NORTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

PO BOX 3216, FINLEY GOLF COURSE ROAD CHAPEL HILL, NC 27515-3216 PHONE: (919) 962-2345 FAX: (919) 962-4438

NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION)

I. NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Richard Coleman Prince **FIRST** MIDDLE **NICKNAME** LAST NC 28037 ADDRESS 6192 Gold Springs Way Denver STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE PLACE OF BIRTH AGE 81 DATE OF BIRTH 04 / 29 / 1943 Geneva, NY TELEPHONE: WORK () HOME (704) 806 - 3189 DECEASED* N₀ NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL HB Plant YEAR GRADUATED 1961 1968 NAME OF COLLEGE High Point College – BAT YEAR GRADUATED ADDITIONAL DEGREES (MASTERS, DOCTORATE, ETC.) Western Carolina Univ. - MAT 1971

* * *IF NOMINEE IS DECEASED, GIVE DATE OF DEATH AND FILL IN SECTION II * * *

II. NEAREST RELATIVE

NAME Claudia Dehnert Wife Prince. LAST **FIRST** MIDDLE RELATIONSHIP NC 28037 ADDRESS 6192 Gold Springs Way Denver ZIP CODE STREET CITY STATE TELEPHONE: WORK (HOME (704) 502 - 9512

III. SPONSOR INFORMATION (PERSON MAKING NOMINATION)

NAME McAfee Larry Wayne LAST FIRST MIDDLE

ADDRESS 7001 Valley Haven Drive Charlotte NC 28211
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

TELEPHONE: HOME (704) 366-5709 CELL (704) 502-1603

TITLE/POSITION: Retired Cross Country Coach, Track Coach, and Chemistry Teacher

SCHOOL SYSTEM: East Mecklenburg High School – Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System

IV. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

IN CHART BELOW, PLEASE LIST CHRONOLOGICALLY THE NOMINEE'S POSITION (COACH, PRINCIPAL, ETC.) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE DATA

POSITION	DATES	SCHOOL OR SYSTEM	HONORS	COACHING RECORDS
Assistant Football	1964-65	Jesuit HS	- 31	
and Track Coach	L	Tampa, FL		
Student Assistant	1965 &	High Point College		
Track Coach	1966	High Point, NC		
Assistant Track	1968	Northwest Guilford HS		
Coach		Greensboro, NC		
Head Track and	1968-70	Pinecrest HS	2000	
JV Football Coach		Lithia, FL	40-	V
Graduate Assistant	1970-71	Western Carolina		
Cross Country &		University		
Track Coach		Cullowhee, NC		
Head Track and	1972-97	Myers Park HS	See 1	See 2 below
Cross Country		Charlotte, NC	below	
Coach	-			
Head Swimming	1976 &	Myers Park HS		See 3 below
Coach	1986-88	Charlotte, NC		
Head Track and	2003-05	Piedmont HS		
Cross Country		Unionville, NC		
Coach				

- 1 Mecklenburg County Coach of the Year
 (Track -1994, Indoor Track-1995, Cross County 1996 & 1997)
- SW4A Conference Team Titles Cross Country 4; Track 9
 NCHSAA Region Team Titles Cross Country 3; Track 8
 NCHSAA State Championships Track 2 (1972 & 1980)
 Coached 12 All-Americans
- 3 1976 NCHSAA Girls Swimming State Champions

NCHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination and letters of support for Coach Richard Prince

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ADDITIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

- 1. Meet director for Queen City Relays (1972-2000)
- 2. Meet director or co-director for NCHSAA Sectional and Regional Championships in Track and Cross Country (1971 2000)
- 3. Co-director and founder of Wendy's Cross Country Invitational, oldest XC Invitational in NC (1975-2000)
- 4. Influential role in moving the NCHSAA Cross Country State Meet to McAlpine Park and adding women's cross country as an NCHSAA sport in 1980.
- 5. NCHSAA Cross Country State Championships co-director (1980-2001)
- 6. Served on the NFHS Track and Field Rules Committee in 1985.
- 7. North Carolina representative for Olympic development.
- 8. NCHSAA Track and Field Advisory Committee
- 9. USATF Master Level Official and served as liaison to the NCHSAA to have certified USATF officials work NCHSAA State Championships.

CIVIC/CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES (INCLUDE CHURCH, CIVIC OR CHARITABLE INVOLVEMENT)

- 1. Helped organize the first Charlotte Observer Marathon and supervised finish line volunteers during its first 10 years.
- 2. Timed numerous local road races.
- 3. Directed the summer track series at Myers Park HS.
- 4. Hosted many AAU qualifying meets at Myers Park HS.
- 5. Grandfather Mountain Highland Games set-up and games official (1979-88).
- 6. Assistant coordinator for South Region of the Kinney/Foot Locker High School Cross Country Championship (1982-2005).
- 7. Official at numerous State, Collegiate, National, and International Track and Field and Cross Country Championships including the Bislett Games (Oslo, Norway), ACC, SAC, Conference Carolinas and NCAA Championships, and U.S. Olympic Trials.

HONORS (PLEASE LIST HONORS EARNED IN COLLEGE, POST GRADUATE WORK, AWARDS FROM CIVIC CLUBS, ETC.)

- 1. NFHS Outstanding Coach
- 2. NCHSAA Regional Track Coach
- 3. NCHSAA Proclamation of Achievement (1992)
- 4. NCHSAA Special Person Award (1995)
- 5. North Carolina High School Track and Field and Cross Country Hall of Fame class of 2020

V. PHOTOGRAPH

ATTACH A PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NOMINEE

(preferably head and shoulder shot wallet size)



VI. SUPPORT OF CANDIDACY

Using whatever supportive data you may wish, please describe the activities and accomplishments of this candidate which make him/her a viable candidate for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Please remember that only thorough and complete documentation will be considered. Two letters of recommendation (minimum) will be necessary, and newspaper articles, etc., in support may also be submitted.

The committee shall seek to honor those who have directly influenced the history and evolution of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. Attachments are considered appropriate.

FOR OFFICE USE: DATE RECEIVED ____

RICHARD PRINCE

OFFICIAL/COACH/MEET DIRECTOR

Longtime Myers Park track and cross country coach (who followed Hall of Fame coach Stuart Allen) coached 17 individual state champions in cross country and track and won 2 state track and field team titles (1972, 1980), and has more than 50 years of high school and college coaching experience in Florida and North Carolina. In addition to his coaching accolades, he has given back as an official and meet director, and is one of the most experienced officials in North Carolina.

As an official, he has officiated 15 high school track nationals, and numerous indoor and outdoor state track meets, college meets, regional track meets, cross country invitationals and regionals, as well as the Bislett Games (Oslo, Norway), World University Games, U.S. Olympic Trials, Olympic Festival, USATF indoor and outdoor nationals, U.S. Juniors, international track meets at Duke (1974 and 1982), and various college meets, including NCAA nationals, NAIA nationals, National Junior College nationals, ACC Championships, Big South, and several other conferences.

As a meet director: Along with Hall of Fame coach Larry McAfee, Prince helped the state meet grow as co-meet director (1980-2002), co-found and was co-meet director of the Wendy's Invitational (1974-2006, North Carolina's first, long-running, major invitational) and was the Queen City Relays meet director (1972-2000, the state's oldest relay meet). Also, along with McAfee, Prince introduced all-state recognition in cross country (both McAfee and Prince paid for the certificates each year for each classification, not asking the state to pay them back).

He was also the Foot Locker/Kinney National Cross Country Championships assistant meet director (1982-2003, as well as working with the Foot Locker South meet), and NCHSAA state track and field meet co-director (1988-1999), NCHSAA regional track & field meet director (1978-2002), and NCHSAA sectional meet director (1972-78, 1988).

He served on the state high school advisory committees for track and field (1985-1990); was a National Federation Track and Field Rules Committee member (1985), and the North Carolina representative to the committee for Olympic development (1982-1985).

Mittman Athletic Consulting and Meet Management

DePaul Mittman 6204 Bay Hill Ct. Greensboro, NC 27410 Phone: 336-255-3403 depaulmittman@bellsouth.net

May 27, 2024

It is my honor to recommend Richard Prince to be inducted into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. Richard has been my mentor, colleague, and friend for over 25 years. Richard Prince set the standard for Meet Management in track and field in North Carolina. In addition to being the track and cross country coach at Myers Park High School, he also served as the NCHSAA State Meet Director for cross country, indoor and outdoor track. Some of his coaching accomplishments are that he coached 17 individual state champions in cross country and track field. Richard won 2 state track and field team titles (1972, 1980). He has more than 50 years of high school and college coaching and officiating experience.

Richard Prince was instrumental in helping the state meet survive and grow as co-State meet director along with Larry McAfee (1980-2002). Richard was co-founder and co-meet director of the Wendy's Invitational (1974-2006, North Carolina's first, long-running, major invitational) and was the Queen City Relays meet director (1972-2000, the state's oldest relay meet). Richard and Larry introduced All-State recognition in cross country (both McAfee and Prince paid for the certificates each year for each classification, not asking the state to pay them back. While Richard was serving as Meet Director, he also had a team that he prepared for competition and math classes to teach. Richard was meet director in the days before on-line registration, HyTek and MileSplit. There was no LOC (Local Organizing Committee). There were no "cobbler's elves." We had Richard!

Richard was also the Foot Locker/Kinney National Cross Country Championships assistant meet director (1982-2003, as well as working with the Foot Locker South meet), and NCHSAA state track and field meet co-director (1988-1999), NCHSAA regional track & field meet director (1978-2002), and NCHSAA sectional meet

director (1972-78, 1988). Once again, there was no LOC (Local Organizing Committee). There were no "cobbler's elves." We had Richard!

Not that Richard was not active or busy enough, he served on the state high school advisory committees for track and field (1985–1990); was a National Federation Track and Field Rules Committee member (1985), and the North Carolina representative to the committee for Olympic development (1982–1985) and is a USATF Master Certified Official.

After Richard stepped down as State Meet Director for Indoor and Outdoor track, Richard served as Meet Referee for the NCHSAA Indoor State Championships (2007-2022). Richard has continued as an official and more importantly a mentor for track and field officials. He and I have had numerous conversations on meet management and how to advance the sport in NC, especially officiating. I have also had the privilege to work with Richard at several college invitationals and college conference championships in meet management capacities.

For these and many more reason, when choosing the next NCHSAA Hall of Fame, include Richard Prince.

DePaul Mittman

NCHSAA Hall of Fame, Class of 2024

Defal M. Hman

NCHSAA Outdoor State Meet Director 1999-2021

NCHSAA Indoor State Meet Director 2001-2022

NCTCCCA Co-Founder & Executive Director 2003-2021

I first came into contact with Richard Prince in 1986-1987 school year when I was principal of Tryon High School. My team was eligible to enter the State XC meet in Charlotte, and no one had any idea how to go about accomplishing this task. I called the NCHSAA and they put me in touch with Richard.

That was the beginning of a relationship that has lasted nearly forty years. When I first contacted him, he was patient but firm. I had to have my entries in by a certain deadline or face a late fee or possibly the team not being able to run. I thought what is with this hardnosed man; I just want my kids to run.

