

# Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination Form

KHSAA Form GE30  
Rev. 4/03

## Information about Nominee

Name:	TOM CREAMER
Is the nominee deceased? (circle)	YES <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">NO</span>
(if nominee is not deceased, please fill out address information below)	
Address:	16 SEQUOYAH DRIVE
City, State, Zip	SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065
Phone (list day and night)	(502) 633-9729

## Information about person making nomination (list "self" if self-nominating)

Name:	SAM CHANDLER
Address:	1242 AUGUSTA DRIVE
City, State, Zip	SHELBYVILLE, KY 40065
Phone (list day and night)	(502) 633-6595 CELL (502) 655-0265

**Important Information Needed for ALL Nominees. This information is important to the Selection Process in helping to ensure that the desired objectives with regard to the consideration of nominees and the induction process is satisfied. (Application will not be accepted without this information)**

Please list the primary category of nomination (circle)–

PLAYER	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">COACH</span>	OFFICIAL	CONTRIBUTOR
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Birth Date of Nominee	6/22/41
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Sex (circle one)	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Male</span>	Female
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Is the nominee a minority (African American and others) as defined in 2(c)	Yes	<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">No</span>
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**If this person is being nominated as a Coach, please complete the following additional information–**

Coached at which High School(s)	BEECHWOOD, MAYSVILLE, DANVILLE, SHELBY COUNTY, BISHOP BRASSART, LOU. HOLY CROSS, ASSUMPTION
Year of Retirement	2003
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	8

(over for remainder of application)

If this person is being nominated as an Athlete, please complete the following additional information-

High School Attended		
Graduation Year		
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	NA	

If this person is being nominated as an Official, please complete the following additional information-

Primary Officiating Accomplishments at the High School Level	NA
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For persons being nominated in all categories, please complete the following additional information

Please summarize this person's accomplishments as a coach, player, official or contributor at the high school level in Kentucky.
PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

Please list any other factors about this individual that you would like for the Hall of Fame Committee to consider.
PLEASE SEE LETTERS INCLUDED

I certify that I have truthfully completed this information about the nominee with the permission of the nominee, that he/she will accept induction if selected, and I will cooperate with the KHSAA should additional information be needed for his/her consideration.

Signature Sam Chandler Name (print) SAM CHANDLER Date 10/12/06

Attach any relevant press clippings and materials which would verify coaching win-loss records, or other statistical information. Also attach any other letters of recommendation of other information which may be helpful to the committee in making a final selection.

October 12, 2006

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
ATTN: Nominations  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Nominations Committee:

It is my distinct honor and privilege to nominate Coach Tom Creamer for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Included in this portfolio are letters of support for coach Creamer, articles from newspapers relative to key events during his coaching career and a record of his career accomplishments.

Since I served on the KHSAA Board of Control 1986-1990 and as its president in 1990, I had the opportunity to work with many coaches across the state. There is no doubt in my mind that coach Creamer would head the list of coaches who have made a positive effect on Kentucky High School Basketball.

In addition to winning numerous basketball titles, he has coached the East/West All-Star boys Basketball Team in 1971; coached the Kentucky All-Star Boys Basketball Team in 1978; was inducted into the 10<sup>th</sup> Region Basketball coaches Hall of Fame in 1998; received the 7<sup>th</sup> Region Girls Basketball Coach of the Year in 1999; and many other honors as outlined in this portfolio.

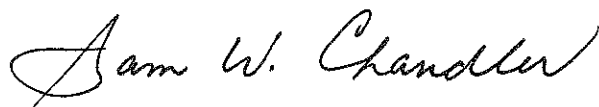
Coach Creamer has the rare ability to relate effectively to students, faculty, parents, administrators, parents, and athletes. He accepts responsibility readily and carries out his duties with efficiency. He seems to have the ability to sense the needs and feelings of others

and make them feel that they are a contributing part of the whole picture.

In short, Mr. Creamer has proven himself to be an outstanding ambassador for basketball across the entire state of Kentucky. He is known and respected state-wide as evidenced by his many recognitions. Having said all of this about coach Creamer, I know, as a personal friend, that he is a wonderful husband, father, and grandfather and Christian man. He spends a great deal of time with his grand children and is very involved in his church, Centenary United Methodist in Shelbyville.

Mr. Creamer would be a wonderful addition to the Hall of Fame and I appreciate your consideration of this very deserving man.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam W. Chandler". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'S'.

Sam W. Chandler  
Past Board of Control Member  
President in 1990



# ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

*Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy*

2170 Tyler Lane  
Louisville, Kentucky 40205-2999  
502-458-9551  
502-454-8411 (Fax)

Sept. 23, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

It is without reservation that I recommend to you Tom Creamer for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Athletic Hall of Fame. I have known Tom for approximately 13 years. As athletic director and later as a fellow employee, I have always appreciated the enthusiasm he engendered among his teams and his dedicated approach to practices and competitions. As a person who relates well with young people, he always seemed to enjoy working with them. Tom has displayed a sincere concern for people, a trait that is lacking in many professionals. While showing this concern, he always expected mature, responsible behavior from his players and students.

Tom has proved his dedication and dependability for many, many years. In the 9 years he coached at Assumption (1994-2003), I can't remember one time when he missed a day of school or practice. He was very organized and knew what he wanted to accomplish each practice. It is often said that coaches make the best teachers and Tom exemplified this. He never hesitated to put in those extra hours that are required of that special individual that results in confidence from his players and students and success in the programs he manages.

Among Tom's many accomplishments as a coach are:

1. He turned around the football program at Beechwood High School. He was the head football coach from 1964-1967. His record the first year was 0-8, 2<sup>nd</sup> year was 2-5-1, and third year 5-2-1
2. He coached boy's basketball at 6 different schools with a total record of 455 wins, 224 losses for a winning percentage of 66.7%
3. He coached girl's basketball at 1 school with a total record of 210 wins and 66 losses for a winning percentage of 76.1%
4. 22 District Basketball Championships
5. 9 Regional Basketball Championships (7 boys, 2 girls)
6. 1 State Basketball Championship (Boys, 1978, Shelby County)
7. 3 State Basketball Semi-Finalists (2 boys, 1 girls)

8. 1 State Basketball Runner-Up (Girls, 1999, Assumption)
9. 1 State Golf Championship (Girls, 2002, Assumption)
10. Coached the East/West All Star boys Basketball Team in 1971
11. Coached the Kentucky All Star Boys Basketball Team in 1978
12. Was inducted into the 10<sup>th</sup> Region Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998
13. Received the 7<sup>th</sup> Region Girls Basketball Coach of the year in 1999
14. Received the KHSCA 2003 State Golf Champions Coaches Award
15. Received the Pepsi Cola Garnis Martin Outstanding Coaches Award as the Coach of the Year in 2003, presented by the KHSAA Athletic Directors
16. Was inducted into Assumption High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004
17. Was elected to the Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches Court of Honor for the 8<sup>th</sup> Region in 2005

Tom has had an enormous positive influence on young athletes throughout the state of Kentucky. Many young people have continued to succeed, both in college and in their careers because of the experience of knowing and playing for Coach Creamer. As you can see, Tom has many accomplishments and has received many honors. In fact, he has continued to receive awards since his retirement in 2003.

