

NCHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee
North Carolina High School Athletic Association
P.O. Box 3216
Chapel Hill, NC. 27515

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to support the nomination of Frank Davis for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Hall of Fame. With a career spanning over 50 years, Coach Davis has been a transformative leader, a dedicated advocate for student-athletes, and a visionary whose contributions have significantly shaped the history and evolution of the NCHSAA.

Coach Davis' coaching career is a testament to his unwavering commitment to excellence. As the first head track coach and athletic director at Southeast Raleigh High School (1998-1999) and the head coach at both Durham High School (1993-1994) and Southern Durham High School (1995-1996 and 2002-2018), Davis led his teams to numerous state championships. Under his leadership, Southern Durham secured back-to-back 3A State Outdoor Championships in 1995 and 1996. He mentored exceptional athletes, including Patience Coleman and Jacinda Evans, whose remarkable performances in the high jump and long jump are etched in NCHSAA history. Beyond athletic achievements, Davis' athletes excelled academically, exemplified by Nzia Hall, the 2017 recipient of the NCHSAA Pat Gainey Student Scholarship Award. Over his career, Frank coached 24 outdoor track and field individual champions, 8 indoor track and field individual champions, and guided athletes to 13 performances on the NC All-Time Outdoor Top 25 and 14 performances on the Indoor Track and Field All-Time Top 25. These accomplishments reflect Davis' holistic coaching philosophy, which emphasizes character, discipline, and academic excellence.

Coach Davis' impact is more extraordinary considering he accomplished it while excelling as a full-time Electrical Engineering Scientist at IBM for 25 years. Balancing these demanding roles with remarkable dedication, Davis seamlessly merged his engineering expertise with his passion for track and field. His innovations in meet management technology revolutionized the sport in our state. As the founder of Durham Striders Timing and Meet Management, he provided exceptional meet direction and timing services, playing a pivotal role in the success of the NCHSAA Indoor and Outdoor State Championship track meets for over two decades. His leadership set new standards for meet operations, introducing technologies and practices that influenced state associations nationwide. Additionally, Davis founded the Eastern High School Challenge Invitational, North Carolina's first indoor track meet exclusively for high school athletes. This groundbreaking event paved the way for the nationally celebrated performances now showcased at JDL Fast Track.

Davis' influence as a co-founder of the Durham Striders cannot be overstated. Since its founding in 1975, the organization has positively impacted countless student-athletes across the state of North Carolina, many of whom have achieved extraordinary success in NCHSAA. Notably, four

Durham Striders alumni—Katrell Armwood (Durham School of the Arts), Wendy Palmer (Person County), DeAnne Davis (Burlington Cummings), and A.J. Davis (Northern Durham)—were named to the NCHSAA Centennial 100 Athletes to Remember. This remarkable distinction highlights the historical impact of Davis' leadership and the program's legacy of fostering excellence in athletics and personal development.

Frank Davis was mentored by NCHSAA Hall of Famer Coach Russell Blunt, whose guidance and wisdom deeply shaped his coaching philosophy and approach. In turn, Davis has developed numerous athletes, coaches, and administrators who continue to contribute to the NCHSAA, including Hall of Fame coach inductees Donald Davis and Robert Steele. Through his mentorship, Frank Davis has inspired a new generation of coaches and administrators, ensuring that his influence will endure for years to come.

The breadth of support for Coach Davis' nomination speaks volumes about his impact. Letters from coaches, former athletes, and community members highlight his role as a pioneer who elevated the sport of track and field in North Carolina while mentoring others to do the same. Most importantly, these testimonials underscore his unwavering dedication to the personal and professional growth of those he has influenced.

Davis' numerous accolades, including induction into the NC Track and Field and Cross Country Association Hall of Fame and recognition as NCHSAA Track and Field Coach of the Year (1995-1996) affirm his profound contributions to athletics in our state. Induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame is a fitting tribute to an individual whose life's work has been devoted to advancing high school athletics and enriching the lives of student-athletes in our state.

Thank you for considering this nomination for a truly deserving candidate. Please feel free to contact me for further information or to discuss Frank's remarkable achievements in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Courtenay Davis', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Courtenay Davis
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