

Letter to recommend Rick Chasteen as a nominee for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I would like to strongly recommend Rick Chasteen, retired high school basketball official and assigning secretary, to be inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Rick was one of if not the finest referees to ever call high school basketball in Kentucky. His professionalism, integrity, character and judgement were unparalleled. He conducted every game with the importance and attention to detail of a Sweet 16 championship game, no matter who the teams were or their records. He was a mentor to young coaches and a wealth of knowledge of rules and requirements for experienced coaches. Rick treated everyone involved with respect and was open to explanation and discussion, but operated with a firmness that kept the temperature of the situation in correct form. As a member of the 10th/11th Region Policy Board when the job of assigning secretary came open, Rick was immediately my first suggestion because of his reputation for fairness and straightforward approach to handling games professionally. Lastly, I am proud to call Rick one of my mentors and friends, he created a standard that all officials were graded against for many coaches of my era. Rick would be a tremendous addition to the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Scott Chalk

Paul Laurence Dunbar State Champions 2016

To the KHSAA Hall Of Fame Committee,

I am writing this letter to recommend Rick Chasteen be considered for induction into the KHSAA Hall Of Fame. I am not writing this to give you all of his accomplishments as an official because I am sure you already have that information. I am writing this on behalf of all Basketball Coaches that Rick has worked for over the years.

My family has been involved with Kentucky High School Basketball for over 60 years as players and also coaches. I am writing this on behalf of my father, a Hall of Fame Coach at Mason Co. and my 2 brothers who both played and coached in many games that were officiated by Rick. I not only played in many games officiated by Rick at Mason Co., but have also coached many 11th Region games officiated by Rick.

The thing that impressed me the most about Rick was the positive relationships that he had with not only the coaches, but also the players. He seemed to always know the player names and he would do his best to prevent possible problems before they ever occurred. He was an official that you could talk to, and he would listen. He did not let things become personal. He understood that in the heat of battle, emotions run high. I think Rick understood the Coach-Official and Player-Official Dynamic so well because he was a very good athlete himself.

His knowledge of the rules and the game itself, were second to none. He studied team tendencies and seemed to always be a step ahead of other officials. I can remember many times him asking me after a timeout if I was going to run a backscreen lob play. He knew I liked to run that after timeouts. How many officials would be thinking about that. The other thing that I always liked about Rick was how he communicated with the players on the floor. Players could truly feel that he cared about them and he knew a lot of them by name. I know the players on my State Championship Team in 2013 absolutely loved him. Dominique Hawkins (2013 Mr. Basketball), would always ask me before a big game if Mr. Rick was calling our game tonight. I always got a big kick out of that.

Another quality about Rick that I admired was that he was not afraid to admit that he missed a call. He truly wanted to get every call right and when he didn't, it bothered him. I know many times he would ask me to send him the film of our game because he thought he missed a particular call. Not many officials are willing to do that.

Probably the most noteworthy thing about Rick Chasteen as an official is how he has served as a mentor for so many young officials over the years. I know there are so many officials today who give him credit for getting them in the business. We have been fortunate in the 10th and 11th Region because Rick Chasteen has produced some of the best officials the state of Kentucky has ever had. It was so good to see former Bluegrass Officials like Bart Lennox, Brent and John Hampton all 3 calling in last year's NCAA Tourney. I know for a fact that Rick Chasteen played a vital role in their development as basketball officials.

In closing, I am extremely honored to recommend Rick Chasteen for induction into the KHSAA Hall Of Fame. I cannot think of another official who is more deserving. He was not only a tremendous official, but an even better friend!

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



National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association

October 15, 2025

Selection Committee
KHSAA Hall of Fame
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is my honor and privilege to write this letter in full support of Rick Chasteen's nomination to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Throughout his 39 years as a licensed KHSAA basketball official, Rick has left an indelible mark on the game, the officiating community, and the countless student-athletes, coaches, and administrators he served.

I had the privilege of working directly with Rick in my role as Chairman of the 10th/11th Region Policy Board, as we were responsible for hiring him as the Assigner of Officials for the Bluegrass Basketball Officials Association (BBA). Simply put, Rick was the right leader at the right time. Through his leadership, professionalism, and deep commitment to fairness, he restored the BBA to a position of prominence and respect in Central Kentucky.

