

## **District 14 Coaches Hall of Fame**

### **Don Bowles**

### **Inducted 2024**

Owens and operates:

- C103 Country 103.1FM in Southern Ohio/Northern KY
- WAOL (99.5 The Edge) in Southern Ohio/Northern KY
- WFLE 95.1FM - Flemingsburg, KY

Personally broadcasted:

Over 2,900 high school sporting events (baseball, basketball, softball, volleyball and track).

Eleven times broadcast OHSAA final four tournament games including one basketball championship (Georgetown 2007) Innumerable sectional, district and regional broadcasts in all sports.

Produces and directs the C103/Southern Hills Athletic Conference Senior Scholarship fund with over \$200,000 awarded to Ohio High School senior athletes since 1996.

Directs and produces the C103 Southern Hills Athletic Conference Senior All Star Basketball Games for both boys and girls (over 2,500 senior athletes have participated since 1996).

Sportsmanship ethics and integrity media service award Southeast district 2009-2010

The Southern Hills Athletic Conference Special Appreciation Award,

Annual Lions Club Outstanding Community Service Award (13 times) and Lions Club Parade Grand Marshall

SATH VIP Award (supplemental assistance to the handicapped)

Outstanding Adams County Fair Supporter 2016.

Adams County Friend of Education 2016.

Affiliations/memberships (past and present):

- Adams County 4H Advisory Board
- School to Work
- Founding board member of Leadership Adams
- Southern Ohio Educational Service Center Business Advisory Council
- Adams County Medical Foundation Board of Directors

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of recommendation on behalf of Don Bowles, a prospective Hall of Honor nominee. Don Bowles has been a basketball broadcaster in southeast Ohio for almost thirty years. He currently owns and operates DreamCatcher Communications and two radio stations (C103.1 Country and 99.5 The Edge) in southern Ohio. Don is as an honest, forthright, and congenial person as one could ever meet. When you meet or talk with him it's as if you were speaking to an old friend even if you've never met him before. His energy and enthusiasm for his profession are authentic and contagious. Don has revolutionized sports broadcasting in our area. Prior to his arrival a majority of teams in our area were either never on the local radio station or featured possibly two or three times a season. This is all changed with his arrival.

Beginning in 1996 Don Bowles transformed sports broadcasting in southern Ohio. A radio station that once broadcast thirty games a year now annually airs well over a hundred. This upcoming season his radio stations will broadcast 114 regular season games for boys and girls that will feature every team in our league multiple times. They will cover every postseason game for over twenty-five teams as well. At the conclusion of every game his stations award a player of the game certificate and pizza to a player and a coach's commentary that features insight into the game. He has done this for every game since 1996! Personally, he has broadcast over 3,000 sporting events, eleven OHSAA Final Four tournament games including a state title for Georgetown in 2007, and innumerable district and regional games. He has sponsored an annual coaches party before every basketball season for over twenty years and is also now broadcasting games on Good Guys TV that can be streamed. Prior to his arrival our conference (Southern Hills Athletic Conference) had an all-star game that was sponsored by the local radio station that was sparsely attended. The station gave out a \$500 scholarship to one male and female athlete during the game. Since Don's arrival the C103 all star game has exploded into a must-see event that is attended by 1500 people. The station now awards ten \$1000-dollar scholarships annually and has to date awarded over \$200,000 dollars to student athletes! This is a staggering amount in any community but in the foothills of southern Ohio it is truly awe-inspiring.

Don was awarded the Sportsmanship Ethics and Integrity Award for media service in the southeast district in 2010 and the Southern Hills Athletic Conference Special Appreciation Award. He has been married to his wife Venita for 39 years and has two daughters, Ariana and Alexandra. He would be the first to tell you that if there were a spousal award for the Hall of Honor that Venita would win in a landslide and if there was ever a need for two names on a plaque this would be it.

In my estimation Don Bowles has had the greatest impact in our area for promoting student athletes and coaches. No other individual has devoted the time and dedication that he has put forth. He is

a pillar in the community that has donated countless dollars for philanthropic work, he serves on community advisory boards for 4-H, Leadership Adams, the Southern Ohio Educational Service, and the Adams County Medical Foundation. His reach in our community has far exceeded his grasp and has went well beyond the game of basketball.

Don Bowles is one of the most remarkable individuals I have ever met. He is a humble and genuine person that I believe is a perfect recipient for this prestigious award. A few years ago, we were sitting courtside after a game talking off air and I turned to him and asked him how long he would continue to broadcast games. He smiled and his passion for everything basketball came out as he said, "I love it! I love the coaches, the players, the communities, the crowds, the atmosphere, I just love all you guys!"

Don't worry Mr. Bowles, the feeling is mutual.

Respectfully,

Josh Arey  
Head Basketball Coach @ Peebles High School  
OHSBCA District 14 Basketball Director

