

Prestonsburg High School All State Football Players



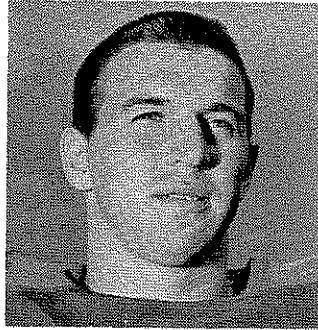
**Franklin Delano "SET" Branham
1947**

"Set" Branham was Prestonsburg's first all-state football player in 1947. The agile halfback, who was acclaimed one of Kentucky's all-time runners, scored 127 points in nine games and the highlight of the '47 season was in the Flood Bowl Classic in Pineville in which the Blackcats came from behind to win, 28-21.

Late in the game, "Set" almost caused Coach John Eibner to have a heart attack, when he faded back to attempt a field goal. "Set" had never kicked a field goal in his life . . . here goes our game, mused Eibner, frantic, but unable to do anything about it.

But, alas, from a difficult angle "Set" split the uprights. Not by placekick, either; he drop-kicked it twenty-nine yards.

"Set" played three years with the University of Utah, where he was an All-Skyline conference halfback for two years. He later played in the Canadian Professional football league with the Regina Rough Riders of Saskatchewan.



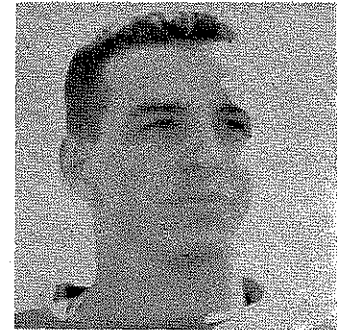
**John Delmar Hughes
1951-1952**

John Delmar Hughes was the second Blackcat to make the Kentucky high school all-state football team.

Delmar was an all-state quarterback in 1951 and 1952 and was named the outstanding player in the '51 Recreation Bowl Game in Mt. Sterling.

In 28 games at Prestonsburg high, Delmar completed 271 of 397 passes for 3,401 yards and 51 went for touchdowns. He scored 25 touchdowns and kicked 67 extra points for a three-year total of 217 points.

He later earned four letters as a quarterback on the University of Kentucky eleven.



**Lowell Hughes
1954-1955**

Three years after brother John Delmar had graduated from Prestonsburg high, Lowell came along to rewrite the majority of his big brother's records, not counting the five games he played as a freshman and the 30 points he scored that year.

Outside of the freshman season, Lowell passed 347 times with 225 completions for 3,482 yards. 36 of his passes went for touchdowns. He tallied 46 touchdowns himself and kicked 46 extra points for 262 counters.

He currently holds the majority of Prestonsburg high school scoring records.

Lowell was also named the outstanding player in the 1954 Recreation Bowl Game in Mt. Sterling.

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Dawahares-Kentucky High School Athletic Association HALL OF FAME



Official Nomination Form

The Dawahares-Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame is open to anyone who has played, officiated or administered high school athletics at any Kentucky high school, past or present, or to anyone who has been of service to Kentucky high school athletics. (Please type all information).

Name of Person Nominated:

Estill "Eck" Branham

Address of Person Being Nominated (or surviving relative if deceased):

360 Blue Level Road
Bowling Green, Ky 42101

Phone

502/842-0979

Birthdate

December 27, 1913

Briefly List Specific Accomplishments of Nominee (if coach include coaching records):

Manager of East/West High School
Allstar Games for 24 Years
1956 thru 1980

List Name of Schools Where Nominee Involved:

Name of Individual Submitting Nomination:

Estill Branham (Nephew)

Address:

P.O. Box 1084
Prestonsburg, Ky 41653

Phone:

606/886-2314 or 606/886-3392

Comments On Nominee:

Dedicated his life to High School
Athletic's both as a Coach and
Manager of the High School Allstar
Games.

Signed:

Estill W. Branham

Date:

February 26, 2000

All nominations will be forwarded to the Hall of Fame Selection Committee to be appointed by the President of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control.

KHSAA Hall of Fame

Eligibility:

Eligibility for the KHSAA Hall of Fame is based on high school accomplishments and contributions only. Any player who has been out of high school 10 years; or any coach; administrator or official who has distinguished themselves in their respective field is eligible. Active coaches must be 60 years of age or older. Inactive coaches under the age of 60 must have been inactive for three years to qualify.

Nominations:

Anyone can nominate a person for the Hall of Fame. Nomination deadline is April 1. An official KHSAA Hall of Fame nomination form must be completed for each nominee. Additional information can also be submitted with the nomination form.

Selection:

The number of inductees to be selected begins with 18 in 1995 and decreases by one each year until the maximum number of 12 is reached. A selection committee consisting of the KHSAA

Board of Control will meet during May in Lexington to pick the inductees. Inductees will be notified of their selection following the May meeting and will be inducted the following March in conjunction with the Boys' Sweet 16 basketball tournament.

Group Demographics:

Each group of inductees must include at least:

- five either deceased or 65 years old or older;
- one representative from each section (i.e. Section one consists of basketball; regions 1-4; Section 2 - Regions 5-8; etc.);
- the remainder of the nominees will be at-large selections.

Instructions:

All information on this form must be completed and received by the Kentucky High School Athletic Association before April 1. The completed nomination form and support materials should be sent to:

Dawahares-KHSAA Hall of Fame
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Once the nomination form is received by the KHSAA,

all actions necessary to the selection process shall remain confidential. All information submitted shall be retained by the Hall of Fame. Please include a limited number of newspaper clippings, magazine articles and other supportive materials that would be helpful to the Hall of Fame Screening Committee.

General Criteria:

Nominees must exemplify the highest standards of sportsmanship, ethical conduct and moral character. Athletes would be former student-athletes who are being nominated for their achievements in interscholastic athletics. Coaches would be considered on the merits of their high school coaching achievements only and officials on the basis of their service as a high school official.

