

# Billy Haynes is still going strong

Longtime sports official has called for 70-plus years

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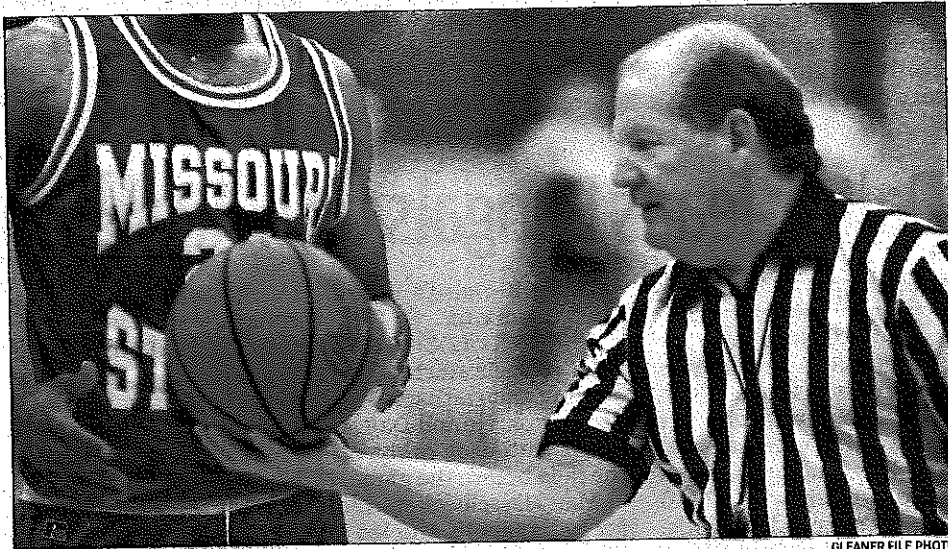
Billy T. Haynes has been officiating all types of sports for so long that he jokes the first event he called was a chariot race.

A world class storyteller, Haynes hasn't been around long enough to judge Ben-Hur vs. Messala but he does have 50-plus years of basketball officiating to his credit. And he's still going strong.

Haynes, who refereed his first high school basketball game at South Hopkins High School in 1961, still works about 50 games a year at the high school and college level.

That works out to about three games a week for the 73-year-old Haynes who says he once officiated 70-100 games a year during his younger days.

And that's just the basketball portion of Haynes' officiating resume. He remains a certified official in football, baseball, track and volleyball. He recently



GLEANER FILE PHOTO

Referee Billy Haynes hands the ball to a Missouri-St. Louis player for a free throw attempt during a college basketball game against Kentucky Wesleyan at the Sportscenter in Owensboro on Jan. 23, 1997. Haynes has been officiating sports for more than 50 years.

started officiating college volleyball and will add fast-pitch softball in the spring in the Ohio Valley Conference.

"He has a tremendous passion for sports and officiating," said Leo Peckenpaugh, who officiated high school and college basketball alongside Haynes for approximately 20 years. "When he's on court, he's going to make sure both teams are going to have a chance to win. And he's going to do it with a smile on his face. With him, it's not drop-dead serious. He knows it's just a game and

## HALL OF FAME

This is the last in a series of profiles of the 2013 inductees into the Henderson County Sports Hall of Fame. The 2013 class will be honored at halftime of tonight's football game between Henderson County and Evansville North. The induction ceremonies will be Saturday at 6 p.m. in the Henderson County High School cafeteria. Tickets for the banquet, which are \$15, will be available at the door. A reception for the 2013 inductees and all past inductees will be held at 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Red Unit near the cafeteria.

he does a good job of keeping that in perspective."

An NCAA Division I basketball official for 16 years, he's still active in the college game working

several area junior college and NAIA games. During the last decade, he has also refereed in the ABA semi-pro league

Still certified as a high

school football official, Haynes is the KHSAA's assigning secretary for the Second and Third Regions, overseeing officials for high school and middle school football games.

Being an administrator at South Middle School gave Peckenpaugh the chance to work with Haynes in a different capacity. "He wasn't too good to do a middle school game and he enjoyed it just as much," Peckenpaugh said. "My middle school kids got the same effort out of him as the kids playing for Kentucky Wesleyan or USI got. Whatever game he was officiating at that moment was the most important game he had ever officiated."

Aside from his passion for officiating, Haynes had an outstanding bowling career. The 1959 graduate of City High is the past president of the Kentucky State Bowling Association and is a member of the Hall of Fames of both the Kentucky State Bowling Association and the American Bowling Congress.

Haynes averaged over 200 for 20 years and bowled three perfect games, including the last one at age 65. His bowling career also included a pair of 299 games and two 298s.