

**DAWHARES KHSAA DIRECTORY FOR PASCAL BENSON**

**Official Nomination Form**

**September 1, 2010**

**Cover letter**

**Resume of sports accomplishments**

---

**1. Exhibit – Article from Gleaner Newspaper, Henderson, KY  
(July 4, 1976 – A Bicentennial Salute from 1776 to 1976)**

---

**2. Exhibit - High School Photo 1955**

---

**3. Exhibit - Action Basketball 1955-56**

---

**4. Exhibit - Article written by Shelby Riggs – He has researched  
all High Schools he could find on line. He has not found another  
athletic in the US with all state in three sports in one year.**

---

**5. Exhibit – Henderson County Sports hall of Fame 1988**

---

**6. Exhibit – 1956 KY State High School All-Tournament Team**

---

**7. Exhibit – Team and Trophy Information 1955-56**

---

**8. Exhibit – UK 1956-60 and UK related articles**

---

**9. Exhibit – Background information on Pascal Benson and  
Spouse**

**To:** Dawahares / KHSAA

**From:** T. L. Plain  
Former Teacher and Coach  
Henderson City High and Barret High School, Henderson, KY

**Subject:** Cover Letter for nominee, Pascal R. Benson

It is an honor and a pleasure for me to nominate Pascal Benson for the Dawahares / Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I coached on the high school and college level for a number of years. I feel I can say without reservation; you have only one athletic in a coaching career which possessed and delivered the qualities Pascal Benson executed on a daily basis. He was an athlete with natural ability, great versatility and durability combined with dedication and competitiveness. Pascal came to play be it in practice or a game regardless of the sport. He played both offense and defense, too. Pascal was his best when facing adversity.

Pascal has continued to portray the qualities in the Henderson community as a devoted husband, parent, educator, business owner and community leader that we knew he would become. As a former teacher and coach at Henderson City and Barret High School, I am sure we are united in our high acclaim of Pascal Benson.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame  
From: T. L. Plain  
Former Teacher and Coach  
Henderson City High and Barret High School, Henderson, KY  
Subject: Resume of sports accomplishments, Pascal Benson

Henderson and the State of Kentucky have produced many outstanding athletics in the last 50 years. Many of the elite group have been honored and inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame. However, there is one outstandingly versatile athlete which has been overlooked or delayed in receiving state wide recognition he has so rightly earned.

**The ATHLETIC is Pascal Benson.**

**The pinnacle year in the annals of Kentucky High School Athletics was the school year of 1955-56.**

The school was Henderson City High School which was formerly Barret High School.

Pascal Benson was a three sport extraordinary athletic throughout his varsity career at Henderson City and Barret High School in the school years of 1953, 54, 55 and 56. However, Pascal's apex year which I wish to highlight and emphasize was the 1955-56 school year.

Consider:

\*All State Football – Henderson City undefeated championship team winner of Western Kentucky Conference and a claim to the State Mythical Championship (four years prior to the playoff system). Pascal was the center and inside linebacker on this championship team. He was also All Southern & Honorable Mention All American Football for 1955-56.

\*All State Basketball - Henderson City Runner up State Tournament Team which lost to Carr Creek 68-72 in the State Championship. Won the Western Kentucky Conference two years in a row. (1955-56) Pascal was a 6' stalwart forward guard on Henderson's team which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1956 and 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1955 Tournaments.

\* All State Baseball – Henderson City (18-2) Semi Finalist State Tournament. Pascal was the ace pitcher (9-1) and leading hitter (.446) plus a super 1<sup>st</sup> baseman which attracted professional scouts.

\* Henderson's first ever Sports Hall of Fame started in 1988 – Pascal was one of the top two inductees.

I am attaching my career time line as a reference to my career experiences. T.L. Plain



### Career Time Line

- 1949-53 Four years at Breckenridge County, Kentucky  
Taught Science and Physical Education  
Two trips to KHS A State Tournament
- 1953-57 Four years at Henderson, Barrett High School, Kentucky  
Taught Science and Biology  
Two trips to KHS A State Tournament  
Two Regional Runner-up positions  
State Runner-up in 1956  
State third place in 1955
- 1957-59 Two years at Vincennes Indiana, Lincoln High School  
Taught Physical Education and Driver's Training  
Head coach
- 1959-63 Four years at Kentucky Wesleyan College  
Taught courses in Education and Physical Education  
Head coach
- 1963-64 One year at University of Kentucky  
Taught in the Physical Education Department  
Graduate assistant coach
- 1964-67 Three years at Vincennes Indiana, Lincoln High School  
Director of School Physical Education Program  
Developed the teams that were later in the final four two  
years in a row

1967-69 Two years at the University of Louisville  
Supervised Student Teachers  
First assistant coach

1969-71 Two years at the University of Kentucky  
Assistant coach  
(Final year recruited the number one ranked players from  
Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio)

1971-73 Two years at Utah State University  
Head Coach

1973 Training and Sales at Rocky Mountain Bank Note  
Salt Lake City, Utah

1973-74 RMBN Sales Representative for NV and CA  
Reno, Nevada

1976-79 RMBN Zone Sales Manager for NV and CA,  
Including Las Vegas

1980 -87 RMBN Sales Representative for KS  
Lawrence, KS

1988-95 Seven years at Executive Inn, Evansville IN  
Director of Sales and Marketing  
General Manager Convention Sales

1994-2001 Seven years in Antique business – Station View KY  
Buying and selling throughout Kentucky, Indiana and  
Illinois

# Pascal Benso

*(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of the following account was both a teammate and opponent of the subject of the story, having played with the subject as a Barret High underclassman and against him as an upper classman at Morganfield High. The article includes the observations of the writer.)*

By RON JENKINS

Who is the greatest all-around athlete in the history of Henderson prep sports?

That kind of question will send the spirits soaring in those sports trivia buffs who think of themselves as experts on Henderson's rich sports history. However,

if records and all-state honors are used as the criteria, one person heads the achievement list in the annals of local sports.

Pascal Benson.

He is believed to be the only athlete in Henderson's prep history to be named to nonafide all-state first teams in three sports: football, basketball and baseball.

The school year was 1955-56 and the City High teams he played on were no lukes, either. In fact, that school year is generally recognized as the richest in local prep sports history.

The City High football team, under the coaching of Don Shelton, went 10-0, won the Western Kentucky Conference and may claim to be the mythical state

championship (this was four years before the playoff system began).

The City High basketball team, under the guidance of T.L. Plain, was 29-3 and came up just one victory short of a coveted state tournament title, losing 68 to Carr Creek in the championship game.

The baseball team, also coached by Plain, posted an 18-2 won-lost record and reached the semifinals in the state tournament before losing to Murray High, 5-4.

