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## NOLAN BARGER BIO

Nolan Malcus Barger was born on December 24, 1944 to Malcus and Cleo Barger.

He grew up in Scottsburg, Indiana and attended Johnson Elementary School and Scottsburg High School.

Nolan was active in sports. He played basketball and was a pitcher on the baseball team.

He was a Boy Scout.

Nolan achieved scholastically and was named on the Honor Roll.

He was popular and was elected Senior Prom King.

Nolan graduated from High School in 1963 and was accepted to attend college at Transylvania University on an Athletic Scholarship. He played under coaches C.M. Newton, Lee Rose and Roland Wierwille. Nolan was known as a tenacious rebounder and fierce competitor.

((Newton SOT))

new 212

Upon graduation in 1967, he accepted a position as a Special Education teacher at Paris High School. It was also the site of his first coaching position. Nolan was an Assistant Coach under Earl Redwine.

And on August 11, 1968, Nolan married Beverly Jordan from Paris.

The next year, the young couple moved to Lexington, where Nolan accepted a teaching position at Tates Creek Junior High. He was also an assistant coach under Louis Stout at Tates Creek High School.

In 1970, Nolan moved to Tates Creek High School to teach Drivers Education.

In November of 1971, Nolan Barger became Head Basketball Coach at Tates Creek when Louis Stout was named a commissioner to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

His first two teams went to the finals of the 11<sup>th</sup> region.

((1973 Team SOT)))

new 343

Nolan was named Kentucky High School Coach of the Year in 1973 the same year he a Masters Degree from Eastern Kentucky University.

School; John Dyer, Head Coach at Johnson City High School in Tennessee; Scott Cromwell, Head Girls Basketball Coach at Henry Clay High School; Keith Galloway, Head Coach at Lexington Christian High School; Brian Miller, Head Coach at Hancock County High School; Mike Wilson, Assistant Coach at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, Ohio; Dom Fucci, Head Baseball Coach at Tates Creek High School; Brian Lane, Assistant Coach at Morehead State and now Head Coach at Transylvania University; Ben DeVary, Assistant Coach for several years at the college level; Darrin Horn, Assistant Coach at Marquette University and now Head Coach at Western Kentucky University; Vince Taylor, Assistant Coach at the University of Louisville and now at the University of Minnesota.

Honors: 1<sup>st</sup> two years as head coach went to finals of 11<sup>th</sup> Region; Kentucky High School Coach of the Year in 1973; Kentucky All-Star Assistant Coach to Jock Sutherland 1974; Kentucky Derby Festival Coach 1974; Head Coach Kentucky All-Star 1975; Kentucky Coach of the Year 1991; Tates Creek High School State Runner-Up in State Tournament 1991. President of Fayette County Coaches Association 1988-89; Transylvania Pioneer Hall of Fame 2002; Kentucky Association of Basketball Coaches 2006 Coaches Court of Honor.

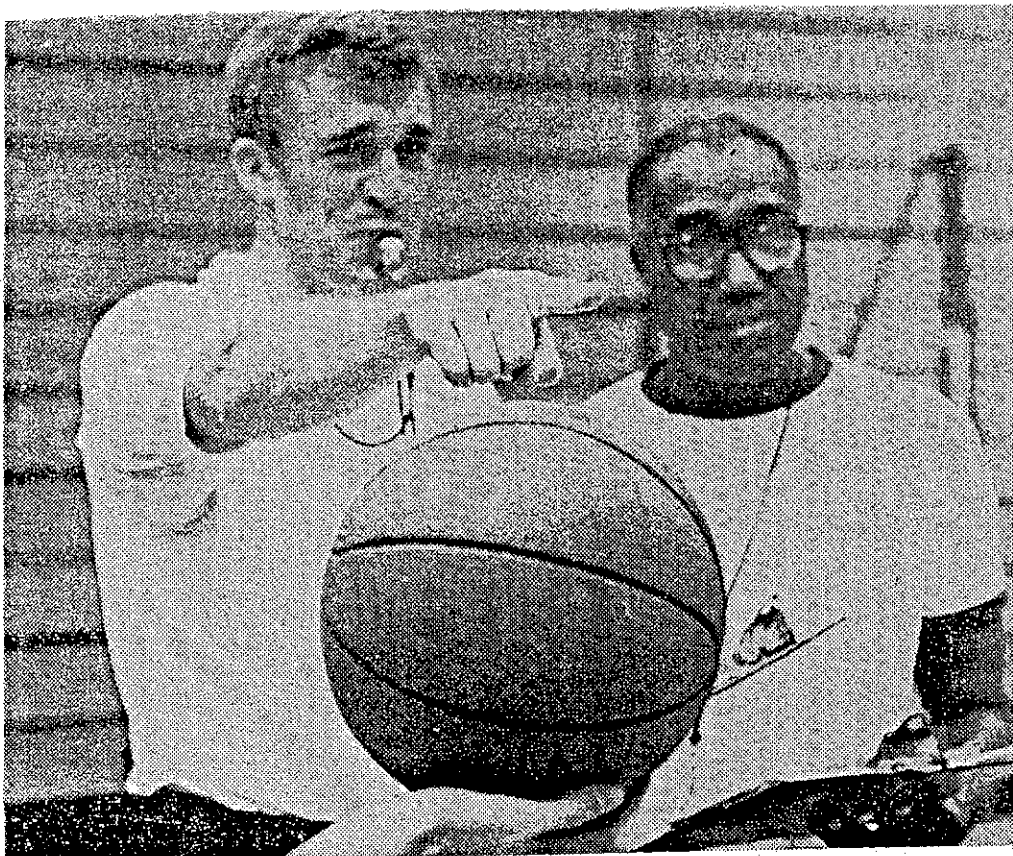
1. Win-Loss Record 540-265 over 28 year period
2. 25 Winning Seasons
3. 69 All City Players
4. 44 All State Players
5. 8 Kentucky All Star Selections
6. 1 Mr. Basketball
7. 5 High School All Americans

Future Plans: Work as Real Estate Appraiser; travel.



**N A M E D   H E A D  
B A S K E T B A L L   C O A C H**

Nolan Barger, formerly of Paris, has been named as the head basketball coach at Tates Creek High School in Lexington, succeeding Louis Stout, who has been named as assistant commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association. Barger has been the assistant coach at Tates Creek. His elevation to the head coaching job has just been announced by the Fayette County Board of Education. Barger formerly taught at Paris High School and was an assistant athletic coach at the school. He is married to the former Beverly Jordan of Paris.



**WATCH THE BALL** — Bates Creek coach Nolan Barger (left) points out instructions at a Commodore practice. Along with him is Bates Creek assistant coach W. A. West. Barger was recently named the Commodores head coach when former mentor Louis Stout took a post with the KHSAA. (Staff Photo by Bill Hickey).

# Barger Doesn't Plan To Make Big Changes At TC

By **STUART WARNER**

Put yourself in Nolan Barger's position...

Less than two weeks ago, the start of the upcoming cage season rapidly approaching, the former Transylvania cager learned that he had been promoted from an assistant to the head coaching job at Bates Creek High School.

The position abruptly opened up when the Commodore coach Louis Stout was named an assistant to the commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association, in early November. Stout had been

got some quickness. Since we aren't very tall, I guess we'll have to have some speed."

Despite the presence of Lewis and Rawlings, Barger insisted that no one has a starting position, "locked up" for the Commodores season opener.

"I don't want anybody on the team to think that he is going to start right now," the youthful coach said. "And, I don't want any of the kids to feel like they haven't got a chance of starting at this point. So I can't name a starting five."

"And we can't depend on just two people," he added. "This



**NOLAN BARGER**  
Named TC Cage Coach

## Barger TC Coach

Nolan Barger has been named head basketball coach at Bates Creek High School, succeeding Louis Stout, who recently resigned to accept the post of assistant to KHSAA Commissioner Ted Sanford.

Barger served as an assistant to Stout last year, his first at Bates Creek. Prior to that he was an assistant coach under Earl Redwine at Paris High School.

Barger, a native of Scottsburg, Ind., graduated from Transylvania, where he played under both coaches C. M. Newton and Lee Rose.

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new 343

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# 1968 SHS Graduate Is 'Coach Of Year'

8/19/73

A 1968 Graduate of Spottsburg High School has been honored by his fellow high school basketball coaches in Kentucky, being named Coach of the Year by the Kentucky High School Coaches Association.

Nolan Barber, head basketball coach at Fates Creek



NOLAN BARBER

High School in Lexington recently received the honor. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Malous Barber of Rt. 2, Lexington, Indiana.

Although Barber's squad defeated top-ranked Bryan Station High School three times during the course of the season, injuries were instrumental in preventing the team from making it to the state tournament.

Two of the wins over Bryan Station came with a defensive standout sidelined by a knee injury, but the situation was compounded when the team's leading scorer suffered a back injury in the district tournament.

sketball game set for April 28 at Freedom Hall

# I'll be Kentuckiana vs. the U.S. in

By MICHAEL FLOOD  
Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer  
Rein, a salesman for radio station  
has sold the Derby Festival Com.  
on the idea of holding a Derby  
all Classic which will pit the 10  
Kentucky and Indiana high school  
against the 10 best seniors from  
of the country.

game, patterned after Pennsyl-  
annual Dapper Dan Classic will  
of Derby Festival Week on April  
9 a.m. at Freedom Hall.  
n't take all the credit for this  
said Rein. "Many other people  
en helpful in getting the details  
merous other problems worked  
take it possible."

Kentucky high school coaches  
in selected to coach the Kentucky  
and U.S. All-Stars.

Barger, the Kentucky high  
coach of the year from Tate  
High School in Lexington, and  
Graves of Louisville Central will  
coach of the Kentuckiana players.  
All-Stars will be guided by Sixth  
Coach of the Year Lonnie Wil-  
of Butler High and Eastern  
Ill Kercher.

coaches are very excited about

being involved in an event of this nature,"  
said Rein, who has been working on the  
idea for about a year. "This whole thing  
is really a natural for Kentucky and  
Indiana because of the pride each state  
holds for its caliber of basketball. We  
have some of the top talent in the country  
lined up to be here and only the best  
from the Dapper Dan. We'll be releasing  
the rosters early next week."

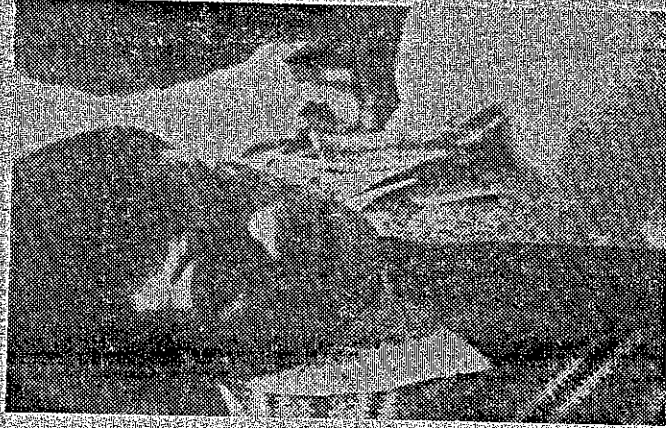
Rein continued:

"The advantage that the Derby Classic  
will have over the Dapper Dan is that it's  
after the date (April 9th) that a player  
has to sign his national letter of intent,  
so with that done and over with there will  
be no pressures about recruiting or trying  
to sign a kid."

"I feel it will be a great success be-  
cause it is past time that something was  
done in this state and Indiana to promote  
the high school player on a national  
level. After seeing the best players from  
other states you wonder if the people  
here know just how good our high school  
boys are."

"To give the classic a Derby flavor,"  
said Rein, "instead of presenting a most  
valuable player trophy, we will institute  
an annual Pegasus Trophy to be given  
to the most outstanding player."

Information about tickets for the game  
may be obtained at Founders Square,  
Fifth and Walnut streets.



ROBERT GRAVES, Central  
They'll handle the Kentucky-Indiana stars.





## Tates Creek's Nolan Barger (249)

**Nolan Barger, Tates Creek:** If there is a thinking man's coach, it's Barger. He sees basketball as a conduit to life. If young people approach the game properly, they can develop "good character traits" such as honesty, responsibility and unselfishness.

"Of course we strive to win," he said. "But more importantly we use basketball as a teaching situation where kids learn to sacrifice for the good of the group."

"Basketball is a situation where you can't bring 20 kids into a program every year and create a Utopia. There are going to be hard times. But if the kids learn that things aren't always going to go their way, and they can survive the discouraging times, they're going to benefit from the experience."

Barger, 39, is now in his 13th season at Tates Creek with a record of 249-102. Over the years he has made a "concerted effort" to change his style of coaching.

"It's not that I'm more strict or less strict," he said. "But rather I've transferred more responsibility to the players. You can want your kids to do well, but if they don't take the responsibility to carry out what you're teaching

them, then it's not going to fly. I make more of an effort now to get the kids to accept that responsibility."

But the most important lesson Barger teaches deals with priorities. The Commodore coach wants each of his players to put family, church and school ahead of basketball.

"And when they are involved in basketball," he said, "we stress the importance of hard work. That's one thing I know carries over into life."

Despite all of the success Tates Creek has enjoyed, Barger still has one goal unfulfilled. The Commodores have never been to the State Tournament.

"That's a disappointment," he said, "because that is one measure of success. All you can do is keep working hard and maybe it will come someday."

