

**ATHLETES NAME:** Tori Ensley

**SCHOOL:** Franklin High School

**CLASSIFICATION:** 3A

**SPORTS:** Basketball, Softball and Volleyball

**NOMINATOR:** Blair King

**NOMINATOR EMAIL:** blair.king@macon.k12.nc.us

**NOMINATOR SCHOOL:** Franklin High School

**NOMINATOR POSITION:** Vice-Principal

**ATHLETES QUALIFICATIONS:** 19-20 Basketball All-Conference

19-20 Basketball All WNC Honorable Mention (Asheville Citizen)

19-20 Basketball Conference Champions, Conference Tournament Runner-up, 3rd Round State Playoffs

19-20 Softball Covid

20-21 Volleyball Co-Conference Champions, Tournament Runner-up

20-21 Basketball Co-Conference Player of the Year

20-21 Basketball All Conference

20-21 Basketball FPSN Play of the Year Winner

20-21 Basketball All-WNC 2nd Team

20-21 Softball All-Conference

20-21 Softball All-District

20-21 Softball All-State

20-21 Softball Conference Runner-up, Playoff Berth

21-22 Basketball NCHSAA Week 17 Performance of the Week

21-22 Basketball Regular Season Conference Champions

21-22 Basketball Conference Tournament Champions

21-22 Basketball 2nd Round NCHSAA Playoffs

21-22 Basketball Conference Player of the Year

21-22 Basketball Conference Tournament MVP

21-22 Basketball All-Tournament Team

21-22 Basketball Single Season Steals Record (104)

21-22 Basketball Single Game Steals Record (10)

21-22 Basketball NCHSAA Week 24 Performance of the Week

21-22 Basketball NCBCA All-District 2nd Team

21-22 Basketball HighSchoolOT's All State HM Selection

21-22 Basketball Citizen Times All WNC 1st Team

21-22 Softball HighSchoolOT Top 25 to Watch List

21-22 Softball 4/7/22 Broke School Home run record of 12 in a season. Finished the season with 17

21-22 Softball WLOS Game Changer 4/21/22

21-22 Softball FHS Athlete of the Month

21-22 Softball 3rd Highest Homerun Total in State History. 2nd Highest in Regular Season history 17 HR in 21 games played

21-22 Softball Mountain 7 Conference Player of the Year

21-22 Softball All-Conference

21-22 Softball All-District

21-22 Softball NCSCA District 8 Player of the Year

21-22 Softball All-WNC 1st Team

21-22 Softball NCSCA All-State

21-22 Softball High School OT All-State Softball First Team

22-23 Volleyball All-Conference

22-23 Volleyball High School OT Mid Season Watch List

22-23 Volleyball High School OT All-State HM

22-23 Basketball High School OT Preseason Watchlist

22-23 Basketball Citizen Times WNC Watchlist (#2 player to watch)

22-23 Basketball Battle of the States, All-Tournament Team

22-23 Basketball 1/5/2023- 1000 Career Points vs Swain (25 pt game 1003) (Injury vs Swain on 1/6 career total at injury 1053)

22-23 Basketball Career Steal Record Holder 239

22-23 Basketball All-Conference

22-23 Softball 2023 Citizen Times WNC Player to Watch

22-23 All Mountain Amateur Athletic Club WNC Sports Awards Finalist- Ann Brandis Division I Female Athlete Major Sport

22-23 All High School OT Honors- NC Female Athlete of the Year Finalist

22-23 Softball High School OT Honors- NC Softball Player of the Year Finalist

NC State Softball Commit

**REFERENCE NAMES (LETTERS ATTACHD AND PICTURE):** Mickey Noe and Matt Bradley



Principal

Mickey Noc

Vice Principal

Blair King

**Franklin High School**

100 Panther Drive  
Franklin, NC 28734  
828-524-6467 (phone)  
828-524-0684 (fax)

Vice Principal

Pam Roper

Vice Principal

Christic Barnett

From: Blair King  
Vice Principal  
Franklin High School

Ref: Tori Ensley

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my pleasure to and an honor to write a recommendation letter on behalf of Ms. Tori Ensley. There are not enough good things I can say about Tori to truly encompass the student, athlete, and person that she is.

The very first thought that comes to mind is leader. Tori has demonstrated herself a leader on the court/field and in the classroom. She is extremely talented and intelligent but if there is any situation where someone on the other side is more talented or intelligent her preparation and work ethic always rises to the top. You simply cannot outwork this young lady. On the playing field, she is fierce. She leads her teammates by her actions and while performing at an elite level. She has led her teams to multiple conference titles and received multiple state awards and unanimous Conference MVP selections all while carrying full course load of honors courses with an outstanding 4.35 GPA. Carrying a full coarse load, competing in 3 sports, and participating in travel softball outside of school, Tori also finds time to work with several youth after school hours, holidays, summer break and weekends. This young lady simply never stops and displays one of the greatest work ethics I have ever seen.

Personally, I have come to know Tori as a wonderful human being. No matter the socio-economic status, race, gender, or identity, she treats everyone she meets with kindness and humility. She is a friend to everyone she meets.

