

December 12, 2022

The Nominating Committee for the KHSAA Hall of Fame
Lexington, KY

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to nominate Bobby Curtis, St. Xavier High School class of 2003, to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Bobby in my opinion is the greatest high school distance runner ever in the state of Kentucky. He at one time held the state records in the 1600 m, Mile, 3200 m, 1500 m, 3000m, 1000m and the 5000m. He still has the state fastest times ever in the 1600 and the 3200. He still holds the state meet record in the 3200.

At the state track meet his senior year, Bobby won the 1600 with a time of 4:18, the 800 with a time of 1:54.53, and the 3200 with a state record time of 9:12. He also anchored the 4 x 800 m relay state champion team with a relay leg time of 1:52. Bobby was undefeated against Kentucky competition after the Mason-Dixon Games his freshman year. Bobby was on 5 state championship teams at St. X., 2 in cross country and 3 in track and field.

Bobby was a 3 time Footlocker National Cross Country Championship qualifier, finishing 3rd his senior year. Bobby was 3 time Bowerman Mile winner at the Nike Indoor National Championships, a feat not accomplished before or since. He was also Golden West Mile champion his senior year.

Bobby ran in college for Villanova. In college, he ran the first sub 4 minute mile by a Kentuckian. He was the Big East Cross Country individual champion in 2004 and 2007. In 2007 he finished 4th individually in the NCAA Division 1 Cross Country Championship, the highest finish ever by a Kentuckian.

Bobby continued his running career as a professional. He qualified for the Olympic Trials 3 times with a best finish of 6th in 2008. He finished his professional career with personal bests of 13:15 in the 5K, 27:24 in the 10K, (at the time it was the 7th fastest 10K ever by an American) and 2:11 in the marathon. He finished 2nd overall in the 2015 USA Cross Country championships.

Bobby has retired from professional racing. He works in finance in Philadelphia, is married with a wife and daughter.

I again would like your consideration for his induction to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I think he would well represent St. X, Villanova and the state of Kentucky.

Chuck Medley



Retired Track and Cross Country Coach
St. Xavier High School.



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

OLYMPIANS

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY

2016 SAM MCENTEE
MONIQUE MORGAN
PATRICK TIERNAN
2012 ADRIAN BLINCOE
MARINA MUNCAN
SHEILA REID
2008 ADRIAN BLINCOE
JEN RHINES
2004 CARMEN DOUMA-HUSSAR
SONIA O'SULLIVAN
JEN RHINES
CARRIE TOLLEFSON
2000 SONIA O'SULLIVAN
(SILVER)
JEN RHINES
1996 MAULAN BYRON
KIM CERTAIN
KATE FONSHILL
VICKI HUBER
MARCUS O'SULLIVAN
SONIA O'SULLIVAN
1992 SALAAM GARIBA
CHIP JENKINS
(GOLD-RELAY)
MARCUS O'SULLIVAN
SONIA O'SULLIVAN
1988 EAMONN COGHLAN
SALAAM GARIBA
VICKI HUBER
SYDNEY MAREE
GERRY O'REILLY
MARCUS O'SULLIVAN
1984 SYDNEY MAREE
JOHN MARSHALL
MARCUS O'SULLIVAN
1980 DICK BUERKLE
EAMONN COGHLAN
DON PAIGE
1976 GLENN BOGUE
DICK BUERKLE
EAMONN COGHLAN
1972 JOHN HARTNETT
FRANK MURPHY
DONAL WALSH
1968 NOEL CARROLL
ERV HALL (SILVER)
LARRY JAMES (SILVER)
(GOLD-RELAY)
MARTY LIQUORI
FRANK MURPHY
1964 DAVE PATRICK
NOEL CARROLL
ROLANDO CRUZ
PAUL DRAYTON
(GOLD-RELAY)
VIC ZWOLAK
1960 FRANK BUDD
DON BRAGG (GOLD)
ALEX BRECKENRIDGE
RON DELANY
1956 RON DELANY (GOLD)
CHARLIE JENKINS (GOLD)
(GOLD-RELAY)
PHIL REAVIS
1952 BROWNING ROSS
1948 JOHN JOE BARRY
CUMMIN CLANCY
GEORGE GUIDA
JIM REARDON
BROWNING ROSS
1908 J.E. O'CONNELL

This is a letter of recommendation on behalf of Bobby Curtis, who is being nominated for the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.

You could tell from an early age that Bobby was going to be one of the great ones. His qualifying for the nationally acclaimed high school Foot Locker final for the first time as a sophomore was a sign of things to come.

His college career was by no means an easy one while he suffered from a debilitating sleep disorder that near ended his running career. Bobby found a way to figure out a solution and get things back on track culminating with him winning an NCAA Championship in the 5000 meters and going on to make his first appearance in the Olympic Trials. He was a four-time Big East Champion and became a sub-four-minute miler while at Villanova. From there he went onto a long professional career in the marathon.

Bobby possessed the incredible athletic talent, but his greatest strength was his thoughtful deliberation in his decision-making process – a very valuable quality that serves great athletes well. This could involve training or racing along with managing his athletic career. He had the intuitive skill to make the right decisions to ensure success. He certainly had a mind of his own, yet he could incorporate the advice of others and make a very good decision accordingly. And ultimately, he had a lot of faith in himself.

As a Villanova alumnus and now the Director of the Villanova Track and Field program, I consider Bobby to be one of our most outstanding athlete alumni in what is considered a nationally acclaimed and historic program. In Closing, it gives me great pleasure to see Bobby being nominated for the Kentucky Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely