

October 26, 2009

Raymond Reed  
440 Reed Valley Road  
London, Ky. 40744

To: The KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame Nomination Committee

On behalf of Coach G.J. Smith, I am pleased to offer a personal and professional reference and recommendation in support of him becoming a member of the KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame.

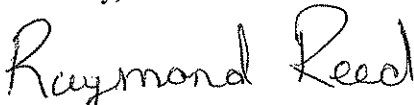
G.J. and I have been a part of each other lives for many years. He played basketball and baseball for me while attending Hazel Green High School and Laurel County High School. He excelled on and off the court becoming one of the top players in the state of Kentucky in both basketball and baseball. He was a big part in us reaching the state tournament his junior and senior years. G.J. was one of the last players Coach Rupp recruited to play basketball at the University of Kentucky from 1972- 1975.

After Coach Smith graduated from the University Of Kentucky, he became an outstanding teacher, coach and Athletic Director for the laurel County School System. During all of the years he spent teaching, coaching and directing athletics, he always made his students the first priority. Coach Smith demonstrated the highest level of professional commitment and competency in his work with students and colleagues. To carry out his professional responsibilities, he generously gave his valuable time and often his work extended beyond the school day. G.J. never failed to rise above and beyond the call of duty.

Perhaps I appreciate G.J. more because he and his family have always been such a big part of the community and my life, but I know it is more than that. I really believe that G.J. is a rarity. He gave 100% all of the time and he richly deserves this honor.

Without any hesitation or reservation, I recommend G.J. Smith for membership in the Dawahares KHSAA hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

  
Raymond Reed

Retired Principal/Coach of Laurel County High School  
& Hazel Green High School

# *South Laurel High School*

201 South Laurel Rd. London KY, 40744  
Ph: (606) 862-4727 Fax: (606) 862 4728

Mrs. Regina Bishop  
Principal

October 23, 2009

Mr. David Cummins  
Assistant Principal

KHSAA Dawahares Hall of Fame Nomination Committee,

It is my great honor to recommend GJ Smith for induction into the Dawahares Hall of Fame. Mr. Smith has been a notorious athlete, coach, and athletic director. Notorious is not a word that is used lightly in this circumstance. Many in our community see Mr. Smith as the example of an athlete. Many young men respect Mr. Smith as a coach. All of Laurel County see Mr. Smith as the ambassador of sports. He recognizes its importance in the education of young lives and the community it builds in adult lives. He is the example that youth aspire to.

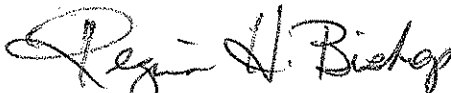
Mr. Lynn Parman  
Assistant Principal

Four years ago, I became the principal of South Laurel High School. As a first year principal, I was extremely overwhelmed. Mr. GJ Smith was my athletic director. He was experienced in his role. He in many ways became my mentor. He believes that athletics play a valuable role in a school. He is also mindful that athletics is a part of a school, but only one part. He believes that every athlete should be treated fairly and equitably. He served as a leader to his coaches. He encouraged his coaches to be the leaders of their programs. He was active in each program, always prepared to step in as needed. He truly grew leaders in his coaches. He understood the importance of consistency and tradition. He recognized excellence breeds excellence. He worked diligently to set every situation up for success.

South Laurel High School has been very successful in athletics. Many times I have heard others congratulate him on an athletic success. His response has always been that his coaches and athletes have worked very hard and deserve the congratulations. Mr. Smith has always been very reluctant to accept praise for the programs. He recognizes that it is the coaches and athletes' hard work that need praised. The truth is that GJ Smith has set up every program and nurtured every program for success. Our programs thrived under the leadership of GJ Smith.

Even after Mr. Smith's retirement, he has been constant at South Laurel High School. He is one of my most trusted mentors and friend. He continues to be an ambassador for sports. He genuinely wants the best for students and athletic programs. There is no one that is more deserving than GJ Smith for the Dawahares Hall of Fame. He embodies athletic excellence, knowledge, and commitment.

Sincerely,



Regina H. Bishop  
South Laurel High School Principal

October 21, 2009

To Members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame Committee:

I am writing this letter to recommend G. J. Smith, a 1971 graduate of Laurel County High School for the KHSAA Hall of Fame as a high school basketball player.

G. J. Smith was one of the greatest high school players to play in the state of Kentucky. He played on some of the greatest teams from the 12<sup>th</sup> Region at both Hazel Green and Laurel County High Schools, and later at the University of Kentucky from 1972-1975.

I competed against G. J. in high school and was a teammate of his on the Kentucky East All-Stars where we dominated the West All-Stars in 1971. We competed against each other in the Southeastern Conference and while at Tennessee we always were well informed to cover the "Kentucky Long Rifle", as he was known. Very few college players with G. J.'s size had the range he did. He was a tremendous shooter and had there been a three point line at the time, he would have been one of the great 3 point shooters in college basketball.

