



# **North Carolina High School Athletics Association Hall of Fame Nomination**

**Mark R. Dreibelbis**

September 10, 2023

NCHSAA  
Hall of Fame Nominating Committee  
222 Finley Golf Course Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27519

Please accept, on behalf of myself and the Triangle Basketball Officials Association, our nomination of Mark Dreibelbis for consideration for the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Mark's 17-years as Supervisor of Officials and Director of Student Services revolutionized the commitment of education-based athletics to North Carolina high school student-athletes.


As Director of Student Services, Mark created leaders of hundreds of students, teaching them how to set high standards for life, but also make their communities better. As Supervisor of Officials, Mark innovated to update the training programs for all officials of all sports. He was committed not just to officials as adjudicators of their contests, but to them as people. Both moved forward making the NCHSAA's 400+ schools stronger.

The NCHSAA Hall of Fame honors those whose commitments to the vibrancy of high school athletics are unparalleled. One look at the portfolio of advances Mark instituted shows he is deserved of that honor, too.

Please also find attached support for this nomination from ten people, including: Davis Whitfield (former Commissioner of the NCHSAA and current COO of the NFHS), Brad Allen (former NCHSAA Regional Supervisor and current NFL Referee), Wayne Forehand (current Regional Supervisor of the Northeastern Officials Association), plus other current or retired NCHSAA and TBOA officials, as well as me. Each of these accomplished people were positively impacted by Mark and benefactors of Mark's commitments. These folks speak the 225+ officials of the TBOA in support of this nomination.

As you make induction choices for the next class, please honor Mark Dreibelbis with the ultimate recognition – inclusion into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Submitted respectfully,



Greg Fogleman  
TBOA Regional Supervisor



North Carolina High School Athletic Association  
Physical Address | 222 Finley Golf Course Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Mailing Address | P.O. Box 3216, Chapel Hill, NC 27515  
Phone 919-240-7401 Fax 919-240-7399

## NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION)

### I. NOMINEE INFORMATION

NAME Dreibelbis Mark Reed  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE NICKNAME  
ADDRESS 706 Chelsea Grove Drive Raleigh, North Carolina 27519  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
AGE 68 DATE OF BIRTH 7/11/1955 PLACE OF BIRTH Charlotte, North Carolina  
TELEPHONE: WORK ( ) N/A HOME ( 919 ) 357-5983 DECEASED\* No  
YES/NO  
NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL Myers Park High School YEAR GRADUATED 1973  
NAME OF COLLEGE Appalachian State University YEAR GRADUATED 1977  
ADDITIONAL DEGREES (MASTERS, DOCTORATE, ETC.) Master of Arts - Appalachian State University - 1997  
\*\*\*IF NOMINEE IS DECEASED, GIVE DATE OF DEATH AND FILL IN SECTION II\*\*\*

### II. NEAREST RELATIVE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE RELATIONSHIP  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
TELEPHONE: WORK ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ HOME ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### III. SPONSOR INFORMATION (PERSON MAKING NOMINATION)

NAME Fogelman Greg  
LAST FIRST MIDDLE  
ADDRESS 2812 Green Lane Drive Durham, North Carolina 27712  
STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE  
TELEPHONE: WORK ( 919 ) 417-1883 HOME ( ) (984) 888-0670  
TITLE/POSITION Regional Supervisor/Triangle Basketball Officials Association  
SCHOOL SYSTEM \_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE Greg Fogelman DATE October 2, 2023

#### 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
Associate Commissioner	Jan, 2005 - April, 2022	North Carolina High School Athletic Association	Please see below	
Associate Director of Athletics	1992 - Jan, 2005	Appalachian State University		
Director, Yosef Club	1986-1992	Appalachian State University		
Annual Fund Director	1985-1986	Appalachian State University		
Assistant Alumni Affairs Director	1983-1985	Appalachian State University		
Physical Education Teacher, Basketball Coach	1977-1983	Hardin Park Elementary		

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

1. Mandated diversity representation in all NCHSAA State Championship Assignments
2. Mandated diversity representation for Crew Chiefs in all NCHSAA State Championship Assignments
3. Assigned first female for a NCHSAA Boys Basketball State Championship
4. Assigned first female for a NCHSAA Football State Championship
5. Assigned first all-female crew for a NCHSAA Basketball State Championship
6. Assigned first all-female crew for a NCHSAA Soccer State Championship
7. Assigned first all-female crew for a NCHSAA Volleyball State Championship
8. \_\_\_\_\_

