in 1985.

After rushing for 5,396 yards and 51 touchdowns, Al was recruited by basically everyone and finally chose the University of Kentucky over Ohio State and Florida. He chose UK because he wanted to stay home and represent our state. His senior year he was named 2nd team All-SEC. At the end of his career at Kentucky he graduated and was drafted in the 10th round by the New York Jets.

Many people are not aware that Al was not only a great football player, but also excelled in track where he won multiple state championships. He was also a two time powerlifting champion and was chosen as a Bigger-Faster-Stronger High School All American. He finished second in voting behind Rex Champion in 1985 for Kentucky Athlete of the Year. I personally think he should have been first because he was a three sport athlete.

As his high school football coach during this time I must and can attest to his high character as well. He never missed a practice, had tremendous work ethic, and a very high academic record. He was what you would hope all high school student athletes would be and it is a great honor to write this letter on his behalf.

Sincerely,



Dixie Jones

Former Head Football Coach
Trigg County High School