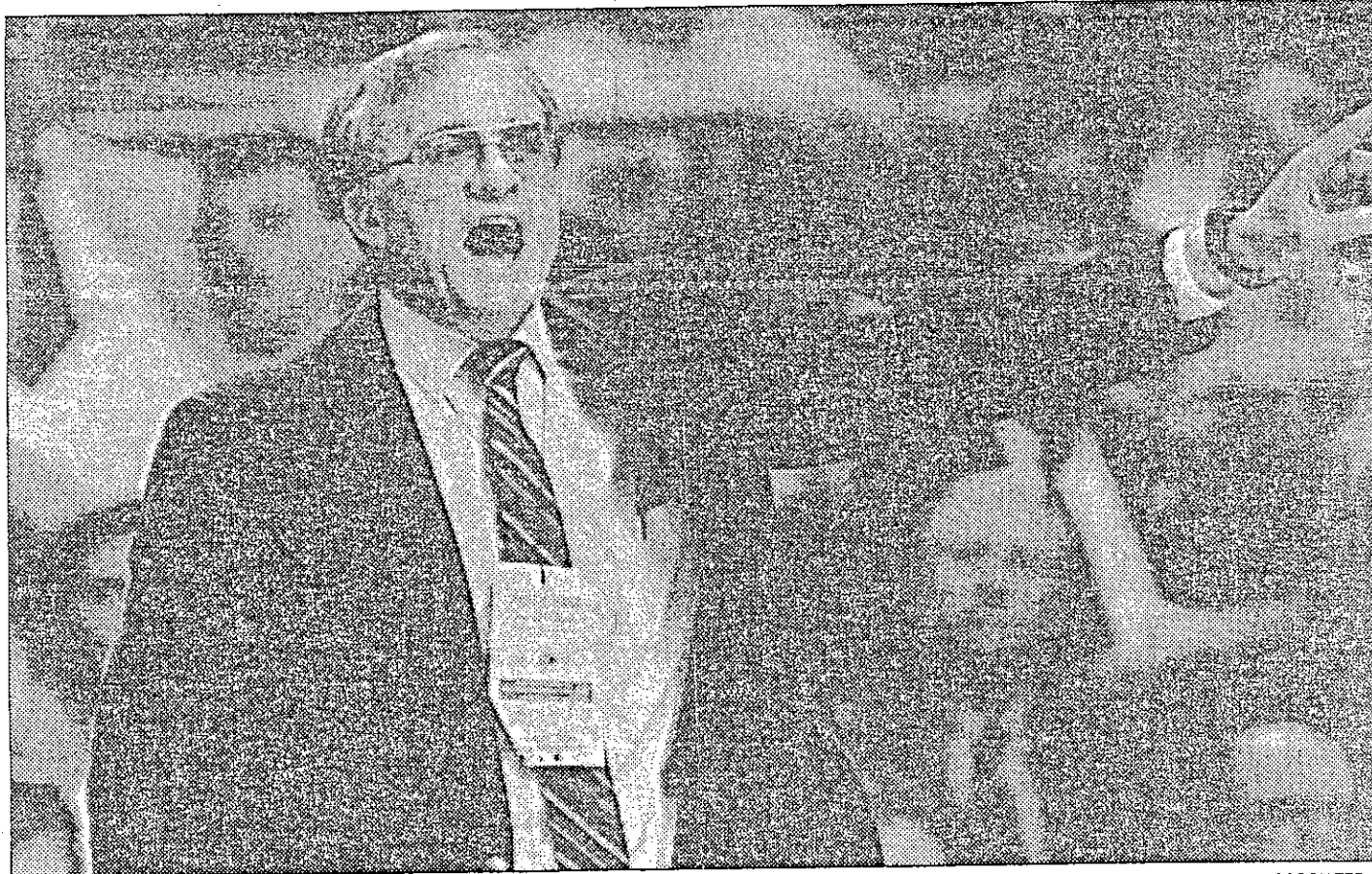


# **BOYS' BASKETBALL COACH OF THE YEAR**



Voted Coach of the Year by peers, Tates Creek's Nolan Barger said: "I just thank my kids. They've given all they've had."

ASSOCIATED PRESS



ASSOCIATED P

Voted Coach of the Year by peers, Bates Creek's Nolan Barger said: "I just thank my kids. They've given all they've ha

**HOW COACHES VOTED**

- 1. Nolan Barger, Bates Creek . . . . . 39
- 2. Steve Dreher, Paducah Tilghman . . . . . 12
- 3. Billy Ray Reynolds, Scott County . . . . . 8
- 4. Stan Hardin, Fairdale . . . . . 6
- 5. Mike Deaton, Caverna . . . . . 4

**THREE VOTES:** Kirk Chiles, Lyon County; Glenn Drury, Anderson County; Dean Hobbs, Brackinridge County; Jim Hurt, Trimble County; Ralph Johnson, Louisville Central; Bobby Keith, Clay County; Al Prawitt, Henry Clay; Harvey Tackett, Jenkins; Steve Wright, Laurel County.

**TWO VOTES:** Steve Gilliam, Webster County; Tony Hopper, Muhlenberg, North; Tris Kingston, Franklin-Simpson; Mark Peeler, Kentucky Country Day; Dinky Phipps, Barbourville; Mike Reitz, Harrison County; Ernon Simpson, Bowling Green; Jimmy Voight, Pineville; Howard Wallan, Jr., Pikeville.

**ONE VOTE:** Steve Appleman, Maysville; Charles Baker, East Carter; Joa Bergamini, St. Xavier; Ron Bavars, North Hardin; Bob Blackburn, Bullitt East; Mike Flynn, Covington Holmes; Gary Forrest, Oldham County; Gary French, Elizabethtown; Daryl Hallmark, Hopkinsville; Danny Haney, Lexington Catholic; Billy Hicks, Corbin; Raymond Justice, Belfry; Champ Ligon, Atherton; Donald Moore, Jackson County; Gary Moore, Franklin County; Steve Riley, Barren County; Bart Rison, Montgomery County; Bill Mike Runyon, Paintsville; Brad Stanley, Ohio County; J.D. Strange, Bell County; John Tinsley, Hancock County; Johnny Ray Turner, McDowell; Bobby Washington, Bryan Station; Keith Young, Adair County; Roger Zornes, Boyd County.

**Coach of the Year winners**

1946 — Bobby Laughlin, Brackinridge Training; 1947 — Earle Jones, Maysville; 1948 — McCoy Tarry, Brawers; 1949 — Letcher Norton, Clark County; 1950 — Ralph Carlisle, Lafayette.  
 1951 — Dale Barnstable, Manual; 1952 — Norton, Clark County; 1953 — George Conley, Ashland; 1954 — Deimas Gish, Central City; 1955 — John Burr, Adair County; 1956 — Bill Carter, Heath; 1957 — John Bill Trivette, Pikeville; 1958 — Norton, Clark County; 1959 — Charlie Lamprey, North Marshall; 1960 — Jim Morris, Flagg.  
 1961 — Bob Wright, Ashland; 1962 — Elmer Baldy Gibb, Henry Clay; 1963 — Morton Combs, Carr Creek; 1964 — Gene Rhodes, Male High; 1965 — Bill Harrell, Shelby County; 1966 — Harrell, Shelby County; 1967 — Bob Fox, Earlington; 1968 — Jim Richards, Glasgow; 1969 — Bob Graves, Louisville Central; 1970 — Gary Schaffer, Pleasure Ridge Park.  
 1971 — Jack Upchurch, Anderson County; 1972 — Ray Vencil, Elizabethtown; 1973 — Bob Barlow, Bryan

# In career of frustrations, Barger pursues greater goals than championship

By BOB WHITE  
Staff Writer

Nolan Barger's philosophy of coaching is: "If winning a championship is the only thing that motivates you, then you'd better get out."

Barger went through 19 seasons as head boys' basketball coach at Bates Creek High School in Lexington without winning the 11th Region Tournament, then hit the jackpot on his 20th try this season.

Even then, Bates Creek didn't reach its ultimate goal, losing to defending champion Fairdale 67-63 in the State Tournament final.

Still, head coaches across Kentucky have held Barger in high esteem over the years, and now they have voted him The Courier-Journal's Coach of the Year.

"That's the best way to get it," Barger said of the selection method. "It's so nice, but the real reason you get it is your kids. I just thank my kids. They've given all they've had."

Barger, 46, won by a landslide, receiv-

more votes, with 149 of the state's head coaches voting.

Hardin, whose team became the first to win back-to-back titles in 20 years, placed second to Gary French of Elizabethtown in last year's voting.

Despite the loss to Fairdale, Bates Creek enjoyed its finest season in 19 years, finishing 33-6 overall, including a 12-0 mark against Lexington teams.

The Commodores, ranked No. 1 in the Courier's Litkenhous Ratings most of the season, lost to Fairdale twice, but snapped the Bulldogs' 25-game winning streak with a 71-62 victory Dec. 22 in the King of the Bluegrass Tournament.

"Kyle Macy (the former University of Kentucky star and a good friend of mine) once told me he played on only one true team (UK's 1978 NCAA champion) in his career," Barger said. "My team (Bates Creek) came closest to the true meaning of team than any I've coached. The players were so void of jealousy. They all have a firm faith (in God).

Barger, who was head coach of the Kentucky All-Stars in 1974, has a 20-

# Tales Creek epitomized concept of 'team'

Barger was fumbling for the words yesterday morning at the Tales Creek Basketball Tournament to put something intangible in terms, knowing full well it would be done.

He may not even know what "team" means, but he said finally, "But if you were riding on our team, you'd know what it's all about. It's talking about togetherness, unity, two of sports' overused words. But Barger was right. TALES CREEK lost in the

## John Clay

Herald leader  
sports writer



championship game of the Boys' State Tournament last night at Rupp Arena. The Commodores hit but 39 percent from the floor. Parade proved his mettle, holding on down the stretch to become the first team in two decades to repeat as state champs, ending the

Creek's dream four points short 67-63. But when it was over, not a head hung on the Tales Creek bench, not a tear was shed.

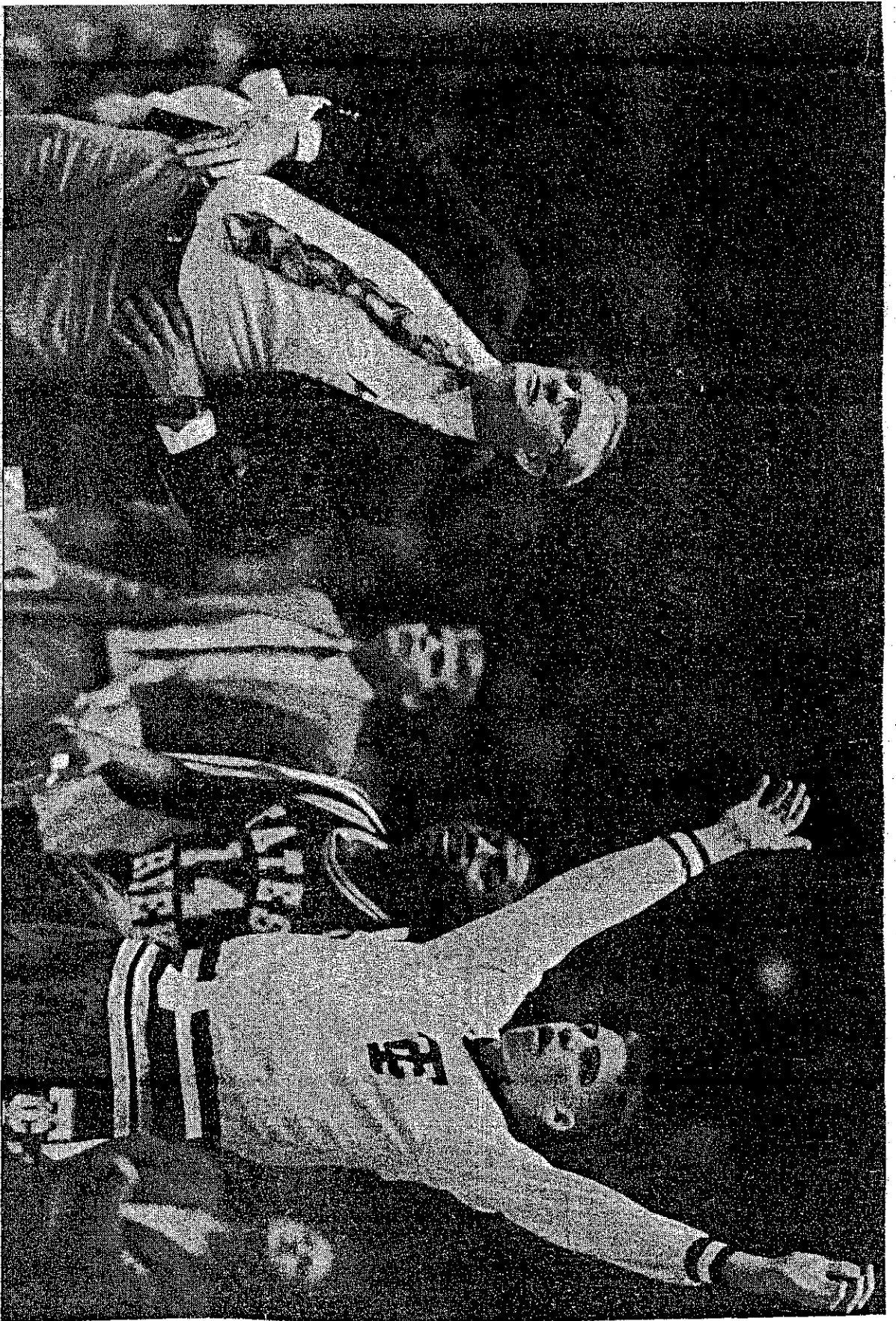
"We gave everything we had," said Darrin Horn. "Tonight just didn't happen to be our night. We did all we could."

They did. If, as coaches like to say, there is no "it" in team, call them Team Creek. There was no major marquee star among these Commodores, no prominent Mr. Basketball candidate, no high school All-American.

THEY WEREN'T a tall team, either big or evenly athletic. Horn and John Mark Stuart were the two tallest Creekers, each 6-foot-4. The rest were 6-2 or smaller. All were sort of stockily built with their grubby, black shoes and their short haircuts. Clean-cut eyes.

They played that way, too. Tales Creek was the third largest school in the tournament at 1,182 students. State Tournament fans usually locate the big schools. But these guys were different.

Please see **CLAY**, D4



John Barger, in his 20th year at Tates Creek, screams less now, but he insists he hasn't mellowed.

Herald-leader/Charles Bennett

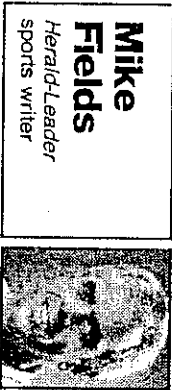
**Creekers' Barger still principled,  
and he's in the Sweet 16, too**



# 'Preekers' Barger still principled, and he's in the Sweet 16, too

He long ago established himself as one of the finest high school basketball coaches in Kentucky, but it is just 72 hours ago that Nolan Barger was finally suitably rewarded for his honorable efforts.

