

Bio. H.D. Cowden

Birth: August 2, 1943 – Pinson, Alabama To Harold Robert and Mary Elizabeth Johnson Cowden.

Because of his family's involvement with the United States Military ,he attended 17 different schools in 13 years of primary and secondary education; the last 2 and ½ years being the Mount Berry School for Boys just north of Rome, Georgia. It was at Berry that he learned the term, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister" and where he decided he wanted to be a teacher, graduating in January of 1962.

College: Brescia College in Owensboro, KY graduating in the spring of 1966

Master's: Western Kentucky University 1977.

Teaching Experience: two years for the Diocese of Owensboro – 33 years for the Hancock County Public Schools – beginning in August of 1967 and retiring in May of 2000.

While at Hancock County he taught 3 and ½ years at Hawesville Junior High until moving to Hancock County High in January 1971.

While at the high school he served in many capacities within the Language Arts Department. He taught English and Literature over the years within all four grades...also, Drama, Speech, Journalism, Broadcast TV – the students came in for a 6:30 A.M. Class and presents live daily news and events as the majority of the student body was just settling in- and Phase Elective subjects, such as The Bible As Literature, Shakespeare, Modern Lit, and Science Fiction Literature.

In Athletics he took over the Golf program (both Boys and Girls) in the spring of 1971 and has served in the head coaching capacity to this day (48 seasons and counting)- though the coaching position is now shared with his daughter, Tori, as the Head girls varsity coach. They merely take the one coaching salary and split it down the middle. During his first year of coaching, the school system forgot to set up a salary for coaching golf, so at the end of the season he was paid \$50 from the school's athletic fund.

In athletics, while at HCHS he also coached tennis, because no one else would do it, and drove after school and weekend field trips (After school trips – ball games and various events had to wait till he got back from his regular bus route) He often drove the kids places for no pay because, in his own words, “It’s for the kids and someone needs to do it.” In 1974 he initiated the first modern Girls Basketball program at HCHS. In his 12 years as coach his teams won 5 district 11 tournaments – were district runners-up 6 times and were Region 3 Runners-up one time. His final record was 175 wins and 144 “Not So Well”. He resigned from coaching Basketball, kept the golf job and became Athletics Director in 1986, serving in that capacity for 19 years (5 years were after his teaching retirement). He still is a part of the school system substituting as both teacher and bus driver. He often drives many field trips – many without pay – mainly for the enjoyment of helping students gain experiences they’d never get without leaving Hancock County. In 1992 he also initiated the first Hancock County High School Hall of Fame with the idea of not only drafting some of HCHS’ former outstanding athletes but also many of the outstanding personages that left our halls and went on to do great things for the people of their chosen communities. As Athletic Director he also served on the 3rd region Policy Board for eight years (4 years as president) and the KHSAA Golf Committee for 11 years, and was instrumental in changing the team scoring system from play 4/count 4 to play 5/count 4 during KHSAA sanctioned events. He also helped to convince the powers that be to move the KHSAA golf seasons from the spring of the year to the fall.

On top of all his involvement with the school system, he has taught beginning swimming and stroke courses for the American Red Cross since 1959. He’s had an Instructor rating since 1964 and teaches lifeguarding, CPR and First Aid in Kentucky and Southern Indiana to this present time. He is also Scholarship Chairman for the Kentucky All “A” Classic. He organizes the system, reads the applications and marshals the interview process for the students to obtain the scholarships. To this date – since 1997 – the All “A” has facilitated over 2 million Dollars in scholarships for Students from small schools across the Commonwealth. He is also co-chairman of the All “A” Classic Statewide Invitational Golf tournament and is coordinator for the girl’s section of the tournament held the second week of September every year.



Hancock County High School

"HOME OF THE FIGHTING HORNETS"

State Route 80, Highway 271 South
Lewisport, Kentucky 42351

Phone (270) 927-6953

Fax (270) 927-8677

Principal Coordinator	Assistant Principal	Athletic Director	Dean of Students	Guidance	FRYSC
Ashley Gorman	Ginger Estes	Danny Gray	Mike Orr	Tom Magan	Laura Kessans

10/30/2017

Michael Orr
80 St. Rte. 271 South
Lewisport, KY 42351

Dear Selection Committee,

I write to you with pride to recommend Mr. Harold David Cowden for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Cowden has been involved with interscholastic athletic activities for nearly 50 years. He has served many roles at Hancock County High School. Mr. Cowden implemented the girls' basketball program and was the first head coach in school history and accounted for the school record of 175 wins. He has and still does serve as head golf coach at HCHS and has done so for 48 years. During that span he has been a part of nearly 800 wins and coached many multiple individual champions.

