

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing as a member of the Eastern High School Alumni Association and as a business owner in the Middletown, KY community in support of naming the basketball court at Eastern High School after Joe Rogers.

I was a student at Eastern from the fall of 1993 until I graduated in the spring of 1997. During that time Mr. Joe Rogers served as the Varsity Boys Basketball Coach, Director of Athletics, and my sophomore year as my World History teacher. Mr. Rogers dedication to Eastern High School was apparent to me then as a high school student and became even more apparent after I graduated and moved back to Middletown. During the evening as I walked my dog near the school, or in the mornings on a jog, I would usually see Mr. Rogers doing something to better the Eastern grounds. He would be cutting the grass in his scraw hat, he was always ready to chat, ask about the family, other graduates from my era, and always ready to tell you what was going on at Eastern now. In my opinion the facilities at Eastern High School are fantastic, I believe that was established under Joe Rogers. I can think of no better way to honor him than to name the court at Eastern High School after him.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott M. Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Scott M. Jackson

Eastern High School Alumni Association (c/o 1997)

President/CEO East End Plumbing Supply
Louisville, KY

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Eastern Alumni Association in full support of naming the Eastern High School Basketball court for former coach and athletic director Joe Rogers. I had the pleasure of being a student athlete at Eastern while Joe Rogers was serving as athletic director. He also gave me a chance to be a coach at my alma mater hiring me as an assistant coach and eventually head coach for both Cross Country and Track & Field.

Coach Rogers played such a huge role in helping Eastern athletics blossom into one of the best athletic departments in the state. He worked tirelessly to maintain beautiful facilities including painting the gym, mowing the grass, adding new facilities for underserved sports, and putting so much personal pride into every space on campus. Even after he retired from the Eastern, he continued to mow grass at Eastern because it was a place and a space that he took such remarkable pride in. And he was a regular at Eastern events until his health made it difficult for him to do so.

During his time at Eastern Coach Rogers oversaw likely the most successful period in the history of Eastern Athletics. In a relatively short stretch in the late 90's, while he was athletic director, the school won 5 state titles in three different sports, plus quite a few regional and district championships.

He facilitated a spirit of pride and excellence in the school and department. His department gave opportunities to students that were in positions of greatest need. He helped to grow and elevate women's athletics hiring great coaches and upgrading facilities for women's athletics. He worked to make sure students from disadvantaged homes had every opportunity to participate by organizing rides for students who could not provide them and facilitating fundraising opportunities to students never had to pay to play at Eastern. He often hired minority coaches so all students would see leaders they could aspire to be like.

Coach Rogers career at Eastern started as a basketball coach and social studies teacher, so his influence began on that hardwood before expanding to the whole athletic department. It would seem very appropriate to celebrate his life of influence by putting his name on that court!

This would be such an exciting addition to Eastern High School and I hope that we can make it happen as quickly as possible so Coach Rogers can enjoy it with his family, friends, and everyone he influenced.

With great sincerity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Horan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Horan (c/o 1998)

Eastern HS Alumni Association President

January 10, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I fully endorse the naming of the basketball court "Joe Rogers Court". Rogers served as Athletic Director for 15 years. During his time at Eastern Rogers oversaw likely the most successful period in the history of Eastern Athletics. In a relatively short stretch in the late 90's, while he was athletic director, the school won 5 state titles in three different sports, plus quite a few regional and district championships.

He facilitated a spirit of pride and excellence in the school and department. His department gave opportunities to students that were in positions of greatest need. He also oversaw the building and expansion of most of our facilities on the campus. He even continued the upkeep of the facilities after his retirement.

I had the pleasure of meeting Joe multiple times and discussing Eastern's facilities and teams. We share many visions of how to improve the school and athletics. He is a treasured member of our school community.



Joseph R Scheper
Athletic Director
Eastern High School

January 11, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as a recommendation for naming the basketball court at Eastern High School in honor of former Head Coach and Director of Athletics, Mr Joe Rogers.

My first impression of Coach Rogers came while I was an assistant coach at Murray State University. We were evaluating a couple of Eastern Basketball players, and our first contact was with Coach Rogers. He was one of the high school coaches we all enjoyed talking with. He was sincere with evaluations and he didn't "pull any punches." One thing that struck me was just how professional he was in all of my interactions with Coach.

When we watched his teams play, it was very obvious they were very well-coached. His teams played with a discipline that most coaches only dream of. His players were tough, smart, and they played the game the "right way." Coach was very demanding of his players, but that's what made him effective, those expectations were obvious to those who watched the Eastern Eagles.

When I became interested in the position of boys basketball coach at EHS, the first person I called was Coach Rogers. As our conversations became regular, it was plain to see that Coach Rogers LOVED Eastern High School. Not just the basketball and athletic programs, but he LOVED Eastern High School. He took an incredible amount of pride in describing what a great place it is to coach and teach.

