

**Willard 'Sprout' Johnson**

Born: May 1, 1910

Died: Feb 15, 2000

Attended Carr Creek High School 1928-32

He was a member of three CCHS teams (1928,30,31) that played in the KY State Tournament. The 1928 team was runner-up to Ashland and was invited to the National Tournament in Chicago.

Attended and graduated from Morehead State Teachers College (1932-36).

Played varsity basketball three years (1933-36) and was voted First Team KIAC in 1934.

Taught and coached at CCHS for thirty-seven years. He served as head coach from 1942-1954, compiling a winning percentage of 75%. His 1947-48 team lost in overtime in the semifinals of the KY State Tournament to the eventual champion, Maysville. They won the Third Place Trophy, defeating Male. The team's record was 30-2.

Assistant Coach to Morton Combs 1954-~~7~~<sup>1969</sup> In those years CCHS won the KY State Tournament in 1956 and the LIT in 1963.

In 1948 he was voted the 'Outstanding Young Man of the Year' by the Kentucky Jaycees.

In 1995 he was inducted in the Knott County Hall of Fame.

He was a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Smithsboro Baptist Church for twenty-five years.