Thank you very much for considering Tom for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. I can assure you that, if selected as an inductee, you will have no regrets. Tom is a real gentleman with a pleasant personality and a great sense of humor. He is respected by many people who have fond memories of working with him. Tom is well known and well liked throughout the state of Kentucky.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Medley  
Former Athletic Director  
Assumption High School

# Boys Basketball

Years	School		Wins	Losses
1966-1968	Beechwood High School	Ft. Mitchell KY	23	24
1968-1974	Maysville High School	Maysville KY	104	47
	**2 District Championships			
	**2 Regional Championships			
	**1 Semi Finalist Sate Championship			
1974-1975	Danville High School	Danville KY	13	13
1975-1987	Shelby County High School	Shelbyville KY	274	81
	**12 District Championships			
	**5 Regional Championships			
	**2 Semi Finalist Sate Championship			
	**1 Sate Championship 1978			
1990-1992	Bishop Brossart High School	Alexandria KY	37	21
	**2 NKAC Conference Championships	1991 & 1992		
	NKAC Coach of the Year 1992			
1992-1994	Louisville Holy Cross High School	Louisville KY	4	38
	**1 6th Region "All A" Championship			
		Totals (boys)	455	224
1994-2003	Assumption High School	Louisville KY (as of 2/9/03)	210	66
	**8 District Championships			
	**2 Regional Championships			
	**1 Runner Up State Championship	1999		
	7th Region Coach of the Year 1997			
		Totals (girls)	210	66

# Girls Basketball

Winning Percentage	665/955	69.60%	Totals (overall)	665	290
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**Overall Tournament Statistics**

22 District Championships  
9 Regional Championships  
3 Semi-Finalist State Championships  
1 Runner-up State Championships  
1 State Championship

**Other Coaching Experiences**

KY EastWest All-Star Game	1972 Boys
Kentucky/Indiana All-Star Game	1978 Boys
Derby Classic	1980 Boys
Jr All Star Game 5th/6th/7th/8th Region	2002 Girls



To Dawahares and the KHSAA Hall of Fame,

As you consider great coaches from around the state to be elected to receive such a prestigious award and honor in the KHSAA Hall of Fame, I would like to nominate someone who has demonstrated leadership, while implanting the seed of confidence, dedication, and work ethic into his players that is necessary to achieve on and off the court; Tom Creamer of Assumption High School.

Coach Tom Creamer was the type of coach that was the first and last to leave the gym, the one who cheered the loudest on the sidelines, the one who cared about his players as people first, and the one who was willing to sacrifice and do anything and everything to help. However, what separates Coach Creamer from the rest of the coaches is his incredible love for the game of basketball as well as his passion to share his knowledge, experiences, and skills in efforts to help his players and overall teams succeed. He brought a presence to every practice and game that demanded 100% focus, competitiveness, commitment, positive attitude, and teamwork. Yet, he possessed an amazing gift to take every situation, whether a win or loss, a good or bad day, a smile or tear, and turn it into a learning lesson not just about basketball but about life itself.

Tom Creamer as a coach but more importantly as a person has left an impact on my life as well as my professional basketball career today. He pushed me from day one to reach another level, to reach my goals. The days that I did not want to put in the extra work, he reminded me that there was someone else out there working as hard as or harder than me. He explained to achieve anything in life you have to be willing to sacrifice and put in the extra work everyday, not just the good days but the bad days as well. Those words have kept with me and still motivate me to work harder today.

I was blessed to have played for Coach Creamer and personally witness how much he gave not only to his players and his team but also to the game, especially in the state of Kentucky. Thank you so much for your time and consideration of Coach Tom Creamer.

Sincerely,

Jenni Benningfield

Assumption High School  
Class of 2000  
Miss Basketball 2000

October 11, 2006

Dawahares – KHSAA Hall of Fame  
ATTN: Nominations  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

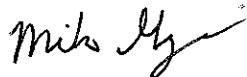
Re: Tom Creamer

To Whom It May Concern:

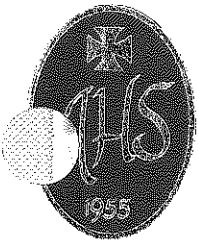
It is my privilege to recommend for nomination to the KHSAA Hall of Fame Coach Tom Creamer. I have known Coach Creamer for 29 years and have found him to be a person of honor and integrity. I had the opportunity to play for Coach Creamer in the 1977-78 season while he was the head coach at Shelby County High School. In my presence, he always conducted himself in a manner fitting a head coach and always set a proper example for everyone associated with the team as well as the school. He demonstrated not only the ability to lead, but also the patience and wisdom to teach the game of basketball.

Again, I highly recommend Coach Tom Creamer for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I truly believe it is an honor well deserved.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike George,  
Member 1978 State Championship Team  
4195 Mt. Eden Road  
Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065



# ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

*Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy*

2170 Tyler Lane  
Louisville, Kentucky 40205-2999  
502-458-9551  
502-454-8411 (Fax)

September 19, 2006

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
ATTN: Nominations  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

Nominations Committee:

I am writing to strongly recommend that Tom Creamer be considered for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Before retiring from education, Tom spent 9 years at Assumption High school as a mathematics teacher and head coach of the basketball team. Tom has been an outstanding coach, role model and a true inspiration for the lucky students who played ball under his guidance.

Tom is one of the most positive, up-beat people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. His enthusiasm for the game of basketball is infectious, and he was always able to get student-athletes to achieve at levels they had not before thought possible. As a result of his leadership, Assumption basketball players learned about the value of hard work, teamwork and goal-setting, but they also learned to have fun with the game. Tom always knew exactly when he needed to push harder and when he needed to crack a joke. This taught students about the importance of balance, of both giving life your all and enjoying it to the fullest. These are lessons they carry with them as successful adults. His years leading the basketball program at Assumption set a standard of excellence that is today a benchmark for our athletic programs.

In addition to be an excellent coach, Tom is a first rate human being. He is a coach and educator of the highest character. Always reliable and trustworthy, Tom is a man of his word. It is a great comfort to an administrator to know that a school's coaches will follow and enforce the rules; Tom is a perfect example of this kind of coach. He is a man of faith and compassion, and all those who were coached by him were lucky to be influenced by the character of a great man.

I strongly urge you to induct Tom Creamer into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. A dedicated coach, teacher and colleague, he is completely deserving of this great honor.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Steutermann  
Principal

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

In the summer of 1996, I met Tom Creamer. I had just accepted a teaching position at Assumption High School in Louisville and was looking forward to a new phase in my career. I had no intention of becoming a basketball coach when I was hired to teach at Assumption. I was under the opinion that coaches did not think the way I did about education and sports. I believed, and still do, that education was and should always be a teacher's priority, not sports. I was paired with Mr. Tom Creamer to supervise a study hall. Each day we supervised the study hall I was excited by the way Tom interacted with the students. He loved talking to them and he always had time to assist them with their math homework or to educate them on one of life's lessons. The students in return respected him and loved this man from Ludlow High School. In the matter of a few short weeks I realized that I needed to coach with Tom Creamer. Our philosophies on education and sports were a perfect match! Tom loved coaching basketball but his number one priority was to educate the young women at Assumption High School.

Coach Creamer many times proved his coaching abilities when others believed the odds were against us. I witnessed his ability to break down a team's weaknesses and strengths. He spent many evenings traveling the state to evaluate the next opponent. Not once did he complain that lesson plans needed to be completed or papers graded. He was and is well known around the state for his high moral standards. I am sure that his excellence in coaching was instrumental to our team's two regional titles and a basketball state runner-up, not to mention the state golf title he led Assumption to!

I taught, coached and was the athletic director at Assumption during my seven years. On all occasions, be it the freshman team or a state bound tournament team, Tom Creamer displayed to our young women at Assumption sportsmanship and love for his vocation. He was humble when victorious and accepted the consequences of defeat. He instilled into our basketball teams a great work ethic, and a strong belief in the team's abilities to succeed. Mr. Creamer always displayed great respect for the young ladies spiritual growth, many times allowing that important element of an Assumption education to take precedent over basketball. In my heart Tom Creamer became much more than a coaching partner. He became a friend and role model for me and for his other assistant coaches. To this day I look forward to gathering with Tom and his wife Brenda.

