

October 12, 2006

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

Nominations Committee:

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

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

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

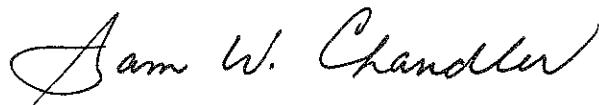
Coach Creamer has the rare ability to relate effectively to students, faculty, parents, administrators, parents, and athletes. He accepts responsibility readily and carries out his duties with efficiency. He seems to have the ability to sense the needs and feelings of others

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam W. Chandler". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

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



ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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

Sept. 23, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

Among Tom's many accomplishments as a coach are:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Carolyn Medley
Former Athletic Director
Assumption High School

Boys Basketball

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

Winning Percentage 665/955

69.60%

Totals (overall) 665 290

Overall Tournament Statistics

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

Other Coaching Experiences

- KY East/West All-Star Game
- Kentucky/Indiana All-Star Game Derby Classic
- Jr All Star Game 5th/6th/7th/8th Region

1972 Boys

1978 Boys

1980 Boys

2002 Girls

To Dawahares and the KHSAA Hall of Fame,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Jenni Benningfield

Assumption High School
Class of 2000
Miss Basketball 2000

October 11, 2006

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

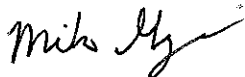
Re: Tom Creamer

To Whom It May Concern:

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

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

Respectfully submitted,



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

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL

Sponsored by Sisters of Mercy

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

September 19, 2006

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

Nominations Committee:

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,



Mary Ann Steutermann
Principal

To: KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee

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

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

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

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

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

Best Regards,

Michael Bickett
Principal, St. Joseph School
Bardstown Kentucky

4616 Benson Pike
Shelbyville, KY 40065
October 1, 2006

To Whom It May Concern

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

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

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Eddie Mason

Eddie Mason

GIRLS' SWEET 16

SEVENTH REGION

Assumption title would be milestone for its coach

By JODY DEMLING
The Courier-Journal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

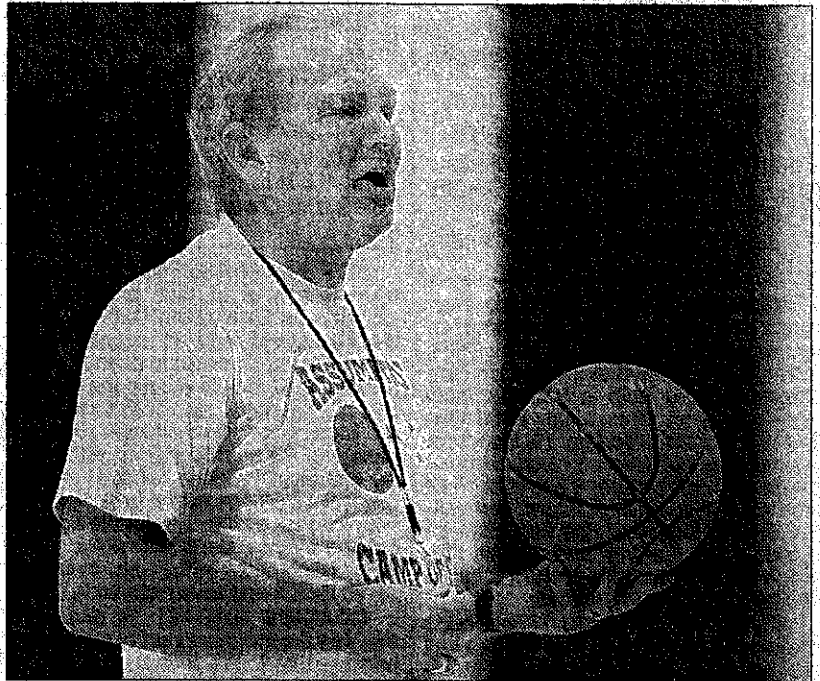
Creamer spent two years at Bishop Brossart and two at Louisville Holy Cross before switching to girls.

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

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

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

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



BY SAM UPSHAW JR., THE COURIER-JOURNAL
Assumption's Tom Creamer could become the first Kentucky coach to win boys' and girls' state basketball championships.

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

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

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

It all starts with Benningfield for the Rockets.

