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Dear Mr. Blackwell,

I had the opportunity to work with Ronnie Mayers, Swim Coach and later Athletic Director at Delta State University, for over 25 years. As Alumni Director, we attended countless meetings, served on dozens of committees, and traveled to alumni meetings all over Mississippi and beyond. So when I say I know him well, that is an understatement.

As the only collegiate swim program in the State, Coach Mayers traveled extensively to recruit good swimmers. They always were at the top of the academic ladder with grade point averages. He demanded that they be good students as well as good athletes. He expected the best from them in their moral conduct too. And all that demanding responsibility made him a winning coach with high statistics. You will receive all the win and loss records but I particularly want to address the MAN.

Coach connected with the community. Whether it was the Chamber of Commerce, The Lion's Club, his church, or just being out and about in the community, he was known by the entire town of Cleveland and way beyond. He coached the "Delta Ducks", a community swim team. He taught private swimming lessons to children of all walks of life; and he worked with senior citizens to stay healthy through swimming.

I don't have to tell you how much GOOD coaches influence young college students. Because he was such a fair and honorable man, he served as a dad, a friend and mentor to hundreds of young men and women who were away from home for the first time. He became friends with their parents and siblings. In fact he often recruited siblings because of the good experience the students had.

When considering outstanding coaches who have truly made a difference, please encourage the committee to consider Coach Ronnie Mayers.



Vicki Fioranelli, Alumni Director Emeritus

Delta State University