There may be coaches in the state of Kentucky who have won more games or regional titles than Tom Creamer but that should not matter. The elements that made Tom Creamer a special coach and person is that he was a role model, a wonderful teacher, respected by his colleagues(both teachers and coaches), and a man who cherished his own family. Tom Creamer is the example of a teacher/coach, that many of our young coaches and players desperately need today.

Thank you for the consideration of Tom Creamer for the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I look forward to hearing the good news that Tom will be inducted.

Best Regards,

Michael Bickett  
Principal, St. Joseph School  
Bardstown Kentucky

4616 Benson Pike  
Shelbyville, KY 40065  
October 1, 2006

To Whom It May Concern

This letter is to recommend Tom Creamer to the K.H.S.A.A. Hall of Fame. I served as his assistant coach for 12 years (1975-1987) while he was head basketball coach at Shelby County High School. During those years, his teams won the regional tournament five times. In 1978 his team won the state championship. I believe his record speaks for his remarkable coaching ability. More than his winning record; Tom had commendable qualities of leadership. He always treated his players with respect and worked hard to promote the program across the state.

The thing that impressed me most about Tom was that he was also an outstanding classroom teacher. He never sacrificed the student in the classroom for basketball duties.

Tom had a very difficult task as he took over a program that had just merged between Shelbyville and Shelby County. At times it was a bitter, tense situation. He handled that situation in a professional manner.

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Tom Creamer for the KHSAA Hall of Fame because he is very deserving of this honor.

Sincerely yours,

*Eddie Mason*

Eddie Mason

# GIRLS' SWEET 16

## SEVENTH REGION

# Assumption title would be milestone for its coach

By JODY DEMLING  
The Courier-Journal

Tom Creamer has carried a clipboard and tooted his whistle as a high school head basketball coach for 30 years. But the Assumption coach has a legitimate chance this week to make history.

Creamer can become the first coach in Kentucky to win a boys' and girls' Sweet 16 title.

The veteran coach led the Shelby County boys to the 1978 title.

Now Creamer is at the 38th annual girls' event with an All-American on his roster and a chance to make some noise.

With junior Jenni Benningfield leading the way, Assumption has won 17 of its past 18 as it enters the Sweet 16 at Diddle Arena in Bowling Green. The Rockets, No. 6 in The Courier-Journal's Litkenhous Ratings, open at 9 p.m. EST tomorrow against Fourth Region champion Allen County.

"It's something hard to win, but you have to have goals and set them to this point," Creamer said. "I have a good feeling about the way our kids are playing."

Creamer's career started as an assistant football coach at Russell 33 years ago. His first head coaching job — both football and basketball — was a three-year stint at Beechwood.

Then it was six years at Maysville, a year at Danville and 12 at Shelby County before he left coaching for three years to be a principal.

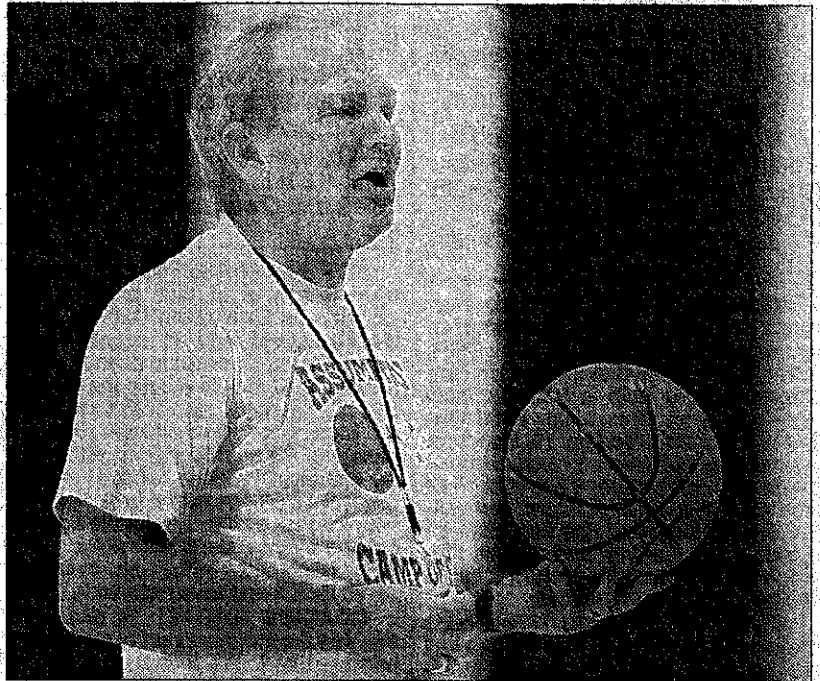
Creamer spent two years at Bishop Brossart and two at Louisville Holy Cross before switching to girls.

"If I would have known how much fun it is, I would have done it 10 years ago," he said.

Now in his fifth year at Assumption, Creamer is taking his ninth team to a Sweet 16. He guided Assumption there two years ago when they lost to eventual state champion Hazard in overtime.

"I never sit around and think about myself and things like (a boys' and girls' title)," he said. "This is something great for the kids. It's a nice feeling for us just to get there."

After losing to Jeffersonton in the Seventh Region final last season, Assumption zipped through this season



BY SAM UPSHAW JR., THE COURIER-JOURNAL

**Assumption's Tom Creamer could become the first Kentucky coach to win boys' and girls' state basketball championships.**

in good order. Two of the losses came to Manual — the team the Rockets beat in the region final — with the other a narrow defeat to No. 1 Montgomery County.

Creamer said something that has helped his team down the stretch is extra practice time by many of the players on the roster.

"Four or five of them started staying after practice and shooting," he said. "Then it got to eight or nine and 10 or 12. It's not always the same ones, but there's always some there. That tells me they want to be as good as they can be."

It all starts with Benningfield for the Rockets.

Tabbed as the state's No. 1 player in a preseason poll of coaches, the 6-foot-3 Benningfield has been named among the top 10 juniors in the country by several publications.

"She's the main cog," Creamer said. "Early in the year I caught the others standing around and watching her. She amazes me all the time."

Benningfield averages 22.1 points,

11.9 rebounds and 3.6 blocked shots. Her high game this season was 37 on two occasions; she tallied 29 points and 30 rebounds in the regional opener against Sacred Heart.

Many people think Benningfield is nothing but a post player — she's made 271 of 490 shots (55.3 percent) — but she's also hit 28 of 57 three-pointers (49.1 percent).

Forward Jeannette Franken averages 8.6 points, 4.6 rebounds and 2.9 assists and is the senior leader. She has hit 25 of 59 three-pointers.

Catie Knable averages 7.5 points and 7.6 rebounds and "is always around the ball" from the other forward spot for the Rockets.

Senior Angie Hunter has been solid at point guard with just 40 turnovers, including just two in the regional final against Manual. Freshman Stephanie Pieper, also in the backcourt, averages 5.6 points.

Senior Kate Russell came off the bench with a spark in the regional, and Joanie Frame has added key minutes as a reserve guard.

(Answer on page 7A)  
Friday, January 10, 1987

## 'till 'Creaming' the competition Tom Creamer wins his 500th game coaching girls' team at Assumption

By CHRIS ALDRIDGE  
Shelby County Sports Editor

Tom Creamer is still coaching the Rockets ... of Louisville Assumption High School.

The 56-year-old former Shelby County boys' coach, who guided the school to the 1978 state basketball championship, is coaching at an all-girls Catholic school and loving every minute of it.

And he's been successful. After forging a 16-11 record last year in his second season at Assumption, Creamer's squad is currently 8-3, including recording the 500th career basketball victory in their veteran coach's 34th year on the sidelines.

Creamer, who needed six wins to reach the milestone coming into this season, was rewarded with a surprise celebration.

