

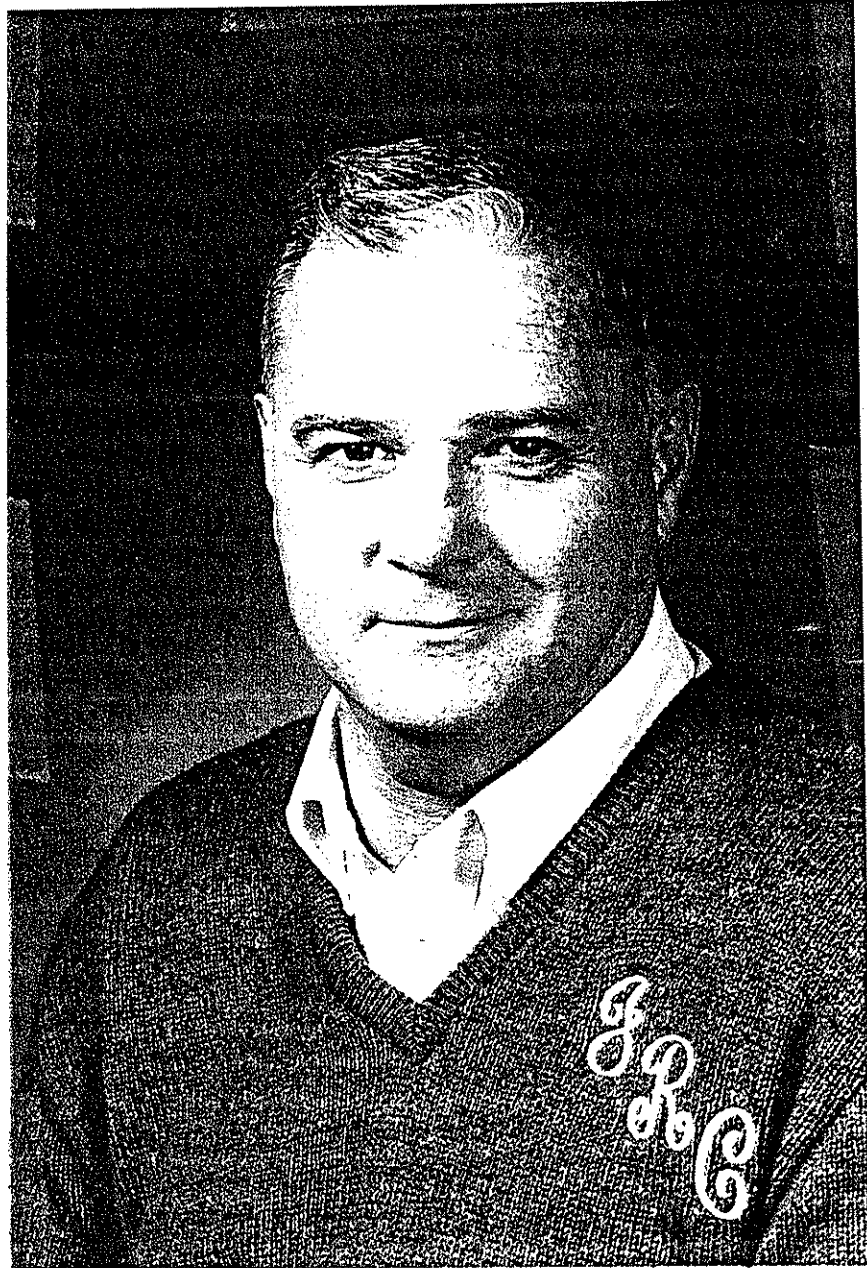
first Bluegrass Festival Tournament by defeating Bryan Station, Henry Clay and Jessamine County. Unofficially it appears that he won well over 500 games or about 65% of the high school games he coached.

college because of Coach Cunningham's work and this pattern continued at the other high schools where he coached. He fervently worked with college coaches to encourage them to recruit his players. He had numerous out of state college contacts and would even help promising athletes who did not play for him to get scholarships.

Coach Julian Rees Cunningham
High School Basketball Coach
1954-1994

<u>Year</u>	<u>High School</u>	<u>Region</u>
1954	Orangeburg	10
1955-56	Butler	10
1956-58	Sharpsburg	16
1958-64	Camargo	16
1964-67	Montgomery County	10
1967-76	Bath County	10
1976-80	Clark County	10
1981-86	Montgomery County	10
1986-94	Jessamine County	11

Coach Julian Rees Cunningham
High School Basketball Coach 1954-1994





TRANSYLVANIA UNIVERSITY
FOUNDED 1780

November 1, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in support of Julian Cunningham for induction into the KSHAA Hall of Fame. His illustrious career took place at several high schools: Camango, Bath Co., Montgomery Co., Clark Co. and Jessamine Co. Wherever he coached, he was successful. His teams always played a very difficult schedule. He felt this always prepared his teams for the playoffs. He was right. He took Bath Co. and Jessamine Co. to the state high school tournament, as well as winning numerous basketball tournaments, as well as winning numerous district championships. His teams always played hard and were extremely well coached.

Julian Cunningham also helped me at Transylvania University in my summer basketball camps. He helped me every summer for 26 years. One of the most impressive things about his work at camp was the manner in which he worked with the kids from the other teams as he did his own. He was and is committed to the high school student.

Julian is well known throughout the coaching profession, both high school and college. He was offered opportunities to coach in college, but chose to stay in high school coaching. His commitment to high school sports is unprecedented.