G. J. is without question one of the greatest players to come from southeastern Kentucky and in my opinion, one of the great high school players in Kentucky high school basketball history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rodney Woods". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rodney Woods  
Wayne County High School  
Athletic Director  
Head Boys Basketball Coach

VISITATION

6:00 p.m.  
Monday, August 20, 2012  
House-Rawlings Funeral Home Chapel  
London, Kentucky

FUNERAL SERVICE

11:00 a.m.  
Tuesday, August 21, 2012  
House-Rawlings Funeral Home Chapel  
London, Kentucky

OFFICIATING

Jerry Brown

INTERMENT

A.R. Dyche Memorial Park  
London, Kentucky



*House-Rawlings Funeral Home*

510 East Fourth Street  
London, Kentucky 40741

606-864-2158

24 Hour Obituary Line

606-864-2006

[www.houserawlings.com](http://www.houserawlings.com)

*In Loving Memory of*



G.J. Smith

June 13, 1953 - August 17, 2012



God hath not promised  
    skies always blue,  
Flower-strewn pathways  
    all our lives through;  
God hath not promised  
    sun without rain,  
Joy without sorrow,  
    peace without pain.

But God hath promised  
    strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor,  
    light for the way,  
Grace for the trials,  
    help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy,  
    undying love...

In Loving Memory of

G.J. Smith

June 13, 1953 - August 17, 2012



He is survived by his wife,  
Judy Young Smith, of London, Kentucky,

Two sons,  
Cameron Justin Smith,  
and Trey Jordan Smith,  
both of London, Kentucky.

He is also survived by one sister,  
Charlie Jean Mack and husband Terry,

One niece,  
Lindsey Jenkins and husband Steven,

One great niece and nephew,  
Sierra Jenkins and Jessie Jenkins,  
all of Middletown, Ohio.



# Smith Keys for the Big Games And Hazel Green Wins Them

By GARY TUELL

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

There are times when G. J. Smith "just doesn't want to play basketball," complains Hazel Green High coach Raymond Reed.

"He's a typical sophomore," Reed said. "He just can't get himself mentally prepared for the easy games."

However (and this is the part that has earned Smith a starting job on Hazel Green's 19-3 team), there are other times when the slender 6-foot-4 sophomore performs like a seasoned veteran.

"He hasn't started the entire year," Reed said. "But he does such a fine job against the real good clubs, I have to play him."

Friday night Smith threw in 15 points (five above his season average) and

played a key defensive role in Hazel Green's 81-57 upset of Danville.

"Smith has real long arms, and he knows how to use them," Reed stated. "He got up to Roy (Danville's Jimmy Dale Roy) and flapped those arms all around him. Roy just couldn't get off his shots."

Roy is Danville's leading point-getter with a 21.4 mark. However, Smith limited the Danville ace to only four points on two first-half field goals.

"Smith's going to be a good one," said Danville coach David (Stick) Cottrell. "He broke our backs with his outside shooting. And he does a good job on the boards, too."

Smith's success at the 12th Region school runs in the family.

Smith's father, Charles, was a regular

center on Hazel Green's 1940 state champions. Two years later the elder Smith guided Hazel Green to the state tourney's semifinals and was named to the tourney's 10-man all-tournament team.

"His daddy was quite a player," Reed said. "I guess it runs in the family."

## Farris Sets the Pace

Still, the key to Hazel Green's remarkable squad is senior Glenn Farris.

A 6-3 center, Farris is scoring at an 18-point clip and pulling down 15 rebounds per game.

"He's the most matured player on the team," Reed said, "and he's one of the best shooters in the region."

In Hazel Green's victory over Danville, Farris had 24 points and grabbed 20 rebounds.

"Farris is an excellent shooter," Cottrell chipped in. "We just didn't have anyone who could handle him."

Charles Broughton (15 points a game), Bill Dotson (10) and Glenn Maxey (10) round out Hazel Green's starting five. Broughton is a senior, Dotson a junior and Maxey a sophomore. All are 6 feet 2.

"Broughton helps out on the boards," Reed said. "He's getting about 15 rebounds a game."

## Dotson 'Is Our Leader'

The Hazel Green skipper says Dotson "is our leader. "He keeps the boys going when things get tough."

Reed added: "Maxey's just a sophomore, but he's a terrific pressure player. He's always at the right place at the right time."

How does Reed view the scrambled race for the 12th Region crown?

"I'd still rate Danville as the favorite, Monticello second and us third."

Someone suggested that Reed was being modest, since his Hazel Green team has beaten both Danville and Monticello (59-50).

"I reckon we've shaken things up a bit," Reed laughed. "But we start two sophomores and sometimes three (6-4 Bradley Stines). Shucks, we're still learning how to play this game."

## Henry Clay Eyes Clincher Against Woodford County

Lexington Henry Clay High can clinch the Central Kentucky Conference regular-season basketball championship tonight if it can defeat Woodford County at the Lexington Junior High gym, which is also its own home court.

Coach Al Prewitt's Henry Clay club, which won the CKC tourney earlier this month, boast a 7-1 CKC record and an overall mark of 16-5. More important, Henry Clay has the highest Dickinson System rating among CKC teams at 23.125.

The CKC standings:

Team	Overall		C.K.C.		Dickinson Rating
	W.	L.	W.	L.	
Lex. Henry Clay	16	5	7	1	23.125
Danville	19	5	11	2	21.250
Frankfort	16	5	8	2	21.250
Richmond Madison	19	3	8	1	20.625
Anderson County	16	6	10	2	20.000
Georgetown	16	8	4	2	18.333
Paris	10	13	3	4	15.714
Stanford	10	13	5	6	14.345
Jessamine County	12	7	5	7	14.146
All. Sterling	7	11	3	5	13.750
Hartwoodburg	11	11	4	8	13.333
Garrod County	9	9	3	8	12.727
Woodford County	4	15	2	8	12.000
Shelbyville	3	18	1	7	11.250
Somerset	4	16	1	10	10.909
MMI	3	13	0	3	10.000

At Hazel Green

# G. J. Smith Follows In Dad's Footsteps

By MIKE RUEHLING  
Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

G. J. Smith's father played on the first—and only—State Tournament championship team Hazel Green High School ever had.

G. J. Smith hopes he's on the last. Today, Hazel Green and Smith are one year nearer their goal. Last night, as G. J. scored 30 points and collected 16 rebounds, Hazel Green defeated Paris 57-46 in the next-to-last first round State Tournament game at Freedom Hall.