**ALL CANDIDATES WILL BE JUDGED ON
THEIR SIGNIFICANT AND/OR LONG-TERM
CONTRIBUTIONS TO INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETICS.**

ESTILL "ECK" BRANHAM
PLAYING AND COACHING CAREER

Played Basketball and Football at Prestonsburg High School (4 Years)

Awards: All Conference Football-Junior and Senior year
Received Most Valuable Player award in Regional
Tournament in Basketball-Senior year

Captain Football and Basketball-Senior year

Graduated from Western Kentucky - 1938

1938-39 Wheatcroft (Basketball)
1940 Van Lear (Basketball and Football)
1941 Sturges (Basketball and Football)
1942 Prestonsburg (Basketball and Football)
1942-45 United States Army
1946 Flemingsburg (Baseball and Basketball)
1947-48-49 Lyon County (Basketball and Baseball)
1950-51-52-53 Bourbon County (Basketball and Baseball)
1954-55-56-57 Winchester (Basketball and Baseball)
1957 thru 1968 Warren County (Football and Baseball)

Directed the East-West High School Football and Baseball All Star Games, sponsored by the High School Coaches Association from 1956 to 1977.

ESTILL "ECK" BRANHAM
FELLOW COACHES

JOE ORR		IRVIN, KENTUCKY
RUSSELL WILLIAMS		INEZ, KENTUCKY
RALPH DORSEY		CAVE CITY, KENTUCKY
COY MEADOWS		GLASGOW, KENTUCKY
JIM POWELL		EDDYVILLE, KENTUCKY
JIM RICHARDS	(WKU) ALUMNI PRES.	BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY
REYNOLDS (BUDDY) FLYNN		COVINGTON, KENTUCKY
ROY WALTON	TATES CREEK	LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
ALVIS JOHNSON	HARRODSBURG HIGH	LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
HENIGER	(Board Member)	EDDYVILLE, KENTUCKY
MCQUIG	(Board Member)	EDDYVILLE, KENTUCKY



Bobby Watson



Cliff Hagan



Buddy Shoemaker

gain Named to All-State Squad

er-Journal Staff Writer.

Average height of the all-star team is just a shade under six feet. Moseley is tallest at six feet, three inches, while half of the first teams stands six feet or over.

The selection of Creason and Mathis makes Brewers unique in the history of all-State squads; a Brewer player has been named every year since the original team of 1944. Until this edition Male and Brewers had shared the distinction. The Redemen placed Fields McGregor in 1944, Homer Adlich in 1945 and '46 and Creason last year.

Selection of the all-state squad was based upon season play. Tournament performance was considered, but was not a necessary

qualification. Of the first ten, only two—Moore and Moseley—did not participate in the state meet. Only five of those named to the second team played with regional champions. The only one named—Madisonville's Frank Ramsey—on the third team attended the state meet.

Stergeos, Puckett, Hagan, Miller and Shoemaker were also all-tournament choices.

Balloting on the fringes of the first team is always close and this year was no exception. Bill Fairchild of Inez lacked only one vote of tying for a place on the blue-ribbon team. Don Augsback of Bellevue and Leon Kingsolver of Fort Knox were short by only a pair of ballots.

Second Team

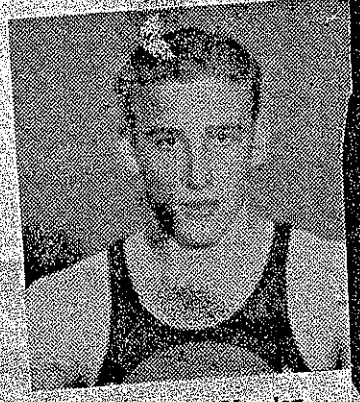
- Bill Fairchild, Inez.
- Don Augsback, Bellevue.
- Leon Kingsolver, Fort Knox.
- Bert Cox, London.
- Tom Ed Downing, Gamaliel.
- Jim Owens, Brewers.
- Perk Robins, Male.
- Tom Davis, Dayton.
- Wallace Lowry, Eminence.
- Guy Strong, Irvine.

Third Team

- Shirley Ballard, Winchester.
- Set Branham, Prestonsburg.
- Eugene Clark, Ashland.
- Dean Gentry, Mt. Washington.
- Bernard Howard, Albany.
- Dwight Price, University High.
- Charles Boulware, Calhoun.
- Frank Ramsey, Madisonville.
- Buddy Johnson, Pikeville.
- Harold Brooks, Corbin.



Ed Moore



McKinley Moseley



Coy Creason



Don Miller

Creason, Puckett, Shoemaker A

By JOHNNY CARRICO, Cou

He's coy in name only.

For certainly Brewers' polished performer, Coy Creason wasn't a bit shy—neither in his playing nor in the manner in which he piled up votes for The Courier-Journal's 1947 state basketball squad.

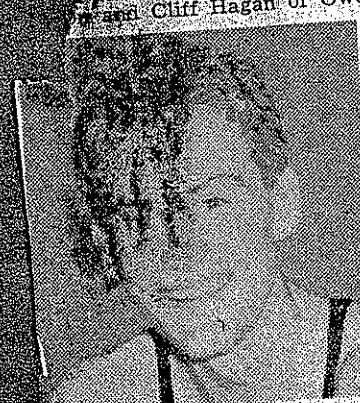
The five-foot-eight sharpshooter, credited with a key role in the acquisition of the state championship, easily out-stripped his colleagues in the balloting by coaches, writers and officials. So acknowledged as the cage cream of the commonwealth were Billy Puckett of Clark County; Don Miller of Carr Creek; Bobby Watson of Owensboro Senior High; Buddy Shoemaker and Gus Stergeos of Maysville; Van Mathis of Brewers; Ed Moore of Catlettsburg and McKinley Moseley of Leslie County.

Their election to the role of Kentucky's 10 best prep players is no novelty to Creason, Puckett and Shoemaker; they were 1947 selections, too.