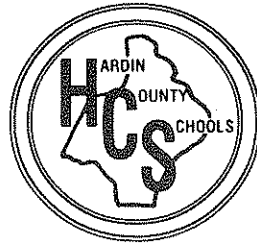
Julian Cunningham deserves to be in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I recommend him without reservation and with great enthusiasm.

Don Lane
Transylvania University

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Phone: (270) 769-8800
FAX: (270) 769-8888

October 15, 2002

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

To Whom It May Concern:

I consider it a privilege to nominate Coach Julian Cunningham to be inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. My relationship with Coach Cunningham began in 1958 when I was a seventh grade student. Coach Cunningham came on staff at Camargo High School as a teacher and coach. At that time he literally coached every basketball team at the school: jr. high, freshman, J. V., and varsity. Before Coach Cunningham came to Camargo High School, only one student athlete that I know of had gone on to college. Under the direction of Coach Cunningham, numerous athletes were encouraged to attend college, and I could give you the names of specific athletes who received scholarships at various in state and out of state colleges and universities. In fact, Coach Cunningham played a significant role in preparing me for, and getting me in, college. I became the first in my family of 13 siblings to complete college and since have worked as a teacher, coach, principal in three Kentucky high schools and superintendent in two school districts.

Though Coach Cunningham demanded commitment and effort on the basketball court, he was always fair and extraordinarily kind to his student athletes. He taught us the value of responsibility, hard work, teamwork, loyalty and citizenship. His tough mindedness and strong interpersonal skills exemplified for us qualities that we would need to be successful people. During my senior year, Coach Cunningham led the Camargo High School (approximately 250 students) to a season record of 30 wins against 4 losses, and the Championship of Lexington Catholic's first Bluegrass Festival Tournament.

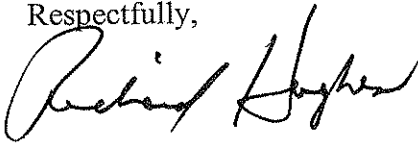
“Hardin County Schools: a work in progress as evidenced by the chipping away, in pursuit of continuous improvement in student achievement, of anything that does not resemble a World Class School System.”

Over the years, Coach Cunningham has coached numerous Kentucky high school basketball teams, taking teams from Bath County High School and Jessamine County High School to the Kentucky State Basketball Tournament. He also coached at the following high schools: Orangeburg, Butler, Sharpsburg, Camargo, Montgomery County, and Clark County. From the best that I could ascertain, Coach Cunningham coached at the high school level during a period spanning 40 years (1954 –1994). He won approximately 562 games and lost approximately 296 games for a 65.5 winning percentage. In 1989, he took his Jessamine County Team to Ecuador to play in the Good Will Games there. Throughout the years, and to this day, he has been supportive of, and interested in, the athletes who played for him.

It is with a great deal of appreciation and regard for Coach Cunningham that I recommend him for consideration to the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. He influenced my life in such a positive way. Coach Cunningham helped set me up for success so that I could be in a position to positively impact the lives of young people with whom I have been associated since I began my career in public education in 1968.

If I can provide additional information to facilitate the selection process, please don't hesitate to contact me at (270) 769-8817.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Hughes". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Richard Hughes, Ed. D.
Superintendent

210 Colchester
Versailles, Kentucky 40383
October 18, 2002

Dawahare's KHSAA
Hall of Fame
Att: Nomination Committee
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40511

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to strongly recommend Julian Cunningham for the Dawahare's KHSAA Hall of Fame. Coach Cunningham was my high school coach, we have coached against each other, we have worked camps together, and I have served as his assistant coach. Julian has done a great job as a coach and he has been a strong influence on his former players.

Coach Cunningham helped unite a team in its first year of consolation. I played for Julian at Montgomery Co. the year that Camargo, DuBois, and Montgomery Co. were united. He handled the job extremely well and our team went from former competitors to friends and we had a very successful year.

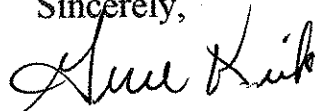
Coach Cunningham gave a poor, skinny county boy an opportunity to play even though it was only my second year of organized ball and the three teams were consolidated. I got a fair shot and I was able to start and improve tremendously. Julian called several colleges coaches and recommended me as a college prospect with only two years of high school experience. I got a four-year scholarship to Delta State University, which totally changed my life. I would had not gone to college if it wasn't for Julian because we could not afford the costs. After graduation I returned to Kentucky to coach and teach, anytime I have the opportunity to help a player get to the next level I work to prepare him or her for college both athletically and academically. Why? Because Julian said that would be the best way to repay him. Help other players reach the college level.

Coach Cunningham not only helped his own players but he tried to help other players of opposing teams to find colleges to attend and play basketball. Coach could tell some wonderful stories and chew your butt out so you would play better. Coach had a tough look, a fiery voice, and a soft heart. I didn't figure out the soft heart until later. It would be hard to

count all the good things Julian has done for his players and other young people on opposing teams.