"He sure did all right," said Charles Smith, G. J.'s dad. "Real fine for a 16-year-old boy."

G. J. Smith (the initials stand for George John) is a junior, but it's his last year at Hazel Green. It's the school's last year. Next year Hazel Green will be consolidated with Bush, Lily and London into the new Laurel County High.

## Won First . . . and Last

Charles Smith, a tall (6 feet, 5 inches), gray-haired cattle farmer in Laurel County, played in the first game when Hazel Green dedicated its gym in 1938.

"We won that game," Smith recalled last night. "We beat Covington Holmes."

G. J. Smith played in the last game at Hazel Green's gym.

"They won, too," his father said. "They beat Clay County."

In 1940, when Hazel Green defeated Hindman 42-39 for the state championship in Lexington, Charles Smith was a sophomore.

"There were about 4,000 people at the game," he said. "People followed basketball real well, even back then."

G. J. got an early start at the game. "He put a shoebox up in his room and used to shoot paper wads at it when he was real little," the elder Smith said.

"I could dunk it when I was six," G. J. said with a smile.

"Later, we put a goal up outside," Charles Smith said. "It got a good workout."

Charlie Jean, G. J.'s older sister who is a senior physical-education major at Eastern Kentucky University, usually provided G. J.'s opposition.

"She's not real good," G. J. said, "but she's a girl."

Charlie Jean was there last night. So was Mrs. Smith. They gave G. J. his personal front-row cheering section.

Mr. Smith sat by himself, high up in Section 207.

"I get real nervous before a game," he said. "But G. J. doesn't. I think they're going to do all right."

At Hazel Green, basketball is important. "It's the only thing," is the way G. J. puts it.

"You drive around," Mr. Smith said, "and you see little boys out shooting at a goal and little girls standing around in their cheerleader outfits. Hazel Green's always been a basketball school."

Presently, Hazel Green has an enrollment of 600 students. None were in school yesterday.

## School Closed—and Farm, Too

"School's closed until next Monday," said Mrs. Smith, who teaches the eighth grade there.

So's the farm.

"All I had to do was hire a man to feed my cattle for me," Mr. Smith said.

Now it's up to G. J.

"I'm the only one off that 1940 team with a relative on this one," Mr. Smith said. "It sure would be nice to have a Smith on another state championship team here."

G. J. has that same idea.

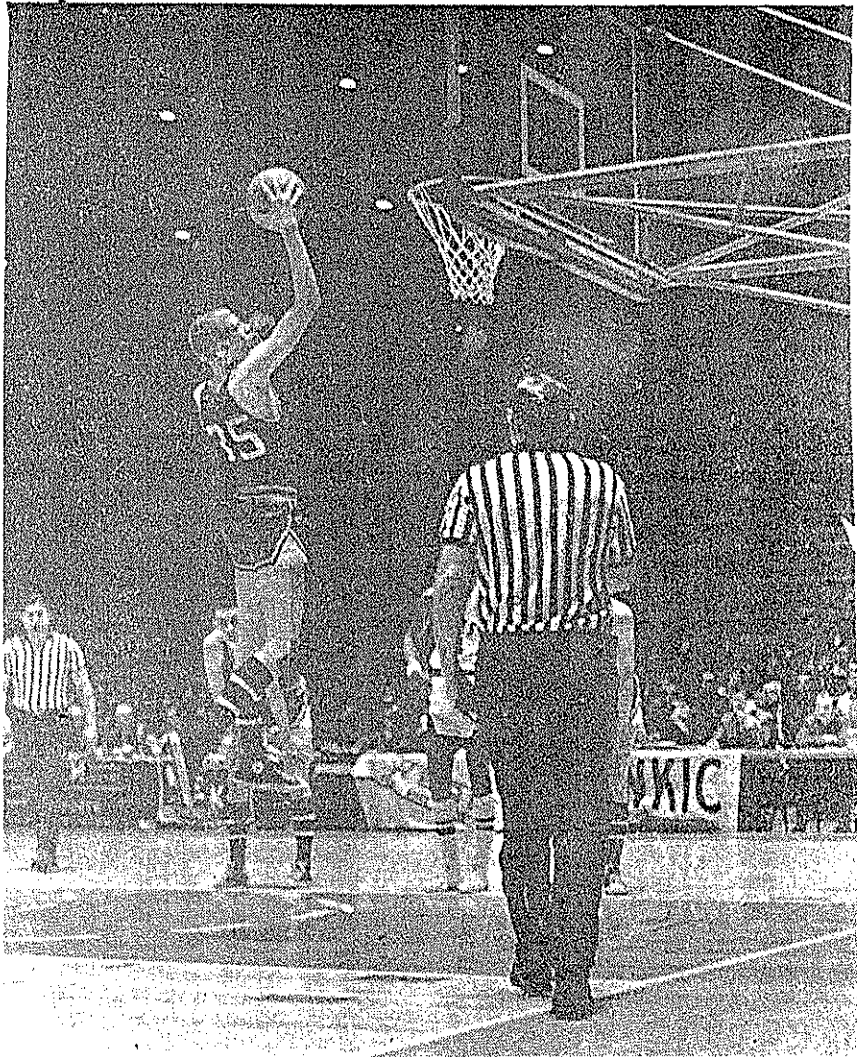
# Bullfrogs Beat Paris 57-46 In First Round But Lose To PRP 55-52 In Quarter Finals