The track team, which did not have the services of Benson, finished seventh in the state meet.

Except for the conflict in scheduling Benson easily could have been a factor on the track team. He was a natural in the shot put and discus.

"Natural" is the appropriate word to use in describing Benson's athletic ability.

He was a gifted athlete who performed with such grace and ease that an opponent's first impression was that he was lazy.

Far from it.

As center-linebacker on City's football team, he was a perfectionist as a blocker and a tackler. Take my word for it. When Morganfield and City High clashed in 1955 in a battle of unbeaten before an overflow crowd at Barret Stadium, it was Benson who came up with the big

# Lots of good me!

# 'Bull' Dawson has 38 years

# n: Henderson's 'Mr. Natu

stoppers in a 7-6 City victory. With legs like tree stumps, he was indeed an immovable force as a 195-pound middle linebacker. In basketball, his physical appearance was a deceptive factor which caught many an opponent off guard.

At 5-11, the robust southpaw was used at either guard or forward on a team which included 6-3 Byron Pinson, 6-2 Fred Schuette, 6-0 Sammy Joe Shelton and 5-9 David Eakins. If he didn't have blinding speed, he had uncanny quickness and a deft shooting

touch. Many a time he awed the packed City High gym crowds with his long-range, high-arching shots which at first looked as if they would barely leave his hand before settling ever so softly in the netting which laced the rim. Benson had a strong competitive character which came home to this writer just a few hours after City High had lost to Carr Creek in the state basketball tournament championship.

He was sprawled on his bed in the Phoenix Hotel in Lexington when I went by to congratulate him and the rest of the team on their fine showing.

"Good job nothing," he said, "we came up here to win this thing." He found little consolation in the fact that he, Pinson and Eakins had been named to the all-tournament team that included the Wayland Legend, King Kelly Coleman.

His prep basketball career over, Benson turned to baseball, a sport in which he excelled as a pitcher, fielder and hitter.

As a pitcher he had the same effortless style which marked his all-state performance in football and basketball. His easy motion belied the steam that was to catch many batters rocking on their heels.

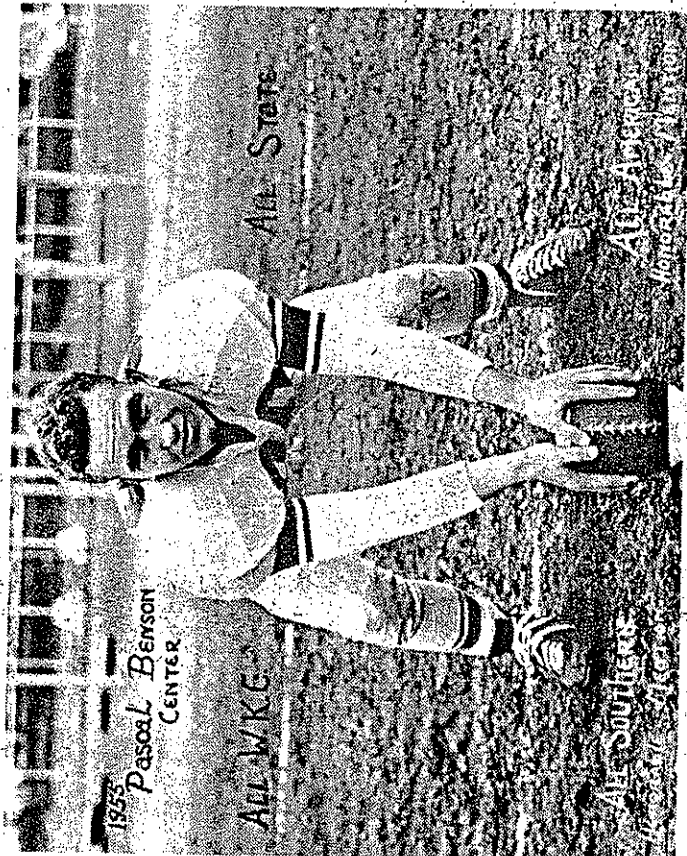
When the season ended, Benson had

posted a 9-1 record to Owensboro and a 446 batter his pitching victory — a 12-0 victory district tournament. Many considered a baseball player cast his lot as a University of Kentucky name of Louisville admission, the game.

Benson was a years 1957-59, playing. Returning to Henderson County and was head of nine years.

A growing consuming desire to give it up. He Elaine Hofman Tracy Allen, 1 Edward Lee, 8 m Today he teach system and keep field supervisor baseball complex.

His physical are not unlike those gifts of nature. Savvy took his individual sports



Pascal Benson

1. Exhibit – Article from Gleaner Newspaper, Henderson, KY (July 4, 1976 – A Bicentennial Salute from 1776 to 1976)

mories



1955  
Pascal Benson  
CENTER

ALL W.K.C.