Little did I know that he would be mine and many others mentor for cross country and track and field. Richard encouraged me to learn some of the rules and be a supporter of running. In 1989, when we consolidated with Polk Central to become County High, I applied for the head coaching job for men's cross country and track and field.

The first person I called was Richard. I asked many questions and he answered them all, and he pushed me to become a certified coach and a certified official. When I became the 1A Cross Country Regional Director in 1990, I found out why he had been so firm with me. Many coaches did not do their paperwork on time and then blamed the meet directors for the outcome.

Since his encouragement, I have been meet director for twenty-four cross country regionals; meet director for twenty-four outdoor track regionals; twenty-four state outdoor meet directors and seven times I worked with indoor track 1A/2A State finals.

Thanks to Richard's leadership I am now a certified NFHS coach and official; a Level II USATF Certified coach; and a National Level certified official. When I am the meet director for a collegiate or high school meet, my first call goes to Richard to be my referee because not only is he informative, but he is totally fair with his application of the rules.

Because of Richard we have officials like DePaul Mittman, Rodney King, Pam Bolton, and me and dozens of others who have been influenced by him. I give Richard Prince my highest recommendation for inclusion in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

J Alan Peoples

To: Larry McAfee

From: Greg Clewis

Athletic Director, Retired Myers Park High School

RE: In support of nomination of Richard Prince for Induction in NCHSAA Hall of Fame

Date 1 September 2024

Richard Prince began his tenure at Myers Park High in 1972 as a math teacher and assumed the role of Head Men's and Women's Cross Country and Head Men's and Women's Track. This was no small appointment in the Myers Park community, as Richard was stepping in to pick up where the coach had been Stuart Allen, winner of 11 NCHSAA Track Championships and establishment of the longest running track invitational in North Carolina, The Queen City Relays.

Richard was instrumental to the faculty and staff, particularly in his coaching role as these years were fraught with racial tension as segregation came to the campus. Having many minority students as members of his teams, his presence on campus gave student athletes a familiar face to see and converse. To say that many incidents were avoided due to his presence would be an understatement.

Richard's teams excelled, winning the 1972 and 1980 NCHSAA track titles and numerous top ten placements in Cross Country. He managed up to and sometimes exceeded 100 team members in both sports.

Perhaps his greatest contribution was his knowledge of the NCHSAA and NFHS rules and by laws and his participation on a state level in both sports. Richard and Larry McAfee hosted the NCHSAA at McAlpine Creek for 22 consecutive years and hosted more Cross Country and Track and Field Regionals than I can count. His adherence to the rules and regulations is legendary. Richard enforced them all without deference and impartiality. He and Larry were the perfect good cop, bad cop duo. I can say without hesitation that Richard probably caused more calls to Dick Knox and Carolyn Shannonhouse than any of us will ever know. However, good, bad or indifferent, Richard was right.

As his athletic director for 10+ years, Richard was, we'll say vocal about his program. I did appreciate his passion for doing things the right way and supporting his team members. He established Myers Park as one of the top three or four track and field facilities in NC and in large part created a legacy that still survives 15 years later. Mention his name in conversation and the responses are driven by how one of his rulings affected that school. No one ever doubted his passion.

Richard loved Myers Park and served with distinction and honor. He loved Cross Country and Track and Field. He traveled the US and Europe judging Olympic qualifying events. It is with great enthusiasm and pride that I support the nomination of Richard Prince for induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Kindest Regards,

Greg Clewis, CMAA Athletic Director, Retired Myers Park High 1980 - 2011 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Attn: Hall of Fame Selection Committee PO Box 3216 Finley Golf Course Road Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

Dear Selection Committee,

I am writing this to show my support of Richard Prince's candidacy for the North Carolina Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Richard Prince is known to me as "coach." He was my coach at Piedmont High School. He coached me to NCHSAA state championship appearances in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track. Following my high school career at Piedmont, I had the opportunity to compete in cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track at Clemson University.

As a high school student, I was fortunate to have coach by my side. When coaching turnover became the most consistent part of our program, he stepped up and gave us a new consistency. He helped level the playing field in the NCHSAA by providing my teammates and I with the same opportunity that other schools were accustomed to having, and he introduced us to a higher level of competition. This ultimately provided me with opportunities as a college athlete that eventually led me back to coaching.

As a college coach, my eyes were opened to coach's impact on the sport in a different way. As a coach, I better understood the time he committed to growing the sport in North Carolina and the time that he committed to coaching his athletes. He continued to help me grow in my new role as a coach whenever he was able. He helped me design a championship quality cross country course, served as an official at our home meets, and offered advice for coaching athletes.

As a high school coach, I have carried those learning moments he offered in college coaching with me to the high school level. I find myself laughing at how his advice still slides into my coaching today. When I was an athlete, coach would often look at me on the starting line and say, "Get there fast." It makes too much sense, right? My high school athletes always smile when I throw that phrase in a pre-race huddle that is full of race day nerves. When I think of coach's impact, it is a full circle moment to see how I have now had the opportunity to be a part of helping coach student-athletes who have rewritten the record books in the NCHSAA. Ironically, coach is often to my side officiating the meets that we are attending as I am coaching.

I am forever grateful that coach sacrificed his time to coach me as a high school athlete and I am grateful for the way that he has continued to support me as a coach. I know that his impact on the sport will continue to be felt in North Carolina for many years to come. Please consider this as my recommendation in support of Richard Prince's candidacy for the North Carolina Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Best Regards,

Ashley Glover

defler Hloved

Metrolina Christian Academy Cross Country and Track 2019- Present Cuthbertson High School Cross Country and Track 2020-2022

(704) 292-9098

June 24, 2024

Re:

Richard Prince

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known Richard Prince my whole life. He worked at Myers Park High School as a teacher and a coach. My father and mother (Roy and Jane Bradley) worked with him at track meets for many, many years. When I attended Myers Park High School, he was my cross-country and track and field coach.

