



Josh Henderson, Principal  
Trevor Ervin, Assistant Principal  
Travis Thompson, Assistant Principal  
Melissa Butler, Counselor  
Amiee Miller, Counselor

Dear KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter of recommendation for James Haire as a candidate for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have had the privilege of knowing James Haire for many years, first as a youth, then as a coaching colleague, and now as his supervisor in my role as principal of Elizabethtown High School. Since 1995, Coach Haire has led the Panther Boys Basketball Program to unparalleled success, including multiple district and regional championships, a state runner-up finish, and a state championship. Over the course of his 30-year tenure, Coach Haire has become a cornerstone of the Elizabethtown community—not only as an outstanding coach but also as a mentor to young athletes.

Throughout his distinguished career, Coach Haire has earned numerous accolades, including being named 5th Region Coach of the Year and KABC Region Coach of the Year on multiple occasions. He had the honor of coaching the Executive Inn East/West All-Star Game in 1998 and 2000 and served on the KABC Board in 2009. A true testament to his impact, Coach Haire was also a 2026 Court of Honor Inductee and, most notably, a finalist for National Coach of the Year in 2018.

What truly sets Coach Haire apart is his character. There is no finer individual than Coach Haire—he is a man of integrity, humility, and unwavering dedication. His players embody the same principles he instills in them: class, humility, pride in their school, and a relentless pursuit of their potential. Beyond his role as a coach, Coach Haire has served as a father figure to countless young men, offering guidance and support both on and off the court. His influence extends far beyond the basketball court, shaping the lives of his players long after their time in the program.

Coach Haire's loyalty to the game of basketball and to Elizabethtown High School is unwavering. His basketball program is a legacy at E-town, a testament to his leadership, commitment, and tireless work ethic. He is not only a remarkable coach but also a selfless leader who consistently gives more of himself than is asked. It is without hesitation that I wholeheartedly recommend Coach James Haire for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. His contributions to the sport and to the lives of the countless young men he has mentored make him a deserving candidate for this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

Josh Henderson  
Principal  
Elizabethtown High School



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March 10, 2025

Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
Hall of Fame Committee

Dear KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee Members,

It is my honor to recommend Coach James Haire for consideration to be selected for induction into the Dawahare's/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I have known Coach Haire for over 45 years. I have coached with him, been his Athletic Director and Assistant Principal, and fortunate to call him friend throughout that period. I have a unique perspective of the person he is, the coaching accomplishments he has amassed, the tremendous Social Studies teacher he was, and the type of foxhole friend he is.

James has been the Head basketball coach at Elizabethtown High School since 1995. During that span he has won the KHSAA Boys State Tournament in 2000 and followed up with a State runner up in 2021. Under Coach Haire the Panthers have won 5 5<sup>th</sup> Region Championships and been runner up 9 times. He also coached E-town's 1994 Boy's Track team to a Class 2A State Championship. His list of coaching milestones and individual coach of the year awards speaks for itself. What has set him apart, from my multiple perspectives, is his commitment to developing young men outside the realm of athletics. James is a 24-hour coach. His players know that he is always available to them. This carries on even after graduation. He strives to prepare his players for life after high school basketball by demanding discipline and a professional approach to practice, road trips and school behavior. This same approach also made him one of the anchors in our Social Studies department, as well as one of the best teachers in our school.

Coach Haire gives respect and commands respect. He gives his all and demands the same from his players and staff. It has been said multiple times by many people that when Elizabethtown High School loses James Haire, the school will never be the same. Having taught, coached, been AD and Assistant Principal here myself for years, I can say that Coach Haire has set a culture with our basketball teams and in our building that will be hard to sustain after he leaves.

Again, it has been an honor to work with and observe the effect that Coach Haire has had on so many Elizabethtown High School lives, including mine. Thank you for your attention and consideration for James Haire to be selected for induction into the Dawahare's/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Doug Barnes

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director/Assistant Coach [Retired]  
Elizabethtown High School

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March 1, 2025

Dear KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing to wholeheartedly recommend James Haire for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Having been a long-time fan of Elizabethtown High School basketball and witnessing Coach Haire's remarkable journey, I can confidently attest to his profound impact on the sport, his players, and the community.

Coach Haire has been the head basketball coach at Elizabethtown High School since 1995, during which time he has achieved extraordinary success, including leading the team to a KHSAA Sweet 16 Boys State Championship in 2000 and a state runner-up finish in 2021. His accolades do not stop there; under his guidance, the team has claimed multiple regional championships and prestigious titles, such as the 2005 King of the Bluegrass Championship.