ALL STATE

ALL SOUTHERN

HONORABLE MENTION

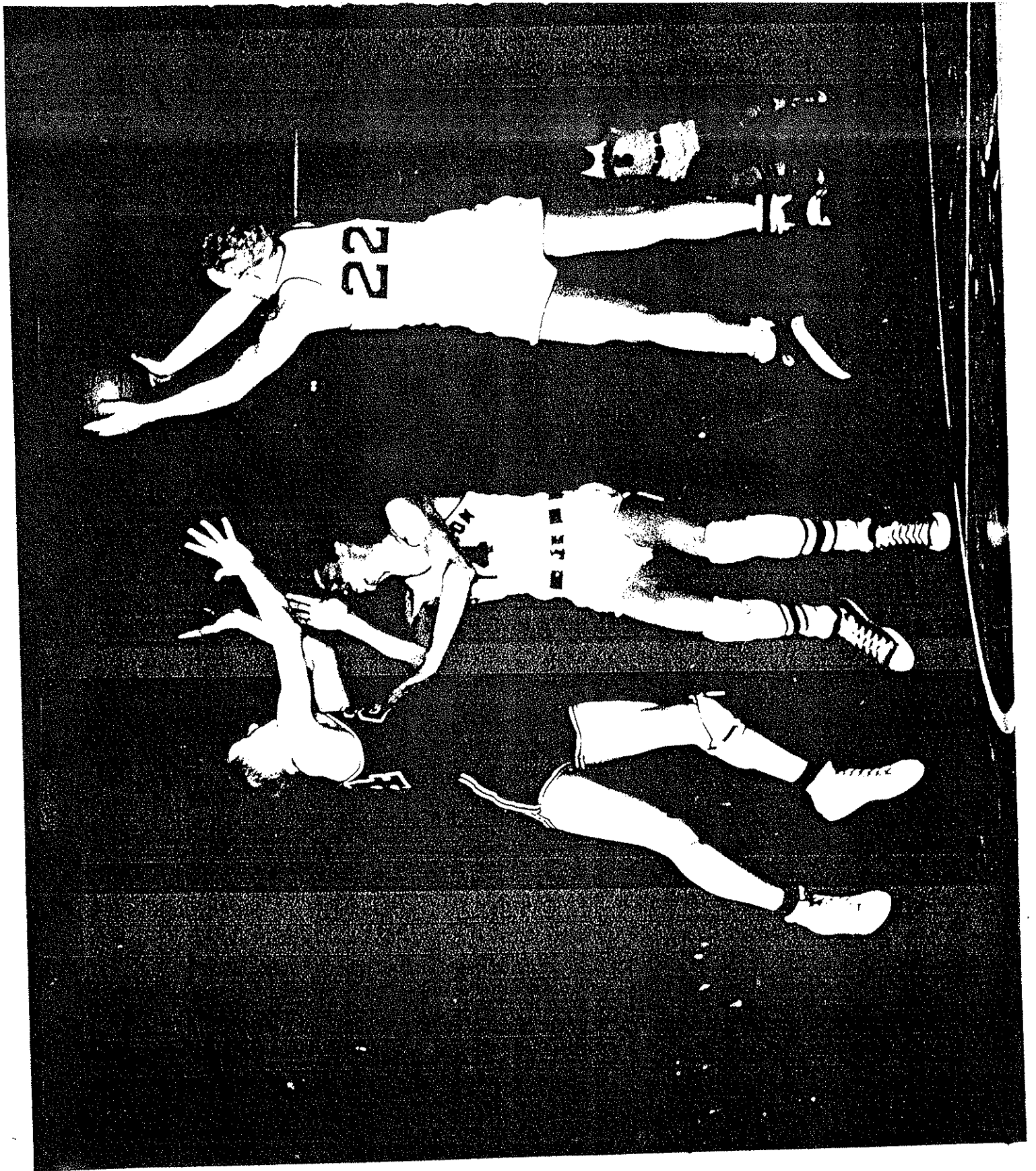
ALL AMERICAN

HONORABLE MENTION

21 837. 7/4" x 6" FAME TAB #1715-1.80 Photo by Gerald Wood



*Bascal #22*



4. Exhibit - Article written by Shelby Riggs – He has researched all High Schools he could find on line. He has not found another athletic in the US with all state in three sports in one year.

Ads by Google

**Your Basketball Prowess**

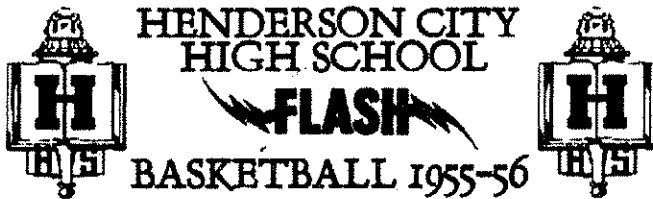
Can LASIK Step Up Your Game? Free Consultation with LasikPlus.  
www.LasikPlus.com

**Ky Sports Glory Days**

Revisit the most thrilling moments of sports in the Bluegrass State!  
www.kyglorydays.com

**Want To Become a Teacher?**

NCATE Accredited Education Degree Affordable Online Courses. Sign Up  
www.WGU.edu



# Henderson City High School Basketball

## 1955-56

Pascal Benson

*Henderson City High School  
Class of 1956*

**City High Facts**

**Henderson City High School**

**Basketball 1955-56**

**All-State-Regional-District-Honors for each player from 1953 to 1957**

**After High School Facts**

**1955-56 Basketball: Game by Game Scores**

**The Game- Henderson All-Stars vs the**

**Harlem Magicians, April 1961**

**Henderson City High School Football 1955**

**1955 Football Game by Game Scores**

**1956 Henderson City High Baseball**

*Senior Guard/Forward*

*All-State-Football, 1st team, 1954, 1955*

*All-State-Basketball, 1st team, 1956*

*All-State-Baseball, 1st team, 1956*

*All-Regional-Basketball, 1st team, 1956*

*All-Regional-Baseball, 1st team, 1955, 1956*

*All-Regional-Football, 1st team, 1953, 1954, 1955*

*All-District-Football, 1st team, 1953, 1954, 1955*

*All-District-Baseball, 1st team, 1953, 1954, 1955*

*All-District-Basketball, 1st team, 1956*

*All-State Tournament 1st team, Basketball, 1956*

Without a doubt Pascal Benson is the most gifted athlete to ever hail from Henderson, KY.

Pascal Ray Benson still stands today as the only athlete in Kentucky history to make 1st team all-state in 3 sports in one year. A feat that is so rare, I was not able to find any other athlete that accomplished that feat.

Pascal was a southpaw pitcher-first baseman on the City High Flash baseball team that went undefeated in regular season, and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state baseball tournament after losing to Murray High School, and then defeating Bell County in the consolation game. Pascal finished his junior year with a 9-1 record, which included a rare perfect game in a 12-0 victory in the district

**Coach T. L. Plain**

**Coach Don  
Chapman**

**Coach Don Shelton**

**Pascal Benson**

**Billy Brown**

**Dale Brown**

**Rudy (Petie)  
Bryant**

**Tommy Childress**

**David Eakins**

**Don Gish**

**Byron (Junie) Hall  
Jr.**

**Bill Harralson**

**Byron Pinson**

**Bill Ruff**

**Fred Schuette**

**Ronnie Sheffer**

**Sammy Joe Shelton**

**Dick Yates**

**Tommy Glover**

**City High  
Cheerleaders**

**Kentucky All-State  
Basketball team  
1955-56**

**All-Time Kentucky  
High School  
Scorers**

**1956-All-State  
Tournament Team**

**1956 Litkenhaus  
Basketball  
Rankings**

tournament over rival Henderson Holy Name. Pascal also went 5 for 5 at bats in that victory, knocking in 3 base runners to help his own cause.

Pascal was a guard on the 1954-55 Barret Manual basketball team that finished third in the state, and was a center-linebacker on the undefeated City High team in 1955 (10-0) that won the Kentucky state football title. Pascal was a starting guard-forward on the City High basketball team that 29-3 and runner-up in the state tournament, and a starting guard on the Barret Team that finished third in the 1954-55 sweet 16.

He went on to become a starting lineman at the University of Kentucky and later coached baseball and football at Henderson County High School.

Pascal turned down a contract with the Milwaukee Braves in 1956, so he could play football for Blanton Collier at the University of Kentucky. Pascal said his only two regrets were not winning the state basketball title, and not playing basketball for Adolph Rupp at the University of Kentucky. He says he was just too beat up to try and play basketball too.