## G. J. Smith Named To All-Tournament Team In Louisville Sat.

Hazel Green's Bullfrogs defeated Paris 57-46 last Thursday night in the opening round of the state high school basketball tournament at Louisville's Freedom Hall but had their dreams of a championship spoiled the next night as Pleasure Ridge Park edged the local team 55-52 in a real thriller. Coach Raymond Reed's squad made a fine showing in its two games and had little trouble with the 10th region champion Greyhounds after the half but could not hit from the outside against the strong PRP Panther's zone on Friday night and went down to only their second defeat after 30 victories during the regular season and tournament action.

Male High of Louisville nipped Richmond Madison in the finals Saturday night by a single point as the Purples from the 11th region made a fine late comeback but fell short by that one point. Male had won over PRP in the semi-finals by 6 points while Madison bombed Trigg County in the other Saturday mid-day semi-final tilt. G. J. Smith, Hazel Green's 6'6" junior center-forward was selected to the all-state tournament team along with 11 other players. The youngster scored 30 and 24 points in his two games and took off 13 and 11 rebounds also but only Bradley Stines with 10 points against PRP was the only other Bullfrog in double figures for the two games.

Hazel Green had a bad shooting night in its losing game as it hit only 30% of its field goals and had 38.6 against Paris but the Frogs did outrebound both opponents. Against the Panthers HG jumped off to a 7-0 lead and controlled the game for three periods before going cold from the field. They were outscored 18-8 in the decisive quarter. In the Paris game the Greyhounds led at the half by a point but were never in the game to amount to anything after that as their 6'9" center, Bill Gaines, only a sophomore was in personal foul trouble most of the time and Smith was able to take strong advantage of that.



All-stater G. J. Smith, (35) HGHS's 6'6" junior goes up for a shot against Paris last week and tallies two of his 30 points which led his team to victory. Smith later made 24 against PRP for a two game total of 54 or an average of 27, second best to Madison's Robert Brooks' 32 point average in the tournament. Smith was named to the 12 player all-tournament team after Male defeated Madison 70-69 in the Saturday night finals. He had earlier been named to the AP's second team all-state squad for regular season action.



## Hazel Green 57 Paris 46

The Bullfrogs got off to a fair start against Paris as Smith tallied 10 of the first 16 points. It was 13-11 at the first period stop and HGHS stretched that lead to 16-11 before the Greyhounds came back behind the fine play of Robert Crumbie who led his team to a 27-26 halftime lead but Gaines had three personal fouls on him and had to sit out quite a bit.

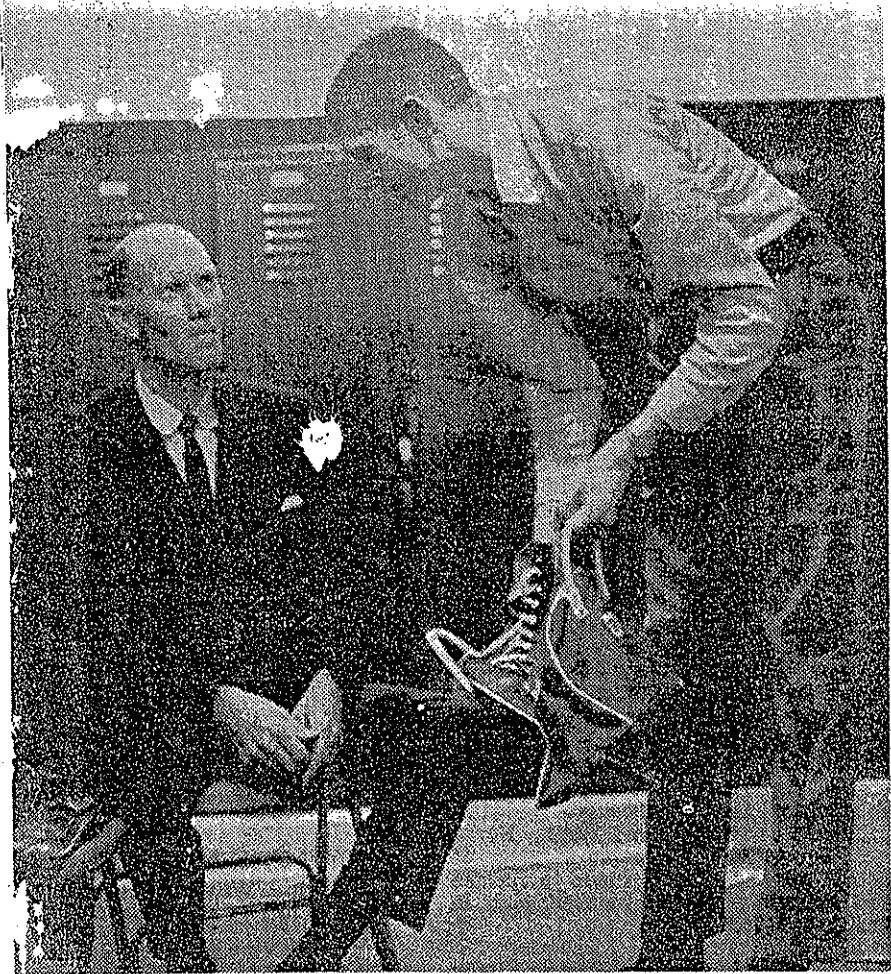
Gaines drew his fourth foul early in the third period and Hazel Green went to work. Smith hit five straight points to build up a fair lead and the talented junior tallied 12 points in the third frame to lead the Frogs to a 42-38 lead after three quarters and he had 24 points then. They built the lead to 53-38 and had the game under control early in the last quarter as Paris fought hard but could not gain any ground.