Beyond his tangible successes, what truly sets Coach Haire apart is his exceptional ability to nurture young talent and instill in them the values of discipline, teamwork, and sportsmanship. He has earned recognition as the Area Coach of the Year multiple times and has been honored as the 5th Region Coaches Association Coach of the Year. His commitment to his players extends beyond the court as he dedicates himself to teaching life skills—time management, accountability, and respect—that will serve them well into their future endeavors.

Coach Haire's strong connection to Elizabethtown High School, both as an alumnus and a former player, fuels his passion for the game and his deep commitment to the school's rich basketball tradition. He embodies the qualities of an excellent coach and motivator, possessing a profound understanding of the game, an unwavering work ethic, and the ability to relate to young men. Coach Haire's leadership style fosters an environment where athletes can thrive both on and off the court.

As a long-time supporter of Elizabethtown High School basketball, I have seen firsthand the positive influence Coach Haire has had on countless student-athletes. His legacy is not only measured by wins and losses but by the character, resilience, and determination he instills in his players.

It is with great enthusiasm that I recommend James Haire for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame, as he has truly exemplified the spirit of high school athletics and has had a significant impact on the lives of many. Thank you for considering this worthy candidate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Raymond J. Miller, Jr.'.

Raymond J. Miller, Jr.  
President

Wilson Manufacturing and Design, Inc.

February 13, 2025

Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
Hall of Fame Committee

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to submit a recommendation for Coach James Haire for consideration of induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Coach Haire's outstanding career as Head Coach of the Elizabethtown High School (EHS) boys basketball program exemplifies what you are looking for in your Hall of Fame class. His incredible success in 30 years as EHS head coach has been remarkable. Winning a state championship and making the state tournament numerous times at a small enrollment school like EHS speaks volumes to his talent in coaching. Prior to his years as head coach, he served EHS as 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and junior varsity basketball coach, assistant football coach and head track coach for over 10 years. While his coaching success has been phenomenal, his ability to motivate, develop, coach and mentor his players may be his most outstanding attribute. He was a player's coach and always brought out the best of talent from each of his players. An attribute worthy of Hall of Fame coaching material.

As one of his former players, I can attest that Coach Haire was instrumental in my success in life. He coached me in 8<sup>th</sup> grade, 9<sup>th</sup> grade and high school basketball as my class was fortunate that his coaching ascent followed our years. He also coached me in football and hurdles and sprinting on the track team. He was the best coach I ever had. I owe much of the success I have attained in my profession in life to Coach Haire as can many of his students and players. He motivated us to work hard in everything and provided the framework to be confident and successful in all facets of life, a tool that has followed me when my playing days were over. His mentorship and friendship has continued for life.

Having watched my uncle, Ralph Richardson, be inducted into your Hall of Fame was one of the highlights of his life, and I know he would be excited to have Coach Haire join this esteemed group of individuals if he were still with us. Please give Coach James Haire your utmost consideration for this award. His presence in your Hall of Fame will only heighten your success and notoriety.

Best regards,

W. Barry Lee, MD, FACS  
EHS Class of 1990

February 14, 2025

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Coach James Haire as a deserving inductee into the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame. It is an honor to provide my perspective on Coach Haire's exceptional career, not only as a coach but as a mentor, leader, and role model for countless young men.

I have had the privilege of knowing Coach Haire for many years, first as one of his players, later as a colleague when I coached alongside him, and eventually as the superintendent of schools while he continued to shape the lives of our students. His contributions to our basketball program and the lives of those who were fortunate enough to play under his guidance are immeasurable.

Coach Haire's career accomplishments speak for themselves. His remarkable win-loss record and multiple state championship appearances, including winning the 2000 state championship, are a testament to his knowledge of the game and his ability to motivate and inspire his teams. His leadership on the court was complemented by his unyielding commitment to developing not just talented athletes but young men of character. Throughout his career, Coach Haire was known for building cohesive, disciplined, and highly competitive teams—teams that consistently achieved success at the highest levels of Kentucky high school basketball.

What sets Coach Haire apart, however, is his focus on molding his players into better individuals, both on and off the court. He didn't just teach basketball; he taught life lessons—integrity, perseverance, teamwork, and respect for others. Under his guidance, many of his former players went on to succeed in various aspects of life, in sports, business, and their personal endeavors, all carrying with them the lessons learned from Coach Haire.

I have witnessed firsthand how Coach Haire was dedicated to creating a positive environment for young athletes. He instilled confidence and accountability, pushing them to excel while simultaneously emphasizing the importance of being good citizens. As a coach, he truly understood that success in life is as important as success in sports. He helped his players become better basketball players, but more importantly, he helped them become better men.

I am proud to have been part of Coach Haire's legacy, both as a player and as a coach alongside him. There is no one more deserving of a spot in the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame than Coach James Haire.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this well-deserved honor.

Sincerely,

Jon Ballard  
Superintendent of Schools (Retired)  
Former Player & Assistant Coach for Coach James Haire