Pascal received his bachelors degree in Physical education at UK and obtained his masters degree at Murray State, and his first rank also at Murray State. Elaine, (a 1960 Henderson Holy Name graduate) & Pascal married in 1962 and have 3 children. They have two sons Tracy, Edward, and daughter Jodie. Both sons reside in Henderson and daughter Jodie resides in Louisville KY. His favorite memories of Henderson as a student were obviously his sports prowess and the sock hops at City High Gymnasium after the home games.

Benson said that Bill Haley & his Comets were his favorite group. Pascal retired as a teacher at Henderson County High School in 1988, and operated his own driving school the same year. Pascal and his wife Elaine teach ballroom dancing today.

Enter supporting content here

(Shelby A. II )  
Lex Riggs  
930 Anchor Dr.  
Henderson, NV 89015

## Past Hall of Fame Inductees

### 1994

Bill Fraley, Barret; Dwight Watson, City High; William Goldrey, Holy Name; John Shirley, Douglass; Dwight Norman, County High; Paul Sutton, County High; Kim Terry, County High; Mendy Jackson-Phillips, City High/County High; 1959 Henderson National Little League All-Star Team

### 1993

Bert Bonnell, Barret; Wilms Kiefer, Barret; Don Gish, Barret; Bill Hieb, YMCA Executive Director; Dr. Don Cantley, Team Physician; Obbie Todd Jr., County High; Corky Taylor, City High; Jackie McCauley, County High; 1976 Henderson County High Football Team

### 1992

Audie Robards, Barret; Ronnie Clark, Barret; Lonnie Schuster, City High; Greg Hill, County High; Chris Jackson, County High; Margie Speaks, County High; Dr. Hoy Marable, Trainer; James (Snoz) Davis, Trainer; 1959 Henderson City High Football Team

### 1991

Isham Sellers, Robards; Buford Boucher, Barret; Jim Dixon, Douglass; Bill Fenwick, Holy Name; Jay Davis, City High; Leo Peckenpaugh, County High; David Childre, County High; Holly Straight Wick, County High; 1936-37, 1937-38 Corydon Basketball Team; 1955-56 City High Basketball Team

### 1990

J.T. Hall, Barret; Pierre Jackson, Douglass; Lucien Trimpe, Barret; Don Shelton, Barret; Pete Lindenberg, Weaverton; William Dawson, City High (Coach); Keith Combest, County High; Sue Clement Munnis, County High; T.L. Plain, Barret, City High (Coach); Byron Pinson, City High; Frankie Rucks, County High; Johnny Stewart, Holy Name; John Wheeler, City High; Darryl Hallmark, County High; David Eakins, City High; James Ward, City High; Steve Smith, City High; Pete Rembert, Douglass (Coach); Edgar Moss, Douglass; Cooksey Crafton, Barret; 1955 City High Football Team

### 1989

Sam Basan, Barret; Rudy Bryant, City High; Happy Chandler, Corydon; Kenny Rideout, City High; Darrell Willett, County High

### 1988

Sam Ball, County High; Pascal Benson, City High; John Burris, Douglass; John Chaney, Douglass; Jimmy Feix, Barret; Tommy Glover, City High; James (Mojo) Hollowell, Barret; Doc Hosbach, Henderson Recreation; Wilbur (Shorty) Jamerson, Barret; Norman O'Nan, Niagara; Fred Schuette, Barret; Barry Skaggs, County High; William Spoehr, Barret

## Hall of Fame sponsors

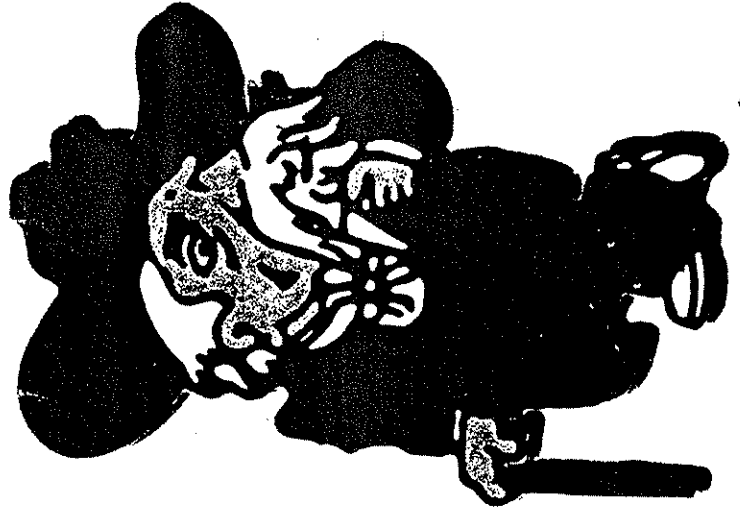
Jim & Bettye Bates Benton Glunt & Tapp Funeral Homes John & Charlene Eblen  
Henderson Chevrolet Buick Pontiac GMC Home Oil & Gas Company  
J.E. & B Associates Inc. Big Rivers Electric Corporation Methodist Hospital  
Neel, Crafton & Phillips, CPA Diamond Equipment Inc.  
Marco Enterprises dba Mr. B's Ohio Valley Bank Palmer Oil Company  
Park Machine & Supply Co. Owens Electric Rolling Hills Equestrian Center LLC  
WSON Radio The Gleaner

# Induction Ceremonies

## Henderson County

# Sports Hall of Fame

October 11, 2008



# Fails To Get All Votes

By EARL COX  
*Center-Journal Staff Writer*  
 Lexington, Ky., March 17, 1956

Record-hustler King Kelly Coleman still has one skeptic.

The talented Wayland guard, who either broke or helped break eight records here tonight, missed by only one ballot of being a unanimous selection for the All-State Tournament team picked by coaches, officials and members of the press and radio.

Central City's Corky Withrow and Henderson's Byron Pinson, both of whom made all-tourney last year, also made the honor team.

State champion Carr Creek placed E. A. Couch and Bobby Shepherd on the team.

In addition to Pinson, runner-up Henderson landed David Eakins and Pascal Benson.

Completing the star selections were Harry Todd of Earlington, Billy Lickert of Lafayette and Rex Story of Mayfield.

Todd is only a sophomore and Lickert is a junior. It was learned today that Lickert played most of the game against Bell County Friday night with a broken left wrist.

Here are the records King Kelly either broke or shared:

1. Most points in one state tourney game, 68, breaking his own record of 50 set against Shelbyville in the opening game.
2. Memorial Coliseum one-game record, breaking Cliff Regan's mark of 51 set against Temple for Kentucky.
3. Four-game individual total of 185 points, breaking the 124 scored last year by Hazard's Johnny Cox.
4. New individual points-per-game average of 46.25, breaking Cox's mark of 31.75 set by Cox.
5. Wayland and Bell County set new two-team total of 211.