Julian belongs in the Hall of Fame not because of his wins even though 500 plus wins should qualify but because of the positive influence he has had on so many players and students who he touched during his many years as a teacher and coach. Coach Cunningham provided me an opportunity that totally changed my life and I hope to help others just like he helped me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene Kirk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Gene Kirk

To Whom it May concern :

I would like to make a couple observations about Coach Julian Cunningham as a potential member of the Dawahares Hall Of Fame. I was the opposing Coach against Julian on several occasions during my tenure as a High School Basketball Coach. He was a tough competitor, but was always fair. I can remember one occasion when we were in the finals of the region to make it to the sweet 16. In the final couple of minutes of the game at Mason County High School the official scorekeeper had Coach Cunningham's team down by one point when the difference was actually 3. I was having no luck in convincing this scorekeeper that his numbers were incorrect. Coach Cunningham stepped in and told the scoring official that his team was down by 3, not 1. To me, that's a real man. His teams were always sound on the defensive end and showed a lot of imagination on the offensive end. His teams played hard and were always prepared. It was never a "Walk In The Park" playing against Julian. You can check his record at all the schools where he was in charge and I think you will find that he was very competitive. I have no reservations in recommending Coach Julian Cunningham for a position in the Dawahares Hall of Fame.

Thank You

Jock Sutherland

To:
DAWAHARES KASAA HALL OF FAME
ATTN: NOMINATIONS
2280 EXECUTIVE DRIVE
HAYINGTOWN, KENTUCKY
40505

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October 14, 2002

Kentucky High School Athletic Association
Dawahare Hall of Fame Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

I enthusiastically support nomination of Julian Cunningham to the Dawahare's Hall of Fame. I am a 1963 graduate of Camargo High School.

Coach Cunningham's presence at Camargo High School made a real difference in (1) the community, (2) the school, (3) all of its students, (4) the athletes which played under Coach Cunningham, and (5) me personally. Coach Cunningham not only inspired student athletes that he coached, but also all who came in contact with the sports program and the school.

On the court, both during practice and games, Coach Cunningham was demanding, intense, and unrelenting. He asked for and expected a 110% effort. While he may have appeared to some to had an obsession for winning, his real obsession was in seeing that everyone made their absolute best effort. Off the court Coach Cunningham took both a personal interest not only in his student athletes, but in the other less athletically talented students.

On a personal note I will add that my high school athletic career as a student athlete ended at the end of my freshman year when even I realized, with the help of Coach Cunningham, that my athletic talents were so severely limited that even a "long bench" was long enough for me as a player. Nevertheless, Coach Cunningham made a place for me as a student trainer and treated me with the same respect and dignity as his student athletes. For that respect, dignity, experience and his friendship I will always be grateful.

Sincerely,



Winston E. Miller

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October 18, 2002

Dawahares / KHSAA
Hall of Fame
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40508

**Re: Nomination of Julian R. Cunningham
High School Basketball Coach
Camargo, Kentucky**

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share with you my reasons for this nomination. Coach Cunningham believed in winning. No doubt about it! At that time in my life, I thought it was only in sports. It didn't take me long to realize that he wanted his players to be winners in the game of life also. He used his own free time to take me to visit colleges and universities. I finally decided to accept a scholarship at a Junior College in Tennessee. I enrolled at the school and stayed about a week. I beat my clothes home. I took a job at Neal's Frozen Foods in Lexington, Kentucky. Worked in conditions of 10 degrees below zero. Coach Cunningham still stayed in touch. The following spring, Coach called and told me that the Junior College in Tennessee was still interested in me and would like for me to consider going back to school. He didn't realize how many nights I had cried after coming home from the cold storage cooler. I jumped at the opportunity. The rest is history. I went on graduate from the Junior College and my junior and senior years at a four (4) year college in Nashville, TN. Played basketball and baseball at both schools and finished with a GPA of 3.1. I love sports, but I was more proud of my GPA. I was not going to work in another cold storage cooler for the rest of my life. Without Coach Cunningham's love for his students and athletes to be the best you could be, who knows where I would be today. I now work for a large corporation and have been very successful in my field (not frozen foods).

I now realize that Coach Cunningham measured his success by the success of his players, on and off the court or field. It was pleasure to have played for this great coach and magnificent person. I'm just one story. He has several more. Coach Cunningham deserves to be in the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Roy Williams
Class of 1964
Camargo High School
Montgomery County, KY

October 15, 2002

To: KHSAA-Dawahares Selection Committee

As a young boy growing up in Sharpsburg, I remember going to basketball games in the late 1940's and early 1950's and watching the local "Red Devils" play. I remember one particular player who seemed to play extra hard because he hated so badly to lose. That player was Julian Rees Cunningham. His tenacious play was often the spark that his teammates needed in order to win games. Julian was also the coaches son. J. B. Cunningham was the Principal and coach at Sharpsburg High School for many years.

I remember following Julian's career after he graduated from Sharpsburg when he went to Lindsey Wilson Junior College and on to Rollins College in Florida where he got his degree. His career included coaching assignments at Butler High School in Pendleton County, Sharpsburg High School, Camargo High School, Montgomery County, Bath County and Jessamine County. He also played for a year or two with the touring House of David team. He also refereed high school games for several years. For many years, he assisted with summer basketball camps, one in particular was the Don Lane Camp at Transylvania University.

I had the opportunity to play, in high school, for both J.B. Cunningham and Julian Rees. Through the years, I saw Julian take teams with limited talent and teach, inspire, motivate and mold them into cohesive units that were always competitive at "tournament time". Our 1959-60 team at Camargo High School went 24-4 for the year and averaged 87 points a game and the tallest player on the team was 6' 1". Julian was a spirited person who was not satisfied to see a player do any less than his very best. His tiring efforts to help young men to be the best they could be, on and off the court, has inspired many of them to excel in their chosen professions as adults.