"I didn't pay much attention to it myself, but the kids were kinda keeping up with it along with our athletic director," Creamer said. "They had a little cake for me."

Creamer said he enjoys coaching girls, who don't take the game as seriously as boys.

"Girls look at basketball as a part of their life, not their whole life," Creamer said. "It's a different temperament."

"I like that at this stage of my career. I don't know when I'll quit."

Creamer hinted, however, that he may give up coaching in two or three years to play the role of a doting grandfather. Daughters Chellie and Holly both have sons.

When they get 3 or 4 years, they might start doing things with me," Creamer said.

But I still enjoy it (coaching). Creamer actually left coaching after 12 years at Shelby County to take an administrative position at Scott County High in Georgetown. But after three years, Creamer missed the daily contact with the students.



Tom Creamer, shown in a Shelby County huddle in the mid-1980s, coached the Rockets for 12 years, winning the 1978 boys' state championship.

"I wasn't happy being out of the classroom," he said, noting he and wife Brenda packed their bags and returned to their native northern Kentucky, where he landed a teaching/coaching job at Bishop Brossart, a small Catholic boys' high school in Covington.

"We went back home, but it wasn't the same," said Creamer, a native of Ludlow who coached basketball and football at nearby Beechwood in the 1960s. "We missed Shelbyville so much."

The Creamers moved back

Tom Creamer

**FRIDAY'S  
FEATURE**

five years ago, and Tom took a teaching/coaching post at Louisville Holy Cross. But the Cougars' boys' basketball program was not competitive in the Sixth Region against perennial powers like Pleasure

Ridge Park and Fairdale.

Creamer contemplated giving up coaching when an algebra teaching position opened at Assumption. He discussed the job with Sam Chandler, an administrator at Assumption who was principal at Shelby County when he was coach, and discovered the Rockets were also looking for a girls' basketball coach.

Creamer, who had coached girls' tennis and golf in the past, decided to give it a try.

"It's really been a nice change for me," he added. "I'm having fun."

### Creamer fondly recalls 1978 state champions

Obviously, the fondest memory of Tom Creamer's 34-year basketball coaching career was winning the 1978 boys' state championship.

"That has to be the biggest," Creamer said. "It was a remarkable thing. I think of all of my coaching friends that have not had the opportunity to win a state championship."

But Creamer's recollections don't center around the championship game, a thrilling 68-66 overtime win by Shelby County over Covington Holmes. Instead, the veteran coach remembers a five-day stretch (Dec. 26-30, 1977) when the Rockets won two tournaments back to back.

"We won five games in five nights," Creamer said. "I always think about that. I don't think that's ever been done before."

Shelby County won the Mountain Schoolboy Classic on a Monday and Tuesday, knocking off undefeated (20-0) Sheldon Clark 98-70 and host Belfry 80-48, respectively. Rockets star Charles Hurt was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

The Rockets didn't miss a beat when they bussed to Lexington overnight to play in the Fayette County

Invitational on Wednesday. They beat Lexington Tates Creek 65-52 in the first round.

In Friday's semifinals, Shelby County knocked off Lexington Lafayette 69-56. The Generals, coached by current University of Louisville radio analyst Jack Sutherland, was led by Dirk Minniefield, who would join Hurt at the University of Kentucky, and Junior Johnson, who went on to play at Cincinnati.

They capped off the busy week with a 64-57 victory over Lexington Henry Clay in Friday's championship. The Blue Devils were led by Harold Moore, who would become Shelby County star Norris Beckley's teammate at Morehead State, and Mike Searce, who played at Purdue.

One of Shelby County's three losses that season, 63-60, came in the Louisville Invitational Tournament against Wayne Chapman's Owensboro Apollo squad, led by current Virginia coach Jeff Jones. But Shelby County avenged the loss with a 62-55 win over the first round of the Sweet 16.

"Everybody always talks about the (state) championship (game)," Creamer said. "But that may have been as good a game."

— Chris Aldridge



A recent photo of Tom Creamer



**For major sports results, call 582-4871**

See APOLLO's  
Page C 3, Col. 4

# Shelby wins battle of the best

Inside the Apollo High locker room, you could still hear the victory celebration going on in the stands. Except this time, for the first time all year, the cheering and whistling weren't for Apollo. After a perfect season — 35 straight victories — the Eagles from Owensboro had come to the state tournament and learned what it means to lose.

It didn't make much difference that, under intense pressure, they had played a marvelous game against a marvelous opponent. All that mattered was that, at the end, the score was Shelby County 62, Apollo 55. At the final buzzer, the Apollo cheerleaders were bawling their eyes out and a deafening silence had descended upon the team's cheering sections.

As they contemplated their fate, the



**comment  
billy  
reed**

Courier-Journal Sports Editor

Apollo players seemed to be in a sort of daze. Center Bob Humble tried to blink away tears. Forward Steve Barker shrugged his shoulders and tried to smile. Guard Jeff Jones sat alone in a corner, slowing stripping off his uniform and talking to reporters in the

tone of voice you normally associate with a funeral parlor.

"It hurts," said Jones. "It's something an athlete expects. You've got to take the pain with the happiness. I was always aware we could lose, especially with all the good teams you face up here, but, still, you never allow yourself to think you will."

Over at the Shelby County locker room, winning coach Tom Creamer's nerves and heartbeat finally were beginning to return to normal.

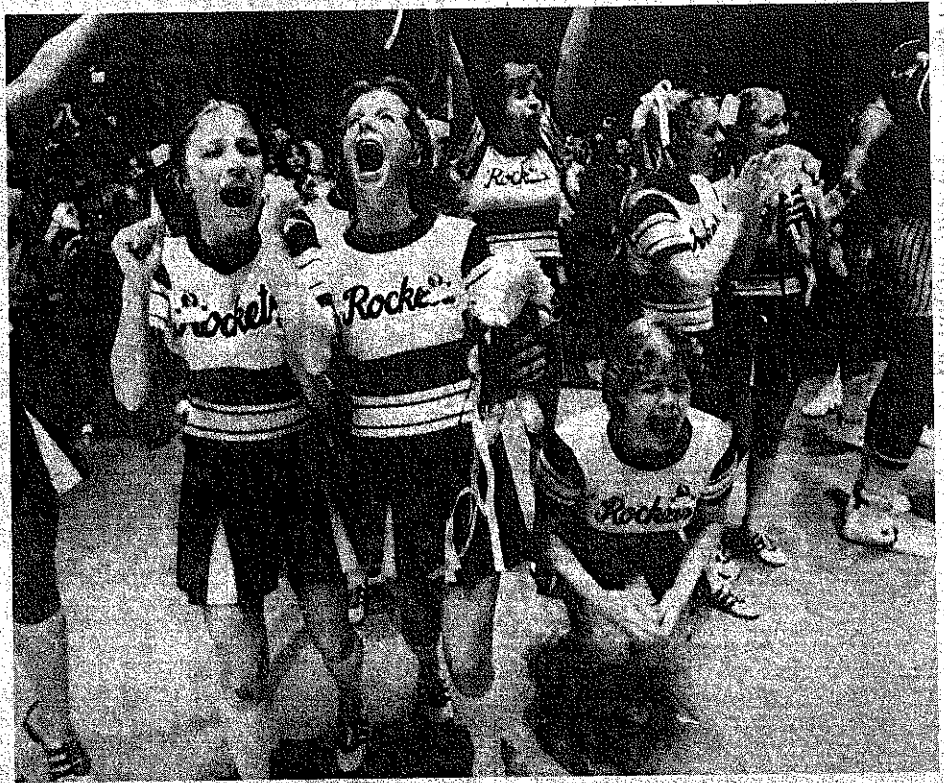
"Sure, I feel sorry for them," said Creamer, nodding toward the Apollo locker room. "but I feel elated for us. Apollo has a tremendous team, but I'm not naive enough to think that the state