While at Myers Park Coach Prince was instrumental in getting the cross-country course built. Up to that point, Myers Park did not have a course. He was a good coach and cared about the students and athletes.

Since he retired from teaching, Coach Prince is still active in track and field serving as head referee for many events around the state. I have had the opportunity to start several track meets when he was serving as the referee. His decisions as referee always have the athlete's best interest in mind.

I fully support the nomination of Richard Prince into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your time,

In Bradley

Lee Bradley

257 Hillside Avenue

Charlotte, NC 28209

704-622-5313

Hall of Fame Selection Committee North Carolina High School Athletic Association PO Box 3216 Finley Golf Course Road Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

To whom it may concern:

It is indeed an honor to author a letter of recommendation for Coach Richard Prince. Richard, now into his seventh decade of coaching and officiating track and field and cross-country, spent the majority of his career teaching and coaching at Myers Park High School in Charlotte where he was a major influence on thousands of men and women student athletes that were a part of his track and cross-county programs. During his time at Myers Park, he coached 17 individual state champions and his teams won the 1972 and 1980 4A state track championships. However, this tells only part of the story of Richard's contributions to track and field and high school athletics.

Richard, in collaboration with NCHSAA Hall of Famer Larry McAfee, created what was one of the first large high school cross-country invitational races. Originally named the "Coaches Invitational" now the Wendy's High School Cross-Country Invitational is in its 50th season and is recognized as one of the largest and premier high school cross-country events in the South East. Richard is still currently active with the administration of this event, serving as the meet's head referee. Likewise, the Queen City Relays developed under Richard's direction is the oldest and still one of the premier events in the state on the spring track schedule. Richard continues to help administer this race as well. Beyond running his own events, Richard acted as host or co-host for hundreds of conference, sectional, regional and state championships in North Carolina for track and cross-country including every state cross-country championship for all classifications from 1980-2001. In 1982, Richard was instrumental in bringing what is known today as the Footlocker South Regional Cross Country Championships to Charlotte, serving as assistant meet director. The South Region Footlocker race annually attracts thousands of athletes to North Carolina where Richard continues to serve as the meet's head official.

In this day of instant results, it is hard to remember to past days where all results were hand timed and recorded. Richard was one of the very first to introduce electronic timing and computerized scoring at North Carolina high school track and cross-country events in the early '80s. He served on the state high school advisory committees for track and field, and was a National Federation Track and Field Rules Committee member. For the years, he represented North Carolina to the committee for Olympic development.

Richard's service to Athletics continues with the highest level of USTF certification allowing him to officiate over the years at the US Track & Field Championships, US Olympic Trials, NCAA and NAIA championships as well as serving as head referee at many collegiate conference and regional events. On the international scene, Richard has officiated at the Paralympics, The Olympic Sports Festival, The World Games, and at Bislett Games in Oslo, Norway. His officiating expertise extends into the high school ranks where he has officiated 15 high school national track & field championships plus numerous North Carolina indoor, outdoor, and cross-country state championship along with way too many to count regional and local high school championships. This number continues to grow as Richard is still in high demand to officiate meets.

In 2020, Richard was elected into the North Carolina Track & Field Hall of Fame. I harbor no reservations whatsoever the Mister, Coach Richard Prince will make an excellent selection into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association as well.

Sincerely,

Evans Lalas

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools 1986-1998

Eric J. Peterson 409 County Seat Drive Hillsborough, NC 27278 Slipangle84@gmail.com

Letter of Recommendation for Richard Prince as a Candidate for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame

July 15, 2024

North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Committee P.O. Box 3216, Finley Golf Course Road Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

Dear NCHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

This letter of recommendation is for retired track & field and cross-country Coach Richard Prince to be considered for induction in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. There are likely few coaches in North Carolina who have guided as many track & field and cross-country athletes to All-American, All-State, and All-Conference status as well as wins, podiums, individual and team championships. Many of these athletes received scholarships to compete at higher levels and earn college degrees to better themselves and help others along the way.

Coach Prince's vast technical expertise allowed him to coach sprinters, hurdlers, middle and long-distance runners, and all the field events. We always marveled watching him walk through practice helping each discipline along his route (e.g., working with the pole vaulters, minutes later observing and giving feedback to the distance runners doing intervals, then stopping to share pointers to the shot and discus throwers on his way to work with the sprinters and hurdlers). These "rounds" were done in a seemingly effortless, personal, and fluid manner. It's a rarity when someone possesses an intricate understanding of many specialties, but far rarer when they consistently communicate points athletes can leverage to keep taking steps up the performance ladder – that is the art of coaching!

More impressive and important than Coach Prince helping thousands of students find their potential as athletes, regularly exceeding what we thought was possible, is that he focused and cared about every person on his teams during a career that's covered six decades. It didn't matter if someone was an All-American or just on the team to participate, learn, and discover one's limits, Coach Prince made everyone not just feel, but know they were an essential part of the team.

Making an impact requires holding people accountable. It didn't matter if someone was the fastest or slowest on the team, if you were not pulling your weight or putting in the effort it to reach your potential, he let you know. He did this in different ways depending on the situation, individual, and challenges they may have been facing as a person, student, or athlete. Coach Prince had a gift for finding different ways to connect and motivate each athlete. He was the same as a teacher and excellent in the classroom.

His artful way of getting those messages across was often entertaining, serious when needed, but always effective. Message delivery could be during team meetings, quick sidebar conversations, or long sincere discussions to help us work through issues, whether it was as an athlete, student, or life. Whatever he was trying to communicate, he made it clear and without the use of profanity, unless "hang fire" is considered colorful language. Coach Prince never put anyone down with negative comments. He excelled by consistently citing specific examples of what happened, why there was a

better way, explaining why he knew someone had a little extra to give even though they felt they'd given it their all, and sharing ways to execute the change – that was his method.