When Bates Creek won the 11th men title Saturday night in Memorial Coliseum, earning its first title in 16 years, Barger did not stand on the bench in crazed jubilation, nor did he slump back in his seat and weep tears of joy. He stood up, gazed at the scoreboard, and then he smiled. It was as if to make sure it had really happened after 20 years of coaching, he politely applauded his players, and then accepted hugs, hand-



**Mike Fields**  
Herald-Leader  
sports writer

shakes and slaps on the back with a smile.

Barger finally loosened up a bit when he donned a championship cap and t-shirt, and snipped down the net. But go bonkers? That's not Barger's style. On the court he is an intense man, a disciplined man, a serious man.

THAT'S ALL right. He's also a helluva basketball coach. And more important, he's a basketball

coach who would never take a timeout from his principles to win any game or tournament title.

Oh, sure, over the years some players' parents have asked Barger to loosen his tight grip and allow more fun to flow through his program. But no one has ever doubted his intentions of instilling kids with discipline and a good attitude on and off the court.

His fellow coaches appreciate that, too.

Throughout this entire season, with Bates Creek ablaze with success, Barger's name has come up often among his peers. Even right here in his own highly competitive

Please see **FIELDS, C3**



Herald-Leader/Charles Berttram  
Barger got a victory hug after his team won the 11th Region.

# FIELDS: Barger's trip to Sweet 16 is well deserved

From Page C1

city, just before the district tournament, a rival coach said: "If I can't win it, I hope Nolan finally does. He deserves it."

It's been a long time coming.

Just before the 1971-72 season began, Louis Stout stepped down as Creekers coach and Barger took over. He was a quick study as head man. All he did was lead the Commodores to the region finals where they lost a close game to Bryan Station and star Jack Givens.

**BARGER WAS** pleased to make it that far in his inaugural season, but he also had an inkling that it might not be easy to get over the hump and into the Sweet Sixteen.

"I thought, 'Well, we got close this first year,'" he said. "But I also had a feeling that we probably needed to go ahead and get (a regional title) when we had the chance."

The Creekers had a chance the very next year with what Barger considered one of his finest teams. Bryan Station, still led by Givens, lost only three times that season. The Commodores inflicted all three losses, including a first-round knockout in the district tournament.

But fate wasn't on the Creekers' side. During the season they lost their leading scorer, Sky With, to a knee injury. In the post-season they lost Doug Farrell, who had taken over as their leading scorer, to a back injury.

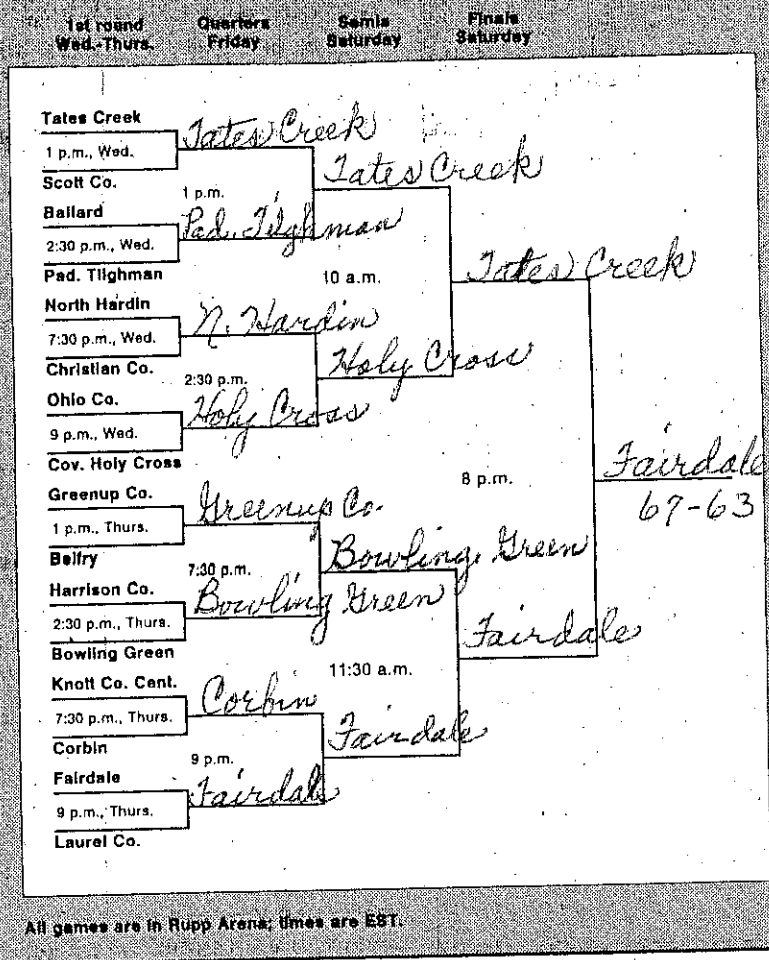
The Commodores fought their way to the regional finals again, but came up short against Henry Clay and James Lee.

"Losing Sky and Doug was too much," Barger said. "It'd be like losing Darrin Horn and John Mark Stuart off this year's team. It was very disappointing."

The Creekers, even with such talented players as Tyrone Dunn, Dom Fucci and Vince Taylor, wouldn't come close again for 10 years. When they finally made it back to the region finals in 1983, they were up against a state championship-bound Henry Clay team that included Steve Miller and Jeff Blandon.

Another opportunity presented itself in 1985. The city rivals were out of the picture, but still standing

## Boys' Sweet Sixteen



ever.

**THEN ALONG** came a special group of sophomores who would eventually reward Barger with a trip to the state tournament. Horn, Stuart, Robbie Boone, Bill Henderson, Paul Burchett and Chris O'Bryan were joined the next year by transfer Keith Willard. As seniors they would go 12-0 against Lexington competition, a remarkable achievement.

It is nobody's imagination that these Creekers are playing a freer, looser style of basketball, and that Barger is less strident on the sidelines.

A former Commodore player watched his alma mater warm up before the regional finals marveled about Barger's three-point offense and pressing defense, and commented how he would have loved to have played that way a few years ago.

Has Barger mellowed?

"I have not mellowed," Barger said. "That may be the perception, but it's not true. I don't get up and scream and holler as much as I used to, but it's just that I've found that's not always the most effective means."

tioning techniques, and he has become more receptive to the kids' opinions and concerns.

**BUT ONE** thing he hasn't changed is his insistence that players do things right, whether it's setting a pick or hitting the books.

"The biggest thing I feel that has helped us over the years is that we've stopped assuming that kids know the difference between a good attitude and a bad attitude," Barger said. "So we try to teach that daily."

That's the bottom line on Nolan Barger's coaching career. He would rather be remembered as a teacher of principles than a winner of games.



# Proclamation

by

Scotty Baesler

Mayor

## Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government

*To All To Whom These Presents Shall Come:*

*WHEREAS, The Tates Creek High School Commodores basketball team has spent many hours practicing and perfecting their skills; and*

*WHEREAS, This team, their parents and sponsors have dedicated themselves to a high level of skill and knowledge in the area of basketball; and*

*WHEREAS, The Tates Creek High School basketball team has a season record of 34 wins and 6 losses, posting 12 wins and no losses in city competitions; and*

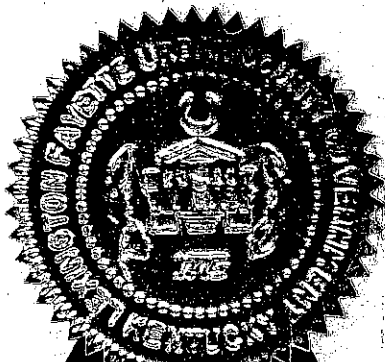
*WHEREAS, The Tates Creek High School basketball team has brought honor and recognition to their school and community by placing fourth in the Beach Ball Classic in Myrtle Beach, North Carolina, winning the King of the Bluegrass Tournament in Louisville, winning the 43rd District Tournament and the 11th Regional Championship; and*

*WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Head Coach Nolan Barger, the Tates Creek High School Boys Basketball Team was runner-up in the Sweet 16 Boys State High School Basketball Tournament.*

*NOW, THEREFORE, I, Scotty Baesler, Mayor of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, March 19, 1991 as:*

**TATES CREEK HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM DAY**

*and urge the community to congratulate them in recognition of their achievements.*



*Scotty Baesler*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scotty Baesler, Mayor

# COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY



## WALLACE G. WILKINSON

GOVERNOR

To all to Whom These Presents Shall Come, Greeting:

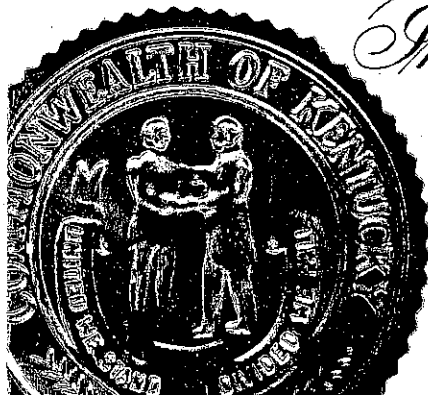
*Know Ye, That*

HONORABLE NOLAN BARGER, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

*Is Commissioned A*

### KENTUCKY COLONEL

*I hereby confer this honor with all the rights,  
privileges and responsibilities thereunto  
appertaining.*



*In testimony whereof, I have caused these letters to be man-  
dated, and the seal of the Commonwealth to be hereunto, as  
fixed. Done at Frankfort, the 19TH day of APRIL  
in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred, and 91  
and in the one hundred, and 99TH year of the Commonwea*



**BASKETBALL**

# Creekers nip Lafayette 50-49 as Barger reaches 450th win

**BY MIKE FIELDS**

HERALD LEADER STAFF WRITER

Tates Creek basketball Coach Nolan Barger earned his 450th career victory as his Commodores squeezed past visiting Lafayette 50-49 last night.

And, yes, Barger *earned* this one with the sweat of his brow.

His Creekers blew an eight-point lead down the stretch, went ahead on Jason Worley's free throw with 27 seconds left, then dodged a couple of Lafayette shots as the game ended.

"That was a good 450th," Barger said. "It was worth the price. I was disappointed with how we handled the ball when we had that eight-point lead, but we survived."

Barger, who has an overall record of 450-203 in 23 years, saw his Creekers improve to 13-11 overall and 2-4 in the district.

Andy Browning, a 6-foot-5 senior, led the winners with 15 points and seven rebounds. He was especially effective in the second half with 11 points and five boards.

"I was just out of it in the first half," he said. "Coach Barger told me to settle down and not get frustrated, so I went out and did a little better."

Bryan Dollins had nine points

and Kevin Poe added eight for the Commodores, who had lost twice to Lafayette earlier this season.

Three weeks ago Lafayette won 60-51 as Prince Johnson's 25 points and 12 rebounds wrecked Tates Creek's man-to-man defense.

So Barger tried a zone last night, and it limited the 6-5 junior point guard to 10 points.

Lafayette, losing its fifth straight game, dropped to 12-8 overall and 1-5 in the district.

"I'm at a loss to explain all the things that are happening to us," Coach Donnie Harville said. "We're playing good basketball teams that are deserving to win, but then we're not getting the breaks and not shooting well. Maybe it's fate."

Lafayette struggled offensively last night. It needed nearly five minutes to get its first field goal, and it went more than five minutes without a point in the third quarter.

Tates Creek used that second drought to score 10 consecutive points and take a 36-26 lead. The hosts eventually led by 12 and seemed comfortably ahead at 47-39 with 1:30 left.

But the Generals rallied. Bill Wheeler's three-point play cut the deficit to 47-42, and after a Rico Blanton steal, Billy Mayes hit two free throws to make it 47-44.

Brad Burchett countered with a pair of foul shots for Tates Creek, but Johnson's put-back made it 49-46.

Tates Creek then failed to inbound the ball in five seconds, giving Lafayette possession, and Johnson hit a three-pointer from the corner to tie it with 32 seconds left.

The Commodores' superior rebounding paid off when Browning missed the front end of the bonus with 29 seconds remaining and Worley rebounded.

He was fouled when he tried for a put-back. The 6-8 senior missed the first free throw, but cashed the second with 27 seconds left.

After calling a timeout with nine seconds left, Lafayette got the ball to Johnson outside. He worked his way into the lane and missed an off-balanced shot. After a scramble on the floor for the rebound, teammate Robert Pankins came up with the ball but he missed a desperation shot just ahead of the buzzer.

**LAFAYETTE (49)** — Johnson 4-12 0-0 10; Mayes 4-8 3-3 11; Blanton 2-3 0-0 5; Pankins 3-9 0-0 6; Wheeler 2-4 2-4 8; Pollitt 4-7 0-0 9; Case 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 20-46 57-49.

**TATES CREEK (50)** — Burchett 2-4 2-2 6; Bush 0-2 4-4; Browning 6-11 3-4 15; Poe 3-5 0-0 8; Dollins 4-7 1-2 9; Greer 1-2 0-0 2; Worley 1-3 1-2 3; Mitchell 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 19-35 11-14 50.

**Lafayette** . . . . . 11 13 4 21 — 49

**Tates Creek** . . . . . 15 11 12 12 — 50

**Three-point shooting:** Lafayette 4-9 (Johnson 2-6, Blanton 1-1, Pollitt 1-3); Tates Creek 3-6 (Poe 2-2, Mitchell 1-1, Dollins 0-3). **Records:** Lafayette 12-8; Tates Creek 13-11.