Hazel Green hit for 22 field goals and 13 of 19 at the free throw line while Paris had 19 fielders and 8 of 16 foul shots and the Greyhounds committed two more personals, 15-13. Smith hit 12 of 22 from the field and 6 of 7 at the gratis line and he picked off a game high 13 rebounds, several of which he put back up for two pointers. Crumbie was most of Paris's offense scoring 23 points.

Hazel Green	13	26	42	57
Paris	11	27	34	46

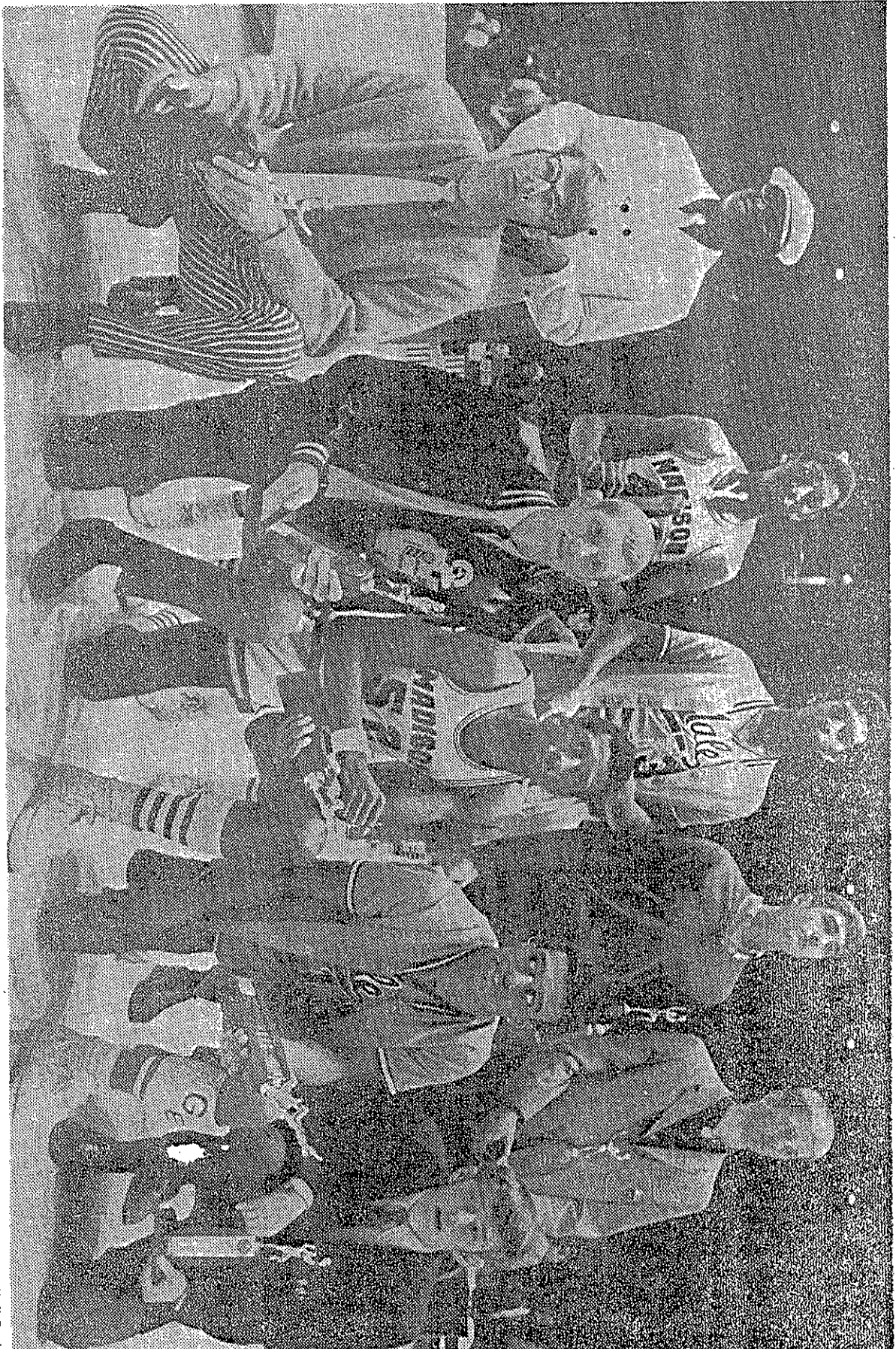
Hazel Green — Smith 30, Dotson 7, Bruner 7, Marcum 6, Ray 5, tSines 2, Bailey, Maxey.

Paris — Crumbie 23, Gaines 9, Chenaault 6, Taylor 6, Thompson 2.