See **SHELBY**  
Back page, col. 2, this section

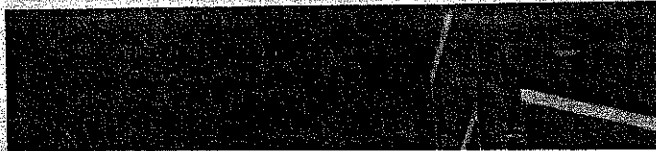


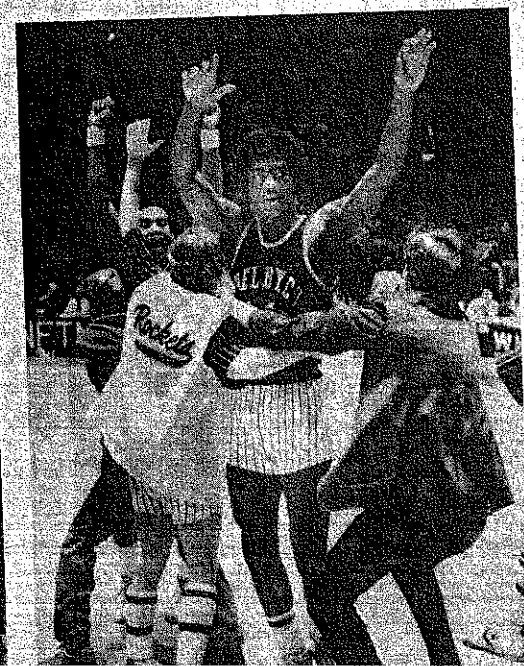
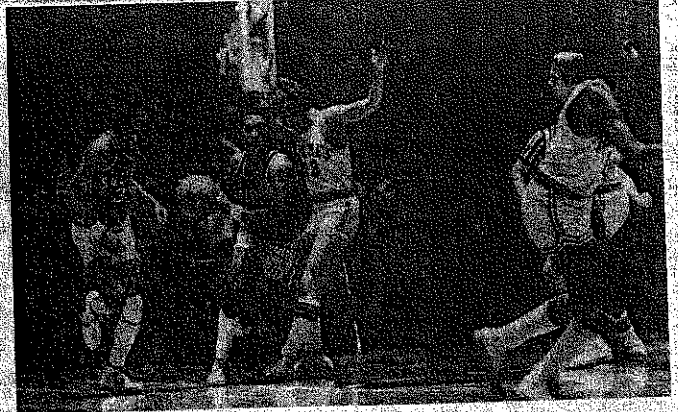
Shelby County's Mike George dribbles away from Covington, Holmes' Phil Davis in last night's Boys' State Basketball Tournament final game.

## Shelby Co. edges Covington, 68-66, in overtime



Shelby County cheerleaders vent their joy after their beloved Rockets captured the championship of the state basketball tournament.





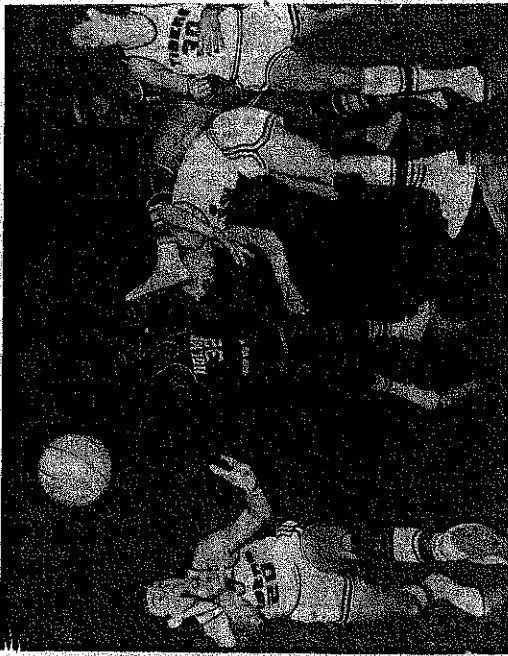
Norris Beckley of Shelby County brings the ball down the floor for the Rockets in first-half action last night. Beckley wrapped up the victory for Shelby County by making two foul shots with 34 seconds left to give his club a 68-66 victory.

STAFF PHOTOS  
BY  
JAY MATHER  
AND  
JEBB HARRIS

Charles Hurt raises his arms in exultation and gets mobbed by teammates after his last-second shot.

**Sports**

# Beechwood Stuns Holmes by 63-60



Beechwood's Larry Miller makes like a football player about to field a punt. Holmes' Larry Herndon makes like a punter. Holmes' Dennis Jarrell (22) and Beechwood's Herb Hood watch.

BY MIKE MERSCH  
Kenshi Pitt Stars Staff

Beechwood's Larry Miller makes like a football player about to field a punt. Holmes' Larry Herndon makes like a punter. Holmes' Dennis Jarrell (22) and Beechwood's Herb Hood watch.

Beechwood's little Holmes' made all the way. The mighty Colinas last night, but the F. Mitchell team gave little hint they'd just scored the upset of the year.

The players had huddled in the 34th District gym, and, 15 minutes later, they were worried.

Coach Creamer's face, they said, looked like a "big red tomato."

"We can't look back," said Creamer. "If we don't beat Holy Cross, we might as well be lost tonight."

If the Bees were taking the victory in stride, the 22-0 onslaught of Holmes' basketball team would have been an easier time of it.

Three seconds after the yellow horn was crawling with Beechwood followers.

BUT MOST of the gathering remained seated. Silence. Stunned. Almost.

It did not seem possible that Holmes, rated by most as the Ninth Region's third-best team, had beaten, 106-66, earlier.

Coach Creamer, leader of the Beechwood team, was worried about Holy Cross, "a hard nut to crack," he said. "I'm not looking back at all."

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33d District

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Turnovers	Fouls
Beechwood	63	22	10	5	3	15	20
Holmes	60	18	8	3	2	12	18

34th District

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Turnovers	Fouls
Beechwood	63	22	10	5	3	15	20
Holmes	60	18	8	3	2	12	18

36th District

Team	Points	Rebounds	Assists	Steals	Blocks	Turnovers	Fouls
Beechwood	63	22	10	5	3	15	20
Holmes	60	18	8	3	2	12	18

# Beechwood Knocks Off Another Giant, This Time Covington Holy Cross 55-40; Owensboro, Harrison County Advance

By BOB WHITE  
and DAVE KINDRED

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writers

Suddenly, little Beechwood High School—with its 110 students—is doing big things in Kentucky basketball.

After opening 34th District play Thursday with an upset of 25-point favorite Covington Holmes, Beechwood came back last night with another shocker, a 55-40 decision over Covington Holy Cross, rated 21 points its superior by The Courier-Journal's Littenhous Ratings.

Beechwood did it with free throws, sinking 29 of 47 to the losers' 6 of 11. The loss was Holy Cross' sixth after 22 victories, and now Beechwood will take a 14-11 record into tonight's district title game against Covington Catholic. Catholic, the state's fifth-ranked team, is favored by 35 points over the upstarts from Fort Mitchell.

Walker breaks press for 21

# Maysville stuns Central 83-70; tourney wide open now

By BOB WHITE

Courier-Journal &amp; Times staff writer

When Tim Ventura came out of Maysville High's dressing room yesterday, there were tears in the young basketball coach's eyes.

He had just completed a closed-door meeting with his players, who had thrown the title in the 55th annual State Tournament, record-breaking 127-87, via over Paducah Tighwain, but only 26 of 83 shots for a fright 31.3 per cent.