Creason polled 46 per cent of the record number of ballots cast to surpass even the total built up by his teacher, McCoy Tarry who was named coach of the year. Closest to the Brewers Bomber in the voting on players was the Clark County vest-pocket guard Billy Puckett. Puckett was listed on every third ballot.

Lanky Cliff Hagan, the talented Owensboro center, is the only underclassman in an otherwise all-senior constellation. Hagan is a junior.

All-State Cage Squad



Van Mathis

Player	School	Age	Ht	Class
Coy Creason	Brewers	18	5-8	Sr.
Billy Puckett	Clark County	19	5-8	Sr.
Don Miller	Carr Creek	18	6-0	Sr.
Bobby Watson	Owensboro	18	5-1	Sr.
Cliff Hagen	Owensboro	17	6-1	Jr.
Buddy Shoemaker	Maysville	18	6-0	Sr.
Van Mathis	Brewers	18	5-1	Sr.
Gus Stergeos	Maysville	17	5-1	Sr.
Ed Moore	Catlettsburg	18	6-1	Sr.
McKinley Moseley	Leslie County	19	6-3	Sr.



Gus Stergeos



Johnny Berry
GUARD: Valley

Bob Creason
CENTER: Myfield

Harold Gruner
BACK: Manual

"Set" Branham
BACK: Prestonsburg

Tom Fillion
BACK: Owensboro

'Farley Again Make All-State

four years for John Heber. He also has lettered twice in basketball and once in track. Chester Maternick, in the words of Mayfield coach Ray Herndon, is "a great defensive player as well as a pass catcher. After we lost four halfbacks, it was Ches' pass snaring that enabled us to win." Maternick will go to Kentucky.

Teaming with Groschell at tackle is Raceland's Ronnie Cox, who also was an all-Eastern Kentucky Conference and Associated Press choice. Cox was a regular for six years on the Rambler eleven which is coached by Denver Ball Ronnie, who is destined for Ohio State, edged out St. Xavier's Otto Knop by a single vote.

Concerning Farley, the two-time winner, his coach, "Pug" Brakefield acknowledged: "Creed is probably the best guard ever to be turned out by Evarts. He played practically all of the time."

He was an all-conference and Associated Press selection. Johnny Berry gave Valley its first all-state football player. Berry won many votes from western Kentucky when he gave an outstanding performance in the Viking's upset of Owensboro.

STIFF

Creason, another repeater, weathered stiff competition from Henry Clay's Billy Adams to re-

tain his rule of the pivot. Herndon claims "Creason's offensive ability was necessary to make our model T go and his defensive ability kept us in many ball games."

Dave Preston, the key to Louisa's successful season, probably is the leading scorer in Kentucky with his 153 points. Owensboro's Tom Fillion was regarded as the classiest back in the Western Kentucky Conference and

was an All-State selection. "Set" Branham of Prestonsburg, who will pursue his athletic career at Georgia, rounds out the backfield.

"How did that nickname 'Set' originate?" Ted Benedetti, Branham's coach, was asked. "Nobody knows," Benedetti replied. "Born in 1923, Set wasn't actually named until 1943. Then he was named as the president, Franklin D. Roosevelt. He is, without doubt, the greatest high school football player I have ever seen."

Second Team Third Team

Eli Alexander, Murray	End	Edd Miles, Louisa
Paul Grier, Male	End	Bob Osborne, Manual
Otto Knop, St. Xavier	Tackle	Charles Cope, Benham
Bill Ravings, Newport	Tackle	David Owens, Owensboro
Bob Bys, Mayfield	Guard	Gayle Gardner, Hopkinsville
Bill Wutcher, Flaget	Guard	Bud Hoke, Anchorage
Billy Alms, Henry Clay	Center	Jim Morrison, Dixie Heights
Jack Thpe, Anchorage	Back	Ray Kidd, Corbin
Jack Rhardson, Flaget	Back	Will Hundemer, Bellevue
Bob Dagherty, Bellevue	Back	Bob Berger, M.M.T.
Gordon Crawford, Valley	Back	Ray Nutter, Nicholasville



Gene Hodge
D: Henry Clay



Chester Maternick
END: Mayfield



Frank Groschell
TACKLE: Somerset



Ronnie Cox
TACKLE: Raceland



Creed Farley
GUARD: Evarts

Mayfield's Creason and Evar

By JOHNNY BRADICO
All-State in 1948.
From 270 pounds Frank Groschell to 165-pound Harold Gruner they were all worth their weight in gold to their various football teams. Gruner, a Manual halfback, and Groschell, a Somerset tackle, rolled up the clearest margins in voting for the 27th Courier-Journal All-State football school. Even two of the choices — center Bob Creason of Mayfield and guard Creed Farley of Evarts — won their all-state spurs for the second time. Mayfield, which lost only one

game during the season, alone of Kentucky's 105 football-playing schools, won two places on the "dream team." Besides Creason, the Cardinals are represented by end Chester Maternick.

RECORD VOTE

A record vote was cast by The Courier-Journal's all-Kentucky Committee of coaches, officials and writers. They willed that the '48 pigskin peerage would be a combination that averaged 182.3 pounds in weight and 18 and one-half years in age. With the exception of Gruner and Farley, it is an all-senior array.

Compared to last season's all-state club which was dominated by Paducah, this year's all-stars are an average eight pounds heavier and a year older.

Nimble-footed Gruner, one of the best backs in Manual history, is honorary captain for his feat of pulling the largest number of

votes. "Bunky," who may forego college football for a professional baseball career, was a selection on 34 per cent of the ballots. The gargantuan Groschell, who sometimes swiftned his 270 pounds to the backfield with the effect of a battering-ram, was the next most popular choice.