He also served as Athletic Director for 19 years where he initiated the Hancock County Hall of Fame and started our girls volleyball program. As Athletic Director, Mr. Cowden served on the 3rd Region policy board for 8 years with 4 of those years as President. He also has served the KHSAA as a member of the Golf Rules Committee for 11 years.

Mr. Cowden continues to serve the students of Hancock County as he still serves as golf coach, substitute teacher, and bus driver. Even after retirement he still gives countless hours to our students, staff, and community of Hancock County Schools.

Over the course of 48 years, Harold David Cowden has touched many lives over multiple generations in Hancock County. He continues to be a leader and staple in our community and without reservation I recommend Mr. Cowden for the honor of being inducted into the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Regards,

Michael Orr
Dean of Students
Hancock County High School



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October 30, 2017

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Harold D. Cowden, who has dedicated 48 years to Hancock County Public Schools, KHSAA athletics, and the students of Hancock County High School in numerous roles.

Mr. Cowden, in his many years of service, has been a teacher, coach, athletic director, and bus driver for HCPS. He was instrumental in starting the first girls' basketball team, and was serving as the athletic director when the first volleyball team in our school began. He has also served as golf coach since 1971.

Over his 48 year career, Mr. Cowden has served on the Region 3 policy board, including acting as president for four years. Additionally, he has served on the KHSAA Golf Committee for eleven years.

Today, Harold D. Cowden remains highly involved with the athletic and academic programs at Hancock County High School. He is a substitute teacher, bus driver, coach, and mentor. He is a certified CPR/First Aide trainer through the American Red Cross, and is instrumental in ensuring our teachers and staff are well-trained to care for students.

Hancock County High School is incredibly grateful for the lifetime of service dedicated to Hancock County students by Harold D. Cowden, and we give him our highest recommendation for this honor.

Sincerely,

Ashley R. Gorman, Principal
Hancock County High School

- ALL-STATE
- RECOGNITIONS
- MISCELLANEOUS

Kentucky Association of Golf Coaches

2017 Region 2 Awards

Co-Coaches of the Year: Bretnea Thomas, Owensboro Catholic & Lars King, Daviess County

Player of the Year: Hayden Riney, Owensboro Catholic

All Region Team:

Hayden Riney, Owensboro Catholic

Daniel Love, Daviess County

John Buchanan, Christian County

Trey Lewis, Ohio County

Jesse Holton, Daviess County

Garrett Crabtree, Hancock County

Carson Holmes, Christian County

2016 Region 2 Awards

Coach of the Year: Dave Cowden, Hancock County

Player of the Year: Connor Coombs, Muhlenberg County

All Region Team:

Connor Coombs, Muhlenberg County

Daniel Love, Daviess County

Rhett Cardwell, Union County

Carter Johnson, Muhlenberg County

Hayden Riney, Owensboro Catholic

KY Golf Coaches Association @ 2011 - 502.233.7548
4725 Willman Way, Lexington KY 40509



As he accepted his Educator of the Year award, Dave Cowden quipped that he never had his picture taken with Miss America. After the ceremony, Heather French Henry obliged, and stood for a photo with him. At right is Cowden's longtime friend and presenter Dr. Ann Evans.

Faculty, staff and students at Hancock County High School chose to honor Dave Cowden by naming the school mascot after him. Pictured from left are HCHS Principal Lasley, Dave the Hornet and sponsor Jeremy Chappell, owner of Galaxy Pizza.

Hancock County High School would like to introduce the arrival of the Hornet Mascot "Dave." The HCHS student body and faculty took surveys to come up with the official name of the Hornet Mascot. The name Dave was submitted with others, but the name that won was in honor of the person who continues to be involved with programs at HCHS the longest...Mr. Dave Cowden.