"We just didn't make a shot, free throws (18 of 33) or nothing," Graves said. "When we forced Maysville into losing the ball (Maysville committed 30 errors), we couldn't capitalize on it. The ball just wouldn't go in for us."

Johnny Turner, one of 10 seniors on Central's veteran 12-man tourney squad, led the Sixth Region finalists with 17 points, but eight came in the last 2 1/2 minutes of play.

Price made only 2 of 12 shots and Phillip Jordan, who poured in 24 against Tighwain, hit just one of 14 shots.

got his fourth foul late in the first quarter," Gremmer added. "I know, though, if we got the ball downtown against Central's press, they'd have to play our game."

Maysville, king of the 10th Region and now owner of a 26-5 record, broke an 8-8 deadlock with a six-point spurt which left Central playing catch-up the rest of the game.

By the middle of the third quarter, Maysville had led by 11 points four times. It then went 19 points up before finally enjoying 16-point bulges twice, at 61-45 and 82-66.

The victory advanced Maysville into today's 11:45 a.m. semifinal against Elizabethtown, the Fifth Region champion which overcame a 10-point deficit to edge Russell 89-87 in yesterday's first quarterfinal.

Fred Walker, a 6-foot-2 forward, slipped through Central's full-court press for 21 points, tops for Maysville. Paul King, a husky 6-foot senior, pitched in 18 and 6-4 senior James Smith matched the board work of 6-4 Keith Price of Central with 10 rebounds.

It seemed that Central, ranked No. 1 among state powers all season by The Courier-Journal's Litterhouse Ratings, might stage a comeback when the 1969 State Tournament champion rallied to within four points (at 34-30) late in the second quarter.

Maysville, though, regrouped and went into halftime intermission with a 41-32 advantage. Central never recovered and suffered its third loss in 31 games.

The loss was a stinging one for Central coach Robert Graves.

"The whole thing was a frustrating

situation," Graves said. "Just unbelievable. When we were unable to generate a good offense, that frustrated our defense. We didn't get a gallant effort on defense."

Graves, who charged racial discrimination in the officiating following Central's semifinal loss to Anderson County last year, called yesterday's work by Leonard Hunt (a Negro from Lexington) and Jack Brumley (London) "real good."

"Maysville just beat us," Graves said.

A hot-shooting hand was vital in Maysville making its strongest title bid since it was runner-up to Brewers in 1948, after winning the 1947 "Dribble Derby."

Maysville connected on 21 of 53 field goal attempts for 39.6 per cent. Central was as cold as Maysville was hot.

Graves' club, which entered the game

with a 91.4 scoring average and had surpassed the century mark for the fourth time Wednesday night with a 98th Tournament record breaking 127-87 via over Paducah Tighwain, hit only 26 of 83 shots for a fright 31.3 per cent.

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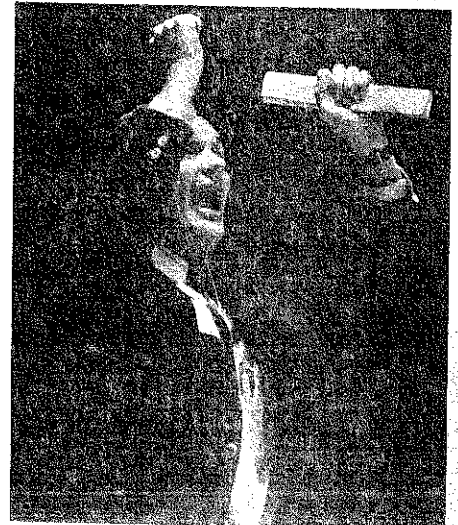
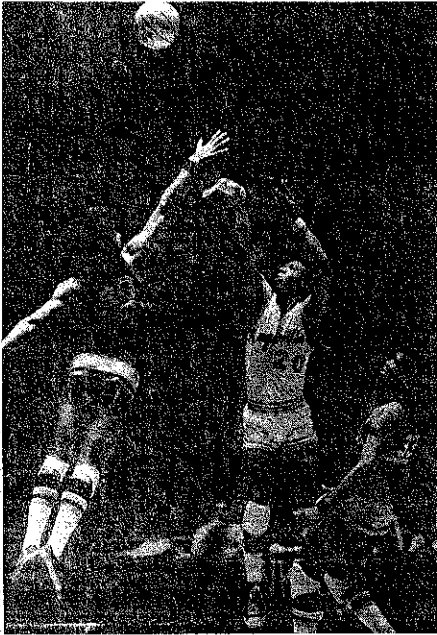
Price made only 2 of 12 shots and Phillip Jordan, who poured in 24 against Tighwain, hit just one of 14 shots.

"The rumor was that if Central fell behind," Maysville's Paul King said, "they would start throwing the ball up."

King, who picked up his fourth foul with 1:10 left in the first quarter, sat out all of the second and third quarters. He returned to action when his first cousin, Steve, who had 11 key points, fouled out with 3:35 left in the game.

Paul King, called "Granddaddy" by his teammates because of his age (19), then passed in nine points, hitting 7 of 8 free throws in the last five minutes to seal Central's doom.

King said he got an inkling early that it might be Maysville's day. "When we got the lead in the first quarter and started building on it," King said, "I could see the expression on their (Central's players') faces that they were afraid they might get beat."



Staff Photo by Robert Stinson



# Hello Central...give me Maysville!

BY ANDY COX  
Kentucky Post Sports Writer

**LOUISVILLE:** It was all supposed to be cut-and-dried. Everyone down here, experts, fans, coaches, were all saying it would be a Central-Owensboro final in the 55th annual State Basketball Tournament at Freedom Hall.

"Somebody told me after we won Wednesday night," said Maysville coach Tom Creamer, "that Central wouldn't even be here Friday... that they got an NIT bid instead."

Things were almost that bad. At least it appeared that way. Central, the powerhouse of the "Sweet Sixteen" polished off Paducah-Tilghman, 123-87, without hardly breaking a sweat.

**WELL, UPSETS** are what tournaments are made of and lightly-regarded Maysville upset the apocryph when it ran roughshod over Central, 83-70, at Freedom Hall Friday afternoon.

The drama-drenched triumph catapulted the Bulldogs into this morning's semi-final attraction against Elizabethtown.

"We were up until 3:30 Friday morning," said a happy Creamer who was momentarily lost for words after his team's great win which suddenly turned this four-day dribble marathon into a wide open scramble.

"We figured that we had to make 'em (Central) play our kind of game. We had to be aggressive and yet not lose our cool doing it," Creamer said.

Creamer, along with assistant Walter Betcher, thought that a man-to-man defense would be more effective than a zone against the scrambling, scratching leaping tactics of the powerful Yellow Jackets. And, they were right.

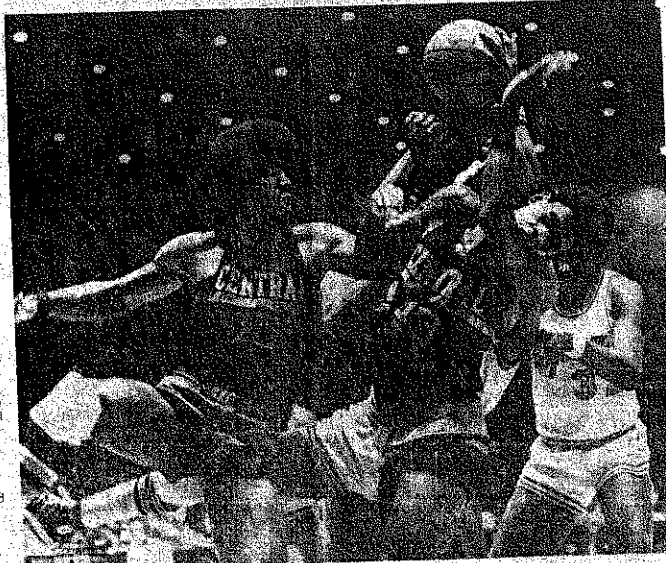
CENTRAL went up 5-0 which hardly surprised any of the 18,466 fans on hand for the afternoon session. But that lead was short-lived.

