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KHSAA COMMISSIONER STOUT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) Commissioner Louis Stout announced at a press conference Monday that he will retire after 30-plus years of employment with the organization. His retirement will be effective June 30, 2002.

"I started with this organization in 1971, December 10, 1971," Stout said. "That is why I felt like I should make this announcement on this December 10, 2001 which indicates my 30 years of service to this organization. This day should not be one of sadness as it is a day I have been working for during my career. I have enjoyed working with young people and athletics and academics across the Commonwealth."

Stout was named fifth Commissioner of the KHSAA on July 1, 1994, after serving as Executive Assistant Commissioner for two years and Assistant Commissioner for 21 years. As Commissioner, Stout has been responsible for providing leadership and execution of interscholastic athletics for the Association's 286 member schools and some 50,000 interscholastic athletic participants throughout the state.

Stout, the first African-American in the nation to head a state high school athletic association, was the fifth individual to serve as Commissioner of the Association, following Billy V. Wise (1991-94), Tom Mills (1976-91), Joe Billy Mansfield (1972-76) and Ted Sanford (1947-72).

As Assistant and Executive Assistant Commissioner, Stout handled day-to-day management of the sports of baseball, cross-country, soccer, wrestling and softball. He also conducted rules clinics, recruited workers and officials and managed State Tournament competition in those sports. He also served on numerous national committees for the National Federation of High School Association (NFHS) from rules to governance. Currently he serves on the NFHS Board of Directors for the 2001-02 school year.

Stout is also nationally known, having served as chairman of Kentucky AAU/USA Junior Olympic Basketball from 1982-90 and Commissioner for the Great Lakes Valley Conference from 1979-82. He currently serves as second vice president for AAU.

"There's no magic formula produced by this organization, its Board of Control, staff or Commissioner for success. It has been a joint effort on the part of several hundred people across the Commonwealth. Volunteers have offered their time to help run our programs so that our student athletics may have the best and equal opportunities to participate in interscholastic athletics across the Commonwealth of Kentucky," Stout added.

During his stint as Commissioner, Stout saw growth in girls' sports with the addition of Fast Pitch Softball in 1995 and increased participation in volleyball and soccer.

His vision allowed the addition of the Association's technology presence on the World Wide Web in 1995 with the creation of its website and the formation of the KHSAA's first statewide radio network comprised of approximately 50 stations for the Boys' & Girls' Sweet 16 State Basketball Tournaments beginning in 1998.

In addition, Stout signed a marketing agreement with University Sports America, now iHigh, Inc., a division of Host Communications, to represent and increase the Association's marketing efforts.

Another accomplishment was the formation of a "Middle Schools Program" for the Boys' & Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. Corporate partners have purchased tickets for local area middle school students whom otherwise might never have a chance to witness the Boys' or Girls' State Basketball Tournaments. To date the program has allowed some 12,000 middle school students to witness the "Greatest Show in Hoops".

"This has not been a one-man organization nor will it be a one-man or one-individual organization in the future. It is going to take the same effort from the Board of Control, staff, our member schools and the general public to continue what we have to this point in time which is what I consider the finest interscholastic athletics organization in the United States," Stout concluded.

A Kentucky native, Stout graduated from Cynthiana High School in 1959 where he received first-team All-America and All-State honors in basketball. He earned a scholarship to Regis College in Denver, Colorado, where he played for former University of Kentucky coach Joe B. Hall.

After earning his teaching certificate in 1963, he began his career as teacher and athletic director at Lookout Mountain School for Boys in Golden, Colorado. In 1965, he returned to Lexington as head boys' basketball coach at Dunbar High School, succeeding legendary coach S. T. Roach. In two seasons, he compiled a 37-15 record, including two district titles before the school closed.

In 1967, he became a teacher and assistant coach for Tates Creek High School in Lexington. Following the retirement of boys' basketball coach Dick Jones, Stout was named coach of the Commodores in 1969. In two years at the helm, his teams compiled a 33-14 record, capturing district titles in 1970 and 1971.

He is married to the former Anna Mabson of New Zion and they have one son, Juan, who presently resides in Seattle, Washington.

KHSAA Board of Control president Kathy Johnston stated that the Board would finalize plans for Commissioner Stout's replacement at its Dec. 17 meeting, with a tentative date to announce a new Commissioner at its May, 2002 meeting.

KHSAA Past Commissioners
1947- 72 Ted Sanford
1972-76 Joe Billy Mansfield
1976-91 Tom Mills
1991-94 Billy V. Wise
1994-2002 Louis Stout

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For more information, contact Butch Cope at the KHSAA at (859) 299-5472.