The Hornet Mascot would not exist without the tremendous help of Jeremy Chappell with Galaxy Pizza, who has sponsored Dave the Hornet for the remainder of this year and all of next school year. Dave the Hornet will sport a Galaxy Pizza t-shirt at events for the sponsorship. Other HCHS programs contributed to purchasing Dave the Hornet as well: Hornet Football Team, Hornet Boys Basketball Team, Lady Hornet Basketball Team, HCHS Pep Club (selling the Spirit Cups), HCHS Cheer Team, and Hornet Baseball Team. Hancock County High School would like to thank everyone who helped contribute towards the purchase of their newest HCHS member, "Dave" the Hornet Mascot.

Any business or event that would like Dave the Hornet to make an appearance, please contact David Hobbs or Aimee Estes at (270) 927-6953 for details.

Hornet mascot gets a name— It's "Dave" in honor of David Cowden



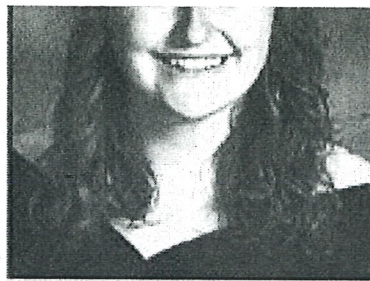
Though hard to tell from this aerial photo made in snow covering the baseball field at Vastwood Park, the season starts, weather permitting, today. The Hornets play the season at Owensboro High School. The first horn

Embracing Changes

By Brooke Hall

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with Harold David Cowden about his life and career. In his youth, he attended seventeen different schools. He graduated from Mt. Berry School for boys in Georgia in 1962. He taught his own students for 35 years in his own classroom and continues to substitute at Hancock County High School. What amazed me the most about our conversation was how much people, and society as a whole, have changed. When he began his career, Teachers were allowed to discipline their students. Parents were active in their children's lives. Students had enough determination to strive for their absolute best. What causes this?

Teachers had more of a "hands-on" approach when correcting their students. Today's teachers are ridiculed if they even question a student's motives. Mr. Cowden's teachers were strict, but he knew that they had his best interest in mind. His greatest influence in high school was his senior English teacher. Five days before Mr. Cowden's graduation, Mr. Cowden expressed to his teacher that he wanted to become an English major. His teacher, in many ways, told him he was not prepared. His teacher loved him enough to tell him the truth, and eventually helped him achieve his goal. His high school English teacher had a huge impact on his life, so much so, that when Cowden became a teacher, he made himself available afterschool. Hancock County High School has been blessed with incredible teachers. But, with our new iPad's, we have learned to teach ourselves, and teachers have become assistants. The iPad's are a tool, if used correctly. Some students are not prepared for that kind of responsibility. Cowden agreed that some of our students are not mentally, physically or emotionally prepared. But, that is not necessarily a



passionate about the U.S. Constitution because of this. With the U.S. Constitution people have finally been granted rights and freedoms. We have the power to choose who we want to become. Everyone

wants to be successful, but there will always be some that fall short. Some will succeed, others will fail. It is up to us as individuals to have the determination to be successful.

While Cowden was in high school, school was his only priority. He worked hard for his education. He told me about his job in the kitchen where he learned to bake and become a cook. He got up at 4:30 every morning to make breakfast for 250 other boys. We are so distracted with sports, extracurricular activities, and technology that we are forgetting the most important part about school – increasing our knowledge. Our knowledge determines so much about our life, relationships, and future careers. Cowden's entire senior class attended college. We can't even manage to sit in class for a few hours without complaining. It's pathetic. With new developments, education has become easier. Why are we not embracing it? We have lost sight of what is important. We don't see how blessed we are to be given the opportunity to learn. We always want more. We try to find bigger and better things. We are so focused on the future that we have forgotten about our past and we ignore the present.

It's obvious that society has changed. Students teach themselves, parents don't parent, and we are a lazy generation. We live in a country where everyone is allowed freedoms. Freedoms that need to be somewhat monitored. But by who? You are allowed to determine your mistakes and how you learn from them. Your mistakes are not something you can blame on your teachers, your parents, or the "ungodly" world we live in today. You determine yourself. If you want to be something to remem-