Maysville jumped out to its first lead of the game, 25, and Central was never to lead again, although there were two inter-ties after that at 5-6 and 6-8.

Hustling Paul King picked up his fourth personal foul with 1:19 left in the opening quarter and Creamer was forced to pull him. The husky senior didn't get back off the bench until 5:35 remained in the final stanza.

Maysville went 11-up, 33-21, on a layup by senior Fred Walker and the help of a defensive goaltending call on high-flying Keith Price.

Central's aggressive full-court press finally got to the Bulldogs late in the second quarter and Maysville's big lead suddenly shrank to only four, 34-30, when Central's Johnny Turner connected on a beauty of a baseline hook shot.



The action was rugged under both hoops in Friday's big game between Maysville and Central which the Bulldogs won, 83-70. Here, it appears that the Yellowjackets have the position under the hoop as Jim Anderson (40) and Johnny Turner (43) fight for loose ball with unidentified Bulldog. Maysville's Jim Smith can be seen at the far right.

**HUSKY SUBSTITUTE** Tony Humphrey sank a short floating jumper for Maysville, though, and right after that little Mark Turner calmly swished in two free throws to give the Bulldogs an eight-point advantage.

Maysville went to the lockerroom with a 41-33 halftime lead but also had two players with foul problems... Paul King, with four, and Walker with three.

And still, no one but the staunchest Maysville fan could really think the Bulldogs could pull it off.

It was obvious that Central wasn't enjoying one of its finest shooting performances, from the floor or from the foul stripe. The Jackets went to the foul line seven times early in the third quarter and made only one.

Maysville Creamer's Bulldogs refused to crumble to Central's constant pressure. Turner, the lone white kid on the floor, did a brilliant job getting the ball past the midcourt line for Maysville.

"Both Mark and Stevie (King) did one heckuva job for us out there to break their press," applauded Creamer later.

**MAYSVILLE** built its biggest lead, 58-45, right at the close of the third quarter when James Smith laved in a bucket with 8:05 on the clock.

As Maysville trotted back onto the floor for the start of the final quarter, the huge throng on hand suddenly broke up to the fact that maybe, just maybe, the Bulldogs could turn the tide. They gave the kids from Northern Kentucky a pausing cheer.

Central missed three more foul shots and Smith poked in a follow shot to put Maysville ahead, 61-45.

Jay Hall, one of Creamer's subs who was a regular back during the early part of this past season, picked up his fifth foul at 6:00 and Walker came back in.

A few seconds later, another Bulldog, Steve King, tumbled out and Paul King came hustling back into the battle.

After Central's Bill Cain hit on a rebound follow-up, Maysville got three foul shots from the rejuvenated King to go up, 65-61 and after Cain dropped in a layup, King, clicked on a 20-footer from the side which even had Creamer shouting "moby" as the ball went airborne.

**THAT MADE** it 68-53 and all Central could do from there on out was try to play catchup but Maysville would have none of it.

Every time the Jackets would score, Maysville, with Walker doing most of the damage, would match them until time finally ran out.

Maysville, although losing the battle of the boards, 47-39, outshot the Louisville team, 50 per cent to a cold 31 per cent.

## 'Pale' Bulldog Turner applauded by teammates

BY ANDY COX  
Kentucky Post Sports Writer

**LOUISVILLE:** A happy Maysville lockerroom yesterday went for a "sour" handshake with exhausted Paul King but the senior Bulldog, hustler would have none of it.

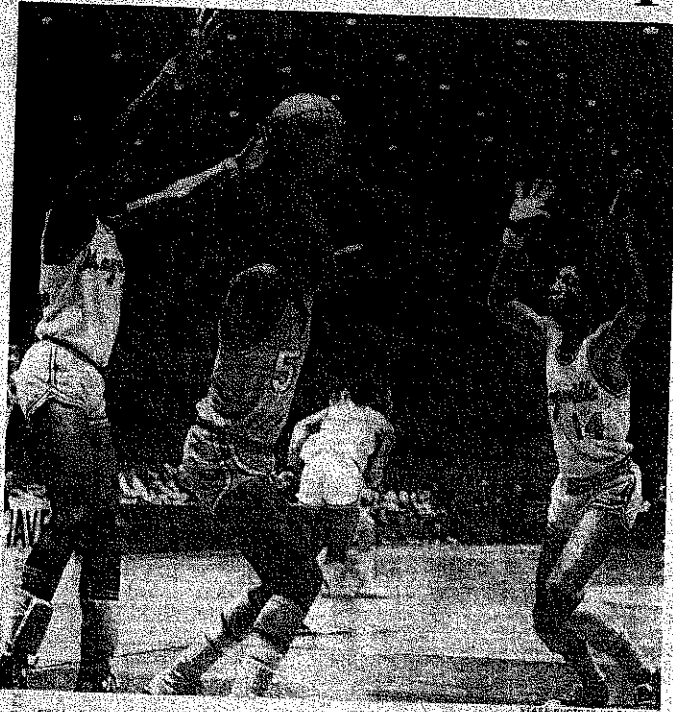
Shakes man, said King.

MAYSVILLE (83)		CENTRAL (70)	
Player	pts	Player	pts
S. King	18	Price	2
Humphrey	12	Ford	3
Walker	10	Turner	5
Price	10	Cain	6
Turner	10	Anderson	10
King	10	Love	2
Turner	10	Boone	2
King	10	Jordan	1
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## Sports

# Maysville pulled the zinger



Elizabethtown's Nate Haire (with ball) finds himself in a ticklish predicament surrounded by Maysville's Jonas Smith (far left) and Steve Green (14). In background Paul King of the Bulldogs begins to break up court anticipating basketball journey at Louisville.

Would you believe Nate Haire?  
'Watts' in a name?

Clay teamtrippers . . . Haire and All-State Tourney.

PADUCAH, 11-10, had a dandy by the name of Rex

BY ANDY COX  
Kentucky Post Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE: "I consider myself one of the best defensive men in the state of Kentucky," boasted Maysville's cocky senior guard, Paul King.

The season had ended abruptly for coach Tom Creamer's "hardship kids" from down the Ohio River.

They had just been beaten by Elizabethtown in the state tournament's Saturday morning semi-finals, but, after all, it had been a great season.

The Bulldogs still in all, had pulled off the upset of the tournament. They had caught everyone's favorite, Louisville Central, with its streakers down, hadn't they?

THAT BIG 83-70 triumph coming last Friday night after the cock-sure, Yellowjackets had lambasted poor little Paducah-Tighman, 123-67, turned the entire "Sweet Sixteen" right around and threw the championship honors up for grabs.

But getting back to King. The stouky backcourtier, with a slight "badboy" flair, was revealing how he had tried to guard Elton's fine little "Mr. Versatility," Chuck Hawkins, the blonde kid who did it all for the Panthers . . . jump center, drive the baseline, bring the ball downcourt, hit outside and play defense.

"He put a move on me in the second half that was really something," said King. "I'd rather guard Ronnie Lyons than that dude."

KING WAS a sophomore when Lyons was a senior star at arch-rival Mason County High.

The two met head-on that year and, according to King, "I had him held to about 11 points and he was averaging around 20 a game . . . and, he got most of those on fouls."

"They beat us in that game and in the district he started a fight with me and they put me out of the ballgame," said King, amazed.

Little Mark Turner chirped up from the next locker, "he got 25 the second quarter, too."

"Yeah, man," agreed King, "but that was because I was sitting out."