Continued on Page 3, Column 1



**W E L L K E N T S K E L L Y ?** . . . Here is the Kentucky State High School All-Tournament team. Well, almost, that is. Conspicuous by his absence (and by his attractive sister who subbed for him) is Wayland's Kelly Coleman whose four-game total of 185 points shattered several tourney records. Linda Carol Coleman (circled) explained that Kelly was "too shy" to face the crowd and receive his trophy. The team: (kneeling, left to right) Rex Story, Mayfield; Dave Eakins, Henderson; E. A. Couch and Bobby Shepherd, Carr Creek; and Pascal Benson, Henderson. Standing (from left) are Harry Todd, Earlington; Byron Pinson, Henderson; Linda Carol Coleman, Wayland; Corky Withrow, Central City; and Billy Lickert, Lafayette.

Well-Kent

## Hens Place 3 On All-State

LEXINGTON, March 17, (M)—The All-State high school basketball tournament team announced here tonight included:

Kelly Coleman, Wayland; Byron Pinson, Pascal Benson and Dave Eakins, Henderson; Bobby Shepherd and E. A. Couch, Carr Creek; Harry Todd, Earlington; Corky Withrow, Central City; Rex Story, Mayfield, and Billy Ray Lickert, Lexington Lafayette.

Todd is a sophomore. Eakins and Lickert are juniors. Lickert, incidentally, suffered a fractured wrist in the quarter-finals.

## 7. Exhibit – Team and Trophy Information 1955-56

---

I was head coach for basketball and baseball and assistant coach for football for the years of 1955 and 1956 which was Pascal's junior and senior years at Barret High and Henderson City High School. (Some may be repeated from other pages.)

I am submitting the team picture and the pictures of trophies I had on file.

### **TROPHIES FOR SCHOOL YEARS OF 1955-56:**

#### Football:

- 2 Western Kentucky Conference Championships
- 2 Water Bucket wins when Henderson versed Owensboro
- 1 Mythical State Championship

#### Basketball:

- 2 Western Kentucky Conference Championships
- 1 Kentucky State Tournament Runner Up
- 1 Kentucky State Tournament Third Place
- 2 Regional Championships
- 2 District Championships
- 2 Holiday Tournament Championships

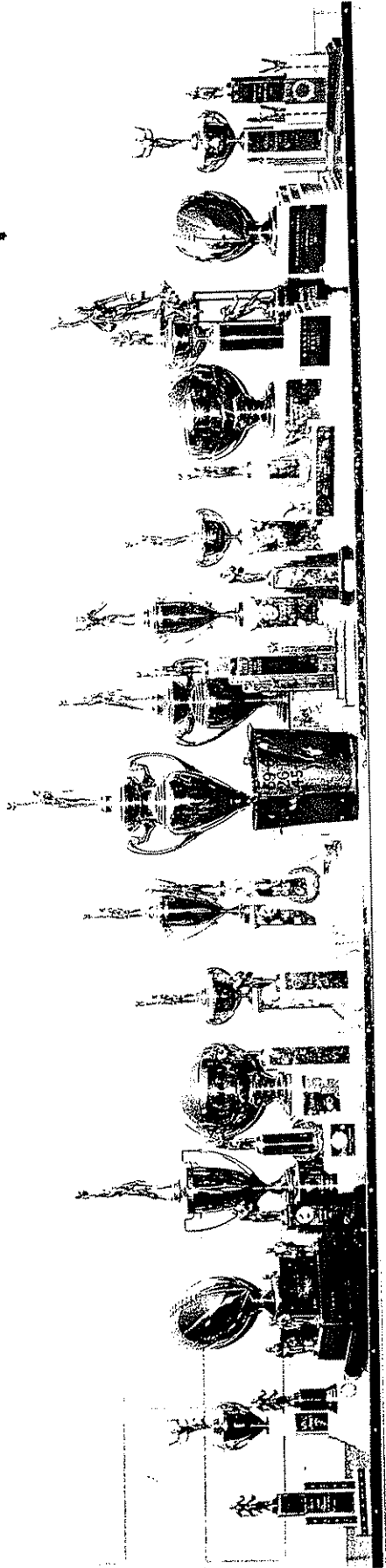
#### Baseball:

- 1 Kentucky State Tournament Semi-Finalist
- 1 Regional Championship
- 1 Regional Runner-Up
- 2 District Championships





Basketball 55-56 Pascal - First on LF - Back row



Trophies from 55-56 (Football, Basketball, Baseball)



# Football Facts



University of  
**KENTUCKY**

FOR PRESS - RADIO & TV 1958

### ARI JANES, Sophomore Louisville, Ky.

A starting guard up from the freshman team. May be a great asset in the realization of his two potential feet. UK coaches rate him as a star for the remainder of the future. Although at 5'7, 190 lbs. he is the smallest guard in the team his desire and ability seems to even things up when the game gets rough. Got into Blue-White game this spring at left guard as a member of the Blue team. All-State honorable mention as a back and a member of the Louisville St. Xavier. Also was on the track team. Football in the College of Engineering.

### PASCAL (Lord) BENSON—Junior—Henderson, Ky.

Along with Bob Talamin, Benson could possibly present the closest battle for a starting berth of any one single position on the team. An added year on Talamin and bigger size may give the former Henderson High All-Everything a slight edge on his competitor. Started the opening game at guard against Georgia Tech last season and saw action in eight games for a total playing time of 116:16. One of only four returning lettermen at the thinly-manned guard slots. He's the best when the going is the toughest and seems to thrive on contact. Probably is most outstanding as a defensive performer and is used as a linebacker on defense. Originally a center at which position he performed for the freshman team two years ago. Played the same position three years under Coach Don Shelton at Henderson. Captain, first team All-State, and honorable mention on the All-South and All-America teams. Seemingly almost spent in appearance due to his pounceage (210) despite a six foot frame. Has tremendously muscular legs. Gained All-State honors as a guard in high school. Also hit 446 while posting a 9-1 pitching mark in his senior year of baseball. Possesses average speed. Started at left guard for White team in last spring's Blue-White tilt. May be called on for some kickoff, extra point or field goal duty.



### ROBERT (Bob) EANES—Sophomore—Clifton Forge, Va.

UK coaches, feeling the strain of a lack of desirable strength at the guard positions, have reached down into the fullback ranks to pull out an impressive guard candidate in the person of Eanes. Physically equipped for the position as he stacks up at a stocky 5-11, 203. Saw extensive action in the spring intra-squad tussle where he was the number-one replacement at left guard for the White's starter, Pascal Benson. Entered in mid-year (February, 1956) and that extra semester he had to adjust has seemed to make Eanes one of the more mature youngsters on the squad. Came to UK via Clifton Forge High and Fishburne Military School. Played halfback and captained the All-State team. Also took part in basketball, track and was state schoolboy bathing champion in baseball with a .482 average as a catcher-third baseman. Bob was regular catcher and one of top hitters for Coach Lancaster's baseball nine. Has better than average speed for lineman. A red-shirt in '57.

