

**ATHLETES NAME:** Ally Hollifield

**SCHOOL:** Shelby High School

**CLASSIFICATION:** 2A

**SPORTS:** Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Track and Field and Volleyball

**NOMINATOR:** David Bryson

**NOMINATOR EMAIL:** dpbryson@clevelandcountyschools.org

**NOMINATOR SCHOOL:** Shelby High

**NOMINATOR POSITION:** Teacher/Coach/Asst. Athletic Director

**ATHLETES QUALIFICATIONS:**

**Volleyball (9th and 10th grade)**

2 year starter

**Cross Country (11th and 12th grade)**

All Conference: 2021, 2022

Conference Runner of the Year: 2022

Team MVP: 2021, 2022

Team State Meet Qualification: 2021

Individual State Meet Qualifier: 2022

**Basketball (9th–12th grade)**

All Conference: 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

All District: 2020, 2021, 2022

All State: 2021

2A State Championship Outstanding Player 2021

**Soccer (10th and 12th grade)**

All Conference 2021

**Track (9th–12th grade)**

All Conference 100H: 2020, 2021, 2022

All Conference 300H: 2020, 2021, 2022

**REFERENCE NAMES (LETTERS ATTACHD AND PICTURE):** Chris Simmons and Brent Pasco

To whom it may concern,

I would like to recommend Ally Hollifield from Shelby High School for NCHSAA Athlete Of The Year. First and foremost Ally is a first class kid on and off the court. Off the floor she is an unbelievable role model for younger kids and she's a great student. On the court she is a fierce competitor that excels at what she does because of an elite mindset, she takes care of her business by preparing like a very few her age. After having a up close front row seat I've watched others gravitate towards and follow her lead and that's something everyone looks for in an overall high caliber student athlete and that is exactly who Ally is.

Thank you,  
Christian Simmons

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in recommendation of Ally Hollifield for the NCHSAA Athlete of the Year. I have served as Ally's cross country and track coach for the last two years.

I feel so fortunate to serve at a school where school-based athletics is an integral part of what we do, but even among so many good athletes I have no doubt that Ally is the best at Shelby High School. Ally has competed in 5 sports during her time at Shelby, and all her coaches have commented on her athleticism and drive. As a general rule we have all found that Ally is faster, stronger, and more tenacious than her teammates and competitors.

It's one thing to have a laundry list of sports in which you have competed, it's another to have contributed and been a leader on those teams. In my experience Ally joined our cross country team at the beginning of her junior year and immediately became the best runner on our team. During that year she led our team to a state championship appearance for the first time in eight years. As an individual she finished second in the conference only being bested by a four year cross country competitor who has gone on to run track and cross country at Duke University.

This season Ally was the Conference Runner of the Year, winning the individual conference title in a dominant performance where she bested the second place runner by nearly a minute. In a similar vein Ally has made the All Conference track team for her performances in the 100m and 300m hurdles. She was also our team's best 1600m runner and a member of the 4x400m relay team, scoring points in both of those events.

Despite Ally's success as a runner she is a basketball player by trade. She has won numerous basketball awards including being part of the 2021 2A Women's state championship team, a first for both our school and county. Ally also recently set the county record for most points scored in a game when she scored 43 points against a cross town rival. Ally will continue her basketball career next year at Gardner Webb University, where, I'd like to point out, she is also fast enough to be the second best runner on their cross country team.

As assistant athletic director I've also had the opportunity to work with Ally through our Student Athletic Advisory Committee. We started this organization this year, and our major goal has been to write vision and mission statements for our athletic department. Ally has been an important part of that process, making meeting attendance a priority in her already busy schedule.

Our newly coined mission statement establishes that Shelby High School is creating student athletes who are "passionate, disciplined, and skilled." As we've discussed what it means to embody those qualities I have often found myself thinking about how what we're really trying to do is make people more like Ally.

Sincerely,

David Bryson

Shelby High School  
Head Cross Country Coach  
Asst. Track Coach  
Asst. Athletic Director