



September 5, 2024

Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame  
1152 Lakeland Drive  
Jackson, MS 39216

Dear Nominating Committee,

Please accept this letter of resounding support for nominee Ronnie Mayers induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. The history of swimming in Mississippi simply cannot be told without including Ronnie Mayers. Similarly, the remarkable history of Delta State athletics cannot be shared without inclusion of the success and influence of Ronnie Mayers in decades of service to the university as Head Coach and Director of Athletics. Ronnie Mayer's selfless contributions in aquatics and athletics are estimable and have elevated generations of Mississippians throughout the Delta and across the state.

Ronnie Mayers has coached swimming and supported the sport at all levels, from his early days with Delta Aquatics Club, a community year-round club team of USA Swimming, to his prominent twenty-year run as Delta State's Head Coach of Men's and Women's Swimming. Mayers served multiple governance roles for Mississippi Swimming LSC to support the state's youth in the sport and facilitated swimming for MHSAA to provide an exceptional high school competitive experience. In 1993, Mayers was honored with the ConocoPhillips Outstanding Service Award for invaluable contributions to USA Swimming.

Ronnie Mayers accomplishments at DSU:

Delta State graduate 1974; Started Delta Aquatics Club for area swimmers 1974; Started Delta State University swim program 1984; Helped organize New South Intercollegiate Swim Conference; Named Conference Coach of the Year 14 times; 15 NCAA National Championship appearances; 113 Conference Champions; 226 selected All-Conference performers; 6 Men's Conference Championships; 5 Women's Conference Championships; 56 individual All-Americans, 15 Academic All-Americans; Swimmer Mandy Lee named Mississippi's NCAA Woman Athlete of the Year in 1999; Swimmer Justin Whitaker won 100 backstroke National Championship in 2002; Delta State University Hall of Fame Inductee 2007; Director of Athletics 2013-2108; DSU pool renamed as Ronald G. Mayers Aquatics Center in 2019.

As someone who grew up swimming and coaching in Mississippi, I have Ronnie Mayers to thank for helping to provide for the sport I love and have made a career out of. Ronnie Mayers is a great coach and a great man; he is a Delta legend and a Mississippi treasure. It is my honor to recommend Ronnie Mayers for induction into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. M. Orr".

David M. Orr  
Head Coach/CEO  
Memphis Tiger Swimming