



ANDY BESHEAR
GOVERNOR

TOURISM, ARTS AND HERITAGE CABINET
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS

MICHAEL E. BERRY
SECRETARY

JACQUELINE COLEMAN
LT. GOVERNOR

Mayo-Underwood Building, 5th Floor
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone 502-564-2172

RUSS MEYER
COMMISSIONER

12/01/2021

Dear Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to nominate one of the premier players to ever lace up the sneakers at West Carter High School and in the 16th Region. Megen Gearhart was one those special athletes that came along at a time that West Carter Lady Comets dominated girl's basketball in the 16th region. I still remember her making her debut in the Girls Sweet 16 Basketball Tournament as an 8th Grader and how she amazed the people with her performance as an 8th grader. Of course, Megen and her teammates went on to win the state championship in 2000. Brining the first and currently only girls Sweet 16 Championship to the 16th Region.

I have been very fortunate to have witnessed a lot of basketball in the 16th Region over the past 33 years that I have volunteered at West Carter High School. Of those Megen has been the most dedicated learner of the game that I have seen. Her ability to play the game was unmatched especially those years after they won the Sweet 16. They Lady Comets lost a core group of players after 2000, but due to the mental toughness and mindset that Megen Gearhart processed her and the Lady Comets defended their 16th Region Championship for two years following the miracle run of 2000. Megen was a player know all over the state thanks in part to the dynasty that was Lady Comet Basketball during the late 90's and early 2000's. Megen was selected the 2003 Kentucky Miss Basketball. The first and only Miss Basketball from the 16th Region until Savannah Wheeler from Boyd County became one a few years ago.

What an ambassador for girls basketball she was during her playing days. I fondly remember little kids wearing her number or wearing a head band like she did. She showed all the young girls in Carter County and the 16th Region that you could win the big game and continue playing at the next level.

I could go on and on about this young lady and her deserving to be a Hall of Famer. State Champion, Miss Basketball, Scored over 2700 points, role model for young kids, and an Ambassador for the game and for West Carter High School. Please if I may be of anymore assistance in regard to this nomination contact me at 606-316-0435. Thank you again for this opportunity.



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RUSS MEYER
COMMISSIONER

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perry".

Chris Perry
West Carter Volunteer (34 years)
Park Manager
Carter Caves State Resort Park



West Carter High School

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**Karen Tackett,
Principal**

**Kristen Bledsoe,
Asst. Principal**

**Daniel Barker,
Asst. Principal**

**Carie Tomolonis,
Guidance Counselor**

**John Liles,
Guidance Counselor**

**Corey Gee,
Athletic Director**

**Dawn Edison,
School Secretary**

**Robin Adkins,
Receptionist**

**Jackie Waddell,
Attendance Clerk**

**Mary Carper,
Records Clerk**

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of West Carter High School, I urge you to elect Megen Gearhart to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. West Carter High School is known to have a proud tradition in Girls' Basketball and to have had numerous talented players to be a part of our program. Megen Gearhart is one of those talents that has set herself apart as one of the best that has graced Hop Brown Court in Olive Hill, Kentucky. Megen played a pivotal role on our 2000 State Championship team and was named Miss Basketball for the State of Kentucky in 2003. Few players in state history have been able to say that they won a State Championship and the coveted award of Miss Basketball.

Megen Gearhart holds numerous school records and is on multiple leaderboards on state statistics. She truly had an amazing career and by doing so has inspired multiple generations of girls to rise to a level that before was not thought possible for our small town. She has continued that work today, as an elementary school teacher in her hometown. Megen has been an important part of our community for as long as I can remember. Her name is on the first sign you see as you are coming into Olive Hill. I ask that the KHSAA would confirm her into the Hall of Fame, because anything less would not do her justice.

Thank you for your consideration of Megen Gearhart for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Please, let me know if you have any questions. I would be happy to help in anyway with this endeavor.

Thanks,

Corey Gee
Athletic Director
West Carter High School
304-972-3001