

Honoring an individual who has shown achievement playing sports and noting their contributions to the game in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, is the goal of the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

One such individual worthy of induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame is Coach Corky Prater, an outstanding player at Lewis County, excelling in the sports of baseball, basketball, and football. Corky Prater is one who can be described as an "all around great athlete."

Playing baseball for four years, Prater, was honored as an All Eastern Kentucky Conference catcher. Leading the team to the 62nd District Title, two consecutive years, Prater could be acclaimed a true leader.

Basketball was also a sport, in which, Prater played well. As a forward, during his senior year, Prater led the team to seventeen victories.

As a quarterback, Prater, threw 331 yards his senior year, in one game and 2,097 in total for that season. Prater was the first to throw over 7,000 yards as a Lewis County Lion and the first to complete seventy-two touchdown passes. Prater's leadership as a two way player, led to the team's successes during his four year high school career.

Returning after graduation from Eastern Kentucky University to his alma mater, Prater taught Physical Education and became an assistant football coach under the leadership of his high school coach and mentor, Bill Robinson. Prater, very capably served as the school's athletic director, in later years.

Showing his Lion Pride as player and coach, Corky Prater exhibited his many qualities as a football team member and leading a successful group of young men to excel on the football field, in high school, and life, in general. Those same young men today, continually seek out Coach Prater, upon returning home for a visit, as do those still residing in Lewis County.

In summation, one cannot stress enough the devotion and dedication, Prater has exhibited to the sport of football. On and off the field, as player and coach, Prater's career must be rewarded as a KHSAA Hall of Fame inductee and member.

Sincerely,

Jon Staggs

Michael Edington
PO Box 325
Vanceburg, Ky 41179

December 1, 2023

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

It is my pleasure to enthusiastically recommend Arthur "Corky" Prater for induction in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

As a past educator, coach and educational administrator, I had the pleasure of knowing and working with Corky Prater since he was a young boy growing up in Lewis County. By watching him compete with his older brothers, Jack, Danny and Allen on an outdoor court and watching him holding his own with them—never giving an inch. These formative years may be the reason for Corky's competitive spirit in his career as a player and as a coach. Of all the athletic-minded people I've worked with, Corky is among the most gifted and competitive athlete—both on and off the field.

Corky was gifted with a natural ability as an athlete and had a great desire to compete. He hated to lose. As he moved into grade school, Corky became a quarterback. He was quick, had a great arm and had leadership skills. By his freshman year of high school, Corky became the starting quarterback on the high school team. He became a prolific passer, setting many Lewis County passing records, as well as some at the state level. By his senior year in 1974, Corky would lead Lewis County to its first district championship in football. His talent gave Corky the ability to make things happen on the football field.

After high school, Corky received a scholarship to play football and baseball at Eastern Kentucky University. During his time at EKU, Corky proved again to be a versatile athlete, playing football all four years, as well as baseball. He became an All-Ohio Valley Conference baseball player as a catcher..

After graduation from EKU, Corky took the career path that most people felt he would. He became a teacher and coach in Lewis County. He coached grade school football and basketball his first year and then became the head football coach at Lewis County High in 1982, A position he held for twenty-two years. He also served as an assistant coach (in Lewis County) for six years after stepping down as head coach.

Corky had many roles during his time at Lewis County. In addition to serving as head football coach, he served as athletic director, assistant basketball coach, assistant football coach, golf coach and elementary football coordinator.

In Lewis County, most people will tell you that Corky Prater was the best player and coach to come out of Lewis County. But Corky is more than that. The impact he had on young men's lives will last for decades. He cared about his players, win or lose. He was a father figure and role model.

I am confident without reservation that Arthur "Corky" Prater would be an excellent fit for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. As an educator, coach and superb individual, he will be an excellent addition to the Hall of Fame.

Feel free to contact me at 606-796-3275 or redington@windstream.net, if you have any questions or would like me to further elaborate on Arthur "Corky" Prater's talents and achievements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Edington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Edington" clearly legible.

Michael Edington

Retired Administrator

Lewis County Schools

Corky Prater - LCHS HOF Consideration

To whom it may concern:

Being the eldest son of Coach Bill Robinson of Lewis County, I was blessed to be around Lewis County football during its infancy. I believe many reflect upon those years as the "Golden" years of football in our great state. However, when I reflect upon those years, I remember not just the Friday night games but also the pre-season practices. I think about the bus rides to games which seemed to take forever. As well as the rides home in celebration and defeat. While the fascination of the ever-growing success of our team was not lost upon me as a pre-teen. One player captured, not only my attention, but the attention of everyone in our area and even the state. That player was Corky Prater.

If you follow LCHS football, you know about the aerial numbers put up by Corky and the Lions during an era when most teams still ran the triple option. But Corky Prater was much more than a pro style quarterback playing in an era dominated by the option. Being a standout athlete Corky never left the field. Quarterback on offense, safety on defense he oversaw our teams play calls throughout the entire game. Corky's offensive numbers bettered most across our state, but his defensive stats equaled the best throughout our conference, district, and region. A point not well remembered.

He had a drive to win and was a leader both on the field and in the locker room. An example of his drive to win and disappointment with his team's failure to do so was best illustrated by the bus ride home after the loss to the Henry Clay Blue Devils in Lexington. That night as we stood on the sideline the Henry Clay had paraded onto the field, what seemed to be, 300 players. Their varsity team, junior varsity, and freshman squads all took their place on the field to be recognized before the game. Lewis County stood on the visiting sideline shoulder to shoulder, less than 50 souls including our coaching staff, equipment managers, and ball boy. Yet through the first half of play Corky and his team matched their best efforts blow for blow. The second half scoreboard told a different story. Goliath smashing David on the field of battle. Statewide everyone had wanted to see this standout quarterback from Eastern Kentucky. Henry Clay had paid Lewis County \$5,000 to play football on that Friday night in Lexington and they made a spectacle of the event. Their investment nearly cost them a loss. A lack of depth and pure exhaustion would turn the tide and give Henry Clay the victory that night. As the team dressed to go home there was silence. As the team loaded the school bus there was silence. For the three hours on the bus ride home there was silence. The rule was no talking after a loss on the trip home. It was Corky who reminded everyone of the rule. He took his seat, and no one questioned his authority. That was the type of leader that Corky Prater was on the field. He left it all. He assumed responsibility for the failure even against impossible odds. He set the example by being the example.

Should Corky Prater be in the KHSAA HOF? During the years in which he played he was feared by opposing coaches and revered by the youth playing football every Friday night behind the

bleachers. Young boys not claiming to be Roger Staubach but rather hometown hero Corky Prater. 50 years after his graduation from LCHS he remains not just as the greatest quarterback to have ever dawned the blue and white of Lewis County. But in all intents and purposes the greatest quarterback of the 1970's from the great State of Kentucky.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ernie Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the main paragraph of text.