I have known Julian Rees since he was in high school, have been taught and inspired by him, have seen him get mad because I couldn't seem to get a particular move or play right, have seen him highly upset over losing a game that he thought we could have won and seen him elated when he thought we had overachieved and won games that we weren't expected to win.

Because of all of the above, I feel that Julian Rees Cunningham has the background, experience and qualifications to be inducted into the KHSAA-Dawahares Kentucky Basketball Hall of Fame. I highly recommend him for this honor.

Sincerely,


Gerald W. Atkinson

615 Brookmede Drive
Mt. Sterling, Ky. 40353

Glen N. Jones
4824 Krenmore Court
Chester, Virginia 23831

October 28, 2002

NOV 1 2002

Dawahares KHSAA Sports Hall of Fame
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to endorse the nomination of Coach Julian R. Cunningham for the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Sports Hall of Fame.

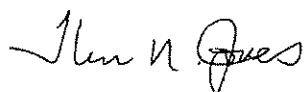
I had the fortune to play basketball for Coach Cunningham at Bath County High School from 1971 to 1974. What I learned from Coach Cunningham had a significant impact on my life. I went on to attend the Virginia Military Institute and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics.

I am employed by Verizon, Inc. (Telecommunication) in Richmond, Virginia, where I am the Director of Customer Operations for southern Virginia. I lead a team of 945 employees and am responsible for a \$50.7M budget. A lot of my success was honed under Coach Cunningham. A well-known basketball coach said, "The will to win is not nearly as important as the will to prepare to win". Coach Cunningham taught us this philosophy. At Bath County, I remember our game preparation of practicing 5 players against 7. I remember the frustration of trying to rebound against two additional defensive players. I remember trying to run offensive plays against a defense that seemed to be everywhere. The preparation made the actual game seem so much easier. While we did not win every game, this type of preparation did prepare me for success both during those years and afterward. I carried those lessons with me as I attended the Virginia Military Institute and even now during my employment with Verizon.

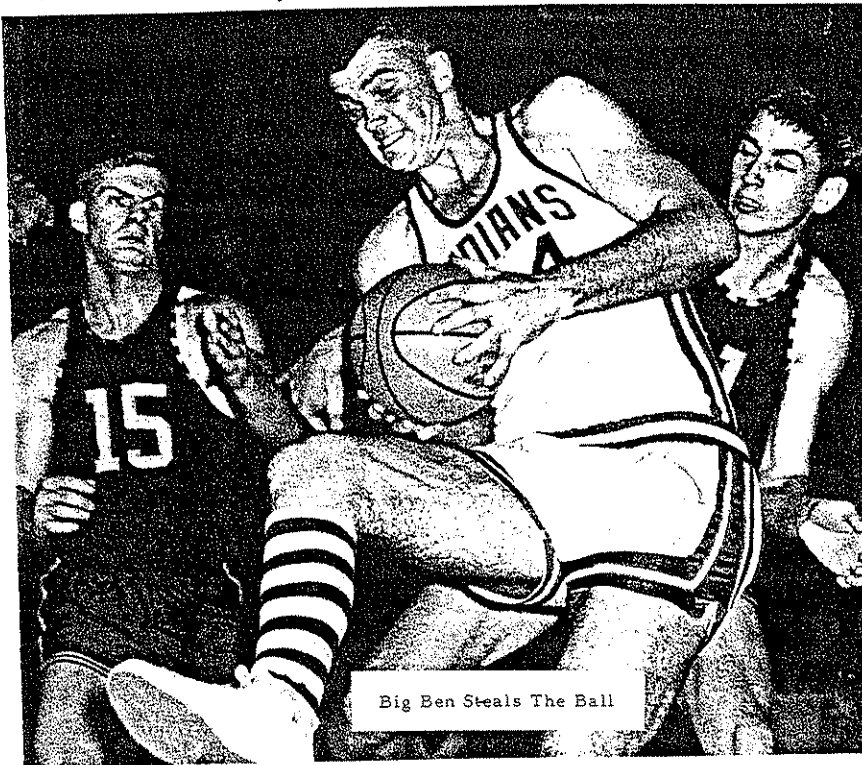
Coach Cunningham taught us to work together as a team. He helped each player to recognize his skills and strengths. I did not possess a great 20' jump shot; however, I was a good passer and rebounder with an adequate 15' jump shot. He helped me to realize that my contribution was just as much needed as scoring 25 points a game. Coach Cunningham cared for his players. He was interested in what you did both on and off the court. He was always there to inquire about how things were going. Having gone from the tiny town of Sharpsburg, Kentucky to Lexington, Virginia, and now to Richmond, Virginia, I have experienced a measure of success. A lot of it I owe to Coach Cunningham's influence.

Coach Cunningham coached for 40 years in the KHSAA where he had over 550 wins and he has impacted countless lives. It is because of this contribution to Kentucky High School Athletics and his impact on many of his players that I enthusiastically submit my recommendation for his acceptance into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Sports Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



First Bluegrass Festival - Lex. Catholic N.S. - 1964



Big Ben Steals The Ball



Camargo Takes Blue Grass Title

Roy Williams Paces Indians To 53-39 Win Over Jessamine

By LOGAN BAILEY
Camargo, which requested a bid to play in the inaugural Blue Grass Basketball Festival, made itself look like a super promoter last night.

The Indians, despite an effort not up to par with their other two tournament performances, won the crown, defeating Jessamine County 53-39 thanks to a 24-point explosion by lefty Roy Williams.