It is without hesitation that I recommend that we name the basketball court at Eastern High School "Coach Joe Rogers Court."

Thanking you for your time, I remain

Sincerely,

David Henley
Head Basketball Coach
Eastern High School

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse and recommend the proposal to name the basketball court at Eastern High School after the esteemed Joe Rogers. As a former teacher, soccer coach, Athletic Director, and current Assistant Principal at Eastern High School, I had the privilege of working closely with Coach Rogers. I can attest to the invaluable contributions he made to Eastern High School, the school and Middletown community, and our school's athletic program.

During my tenure as the head soccer coach, Coach Rogers served as the Athletic Director, and his leadership played a pivotal role in shaping my coaching career. He not only guided me through the intricacies of the position but also served as a mentor, providing valuable insights and support that greatly contributed to my success in the role. Later in my career when I became the Athletic Director, he was my go-to for all things Eastern High School and KHSAA athletics related.

Beyond professional relationships, Coach Rogers became a great friend and a role model to many. His commitment to the well-being of all students and student-athletes was evident in every decision he made. Coach Rogers was a tireless advocate for the athletic community, ensuring that Eastern High School not only had top-notch facilities but also offered a prestigious athletic program for all students and the broader community.

One of Coach Rogers remarkable achievements was overseeing one of the most successful periods in Eastern athletics. Under his leadership, our school secured over five state championship titles, a testament to his dedication and strategic vision. Starting as a basketball coach and social studies teacher in 1989, he transitioned to the role of Athletic Director in 1994, leaving an indelible mark on Eastern High School until his retirement in 2007.

Even post-retirement, Coach Rogers continued to contribute to Eastern and the athletic community as an assistant basketball coach and assistant athletic director. His passion for sports, combined with his unwavering commitment to the school's success, exemplifies the kind of legacy that should be commemorated. "The Joe Rogers Way."

Naming the basketball court after Coach Joe Rogers would be a fitting and appropriate honor for a man who has given so much to Eastern High School. It would not only serve as a lasting tribute to his contributions but also inspire current and future generations of students and student-athletes to strive for excellence, just as Coach Rogers did throughout his distinguished career.

I wholeheartedly support this proposal and believe that naming the basketball court after Joe Rogers is a well-deserved recognition of his exceptional service to Eastern High School and its school community.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Hawes', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steven Hawes

Assistant Principal, Eastern High School

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter in full support of naming the Eastern High School Basketball court for former coach and athletic director Joe Rogers. I am an alumni of Eastern High School class of 2012, and was the head cheerleading coach at Eastern from 2015-2022. I have grown up in the middletown community and I am the Vice President of the Middletown Chamber of Commerce. I did not have the pleasure of being at Eastern while Joe Rogers was serving as athletic director. But I have heard so many amazing stories from the Eastern and Middletown community over the years, and i feel his impact.

I know that Coach Rogers played a large role in helping Eastern athletics blossom into one of the best athletic departments in the state. Naming the court after him would be such an exciting addition to Eastern High School, and the middletown community! I hope that we can make it happen as quickly as possible so Coach Rogers can enjoy this honor with his family, friends, and everyone he influenced.

Thank you,
Tyra Anderson (c/o 2012)
Middletown Chamber of Commerce Vice President

Coach Joe Rogers played a huge role in helping Eastern Athletics blossom into one of the best athletic departments in the state. He worked tirelessly to maintain beautiful facilities including painting the gym, mowing the grass, adding new facilities for underserved sports, and exuding personal pride into every space on campus. Even after Coach Rogers retired, he continued to mow the grass at Eastern because it was a place and a space that he took such remarkable pride in. He continued to be a regular attendee and volunteer at Eastern events until his health made it difficult for him to do so.

During his time at Eastern, Coach Rogers oversaw what is likely the most successful period in the history of Eastern Athletics. In a relatively short stretch in the late 1990s, while he was athletic director, Eastern HS won 5 state titles in three different sports, plus quite a few regional and district championships. Coach Rogers facilitated a spirit of pride and excellence throughout the school and especially in his athletic department. While he advocated for all student athletes, Coach Rogers set the expectation that even more opportunities were given to those students that were in positions of greatest need. He helped to grow and elevate female sports by hiring exemplary female athletes as coaches and upgrading the facilities for female athletes. Coach Rogers worked to make sure students from disadvantaged homes had every opportunity to participate by organizing rides for those students and facilitating fundraising opportunities, so those families never had to pay to play at Eastern. Coach Rogers advocated for more minority coaches so all students would see leaders that looked like them and could aspire to be like.

Coach Rogers' career at Eastern started as a social studies teacher and a basketball coach, so his influence began on this hardwood before expanding throughout the entire campus. It seems very appropriate to celebrate his life of influence by putting his name on the large gym floor and naming it the Joe Rogers Court!

Submitted by Robert Moore

Attachment