Staff Photo

G. J. SMITH stuffs his tennis shoes into a gym bag as his father, Charles, waits in a Freedom Hall locker room after Hazel Green's 57-46 win over Paris. The elder Smith played on Hazel Green's state championship team of 1940.



## The 1970 All-State Tournament Basketball Team

SELECTED to the 1970 All-State Tournament squad were, front row (from left), Stan Hall, Paducah Tligman; G.J. Smith, Hazel Green; Tim Harris, Richmond Madison; William (Gee Gee) Gordon, Male High; Phillip Lovely, Breathitt County; standing, Eddie Radford,

Trigg County; Robert Brooks, Richmond Madison; Bill Buntton, Male; Steve Dennison, Pleasure Ridge Park, and Randy Waddell, Pleasure Ridge. Terry Compton of Hart County and Covington Catholic's John Von Lehman also were named on the 12-man squad.

Staff Photo

# Tournament is family affair for Smiths

By Mark Maloney

HERALD-LEADER STAFF WRITER

After South Laurel knocked off North Laurel to earn a Sweet Sixteen berth, G.J. and Trey shared a special moment.

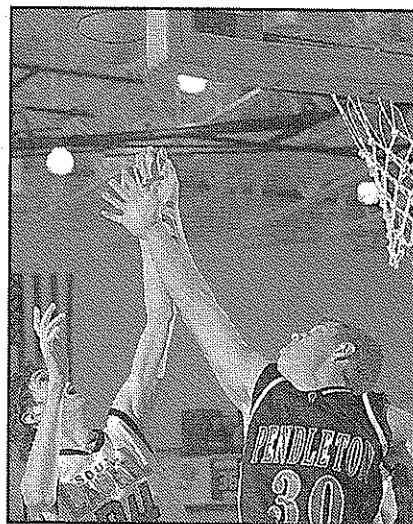
The First Family of the Sweet Sixteen adds to its legacy this week.

South Laurel's Trey Smith, a 6-foot-8 sophomore, is the brother of Cam Smith, who played on the Cardinals' 2003 state tournament team.

Trey and Cam are sons of G.J. Smith, the South Laurel athletic director and a former University of Kentucky player. G.J. earned Sweet Sixteen all-tournament honors in 1970 with Hazel Green and 1971 with Laurel County.

G.J. is son of the late Charles Smith, who as a sophomore starting center helped Hazel Green capture the 1940 state title.

"Charles got to see his son play in the state tournament," South Laurel Coach Steve Wright says, "and now G.J. is getting to see both his boys play."



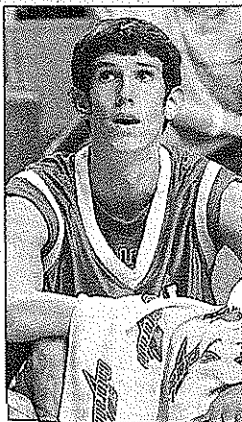
DAVID STEPHENSON | STAFF

South Laurel's Trey Smith (left) is a third-generation Sweet Sixteen player.

"He came up to me and congratulated me, and talked about how we won and we're playing good," said Trey, who averages 8 points and 3.3 rebounds as the team's sixth man. "And he told me about how my grandpa was inducted into the (12th Region) Hall of Fame at halftime. I didn't know about that. That was real special that it happened on the same night."

Now, the Smiths have a special day on tap — noon today, when South Laurel takes on Ohio County.

"Chill bumps will be going down my back again," G.J. said. "It's just a big thrill to see your son get to play in Rupp Arena and the Sweet Sixteen. I have so much respect for the Sweet Sixteen. It's been a big part of my life."



Photos by Stewart Bowman, The Courier-Journal

G.J. Smith, right, watched from the stands, as his son, Trey Smith, played for South Laurel High in yesterday's Sweet 16 opening round in Rupp Arena. G.J. is also South Laurel's athletic director.

## Dad watches as son keeps dream alive

### Trey is third generation of Smiths in Sweet 16

By C. Ray Hall

chall@courier-journal.com

The Courier-Journal

LEXINGTON — Trey Smith of South Laurel High School hauled his 6-foot-8, 165-pound frame — basketball's version of a supermodel's chassis — onto the court midway through the first quarter of yesterday's opening game in the National City Bank Boys' Sweet 16.

Perhaps his father's advice was lost in the background noise of a crowd that would swell to 13,869.

"I told him it was going to be tough out there today and the goal was going to be real small, because playing in a big arena it's tough to shoot," said G.J. Smith, who is also the school's athletic director.

Trey got his name because he was the third grandson born into the Laurel County family.



# SMITH Tradition continues

Continued from C1

In the moment, they were watching an air ball. In the big picture, they were watching history.

In 1970, Trey's father scored 30 points and grabbed 16 rebounds in a state tournament game against Paris. It was the last victory ever for the old Hazel Green High School. The next season, G.J. played — with a broken left foot — for the new Laurel County High in the Sweet 16.

A generation before that, in 1940, Trey's grandfather Charles was a sophomore center for Hazel Green's state championship team.

Charles was a "big, raw-boned guy that loved to bang," said Raymond Reed, a retired principal who coached G.J. in high school.

Charles became a farmer, raising tobacco and beef cattle. He died three years ago, at age 76. Trey doesn't know so much about his grandfather's playing days, but he can tell you about his father: "He played at UK from '72 to '75, and in '75 he went to the national championship game and they got beat by UCLA."