### HONORS

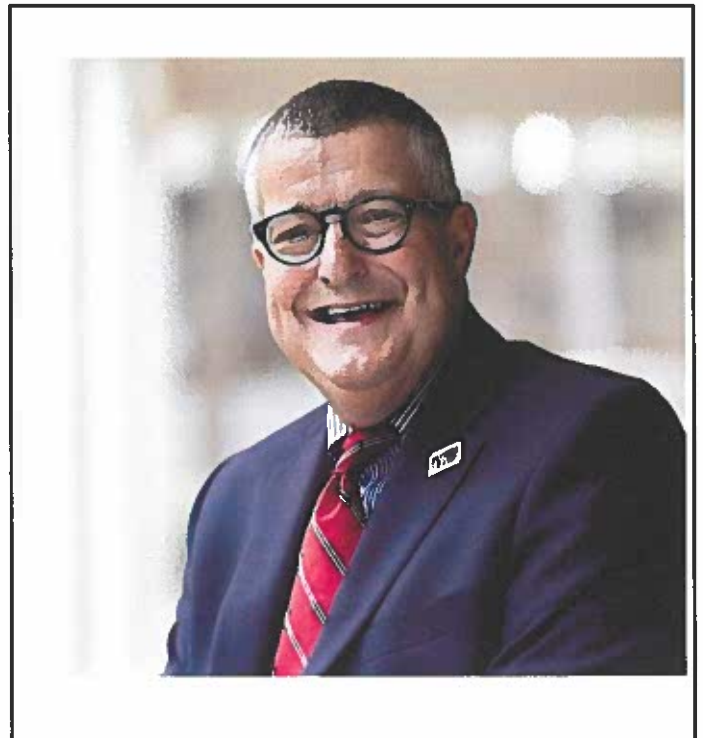
(PLEASE LIST HONORS EARNED IN COLLEGE, POST GRADUATE WORK, AWARDS FROM CIVIC CLUBS, ETC. )  
(EXAMPLE: PHI BETA KAPPA, MAGNA CUM LAUDE, JAYCEE PERSON OF THE YEAR, ETC.)

1. 2023 NFHS National Citation Award for Officiating
2. 2021 NFHS Section III Citation Award
3. 2020 NIAAA Distinguished Service Award
4. 2018 NCHSAA Golden Whistle Award Text
5. 2016 NC Athletic Directors Association Distinguished Service Award
6. 2014 NFHS Coach Educator of the Year
7. 2012 NFHS Distinguished Service Award in High School Officiating
8. 2004 NCHSAA Distinguished Service Award in Basketball Officiating

(Please see addendum for additional honors)

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# Mark Dreibelbis

## Additional Awards and Services (addendum)

- NFHS national Interscholastic Accredited Coach certification
- NFHS national Certified Interscholastic Coach certification
- Member of NCAA/NFHS National Football Advisory Committee
- Chairperson of NFHS Football Equipment Committee
- Member of NFHS Football Rules Committee
- Member of NFHS Basketball Rules Committee

Mark Dreibelbis  
Nomination Application  
NCHSAA Hall of Fame

News and Observer Profile



# His game rules: Keep it safe, fun

Mark Dreibelbis' efforts with coaches are making high school sports safer

By MARTI MAGUIRE  
Correspondent

**CHAPEL HILL** Mark Dreibelbis loves every aspect of high school sports, from the lightning-fast action to the roar of cheering fans to the most minute details of the rules that govern them.

## Tar Heel of the Week

He's experienced the games as a student athlete, a coach, one of the officials who patrols the sidelines, and most recently as an administrator who trains coaches and helps create rules for several sports.

So his response to the growing concern of parents about the danger of football and other team sports is simple: Sports are worthwhile, and they can be safe, too.

Dreibelbis (pronounced Dry Bell Biss), an associate commissioner with the N.C. High School Athletic Associ-



ROBERT WILLETT - rwillett@newsobserver.com

Mark Dreibelbis, associate commissioner of the N.C. High School Athletic Association, has been honored nationally as a coach educator.

ation, serves on national committees that have adopted a host of new rules in recent years aimed at keeping student athletes safe amid concerns over the long-term effects of sports injuries, par-

ticularly in football.

He works with students across the state on leadership skills, and he's been instrumental in taking ideas about safety and sportsmanship to perhaps the most influential constituency in school sports — the coaches.

Dreibelbis was recently honored nationally as a coach educator, an important role that is being highlighted this month during a national campaign by the scholastic sports organizations to promote the value of national certification for coaches. Starting this fall, all coaches in the schools overseen by his organization will have to be nationally certified.

"North Carolina has made great strides in advocating and promoting coach education, largely due to Mark's efforts," says Tim Flannery, director of coach education for the National Federation of State High School Associations.

But Dreibelbis' influence extends well beyond coaching to making sports safer for student athletes, says Davis Whitfield, commissioner of the N.C.

SEE DREIBELBIS, PAGE 2C



# DREIBELBIS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

High School Athletic Association.

"He wants to see things change for the better, and no one's more able than Mark to dive into the details to make changes that work," says Whitfield, who will soon take a position with the national consortium of these organizations. "The national federation has relied heavily on him over the past 10 years for this."

Dreibelbis sees training coaches and players about both safety and sportsmanship as the best way to maintain the value of sports while minimizing the inherent dangers.

"The unity and bonds you build through competition and depending on one another and sharing a goal — that's the core of athletics that will serve you both personally and professionally your whole life," he says. "Those are the core values that sports teaches."

## In his father's footsteps

Dreibelbis, 59, grew up in Charlotte, where his father was a teacher, coach, and eventually principal at several junior high and high schools.

At times, the elder Dreibelbis coached football, baseball and basketball. And the younger Dreibelbis spent a lot of his youth on the sidelines, soaking up the rules of the games and the values that drive the players.

"If I wanted to see him, I had to be at the practice or the game," he says. "Now I take what I learned from him and emulate that for others."

Dreibelbis played basketball and baseball in high school, and football in earlier grades. He says he was no star, and while he excelled most in baseball, he didn't play at the college level.

Still, he was drawn to a career in sports, and earned a degree in physical education from Appalachian State University.

He taught physical education and coached basketball and baseball at a K-8 school in Boone before working in athletics at Appalachian State, where he held several roles including associate athletic director.

