

Highland Park Athletic Department

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*When you play one of
us, you play all of us."*

RANDY ALLEN
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR MEN'S SPORTS
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

JERRY SUTTERFIELD
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR FOR WOMEN'S SPORTS
HEAD GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY

February 28, 2011

George Lutkenhaus
Northwest High School
2301 Texan Drive
Justin, TX 76247

Dear George,

I am nominating Jim Mouser of Highland Park High School for the Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas Hall of Fame. I have included letters from his athletes in this nomination.

Jim Mouser was born August 12, 1939 in Hannah, Oklahoma. He graduated from McAlester High School in McAlester, Oklahoma. He attended Eastern Oklahoma A&M, now Eastern Oklahoma State College, in Wilberton, Oklahoma where he played basketball and ran track. He transferred to Northeast Louisiana State College, now the University of Louisiana at Monroe. At Northeast Louisiana, he ran the 440 Yard Dash and the Mile Relay. He was Gulf States Conference Champion all three years he competed. In his senior year, he was a Team Captain and received the Most Conscientious Senior Award. That same year, he ran the third leg on the Mile Relay that went 3:10, the fastest time in the nation that year. Following his senior year, Coach Mouser was an assistant track coach for Northeast Louisiana, a position he held for two years. In 1963, he began teaching and coaching at Iowa Park, Texas. He taught Physical Education and coached football, girls' basketball, and boy's track & field.

In 1967, Coach Mouser came to Highland Park High School where he would be for the next 31 years. His career at HP started with being an assistant football coach and head boy's track & field coach. In 1972, he started the Boy's Cross Country Team. He started the Girls' Cross Country Team in 1975 and took over the Girls' Track & Field Team the same year. In the position of Head Boy's and Girls' Cross Country Coach and Head Girls' Track & Field Coach, Jim Mouser established one of the most successful programs in the United States. When he retired from coaching in 1993, the Boy's Cross Country Teams had won ten district and two regional championships. The Girls' Cross Country Teams had won eighteen district, seventeen regional, and five state championships and had also established low team scores at the U.I.L. State Cross Country Meet in both the 5A and 4A divisions. The Girls' Track & Field Teams won numerous district championships, one regional championship, and were state runner-up twice. Jim Mouser was the Texas Girls Coaches Association Cross Country and Track & Field Coach

It's the team that matters, not me.

of the Year and was selected Dallas Morning News Girls Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1990. Texas Girls Coaches Association past Executive Director, Billy McKown, described Coach Mouser as, "One of the outstanding cross country coaches in the state and a dedicated role model for his team."


While the teams he coached were very successful, it is the life success of his athletes and the coaches who came in contact with him where he made the biggest impact. His example of hard work, fairness, and team before individual made a profound difference in many people's lives. Known for being tough, but fair, Coach Mouser had the ability to push athletes to their potential, sometimes when they did not realize the potential they had. Sometimes perceived as hard and demanding, it is his "push" that brought the average to a champion and a group of individuals to a team. One former athlete said in a newspaper article, "I think he brings out the best in every athlete. We have a lot of natural talent, but Coach Mouser wants you to achieve all you can. Working with him makes you want to push yourself to a new level of excellence. He's shown us there are rewards for hard work and perseverance and those are things that will help out in life." Loyalty to your team and to your team mates was a big expectation "preached" by Coach Mouser. During one season, a member of the Boys Cross Country Team was an inspirational leader on the team. A few days before the U.I.L. State Cross Country Meet, this athlete sustained an injury that was not serious, but did affect his ability to run at full speed. While some outside the team wanted this athlete replaced for the state race, Coach Mouser showed his loyalty by allowing this young man to race and waited and congratulated him at the finish line as the young man finished as the last runner in that race.

Coach Mouser invested in the future by his time investment in other coaches. Anytime a coach wanted to learn more or ask a question of Jim Mouser, he would share his knowledge and give his opinions. As a young, inexperienced coach, I learned so much from Jim Mouser. When I came to Highland Park I.S.D. in 1985, I had never seen a cross country race or understood what it was nor did I have much knowledge in the area of distance running. Coach Mouser spent many, many hours with me and answered thousands of my questions. I also learned much just watching and listening as he worked with the athletes. Jim Mouser's influence has helped mold the person and the coach I am today. I am only one of many who learned from, "Mouser".

Jim and his wife, Tommie, were married in August, 1963. They have two children – Brad, who is the Head Varsity Boys Basketball Coach at Timber Creek High School in Keller, Texas and Dana, who is a kindergarten teacher in Manor, Texas. Jim and Tommie, who is also a retired educator, are the proud grandparents of four boys and love to spend as much time with them as possible.

I am honored to nominate Jim Mouser for the Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,


Jerry Sutterfield

January 20, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you about the nomination of Coach Jim Mouser for the Cross Country Coaches of Texas Association Hall of Fame Award. There are numerous reasons for considering him for this great honor. I believe my experiences with Coach Mouser will attest to supporting his nomination.

