

Dear Selection Committee,

I would like to take this opportunity to nominate Steve Potts to be posthumously inducted in the Dawhars KHSAA Hall of Fame. Steve was a very long time volleyball official in the state of Kentucky. He was an excellent official that was selected to work 14 KHSAA State Championship Tournaments, over 35 Kentucky Regional Tournaments and more than 40 District Tournaments.

Along with his work in Kentucky with the KHSAA, Steve also officiated club volleyball, NCAA and NAIA collegiate volleyball matches around the state. The reason I mention this is because I was the Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Bellarmine University in Louisville, KY from 1986 through 2001. I first met Steve when he refereed a lot of my collegiate matches. As to his integrity to the volleyball referee profession, he was outstanding. I knew during my coaching tenure that he was one that I could count on to be fair and impartial while doing one of our matches.

After I "retired" from coaching, I became a collegiate and Kentucky State high school volleyball official. One of the first of my cadre that I officiated with in the KHSAA was Steve. He was always very gracious in helping myself and other officials in trying to better us in the profession. He had many friends in the volleyball community around the state. He was consistently requested for as an official for many of the top KHSAA volleyball programs in the state, such as nationally ranked Assumption High School, Sacred Heart, Mercy Academy, St. Henry, Notre Dame Academy and others. Steve year in and year out did some of the toughest, most competitive KHSAA matches in the state. He was not only an excellent official, but he was a true ambassador to the sport of volleyball and the KHSAA.

Steve was great friend, a very passionate referee and I feel privileged to have had a chance to know as a referee and to work with him in many, many volleyball matches over the years. He will be truly missed by the hundreds of players, coaches and other referees that got to know him on a personal and professional level.

Thank you for your time and consideration of Steve Potts as a well deserving candidate to the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Please contact me if you have any other questions from my end.

Sincerely,

Kevin Payne
KHSAA State Volleyball Official
Former Head Women's Volleyball Coach Bellarmine University
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MEMO TO: KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame Selection Committee
FROM: Mark Booker, KHSAA Volleyball Official
SUBJECT: Steve Potts Hall of Fame Nomination Justification
DATE: 10/4/18

Dear Selection Committee Members:

This letter is to nominate Steve Potts for the KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame. While I've already pointed out many of Steve's volleyball accomplishments in the online nomination form, in this letter, I'll outline how meaningful Steve's mentoring was to me over the years.

When I first started formerly officiating volleyball back around 2000, I met Steve at my first volleyball match. He was on one court, and I was on another. Between matches, he walked over and introduced himself, shook my hand, said his name, then mentioned that if I ever needed anything or had any questions, I could call or email him. Of course, being new, I did just that. After talking to him several times and working many matches that season, I was assigned to officiate with him at a high school tournament. I thought to myself, "Wow!", I get to ref with the King....Steve Potts! It was a wonderful experience for this young whippersnapper at the time. The match went wonderful, but as usual for an up and coming official, I made several mistakes and Steve noted each one mentally. He didn't write anything down. In our post-game discussion, he provided constructive feedback on each mistake, explained how to do better the next time, and then, and of most importance, he explained to me how mistakes and corrections come across to coaches and players. For me, that was huge! I didn't realize it at the time, but he was teaching me that part of the game that is not in any rule book or case book. It was the part about presenting yourself as an official!

Finally, probably the most important support Steve gave me was in 2014, when I attempted to get my NCAA National certification for the second time, after failing the first time in 2013. Steve knew I worked really hard preparing for the rating and observation matches by the NCAA committee. The week after I failed, Steve and I had a match together at Campbellsville University. We spoke about my failure on the drive to, and from, Campbellsville. I'll admit that after pouring every ounce of energy, passing every pre-rating test with a score of 100%, and answering close to 500 practice test questions, failing was tough. On the trip home after our match, we stopped and had dinner. At dinner, Steve, in his ever-mentoring form, looked me straight in the eye and said, "Don't let any rating team member, regardless of whether they pass or fail you, take away your love for officiating volleyball. They can fail you, they can tell you everything you did wrong, and they can make you feel like crap, but they can never take away your love for the game." I'll remember those words the rest of my life. After that evening, and thanks to Steve's mentoring words, I got back up on my horse and officiated with a renewed passion and love of the game. His words were that powerful!

Please select him for the Hall of Fame.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/
Mark Booker

To whom it may concern,

It is with great personal and professional pride that I take this opportunity to tell you about Steve Potts and why I have nominated him to be included in the Dawhares' KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Steve was a long time official in the sport of volleyball. He was an outstanding official as evidenced by the 14 times he was selected to officiate the KHSAA State Championship Tournament, 35+ regional tournaments he officiated and the more than 40 district tournaments he worked.

Yes, he was an outstanding official. Many believe the best we've had in our state to this point. But the things that I believe truly make him an excellent candidate for the Hall of Fame are his contributions to the sport in other areas along with the personal traits he exhibited for many years.

I have been the assigning secretary for volleyball in regions 6, 7 & 8 since 1995. Those regions traditionally produce some of the toughest matches to officiate imaginable. Often there can be 12 collegiately recruited athletes on the court at the same time. One year, there were 3 teams in the national top ten rankings within regions 6 and 7 alone. I can tell you that the coaches of those teams consistently requested Steve to have their tough matches. He was not only an excellent official, but possessed a tremendously high level of honesty and integrity that the coaches recognized. There were many times that I watched him work an Assumption vs Sacred Heart, Mercy vs Notre Dame, St. Henry vs Henry Clay match that was incredibly hard and told him when they were finished, "I really don't think you missed a thing."

Steve loved to share his passion for volleyball and for officiating. When the sport was new in many places of our state, he traveled from Cadiz to Ashland, conducting clinics for officials and assisting others with those clinics. He made great friendships wherever he went and stayed in touch with officials in a mentoring role from the time he met them until he sadly and unexpectedly died last year. Steve loved to mentor new and veteran officials. Every year he bought new officiating equipment, made referee kits of whistles, cards, pumps, lanyards etc. and gave them to new officials. Two of my new officials this year received the last two of those kits he made after the season was over last year.

I personally did hundreds of matches with him over the years. We were both also NCAA officials who worked many matches together. It never failed. Wherever we went, some player would come up and hug him. I constantly got on him for that. "Do you realize what that looks like to the other team? To the other coach?" Then, at his visitation and funeral, there were teams of players show up, dozens of individuals, countless coaches.

I really doubt there will be a bunch of former players at my visitation. Maybe there's a bigger picture and maybe he had it right.

When Steve died, we didn't just lose one of the best officials we've ever had. We lost one of the most conscientious and passionate officials we've ever had. We lost someone that valued every person in every match he ever did whether they were a player, a coach, an administrator or a fan.

Thank you for your consideration of Steve Potts to join the officiating cadre of the Hall of Fame. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is more information I may provide.

Sincerely

John Smith
Assigning Secretary, Volleyball
Regions 6, 7 & 8