He also officiated basketball and baseball games for 30 years at both the high school and college levels — a physically and mentally demanding job that he says was thrilling nonetheless. Part of his job now is recruiting and training officials for several sports.

"It was such a release to go out there and run and be a part of it, and hear the bands and the fans and see the joy of students competing," says Dreibelbis, who quit officiating only five years ago. "But it's not a business you're going to get a whole lot of public gratification from. You're under a lot of scrutiny."

## Changes for safer play

Dreibelbis joined the high school association, based in Chapel Hill, 10 years ago, and has since made a mark both locally and nationally.

He serves on several national rules committees, and recently stepped down as chair of a subcommittee on basketball equipment.

He says that over the past five years, revelations about the danger of head injuries have led those groups to adopt an unusual number of rule changes in football aimed at minimizing head injuries, such as increased penalties for hits to the head.

One change he spearheaded, a mandatory break from the game for football players whose helmets come off, was adopted nationally.

The state association did research on the number of

times helmets were coming off, and did a pilot study on whether the rule change would prompt players to wear better-fitting helmets and avoid head collisions — both keys to safer play.

His organization has also instituted a wide-ranging effort to educate players and coaches about head trauma. Those efforts include teaching about proper tackling techniques, and rule changes such as limiting the number of hours per week players can do full-contact practices.

But he notes that football is not the only sport that is changing to be safer. In baseball, elbow surgeries for pitchers have become so numerous that a new rule is being considered to create a weekly limit for the number of pitches they throw.

Some issues arise from the increasing intensity of high school sports.

"The athletes are just so much more physically fit and better prepared to compete," he says. "It speeds up the game, and that speed is always part of the potential for injury."

## Mentor and rule nerd

He's a self-proclaimed "rule nerd," who fields calls from little league coaches and a host of others about what kinds of jewelry athletes can wear or other obscure rules.

He crosses the state holding leadership conferences

for student athletes and talking to them about such subjects as steroid use, hazing and bullying.

## Leading by example

Another initiative brings high school athletes into middle school to teach core values and good decision-making to younger students.

"We try to develop the whole person in terms of decision-making," he says. "Student athletes are natural leaders, and we want them to understand how to lead by example."

This weekend, his group will hold its annual "Heart of the Champion" luncheon, where it will honor players who overcame obstacles to participate in athletics.

His coach training sessions have been taken more than 10,000 times in person and online. Much of that training focuses not on technicalities, but on how to be an effective role model and mentor to the students on whom they often have a deep and lasting impact.

"I tell them, 'Don't worry that they're not listening. Worry that they're always watching you,'" he says. "Our coaches are the people who have the most impact on our young people's lives."

Know someone who should be Tar  
Heel of the Week?  
Contact us at  
tarheel@newsobserver.com

**Mark Dreibelbis  
Nomination Application  
NCHSAA Hall of Fame**

**Letters of Support**



**NATIONAL FEDERATION  
OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
ASSOCIATIONS**

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 690 | Indianapolis, Indiana 46206  
Phone: 317-972-6900 | Fax: 317-822-5700  
[www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org)

Shipping Address:  
NFHS Distribution Center  
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Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

August 27, 2023

North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA)  
c/o Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Dear Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

I have been informed that Mr. Mark Dreibelbis of Cary, North Carolina is being nominated for the Hall of Fame in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). This letter serves as a letter of recommendation for his nomination.

The individual and professional accomplishments of Mark Dreibelbis speak for themselves, and his resume, which began in 1977, is distinguished and unmatched. I have had the pleasure of knowing Mark and working with him in various capacities for 25 years. When I served as associate athletic director at Wake Forest University, Mark was my counterpart at Appalachian State University (ASU). We coordinated football travel for the Mountaineers as they visited Winston-Salem and developed a rapport, respect, and admiration that has lasted to this day. His professionalism, ability to communicate, and work to find a win-win solution was appealing. When I served as associate commissioner of the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC), Mark and I worked together to host Mat Jam at ASU, a wrestling tournament that included both Southern Conference and ACC schools. Mark was the tournament director and, as you can imagine, the championship was organized, efficient, and a great experience for the schools, coaches, and student-athletes who participated. Whatever was needed during that event, Mark was there to serve and ensure a first-class experience for everyone.

He carried that mindset, work ethic, and approach with him to the high school level. I had the pleasure of working with Mark when I served as commissioner of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), with Mark serving as one of our directors and Supervisor of Officials. As you would expect, Mark carried out his duties with passion, integrity, precision, and efficiency. He continued to use his event management skills by administering several of our NCHSAA championships, while also leading our student services department. In addition, Mark served as the longest tenured NCHSAA Supervisor of Officials for the NCHSAA. Mark retired last year after a distinguished and versatile career in education at both the high school and college levels and, I assure you, his absence is felt.

Mark's influence as the Supervisor of Officials for the NCHSAA was profound. He built relationships, programming, and a framework that served the more than 400 member schools, administrators, coaches, officials, and students of North Carolina with distinction. Mark was passionate about the profession, and he wanted those involved to share the same enthusiasm, professionalism, work ethic, and joy for their craft. He was an outside-the-box thinker and always pushed to make himself, his programs, and the NCHSAA better. After my departure from the NCHSAA, Mark spearheaded efforts for diversity, equity and inclusion at the NCHSAA, assigned the first female official for an NCHSAA boys basketball and football state championship game, and assigned the first all-female crew for an NCHSAA basketball, soccer and volleyball state championship game. In addition, he mandated diverse representation in all state championship assignments.