Williams took charge in the fourth quarter and put the game out of Jessamine County's reach with four straight driving field goals which increased the Indians' slim 34-29 third-quarter lead to a comfortable 42-33 with four minutes to play.

Earlier Williams had carried the new champions through the first half, scoring 12 of the Indians' 21 points in that 18-minute session. Camargo led by only 21-20 at halftime.

Camargo, now unbeaten in 13 starts, played it much more deliberate against the Colts than it had in earlier victories over Bryan Station and Henry Clay, but it did pay off.

Julian Cunningham's boys took only 48 shots during the evening, but connected on 20 for a respectable 41.6 percentage. Jessamine County was walloped, hitting only 17 of 56 for 30.3 per cent.

Williams, who along with teammate Sammy Little was named to the All-Tournament team, was the only Indian in double figures. Next highest scorer was substitute Ronnie Daniels, who got nine.

Little got only eight after two previous high-scoring efforts, but did lead the rebounders with 14. Big Bennie Shepherd, who fouled out again, grabbed 12 missed shots as Camargo held a 46-25 board edge.

Another southpaw, Elmer Ison, was best for Jessamine County, tabulating 12 before fouling out with 21 seconds left. Jessamine's All-Tournament representatives, Charles Crouse and Hugh O'Connell, had nine and six respectively.

The Colts, although they had

Player	G	F	R	P	T
CAMARGO (52)	70-48	12-23	40	10	23
Little	3-8	2-4	14	7	8
Williams	11-19	3-5	12	3	6
Shepherd	8-14	0-4	12	5	7
Muhles	1-2	0-0	7	0	2
Shearer	1-2	0-1	0	1	3
Daniels	3-9	3-4	4	0	9
TOTALS	70-48	12-23	40	10	23

Player	G	F	R	P	T
JESSAMINE Co. (39)	70-56	2-5	8	1	6
O'Connell	3-10	0-0	7	1	6
Miller	1-1	0-0	1	0	0
Perkins	2-10	0-0	4	3	4
Ison	6-12	0-1	1	3	12
Shearer	1-2	0-0	7	0	2
Strauss	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Warren	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Wade	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
TOTALS	17-56	2-5	35	14	39

many open shots, just couldn't find the range against Camargo's zone. Many times they had good shots from 10 and 12 feet away, but did not connect.

Camargo, after a 7-7 tie, streaked to a 15-9 lead after the first eight minutes and maintained a five-point advantage until near the end of the half when baskets by Glen Perkins and O'Connell made it 21-20 at intermission.

The Indians were able to increase their advantage by four points in the third period, leading 34-29 at its end. Then came Williams' outburst to start the final stanza, and that settled matters.

Camargo played keep away the last four minutes of the game, and built on its lead with some accurate shooting at the free throw line.

The setback left Jessamine County's record standing at 7-2 for the season.

THE BLUE GRASS PAIRINGS

DEC. 26	DEC. 27	DEC. 28
WOODY'ORD CO. 1:30 p.m. MT. STERLING	WOODFORD CO. -47	
JESSAMINE CO. 3:00 p.m. GEORGETOWN	JESSAMINE CO. -49	JESSAMINE CO. -39
LEX. CATHOLIC 7:30 p.m. HENRY CLAY	HENRY CLAY -68	CAMARGO H. S.
CAMARGO 9:00 p.m. BRYAN STATION	CAMARGO -69	CAMARGO H. S. -53



That Zone's Got To Move

* This was copied from Camargo High School's 1964 Yearbook.

For Julian Cunningham, trip to Sweet Sixteen will complete the circle

Julian Cunningham used to say that if a school wanted to go out of business it should hire him as its basketball coach.

Cunningham's first three coaching jobs were at Butler in Pendleton County, Sharpsburg in Bath County and Camargo in Montgomery County — three small schools that closed because of consolidation.

"You begin to wonder if something's following you around," he said. "I didn't know if I'd survive."

Julian Cunningham is a survivor, and a happy one at that.

In his 30th and probably last year as a basketball coach, he has guided Jessamine County into its first-ever Boys' State Basketball Tournament. The Colts (24-5) upset Henry Clay 67-66 in the 11th Region semifinals, then smashed Lexington Catholic 64-38 in the championship game.

Cunningham, 59, does not easily get misty-eyed on the basketball court. With an overall record of 558-295, he's seen it all. He also coached at Clark County and Montgomery County (twice), and he took Bath County to the Sweet Sixteen in 1975 and '77. This is a man who's been on the sidelines more than half his life.

But after Jessamine County won the region a few nights ago, Cunningham was clearly moved by emotion.

He talked about how great it was to give the people of Jessamine County the gift of glory that is the state tournament.

He talked about how his team "paid the price" with hard work, determination and a tenacity of spirit that winners must possess.

And he talked about how his dad, Julian B. Cunningham, was the first basketball coach at Camargo, and how he (Julian R. Cunningham) played for his father and later became the last coach at Camargo. He cherished the sport that had linked

son Les, the Colts' senior guard, amidst the celebration. That is what made it a special moment. For Julian Cunningham, the passion that can be basketball had come full circle.

"Dad always wanted to coach me, and we always dreamed about getting to the state tournament together," Les said. "It's great for me just like it is for any player to reach this goal. But it's even greater for dad. I really doubt if he'll be back to coach next year, so this is a good way to finish."