Reed adds to the tale: "I think G.J. was probably the last player that coach (Adolph) Rupp recruited to UK here."

Rupp had foot problems related to diabetes. G.J. had a broken foot. Reed recalled a visit to Memorial Coliseum in which the old coach and the young player compared infirmities.

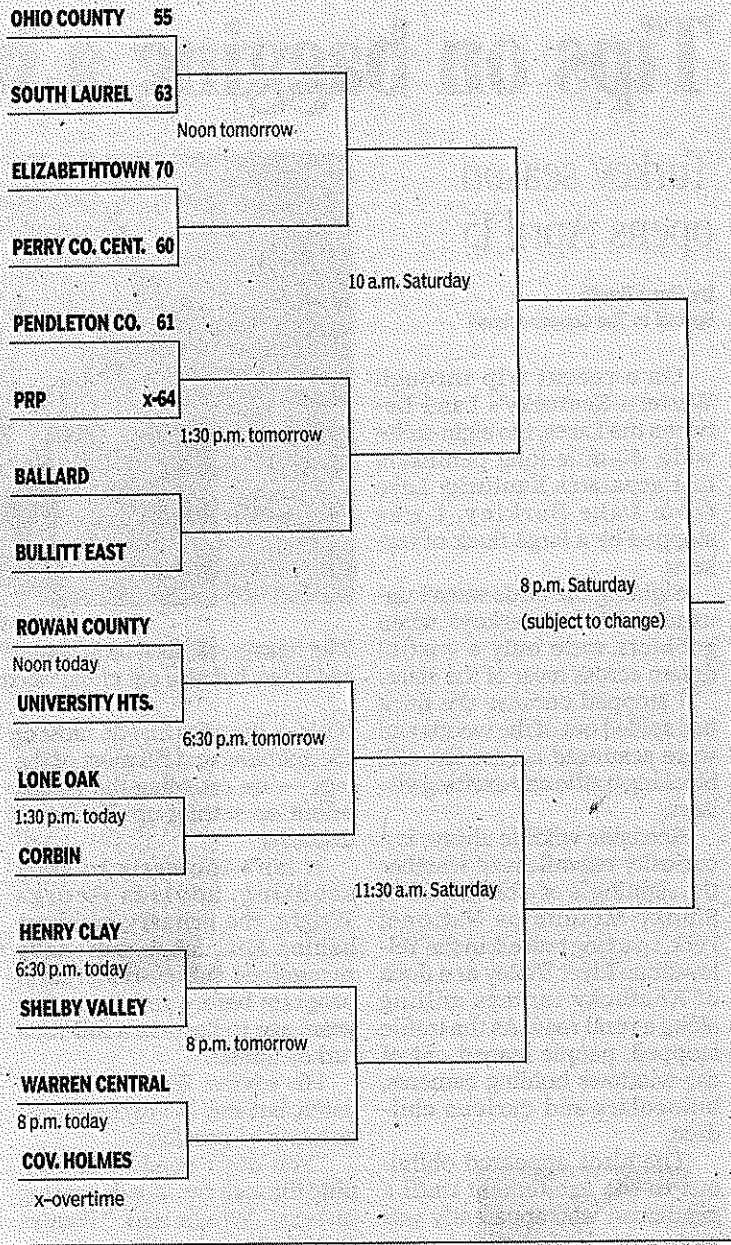
"Coach Rupp had his shoe off and G.J. had his shoe off," Reed said. "Two of the ugliest feet I've ever seen."

(Reed, incidentally, was coaching Hazel Green when a sportswriter asked one of his players, Glenn Farris, where Hazel Green actually was. "It's right across from Junior Farris's general store," came the reply. Reed is a little more helpful: "It's below East Bernstadt, about three or four miles.")

Trey Smith, who played 11 1/2 minutes yesterday, finished with six rebounds, one block, three fouls and no points — on 0-for-5

## BOYS' SWEET 16 TOURNAMENT

Yesterday-Saturday at Rupp Arena, Lexington (times EST)



shooting. Ordinarily, he scores 8 points a game, with 3.3 rebounds.

"He kind of got in foul trouble today and didn't get in a groove," said coach Steve Wright. "But ... we play well when he plays well."

Trey acknowledged the pressure of his first state tournament game: "It was real nerve-wracking at the beginning. It's a different world out there on the floor that big and the atmosphere and everything. It's just crazy."

When he was on the bench, Trey's posture and body language mirrored that of his father, who watched from 20 rows up, across the court.

G.J. was all angles and part angst, resting his elbows on his knees or cupping his chin in his hand as South Laurel chugged to