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

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

Benningfield averages 22.1 points,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By CHRIS ALDRIDGE
Sports Editor

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

The 66-year-old former Shelby County boys' coach, who guided the school to the 1978 state basketball championship, is coaching at an all-girls Catholic school and loving every minute of it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

When they get 3 or 4 (years) might start doing things them," Creamer said.

But I still enjoy it (coaching)."

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



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

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

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

The Creamers moved back

Tom Creamer
FRIDAY'S FEATURE

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

Ridge Park and Fairdale. Creamer contemplated giving up coaching when an algebra teaching position opened at Assumption. He discussed the job with Sam Chandler, an administrator at Assumption who was principal at Shelby County when he was coach, and discovered the Rockets were also looking for a girls' basketball coach. Creamer, who had coached girls' tennis and golf in the past, decided to give it a try. "It's really been a nice change for me," he added. "I'm having fun."

Creamer fondly recalls 1978 state champions

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

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

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

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

Shelby County won the Mountain Schoolboy Classic on a Monday and Tuesday, knocking off undefeated (20-0) Sheldon Clark 96-70 and host Belfry 80-48, respectively. Rockets star Charles Hurt was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player.

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



A recent photo of Tom Creamer

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

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

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

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

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

- Chris Aldridge

sports

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For major sports results, call 582-4871

Clutch-shooting Shelby leaves Apollo 35-1

tourney trail

x-Denotes overtime.

Wednesday's results
 Christian County 88, Boone Co. Central 69.
 Alton 70, Virgo 66.
 Bowling Green 71, Mayfield 70.
 Covington Holston 86, Ashland Blazer 80.

Yesterday's results
 Lexington Henry Clay 74, Somerset 72.
 Shelby County 67, Apollo 55.
 Clay County 64, Mayfield 62.
 Louisville Central 75, Elizabethtown 67.

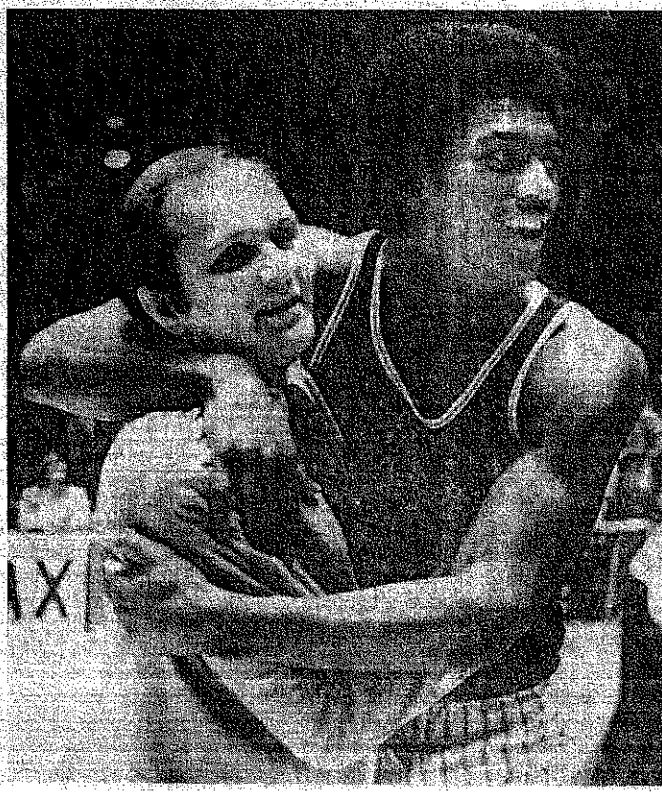
Today's games
 Christian County vs. Alton, 1 p.m.
 Bowling Green vs. Covington Holston, 2:00 p.m.
 Lexington Henry Clay vs. Shelby County, 7:30 p.m.
 Mayfield vs. Louisville Central, 7 p.m.

Saturday's games
 Upper-bracket semifinal, 10:00 a.m.
 Lower-bracket semifinal, 11:50 a.m.
 Championship game, 8:10 p.m.

This Hurt isn't a pain

Shelby County coach Tom Creamer and his talented junior, Charles Hurt, whoop it up after yesterday's classic 62-55 victory over Apollo in the first round of the State Basketball Tournament at Freedom Hall. The 6-foot-6 Hurt tormented previously unbeaten Apollo by hitting nine of 14 shots and scoring 23 points.

