

To Who It May Concern,

I am writing this Letter of Recommendation for Coach Billy Hicks to be considered for the KHSAA Hall Of Fame. I was shocked to learn that he was not already in the KHSAA Hall Of Fame. In my opinion it is truly not a Hall of Fame without him because when I think of Kentucky High School Basketball, his name is at the top of the list.

We had many battles over the years, and I can not think of another coach that I had any more respect for than Coach Hicks. He was always very good to me both on and off the court. His record speaks for itself, over 1000 career wins, 13 Regional Titles, and 2 State Championships. Coach Hicks loved Kentucky High School basketball. It was his life and he influenced so many young men over the years. I have got to know a lot of his former players and I can truly feel how much they loved him.

In my opinion this a no brainer, Coach Billy Hicks deserves to be in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Not only was he an ambassador for Kentucky High School Basketball and High School Athletes, he was also a great friend to fellow coaches.

Yours truly.

Coach Allen Feldhaus, Jr.
Head Basketball Coach
Madison Central High School

September 23, 2024

Dear Members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I am honored to write this letter in support of Coach Billy Hicks for his induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. As a former Kentucky High School Basketball Coach, I had the privilege to compete against Coach Hicks's Scott County Cardinals on numerous occasions. We developed a camaraderie, friendship and a very healthy team rivalry, all of which I will continue to cherish.

I was able to witness his many achievements, leadership and unwavering dedication to the game of basketball making him an outstanding candidate for this prestigious honor. Coach Hicks, in his signature red blazer, had the ability to inspire, motivate and develop players. It didn't matter who the best team on the court was, you could guarantee the Scott County Cardinals were going to play the game at 110% in front of fan packed gymnasiums!

Those who played for him exhibited respect, teamwork and sportsmanship which was a direct reflection of Coach Hicks's leadership. I honestly can't think of a better candidate for this award. Coach Hicks's outstanding coaching career, leadership and contributions to the sport make him truly deserving of this honor. I am confident that his induction will not only recognize his remarkable legacy but also inspire future generations of coaches and athletes to strive for greatness.

Thank you for considering this nomination. Should you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Danny Haney
Regional Athletics Director, The Americas
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To whom it may concer,

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to provide a letter of recommendation supporting the nomination of Billy W. Hicks to the KHAA Hall of Fame.

I have known Coach Hicks well over 40 yrs. In 1984, we (Harlan High School Basketball Team), welcomed Coach Hicks and Betsy to Harlan High. He was named our new coach. From that moment, we knew we had someone special.

Coach spent the first week talking "in detail" to every player.. He spoke about our goals as not only a basketball team, but also what our expectation were as individuals. The following week was stickily BASKETBALL... Drills, Drills and More Drills... Needless to say, we lost a few would-be-players. Coach demanded the best out of each individual and accepted nothing less. Those of us that stuck with the new program, I can honestly say, became better. By the end of the summer and the beginning of our first season with Coach, it was time to see what all this summer long, training had done. "Test His Theory".

Our first season with Coach, we doubled our wins from last year's totals. Season two with Coach brought on one of the best seasons and record that HARLAN HIGH BASKETBALL had ever seen. In other words, Harlan Basketball was "On The Map".

After my senior season, to no one's surprised, Coach had several colleges asking for my signature. The night before I made my final decision, I spent the entire evening with Coach. We talked about the advantages of each college. With his guidance, I made my choice and I might add, one of the best decisions I had ever made. "Great Mentor".

Coach continued to follow me during my entire college career, giving me pointers on how to improve my game. This continued for four years. What is truly amazing is the fact that not only was he still coaching me in college; he was also giving the same advice to all his former players that had chosen to play college basketball. "Truly ONE of a Kind".

Coach would invite his former players to play against his current. What Coach had taught us over our careers, we were now teaching his current players? "Brilliant Mind Set".

In closing, I would like to give one more example of how great a man Coach was. I remember after his first Kentucky High School Boys State Title... Coach called me the very next day and said "This title belongs to you and all my former players who took the time to give back to help his team succeed". "If it is to be, it's up to WE".

Billy W. Hicks was truly a "COACH".. Not just with BASKETBALL, but also in LIFE.. I am just one of many whose life was made better by having Billy W. Hicks as a Coach, Mentor, and most importantly, a FRIEND.

Sincerely,

Rodrick Robinson

Dear KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Coach Billy Hicks for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. As a former head coach at the University of Kentucky and someone who has dedicated my life to the sport, I have had the privilege of witnessing many exceptional talents in basketball. Coach Hicks stands out as one of the finest.