# Pitino damaged by Sypher carnival

## More triples: Smith, McGuire, Rupp

Rick Pitino strode through the valley of the shadow of humiliation last week.

As expected, Louisville's coach was more than a match for the defendant's attorney in the Karen Sypher trial. But, when asked how long his dalliance with Sypher lasted, Pitino issued a gaffe that made him into a punch line.

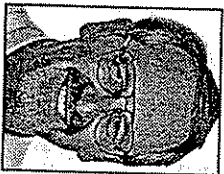
"Fifteen seconds." Excuse me? Pitino had to be thinking half-court how-to with the clock running down. This remark could earn Pitino a place with the other Unforgettables who said:

"Well, I am not a crook," ... but I never inhaled." And, "I have lusted in my heart."

This trial you and I are paying for, is a combination of — let in the lawyers, a bad Hollywood script and fleecing of America. A spectacle that begs for Andy Rooney in judge's robes, Terry Meiners as prosecutor, all backed by two fiddles and a banjo. A carnival.

Pitino is no white knight, but the stunning mystery is, why a man wily enough to steer clear of trading barbs with his counterpart in Lexington, could fall prey to bo-ism?

out for the coach? A newspaper poll of 13,000 of Pitino out at U of want him



**Bob Watkins**  
Syndicated columnist

fired. Five thousand want a resignation. Moving into a sparkling new arena, the Cardinals' coach who, once wore white suits and could have been elected governor, is suddenly a virtual lame duck. What next? If the University and Pitino survive the Sypher storm, and say, Charlie Strong's football team beats Kentucky, then U of L's basketball team opens to five capacity crowds, then cash register music will drown out all but the loudest critics. And, Karen Sypher will have had her 15 minutes of, uh, 15 seconds of fame.

### More triples

Dean Smith's recent health problems and a Sporting News column by John Feinstein last week brought to mind a troika of college hall of fame coaches I was fortunate enough to interview along the way. Smith, Al McGuire and Adolph Rupp. Each left me a quote.

■ In Chapel Hill at a sports writing seminar in 1986, I asked Smith about his four-corner offense in the 1977 NCAA Tournament. He grinned and replied, "You must be from Kentucky."

■ In a hallway at Freedom Hall in Louisville, Al McGuire was taking questions after Louisville had beaten Marquette. An alleged UK-hater, McGuire was not the ogre Kentucky fans believed. At the interview conclusion, he

winked and said, "Hey, send me a t-shirt."

Four years later at end of a telephone interview, McGuire said, "Hey, never did get that t-shirt."

■ In his office at Memorial Coliseum, Adolph Rupp took questions from a college newspaper reporter one October afternoon. Turning to leave I asked if we could talk again some time? "Why they hell not?" the old Baron said, "You know where I am."  
Good memories ... in triplicate.

### Names in sports

From the Curveball Section, some names in sports jump off a page into our imaginations. During America's radio era and baseball cards, we saw stars through our hearts. And personalities fit their names to a tee, leaving one to wonder if they grew into them?

This week, a few favorites. Willie, Mickey and the Duke. Could Mays, Mantle and Snider be so perfect by any other names? Geography was perfect too. Mays from Alabama, Mantle from Oklahoma, and Snider from California.

Vito "Babe" Parilli. What else but a quarterback?

Cawood Ledford. What finer name for a Kentucky legend linked to horse racing, basketball and football in Kentucky?

Wah Wah Jones. Harlan County's finest, arguably Adolph Rupp's toughest. Roberto Clemente. Quintessential baseball perfect to with



Henderson's Pascal Benson is remembered as one of the great names in local and state sports history. (Photo furnished)

a sing-song swashbuckler name too.

"King" Kelly Coleman. Basketball skill aside, the personality called for nickname associated with royal autonomy.

Harold Reese. PeeWee had to be a shortstop. Team leader from the spikes up, and No. 1 on his back. Captain of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Perfect.

Larry Berra. Anybody imagine the Yankee Hall of Famer who contributed so much to baseball and the English language, with any other moniker than Yogi?

Bob Skinner. Never the best in any statistic, but a sweet swing and running style was perfect for a kid to imitate. Good fit nickname too, Mule.

And, for this segment, best name of the lot ... Pascal Benson. Played foot-

ball at Kentucky for Blanton Collier. During Pascal Benson's varsity years (1957-59), the Wildcats beat Tennessee three straight. Back home in Henderson, Benson is a first-team selection to Henderson City High's all-time basketball team.

Definition: Pascal is a unit of pressure. Example: House air tightness tests are typically conducted with a pressure difference of 50 Pascals between the inside and outside. And, Pascal is name for a lunar crater that lies near the northern limb of the moon.

Pascal perfect.  
Your favorite name in sports?

Sports In Kentucky appears in community newspapers across the Commonwealth. You can reach Bob Watkins at [sprtsinky@aol.com](mailto:sprtsinky@aol.com)

Elaine BensonNice letter with some notes from Bensons home.

From: <beeze70@aol.com>  
 To: <ronjenkins@insightbb.com>  
 Sent: Sunday, November 29, 2009 1:43 PM  
 Subject: Re: Pascal Benson / Jim Berryman  
 Ron-

I hope this finds you well.

I'd like info on how to get a "Letter to the Editor" as I have a neat, yet bittersweet, story to share. My excitement and passion for Kentucky Football, specifically UK football, was overshadowed by my disappointment in not honoring the 1959 UK football team for their accomplishments during Saturday's game versus Tennessee. ( letter sent to Benson e-mail right after KY-TN game, Fall of 2009 )  
 Shortest version I can muster from a long story.....

The 1956 UK freshman football team defeated UT's freshman. They went on to win the next 3 years as the Varsity team. Kentucky only one six and tied one game over the next 28 years. The record since 1984 is well-documented (0-26).

Here's my passion for Mr. Benson. He was kind enough as a young 22-year-old to give the 1959 UK / UT game ball he earned to my uncle. The ball was passed along to me and has been a cherished artifact in my home.

The players at UK from 1956-1959 deserved to be honored in Lexington last night. Pascal Benson was the Most Outstanding Player (MOP) in the game 50 years ago. He should have been a part of getting the kids motivated last night with his story.