These messages weren't fun to hear at times, whether due to emotion or exhaustion, but they always painted a clear and honest picture to help us move forward. Sometimes advice came via kind, but tactical messages yelled across a field to help you focus or make an adjustment during grinding workouts or mid-race. Other times he'd challenge you to find that extra gear you didn't know you had. I can still hear his voice now, even 40 years later. Other times compassion came through listening and long one-on-talks to help you work through an issue. To this day, I don't know how he found the time to connect and help so many of us. Most importantly, these messages resonated with the athletes because we knew he was on our side.

Why does this matter? Coach Prince's lessons and approach taught us about enduring to get through difficult times, that nothing worthwhile is easy. He didn't just guide and encourage us through long, grueling workouts, during hot and humid afternoons. He was teaching us that you must put in the hard work in life and build the resilience needed to endure tough times in life – that is how one succeeds! The combination of accountability and compassion are other life skills that we, his athletes, learned from watching him coach.

We all have different stories and life journeys. I've told people regularly that one of the two most important keys to any success I've had in life were the years I ran for Coach Prince at Myers Park, from 1980 to 1983. Like many athletes my high school career was a mix of successes and struggles. I can say with conviction that he was even more supportive during the challenges I experienced during the last half of my high school career than when I was regularly producing strong results!

I've worked 37 years in municipal government, with over 33 years of those being a town manager in North Carolina. Currently, I'm the town manager in Hillsborough. The job often requires working incredible long hours for stretches of weeks and months with no let-up. Issues can be complex, difficult, and involve conflict in trying to determine the best way to serve one's community. Again, the lessons discussed earlier have helped me cope with an endless number of challenges during my career. Sure, there have been plenty of mistakes made, but my time with Coach Prince taught me that setbacks are opportunities to adjust, move forward, and succeed when combined with perseverance.

The lessons I and countless athletes absorbed from Coach Prince's leadership, as well as those around him, including assistants and coaches from rival teams, provided foundational lessons in our lives. Now, even 40+ years later, I'll cross paths with runners from other teams who will comment on how fortunate we were to have him as a coach, and that he was respected by so many. This letter doesn't just represent my view but represents stories shared and repeated from other track & field and cross-country athletes over many generations. We may have been coached decades or even a half-century apart, but our experiences were the same. In closing, I've never written a letter of recommendation for someone who I've felt is so deserving of an honor. Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Eric J. Peterson

May 31, 2024

Dear Committee,

This letter is to serve as a personal recommendation to induct Richard Prince into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Coach Prince's public achievements in North Carolina High School Track and Field coaching are easy to see and document. He won two state championships for Myers Park High School, Charlotte, N.C., in boys 4-A outdoor track and field in 1972 and 1980. For more than 30 years Mr. Prince coached cross-country and indoor and outdoor track and field (boys and girls) at Myers Park. In doing so he influenced the character of thousands of students.

But this letter is meant to describe how his coaching and friendship had a pivotal influence on one runner, myself. I ran under Coach Prince's direction for three years, 1976, 1977, and 1978. My twin brother, David, and I ran the 120-yard-high hurdles, the 180-yard-low hurdles, and the 4x400 relay. In our senior year, 1978, we finished one and two at the outdoor conference meet in both the high hurdles and the low hurdles. My fastest high hurdle time was 14.4 and my brother's 14.2. I believe my fastest quarter mile was 50.0. Today it's not these statistics that matter, but the world view that Coach Prince nurtured in me that echoes through my daily choices.

Coach Prince has always shown a long-term commitment to his runners. He came to A.G. Junior High School to watch us run when my twin and I were in 9th grade. And after my high school years with him, every time I'd visit Myers Park during track practice, he'd greet me warmly and ask about my life. In 2019, I was back in Charlotte for a weekend and went to watch a Myers Park homecoming football game. I found Coach Prince in the stands with six or eight runners—teammates of ours from decades ago—hanging out with him. Regularly he will text me a holiday greeting or his concern for my safety when the news carries reports of a severe storm passing over the island on which my wife and I live.

Coach Prince knew the importance of introducing his runners to a large world. During our senior year we traveled to UNC-Chapel Hill for an indoor track meet at the old Tin Can. He also drove us to Knoxville, TN, for the Southern Invitational indoor track meet where my twin and I took first and second place in the 60-yard-high hurdles. During the outdoor season of our senior year,

we traveled to Lynchburg, VA, for a meet and also to Furman University in Greenville, S.C. These regional track meets opened my eyes to a new level of competition.

Coach Prince knew the right thing to say at the right time to instill confidence and fun in his runners. At a duel meet with North Mecklenburg High School, he walked up to my twin and I just before we were to run the 120-yard-high hurdles and said, "Enjoy this." He knew we could win, and he was telling us so. His confidence in us helped us relax. And when you run relaxed, you run your best. Coaching is a type of psychology; how do you bring the best out of your runners. Coach Prince understood how to do this in ways both loudly and subtly.