Julian Cunningham had been out of coaching a couple of years when the Jessamine County job opened up before the 1988-89 season. He saw it as a great chance to coach his son on an up-and-coming power.

The Colts, with 6-foot-9 Keith Peel and 6-2 star Paul Bingham, went 23-5 that first season but lost to Bryan Station in the regional semifinals.

They came back this year determined to capture the school's first-ever regional title.

Maybe it was fate that they would succeed. When Cunningham was at Bath County the Wildcats

made it to the Sweet Sixteen when his daughters Rebecca (Class of '75) and Julie (Class of '77) were seniors.

Daughter Susan missed out, but Les was at the right place at the right time.

"We just know how to go out the right way," Les said.

Dad wouldn't argue.

"This is what it's all about, giving people the excitement of a trip to the state tournament," he said. "And I kind of enjoy it myself."

Basketball tournament notes

Jessamine County won't be the only newcomer to this week's Sweet Sixteen. Belfry (16th Region) and Leslie County (14th Region) will also be making their first appearances in the State Tournament.

• Clay County (13th Region) and Clark County (10th) are the only schools that will be making repeat trips to the state. Clay County is in for the seventh straight year, a feat matched only by St. Xavier from 1937-43.

Mike Fields
Herald-Leader
staff writer



Sweet Sixteen

at Freedom Hall in Louisville

Wednesday — Jessamine County (24-5) vs. Paducah Tilghman (25-9), 1 p.m.; Boyd County (26-6) vs. Holmes (32-4), 2:30; Clark County (25-6) vs. Belfry (24-7), 7:30; North Hardin (25-7) vs. Shelby County (21-9), 9.

Thursday — Bowling Green (22-11) vs. Apollo (29-4), 1 p.m.; Fairdale (29-4) vs. Male (17-12), 2:30; Danville (22-6) vs. Clay County (29-1), 7:30; Henderson County (27-4) vs. Leslie County (25-6), 9.

Friday — Quarterfinals at 1, 2:30, 7:30 and 9.

Saturday — Semifinals at 10 and 11:30 a.m.; Championship at 8 p.m.

• None of the teams that made it to the All "A" Classic state tournament in Lexington last month

• As well as the boys' 11th Region tournament has been run the past two years, UK's Memorial Coliseum should be made the permanent site and Tates Creek should always be the host school.

• Damon Bailey became the all-time leading scorer in Indiana high school history last week. The Bedford North Lawrence senior had 31 points in the regional finals, giving him 3,026 career points. That eclipsed the mark of 3,019 set by Marion Pierce of Lewisville in 1961. IU coach Bob Knight, who'll have Bailey on his team next year, was on hand to see Bailey break the record.

• Indiana's high school playoffs are down to the Sweet Sixteen, too, but their format calls for semi-state games this Saturday before moving to the Hoosier Dome for the final four on March 24. Lawrence North, which won the Indiana state title last year behind 7-footer Eric Montross, has already been eliminated. Damon Bailey's Bedford team is still alive. Among the other familiar Hoosier schools still in the scramble are New Castle, Anderson, Gary, Roosevelt, Evansville, Bosse, Richmond, and Lebanon.

Bath County Wins

By Dan Manley

The Bath County Wildcats rode a hot second half shooting spree to the Tenth Regional Championship Saturday night to advance into the 58th Annual Kentucky State High School Basketball Tournament which opened this afternoon in Louisville's Freedom Hall.

Coach Julian Cunningham's squad which defeated Pendleton County and Mason County in the opening two rounds of the tournament will be representing their team for the first time ever in the State Tournament. Carlisle County and Lexington Henry Clay opened the tourney today at 1:00 with Bath County meeting Newport Catholic at 2:30.

The hottest of the hot for Bath County in their regional final win over Harrison County was sophomore guard Bruce Jones. The husky do-it-all type player, Jones hit for 12 of his 18 points in the second half as Bath County pulled out of a 24-24 halftime deadlock to win the game going away, 66-49.

The Wildcats claimed a ten-point win over Mason County in the semi-finals after getting pushed to the final buzzer by Pendleton County in the tournament's opening round. That game saw junior center Jeff Wilson fire in 30 points and pull down 19 rebounds.

Newport Catholic in Third Straight

In Newport Catholic the Wildcats face a team that has one big advantage - "experience." The Thoroughbreds are making their third straight trip to the Sweet Sixteen with forwards Gary Devoto and Ken Wilfong returning starters from a year ago.

"If we can get past Newport Catholic, anything could happen," pondered Cunningham, a twenty-year veteran of the coaching ranks. "They certainly aren't big but we aren't either."

Newport Catholic, a team that starts just one senior, recorded a 24-6 mark this year and knocked off Covington Holy Cross in the regional finals. They represent Region Nine.

Since by press time the Bath County - Newport Catholic affair should about be decided, let's take a look at the rest of the tournament field and what would be ahead if Bath County survived round one.

Lexington Henry Clay would likely be the Wildcats next opponent. The Blue Devils of Coach Al Prewitt rate as the favorites in the tournament's opening game where they meet Carlisle County. Bath County has not played the Lexington school this year but did meet Bates Creek, losing by four points early in the season.

Louisville Central ranks as the other upper bracket favorite. They're in the foursome with Warren East, Owensboro and Shelbyville. In the first foursome of the lower bracket, Christian County looms as the favorite to reach the semi-finals. However their first round matchup with Clay County ranks as one of the top first round games.