Pascal was not MOP

Unfortunately, the UK staff wasn't interested in making this happen. I know - I have pushed for such an honor for the past 2 years. I even offered the University the ball to be used as part of the potential ceremony.

His accolades at Henderson County speak for themselves - yet to give an earned ball to a young man says a ton more about a person and goes way beyond the game of football.

My disappointment in the UK staff is only brightened by knowing Mr. Benson's character and generosity.

I hope you can spread the word.

Sincerely,

Jim Berryman  
 JIM BERRYMAN  
 COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL AGENT

SCHULER BAUER REAL ESTATE  
 (502) 235-8009 CELL  
[BEEZE70@AOL.COM](mailto:BEEZE70@AOL.COM)  
[JIMBERRYMAN@SCHULERBAUER.COM](mailto:JIMBERRYMAN@SCHULERBAUER.COM)

## 9. Exhibit – Background information on Pascal Benson and Spouse

- \*Now have 6 grandchildren with one due anytime. Have 3 step grandchildren. Oldest is a freshman going to Murray State.
- \*Participated in United Way Volunteer Players for a Pantomime show for 5 years and did dancing.
- \*Volunteered to present our home 3 years for Christmas tours to raise money for charity.
- \*Volunteered to play Santa and Elf for community and private events for 20 years until 2007.
- \*Continue to support Hugh Edward Training Center having mentally and physically challenged students in home for dance and refreshments.
- \*Continue to be Eucharistic ministers and volunteers for church and school events. Became “Faithful Stewards” of the month in May 2005. Have both served on the Holy Name parish council.
- \*Continue to teach adults dancing in the home to raise money for charities. Also, volunteer in one of the schools to teach dance during some PE sessions.
- \*Volunteer with the community by helping with “WC Handy” and “Blue Grass in the Park” activities.
- \*Continue to do “Special events” when called on for one time events. In 2010, we taught 1800’s dance for “John James Audubon” 200 year celebration on July 3 at Audubon Mill Park.
- \*Continue to own and operate “Pascal Benson Driving School”
- \*Continue to be members of Holy Name parish, Eagles Club, Country Club Coterie Ballroom Dance Club and many Alumni organizations.
- \*Now serving on the Coterie Board in Evansville, IN

### Pascal:

- \*Still serving on “Henderson Hall of Fame” Board
- \*Officer in the TPA organization
- \*Officer for “Walnut Bottoms Hunting”
- \*Member of K Club for University of Kentucky
- \*2006 was nominated for Small Business Person of the Year Award put on by the local Chamber of Commerce

### Elaine:

- \*Received KY Retired Teachers Association District Recognition for Volunteerism for 2002-03.

- \*Completed leadership Henderson in 1994 and became President of Henderson Leadership Henderson Alumni until 2000.
- \*Started the male reading program at South Heights School in the 1990's which is still going today.
- \*Completed State sponsored Art Academy in 2001
- \*Served as an officer for Henderson Area Kentucky Colonels Club from May 2005 to July 2009
- \*United Way chairperson at local school for year of 2000 with 100% of employees participating
- \*Served 4 years on the board of directors for "Ohio Valley Art league" until 2008
- \*Deanery Council Representative for 2 years for Holy Name parish
- \*Served on the Henderson City County Planning Commission from March 1994 to July 1996. Had to leave because of changing address from city to county.
- \*Retired from all paid teaching jobs in May 2005.

1994

**Pascal R. Benson**  
209 Donna Drive  
Henderson, KY 42420  
Home Phone 502-826-4348

### QUALIFICATIONS

Over twenty six years of teaching Driver Education to young teenagers at Henderson County Senior High School. This experience has help to develop my interpersonal communication skills with young teenagers to achieve the learning needed to prepare each one for safe driving.

Immediately after retiring from teaching the opportunity to become the owner of my own driving school began to take place. Now after eight years I have successfully owned and operated Pascal Benson Driving School and I am still open today. This has once again develop my skills to successfully instruct all ages of drivers.

The publics eye is the most important attribute I have for my success. I have been on the Chamber of Commerce board of directors for the last three years. I have served for the last two years on the Parrish Council for my church and the last six years I have served on the Sports Hall of Fame Committee for the city. I have many hours of volunteer work I have contributed to my community including developing many safe drivers of all ages.

### WORK HISTORY

1987-1996

*Owner, Pascal Benson Driving School*  
Developed this business after the high school discontinued all driver education courses. I have successfully continued to operate and instruct all road and classroom sessions.

1962-1987

*Teacher, Henderson County Board of Education*  
Driver Education instructor both classroom and road activities.  
Many years of Coaching and teaching Physical Education classes.  
Retired after twenty eight years of teaching with twenty six years of drivers education.

### EDUCATION

1952-1956

Bachelor of Science Degree , University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky

1977-1979

Masters and Rank. I , Murray State University  
Murray, Kentucky

Written in 2007

## Elaine and Pascal Benson

1042 Country Club Drive  
Henderson, KY 42420  
270-826-4348

### PASCAL R. BENSON

#### Education:

City High School 1956, Henderson, KY  
BS University of KY 1960, Lexington, KY  
Rank I and Rank 11, Murray State, Murray, KY

#### Sports:

All state in high school basketball, football and baseball  
Played college football at University of KY 1956 to 1960

#### Occupation:

Taught in Henderson County Schools for 28 years  
Now owns and operates PASCAL BENSON DRIVING SCHOOL

### ELAINE H. BENSON

#### Education:

Holy Name High School 1960, Henderson, KY  
BS Brescia University 1974, Owensboro, KY  
MA Western KY University 1979, Bowling Green, KY

#### Occupation:

Thirty-five years teaching all subjects K through 6 in private and public schools  
Now teaching Art and Drama integrated with other subjects as a Title 1  
Teacher at Spottsville School, one of the Henderson County Schools

#### Extra Curricular Activity:

Past three years had a volunteer Ballroom dance class after school hours

### ELAINE AND PASCAL

Married since June 30, 1962. Have 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