Coach Prince had a keen insight into how to train the body. I remember hours and hours of drills. We'd work through trail leg drills where we'd hold onto a fence with both hands, lean forward and rotate our trail leg over a hurdle. We'd do this dozens and dozens of times. He would then move us into practicing this same drill but add motion. We'd set up the hurdles close together and run along the side of them, hooking just our trail leg over the top. He'd stop us at times to demonstrate the need to drive the knee of the trail leg into the armpit. For one of our lead leg drills, he stood us before a wall and would have us lift our lead leg, driving with the knee, and kick the wall with the ball of our foot to simulate how we were to attack the hurdle. We'd work through other drills to simulate snapping the lead leg back down as fast as possible. And then there were the constant reminders of where to position the arms as tools of balance as well as instruments of propulsion. Coach Prince understood he had to drill us to the point where our muscle memory on how to hurdle became unconscious and automatic. The results were magical. Running high hurdles became a type of dance. When I did it well, I'd finish a 120-yard hurdle race and remember only the ninth and tenth hurdle. That is how deep into my muscles and subconscious his training went.

Coach Prince's training allowed me to attend a top-notch university. I have a learning disability—dyslexia—that made it impossible to achieve high SAT scores. Because of this UNC-Chapel Hill did not accept me when I applied. Then at the state track meet my senior year, Coach Prince was talking to the UNC-Chapel Hill assistant track coach and introduced me. I told this gentleman that I would run for UNC if he got me in. In the middle of the summer, after everyone else knew where they were going to college, I received a letter from UNC-Chapel Hill telling me that I'd been accepted based on an *athletic waiver*. If Coach Prince hadn't turned me into an

above average runner and advocated for me, this would have never happened. Four years later, in 1982, I graduated with a double major in Journalism and English.

Coach Prince's largest gift to me was his understanding of what high school track and field really meant, what its importance was not during practice or at one particular meet or for a season or over a three-year high school career, but where it fit into a life. Several years ago, I reached an age where I wanted to thank my mentors. It had been many years since I'd spoken to Coach Prince, and it took a while to find his phone number. When I called, all that time apart disappeared. I told him I was calling to thank him for how he had influenced me. He—with calm, gentlemanly graciousness—immediately deferred, saying my parents should get all the credit. I've never seen Coach Prince grab, beg, or demand credit. Later in that phone call he said this: "You and David were not the fastest runners in the conference, but you were always out in front because you worked harder than anyone else."

Then Coach Prince said the most profound thing, the core of what has made him successful, the element of character that he gifted his runners, that he gifted me, and the indelible world view he installed in me. During our conversation, he asked me this—40 years after I left his track—"I hope you now understand why I worked you so hard?"

Yes, he was getting me ready for life. This is his greatest gift.

Thank you,

Jonathan Smylie

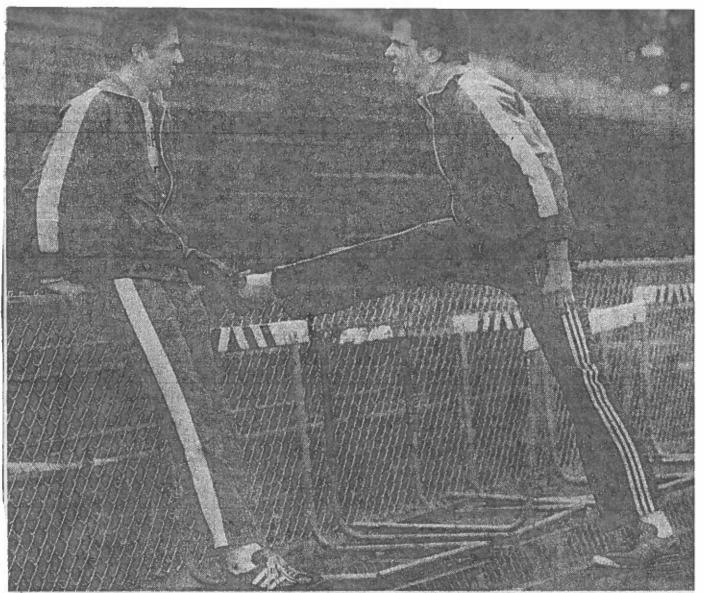
jonathancsmylie@gmail.com

Cell: 413-454-4323 17 Old Coach Road

Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Attachments:

Newspaper article: The Charlotte Observer, May 12, 1978 Newspaper article: The Charlotte News, May 17, 1978



Observer Photo By JIM WIL:

Myers Park Hurdlers Jon (Left) And David Smylie Are Identical Twins
... they carry Mustangs' hopes in Charlotte sectional track meet today at Myers Pa

W. Charlotte Strong For Sectiona

West Charlotte, which captured the Southwestern 4-A Conference track meet May 5, perhaps should be favored in today's sectional meet at Myers Park, where field events begin at 3 p.m., running events at 7.

After all, the Lions, with talented sprinters like Haywood Polk and Henderson Threatt and the top relay teams in Mecklenburg County, easily outdistanced their competition at the league meet.

But don't count out Myers Park and Independence, who finished second and third, one point apart. Myers Park's strongest asset may be the twin-brother tandem of David and Jon Smylie in the 120-yard high hurdles and 180-yard lows. In addition, Mustang miler Sandy Ford, who skipped the conference meet after a heart flutter acted up at the Queen City Relays April 28, should be back.

Independence features versatile James McCathorine, third in the state honor roll with a triple-jump effort of 47-4½. McCathorine and Garinger's Donnie Belch are tied for second in the state in the 880-yard run, at 1:58.0.

West Mecklenburg, led by shot put and discus man Wilbert Carter and jumper Ken

ringer sophomore Mike Rodriguez are expected to vie for first places in the weight events.

Meanwhile, Southwestern 4-A girls are competing in the regional meet at Morganton Freedom. South Mecklenburg, which won the Statesville sectional May 5 on the strength of first-place performances by hurdler Melanie Hollowell and two relay teams, is expected to make a strong showing.

Myers Park, second at the sectional, also should be a contender at the regional meet, from which the top four finishers in each event qualify for the state meet May 19 at Raeford Hoke.