Groschell, the biggest but youngest (at 16) of the glit group, surprised many observers by his agility. Before the season was a month old Somerset Bill Clark tagged Groschell "college material." Gene Hodge, the Henry flankman, played varsity

All-State Team

Pos.	Name	School	Age	Wt.	Ht.
End	Gene Hodge	Henry Clay	18	166	6-0
End	Chester Maternick	Mayfield	18	182	6-3
Tackle	Frank Groschell	Somerset	16	270	6-4
Tackle	Ronnie Cox	Raceland	17	199	6-1
Guard	Creed Farley	Evarts	19	175	5-11
Guard	Johnny Berry	Valley	17	167	5-10
Center	Bob Creason	Mayfield	18	167	5-11
Back	Harold Gruner	Manual	18	165	5-11
Back	Dave Preston	Louisa	19	175	6-0
Back	"Spt" Branham	Prestonsburg	19	170	6-1
Back	Tom Fillion	Owensboro	18	170	5-11



D. Preston
Louisia

Utah Grid Coach Says Branham One of Best Runners He's Seen



(Special to The Salt Lake City Utah Daily) Salt Lake City Utah Mayor... The gentleman who puts the sugar in Utah's T is from the point farthest from the campus and pos-

He is Franklin Delano Branham, son of Mrs. Fanny Branham, of Prestonsburg, Ky., sensation of last fall's team and more recently even more a sensation in the first annual Red and White intersquad game which closed spring practice.

A graduate of Prestonsburg high school, "Set" lettered there in football, basketball and baseball. On campus he continued both sports and is one of the few men in recent Utah history to earn freshmen letters in both football and basketball.

"Set" enrolled at Utah last fall in physical education and also joined the Reserve Officer Training Corps program on campus, which should give him a reserve commission upon graduation.

Although his Red team was defeated 20-7, it was no fault of his swivel-headed center. Here's "all" he did: He started the ball 16 times for a net gain of 139 yards, an average of 7.7 yards per try. He caught four passes for another 88 yards, made the only interception mustered by the Reds, good for 14 yards, carried one punt back 28 yards and one kickoff for 23 yards. Oh, yes, he also scored the only Red touchdown on a slashing off-tackle dance which went over from the 21-yard line. All this running in the right direction gave the dark-haired Kentuckian a total of 292 yards for the short time he played, since Coach Jack Guttridge tried to give the entire squad a chance to play.

Gutrice, himself Kentucky-born and a graduate of Transylvania, said Branham is one of the finest runners he's seen in 20 years of coaching. His explosive running from a lightning start makes him just what I need for Utah's flying T-formation.

All-State—Kentucky scout Ermal Allen attended a Manual ball practice last week. Harold Gruner carried the ball during Allen's visit and did a particularly neat bit of cutting. Allen asked Coach Mike Basrak to run the play again. Gruner showed the same nifty footwork. "If George Blanda (the Kentucky quarterback) could do that," remarked Ermal, "he'd be the greatest back Kentucky ever had." Allen thinks that Gruner and Prestonsburg's Set Branham are the best backs he's seen this season—and Kentucky probably will get neither. Branham has said he's committed to Georgia. Gruner likely will forego college football in favor of a baseball career. Basrak and Dixie Heights' Rice Mountjoy lead in voting for "Coach of the Year." George Clay, assistant at Manual, has two-elevenths of a football team; his second son was born last week.