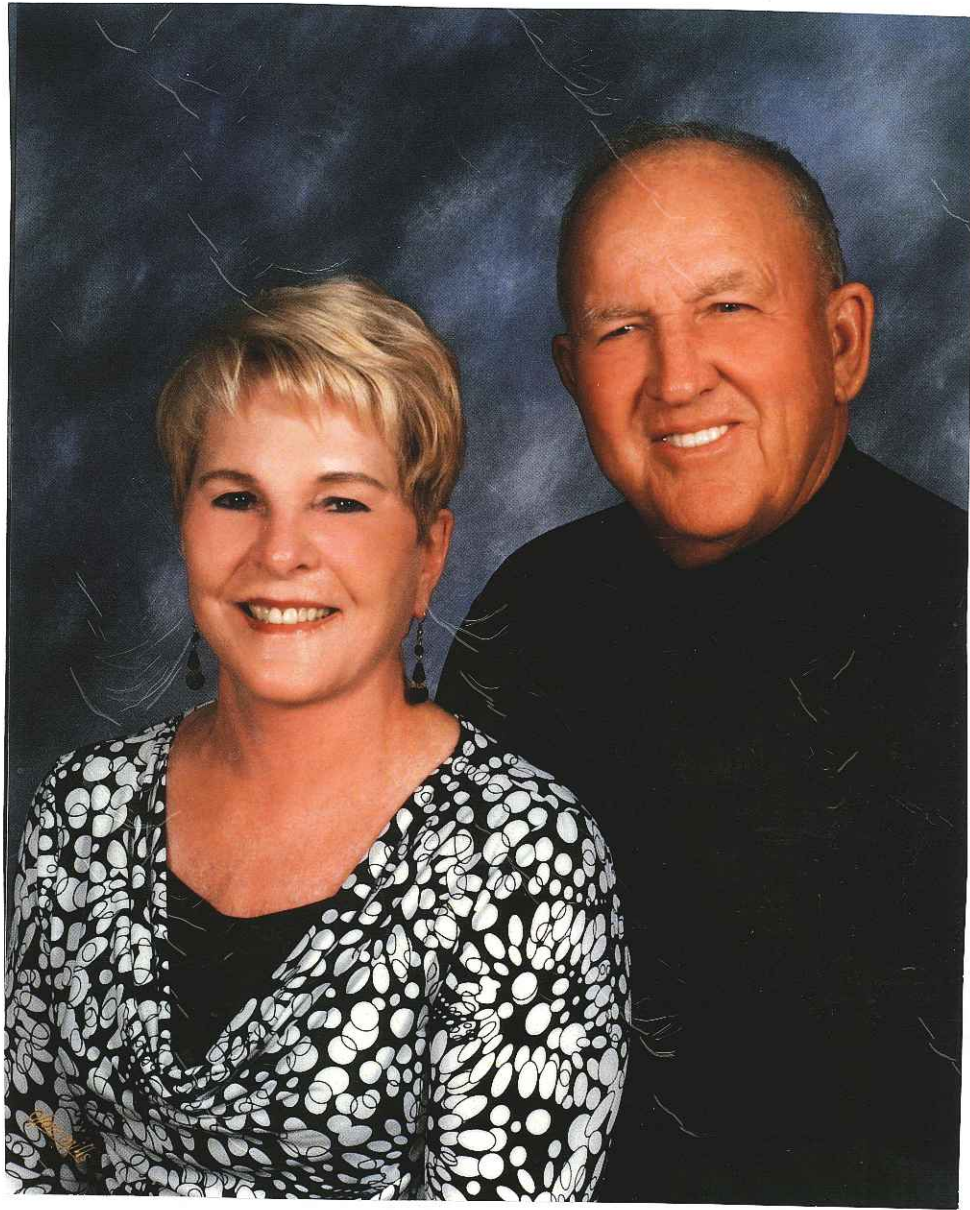
We are KY Colonels. We volunteer as Eucharistic Ministers at Holy Name Church, Henderson, KY. For the past year we have volunteered to teach some of the special needs people of our community in the ballroom located in our home. We have volunteered to help some others with special circumstances. (We only teach basic dance for persons who have no other way to learn.)

We are members of the Henderson Country Club, Henderson Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Elks Club, Evansville Eagles Club, Owensboro Ballroom Club and Evansville Coterie Ballroom Club.

Over the years we have served on boards held office, volunteered and/or supported over 100 different state, local, civic, community, charitable or recreational organizations.

Our hobbies are mainly dancing, golfing, fishing and hunting. (Elaine watches hunting)





Picture taken 8-2009  
Elaine & Pascal Benson  
Married for 48 years 6-30-2



**Screening, selection committees:  
Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Ky. 40505**

**Oct. 27, 2011**

**I write in support of one of Kentucky's greatest all-around prep athletes, Pascal Benson (Henderson City High Class of 1956), as a very worthy candidate for the Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame. I understand from T.L. Plain, his former basketball-baseball coach at Henderson, that you already have in hand the background information on his achievements.**

**Just in case, it should be noted that he was a legitimate All-State selection in THREE sports: Football, basketball and baseball as a star player on the undefeated Henderson City High football team (10-0) that claimed the mythical state championship; a guard-forward on the Flash basketball team that was runnerup to Carr Creek in the State Tournament and a pitcher-first baseman on the Flash team that finished third in the state baseball tournament.**

**"Legitimate" is the key word here, as records on file with your organization will document.**

**My support of his selection to the Hall of Fame comes from a unique perspective: 1. I was quarterback of the Morganfield High team that lost, 7-6, to the 1955 Flash. 2. I was a starting guard on the Morganfield High basketball team that lost to the 1955-56 Henderson squad; and (3) I was the losing pitcher on the Morganfield High baseball team eliminated from District play by the Benson-led Flash.**

**Moreover, I followed Benson's football career at University of Kentucky as then-sports editor of The Gleaner, Henderson's daily newspaper, which I later served as editor for 33 years.**

**The bottom line is that few, if any, Kentucky prep athletes can boast of the single season achievements that saw Benson recognized as a legitimate All-State player in three sports.**

**I humbly appeal to you to pay tribute to those achievements.**

**Sincerely,**

  
**Ron Jenkins**

**Retired Editor, The Gleaner, Henderson, Ky.**

To: Butch Cope, Assistant Commissioner  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

From: T. L. Plain  
6681 Waterford Place  
Owensboro, KY 42303-9235

Date: January 13, 2012

Subject: Nomination of Pascal Benson for Induction into the Dawahares/  
KHSAA Hall of Fame

After many years of coaching in Kentucky and Indiana high schools plus coaching the college elite, I remain a proponent for Pascal Benson to become a member of the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Considering the time line in which Pascal participated in athletics at Barret High and Henderson City High Schools there were few equals. His individual contributions were noteworthy on KHSAA top teams. The 1956 all-state honors in Football, Basketball and Baseball continues to be a benchmark achievement in Kentucky High School Sports.

Pascal transferred his football skills to the University of Kentucky after high school graduation. While playing for Coach Collier's successful teams, he was a player of 1956, 1957, 1958 and 1959 on teams which were victorious over Tennessee.

I am equally proud of Pascal's civic endeavors in the Tri-state area. Pascal and Elaine are considered the "closers" for community projects and committees for the betterment of their community of Henderson. They work in unison for Henderson area betterment.

Thanks you for your continued consideration.



T. L. Plain, former coach and teacher of Barret and City High Schools.