-Reid Spencer

Boys Sectional Records

Long Jump—22-9, Chuck Adkins (MP) 1970; Triple Jump—47-644, Tony Reid (Ind) 1977; High Jump—6-644, Tony Reid (Ind) 1977; High Jump—6-644, Chandler Muse (MP) 1972; Shof Put—58-842, Stan Cunning-ham (Gar) 1976; Discus—163-4. Lee Stoftel (MP) 1971; Pote Vault—14-344, David Ward (Oiv) 1974; 120-Yard High Hurdes—18-6, Jeff Howser (MP) 1966; 100-Yard Dash—6.5, Charles Hudson (EM) 1977; Mile Rum—4:14-4, Henry Jones (Gastonia Ashbrook) 1974; 880-Yard Relay—1:27-3, Independence (Freddie Mungo, Regsle Wilson, John Ward, Brad Cox) 1974; 440-Yard Dash—48-6, Rendy Layman (MP) 1972; 180-Yard Low Hurdes—19-3, Jeff Howser (MP) 1966; 880-Yard Rum—1:53.5, John Brown (MP) 1971; 220-Yard Dash—48-6.

The Charlotte Observer

Myers Park's hurdling twins are not doubles

By DALE GOWING **News Staff Writer**

Just because Myers Park High twins David and Jon Smylie are (a) ranked 1-2 in the Southwestern 4-A Conference in the high and low hurdles, (b) two of the three area hurdlers to qualify for Friday's state regionals and (c) among the state's top 10 high hurdlers, don't jump to any conclusions about one being a photocopy of the other.

"We're two very individual people," insists David, who is ranked No. 2 in North Carolina in the 120 highs. Jon is 10th. "Just because we're twins, people think we're the same in everything. But that's not the

"We spend a lot of time with each other because we live in the same house and are on the same team," adds Jon, "but other than that, our interests aren't really the same."

Off the track, maybe. But on it, the two softspoken seniors are the scourge of the Southwestern 4-A Conference. David has been the top-ranked highhurdler in Mecklenburg since early in the season.

Jon has steadily climbed the ladder to post a second place finish in both the highs and lows behind David in the recent conference meet.

In last Friday's sectional, David won the highs in 14.2

seconds - equaling his career best — and the 180 lows in 20.0 seconds. Jon placed third in the highs and second in the lows.

Along with second-place Mike Calhoun of Garinger, who placed second and third in the highs and lows, respectively, they'll represent Charlotte at Friday's regionals at Morgan-

Some might feel it's unusual for one school to have two such talented athletes in one event, not to mention the fact that they're identical twins. But that's not necessarily so.

"I think you're gonna find that when you have one good hurdler, you're gonna have another right around the corner." analyzes Myers Park track coach Richard Prince, who had some early qualms about the two competing against each other.

"Every now and then you get problems with close relatives going head to head, but that doesn't seem to bother David and Jon."

Nor does Jon seem to mind playing second fiddle to his brother. Though he's beaten David several times in the low hurdles, he hasn't been able to pass him on the area ladder. And Jon has never beaten David in the highs in the same heat of a high school meet.

"I've always been behind him in the hurdles, but it's just a difference of a tenth (of a second) or two," says Jon. "A lot depends on the day and the meet, but he's been the better hurdler all along.

"Last year, he was the only real good one at Myers Park. I didn't rank well then. This year it's falling into place. You work for three years, then your time comes up."

The Smylies first began taking their place among area hurdles heavyweights at the prestigious Southern Invitational at the University of Tennessee early this spring. David and Jon placed 1-2 in the 60-yard highs.

Shortly after, David was named the most outstanding performer at the Furman Re-

They say that being twins has its advantages, such as knowing each other's idiosyncracies and how to help the other prepare for a race. "When you spend so much time with someone, you really get to know them," explains Jon. "We understand each other and what each of us is going through competition-wise and how much work it takes."

But there are some disadvan-

tages, too.
"Our individualism isn't as great as I'd like it to be," explains David. "Not many people can tell us apart on things other than track, even though we don't think alike."

Kemper trivia contest — 4B

Orioles' string snapped — 7B

Business news — 8B

Wednesday, May 17, 1978

Sports

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS



Twin hurdlers David (left) and Jon Smylie (Photo by Tom Franklin)

Dear NCHSAA Hall of Fame Committee -

I am writing to recommend my high school coach and dear friend Richard Prince for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Coach Prince has directly influenced the history and evolution of the NCHSAA in many ways, but I would like to highlight his pioneering spirit and action when it came to providing opportunities for young women and girls, like me, to participate in Track and Cross Country in the 1970's when I was a student athlete.

Coach Prince welcomed all-comers to the girls' track team at our high school - Myers Park. He had all kinds of student athletes to coach: serious runners, trying for (and some getting) college scholarships, those who struggled with up and down performances, joggers-turned-runners, and those overjoyed with that elusive PR! He required the same things from all of us: commitment, dedication, respect and absolute best effort. I think he got these things from almost everyone. He expected it; he inspired it; and he got it. I know he got it from me! Coaching girls takes a special person. You have to be encouraging, but also tough; supportive, but honest; instructive, but sensitive. How do you do this? Ask Coach Prince, because he knows how. I am grateful to have had a coach like him in my life! The lessons I learned from him carried forward, when following graduation from Myers Park, I went to Duke and started and managed the Duke Women's Track and Cross Country Club (since Duke did not have a women's team program until 1984!). Those same lessons have served me well as the mother of 3 daughters (and a son) and in many other areas as well.