STAFF PHOTO BY JERRY HARRIS



By BOB WHITE
 Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

The State Basketball Tournament isn't over, but you couldn't blame Shelby County coach Tom Creamer for calling yesterday's 62-55 victory over Apollo "one of our biggest wins."

It had to be. The Owensboro team entered the 61st State Tournament with a 35-0 record, the first unbeaten team to make the Sweet 16 since Allen County (20-0) in 1962. If it went all the way, Apollo would become the first undefeated state champion since Brewers won with a 36-0 mark in 1948.

"I'll tell you why it was one of the biggest wins we've had," Creamer said after the classic first-round game attracted a sellout crowd of close to 17,000 in Freedom Hall.

"Apollo was rated No. 1 by The Associated Press," Creamer said. "Litkenhous (The Courier-Journal's Litkenhous Ratings) had us No. 1. Everybody was saying Lit was crazy because Apollo was 35-0."

"I vote on the coaches' poll (United Press International) and they voted Apollo No. 1 because they were 35-0. When they would call me up for my vote, they would tell me that 14 coaches had already voted Apollo No. 1 because they were 35-0."

"So it was good for our kids to win because of getting beat in the LIT (the Louisville Invitational Tournament)."

Shelby County avenged the 63-60 loss to Apollo in the LIT final Jan. 21 on the strength of Charles Hurt's play inside, the clutch free throw shooting of Mike George and shots by Maurice Way and Don Murphy in the final seconds of the second and third quarter, respectively.

Hurt, a muscular 6-foot-6 junior, hit nine of 14 shots from the floor to share

same scoring honors with Steve Barker of Apollo. Each had 23 points, Barker also making nine of 14 shots.

George, a guard, dropped in five straight free throws in the final three minutes and 18 seconds of play. He missed his sixth try with 23 seconds left but then Shelby County was ahead 60-55 and had its victory wrapped up.

"I just tried to put the difference of the game out of my mind — just like I was at practice," George said while taking off his shoes in the dressing room. "On the free throw, I missed. I tried to keep my concentration, but it came up a little short."

George, who played on Laurel County's 12th Region champions last year before his father accepted a call to become minister of a church in Shelbyville, said the win made up for the LIT loss to Apollo. But he was never sure until the end that Shelby County had sewn up its 18th straight win since the loss to Apollo and its 29th in 31 games overall.

"Not after the LIT (when Shelby County lost a seven-point lead in the fourth quarter)," George said. "I thought we had them beat then so this time we didn't quit playing until the final horn."

Apollo led by five points five times, the last at 28-23. Despite star forward Norris Beckley sitting on the bench with three personal fouls, Shelby County overcame a 26-21 deficit and led 31-30 at halftime after Way banked in a 25-foot shot just before the final horn.

"It was just luck," Way admitted later. Still, it was a big shot.

"It gave our kids a lift. We came out the second half 'up,'" Creamer said.

"It might have been a different game if they hadn't hit those two last-second shots on us," Apollo coach Wayne Chapman said. "It kept their momentum. It kept them high."

Murphy, who scored 10 points, hit a 13-footer with two seconds left in the third quarter to put Shelby County in front 47-46.

Apollo, a 74-68 loser to Shelby County in the opening game of the 1978 State Tournament, took its last lead at 54-53 on a flip by Barker with 3:54 left.

Steve Blakely then was called for blocking George at 3:12. "I thought it was cheap, but I can't fault the officials," Chapman said.

George then made the first two of his

SHELBY COUNTY 42										
Player	min	fg	ft	reb	a	st	pf	pts	plus/minus	plus/minus
Barker	25	7	3	2	4	1	3	23	1	3
Hurt	35	9	5	9	2	5	4	30	1	12
George	25	5	7	1	2	3	1	17	1	10
Murphy	25	3	4	1	2	3	3	13	1	10
Krabby	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashby	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team										
Totals	160	25	41	12	16	10	4	62		62

APOLLO 55										
Player	min	fg	ft	reb	a	st	pf	pts	plus/minus	plus/minus
Barker	25	9	7	2	1	1	3	21	1	21
Blakely	25	12	8	3	1	0	2	32	1	12
Way	25	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	12
Beckley	25	1	2	0	0	0	0	3	2	12
Chapman	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blakely	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team										
Totals	160	25	41	12	16	10	4	62		62

SHOOTING PERCENTAGES — Shelby County, 60.9; Apollo 51.1. Errors — Shelby County 18, Apollo 11. Attendance — 17,000 (PA).