Mr. Dreibelbis  
August 27, 2023  
Page 2

In addition to his administrative career, Mark had a stellar officiating career. Mark worked both basketball and baseball at the high school and college levels. He has 30 years of experience as a basketball official and officiated 14 NCAA postseason tournaments and six NCHSAA State Basketball Championships. Among his numerous awards, he recently received the NFHS National Citation Award for Officiating, the NFHS State Association Citation in 2021, the NCHSAA Golden Whistle Award in 2018, and the Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina High School Athletic Directors Association in 2016.

As I now serve as Chief Operating Officer of the NFHS, Mark has served nationally with the same charismatic leadership as at the state level. Mark served on the NFHS Basketball Rules Committee, the NFHS Football Rules Committee, and served as chair of the NFHS Football Equipment Committee. In 2014, he was named NFHS Coach Educator of the Year, and he is an NFHS Certified Interscholastic Coach. I recall Mark speaking many times during committee meetings and the room would become quiet as the attendees knew that Mark would speak passionately, thoughtfully, and make salient points to ponder before voting on a recommendation, and he was usually right!

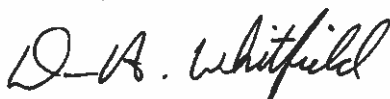
Simply put, Mark Dreibelbis is undoubtedly a hall of famer. The toughest assignment for the selection committee is determining the category in which he should be inducted. Does an individual nominate Mark for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame as an administrator, educator, official, or coach? One could make an argument for all of these.

Mark understands the mission and vision of high school athletics, both across North Carolina and nationally. During my career, I have worked with hundreds of high school athletic administrators, and I can honestly say that Mark ranks among the very best with whom I have interacted.

With those thoughts in mind, it is with great pleasure and without hesitation that I wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Mark Dreibelbis for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. Though he is retired, he continues to be one that I call on for advice, leadership, and direction. I hope that I have been able to give you a strong sense of my assessment of Mark's abilities and qualifications for this recognition.

If you have any questions regarding any aspect of this correspondence, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Davis A. Whitfield  
Chief Operating Officer





August 20, 2023

Selection Committee

NCHSAA Hall of Fame

PO Box 3216

Chapel Hill NC 27515

Members of the NCHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

It is my honor to offer this letter of support for the nomination of Mark R. Dreibelbis for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's Hall of Fame. Mr. Dreibelbis is worthy and deserving of this recognition due to his commitment to ensuring the positive values of interscholastic athletics, for his excellence as a game official and for his exceptional leadership of the NCHSAA's Officiating Program for nearly two decades.

Mark began his career in the field of education in 1977, when he began work as an elementary school teacher, coach and curriculum leader. From that initial role, he then worked as a servant-leader at Appalachian State University, where he performed for a remarkable 22 years as an athletics and advancement administrator. Most recently, Mr. Dreibelbis brought his passionate and thorough approach to the role of NCHSAA Associate Commissioner, where he served as the longest tenured Supervisor of Officials in the history of this storied organization.

Paralleling his remarkable career in the sphere of education, Mark also worked with great skill as a game official. An NCHSAA and NCAA basketball official for nearly 30 years, he earned the privilege of officiating six (6) NCHSAA Basketball State Championship games and an impressive fourteen (14) NCAA post-season tournaments. Quite literally, Mark R. Dreibelbis' accolades must fill many shelves and multiple tomes of distinction. Among his many honors are multiple "Distinguished Service Awards" for his officiating prowess; the 2018 NCHSAA Gold Whistle Award (the highest honor for a game official in North Carolina – an award which Dreibelbis himself initiated!); the NFHS Section III "Citation Award"; and the 2023 NFHS National Citation Award for Officiating. There are few, if any, individuals who have demonstrated this sustained level of excellence – on the court/field, and off – for so many years!

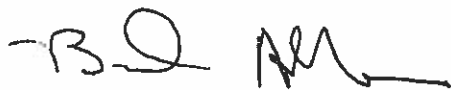
Finally, and quite significantly, Mr. Dreibelbis worked tirelessly to recruit, train and retain officials from all backgrounds, to ensure that our figures of authority would represent each and every community from which our student-athletes came. He assembled an impressive and diverse team of regional supervisors and transformed the manner in which officiating was implemented across our state. By ensuring that officiating administrators with NCAA and professional expertise utilized their resources for our education-based athletics, he created an officiating paradigm that is unparalleled in the United

Letter of Support for Mark R. Dreibelbis, page 2

States. Sportsmanship, professionalism, sustained commitment and attention to training through video and other modern training methods are all hallmarks of the Mark Dreibelbis' administration. Individuals from rural areas, women, persons of color – no individual of character was ever denied an opportunity to excel as a game official or regional supervisor. That is an important fact that cannot be under-estimated.

