

Dear Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee,

I am writing to formally recommend Coach Jeff Lendon for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Coach Lendon's contributions to high school soccer in Kentucky are nothing short of remarkable, and his legacy as a coach and mentor has left an indelible mark on the sport in our state.

Coach Lendon, a Michigan native, ventured to eastern Kentucky in the late 1970s to attend Morehead State University, drawn by the reputation of their soccer program. During his time at MSU, he had the privilege of meeting Dr. Mohammed Sabie, often regarded as the "Father of Soccer in Kentucky." Dr. Sabie, an esteemed professor and the founder of MSU's club-turned-varsity soccer program, ignited Lendon's passion for "the beautiful game."

In 1978, Coach Lendon began student teaching at Mt. Sterling Elementary, where he introduced soccer to the youth of Montgomery County. He founded the local recreation soccer program, and launched the first-ever boys and girls varsity soccer teams at Montgomery County High School in 1983. As part of the program growth, he also founded the soccer program at McNabb Middle School as a feeder to his high school program. Under his guidance, the MCHS Indians Boys Varsity Soccer program quickly rose to prominence, reaching state championship matches in 1989 and 1994, competing valiantly against formidable big city opponents Ballard and Saint Xavier.

Over his 22-year tenure as head coach, Coach Lendon transformed Montgomery County Indians soccer into a regional and state powerhouse. His leadership led the program to five state semifinal appearances, two state championship appearances, numerous regional championships, and produced numerous NSCAA (now United Soccer Coaches) high school All-Americans. With a final record of 245–210–22 and a 51.4% winning percentage, Coach Lendon ranks 14th on KHSAA's Most Coaching Wins list for Boys' Soccer.

Notably, Coach Lendon's influence extended beyond his direct coaching role into coach mentorship. Two of his proteges went on to become successful high school soccer coaches. Former assistant coach Kevin Wright went on to coach West Jessamine Girls Soccer leading them to two KHSAA state championships. Assistant-turned-Indians head coach for 14 years, Nick Pannell, who is now head boys varsity soccer coach at North Oldham High School, ranks among the top 25 in all-time wins in KHSAA Boys' Soccer history.

Outside of high school soccer, Lendon coached club soccer for the Central Kentucky Storm and was founding member, former president and chairman of the Kentucky High School Soccer Coaches Association; including setting up and running the state's first all-star games.

As the volunteer marketing director for the Montgomery Co. Boys Soccer, a former player under Coach Lendon, and a sports media professional, I wholeheartedly believe that Coach Jeff Lendon is more than deserving of induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. His pioneering efforts, dedication to the sport, and the profound impact he has had on countless young athletes make him a true icon of high school soccer in Kentucky.

Thank you for considering Coach Jeff Lendon for this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

T. Adam Martin

*Volunteer Marketing Director, Montgomery County Boys Soccer
Senior Design Manager, Overtime*

T / A M A R T I N

T. Adam Martin <adam@tamartin.studio>

Email Test

Jeb Burch <jeb.burch@centre.edu>
To: Adam Martin <adam@tamartin.studio>

Tue, Jul 23, 2024 at 10:23 PM

Hey Adam,

We are taking the team to Germany this weekend for a two week training camp...sorry for not sending this sooner.

I played at LexCath from 1986-1990 and distinctly remember the games vs. Montgomery Co. Both teams had some great players and then many of us also played Kickers together.

Fast forward to my graduation in 1994 at Centre and immediately taking the assistant job. I was on the ODP staff that year that included Jeff. I was young and very inexperienced and remember Jeff always checking in, asking me questions, and encouraging me.

So long ago but I remember Jeff personally making sure that playing field was in perfect shape each fall. He cared about people, the game, facilities, Jeff made for a better soccer experience all around.

Good luck this fall!

JEB BURCH

Head Coach Men's Soccer

Centre College

600 West Walnut St. | Danville | KY | 40422

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On Jul 19, 2024, at 2:34 PM, Adam Martin <adam@tamartin.studio> wrote:

[External Email: Use caution with links or attachments.]

[Quoted text hidden]

T / A M A R T I N

T. Adam Martin <adam@tamartin.studio>

Jeff Lendon recommendation letter

1 message

Welton Wright <weltonkat@gmail.com>

Thu, Jul 25, 2024 at 8:31 PM

To: "amartindesign@gmail.com" <amartindesign@gmail.com>

July 25, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend Jeff Lendon for the Kentucky High School Hall of Fame. I was fortunate to be an assistant coach at Montgomery County High School for 10 seasons. Coach Lendon built the program from the ground up. His time as a 2nd grade teacher allowed him to interact with the youth in the area and train them from an early age, thus building a strong and successful youth soccer program in Montgomery County. The program built by Coach Lendon went to multiple State Championships, Final 4's and Regional Championships. During his years of coaching, Montgomery County was feared and respected each and every year. Coach Lendon had vision, worked extremely hard, planned, motivated his players and produced in my opinion the best county soccer program in the state. He was not only dedicated on the field but off the field as well, as he served on many local and state soccer committees promoting soccer throughout the state. Coach Lendon was a pioneer and ambassador for soccer throughout the state of Kentucky in the 70's through the early 2000's. With my 33 years of teaching and coaching experience, I strongly recommend Jeff Lendon for the Kentucky State Hall of Fame. He not only embodies coaching at its finest, but I consider him a friend and mentor as well.

Sincerely,

Kevin W. Wright