Shelby wins battle of the best

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

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

As they contemplated their fate, the

tone of voice you normally associate with a funeral parlor.

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

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

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

See SHELBY

Back page, col. 2, this section



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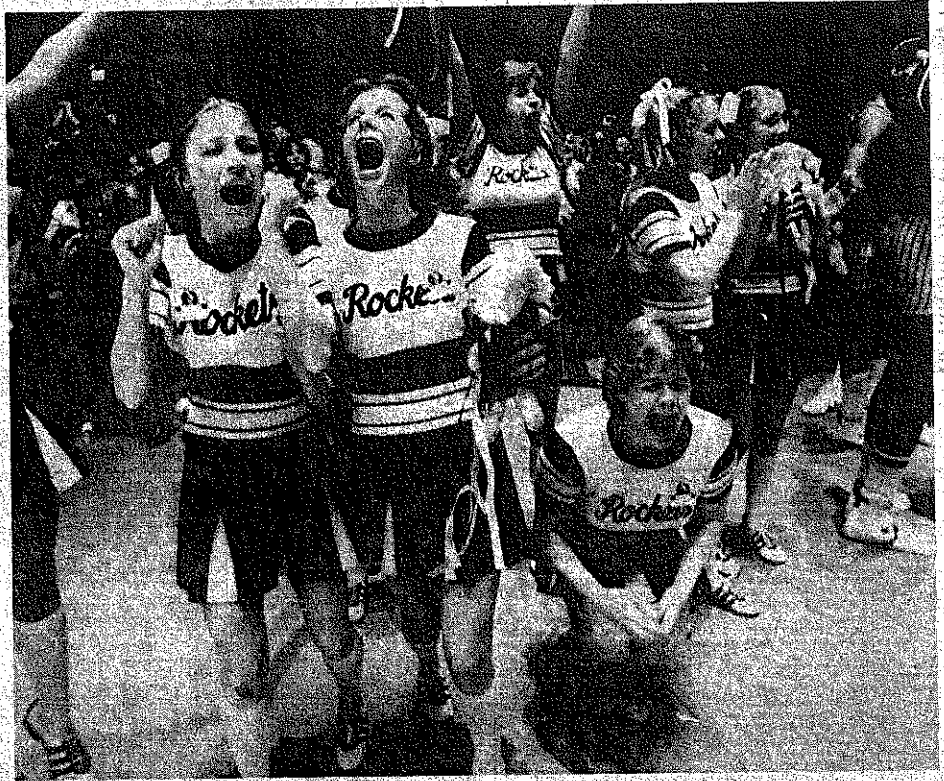
Courier-Journal Sports Editor

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

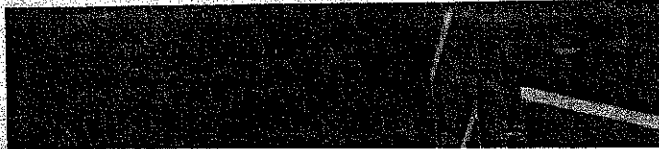


Shelby County's Mike George dribbles away from Covington, Holmes' Paul Davis in last night's Boys' State Basketball Tournament final game.

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

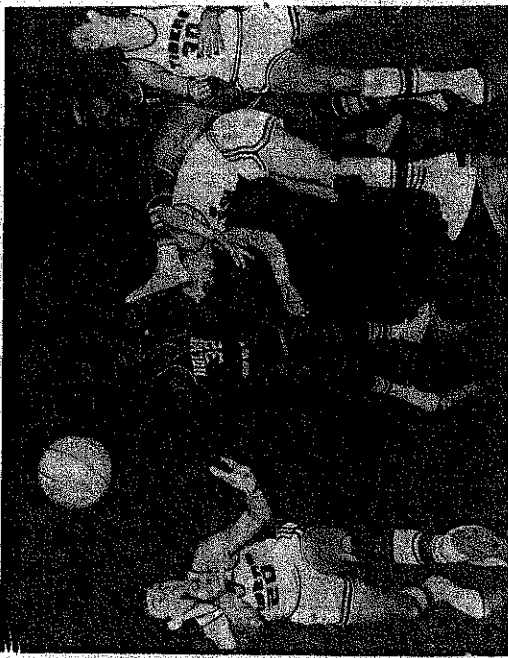


Shelby County cheerleaders vent their joy after their beloved Rockets captured the championship of the state basketball tournament.



