

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

Coach John Bond is of my favorite coaches and people.

During my high school years while being coached by him is when I truly became committed to the game of basketball and my love for it grew deep. He was a tough coach yet a very good teacher of the game. Two of the most impactful lessons he instilled in us as a team were accountability and discipline. His commitment to us mirrored the commitment he taught us to have for and to each other as teammates.

He consistently modeled integrity in his coaching in the lessons he taught us. It did not matter to him how good you were. He was committed to holding a star player to the same standard as the least known or skilled player on the team. I remember when he sent one of our best players out of the gym for loafing and did not let her play in a big upcoming game against Oneida. We were all so mad at him. But, looking back I understand completely. I am thankful I was a part of that environment and I wish there were more coaches who had the courage to manage their teams that way today.

A few years ago he was in a hospital in Lexington and I took my daughter to meet him. He shared a lot of his wisdom with her, stats of his former players and our opponents. She was in awe of his knowledge of the game in general, as well as the pointers he gave her after watching video of her playing basketball. He complimented and encouraged her and shared pointers to help her be successful. But even more important, he spoke with her about her character, being a good teammate, and being proud that he could see those good things in her foundation as a young leader, already established. It was a special moment.

Coach Bond was a great coach and a good man who genuinely cares. He continues to keep in touch and support us. I am extremely grateful to have had his influence during my high school years, on and off the court.

Monica Owens
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