Rick was an outstanding assigner because he understood that officiating is about relationships. He built trust and credibility with coaches, athletic administrators, and fellow officials, while never losing sight of the most important priority—the student-athletes. His ability to balance these relationships with integrity and professionalism made him one of the most respected officials in our state.

Beyond his administrative work, I also had the honor of observing Rick from multiple perspectives: as a coach, as an athletic administrator, and as his immediate supervisor. No matter the lens, one truth was clear—Rick Chasteen was among the very best at working the game of basketball. His officiating was never about himself; it was always about the athletes, ensuring the game was played fairly and at the highest standard.

Rick's career is filled with remarkable accomplishments: officiating 10 KHSAA State Tournaments, 19 All "A" State Tournaments, and numerous district and regional championships across Kentucky. His leadership as BBA President, recognition as the KHSAA Outstanding Basketball Official, and nearly four decades of service to the game all stand as testaments to his extraordinary contributions.

In sum, Rick embodies everything the KHSAA Hall of Fame stands for—excellence, integrity, leadership, and service. His impact will be felt for generations, and I can think of no one more deserving of this honor.

Thank you for your consideration of this most worthy candidate.

Respectfully,

Phil Rison, CMAA
NIAAA Executive Director

KHSAA Selection Committee

KHSAA

2280 Executive Drive

Lexington, KY 40505

Dear KHSAA Selection Committee,

It is my honor to be the person nominating Rick Chasteen for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Rick has left an invaluable mark on officiating in the great state of Kentucky, both in his 39 years as an on-court official, and in his years as the assigning secretary for the Bluegrass Basketball Association.

Just this fall we hit 25 years since a young kid from Cynthiana who had no idea what he was doing joined his dad, Tony Williams, and Rick Chasteen for a day of multiple scrimmages at Bourbon County High School where the four of us would rotate in and out in a 3-person crew, which at the time was very new to high school officiating. One day on the court watching what seemed like someone who was bigger than life to the profession show me his tricks and I was instantly hooked. For that year I went to as many of his games as I could, went to eat with him after, and did everything I could to just get one bit of new knowledge each time I was around him. I noticed how he handled the student athletes, communicated with the coaches, and most notably the respect he had from all over the state of Kentucky. In a profession where someone goes home not liking you nearly every night, I rarely saw them go home and not respect his work. Doing the right thing is hard sometimes and he taught me this from the very beginning.

Rick had an on-court career that a Kentucky High School Basketball Official can only dream of. Ten state tournaments over the course of four different decades, Nineteen All A State Tournaments, working games in ten of our sixteen regional tournaments, being named KHSAA outstanding basketball official, and rising to the level of supervisor to mentor and advance too many to mention here.

Little did I know I would only spend one year watching him work on the court. After that season he was named our assigning secretary in the BBA and I began working varsity games that next year. Over the next ten years nothing changed for me. I wanted him at every game if I could, knowing that was not a possibility. Not every postgame would go how I or my fellow officials liked, but that's part of learning and growing as an official. When you get things right, it is because you are supposed to, and when you get things wrong then the hard part begins. We

rode up and down countless roads through the 10th and 11th regions, and even if he disagrees, I tried to listen as much as I could instead of speak. It seems like just yesterday I saw what felt like a Godfather-like figure sitting in the corner watching me work an elimination district game between top 10 teams, or the call the next day at work to say you need to try to see where officiating can take you. Little did he know how much that meant or how much 20 years later it still inspires me to be the best I can be.

His last year as supervisor I got to experience one of the greatest accomplishments to this day of my entire career, getting to work "the greatest show in hoops." There is simply nothing like the KHSAA Sweet 16 and I try to tell others around the country every chance I get. I still remember the feeling that I was ready before the call came, but he taught me the greatest lesson at that age, and that is you always want to get the call as an official one year later than you think you are ready for any assignment. There is no substitute for experience in our business. And when someone is thrown into a position they are not ready for and the experience is bad it is tough for the official to ever get back to that level. It was a tough lesson to learn those early years, but holding me back and knowing when I was ready instead of me going at my pace is the reason I am where I am today.

In summary, I never say any one individual is more deserving than another for anything. However, there is no individual who has ever worn the stripe shirt in the state of Kentucky who deserves the Hall of Fame more than Rick Chasteen. He is as respected as much as any High School official I ever saw from Paducah to Pikeville. Thank you for your consideration of this so deserving candidate.

Bart Lenox

NCAA Basketball Official