I ran for Coach Mouser on both the Cross Country and Girls Track Teams at Highland Park High School in Dallas, Texas from 1986 until 1990. I was an essential member of the 1988 and 1989 Cross Country State Championship teams. Also, I was the 2nd place finisher in the 800 meters at the Texas State Track Meet in both 1989 and 1990. Additionally, I was team captain for both teams in 1990. After high school I continued my running career in Cross Country and Track at Rice University in Houston, Texas.

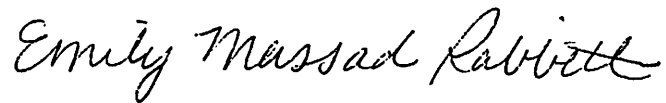
Coach Mouser taught me valuable lessons and gave me the tools to succeed while competing in high school. He taught me about working hard and not giving up. He pushed me hard enough to challenge me but not too hard to discourage me. He helped me build confidence in who I am and in my natural abilities. Coach Mouser required commitment and dedication teaching me the importance of both. He also gave me a chance to develop leadership skills as team captain. He recognized my strengths as an athlete and helped to foster them. He also helped me face my weaknesses and deal with failure and disappointment.

Coach Mouser is a genuine man with many positive attributes. He was devoted to his job as a coach. He was honest with his athletes and parents. He was always encouraging, respectful, and loyal to me. He focused on the development of the athlete and was truly happy when each athlete reached success.

What I learned during my four years under the coaching of Jim Mouser carried on past high school into my college athletic career and adult life. The successes I have enjoyed since high school can be attributed to lessons learned as an athlete. Coach

Mouser was a big contributor to my learning. I am so grateful to Coach Mouser for the experiences I had at Highland Park and the life lessons he taught me. I hope you strongly consider Coach Jim Mouser for the Cross County Coaches of Texas Association Hall of Fame Award. I believe he deserves it.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Massad Rabbitt". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Emily Massad Rabbitt

**LuAnne S. Hobbs
7108 Desco Drive
Dallas, Texas 75225
home 214.360.9476
cell 214.564.8577**

February 10, 2011

Jerry Sutterfield
Highlander Stadium
4233 Grassmere
Dallas, TX 75205

Dear Mr. Sutterfield,

It is a great privilege to write a letter about one of the largest influences on my life, Coach Jim Mouser. Coach Mouser was not only a cross country and track coach, he was a life coach. Coach Mouser taught his girls to give 110% every time, always keep your pace even when going uphill, never slow down until you cross the finish line, don't ever hold back, and always give it all you have. In a world of mediocrity, Coach Mouser's girls were held to a higher standard because he lived that higher standard as a faithful, humble, gracious man who was always supportive and positive.

Coach Mouser's runners excelled because we wanted to please him.. His dedication to our team was rare, if not unheard of. Coach Mouser gave weekly awards, Blue Bell Ice Cream, to his team and hosted the greatest dinners before important meets, personally drove us to the State meet in Austin, wrapped our legs, and set up our "tent" so we would rest before our races. We were the most cared for team at every meet and as a result, we wanted to produce results.

Rarely does one find a single individual who impacts and changes so many lives for the better and teaches life lessons about success, humility, winning, losing and working hard to succeed. Jim Mouser is that rare jewel who I had the honor of calling "Coach." May God bless this wonderful man who has blessed so many.

Sincerely,



LuAnne Staley Hobbs
HPHS Cross Country 1983,1984

James E. Hobbs
7102 Beech Drive
Dallas, Texas 75232
Home 314.366.3116
Cell 314.366.4577

February 10, 2011

Joseph Starnfield
11111 North Stemmons
Dallas, Texas 75243
314.366.4577


Dear Mr. Starnfield,

It is a great privilege to write a letter about one of the largest influences on my life, Joseph the Mosser. Joseph Mosser was not only a cross country and track coach, he was a life coach. Joseph Mosser taught his girls to give 110% every time, always keep your head down when going uphill, never slow down until you cross the finish line, don't ever hold back, and always give it all you have. In a world of mediocrity, Joseph Mosser's girls were held to a higher standard because he lived that higher standard as a faithful husband, gracious man who was always supportive and positive.

Joseph Mosser's motto echoed because we wanted to please him. His dedication to our team was not just in the subject of Joseph Mosser gave weekly awards. His love for Coach to his team and board the greatest dinner before important meets, personally drove us to the State meet in Austin, wrapped our legs, and set up our tent so we would rest before our races. We were the most excited for team at every meet and as a result, we wanted to please the results.

Joseph and I always had lessons about success, humility, winning, losing and working hard to succeed. The Mosser is that rare jewel who I had the honor of calling "Coach". May God bless this wonderful man who has blessed so many.

Sincerely,


James E. Hobbs
FBIS Cross Country 1981-1984
11111 North Stemmons
Dallas, Texas 75243
314.366.4577