

## Pinson honored for work with Pikeville College sports

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It's Charlie Pinson's offseason. Time to relax.

Relaxing means that Pinson will scale his workload down to 50 or so hours a week managing a pair of insurance offices, one in Pikeville and another in South Williamson.

He's relaxing because this is one of the few times you won't find Pinson at a ball game.

A broadcaster for WPRG-TV, Pinson puts in long hours during football and basketball season helping bring both high school and college sports into homes around the area.

Pinson's dedication to the games he loves earned him a pair of honors recently as he was inducted into the Pikeville College Hall of Fame and was recognized shortly thereafter by the Mid-South Conference as the MSC Media Person of the Year during the conference basketball tournament in Frankfort.

"It's very nice," said Pinson of the honors. "It was actually a shock. You don't realize people pay attention to that kind of thing. It was a big honor."

The award was voted on by the sports information directors at the schools of the Mid-South Conference. Pinson was nominated by Pikeville College SID Rick Bentley.

"One of the reasons I look forward to football season is getting to spend time with Charlie," said Bentley. "Even though broadcasting is his hobby, it's also his passion and that comes through in his work. A lot of people don't realize that many times Charlie works all day on Friday as an insurance man, then heads straight to a high school game that night. Then, when any of the rest of us would want to be sleeping, he often gets up before daybreak and drives several hours to do a college game that afternoon."

"But he never complains. He has a love for sports, but a real passion for Pikeville College and especially Pikeville College football. I'm not sure we fully realize the amount of coverage and media attention we've gotten simply through his efforts and hard work."

The award was a nice honor, but Pinson said his wife Joyce gets more enjoyment out of the honors than he does. What keeps him broadcasting high school football and basketball games, and every Pikeville College football game and all home basketball games is a simple love of sports.

In fact, the award from the Mid-South Conference doesn't rank as his proudest moment as a Pikeville College broadcaster. That honor falls to the school's first playoff game, a 2005 appearance in the NAIA National Tournament, the first berth in the school's history.

"The playoff game was huge for me," he said. "They ended up that season ranked in the top 16 in the nation. Being from here you enjoy it anytime something local gets that kind of recognition."

"It's been great to be a part of something that you've seen grow from, basically, just an idea. To see that idea grow into fruition was huge. And then to reach that pinnacle was great. Now we've got NFL scouts coming to watch games at Pikeville College. I feel like I've been a part of that and I'm really proud of that fact."



Pinson's sports schedule definitely keeps him busy, but he wouldn't have it any other way. If he wasn't broadcasting, he would likely still be on the sidelines.

"I started out in coaching because I liked being around the kids," said Pinson. "And you've got to have a love of sports. When you don't love sports, it gets to be a job. As long as it's fun, I'll keep doing it. When it becomes it's work, I don't think you do as good a job."

While not a graduate of Pikeville College, you will find few people more passionate about the school's sports programs. That's a product of Pinson's pride in Pike County and connections with the people at Pikeville College.

"I went to the University of Kentucky, but I took some classes at Pikeville College. Really football is what brought the tie there. I loved having a local college football program," Pinson said. "Shawn Thacker was one of the first assistants they hired and Shawn played for me at Johns Creek (High School)."

Pinson met the Pikeville College coaching staff and soon became a member of the Bears family. Following the team and broadcasting both home and away games.

"I got hooked," said Pinson. "I love football and really enjoy being a part of the program. I like the kids and like being around the young people."

Pinson's love for the game keeps him in press boxes for much of the year. Broadcasting the games brings its own reward as well.

"It amazes me how many people watch WPRG," he said. "The one that really gets to me, for example, is I went over to Phelps and the coach put his arm around me said he really appreciates all that we do. He said, 'My mom is not able to get out and go to the games, but she's able to watch them at home and see what I do every week and my mom just loves it.'

"That really makes it hit home is to help the people who can't get out and get to the games in person."

So if you want to catch Charlie Pinson, now is the time to do it. Football season begins in three short months.

"I can do some things around the game that get neglected during the season," Pinson said. "There are some things that get neglected. You get to recharge your batteries a little bit. My wife likes it because she gets to see a little bit more of me."