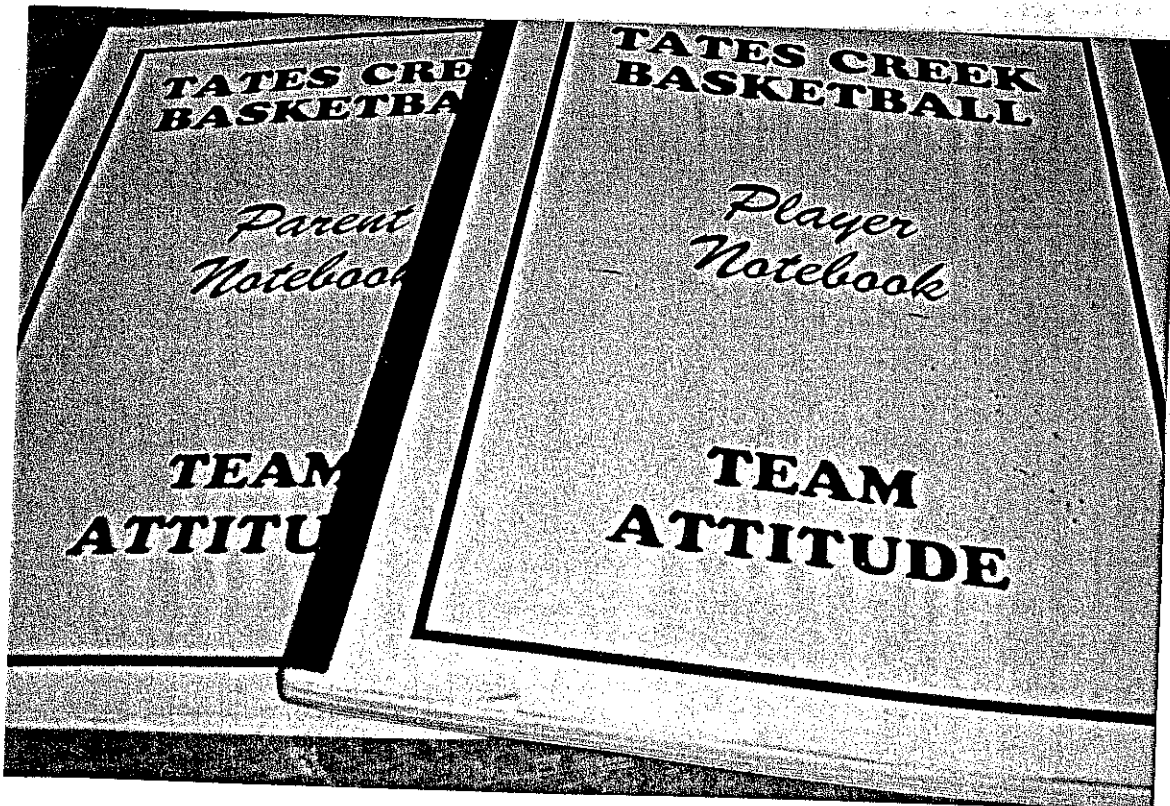
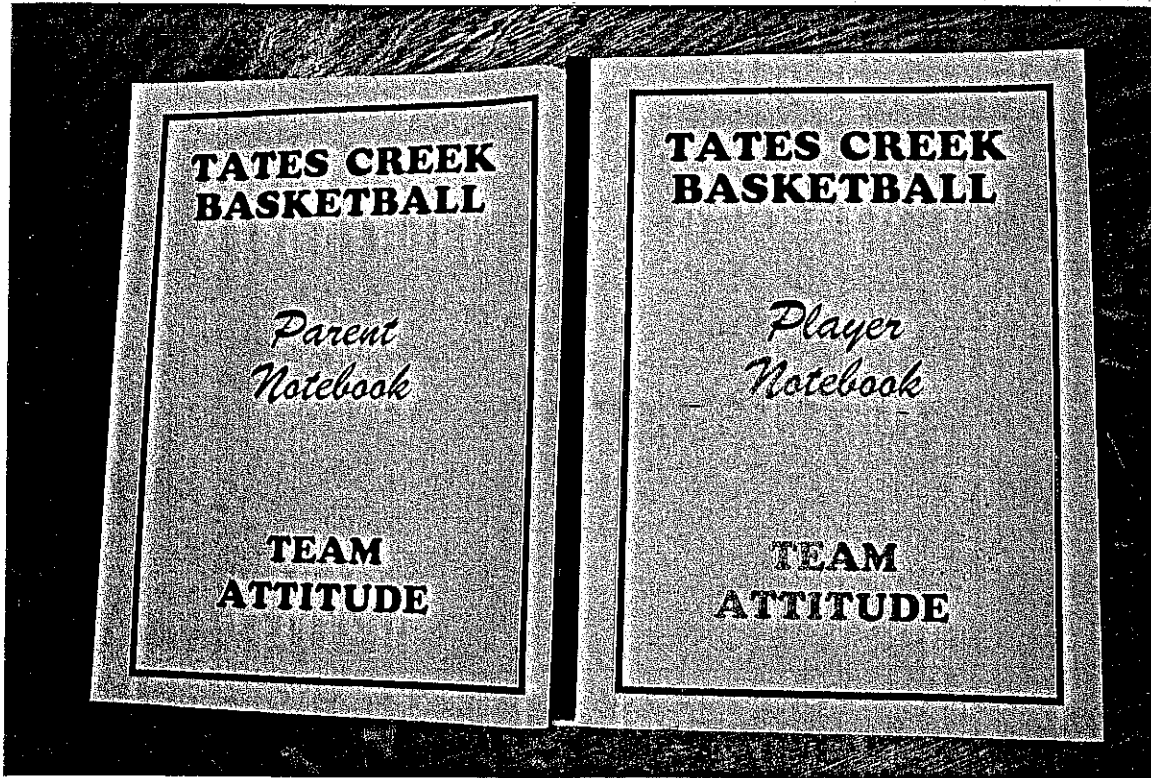
Coach Barger not only produced an annual updated statistics book and player notebook, but also a parent notebook.

In his letter of recommendation for Coach Barger, Kyle Macy mentioned the Tates Creek Basketball Parent Notebook that he thought was so beneficial it should be read by every high school coach.

Coach Barger stated in his notebook---"In this Notebook I will attempt to explain our philosophy of not only basketball, but also of the all important fundamentals of life. I believe that there are three areas that are essential for us to develop as we try to become better people every day: (1) **The Physical** (2) **The Mental** (3) **The Spiritual**. Therefore, we will cover all three areas in our system of teaching our basketball program."

Coach Barger made and showed a parent video to the Tates Basketball parents to help them understand the philosophy of his program. He also asked to visit each home to provide information and allow questions or concerns, During this visit, he presented research information about youth sports participation, coping with fear, the power of criticism, right and wrong attitudes, nutrition, relationship skills, effective motivation approaches and other topics important to sports participation and life in general.

Coach Barger not only encouraged open communication with his players, he also had an open door policy with parents and encouraged them to reach him at home if they couldn't come to school at the time he was available.



HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

# Barger hoops historian in residence at

Nolan Barger is the first to admit that he's wacky about basketball, specifically Tates Creek basketball. Run into him in the hardware store in July and he's wearing his maroon Commodores wind suit and talking about how his Creekers will stack up in city hoops next season.

How does a man put such an obsession to work for the greater good? He sits at his computer for 50 hours a week for five months to create a detailed history of his basketball program.

Barger, who has won 474 games in 25 years as head coach of the Commodores, has put together a book on each boys' basketball team since the school opened in 1965. Working from old rosters, scorebooks and statistics sheets that he dutifully kept over the years, Barger input all the information from senior awards to cheerleaders to every shot, turnover and rebound by the varsity, junior varsity and freshman teams.

He also found old photos and had them scanned. The result — everything you always wanted to know about Tates Creek basketball but were afraid to ask.

"I did it all for the kids who played here," Barger said. "It was an awful lot of work, but now that it's done it'll be easy to stay on top of by just updating it every season."

Barger used a computer program developed by **Tilden Poe**, the father of a former Creekers player. Poe is now marketing the program to other schools.

## High school notebook



Mike Fields covers high school sports for the Herald-Leader. This article includes his opinions and observations.



# fortune 500

## Creek basketball coach earns landmark victory

By Mike Fields  
HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

It was nice that Bates Creek basketball coach Nolan Barger got his 500th career victory in the warm climes of a Florida holiday tournament earlier this week, far away from the snow and cold of Barger's old Kentucky home.

Heaven knows the man has earned a spot in the sunshine.

Now in his 27th season as coach of the Commodores, Barger is not one to relax and enjoy his accomplishments. His personality does not allow it.

Intensity, thy name is Nolan Barger. He brings his laser-like focus to whatever he does, whether it's teaching five history classes a day or teaching basketball. "It's like having two full-time jobs," he said. "But I can honestly say I still truly enjoy both of them after all these years."

And what does he make of winning 500 basketball games?

"It means I've endured," Barger said. "The people who've really won all those games are the kids."

Barger, being the fiercely competitive person that

See **BARGER, back page**



**Nolan Barger,** in his 27th season at Bates Creek, earned his 500th victory this week.

December 31, 1997 ★

Editor: Gene Abell  
Phone: (606) 231-3237  
Scores: To report a sports score call 231-3225 or toll-free at (888) 222-7026 after 5 p.m.

# Sports

LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

## BARGER: Known for overachieving

From **Page D1**  
he is, will admit to being prouder of the quality of victories than of the quantity.

"Coaching in Lexington means we've had to go against some of the best coaches and teams in the state," Barger said. "And we've managed to hold our own."

When Barger became Bates Creek's head basketball coach just weeks before the 1971-72 season, he took a look around town and knew he was walking into tall cotton. The coaches with whom he would be matching wits were some of the best in the business — Al Prewitt at Henry Clay, Bobby Barlow at Bryan Station, Jock Sutherland at Lafayette and Tommy Starns at Lexington Catholic.

"Really outstanding coaches," Barger said. "And here I was a young guy (25) knowing the teams they were coaching were our main competition in the region."

"But from the beginning, I felt confident that I could coach. Barger proved that: He guided the Commodores to the 11th Region finals in his first season. And even though it took him 20 years to get to the Sweet Sixteen, Barger's Bates Creek teams never have been undersold as an opponent.

"I found out quick that if you were going to beat Nolan's teams, you had to get to work early and stay late," said Prewitt, who knocked heads with Barger for at

and make a good team out of them. And when he had real good players, he made them a great team."

Over the years, some of the other city coaches have tired of Barger claiming to be short on talent. They point to players such as Vince Taylor, Dom Fucci (Mr. Basketball in 1975), Derrick Wilson, Larry Kopczyk, Tyrone Durr and Darrin Horn as evidence of Bates Creek's star quality.

"But I think it's fair to say that over the long haul, Nolan has had less talent to work with than Henry Clay, Lafayette and Bryan Station, and now Lexington Catholic and Dunbar," Prewitt said.

Barger's ability to get more out of less is in his system, which he says stresses character, attitude and fundamentals.

"I've been lucky, because for the most part, I've had good kids and good parents in our program," he said. "And I really believe that coaching in Lexington stretches you and stretches your team to be better. You've got to be, or you'll get killed."

The highlights of Barger's 500-win career are easy to pinpoint. The 1991 Commodores, led by Horn, went 12-0 against city competition on their way to a state runner-up finish. The 1973 Creekers beat Jack Givens-led Bryan Station three times — the only three losses the Defenders suffered that season. The 1979 Creekers upset unbeaten and eventual state champion Lafayette in the district finals. Barger, naturally, also has fond memories of the

## The record book

### Lexington's leaders

- Here is the list of winningest Lexington coaches by total victories:
- **654** — Al Prewitt (Henry Clay)
  - **528** — Bobby Barlow (Bryan Station)
  - **512** — S.T. Roach (Paul Dunbar)
  - **500** — Nolan Barger\* (Bates Creek)
  - **488** — Ralph Carlisle (Lafayette)
  - **465** — Jock Sutherland (Lafayette)
  - **372** — Tommy Starns (Catholic)

\*Barger is only active coach listed.

### Barger through the years

- Nolan Barger's record at Bates Creek:
- **1972** — 18-12 ■ **1986** — 13-11
  - **1973** — 23-8 ■ **1987** — 18-11
  - **1974** — 20-7 ■ **1988** — 10-16
  - **1975** — 18-10 ■ **1989** — 17-9
  - **1976** — 20-8 ■ **1990** — 19-8
  - **1977** — 18-5 ■ **1991** — 33-6
  - **1978** — 13-9 ■ **1992** — 21-14
  - **1979** — 23-8 ■ **1993** — 24-6
  - **1980** — 20-8 ■ **1994** — 19-14
  - **1981** — 24-6 ■ **1995** — 18-10
  - **1982** — 15-11 ■ **1996** — 10-17
  - **1983** — 25-7 ■ **1997** — 12-14
  - **1984** — 22-7 ■ **1998** — 7-3
  - **1985** — 20-11 ■ **Total: 500-256**

and screaming on the sidelines, it's hard to tell the man has mellowed any. But he admits he was nothing less than a tyrant in his early years and that he's refined (and quieted) his style as he's gotten older.

But the passion to teach — in the classroom and on the basketball court — is still there.

"When you get in 30 or 31 years of teaching, people assume that you're going to retire," said Barger, "and

# Barger reaches milestone

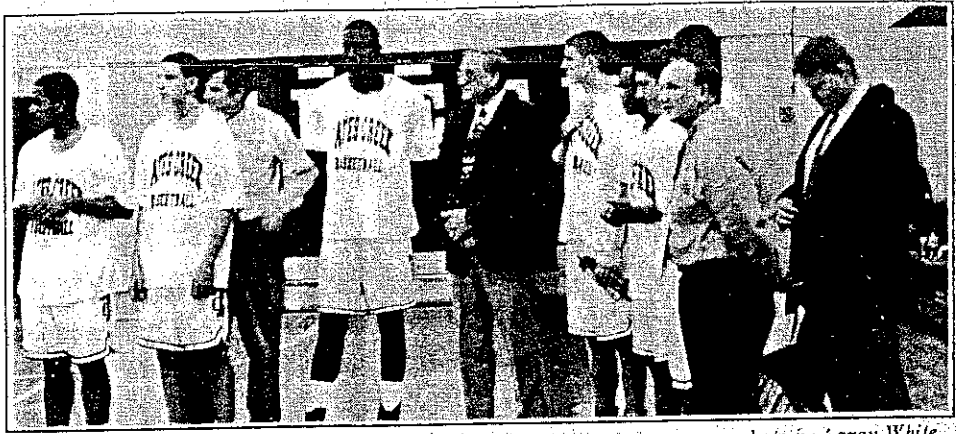


photo by Aaron White



## Fanfare, ceremony follow Barger's 500th win

by Aaron White

On December 29, in Estero, Florida, **Tates Creek's boys' basketball coach Nolan Barger** reached a major milestone in his 28 year coaching career winning his 500th game against Cape Coral High School.

Coach Barger had already amassed an impressive array of achievements during his years here at **Tates Creek**, including 69 All-City players, 44 All-State players, 8 players for the Kentucky All-Star Team, 1 Mr. Basketball for the state of Kentucky, 5 high school All-Americans, and in 1991 earning the runner-up honor in the Sweet 16.