The final four teams which meet Thursday night include Male, Elizabethtown, Johnson Central and Knott Central. Would you believe Male?

The tournament remains, just as last year, a case of everybody else chasing the big boys from the big city.

When talking about this year's Bath County team, Cunningham doesn't come up ranting and raving.

"Everything Fell Into Place"

"There's not a whole lot of difference in this year's team and some others that I've coached," he admits. "We thought we should have been there last year but we blew a lead we had on Paris and got beat in the closing seconds. There are always a lot of things involved and this year things just fell into place."

While Bath County didn't enter the tournament this afternoon as the favorite they certainly didn't go in with their barrels empty. Center Jeff Wilson has clearly established himself as one of the Commonwealth's top schoolboy talents, though only a junior. Although a very slender 6-5, Wilson dazzles people with his quickness and seems to play best against the best.

Wilson has scored 683 points this season and grabbed 500 rebounds. His season high, point wise, came against Louisville Manual when he poured in 41. He also scored 35 against both Franklin County and Scott County and 31 when the 'Cats met Louisville Central.

On the boards Wilson's top effort came against Harrison County in a regular season game when he pulled down 25. In two meetings this year with Louisville Male, he averaged 18 points and 20 rebounds.

Today's game was not the first outing this season for Bath County in Freedom Hall. They lost a 60-59 heartbreaker to Georgetown on a last second shot. Wilson had 26 points and 21 rebounds that night.

"When we played there that night we were hoping that it wouldn't be the last time we played there this year," said an obviously pleased Cunningham.

Hopefully today's game wasn't the last either for the 19-13 Wildcats.

Ticket Sales - Approaching 2,000

There was a time when Cunningham almost made it to the State Tournament as a player. In 1950, Sharpshurg had one of the top teams around but it just so happened that a team named Clark County and a coach named Letcher Norton were around.

When Bath County took the floor today they became the first team from the local district, other than Clark County, to make it to the State Tournament since Mt. Sterling went in 1943. And one thing's for sure. Cunningham and his Wildcats were not by themselves when they took the floor today. Ticket sales were above the 1,600 mark at last count.

From strictly a record viewpoint, this state tournament field would have to rank with any in the past. Bath County sixteen teams have won 25 games or more and Bath County at 19-13 is the only team that is under the twenty point mark. Perhaps your number twenty is on the board.

Against Estonia national team

Cunningham will coach seniors once more

Julian Cunningham, the man who took high school basketball in Jessamine County to a higher plane, isn't saying if he will be around to coach for the 1990-91 season.

But Jessamine County basketball fans can be assured of him coaching at least one more game at JCHS gym within the next two months.

Cunningham, while asking for more time "to think things over" before announcing his decision, did say this week he would coach the five starting seniors of Jessamine one more time.

That will come April 19 when the Colt starting five will be joined by seven Lexington cage standouts in a game against the Estonian (Russia) National All-Stars. The game is set for 7:30 p.m. at JCHS gym.

"As of right now it is go although we will have to work out some of the details," Cunningham said Monday. "It's a great thing for the community to get behind and good publicity for the school and the community."

Sayre Coach Jim Lankster is handling the details of the game and 6 to 7 other games involving Central Kentucky high schools and the Estonian National All-Star team.

Lankster and his team went to Estonia for several games in December of last year and invited their hosts to reciprocate. They are expected to arrive via Mexico City April 10. They are scheduled to leave April 21.

The Colt five who will play against Estonia are Keith Peel, Paul Bingham, Kevin Burton, Chris Holtmann and Les Cunningham.

They will be joined by Nicholasville's Dan Swintosky and his Lexington Catholic teammate, Jason Duncan, plus Rob Putnam of Sayre, Matt Spoonamore of Lafayette, Casey Musgrave of Tates Creek, Reggie Talbert of Bryan Station and Kip Kirkpatrick of Henry Clay.

"They (the seven) have been invited. None of them have accepted," Lankster said.

Ticket prices for the games will be \$3 and the games will be played under international rules.

"We're hoping the Central Kentucky community comes out and supports the games," Lankster said. "The team won't have that much money. Rubies are practically worthless on the U.S. market. So we're hoping the Kentucky hospitality will come through as far as lodging at different sites, etc."

"We're hoping to have them eat at different schools. Basically, anyone who wishes to help us as far as complimentary meals or lodging can contact me at Sayre school or call Coach Cunningham at Jessamine High."

Lankster said the Estonia team has several 6-10 and 6-11 players and are well-drilled.

"This is our chance to learn something about Estonia, a Republic within the Soviet Union and one of the Baltic states," Lankster said. "To do our part for glasnost and perestroika."

Cunningham would not say the game with Estonia would be his "swan song." But he left no doubt he would like to fill the gym for the game as a tribute to the season the Colt players had.

"It won't be this week," Cunningham said about any decision to retire again.

"It's been a great two years for my family. I think the one who was hurt the most by our losing to Covington Holmes was my grandson, Bryce. He thought he was not going to see the boys (the players) again."

Cunningham said the biggest thing about the Colts advancing to the final eight of the Sweet 16 last week was the "togetherness" that resulted in the county.

Vice principal Patricia Nielsen agreed. She said the players realize they have been in "a very special place at a very special time in the county."

Cunningham said he had no reason to second-guess any decisions in the tournament—like lack of substitutions.

"We were only so strong," Cunningham said. "We needed some extra wheels to get in that kind of

contest with Holmes and survive. We had put the last five in against Laurel with a 30-point lead and then we had to put the first team back to avoid a defeat. All year the reserves haven't been able to play at that level."