As you can see, Mr. Dreibelbis is certainly a gentleman who deserves the recognition of induction into the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. His career, energy and accomplishments speak for themselves. However, if you need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

With respect:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brad Allen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brad Allen

1308 Redwood Court

Lumberton, NC 28358

Cell: (910) 608-2525

***NCHSAA Game Official, 1991-2018***

***NCHSAA Regional Supervisor of Officials, 2011-2016***

***Member, NCHSAA Board of Directors, 2012-2015***

***NCAA Football Official, 2000-2014***

***National Football League (NFL) Referee and Crew Chief, 2014 - Present***

***Inductee, UNC-Pembroke Athletics Hall of Fame, 2023***

South Mills, NC 27976  
wayneforehand@gmail.com  
(252) 619-2740

August 11, 2023

North Carolina High School Athletic Association  
Hall of Fame  
222 Finley Golf Course Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

I am writing this letter to enthusiastically nominate Mark R. Dreibelbis for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mark for this esteemed honor, based on his exceptional contributions, unwavering dedication, and outstanding achievements in the realm of high school athletics and officiating.

I have had the privilege of closely observing Mark's impact on the NC high school sports community during his tenure at the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. As the Associate Commissioner with the NCHSAA, Mark has exhibited an unparalleled commitment to fostering the growth and development of student-athletes both on and off the field. He was, and is, a positive role model and mentor for countless sports officials.

Mark's achievements are nothing short of remarkable. He is the longest tenured Supervisor of Officials with NCHSAA serving in that capacity for 17 years. Under his guidance and mentorship, countless other men and women have learned the art of officiating high school athletics in NC. His philosophy of officiating places a strong emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth, instilling invaluable life skills in the athletes he has had the privilege to work with.

What truly sets Mark apart is his genuine concern for the well-being and holistic development of coaches, athletes, and officials. This is evident in his impressive list of awards and citations, including the 2023 NFHS National Citation Award for Officiating, the 2020 NIAAA Distinguished Service Award, the 2014 NFHS Coach Educator of the Year, and many others. His dedication and commitment to the success of NC high school athletics is also evident in his commitment to diversity. Among some of his accomplishments in this area include, but are not limited to, mandating diversity representation in all NCHSAA State Championship assignments, assigning the first

female for a NCHSAA Boys Basketball State Championship game, assigning the first female for a NCHSAA Football State Championship game.

It is without reservation that I nominate Mark R. Dreibelbis for induction into the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. His legacy of excellence, dedication, and positive influence aligns perfectly with the values and standards of the Hall of Fame. I am confident that he will continue to inspire future generations of athletes, coaches, and leaders.

Please feel free to contact me at [wayneforehand@gmail.com](mailto:wayneforehand@gmail.com) or (252)619-2740 if you require any further information or insights regarding this nomination. Thank you for considering my friend and mentor, Mark Dreibelbis, for this prestigious honor.

Sincerely,

Wayne R. Forehand  
Northeastern Officials Association



NCHSAA Hall of Fame Nominating Committee:

I first met Mark when he was the associate athletic director at Appalachian State. One of Mark's many tasks was taking care of the officials at home basketball games. My first game at Boone, I got caught up behind a major accident in Greensboro and knew I wasn't going to get to the arena until about 15 minutes prior to tipoff. This was my first year officiating conference games in the Southern Conference, and as luck would have it, this game was being televised. You can imagine how out of sorts I was when I arrived.

Mark introduced himself as I was scrambling to get dressed, and made sure that my partners, game administrators, and TV folks knew that I was there and we'd be starting on time. He was so calm about everything that it actually calmed me down. He never indicated what a problem my late arrival had created. He simply put me at ease, and a friendship was born.

I was lucky enough to officiate many games with Mark, and while I remember very few specifics about those games, I clearly remember how much I enjoyed them. From the travel to and from the games to the knowing glances and good-natured ribbing with each other on the court, spending time with Mark was always great.

I had the privilege of being a NCHSAA basketball official for 32 years, and Mark was the Supervisor of Officials for 16 of those years. It was during his time at the NCHSAA that I recognized what a leader he was. I remember thinking that anyone following Dick Knox had huge shoes to fill. Not surprisingly, Mark stepped in and was fantastic. I would ask on some of our trips about his responsibilities at the NCHSAA, and it blew my mind what he was tasked to do. The apparent ease with which he did his job is in itself Hall of Fame worthy.

I was fortunate to work more closely with Mark his last year at the NCHSAA when I was hired as Regional Supervisor of the Triangle Basketball Officials Association. I saw firsthand his dedication and work ethic (which was incredible), even after announcing his retirement. Simply put, everything Mark does he does to his fullest ability.

Mark Dreibelbis is most deserving to be enshrined in the Hall of Fame. His accomplishments at the NCHSAA, his impact on countless people, and his unwavering belief in the life changing benefits of education-based athletics makes your decision an easy one.



Greg Fogleman  
TBOA Regional Supervisor

September 1, 2023

Kendall E. Pike

245 Oak Grove Church Rd.

Youngsville, NC 27596

(919) 495-1818

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing this letter in support of Mark Dreibelbis' nomination for the NCHSAA Hall of Fame. I began my officiating career in 1989 and officiated multiple sports during my time with the NCHSAA. I continue to officiate basketball at the collegiate level today and over the years, I have remained connected with the Triangle Officials Association, which is where I got my start in officiating.

During my officiating career, I have had the opportunity to ride with, talk to, officiate with, and learn from Mark Dreibelbis. I consider him a mentor and even more importantly a friend. Mark's passion for high school sports and especially the student athlete is unmatched by any person I have known in the officiating arena. I have personally observed him handling coaches, handling parents, handling complex situations etc. and he always finds a way to ensure what is best for the student plays out.