"I've had the good fortune of having good kids," says Barger. Luckily for Creek, he has had good kids, who this year have a record of 10-3. "They're pretty decent," Barger laughed. "This region is very tough."

Though the region is very difficult, Barger has very little competition in the coaching community. His latest wins put him 4th on the all-time win list in Lexington. He is also the most winning active coach in Lexington with a record of 503-256.

Barger first began coaching at TC just two weeks before the 1971-1972 season.

career, as he led the Commodores all the way to the 11th Region championship. Coach Barger has been winning ever since.

Some Lexington media have speculated that his recent achievements may lead Barger to announce his retirement as an active coach. When asked, Barger told the Lexington-Herald Leader, "When you get in 30 or 31 years of teaching, people assume that you're going to retire. But right now, I'm not thinking that way. I'm

enjoying it as much as I ever did."

Barger's accomplishment was recognized by **Tates Creek's fans** in a ceremony preceding the Commodore's Jan. 25 game with Montgomery County. During the ceremony, Barger was honored by the administrators of **Tates Creek**.

He was also given a special basketball by the head of the High School Basketball Coaches Association commemorating his achievement.

After the presentation occurred, an appreciative crowd honored the coach with a prolonged standing ovation. Visibly moved, Barger accepted the token, and waved to the fans. His team responded well after this emotional moment, easily defeat-

**Barger's success**

- Career 503-256 record
- State Runner-up in 1991
- 4th in all-time wins in city
- 1st in wins among active coaches in city

In 1971, Coach Nolan Barger assumed his current position of Head Basketball Coach. Since then, he has amassed a record that is unsurpassed in Tates Creek history. Through Coach Barger's leadership, Tates Creek has developed into a program that is renowned and envied throughout Kentucky and the United States. Some of the accomplishments during this time have been:

- 23 winning seasons
- 69 All City Players
- 44 All State Players
- 8 Kentucky All Star Selections
- 1 Mr. Basketball
- 5 High School All Americans
- Twice Selected Kentucky "Coach of the Year"
- 1991 Runner Up in the State Tournament
- And one wife, Beverly Barger

On December 29, 1997, in Estero, Florida Coach Barger added one more achievement to this very impressive record. With a victory over Cape Coral High School in the consolation game of the Pepsi Great 8 Tournament, Coach Nolan Barger recorded his 500<sup>th</sup> victory. On behalf of all the past and present players, their parents, students and fans, we are happy to present Coach Nolan Barger with this commemorative game ball.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

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# BARGER: Coach enjoyed facing top city rivals

From Page C1

thinks the Commodores have a solid nucleus returning next season and an obvious coach to succeed him.

“I think it’d be a big mistake if they don’t go ahead and put Joe Covington in that position,” said Barger, referring to his top assistant the past four years. “The kids and the parents know Joe, and he knows the program, and nothing would be interrupted if he takes over as head coach. It’s the logical, most sensible thing to do.”

Whoever gets the job will have big shoes to fill.

Barger, who played college basketball at Transylvania, hit the ground running when he became Bates Creek coach in 1971, guiding the Commodores to the 11th Region finals that first season.

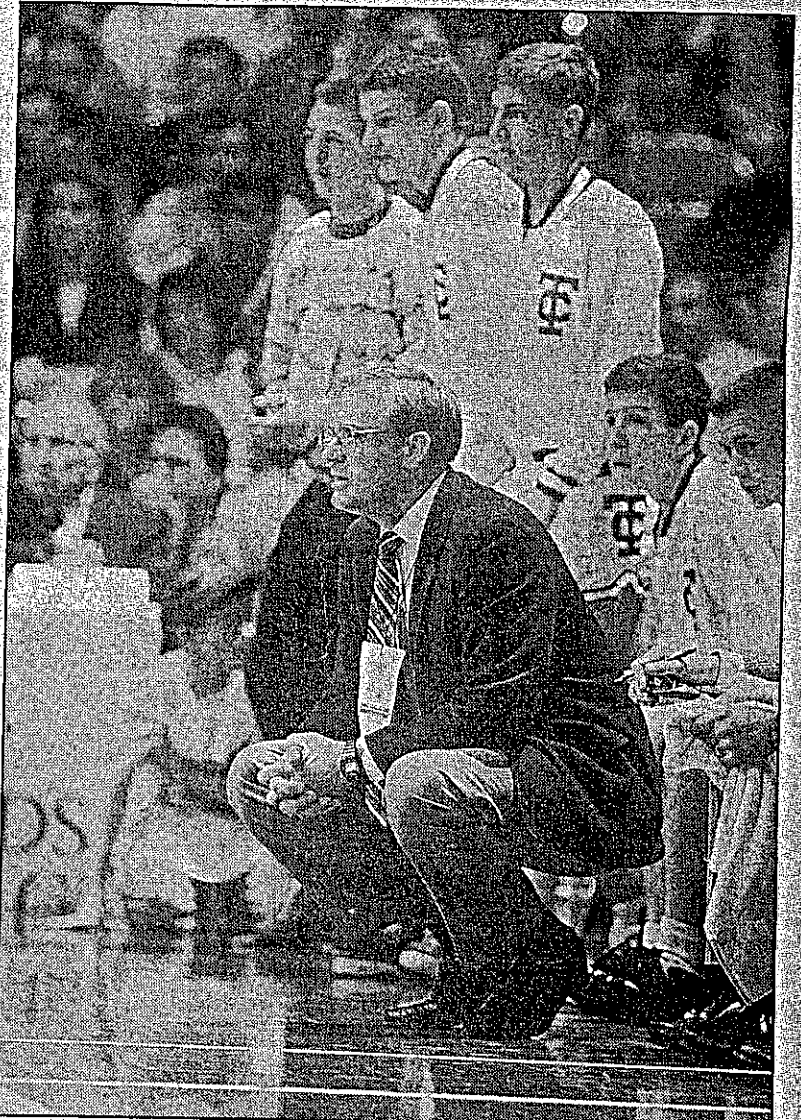
In his second year, Bates Creek handed the Jack Givens-led Bryan Station team its only three losses of the season.

And in 1979, the Commodores were responsible for the only defeat suffered by Lafayette’s state champs.

Barger made no secret that he relished the challenge of going up against the city’s high-powered coaches — Al Prewitt at Henry Clay, Bobby Barlow at Bryan Station and Jock Sutherland at Lafayette — and showing that his teams could compete with theirs.

“That was the golden age of high school basketball,” Barger said. “The coaches were the best, and the players’ talent level was at its highest back then.”

The only thing missing from Barger’s career for many years was a regional title. But his 1991 team, led by All-State star Darrin Horn, took care of that. The Commodores went unbeaten against city competition on their way to a runner-up finish to Fairdale in the boys’ state



FILE PHOTO

**Nolan Barger** watched his 1991 Commodores advance to the state tournament finals before falling to Fairdale.

basketball tournament.

“It’s been a labor of love,” Barger said. “I’ve been really blessed with great kids and great parents. What I enjoyed most was my association with players and coaches. I think I’ve had a pretty good relationship with most, and it’s nice to see so many of our former players out there coaching today.”

Among them are Horn (an assistant at Marquette), Vince Taylor (assistant at Louisville), Brian Lane (in between college coaching positions) and Dom Fucci (baseball coach at Bates Creek).

Fucci, Mr. Basketball in 1975, marveled at Barger’s “durability” and his “being able to adjust to

the changes of the game and the players.”

“As he got older, he realized he had to mix more as a person, and not just as a coach,” Fucci said. “But one of his strengths was always discipline, and as I got older and got to be a coach, I realized just how important discipline was. And it’s become a big part of my philosophy.”

On top of all that, Coach was a good man. It’s a shame to see him go.”

Barger, 54, plans to teach until the Christmas break, then retire from the school system and devote more time to his career as a real estate appraiser.



**Nolan Barger**, the intense man in the maroon sports coat, has resigned as **Tates Creek** basketball coach. He won 540 games in 28 years on the Commodores' sideline.

1998 FILE PHOTO



# Barger retires from Tate Career concludes as it began: with 'amazing success'

**By Mike Fields**

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

After 28 years, Nolan Barger has signed off as boys' basketball coach at Tate Creek and, fittingly, he left his unmistakable signature on his last team.

The Commodores — not all that big, not all that quick and not all that talented — won 26 games, reached the regional finals this past season and earned Barger's admiration for their "amazing success."

Barger may have been amazed, but anybody who has watched his coaching system churn out 540 victories over the last three decades

couldn't have been surprised.

Tates Creek's program developed into one of the state's most consistent winners under Barger, and basketball fans figured the intense man in the maroon sports coat would be on the sidelines for years to come.

But Barger, who quietly submitted his resignation a couple of weeks ago, found himself stretched to the limit last season while juggling his time as history teacher (five classes a day), basketball coach and real estate appraiser.

"I really liked everything I was doing, but it got to the point where I was getting to bed at 1 o'clock in the morn-

ing and I was exhausted," "I just didn't think I was through that again, next."

But when he sat down with a letter of resignation, he found it a difficult task.

"My gosh, I've been so long, and it's been a while with me," he said. "When Brent and Brad played my wife (Beverly) has done the program the last several years, it was all over was tough. This was a good time to go. The time was right for me."

See 1

# Coach Barger retires after 32 years of service at Creek

by Joni Reynolds  
Masthead Staff Writer

Above the chalkboard in Coach Barger's room is a poster: "Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle. When the sun comes up, you'd better be running." This is a philosophy that he has lived by both on the basketball court and in the classroom.

Barger will conclude his 32-year career as a teacher and basketball coach at the end of first semester.

Barger is certified to be a principal and to teach special education, as well as social studies. In fact, he has taught physical education and driver's education in addition to history. But he says he enjoys history the most.

"I like to teach in a structured four-wall classroom where I can keep things organized and under control," Barger said.

Barger stresses organization and a structured thought process most in his class. He accomplishes this by teaching with power point presentations and requiring that students keep thorough notebooks with all papers and notes in order. Through his world civilization class, he expects his students to learn, in addition to subject matter, to treat their peers well and to acquire a strong work ethic. He wants students to practice what he teaches.



Coach Barger has lead successful careers in both teaching and coaching. photo by Liv Christianson

"Take your philosophy with you wherever you go," he said.

He says it is very important to know what you believe, and if you are lazy in one area of your life, then you will more than likely be lazy in other areas as well. If you are hard working in one area of your life, then more than likely you are hard working in other areas.

Originally, Barger got interested in basketball while playing for his high school in Indiana. He went on to play for Transylvania in college. This will be Barger's first winter in 40 years not playing or coaching basketball.

Barger, who coached two years at Paris before arriving at Creek, was Creek's assistant basketball coach for his first two years before becoming head coach.

Barger will not leave without being missed. He has a win-loss record of 540-260 and won Coach of the Year twice for the state of Kentucky while coaching here at Creek.

Not only was coaching part of his job, but also a strong part of his family's lifestyle. His wife Beverly organized the team's basketball program every year. Both his sons played for him.

"It was a lot of fun and a neat experience," Barger said.

Barger has taken the team to many tournaments here in Kentucky. He has also taken the team to tournaments in Florida and Japan. The trip to Japan occurred in the 1997-1998 school year. Creek played a high school from Japan at a tournament in 1988. The Japanese team invited the Creek basketball team to travel 31 hours to Japan for a 10 day, free-of-charge visit, excluding the cost of plane tickets.

"It was too good to pass up, and I'm glad we didn't, because it was a wonderful experience," Barger said.

Barger will leave, in part, because he has taken on a real estate appraisal business and it got, "too busy too fast," he said.

After retiring, he will spend all his time on the business. Not only will he take real estate classes, but he will also teach a few.

But Barger will attend games even though he isn't coaching.

"I am too interested in the kids not to come to games, and it is too hard to give it all up."

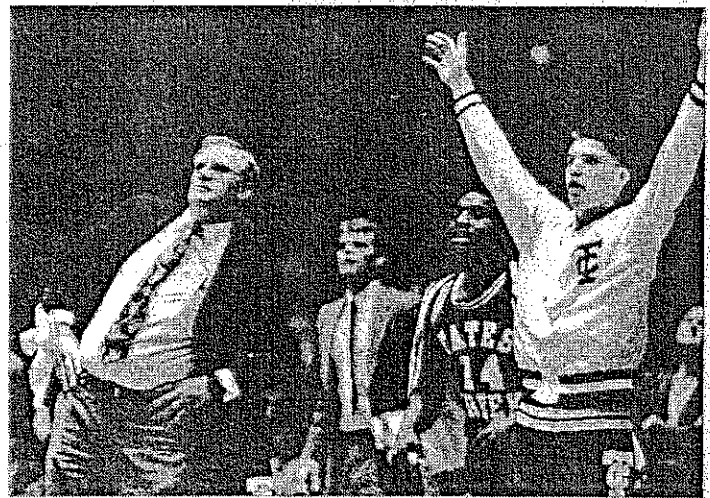
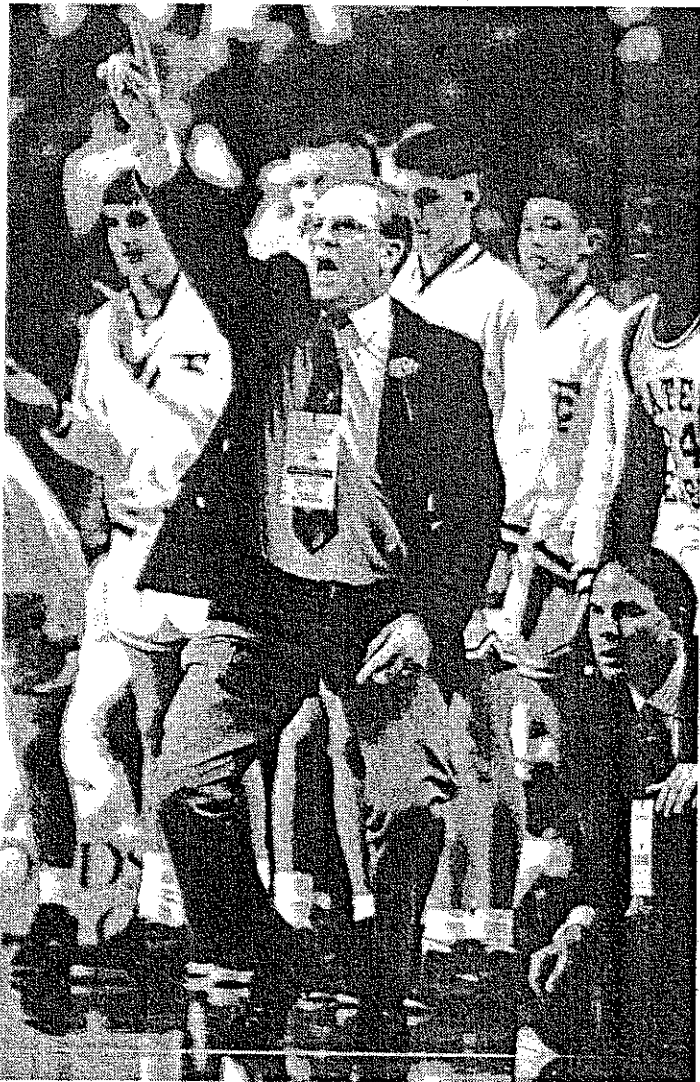
Barger said he would miss the interaction with the students most. No decision has yet been made on who will replace Barger in the classroom. Coach Joe Pat Covington, who has been assistant coach for Creek, has taken over as head coach.