Finally, the most important thing with a student like Tori is simply the person she is. She is dedicated, determined, humble, kind, intelligent and driven. We had the pleasure of having her older sister Taylor here just two years prior and I thought I would never see another person or athlete like her. Then, there was Tori. Each sister great in their own right but while loving her sister dearly she almost seemed to use the success of her sister as a challenge and aimed higher. In one year she broke school records in two different sports and fell just two homeruns shy of the state homerun record last spring. Her ability levels are amazing but what you notice watching her is this unstoppable drive she has that not only pushes her but leads the others around her. There are times you watch this young lady that you don't actually believe what you are watching. What will astound you more, after all that I have mentioned, Tori will be the absolute last person to tell you any of it. Her humbleness is unlike anyone I've ever met.

It is my honor to recommend Tori for whatever path she chooses. Tori has a drive that tells me if she wants to be an engineer, a teacher, a doctor whatever she chooses, she will be the best one you've ever had. She will excel and rise above expectations in any program she decides to embark on. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 865-330-4333 or via email at [blair.king@macon.k12.nc.us](mailto:blair.king@macon.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,

Blair King, Eds

To: NCHSAA

From: Chad Owenby, Head Women's Basketball Coach (Retired) Brevard High School  
Softball Assistant Coach, Brevard High School

Date: 4/26/2023

RE: Tori Ensley nomination for NCHSAA female athlete of the year for 2022-2023

Dear NCHSAA committee,

It is my honor to write to you on behalf of Tori Ensley from Franklin High School. Tori, quite frankly, is the most decorated female athlete to come out of Franklin High School. This young lady is amazing. She has been all conference in volleyball, basketball, and softball. Tori is a 4-time all-conference member in basketball and a 2-time conference player of the year in basketball. She was also the conference tournament MVP in Basketball as well as a NCBCA all-district selection and an all-WNC selection. She broke the single season steals record at Franklin High and is the career all-time leader in steals.

As good as Tori is in Basketball, she is even better as a softball player. The NC State signee has been an all-conference selection two times and is likely going to have a third year this season. Currently, her team is first in the conference and is ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the state. She missed the 2019 season due to COVID. Tori was an all-conference, all-district, and all-state selection in 2021. Last year she was the Mountain Seven Athletic Conference player of the year. She was also an all-district and NCSCA first team all-state selection with her being the NCSCA district 8 player of the year. Tori also broke the Franklin High single season home run record hitting 17 in a single season. That is the third most ever in the state of NC. I think it speaks volumes for any athlete to hold an athletic record at their school, but Tori not only holds 3 individual records but holds them in 2 different team sports.

Tori has been nominated for many awards. She is currently a finalist for the High School OT Honors-NC female athlete of the year as well as a finalist for the High School OT Honors-Softball player of the year. She is also a finalist for the Mountain Amateur Athletic Club-Ann Brandis Division 1 Female Athlete for a Major Sport. These awards have not yet been named, but I believe Tori is the one of if not the front runner for each. I think it speaks volumes that she holds all-time career school records in both basketball and softball.

I have touched on how gifted Tori is in athletics, but I think it is important to touch on the character and integrity of our student athletes. Being a coach at a rival high school, I have a different perspective on Tori. She was always competitive and a team player. Never selfish, never one to argue with officials, and always one to treat the other team and other coaches with great respect. I have had the pleasure to coach against Tori in both basketball and Softball and I have seen firsthand how she made the difference in the teams she played for. You could tell how she led from the front. There was never a moment that was too big for her. She has made an impression on me as an opposing coach. I have coached three sports at Brevard High for 23 years, and Tori is the best athlete I have ever seen. I don't have children, but if I ever had daughters, I could only hope that they would grow up to be just like Tori.

It is also important to speak about how our athletes are active in their respective school and communities. Tori was the 2022 homecoming queen at Franklin. That is an honor that is voted on by your peers. She is also very active with the Unify March Madness basketball game. Tori is a member of the FHS student leadership team, the welcoming committee at her church, and she assists with the clothing closet which helps students in need at FHS. She is the most unselfish young lady I have ever met, she volunteers at the local little league, and she teaches hitting lessons to the young ladies in the community. We always teach that our athletes should not just focus on athletics but should be well-rounded and be "Student Athletes". Not only is she a gifted athlete, but she also carries a 4.5 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society. Tori is a role model for all men and women at Franklin High, and for the many young athletes that are coming through the Macon County system. This is a young lady that will do huge things at NC State both academically and in softball.

I feel confident that Tori is exactly what the NCHSAA is looking for when they are looking for the female athlete of the year. She is a three-sport star that is active in her school and her community and most of all is a role model to all students at Franklin High School as well as all other schools in western North Carolina. I could go on and on about this young lady, but I think there is one thing I must say...Tori Ensley is a once in a lifetime athlete, and I have been blessed to coach against her, and I know that Franklin High School has been blessed to have her the past four years.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (828)553-2021 or via email at [chad.owenby@transylvaniacounty.org](mailto:chad.owenby@transylvaniacounty.org).

Sincerely,

Chad Owenby, Brevard High School Basketball and Softball Coach