PROBABLY the most unlikely looking player of them all was Owensboro's "little big man," Terry Tyler, a skinny guard with a high, squeaky voice reminiscent of Butterfly McQueen.

Tyler, who said after the final game that he has no more



COX

years of playing eligibility left, was the first Red Devil up the ladder to cut down the net.

The little guy, who says his teammates call him "Mr. Defense," although he fouled out in the final game, did his own dance specialty at midcourt with the net draped around his neck.

That was a combination of James Brown and Cassius Clay, he happily squeaked to locker room visitors later.

JERRY THRUSTON, the big man in Owensboro's championship title, says he has over 200 offers from various colleges around the country for the next season.

"I'd like to go somewhere locally, Louisville or UK, perhaps," if it was at all possible, the quiet spoken 6-7 pivotman exclaimed.

SOPHOMORE star, Kerry Higgs, who was a member of the Owensboro varsity last year as a freshman, said he gets some of his fantastic moves from watching a lot of games on television.

"I watch guys like Earl the Pearl and that and work all summer on my game," said Higgs who cannot 28 points in the big championship finale.

THE TOP sentimental favorite to take "the whole thing" was little Broadhead, a school with an enrollment of 250 in a town of only 800 people.

It marked the first . . . and last trip to the coveted state finals for Broadhead, since the school will give way to progress next year and will be gobbled up in a merger with Livingston and Mt. Vernon to form the new Rockcastle County High.

Your first inclination was to laugh when the Broadhead kids jogged onto the huge floor at Freedom Hall for their pre-game drills.

Their warmup suits were a dirty, toll-tale grey and looked like they had been plowed from a 1911 cross-country meet.

Then, when the "Toy Tigers" took them off as the opening up noated, bright orange uniforms were in evidence, complete with matching gym shoes.

WARRIN EAST, with its star player Johnny Britt, proved to be too much for the Broadhead gang, even though the Tigers managed to grab a 17-16 first quarter lead and tied it at the half, 29-29.

The crowd figure for the four-day hoop spectacle was actually down from last year.

Last year's state finals drew 8,000 more than this year's which unfortunately drew 118,000 fans through the turnstiles.

The absence of a Louisville quintet in the finals was the primary cause of the fall-off.

## Auerbach speaker at Rupp banquet

LEXINGTON, KY. (UPI)—professional coach, is a long-time friend of Rupp. The Celtics won eight championships in a row under the "Master of Ceremony" Auerbach. Auerbach also was named N.B.A. Coach of the Year for the 1964-65 season.

The Rupp Trophy, sponsored by the Commonwealth Athletic Union, will be presented annually to the nation's most outstanding basketball player. Any player at



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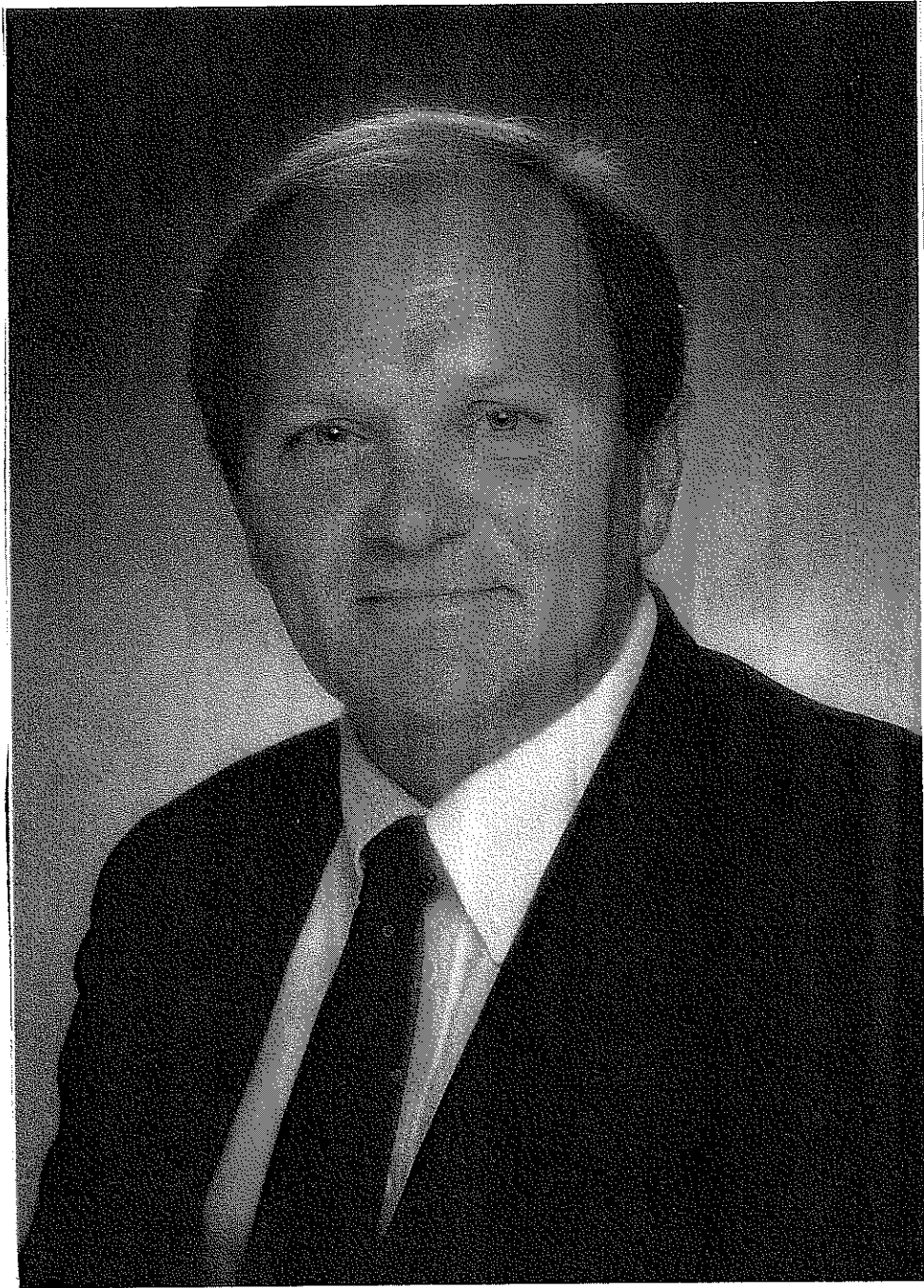
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**TRI COUNTY VOLKSWAGEN**



Tom Creamer lettered in three sports, baseball, basketball, and football at Ludlow High School.

He began his coaching career at Russell High School as assistant coach of basketball and football. He then became head coach at Beechwood High School, where he coached basketball and football (1966-68). In addition to Beechwood, he also served as head boys' basketball coach at Maysville High School (1968-74), Danville (1974-75), Shelby County (1975-87), Bishop Brossart (1990-92), and Louisville Holy Cross (1992-94), compiling a 455-224 record.

During his time at Maysville, his teams won 2 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships, and reached the State Semi-finals once.

In the twelve years spent at Shelby County, they won 12 District Championships, 5 Regional Championships, and reached the State Semi-finals two times. In 1978 his team won an exciting 68-66 overtime victory to claim the State Basketball Championship.

In 1994 Coach Creamer made a career change to girls' basketball. At Assumption High School, during the years 1994-2005 his teams won 8 District Championships, 2 Regional Championships, and 1 Runner-up State Championship (1999). He retired from there with a record of 210-66. Also, while at Assumption, he coached the golf team several years and won the Girls' State Golf Championship in 2003.

During his career as head basketball coach, it was Tom's privilege to serve as coach of the KY East/West All-Star Game, Kentucky/Indiana All-Star Game, and the Derby Classic.