"Coach Barger is the basketball program. He has set the standard for Kentucky high school basketball and he will very much be missed," Covington said.

## Creekers get hyped at pep rally

## Academic team begins a new era

# COACH NOLAN BARGER THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



## SURVIVAL

*Every morning in Africa, a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed. Every morning a lion wakes up. It knows it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It does not matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle: when the sun comes up, you'd better be running!*

# Appreciation of Coach Barger

..... Bryan Dollins, Marland Lamm,  
Lee Greer, Prince Johnson, Tim Stephen,  
Brent Barger, Phillip Lewis, Travis Rudd,  
Jimmy McCullough, Billy Moberly, Shawn  
Taylor, Kevin Wells, Marcellious Baker,  
Josh Burruss, John Cornett, Paul Eads,  
Nathan Giles, Brandon Taylor, Shawn Taylor,  
Barry Cooper, Ramon Cowan, Jared Heilig,  
Jason Puckett, Josh Reid, Scott Roark,  
Marcus Salva, Justin Walker, Darnell Wheat,  
Josh Gaines, and Kenneth Edwards.

and our parents,  
the TE Basketball Boosters

I'm a better  
person because  
of you...

"THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"

***THE STUDENTS, FACULTY AND  
PARENTS OF***

***TATES CREEK HIGH  
SCHOOL***

***WANT TO SAY***

***THANK YOU***

***TO***

***COACH NOLAN  
BARGER***

***FOR HIS YEARS OF  
DEDICATION & SERVICE TO  
TATES CREEK HIGH SCHOOL!***



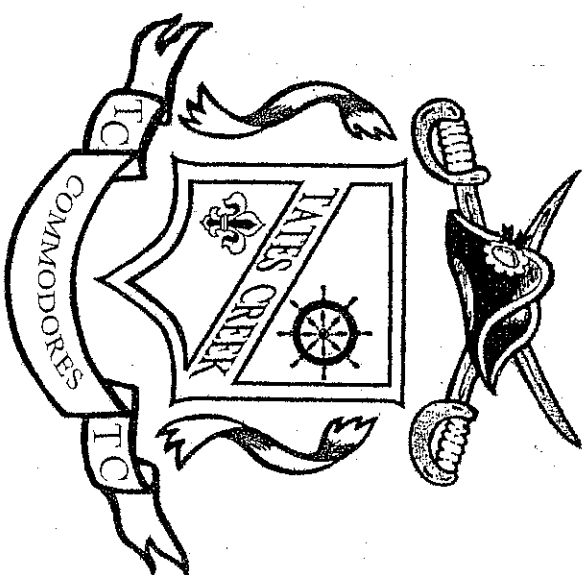
**Coach  
Barger**

**30 Years**



*Leaving A Lasting Impression*

*Thank You For All  
Who Made  
This Day Possible*



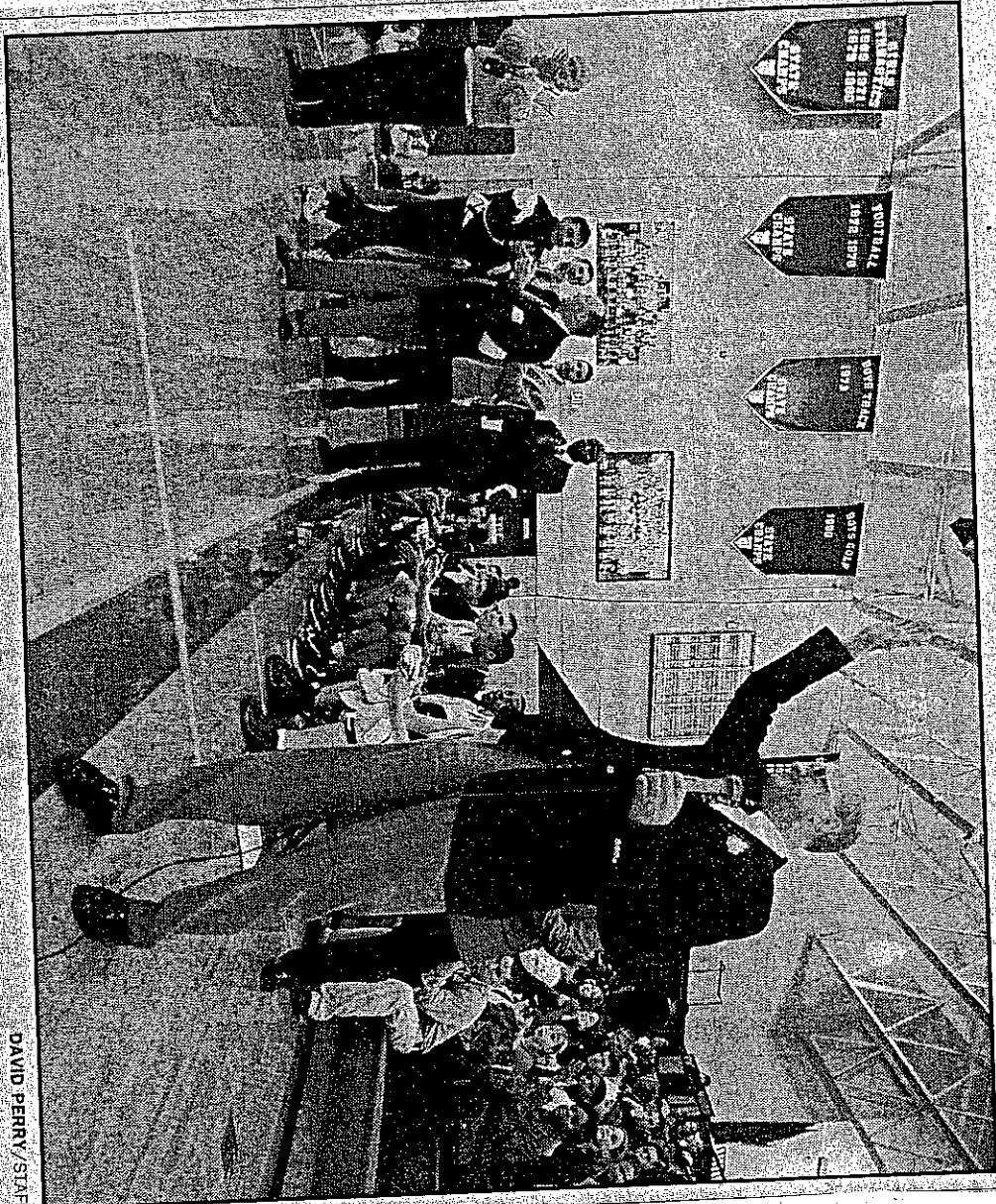
Players, Family  
and Friends

*Honoring*

Tates Creek  
Head Basketball Coach  
**NOLAN BARGER**  
1971 - 1999

April 15, 2000

# High School Basketball



DAVID PERRY/STAFF

## Leaving a lasting impression

Former Tates Creek boys' basketball coach Nolan Barger acknowledged the crowd during a ceremony last night at which the high school's gymnasium was named for Barger, who also had his maroon blazer retired. Barger retired after 30 years as a history teacher and 28 years as a coach at Tates Creek, where he won 540 games.



# NOTES FOR GYANASANTANA

# High School Basketball



DAVID PERRY/STAFF

## Leaving a lasting impression

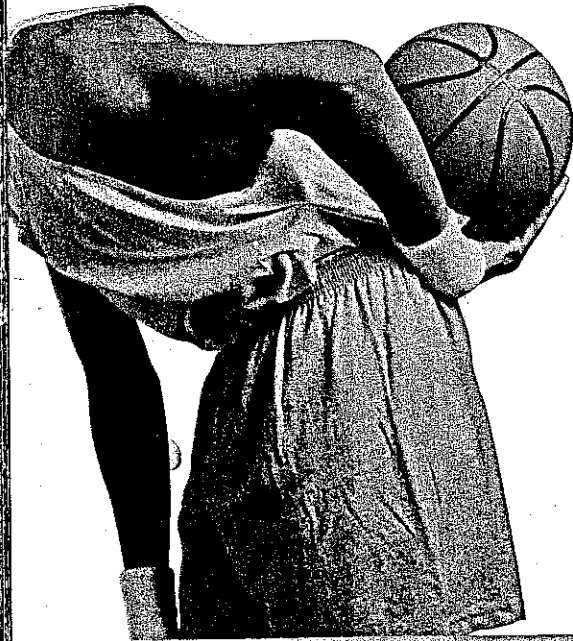
Former Tates Creek boys' basketball coach Nolan Barger acknowledged the crowd during a ceremony last night at which the high school's gymnasium was named for Barger, who also had his maroon blazer "retired." Barger retired after 30 years as a history teacher and 28 years as a coach at Tates Creek, where he won 540 games.

## Fayette County

# Gym at Tates Creek is named for coach

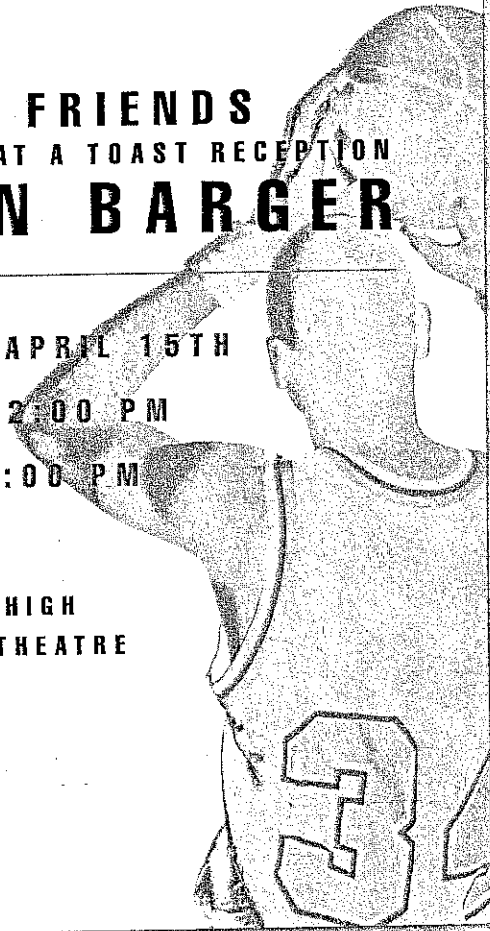
While a new face leads the team this fall, a veteran coach will remain a part of the basketball program at Tates Creek High School. The Fayette County school board last night approved Tates Creek's request to name its gym after Nolan Barger, the school's boys basketball coach of 28 years. Barger, 54, who left his coaching post this summer, is retiring this month after 30 years as a history teacher at the school.

**PLAYERS, ALUMNI, AND FRIENDS**  
REQUEST THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY AT A TOAST RECEPTION  
**HONORING COACH NOLAN BARGER**



**SATURDAY, APRIL 15TH**  
**RECEPTION 2:00 PM**  
**PROGRAM 3:00 PM**

**TATES CREEK HIGH**  
**SCHOOL THEATRE**



# PROGRAM

Welcome ..... Bob Gardner, Principal

Master of Ceremonies ..... Wayne Smith

Invocation ..... Chuck Ross

Presentation ..... Carol Martin

Speaker ..... Dom Fucci

Speaker ..... Jock Sutherland

Speakers ..... Brad Barger  
Brent Barger

Speaker ..... Teri Harper

Speaker ..... Darrin Horn

Open Mic

Presentation ..... Joe Pat Covington

Speaker ..... Donna Hawkins

Speaker ..... Donnie Adkins

Speaker ..... Gordon Walls

Presentation ..... Coby Devary

Highlight Video (WKYT TV Channel 27)

His Words ..... Nolan Barger

Closing and Prayer ..... Whit Criswell

## NOLAN BARGER

1969-1970 Assistant Coach  
1971-1999 Head Coach (805 Games; Won 540, Lost 265)

### ASSISTANT COACHES

Don Adkins	Rick Allen
Kristi Brinkley	Joe Covington
Kristi Cushenberry	Rick Davis
Brad Gardner	Roger Newton
Nate Niemi	Chad Rousey
Willmer West	Greg Williams
Mike Wilson	Jason Woodard

### STATE TOURNAMENT

1991 State Runner Up

### DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

1999 Winner  
1998 Runner Up  
1992 Winner  
1991 Winner  
1985 Winner  
1983 Runner Up  
1979 Winner  
1973 Runner Up  
1971 Winner

### REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

1992 Runner Up  
1991 Winner  
1985 Runner Up  
1983 Runner Up  
1973 Runner Up

### KING OF THE BLUEGRASS HOLIDAY CLASSIC

1990 Winner

### KENTUCKY MR. BASKETBALL

1975 Dom Fucci

### FIRST TEAM ALL-AMERICAN

1978 Vince Taylor

# PIONEER HALL OF FAME

## INDUCTION CEREMONY AND DINNER

The Pioneer Hall of Fame was initiated in 1992 by Transylvania University's Alumni Office in cooperation with the Athletics Department and the Physical Education program. The purpose of the Hall of Fame is to recognize former alumni athletes, coaches, and others who have made outstanding contributions to the field of athletics. In doing so they have also brought honor to Transylvania University.