'Set' Branham Chosen for Trojans For Kentucky Hi School All-Stars

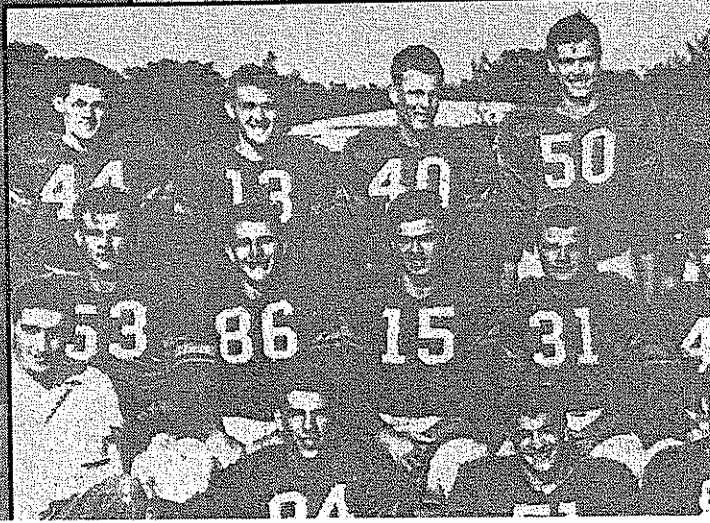
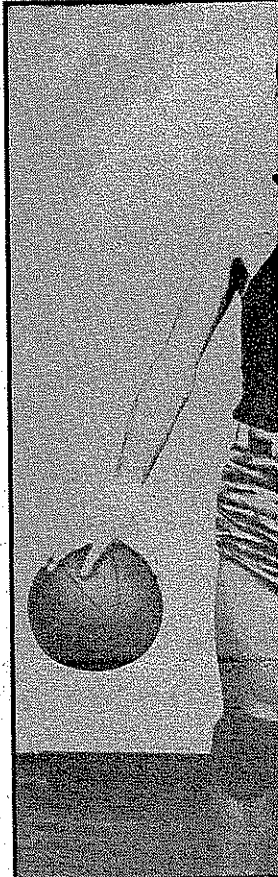
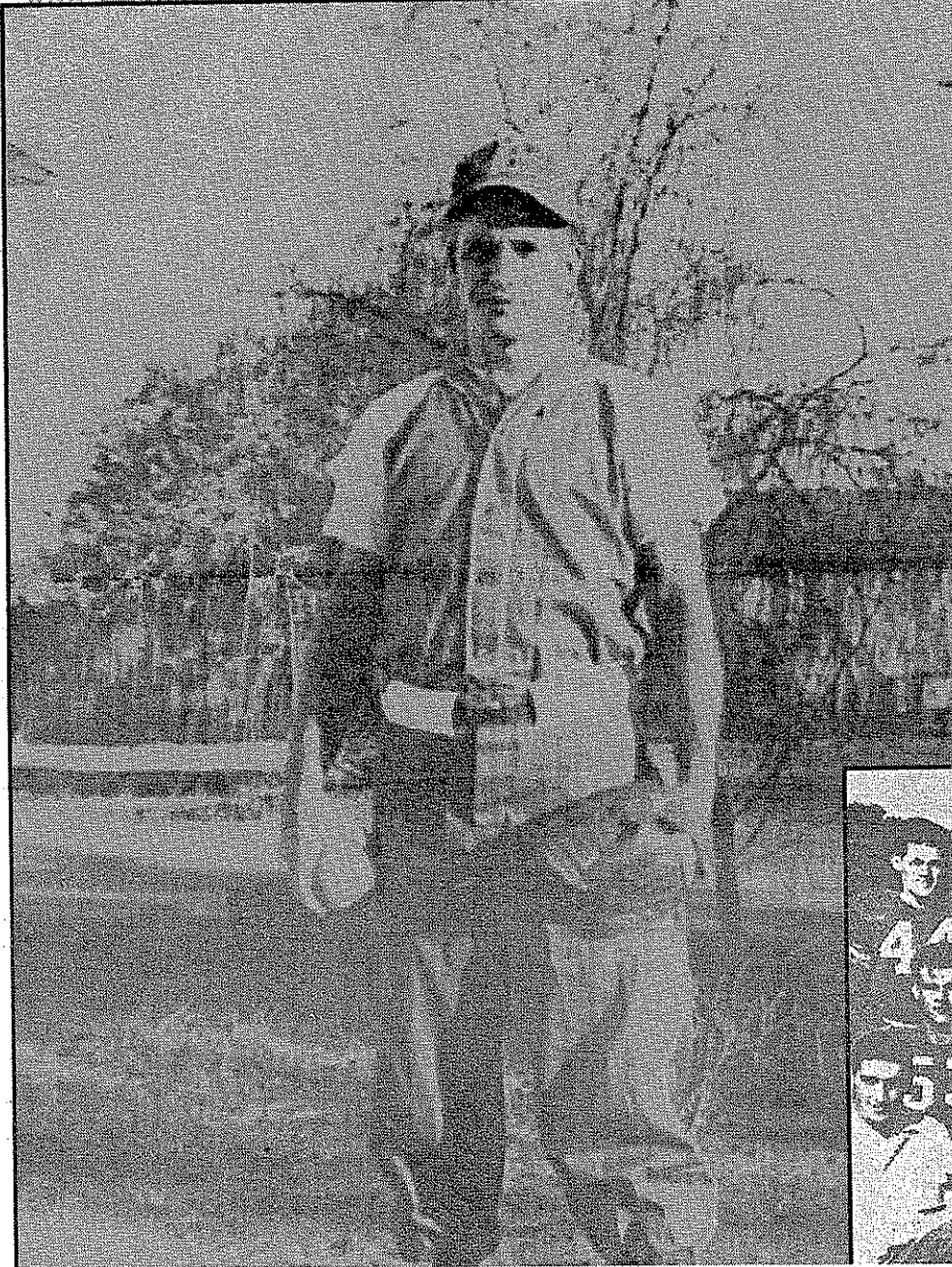
BIG SAND AREA GEN RECOGNIT

"Set" Branham, Prestonsburg's ketball star, Ed DeCoursey, shining

1947 state tour- been chosen from tion for the cage

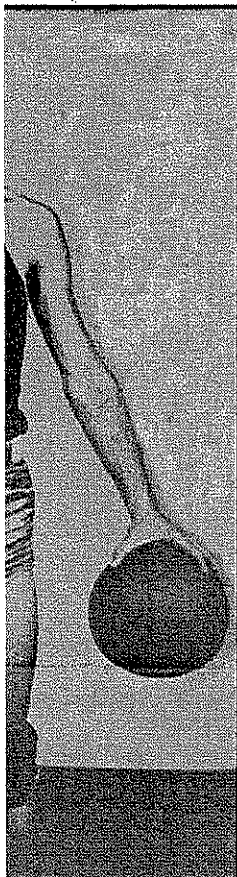
athlete, an out- in three sports, school football play- All-State and All- gnition in a year only three games. tance, plus a brill- ar, gained the ap- sports writers in South.

record as a bas- addition to his d this year in try- r squad, is cred- ing his selection n mentor.



The name of Franklin "Set" Branham, as it has appeared in the lineups of baseball, football, and basketball, is not history. He has set records, in our school that will never be forgotten.

"Set" Branham, still living in another zone



...ford, the Commissioner of Sports in Kentucky, said that Set will be remembered for high school. As soon as he celebrates his next birthday, his name will be in the book of Set. There is no doubt that Set was a great offensive man, and he could make 16 to 18 runs a game, play a scrapping end, and, generally, lead his team. Set filled the shoes of a great player. Set was a great player to watch and every coach of all time that has played against him (this to be a fact) was a good defensive player. Set was a great player.

by Ed Taylor
Sports Editor

Players of the century?

How in the world could someone who has followed Floyd County sports come up with a sincere list of the top, say, 50 players to play in our county. I think it would be very, very difficult.

For one, who would know of the players back in the '30s or '40s? How about going even beyond then when sports really wasn't that big of a deal.

While we have had numerous talented athletes move through our school system, one name for sure would belong there because of his accomplishments in a time when the recruiting game was a little more laid back.

Franklin "Set" Branham was a star. He played football, basketball and baseball for Prestonsburg High School and he excelled in all three sports. He could have easily gone on to the next level in either of the three.

However, Branham's first love was football and it was a game in which he established his name in high school, college and the pro ranks.

Today, the former Blackcats enjoys the wilds of America's Yellowstone National Park. His favorite places is to dwell among the buffalo, moose, elk, deer, wolves and tall elegant rivers that are still clean, pure and shining.

"As far as I am concerned, it is the most beautiful place in the world," said Branham. "When I am here, I am in another zone. That's why, when my times comes, it will be cremation and my ashes go to Yellowstone."

