

Lyon County Schools



Robin Hurst
Assistant Superintendent

Russ Tilford
Suprintendent

Amy Perdue
Director of Elementary Instruction

Rob Richey
Director of Pupil Personnel

Miranda Reed
Director of Special Education

Dear Hall of Fame Committee

On behalf of Lyon County Schools, it is my pleasure to nominate a genuine treasure, Mr. Cullan Brown for the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame. Soon after I became superintendent of Lyon County Schools, I met Cullan Brown and his family. At the time, Cullan was about to enter his freshman year of high school. Little did I know the true legend I was meeting in this 14 year old young man. One's first impression of Cullan was that of a polite young man, that seemed plenty mature for his age. Quickly, the relationship would foster an understanding that Cullan was anything but the normal high school student.

Cullan Brown's golf career at Lyon County was nothing short of remarkable. His approach to the game, as well as each individual season was all strategic and well calculated. He sought out the best competition, oftentimes at the expense of time to travel halfway across the state and beyond in AJGA events. While his golf accomplishments alone are Hall of Fame worthy, the true Cullan Brown reaches well beyond the ability to hit a ball into a cup.

Graduating with honors and achievement that most of us can only dream about, Cullan was an outstanding student. However, he was more than just a student-athlete. Cullan was a true story-teller. His gift for conversation was shared with all that ever met him. He used his gift to set himself apart in student-organizations including serving as an officer in the Lyon County FFA and Technology Students of America.

Reporters from across the state loved to interview Cullan. Basically, all they had to do was say go. Cullan would do the rest. As such, it was not uncommon to find him in the parking lot before school having called in to one of the local morning sports shows. Jeff Bidwell, retired sports anchor from WPSD in Paducah, often referred to Cullan as the Future Governor of Kentucky. Ultimately, Cullan's future was cut shorter than any of us had envisioned. We will never know what all could have been accomplished by this outstanding young man. While I will never get to vote for Cullan Brown as Governor, I hope that his legacy is worthy of your vote for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russ Tilford".

Russ Tilford, Superintendent

Hall of Fame Committee,

My purpose in writing this letter is support for the nomination of Cullan Brown to the Hall of Fame. I am sure many will write of his accomplishments in the game but I would like to write about my friend. Our introduction came from Emma Talley when Cullan was 10. The moment I saw him swing a club for the first time I knew there was something special about this young man. In truth I had no idea the way he would impact my life and others.

We spent countless hours in the lesson bay working and honing his skills. The work ethic, determination, and acceptance of instruction showed through in his golf success. As I reflect back on our time I think it was he that taught me the simplicity of life, love, and friends. It was in our conversations that I knew he was special. It was in his actions toward others with intentionality I saw he was special. As he touched the lives of others I taught I got to hear truly how special he was in the lives of others. He was one of those rare individuals you met, shook his hand, and immediately knew you had a friend.

I think back to the conversations I cherished. We had so many in the lesson bay and on the golf course, but if I had to choose I would choose the late afternoon putting sessions. It was there in the calmness of the afternoon we spoke of God, family, and friends. It was in the dusk hours we would laugh as we talked about the trials of life. I still hear the words "it'll be okay," "its alright," "sometimes." Amazing how this young man had such a respect of life. But if you knew his family you would understand. The support system was unlike anything I have ever seen.

As I go to college signings of my students it is amazing the pictures of him I still see. So often he is mentioned in the acceptance speech of that person who made a difference in their life. He loved the game yes but his love for his fellow competitor is what makes him a Hall of Fame candidate. In all my years teaching golf and watching others mature into college players and yes then tour players I can honestly say his impact molded and changed lives. When another young man can look upon another and see integrity, then a life is changed. The example lives on and the stories of life teach others that follow.

I know his life changed mine and I am thankful. Forever grateful to be able to tell the stories of our conversations, have the memories of his generosity, and most of all be able to say like so many others that met Cullan Brown. "He was my friend." His impact upon the game of golf is unparalleled. Thank you for considering him for a well deserved honor.

Todd Trimble



March 9, 2023

KHSAA HOF Committee,

What an honor it is to write this letter in support of Cullan Brown being considered for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I had the distinct privilege of coaching Cullan at the University of Kentucky. Cullan's golf accomplishments are well documented and I will include a few highlights in this letter. However, his biggest impact was on the people around him, including me, during his time in Lexington. I cannot think of anyone more worthy than Cullan Brown to be inducted into the prestigious KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Cullan completed his freshman year at Kentucky in the Spring of 2019 before he was diagnosed with osteosarcoma. He also had surgery on the hamate bone in his wrist the summer before his freshman year started. As a result, Cullan was not cleared to make full swings until the latter part of October of 2018 and only competed for one semester in his UK career. But, in that short amount of time, he made a lasting impact with his golf. It started with the first round of golf he played with the team in a qualifying round. We were competing for the lineup spots for our last tournament in the fall and playing at Keene Run just south of Lexington. He was not able to play multiple rounds back to back but our team doctors had just given him permission to play one full round of golf. Well, Cullan shot 36 on the front and a smooth 29 on the back. He beat the next low score on the team by at least four shots. That round would be a preview to the only semester Cullan played wearing the Blue and White. In April of 2019, he matched the low competitive round of my coaching tenure with a 64 in Vanderbilt's home collegiate event. Cullan also finished in the Top 10 in the ultra competitive SEC Championship later that month. After playing only that spring semester, he was named to the All-SEC Freshman Team as well.

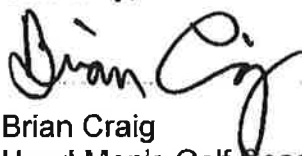
However, Cullan's most notable accomplishment as a college athlete was right before he was diagnosed in July of 2019. Cullan was awarded a Sponsor's Exemption into the PGA Tour Barbasol Championship at Champion Trace in Nicholasville, KY. Not only did Cullan make the 36 hole cut but he posted a very impressive score of 10 under par 278 for the week. During Saturday's third round, with his dad Rodney caddying, he had a string of 5 straight birdies on the front nine. Cullan was an extraordinary young player who was destined for the PGA Tour as his career.

I know this is the KHSAA "Athletics Hall of Fame" but I would be remiss if I did not mention the incredible legacy Cullan left and the impact he made with every single

person who knew him. There are plenty of people in our great game who have high character and integrity. However, Cullan was genuinely different in the best way possible. He was unlike any person I have ever known or will ever know in my lifetime. He loved God, his wonderful family and all people as authentically as anyone ever could. Golf was his passion and he was great at it. But, his golf skills did not compare to the person he was...and he was that same loving and kind person every single day, regardless of how he might have played that day. Golf was a big part of his life but it never, ever defined him. Cullan always knew what was important in life and lived by those values of Faith and Love steadfastly. He brought overflowing joy and love to so many people, including me and his teammates that it is difficult to describe in words. I will say this though with confidence...Cullan impacted more people in his 20 years than most of us will if we live four times that long on God's earth.

Who gets a full 18 hole golf course named after them... "The Cullan" at Mineral Mounds...when they were only on here for such a short time? I can tell you who...his name is Cullan Brown. The legacy he left was remarkable and will be everlasting within our Kentucky Men's Golf Program and within the competitive golf world all over our country. In my humble opinion, the KHSAA Hall of Fame will be a more distinguished institution and honor with Cullan Brown as a member.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Craig". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brian Craig
Head Men's Golf Coach