In my opinion, the NCHSAA Hall of Fame Award should be called the "Mark Dreilbebis NCHSAA Hall of Fame Award". That is how much I value the contribution that this one guy has made to North Carolina High School sports. He is the benchmark for professionalism, the standard for excellence and always exhibits the character of a champion.

I know my voice is of one person, but through my years of interactions with Mark and hundreds of officials on both the high school and collegiate level, I am confident that there are many who feel just as I do about him. While I am sure that Mark would blush at the idea of even being nominated for such a prestigious honor, that is what makes him deserve it even more. His actions over the years were not done for notoriety and recognition, but they were done because of his passion and commitment to high school sports, which he displayed every day he was involved.

Please consider this support and honor for Mark Dreibelbis as a thank you from hundreds of officials and thousands of student athletes who have benefited from his commitment and dedication for years of service to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Kendall E. Pike

Here is my letter for Mark's NCHSAA Hall of Fame nomination:

Mark Dreibelbis epitomizes what it means to be invested in the lives of North Carolina's high school student athletes. Rules interpretations, rules recommendations, sportsmanship initiatives and numerous enhanced safety protocols during his tenure as state supervisor of officials and rules clinician are a huge example of this. Along with his commitment to the student athletes he also has a passion for the men and women of our state who are the arbiters of the sports in which these students participate. I have known Mark for almost twenty years, and it does not take much time when you are around him to know of his commitment and passion for education-based high school sports. During seventeen of my thirty-three plus years of officiating high school basketball, Mark served as the state supervisor of officials and rules clinician. As a state rules clinician for basketball, he always explained his philosophy and interpretation of the rules of basketball as well as how the rules should be practically applied with common sense in the games that we officiate. Anyone who has never heard the phrase "What we permit, we promote" as it relates to the rules of basketball has not spent much time around Mark. His guidance, rules expertise and knowledge of the game of basketball has greatly improved my overall officiating ability as well my love and passion for the game over the years. Whether it was dealing with a rule interpretation or an unusual situation from one of my basketball games Mark was always willing to listen and provide clear instructions and great guidance in these instances. When you have a career, hobby or passion about something, you always want that thing to be better off when you leave than it was when you first started. High school sports and officiating in the state of North Carolina are in a much better place due to Mark's efforts and passion for all aspects of education-based high school athletics. Having Mark elected to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame is a no-brainer in my opinion based on his contributions to high school athletics and officiating in the state of North Carolina.

Thank you,

Dean A. Beabout – High School Basketball Official – 33 years

Triangle Basketball Officials Association

Clayton, NC

September 10, 2023

NCHSAA  
Hall of Fame Nominating Committee  
222 Finley Golf Course Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515

Members of the NCHSAA Hall of Fame Nominating Committee:

If you officiated high school sports in North Carolina long enough, you were given a gift for life: a Mark Dreibelbis story.

As a 36-year high school basketball official, I have a lifetime's worth. From early morning phone calls asking for clarification on something that happened in a game to Mark appearing unannounced at one of your contests and walking several paces behind as you head to the locker room at halftime for a conversation about what he saw that you could improve.

Every story is memorable, and each has the same elements. Mark's quest for our excellence with a significant undercurrent of care and compassion for us as people. That rang true in any conversation or interaction I had with Mark. Mark understood officials because, at his core, he was one.

In my time as an NCHSAA official, there have been only two Supervisors of Officials. One of those Supervisors of Officials is already in the Hall of Fame (Dick Knox, 2005). The other deserves to be.

Mr. Knox laid a solid foundation for the state's officiating program. When Mark inherited what Dick birthed, he put it on steroids for his seventeen-year tenure.

Mark made you uncomfortable, so you'd grow. He'd push and push and push you to advance towards the excellence he believed you had. Once done and you collected your breath, he pushed some more. Mark challenged the status quo, had expectations, indicated there was accountability, and showed his immense EQ to connect with you as a person first and official second. In a world of conservative and cautious advances, Mark had vision and innovated to build the future – his future – *our* future.

Everyone in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame deserves the honor. So does Mark Dreibelbis for his unwavering commitment to the student-services program which made great leaders of high school student-athletes and the 7000 prep officials in the state, who grew to trust and admire his leadership of our program.

I fully endorse Mark's nomination in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame and hope you will give it fair consideration that he be honored with a spot amongst the greats.

Sincerely,



Steve Schwartz  
Triangle Basketball Officials Association



I have known Mark Dreibelbis well over 20 years. I've known Mark the referee, Mark the administrator, Mark the man. Mark encompasses qualities of leadership, dedication, selflessness, loyalty, generosity, and compassion.

His leadership is obvious by how he rose up the ranks from elementary school teacher, to his over 20 years in collegiate athletics administration, to a nationally recognized leader in educational based athletics as Associate Commissioner of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

His selflessness and dedication to North Carolina's student athletes, and student future leaders has been recognized throughout the state of North Carolina, and by national interscholastic organizations including the National Federation of State High School Association to name a few.

He has time and time again shown compassion to the betterment of officiating throughout the state and country through the numerous committees he has served to improve relationship between those who serve as sports officials, schools, administrations, fans and most importantly, students. Mark has been a champion of change to the eroding behavior and diminishing sportsmanship of fans and student athletes on and off the court and field, and towards sports officials.