Branham says the reason he is there and enjoying Yellowstone is, "because of football."

"At the young age of 22, I fulfilled my life time dream because I was lucky enough to receive a full scholarship at the University of Utah."

But Set was not the only family member to graduate from the Utes.

"I am very proud that all my family are graduates of the University," he said.

After Branham left Prestonsburg High School, he attended the University of Miami, but only because of then Prestonsburg coach John Eibner.

"Eibner left to coach at the University of Florida, but I could not go," recalled Branham, who had signed a letter-of-intent with the University of Kentucky. "They (UK) lied to me but Coach (Bear) Bryant released me. But before they would release me, I had to sign a letter that I would never play in the Southeastern Conference."

It was Bryant, along with then-Louisville coach, Frank Camp, who recommended Branham highly to the University of Utah.

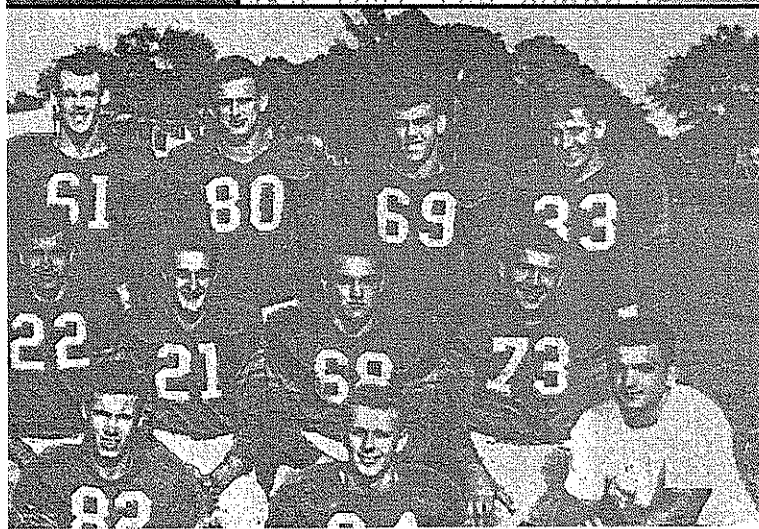
"Coach Jack Curtice, Utah coach, told me they gave me the highest recommendation you could receive," said Branham.

A call from Coach Curtice came, the offer was there, but Branham said he "could not even buy a pencil."

"He said they would take 'excellent' care of me," Branham said. "That he did. He even paid for my cap and gown upon graduation."

Branham said he did graduate on time with a 3.3 GPA.

I read an article one time that said, "it's not how smart you are, but it's how far



ting the job done. Set
ly had a passed ball,
ly allowed a stolen base
l was a fine hitter and a
less base runner.
Charles "Izzy" Porter,
ays intrigued me
ause he was a hitch away
m being a feared slugger.
zy" had an Eric Davis-
hitch which neutralized
on the fastball. On
se occasions, when he

started his swing at the hips,
he was terrific.
Bill "Junior" Goebel had
it all as a baseball player. He
was an excellent pitcher, a
longball hitter as an out-
fielder. He was well known
as a player who could throw
out runners from the out-
field wall.
Bill was an relentlessly
aggressive runner. If a team
showed the slightest nerves,

Bill was off and running. He
would simply run the bases
as he pleased.
Paul Harmon was a big,
raw bone pitcher, who, with
Leon "Blue" Childers,
rounded out the pitching
staff. Paul was a fast ball,
curve ball pitcher. Blue was
a lanky tall lefthander, who
was deceptively fast and
had a great curve ball.
These gifted players

achieved greatness without
a coach. The leaders often
advised the "out town"
coaches in making out the
lineups. Even though the
great majority of the team
came from Emma, the line-
up reflected the better play-
ers at the time.
You might wonder what
could have been accom-
plished by highly talented
players as Howard Burchett

and Bill Goebel if their
careers had been guided by
a professional high school
baseball coach.
For my part as a member
of that rather storied team, I
was privileged to be among
them. I contributed from
time to time and did a thing
or two; however, if I were to
mention my name as equals
to these high school base-
ball giants, I would be tak-

ing more than poetic license
in such exaggeration.
Other team members
were Stuart Lafferty, Roger
Spradling and Don Willis.
To think, this team
accomplished all that with-
out spiffy attire. I believe
that the '48 version of
Prestonsburg baseball