### PIONEER HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

Maria Stone Hayne '76	2001	*Robert Daniel Barr '42	1997
Elizabeth C. Lucas '86	2001	Carryl M. Britt '37	1997
Jack G. Lucas '63	2001	Bever Pace Livingston '82	1997
Kim H. Rusay '71	2001	Albert Arch Prewitt '57	1997
Parviz Zartoshy '85	2001	Milly Rodes	1997
Patricia B. Deacon	2000	Patricia Hocker Riddle '72	1996
William A. Marquard	2000	William F. Reed '66	1996
Christine M. Motsch '85	2000	Harry S. Stephenson '46	1996
Wallace Rose '50	2000	Thomas Melville Boyd '58	1995
Charles Fred Taylor '31	2000	Philip Lee Stewart '60	1995
James L. Hurley '69	1999	Everett Alfred Bass '72	1994
Janet L. McGregor '74	1999	Lynn Siebers Ricketts '77	1994
Patricia Alexander Nielsen '61	1999	Billy Voigt Wise '58	1994
Lewis H. Ware '27	1999	*Margaret Walton Elam '29	1993
Ronald F. Whitson '67	1999	Lee H. Rose '58	1993
Robert O. Buck Jr. '68	1998	Bettie Lou Duff Kullman '62	1993
Kim Siebers Cornetec '81	1998	*George H. Stopp '41	1993
Deanna F. Darrell '84	1998	*Ryan Thompson '25	1993
Kenneth D. Higgins Sr. '38	1998	C. M. Newton	1992
William T. Young	1998	*Alfred "Algie" M. Reece Jr. '33	1992

### IN MEMORIAM

\*Alfred G. "Pete" Powell '25 1993

\*deceased

### Master of Ceremonies

Brian J. Austin

*Director of Athletics*

### Invocation

David M. Carr '81

*Campus Minister*

### Welcome, Criteria, and Recognition of Inductees and Hall of Fame Members

Charles L. Shearer

*President*

### Citation, Presentation of Awards and Certificates

#### Inductees

M. Nolan Barger '67

Kimberly Ward Barrie '83

Sherry D. Holley '88

Donald G. Lane

#### Presented by

Brian Lane

Pat Deacon

Cindy Jacobelli

Ron Whitson

### Closing Remarks

Charles L. Shearer

Jock Sutherland's Letter of Recommendation  
Lafayette High School Basketball Head Coach

To – Selection Committee

I was asked to nominate Nolan Barger for the KHSAA Hall of Fame---

I'm just going to say it all in a few words, because it only takes a few words to define why he should be in this elite group of people---

Simply stated – no one could do the job of coaching high school basketball players any better. He was on the top level of teaching the game and handling young athletes. He set a perfectly good example of being a role model, the perfect person for any young athlete to spend time with – and learn from. How to handle winning as well as how to handle losing, tools we all need as adults. He is certainly on my top shelf as a person as well as a coach---no one did it any better---

Thanks for asking,

Jock Sutherland

P.S.

My last season was 36-1---guess who did that. I couldn't have lost to a better man--



TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY  
FOUNDED 1780

Dawahares/KHSAA  
Hall Of Fame Committee  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Ky 40505

Dear Distinguished Committee,

I have been asked to write a letter in support of Coach Nolan Barger's entry into your prestigiousawahares/Kentucky High School Hall of Fame. It is with great honor that I have been asked to do this.

Coach Barger was my high school basketball coach at Tates Creek High School in the mid 1980's. His work ethic, attention to detail and knowledge of the game of basketball was second to none. The coaching techniques and how to deal with young people on a personal level that I learned from Coach Barger have been things that I have taken with me to my current position as head basketball coach at Transylvania. Every practice and game was a true clinic as Coach Barger enjoyed teaching the most important parts of the game-- the fundamentals. He stressed the importance of academics, family and faith before we even talked about the game of basketball. However, he always reminded us that if we were going to be good, basketball better come right behind those three.

Few people are lucky enough to have one of the best basketball coaches in the country working with them everyday. After a sensational high school and collegiate career, Coach Barger chose to do what he loved. In the classroom, he was a devoted teacher that never shortchanged his students to concentrate on athletics. As a coach, he worked tirelessly to make sure his team and each individual student-athlete was fully prepared for competition. He was thorough in his preparation and was an unbelievably skillful tactician. He took numerous teams to the regional tournament (we made it to the finals in 1985) and advanced his Commodores to a runner-up State Championship finish. He has also been honored with induction into the Transylvania Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Nolan Barger is extremely deserving of Kentucky's highest honor and recognition for high school student-athletes and coaches, induction into your celebrated Hall of Fame. I can give him my highest degree of recommendation.

Sincerely,

Brian Lane  
Head Basketball Coach  
Transylvania University



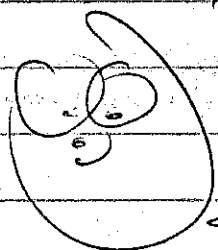
To - Selection Committee -

I was asked to nominate NOLAN BERGER  
for the KASBA Hall of Fame -

I'm just going to say it all in a few  
words, because it only takes a few  
words to define why he should be in  
this elite group of people -

Simply stated - no one could do the job  
of coaching High School Basketball players  
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to spend time with - & learn from.  
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how to handle losing. Tools we  
all need as Adults. He is certainly  
on my top shelf as a person as well  
as a Coach - No one did it any  
better -

Thanks for Asking



Code  
Surrey and

P.S.

My last season was 35-1 -  
guess who did that. I couldn't have

October 1, 2007

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter to recommend Nolan Barger as a candidate for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. I cannot think of anyone more deserving in the state of Kentucky.

I first met Coach Barger 27 years ago while doing student teaching at Tates Creek High School. Immediately I recognized his passion for the game of Basketball. However, this passion was not just about winning and losing, but even more so for developing the young men on his teams into well rounded and productive people off the court as well! Life skills/lessons and how his team handled each, were as valuable as any win to Nolan. While his teams may not have always had the most talent, you could always count on them being well prepared, playing with discipline and giving 100%! That is why in spite of the less talent, his teams consistently overachieved! Nolan, not only taught them plays to run, but also and more importantly, taught them how to play. Coach Barger's influence on his teams didn't stop there either. He continued to search, define and develop his coaching beliefs and philosophy to the point that he not only had a handbook for his players, but also produced a handbook for his player's parents. I believe this Parent handbook is so good it should be mandatory reading for every high school coach in the state!

I was also fortunate enough to be in business with Coach Barger by running a Basketball Camp with him for 20 years. While camp produced many good players, one of the most valued awards given each week was for Best Listener. This cherished title developed solely through the promotion and story telling of Coach Barger. I quickly learned about Nolan's commitment and attention to detail! No task too large or small was ever left undone. (And the majority of the time it was Nolan doing it!) Although we had no actual contract, his handshake was as good as any written words. He is a man of honor, dignity and humility.

Nolan also lives what he teaches. He is a committed family man, as he and his wife/assistant coach, Beverly, have raised two sons in a loving home. He is involved in his church, and still manages to attend numerous high school games during the season!

I could go on for pages about Nolan Barger, but I will conclude by saying Coach Nolan Barger is the textbook model of what a Hall of Fame member should be! I hope you will agree and induct him into yours.

Sincerely,

Kyle Macy

Western Kentucky University  
Men's Basketball  
Tel. 270-745-2131  
Fax 270-745-5091



1605 Avenue of Champions  
Bowling Green, Kentucky  
42101  
[www.wkusports.com](http://www.wkusports.com)

September 28, 2007

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

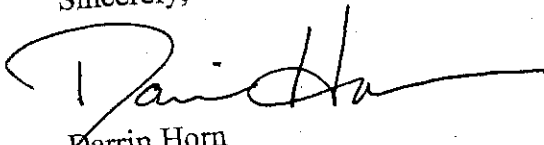
Members of the Hall of Fame Screening Committee:

Coach Nolan Barger has had a huge influence on me, not only as a player, but as an individual. I can unequivocally write that Coach Barger is a big reason for where I am today. He was a true educator in every sense of the word, and much of my core coaching philosophy is based on what I learned from Coach Barger. Our current graduation rate at WKU is 100%, in large part due to Coach Barger's emphasis on academics and developing the whole person. He taught me and my teammates to be our best in everything, not just basketball, and that is something I strive to pass on to my players as well.

Coach Barger always put others before himself. His goal for his players was our development and growth, both on and off the court. He was not concerned with his own win total or individual glory, and yet his number of victories demonstrates his qualifications as a coach.

When you consider the many coaching accomplishments of Nolan Barger during his 28 year career at Tates Creek High School, he seems an obvious choice for the Hall of Fame. However, it is his character that truly makes Coach Barger deserving of this honor.

Sincerely,

  
Darrin Horn  
Head Coach

## Wayne B. Smith

278 Hill-N-Dale Road • Lexington, KY 40503 • Phone (859) 277-2453

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October 17, 2007

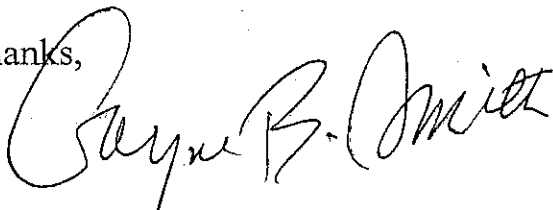
To Whom It May Concern;

I am a retired minister having served "The Nolan Barger" family 14 years. The Barger's are fantastic parents raising 2 sons. One is a CPA and the other a minister. "Fruit doesn't fall far from the tree." We teach what we know, we reproduce what we are. Nolan has made himself available for tasks in Church Leadership and welcomes responsibilities. Nolan was a great basketball player in his hometown of Scottsburg, Indiana. Following High School, he accepted a basketball scholarship to Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, where he was a standout. After college he accepted a position with the Fayette County School System in Lexington, Kentucky, as Assistant Basketball Coach at Tates Creek High School. Two years later he was elevated to Head Coach where he served a total of 31 years. When he retired he left many memories and a building named for him, "The Nolan Barger Gymnasium."

Nolan was never shrouded in mediocrity. His associates knew what he believed, where he stood. His convictions were transparent. Nolan was and still is a success by any measuring device. Fulfillment of his dreams became a reality because he was energetic enough to work for it, brave enough to seize it and strong enough to claim it. I believe Nolan's philosophy of life can be explained in 16 words:

*"We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give."* This World would be a better place if we had more Nolan's.

Thanks,



Wayne B. Smith

## The Coach's Hall of Fame

I am not a poet  
Nor do I claim to be.  
I want to tell you  
What this deacon means to me.

Last night as I was sleeping  
I had a dream so fair.  
I dreamed I stood in Heaven  
With all God's children there.

There I saw a coach  
Who played in days gone by.  
Barger was his name  
For the Commodores he would die.

The God addressed the coaches.  
He called them all by name.  
He said it was induction time  
Into the Hall of Fame.

God in all His splendor  
Called Barger by name.  
Nolan, you're first to be inducted.  
Into our Hall of Fame.

Coach Barger's voice was somber.  
He said "Thanks" to the Lord above.  
"I'm first to be inducted  
Because Tates Creek was my love."

By Wayne B. Smith  
Nolan's minister for many years at  
Southland Christian Church

*written at Coach Barger's retirement*

Warren Featherston's Letter of Recommendation  
Tates Creek High Principal

To: Hall of Fame Committee  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association

It is my pleasure to nominate Nolan Barger to the Dawahare Basketball Hall of Fame. As principal of Tates Creek High in the early 70's, I had the good fortune of selecting Nolan for the Basketball Head Coach. I had observed Nolan as an assistant coach and was impressed with his character. I consulted others regarding his knowledge of the game and received positive comments.

Nolan proved to be everything one could hope for. His strong leadership in teaching young men and his intense work habits in skill building with his teams came to fruition with many great teams.

Many of Nolan's former ball players are now coaches in our Commonwealth.

A few times I traveled with Nolan's teams to out of town games. I remember well, a trip to Bell County to play two teams there. When I discovered that the two officials were the Butcher Brothers, I said, "Don't you think we should go home?" - We won both games. On another occasion the team members were required to stand at attention by their motel doors for inspection before going to dinner and no words were to be spoken during the meal. I thought I was back in the military service. Obviously, Mr. Barger had high expectations for his teams.

Nolan has always been a gentleman in dealing with teams, parents and our faculty at Tates Creek Senior High.

In retirement, Nolan, once again, has demonstrated success in a totally different vocation.

Nolan has a wonderful wife and family, another example being a good husband and father. Nolan is active in his church, holding many leadership roles.

Of all the administrative decisions I ever made in my thirteen years at Tates Creek, selecting Nolan as our coach was the best.

Respectfully,  
Warren Featherston

7/26/07

To: Hall of Fame Committee  
Ky. High School Athletic Assn.

It is my pleasure to nominate Nolan  
Barger to the Danahare Basketball Hall  
of Fame.

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the early 70's I had the good fortune  
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Nolan has always been a gentleman in dealing with teams, parents and our faculty of Tates Creek Sr. High.

In retirement, Nolan, once again, has demonstrated success in a totally different vocation.

Nolan has a wonderful wife and family, another example being a good husband and father. Nolan is active in his church, holding many leadership roles.

Of all the administrative decisions, I ever made in my thirteen years @ Tates Creek, selecting Nolan as our coach was the best.

Respectfully -  
Warren Jackson





GESS MATTINGLY & ATCHISON, P.S.C.