As late as 1977-78, 1978-79, my Junior and Senior years, girls did not have a Cross Country team anywhere in the state. Coach Prince encouraged and supported all the girls who wanted to run Cross Country and we were invited to run on the boys' team. That way we could train and compete against each other and the boys. (Most of the boys were okay with that!) Coach Prince even made sure we had opportunities to compete in a girls' only regional meet. He and Coach Larry McAfee organized the first Girls Open Cross Country Championship, which was held at Davidson College in the Fall of 1978. This meet was the forerunner to the elite national Wendy's Invitational Cross Country Meet, which attracted the best talent in the state and nation to the Charlotte area. Coach Prince also took us to a large out of state national all girl Cross Country meet to help us realize that we could compete with the best runners.

I am thankful to Coach Prince for all he taught me and for his friendship of over 45 years since my graduation from High School. It is my honor and privilege to commend Coach Richard Prince for admission to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Lisa Funderburk Miller

Myers Park High School '79

Lisa Funderbuck Miller



Me at my wedding in 1984, scolding Coach Prince for all those "mean 440's" he made me run!

- Lisa Funderburk Miller

NCHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

North Carolina High School Athletic Association

P.O. Box 3216

Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Dear NCHSAA Hall of Fame Committee,

I am honored to write this letter of recommendation for Coach Richard Prince to be considered for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Hall of Fame. Coach Prince's exemplary career as a high school Cross Country and Track & Field coach is marked by his unwavering dedication to his athletes, his profound impact on their lives, and his outstanding contributions to the sport.

Coach Prince has dedicated over 30 years to coaching in North Carolina where his passion for the sport and commitment to excellence have transformed the lives of countless students. Under his leadership, the Cross Country and Track & Field teams have achieved remarkable success, including numerous conference titles, regional championships, and state-level accolades. His ability to cultivate talent and foster a culture of discipline, perseverance, and sportsmanship has been instrumental in the development of a highly respected and competitive program.

Beyond the impressive record of victories and titles, what truly sets Coach Prince apart is his holistic approach to coaching. He understands that the essence of coaching goes beyond physical training; it encompasses the nurturing of young minds and the development of strong character. Coach Prince has always prioritized the academic achievements and personal growth of his athletes, encouraging them to excel both on and off the field. His mentorship has inspired many of his athletes to pursue higher education and professional careers, with several returning to contribute to their communities, citing Coach Prince as a pivotal influence in their lives.

Coach Prince's commitment to the sport extends beyond his own teams. He has been an active participant in the broader athletic community, serving as a mentor to fellow coaches, participating in clinics, hosting high quality meets, well respected official, and contributing to the development of training programs that benefit athletes across the state. His collaborative spirit and willingness to share his expertise have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers.

One of the most telling indicators of Coach Prince's impact is the enduring relationships he maintains with his former athletes. Many of them, now successful in various walks of life, continue to seek his

counsel and express their gratitude for the lessons learned under his guidance. These testimonials speak volumes about his influence and the lasting legacy he has created.

My own experience with Coach Prince and numerous former teammates still gives credit to him with helping to develop us as great standing members of society. I credit him with helping to lead me down the coaching path to continue the chain of enthusiasm in our sport and helping student-athletes grow in life and skill. His professionalism and experience have truly given me the tools to achieve my own career goals. Without my time with Coach Prince I would surely be on a different path.

In recognition of his outstanding achievements, his unwavering commitment to his athletes, and his significant contributions to the sport of Cross Country and Track & Field, I wholeheartedly endorse Coach Richard Prince for induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. His career exemplifies the highest standards of coaching and sportsmanship, and his induction would be a fitting tribute to his enduring legacy.

Thank you for considering this recommendation. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Field Miller

Head Cross Country/Track & Field Coach

Meredith College

3800 Hillsborough Street

Raleigh, NC 27607

wfmiller@meredith.edu

704-254-8139

June, 21, 2024

North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Committee P.O. Box 3216, Finley Golf Course Road Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3216

Dear Committee Members:

I have known and worked with Richard Prince for over 50 years. He is the most knowledgeable and dedicated coach that I have ever worked with. Richard coached cross country and track at Myers Park High School for over 25 years. During his tenure, Myers Park teams were among the elite teams in North Carolina winning numerous Conference, Regional, and State Championships. His teams excelled in the skill events where Richard is a master teacher.

In 1975, Richard was instrumental in beginning the first high school cross country invitational in North Carolina. The Charlotte Track Club Cross Country Carnival which eventually became the Wendy's Invitational, the oldest high school cross country invitational in the Carolinas. He has served as co-meet director for this event since the beginning. From 1980 until 2001, Richard and I directed the NCHSAA State Cross Country Championships at McAlpine Greenway. In 1982, Richard and I worked to get the Kinney, now Foot Locker, South Regional Cross Country Championships relocated from Atlanta to Charlotte and McAlpine Greenway where it has been for the past 43 years. This is one of four qualifying races for the National High School Cross Country Championship held in San Diego, CA. Additionally, Richard has served as meet director for numerous NCHSAA Sectional, Regional and State Championships in both cross country and track. He has been a master level certified USATF official for decades and has served as a meet official at local, state, regional, national, and international events. For decades, Richard has been the mentor to numerous track & field officials in North Carolina.

In all the years of working with Richard, I have never questioned his sincerity and passion for our sport. In over 50 years of officiating together, I respect Richard's knowledge of the sport and know that he has always had the best interest of our sport and its athletes at heart. I enthusiastically endorse Richard as a candidate for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Larry McAfee

NCHSAA Hall of Fame - Class of 2024

Foot Locker Cross Country South Region Coordinator

Retired East Mecklenburg High School XC and Track & Field Coach

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EVANSLALAS	South MECK	for ful
CATHY KOZIE/	meet Official	Cocky Go
Chris Caviello	Indian Land High	CAL
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Chris Secco	South Pointe	Quality Sales
JESSE LOWRY	Official	Jane Lour
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