Sports

Beechwood Stuns Holmes by 63-60



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

BY MIKE MERSCH
Beechwood's Mike Davids had just axed Holmes' mighty Cougars last night, but the Ft. Mitchell team gave little hint they'd just scored the upset of the year.

The players had checked in at 7:30 p. m. and, after 15 minutes of warm-ups, they were worried about the game. Beechwood's coach, Fred Cross, Friday's foe, Holy Cross.

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

If the Bees were taking the victory in stride, the 220-pound basketball player were not at all born, the scorching yellow floor was crawling with Beechwood followers.

BUT MOST of the gathering remained seated. Silently, stunned. Almost it did not seem possible that Holmes, rated by most as the North region's third-best team, had beaten Beechwood.

Coach Creamer, leader of the Beechwood team, was worried about Holy Cross. "It was hurting a hard time holding back a shuttle line," he said.

It did not seem possible that Holmes, rated by most as the North region's third-best team, had beaten Beechwood.

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Coach Creamer, leader of the Beechwood team, was worried about Holy Cross. "It was hurting a hard time holding back a shuttle line," he said.

BY MIKE MERSCH

33d District

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

34th District

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

36th District

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

Home team: Beechwood. Visitor: Holmes. Score: 63-60.

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

BY BOB WHITE
and DAVE KINDRED

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writers

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

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

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

Hello Central...give me Maysville!

BY ANDY COX
Kentucky Post Sports Writer

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

"Somebody told me after we won Wednesday night," said Maysville coach Tom Creamer, "that Central wouldn't even be here Friday... that they got an NIT bid instead." Things were almost that bad. At least it appeared that way. Central, the powerhouse of the "Sweet Sixteen" polished off Paducah Tilghman, 123-87, without hardly breaking a sweat.

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

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

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

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

Creamer, along with assistant Walter Belcher, thought that a man-to-man defense would be more effective than a zone against the scrambled, scratching leaping tactics of the powerful yellow jackets. And, they were right.

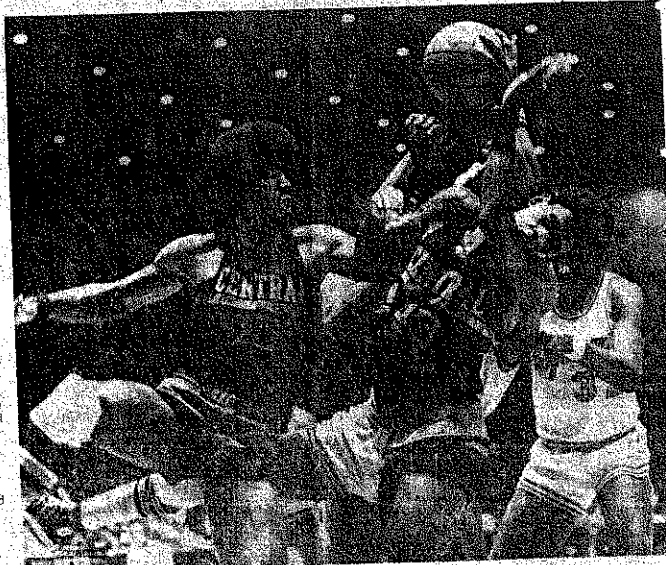
CENTRAL went up 5-0 which hardly surprised any of the 18,500 fans on hand for the afternoon session. But that lead was short-lived.

Maysville jumped out to its first lead of the game, 25, and Central was never to lead again, although there were two more ties after that at 36 and 58.

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

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

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



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

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

Maysville went to the locker room with a 41-22 halftime lead but also had two players with foul problems. Paul King, with four, and Walker with three.

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

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

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

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

MAYSVILLE built its biggest lead, 68-45, right at the close of the third quarter when James Smith laved in a bucket with 8:05 on the clock.

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

Central missed three more foul shots and Smith poked in a follow shot to put Maysville ahead, 81-45.