A TRADITION *of* EXCELLENCE

October 18, 2007

Natalie S. Wilson  
C. Timothy Cone  
Joseph H. Miller  
William W. Allen  
Guy M. Graves  
Walter R. Morris, Jr.  
John T. Hamilton  
Linda W. Covington  
Jeffrey R. Walker  
Elizabeth S. Hughes  
Stephen P. Stoltz  
Lori B. Shelburne  
Samuel G. Carneal  
Huston B. Combs  
Nora A. Koffman

William B. Gess  
(1906-1985)  
John G. Atchison, Jr.  
(1924-2002)  
Jack F. Mattingly  
(1921-2006)

Special Counsel:  
James E. Keller

Of Counsel:  
William R. Hilliard, Jr.  
Charles G. Wylie

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

Re: Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support the nomination of former Bates Creek Coach Nolan Barger for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. It is my honor to express my thoughts about Nolan, whom I regard not only as an excellent coach, but more important, an outstanding person. I have known Nolan for more than 30 years. He was a neighbor that became a close friend. I enjoyed watching Nolan's teams play during his tenure as basketball coach at Bates Creek, and I witnessed firsthand the positive difference that he made in the lives of many young men who played for him. Accordingly, I feel qualified to convey the reasons why I believe Nolan should be considered for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

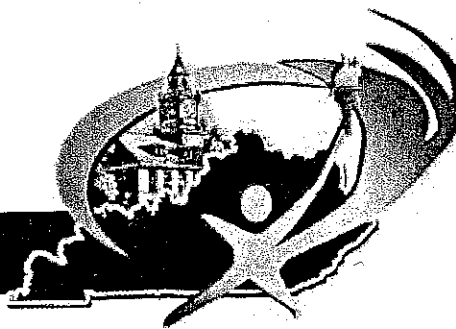
A brief synopsis of Nolan's record as a coach in a highly competitive basketball school district quickly reveals his ability as a coach. He won more than 500 games; he had 23 winning seasons; he was twice selected Kentucky "Coach of the Year," and his team was 1991 Runner-up in the State Tournament. Nolan developed many young men into outstanding basketball players, e.g., 65 All-City Players; 36 All-State Players; 6 Kentucky All-Stars, and 4 High School All-Americans. Many of his former players are now in the coaching ranks.

But more important to Nolan than developing outstanding basketball players was his goal was to develop his players into outstanding young men. Leadership always comes from the top, and Nolan provided the leadership for his players by the high standards that he set for himself. He never demanded more of his players than he demanded of himself, and his players knew this. Many of his former players are now doctors, lawyers, bankers, ministers, and other professionals. They respected members of their communities. Nolan is justifiably proud that he may have helped shape their lives.

Nolan cared about his players as individuals when they played for him and he still cares today about his former players, staying in touch with many of them. One

# Fayette County Public Schools

1 East Main Street, Lexington, Kentucky 40502 • (859) 381-4100 • www.fcps.net



"It's About Kids"

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter in support of the nomination of Nolan Barger to the Dawahare's Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame. From 1975-1995, I had the privilege of sitting next to Coach Barger during the majority of his coaching career. During his twenty-eight years of coaching, he won 540 games and lost 265 with numerous District Championships, one Regional Championship and one State Runner-Up distinction. Players accomplished All City Honors 69 times, All State Honors 44 times, 8 Kentucky-Indiana All Star Selections, 1 Mr. Basketball and 5 High School All Americans. He was selected Coach of the Kentucky team in the Kentucky-Indiana All Stars and Head Coach at the Kentucky Derby Festival Classic. Nolan received the honor of Kentucky High School Basketball Coach of the Year twice. Many of his former players have gone on to become head coaches and assistants at the high school, college and professional levels.

Not only was Coach Barger an outstanding coach, but a role model for the young people in the Tates Creek Community during his 28 years of service. His organizational skills and detail to fundamentals were the two things that helped define him as an outstanding coach and mentor for me and others in the profession. In 2001 after winning the Regional Tournament, it was Nolan that I turned to for advice and support. Through out the State Tournament that year, I could always count on Nolan's phone calls and presence in the stands to advise, encourage and congratulate me after each game.

His teachings, friendship and countless life lessons he taught me have formed the person and coach I am today. I am grateful to have been his assistant and friend for all these years, so it is with great pride I support his nomination for induction into the Dawahare's Kentucky High School Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Director of Athletics  
Fayette County Schools

*An equal opportunity school district*

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame

October 18, 2007

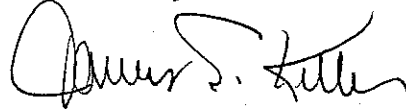
Page 2

story typifies Nolan's concern for his former players. A former player's father died and they were having the funeral services in another state. Nolan only learned of the funeral shortly before it was scheduled. Yet, he immediately rearranged his schedule so that he could drive several hundred miles each way to be there. It was not a question with Nolan of whether he would attend the funeral, but rather whether he could make it in time. He did attend and he was there for his former player and his family. That's Nolan Barger.

Nolan spent many an evening at his personal expense transporting players who would not have otherwise been able to participate in extracurricular activities at Tates Creek. He did this so that these young men would have a chance to participate. The basketball skills level of a player was not a consideration to Nolan. This leads me to my final point. The team star player was treated the same as the last player on the team. No one received any special treatment from Nolan. The team rules applied to everyone. This was to prepare his players for life after basketball. They will tell you today that they benefited from the values and rules set by Coach Barger.

I sincerely believe that Coach Nolan Barger should be honored in recognition of his contributions to interscholastic sports in Kentucky by his introduction into Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. To do so, will be a tribute to those inductees who have preceded him and those who will follow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Keller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" being the most prominent.

Justice James E. Keller (Ret.)

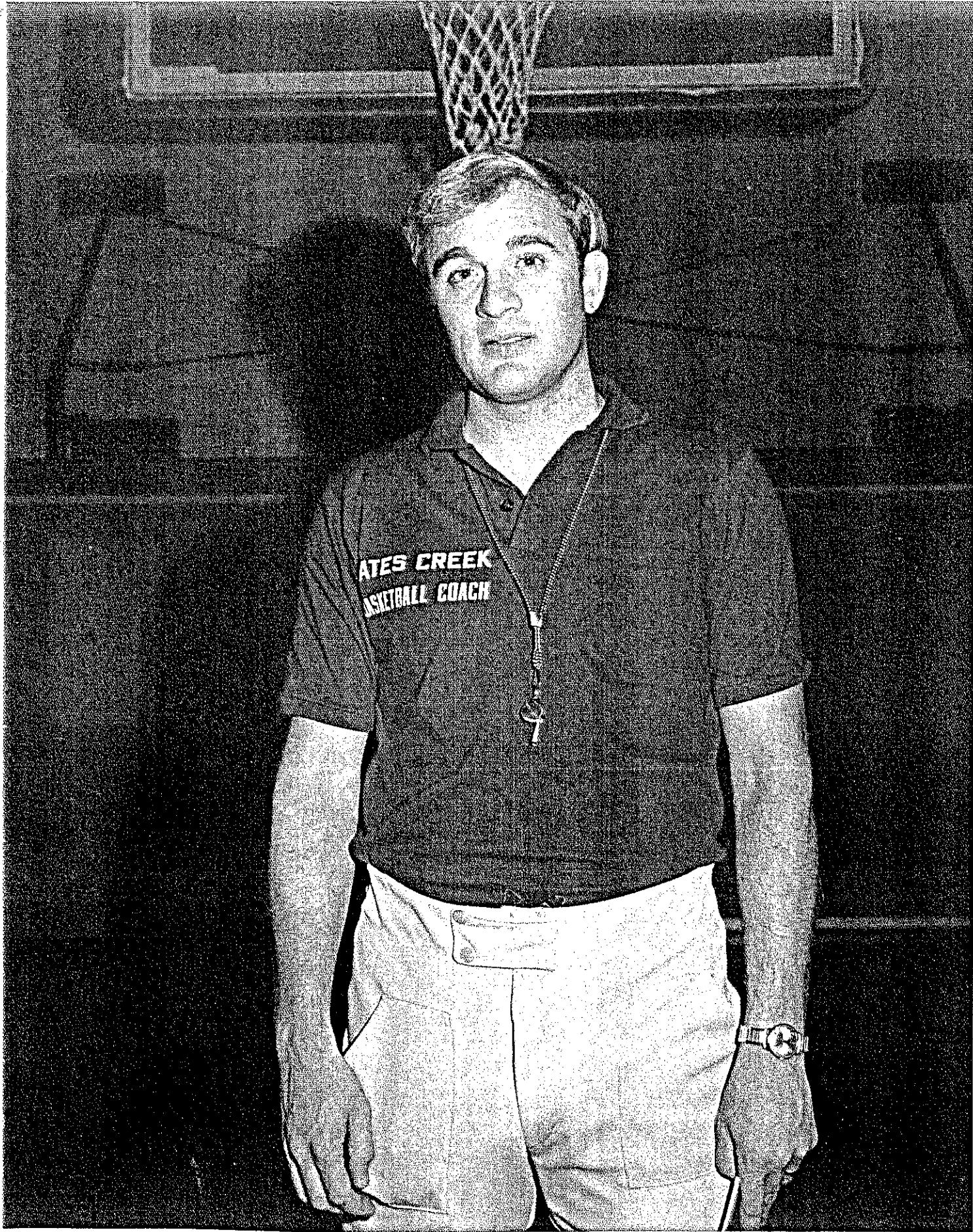
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Al Prewitt quoted in the Herald Leader  
Henry Clay High Basketball Coach/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
December 31, 1997

“I found out quick that if you were going to beat Nolan’s teams, you had to get to work early and stay late.” said Prewitt, who knocked heads with Barger for almost 20 years. “You knew Tates Creek would be prepared when they hit the floor, even when they weren’t all that talented.

“That was Nolan’s strength. He could take a bunch of lesser-lights and make a good team out of them. And when he had real good players, he made them a great team.”



ATES CREEK  
BASKETBALL COACH







Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

March 4, 2008

Ms. Donna B. Hawkins  
136 Applecreek Lane  
Georgetown, KY 40324

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence regarding the nomination of Nolan Barger for the 2009 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Class. His nomination will be reviewed at the April 16, 2007 Screening Committee.

Feel free to contact Butch Cope or Marilyn Mitchell, on our staff, for further information. Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brigid L. DeVries". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Brigid L. DeVries  
Commissioner

BD:dk

xc: Butch Cope  
Marilyn Mitchell



MAR - 3 2008

February 28, 2008

Brigid L. DeVries, Commissioner  
KHSAA  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

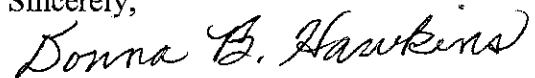
Dear Commissioner DeVries,

When selecting the 2009 Dawahare's Hall of Fame Inductees this year, please consider nominee Nolan Barger, retired Head Coach of Tates Creek High School Basketball for 28 years. I think you will be impressed with his contribution to Kentucky High School Athletics through basketball. A group of highly respected and knowledgeable people have written letters of support for his induction and have given testimony about Coach Barger as an outstanding coach, a serious educator, a great teacher in preparing young people for life in general, and a person who still stands as a role model.

In a WKYT interview last week, Western Kentucky Head Basketball Coach Darrin Horn stated that Coach Barger had been the most influential person in his coaching career and it is clear that there are similar perceptions held by many people.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Donna B. Hawkins  
Professor/Volleyball Coach, retired  
Georgetown College

c: Screening Committee  
KHSAA Board of Control





Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

March 6, 2008

Justice James E. Keller (Ret.)  
Gess, Mattingly & Atchison, P.S.C.  
201 West Short Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

Dear Justice Keller:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence regarding the nomination of Nolan Barger for the 2009 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame Class. His nomination will be reviewed at the April 16, 2007 Screening Committee.

Feel free to contact Butch Cope or Marilyn Mitchell, on our staff, for further information. Thank you for your letter.

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Brigid L. DeVries  
Commissioner

BD:dk

xc: Butch Cope  
Marilyn Mitchell



GESS MATTINGLY & ATCHISON, P.S.C.  
A TRADITION *of* EXCELLENCE

MAR - 5 2008

March 4, 2008

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Walter R. Morris, Jr.  
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Nora A. Koffman  
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(1906-1985)  
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I am writing to support the nomination of former Bates Creek Coach Nolan Barger for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. It is my honor to express my thoughts about Nolan, whom I regard not only as an excellent coach, but more important, as an outstanding person. I have known Nolan for more than 30 years. He was a neighbor that became a close friend. I enjoyed watching Nolan's teams play during his tenure as basketball coach at Bates Creek, and I witnessed firsthand the positive difference that he made in the lives of many young men who played for him. Accordingly, I feel qualified to convey the reasons why I believe Nolan should be considered for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

A brief synopsis of Nolan's record as a coach in a highly competitive basketball school district quickly reveals his ability as a coach. He won more than 500 games; he had 23 winning seasons; he was twice selected Kentucky's "Coach of the Year," and his team was 1991 Runner-up in the State Tournament. Nolan developed many young men into outstanding basketball players, e.g., 65 All-City Players; 36 All-State Players; 6 Kentucky All-Stars, and 4 High School All-Americans. Many of his former players are now in the coaching ranks.

But more important to Nolan than developing outstanding basketball players was his goal to develop his players into outstanding young men. Leadership always comes from the top, and Nolan provided the leadership for his players by the high standards that he set for himself. He never demanded more of his players than he demanded of himself, and his players knew this. Many of his former players are now doctors, lawyers, bankers, ministers, and other professionals. They are respected members of their communities. Nolan is justifiably proud that he helped in shaping their lives.

Nolan cared about his players as individuals when they played for him and he still cares today about his former players, staying in touch with many of them. One

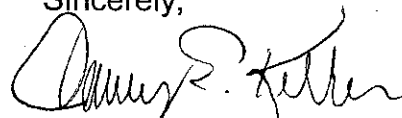
Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
March 4, 2008  
Page 2

story typifies Nolan's concern for his former players. A former player's father died and they were having the funeral services in another state. Nolan only learned of the funeral shortly before it was scheduled. Yet, he immediately rearranged his schedule so that he could drive several hundred miles each way to be there. It was not a question with Nolan of whether he would attend the funeral, but rather whether he could make it in time. He did attend and he was there for his former player and his family. That's Nolan Barger.

Nolan spent many an evening at his personal expense transporting players who would not have otherwise been able to participate in extracurricular activities at Tates Creek. He did this so that these young men would have a chance to participate. The basketball skills level of a player was not a consideration to Nolan. This leads me to my final point. The team star player was treated the same as the least talented player on the team. No one received any special treatment from Nolan. The team rules applied equally to everyone. This was to prepare his players for life after basketball. They will tell you today that they benefited from the values and rules set by Coach Barger.

I sincerely believe that Coach Nolan Barger should be honored in recognition of his contributions to interscholastic sports in Kentucky by his introduction into Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. To do so, will be a tribute to those inductees who have preceded him and those who will follow.

Sincerely,



Justice James E. Keller (Ret.)

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