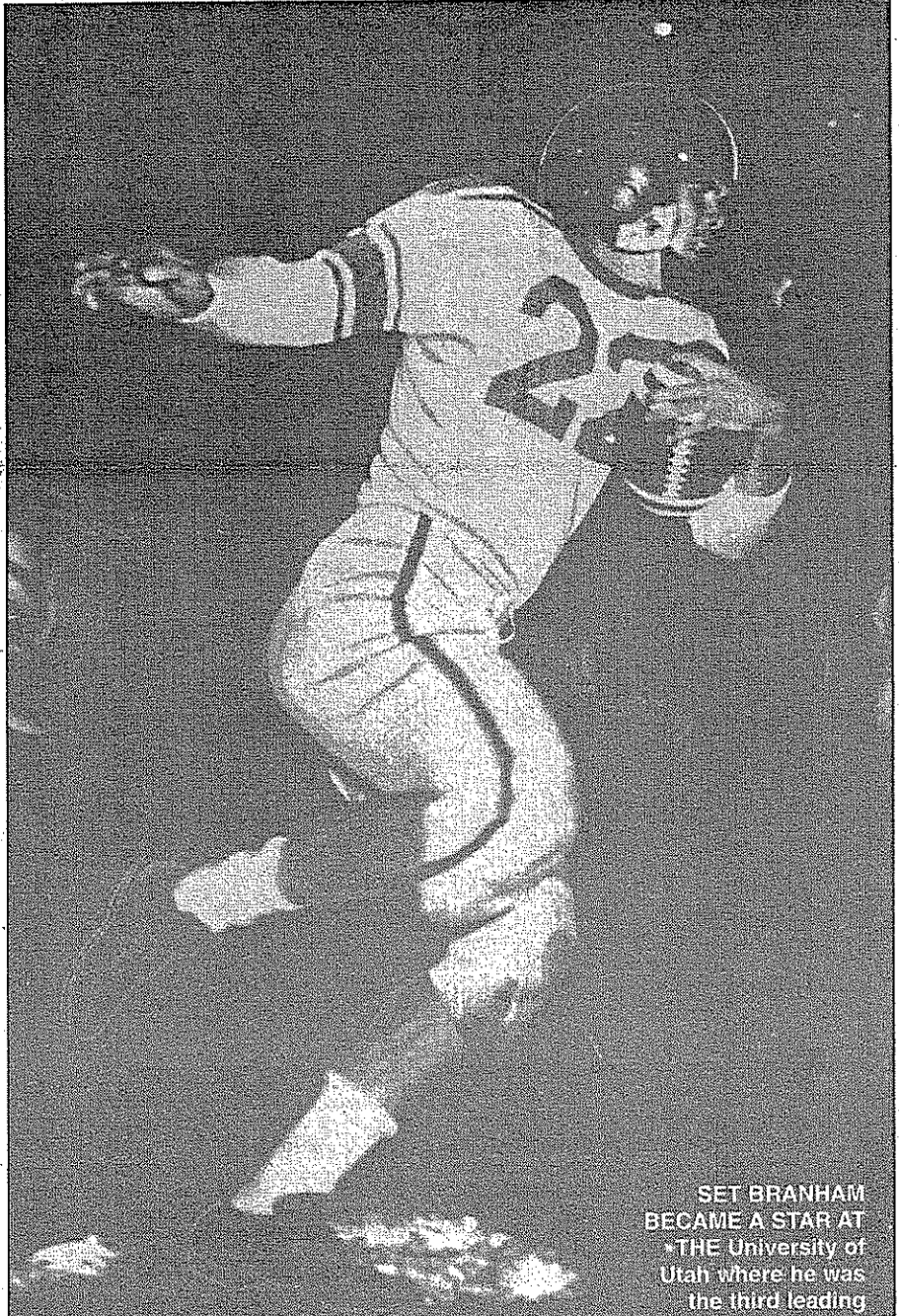
(See Set, page eight)

Set

(Continued from page six)

at," said Branham. "While play-
basketball at Pearl Harbor, a
n by the name of Pinson from
eville, took me out to the offi-
's club for dinner. He told me
t he and others in Pikeville con-
ered me the greatest all-around
lete in the mountains."
Branham said he had worked
d to get where he is today.
"There was no other way for
s are high school and college."
Branham was the only player in
ntucky High School history to
ke All-State, All-Southern by
ying in only three games his
ior year.
"In 1948 I played in one Big
dy game and still made All-Big
dy," he said. "But you have to
number, I only played in 15
nes in high school. I broke my
: my sophomore year against
lry. I only played one game that
r.
"I only played in two losing
nes in high school, excluding
freshman year. That year we
y played three or four games. It
s our first team after the war. My
t year, I only played in three
nes."
Branham was a prolific runner
I was stopped from scoring a
chdown in only one high school
ne.
Branham says the '47
stonsburg team is still consid-
d today as the greatest team the
ackcats had.
"We were ranked sixth in the
te that year and that year we
yed 10 games," he said. "Ten of
se games were on the road.
ach Eibner used to say, 'When
e lose on the road, it is a long
e home.' Well, we didn't have
long rides home."
Branham tagged Pig Goodman
the toughest player to circle him.
Branham was All-Southern, All-
ite and All-Big Sandy in 1948.
was the Southeast scoring
der in '47 and played on the
st/West All-Star game in '48. He
ned all the scoring records when
left Prestonsburg High School in

made All-Conference in '52.
"My senior year in college, I
wanted to lead the nation in scor-
ing," recalled Branham. "In the
first three games, I had eight touch-
downs and was way out in front."
"By the fourth game, I pulled a
ham string muscle, and I was never
the same after that. When I left the
University of Utah, I was the third
highest scorer in the school's histo-
ry.
Branham played in the pro bowl
in Canada until knee problems
sidelined him.
"I was doing good until that
happened," said Branham. "I lasted
two years in the Canadian league. I
loved it. I wished I could have
stayed. I loved Canada. I was treat-
ed great."
Branham's Utah teams won con-
ference titles in '51, '52, '53 with a
best record of 8-2 in '53.
"In 1953 we were to go to the
Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas," said
Branham, "but all the married
Mormon kids voted it down. But
that was all right."
Like most football players,
Branham had his share of injuries
but he never begrudged the game
of football.
"Football has been so good to
me, and I would do it all over
again," said Branham. "It's been a
great, great ride."
Branham was hailed as one of
the most talented backs to come out
of the state of Kentucky as well as
the college game.
Earl Ruby, Courier-Journal:
"Branham was the greatest back in
the state of Kentucky."
The same was echoed by writers
like Clarence Green, Harlan news-
paper and Norman Allen, Floyd
County Times.
Coach Eibner introduced
Branham as: "The greatest athlete I
have ever coached."
Ted Bennedict said, "Branham
is without a doubt the greatest high
school football player I have ever
seen."
And who is the greatest athlete
that Branham has ever seen?
"He's not white and he's not
black," said Branham. "The



SET BRANHAM
BECAME A STAR AT
THE University of
Utah where he was
the third leading

Set

(Continued from page seven)

world's greatest athlete was Jim Thorpe."

Branham said he never developed a love for the game of basketball like he did for football and baseball.

"It was because of the outdoors," he said. "However, I did accomplish some things in basketball."

It wasn't until his junior season he began to exert himself in basketball and

averaged 23 points a game for Prestonsburg, with a career-high 39 points in a single game. When Branham left Prestonsburg, he had the record for most points in a season.

In 1948 he was named to the All-Preseason, All-District, All-Regional and was third team All-State in 1948. He was the MVP in the '48 district tournament.