Cunningham said the Colts could have been in the finals if they had been able to relax and play "our normal game."

"Take Holmes' No. 4 (Anthony Hughes)," Cunningham said. "He couldn't buy one against Fairdale in the finals. If he had hit like he did against us Holmes would have been champs. It's just a shame he couldn't have had the kind of game we had Saturday when he played us (Friday). But things don't always work out that way."

Head football coach Frank Conyers, Cunningham's good friend and partner in show horses, says Cunningham feels the same way he did after coaching his son, B.T., in his final football year two years ago. Julian's son, Les, played his last varsity game Friday against Covington Holmes.

"I think he kind of feels a letdown at this point," Conyers said. "I did too for a while. But the best thing I did was come back and coach again. I hope he stays. He's good for the community and the people like him. And his record speaks for itself."

Bath Edges Catholic

Special To The Herald

OWINGSVILLE, Ky.—Bath County survived a late charge by Lexington Catholic to claim a 79-73 victory here last night.

Bath County opened a 20-16 lead in the first quarter and the Wildcats were still in front 35-32 at the half. The winners widened the lead to 12 points in the third quarter.

Catholic closed to within seven points at the end of the third period and sliced the lead to four with two minutes remaining.

Bruce Jones topped Bath County with 26 points while Jeff Rogers tossed in 22. Jeff Wilson chipped in with 12 points and pulled down 14 rebounds.

Jim Young poured in 28 points to lead the way for

Catholic while Steve Stewart netted 14 and Mike Stewart had 12. Danny Haney managed just seven points for the Knights.

Bath County hit 31 of 55 shots from the field for a blazing 61 per cent while Catholic hit 29 of 62 for 48 per cent.

The win was the 10th for Bath County in 12 games while Catholic suffered its fourth loss compared to 15 victories.

Bath County 79 Lexington Catholic 73

At Bath County (79) — B. Jones 26, Rogers 22, Wilson 12, Razer 9, T. Jones 8, Scott 2.

Lexington V Catholic (73) — Young 28, S. Stewart 14, M. Stewart 12, Haney 7, Caudill 6, Oberst 4, Gallagher 2.

Bath County	20	35	60	79
Lexington Catholic	16	32	53	73

JCHS Coach Cunningham Honored As Colts Bomb Bracken Co. 88-50

For a man who never originally planned on a coaching career, Jessamine County High School Basketball Coach Julian Cunningham has done very well.

Friday night Cunningham chalked up win No. 554. He did it as the Colts overpowered Bracken County, 88-50, before a senior night crowd of 1,500 at JCHS gym.

Cunningham was surprised before the game with a beautiful La-Z-Boy reclining chair. It was a gift, courtesy of the Jessamine County High School Basketball Boosters Club.

Cunningham, whose record over 33 years is 554-295 for a winning percentage of 65 percent, said he was surprised at the expensive gift.

"That's the nicest thing anybody has ever done for me," said Cunningham.

His team then went out and gave him a night to remember. Kevin Burton, one of Coach Cunningham's finest projects, led the way with 20 points. Paul Bingham poured in 17. Keith Peel and Chris Holtmann caged 12 each. Peel collected nine rebounds, eight steals, three assists, and five blocked shots to go with his scoring output.

Allen Flaughter, who owns a milk company in Bracken County, was on hand to see his old friend, Julian, last Friday.

"He was my assistant at Bath County many years ago," said Cunningham. "We've remained close friends."

After playing for the House of David basketball team and baseball in the Brooklyn Dodger organization, Cunningham was injured. He gave up playing the two sports and turned to coaching.

"I never really aimed to do it... coaching, that is," said Cunningham.

Cunningham coached at Mason County, Pendleton County, Bath County, and then Camargo before the latter consolidated into Montgomery County. Cunningham then went back to Bath County and then to Clark County before emerging at Montgomery once again. He came here two years ago from Montgomery County and has fashioned a win-loss mark of 42-10 and one regional

and Tim Hafley, played well. Coach Cunningham cleared the bench in the final quarter. It was the 21st straight win at home for Jessamine.

Tonight, the Colts will sit in the

stands as Lexington Catholic meets Sayre at 8:00 in the opening round game of the 42nd District Tournament.

(Continued on page 19)

"I've been in teaching 36 years and 33 of it in the coaching profession," said Cunningham.

Coach Cunningham said it was originally his intention to only coach until his son Les, a starting senior guard, was through school. "But I've enjoyed it so much. I'm going to try and get through the playoffs and then make up my mind about retiring."

Cunningham leans to teams he coached at tiny Camargo in southern Montgomery County as his favorite. One of his teams there was third in the state with a 33-3 mark. It was a high scoring quintet that revolved around Paul Fugate and Roy Ware.

"They both later died of cancer," said Cunningham. "They were great players." He remembers playing against Lexington Mayor Scotty Baesler when he was at Athens and then at Bryan Station.

"He was a fine player," said Cunningham of Baesler, who went on to play for Adolph Rupp at Kentucky. "We used to beat teams like Henry Clay and St. Xavier."

Cunningham has always had one of the best assistant coaches in Kentucky. That is his wife of 35 years, Jennette. "She loves basketball," said Cunningham.

Last Friday's game was over after the first quarter. Jessamine led 20-4 at the first stop. The reserves, especially Chad Todd, Lance Ferguson,