Mark lends his vast knowledge in many areas to his peers, student groups in the academic and athletic realm, and always has a listening audience. More importantly, he listens to those he has had a privilege to serve. A conversation with Mark may begin about officiating, but the conversation quickly turns to how he spoke with students at a conference or at a school and how athletics has positively influenced them, or what happened during a student leadership exercise, or how what an official said to them during a contest that helped them in one way or another.

Mark's impact on the lives of hundreds of student athletes, coaches, administrators, and officials is a testament to his selflessness, his loyalty, and his generosity. There is a quote by an unknown author: "Sometimes, people come into your life for a moment, a day or a lifetime. It matters not the time spent with you, but how they impacted your life during that time." This is Mark Dreibelbis.

Max Carter

TBOA Official

To whom it may concern,

Mark Dreibelbis is an outstanding individual that I met over 10 years ago. His contribution to the NCHSAA was remarkable.

Mark's voice has helped High School Sports grow into an organization that we all can appreciate to be a part of.

Over the years as an official, I have worked with Mark on numerous occasions officiating basketball games. I could always look forward to Mark's humbling attitude on and off the court. The level of respect that he had for the coaches and the players was remarkable. In turn they showed him the same amount of respect.

With so much knowledge of the game, Mark always had an answer to any question that he was asked. With his position in the program, Mark's door was always open.

As an official for 35-years we couldn't nominate a better individual for this award.

Sincerely,  
Lonnie Odom  
TBOA Official

## TO THE NCHSAA HALL OF FAME NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mark Dreibelbis made a significant impact during his time as a leader in the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. His dedication to ensuring fair competition and supporting athletes and officials is commendable. As a former high school and college official himself, he recognized how important it was for athletes to have arbiters of their respective sports who would adjudicate the rules properly. His extensive knowledge of the rules and ability to communicate them effectively, contributed greatly to his success. It's clear that he left a positive legacy and should indeed be strongly considered for election to the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Larry Sorrell

NCHSAA Basketball Official-28 years

NCHSAA Volleyball Official-27 years

NCHSAA Baseball Official-16 years

NCHSAA Softball Official-12 years

NCHSAA Football Official-8 years

Triangle Basketball Officials Association

Wake Forest, NC

**Mark Dreibelbis  
Nomination Application  
NCHSAA Hall of Fame**

**Others Giving Thanks**



## **Mark Dreibelbis**

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**From:** Brian Eaves <beaves9873@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis  
**Subject:** Thank You for Everything

**Follow Up Flag:** FollowUp  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Mark,

Other than a small greeting and a handshake before our meetings, we haven't had the chance to speak too much. I'm thinking with some of the stories that are told around the water cooler, that's a GOOD THING!

However, I just wanted to say that your motivational speeches have meant so much to me over the years that I have been a member of the TBOA. I take notes; I take them to heart and I use them in pre-games. This year's was outstanding. I have always taken the philosophy that I don't want to be outworked on the court, with film study, or understanding and applying the rules correctly when dealing with coaches and players.

Over the last couple of years, I've added a new mantra...no one will OUTCARE me. That's a direct result of your lessons and I thank you. Being an Eastern Regional official this year I believe was a direct result of that. Your passion doesn't go unnoticed...at least not from me. I've always looked forward to your words each year; now, I'll miss them, no matter who assumes the new role.

I know you're looking forward to what's ahead in the "next chapter" and I wish you a long and fruitful "retirement".

Thanks again for everything you have done for the TBOA and myself; I'll always be thankful that you've been our leader.

May God Bless You Always,  
Brian Eaves

**From:** Todd Riddick <gtriddick@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis <Mark@nchsaa.org>  
**Subject:** Congrats and thank you

Congratulations on your upcoming retirement Mark. Your leadership has seen tremendous progress for the support of officials and student athletes in North Carolina and the nation. When you started I was a young up and comer just trying to make my way up the high school ranks and had just got into D3 football. The emphasis you've put on professionalism and sportsmanship is unmatched and has influenced so many of us to be our best on and off the field. Even though I only have a few chances to work a high school contest anymore, I have stayed in tune through clinics, local meetings and scrimmages every year. I can honestly say that I would not have done that if not for the camaraderie and my love of officiating and scholastic sports...things that can easily fall apart without strong leadership. Thank you for all you've done and for the impact you will continue to have even after you depart the position.

Take care and be well!  
Todd

--  
Todd Riddick  
[gtriddick@gmail.com](mailto:gtriddick@gmail.com)  
(252) 714-4536

**From:** rsssportsfan1 <rsssportsfan1@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:14 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis <Mark@nchsaa.org>  
**Subject:** Officiating

Mark,

It has been an honor and pleasure to officiate high school basketball from 1973 until 2018 and to currently be officiating my 49th year of high school school soccer. My officiating history has given me a good prospective on the current state of high school officiating in North Carolina. I can whole heartedly state that we, as officials, are better because of your instruction, your leadership and the requirements and challenges you have given to us. Your retirement will leave a very positive legacy and I hope a goal for your replacement. I congratulate you on a job well done and wish you a long and happy retirement.

You will be missed !