His senior year (1949),

he was named to the Indiana/Kentucky All-Star team.

"Now that was politics," he said. "I never played a game of basketball that year but was still selected. I am the only man in history to do that."

Branham reasons his naming had something to do with Western Kentucky wanting him for both football and basketball.

"When I left high school, only two players had been selected — Ed DeCoursey and myself. I felt good about that."

When Branham was named third team All-State, he received more votes than Frank Ramsey, who later starred at UK and then the Boston Celtics.

"That made me feel even better," said Branham. "When I went down for the

All-Star tryout, I became good friends with Frank. He still lives in Madisonville and still asks "Eek" (Branham, cousin) about me."

Branham recalled playing against former Kentucky great Ralph Beard in an all-star game:

"I scored 16 points over him and he tried every way in the world to get me to go to UK," said Branham. "I

told him that I didn't like basketball that well, and I have made a commitment to Miami.

In 1948 the Prestonsburg Blackcats were never challenged as they rolled to the state baseball championship. They went through 36 games unblemished and the state title. "I am so glad to say that I was part of that group," said Branham.

Kentucky Afield

STEP OUTSIDE at National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' (KDFWR) Dr. James L. Salato Wildlife Education Center is celebrating National Hunting and Fishing Day on Saturday, September 25, 1999, from 10am-4pm.

"It will be a family-oriented day, with

fun and educational activities designed to introduce people, young and old, to the outdoor sports while teaching them about the important role that hunting and fishing play in Kentucky's wildlife conservation programs. It's a perfect opportunity to invite someone you know to STEP OUTSIDE!" said KDFWR Commissioner Tom Bennett.

Activities include archery, fishing, animal calling, face painting, hunting demonstrations and much more. New this year, a taxidermy competition and turkey calling contest.

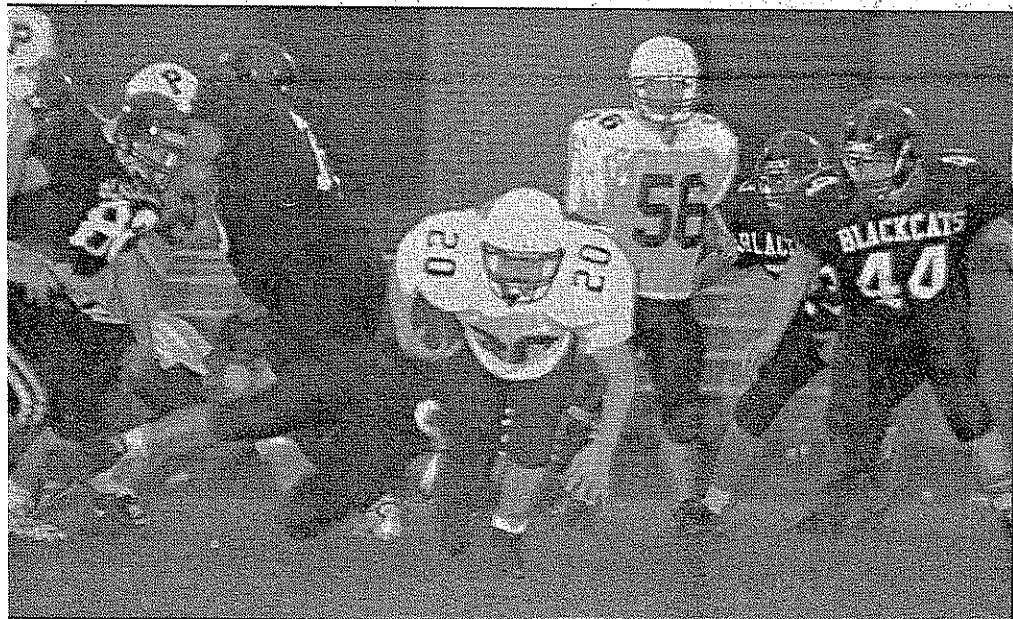
National Hunting and Fishing Day was established by Congress in 1972, to recognize the vital role that hunters and anglers play in wildlife conservation. Through special license fees and excise taxes on their equipment, sportsmen and sports-women contribute over \$3 million each day - some \$22 billion to date - to pay for land acquisition, habitat improvement and other wildlife programs.

These contributions have led to the dramatic recovery of many species that have never been hunted, from chipmunks to songbirds and eagles, as well as game

species such as the white-tailed deer, elk and wild turkey.

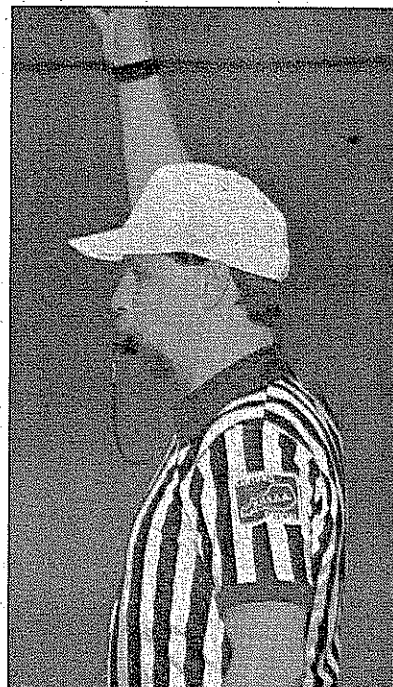
At the national level, this year's celebration will focus on the values and enjoyment associated with outdoor sports and encourage everyone who loves the outdoors to extend a "Natural Invitation to STEP OUTSIDE" to friends, neighbors and family members.

For more information about the National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration at the Salato Wildlife Education Center, call 1-800-858-1549 or 502-564-7863.



Down

his Pikeville runner was brought down against the Prestonsburg junior varsity last week. Prestonsburg posted a 16-16 win over the Panthers. (photo by Ed Taylor)



DALE CONN IS A VETERAN of officiating as he calls football, baseball and basketball. He has been one of the top official in all three sports. (photo by Ed Taylor)

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED!!!