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

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

After Central's Bill Caud hit on a rebound follow-up, Maysville got three foul shots from the rejuvenated King to go up, 85-51 and after Cain dropped in a free, King clicked on a 20-footer from the side which even had Creamer shouting "no-no" as the ball went airborne.

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

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

Maysville, although losing the battle of the boards, 47-30 against the Louisville team, 50 per cent to a cold 31 per cent.

'Pale' Bulldog Turner applauded by teammates

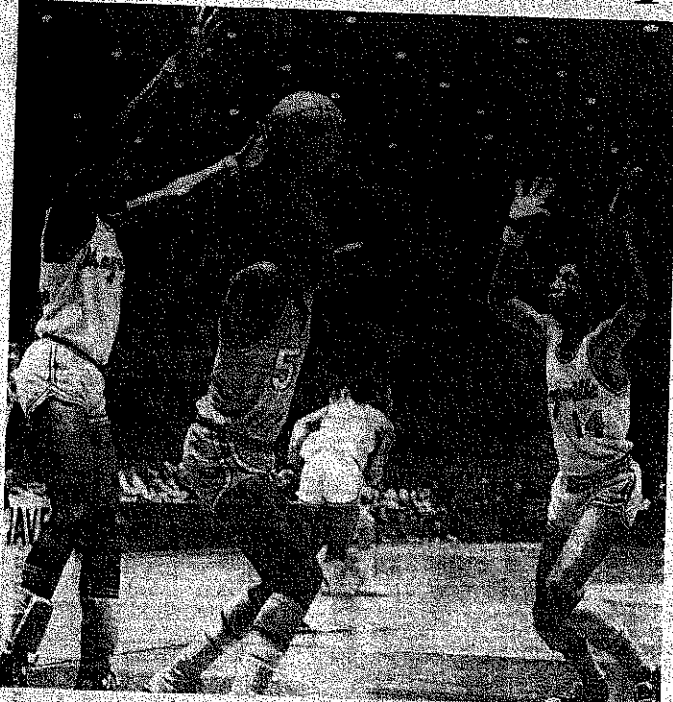
BY ANDY COX
Kentucky Post Sports Writer

LOUISVILLE: A happy Maysville lockerroom yesterday went for a sour handshake with exhausted Paul King but it's a game, Bulldog, hustle would have none of it. Shocks man, Steve King,

MAYSVILLE (83)	CENTRAL (70)
Player	Points
King	18
Walker	12
Turner	12
Anderson	10
Smith	10
Price	10
Belcher	10
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Sports

Maysville pulled the zinger



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

BY ANDY COX
Kentucky Post Staff Writer

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

The season had ended abruptly for coach Tom Creamer's "hardship kids" from down the Ohio River. They had just been beaten by Elizabethtown in the state tournament's Saturday morning semi-finals, but, after all, it had been a great season.

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

THAT BIG 83-76 triumph coming last Friday night after the cock-sure Yellowjackets had lambasted a poor Littleton Paducah Highman, 123-67, turned the entire "Sweet Sixteen" night around and threw the championship honors up for grabs.

But getting back to King. The stouky backcourter, with a slight "honey" flair, was revealing how he had tried to guard E-town's fine little "Mr. Versatility," Chuck Hawkins, the district's baseline, bring the ball downcourt, hit outside and play defense.

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

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

The two met head-on that year and, according to King, "I had him beat to about 13 points and he was averaging around 30 a game... and he got most of those on fouls."

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

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

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

PROBABLY the most unlikely looking player of them all was Owensboro's "little big man," Terry Tyler, a skinny guard with a high, squeaky voice reminiscent of Butterfly McQueen. Tyler, who said after the final game that he has no more



COX

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Their warmup suits were a dirty, fog-fade grey and looked like they had been leftover from a 1918 cross-country meet.

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

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

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

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

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

Auerbach speaker at Rupp banquet


LEXINGTON, KY. (UPI) - professional coach, is a long-time friend of Rupp. Auerbach, former coach of the Boston Celtics, will be the master of ceremonies at the "Auerbach-Rupp Trophy Presentation Dinner" here April 5.

The dinner will be in honor of Rupp, the nation's basketball coach, for whom the trophy is named and for the most outstanding college basketball player. Any player, professional or amateur, who has won a national championship in a row under Auerbach's coaching will be named.