Throughout his illustrious career, Coach Hicks made significant contributions to the high school basketball landscape in Kentucky. His tenure at Evarts, Harlan, Corbin, and Scott County was marked by remarkable achievements, including numerous regional titles and two KHSAA State Championships. His dedication to the sport and his players is evident in the countless lives he has impacted over the years.

What truly sets Coach Hicks apart is not just his impressive win-loss record, but the way he has fostered a culture of excellence and sportsmanship. He has consistently emphasized the importance of teamwork, discipline, and integrity, shaping not only skilled athletes but also responsible young men and women. His ability to connect with his players on a personal level has earned him the respect and admiration of both his students and the wider community.

As the all-time winningest basketball coach in KHSAA history, Coach Hicks's legacy is firmly established. His contributions to the game and to the development of young athletes have left an indelible mark on Kentucky basketball. He is not just a coach; he is a mentor, a leader, and an inspiration.

Inducting Coach Billy Hicks into the KHSAA Hall of Fame would be a fitting tribute to his dedication, passion, and extraordinary accomplishments in high school basketball. I wholeheartedly support his nomination and believe he will continue to inspire future generations through this honor.

Thank you for considering Coach Hicks for this prestigious recognition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tubby Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tubby" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smith".

Coach Tubby Smith



September 26, 2024

Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Selection Committee
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2800 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Selection Committee,

In an effort to recommend Coach Billy Hicks for the Kentucky High School Athletics Association Hall of Fame, I have honestly considered writing this letter and only writing this one sentence. Coach Billy Hicks is the all-time winningest boys' basketball coach in the state of Kentucky. However, while we are all aware that this would be the most well-known detail of his high school basketball coaching career, it would oversimplify what Coach Hicks has meant to boys' basketball in the state of Kentucky and, more importantly, what he has meant to our community.

I was a high schooler at Scott County High School when Coach Hicks came to town. I was not familiar with him in any way, before the announcement that he was coming, but it was clear from the die-hard high school boys basketball fans in our community (and there were many) that this was a huge get and a big hire for our community.

Coach Hicks taught his players the value of hard work. The players from my time in school were solid players and generally athletic, but none had the "immeasurables" (particularly height) that can give distinct advantages in basketball. Our teams leveled the playing field by simply keeping the nose to the grindstone and putting in the work. We had many small wins in those first few years with Coach Hicks that showed everyone that we had something special.

A particular story that high school kids from my generation will always remember is when Coach Hicks took our team to the famed Beach Ball Classic and, with a bunch of guys of which I grew up and played ball, annihilated the team of future NBA star Tracy McGrady. We had no NBA lottery draft picks, but we had a team built from hard work.

Coach Hicks gave our community something of which to be proud. Every rotation of high school kids to come through SCHS have stories similar to the McGrady story that created profound pride for the school and for others from our community.

Every town and city has those people and organizations that seem to put their place on the map and make their place either better known or known for something. In Scott County, we had been known regionally for being the site of Toyota. While Coach Hicks was here, and certainly during his peak, I would not be surprised if we were better known across the state for basketball success.

Everything Coach Hicks was a part of, even beyond basketball, was rooted in a sincere relationship. While I knew he left a mark in other communities across the state in his time in those places, I did not

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truly understand just how strong a mark he left until I had an opportunity to talk to many of the people from those communities.

Prior to my time as superintendent, I served as the facilities director for Scott County Schools. A few years before Coach Hicks retired, during the design process for Great Crossing High School, I went to Harlan County High School to review some design elements we considered using for our new school. Our school tour was during the school day, so we were able to speak with a lot of their staff about their perspective of various elements of the building. The most striking thing about our visit had nothing to do with the building or the purpose of our trip. It was the fact that almost every person we spoke with found a way to ask about Coach Hicks, tell a story about Coach Hicks, or try to broker a deal to bring him back to Harlan County to coach! At that point, it had been 30 years since he last coached in Harlan County. By the way people spoke, you would have thought he was recently stolen away. This experience demonstrated fully to me the impact Coach Hicks made on the communities of which he was a part.

With Coach Hicks passing last winter, the tear-filled stories I was told at his funeral were full of details and, while they generally spoke of happy times filled with success, what was most significant to the people sharing the stories was the relationship they had with Coach Hicks. He was the kind of person you wanted to be around and the kind of person that added value to the lives he touched.

It is surreal to me that I had the opportunity to experience Coach Hicks' impact as a kid and now have the honor of returning the favor by writing this letter of recommendation on his behalf as the school superintendent of the school district that he called home for the longest part of his career.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B. Parker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Billy Parker, Superintendent
Scott County Schools