Together we make the right call.  
Richard Shore

Sent from my Galaxy

~~~~~ Sunday, March 3, 2022 11:59 AM  
To: Mark Dreibelis <Mark@nchsa.org>  
Subject: A Few Words

Hello, my friend!

As you prepare for life in a new role, I hope you'll never discount not only what you did, but more importantly, how you did it! You left your imprint on countless young people in our beloved state. But your importance to them goes far beyond athletics. No doubt that athletics has it's rightful place in the lives of young people. But participating as an athlete also involves a strong element of dignity. Your constant emphasis on sportsmanship carried lifelong implications that stressed self-dignity and respect for others. Win and losses have their place. But these fade in time. Life lessons of sportsmanship and dignity remain with us - forever!

It seems somewhat hollow to say "thank you" as you have given more than you'll ever realize. But until better words come along, thank you!!  
My blessings go with you wherever you go!  
John Auten



## **Mark Dreibelbis**

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**From:** John A. Auten, Jr. <jmjnk@carolina.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 3, 2022 11:59 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis  
**Subject:** A Few Words

Hello, my friend!

As you prepare for life in a new role, I hope you'll never discount not only what you did, but more importantly, how you did it! You left your imprint on countless young people in our beloved state. But your importance to them goes far beyond athletics. No doubt that athletics has its rightful place in the lives of young people. But participating as an athlete also involves a strong element of dignity. Your constant emphasis on sportsmanship carried lifelong implications that stressed self-dignity and respect for others. Win and losses have their place. But these fade in time. Life lessons of sportsmanship and dignity remain with us - forever!!

It seems somewhat hollow to say "thank you" as you have given more than you'll ever realize. But until better words come along, thank you!!

My blessings go with you wherever you go!  
John Auten

April 18, 2022

Mark,

As Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz so eloquently said, "my, things come & go so quickly here". And it is so true in the Real world as well. Seems like just yesterday, you were in Boone (firing up students), officiating games, conducting clinics/workshops. Fast forward to the NCHSAA. So, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to you personally and professionally for all your passion and commitment throughout your entire NCHSAA service.

The countless Student lives you have positively impacted to the enormous body of sports officials you have taught, trained, motivated, and supported is second to none. I'm not sure how many of these grateful responses you will receive as you turn the page to a new challenge, but I am confident the officiating core are All extremely proud and honored to have worked under your watch. And they All are thinking about you and how fortunate we have been to have been influenced and directed by such outstanding leadership.

As you well know, from the officiating side, there aren't many thank yous and/or pats on the back, but the body of your work is self-evident in the total advancement and quality enhancement of continued SUCCESS year after year. Having started my officiating career way back when (1968), I have been privileged and fortunate to watch the evolution and changes in sports officiating in NC. And, although there are challenging issues at hand, you have made a lasting/significant, positive impact like no one else and I hope you are extremely PROUD (as you should be) of your overall Excellent work.

So, from the bottom of my heart and from all the officials who benefited from your service, I, Thank You, for who you are, what you represent, and the manner in which you represent it. For many, many years, you have been a God send for the entire NC officiating family. I consider myself extremely fortunate to have worked for you and with you and I cherish your true Friendship.

My family and I wish you the Best as you move to a New/Exciting chapter in your life. I have no doubt, whenever/whatever it will be, your passion/determination and commitment will pursue Excellence.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Ridenhour". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Rick" being more prominent than the last name "Ridenhour".

Rick Ridenhour

## Mark Dreibelbis

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**From:** Chris Eldreth <refpopcorn@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 08, 2015 11:56 AM  
**To:** Mark Dreibelbis; Mark Dreibelus  
**Subject:** Meeting

Mark,

Last night I sat at the meeting and thought to myself, man, this guy is passionate about what he does. For years, and seems to be increasingly as much as years pass, I have noticed the time and effort that you put forth to the officiating program. When I sat there this summer and listened, I said to myself, I need to send this guy an email and just say thank you. Last night the same thing hit me and I told myself that I would send you an email thanking you for the job you do. Shortly thereafter, you mentioned people receiving thank yous and saying thanks, and I thought dang it, now if I do it, he will think I am sucking up or just sending him a thank you because he said that's what we need to be doing. Please don't think that this is why I am sending you this email. I sincerely want to thank you for the job you do. Thank you for your time. Thank you for your effort. Thank you for being passionate about what you do and therefore encouraging us to be passionate about what we do. Thank you for having our backs and standing up for us.

I mention to the crews that I work with each week that we need to respect each other, respect the coaches, and respect the players. If we will do that and communicate with them and each other, our night will go much smoother. As an official, I take pride and am fortunate to be allowed to take part in a football game each week. The game isn't about me and it isn't about the crew. It is about the student athletes participating and the life lessons that are learned through athletics, and we are just fortunate to take part in the sporting event. You mentioned last night this same principle as you stood up there and talked about respect and your oldest son. If us as officials, coaches, and players, can go out there and work together as a unit, respecting one another and communicating with one another, we will all manage the game with the best positive outcome on the game and life principles. What you said last night, spoke to me, and I trust that it spoke to many other officials and coaches. Respect will get us a lot farther if we will just have it for each other.

With that said, things might go all to hell Friday night on the football field, but with communication, respect, and pride, we will get through it, and I know that come Saturday or Monday morning, you will have our backs. So again, I say THANK YOU!

Years ago, you sent me an email from the South Iredell coach who had sent you an email thanking you for the job you do, and to let you know he appreciated the crew that he had the previous Friday night and that he thought the crew was outstanding. You told us that you hoped we had a "happy file" to put that in because it was good to get those every once in a while. I still have that email, and read it from time to time. I hope this email makes your "happy file."

Again, Thank you for the job you do, and it is a pleasure to work for a supervisor who has just as much or more passion for the game as I do.

Chris