The Rupp Trophy, sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank, will be presented at 7:30 p.m. at the Rupp Center. Tickets are \$10.00. Advance tickets are \$5.00. The dinner will be held in the Rupp Center, which is the home of the University of Kentucky basketball team.

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

OKAY, remember... Haire's name, All-Star, Tolson... PADUCAH, highman had a dandy by the name of Rex...

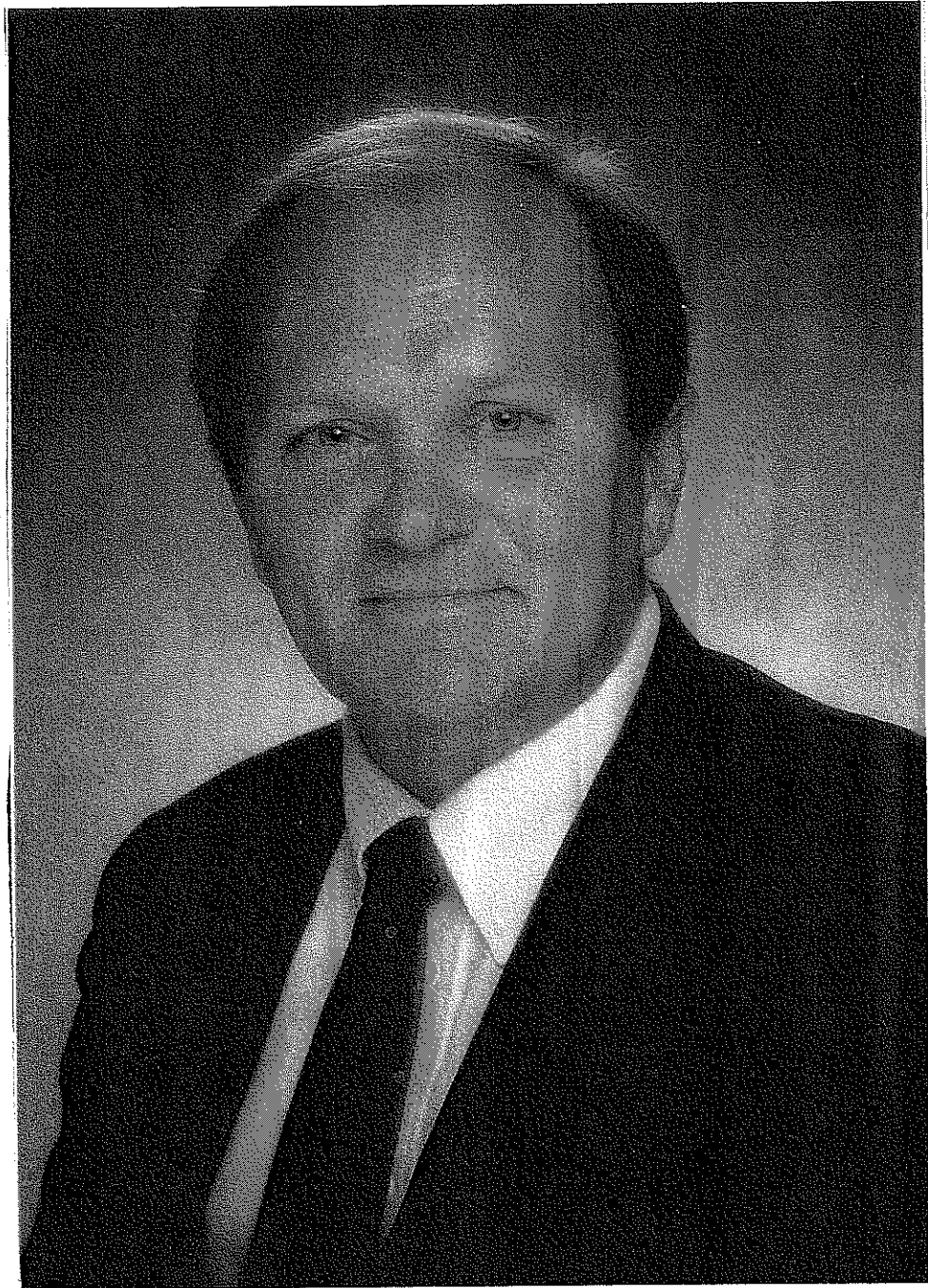


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TRI COUNTY VOLKSWAGEN



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

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

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

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

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

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