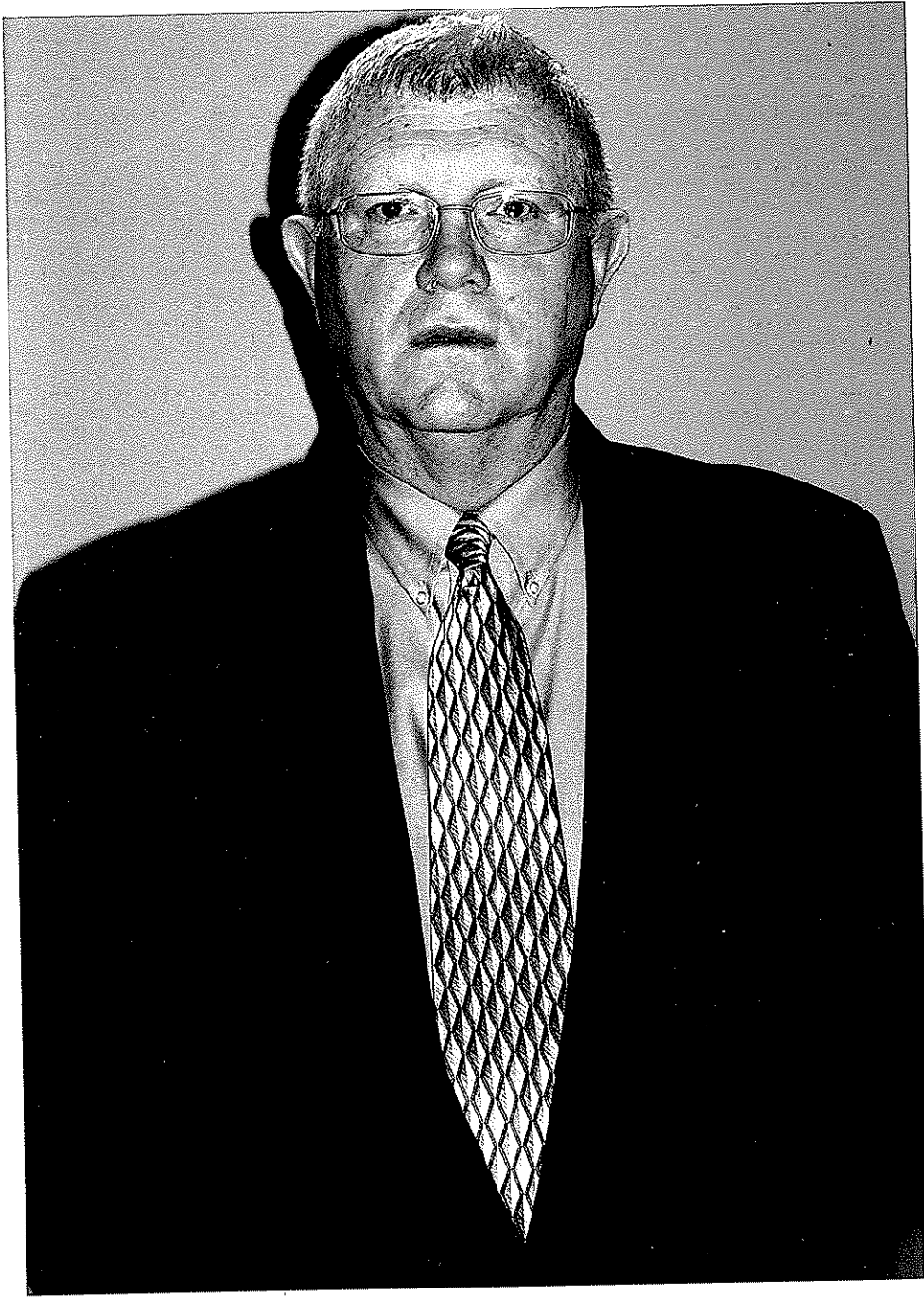
a 63-55 victory.

Afterward, he said: "This is just something that's a dream for me — for my son to get to play, although he didn't play real well today, but just to be out there and be a part of it. I'm tickled to death."

Two years ago, his elder son, Cam, now an Eastern Kentucky University student, played in the tournament. That didn't make it any easier for G.J. to watch yesterday.

"This is the hardest thing I've ever had to do, sit here and watch," he said.

G.J. played in two state tournaments, and his team never got past the second game. Trey's team can do that tomorrow afternoon with a victory over Elizabethtown.





NOV 12 2009

November 9, 2009

Dawakara KHSAA Hall of Fame Screening Committee:

Please place this 5x7 Black & White

Photo into the information on Mr. G. J.

Smith. Thank you.

Respectfully,  
Nominating Person

# A special day for G.J.

## Former Laurel County star played on UK's 1974-75 National Runner-up team

By Les Dixon  
LHJ Sports Editor

This past weekend turned out to be special time for former University of Kentucky basketball player G.J. Smith.

Smith, who led both Hazel Green High School and Laurel County High schools to 12th Region crowns, along with his former Wildcat teammates of the 1974-75 season were recognized for their National Runner-up finish to UCLA during halftime of the UK/Georgia game at Rupp Arena.

For Smith, (who was a part ofolph Rupp's last recruiting class, called the Super Kittens') it was a special time for him on both Friday and Saturday.

The former teammates and coaches were greeted with a reception on Friday along with a meet and greet session with the Wildcat fans Saturday before the game.

"We had a reception on Friday night for two hours and we got to meet and greet each other," Smith said. "I really hadn't seen any of the other teammates other than one in a while.

"On Saturday from 12:30 until 1:30 we had an autograph session and that was really nice," he added.

Smith said he liked the autograph session, but couldn't believe just how many people wanted autographs from the members of the team.

"It was crazy," he said. "I really couldn't believe the number of people that came through there. Some people didn't get to get in because they had to shut the doors and I really felt bad about that."

The former teammates got to set with each other during the game and watch Kentucky pull out a slim win over the visiting Bulldogs.

"We got introduced at halftime and that was a special moment," Smith said. "I was dreading it at first and I'm glad I went now, especially since I've had time to sit back and think on it. It was a special time and I'm glad I went. At UK everything they do is first class."

Why was the '74-75 team so special?

The No. 2 rated Wildcats posted a



Photos By David Coyle

**Hello, Joe B. Hall** - Former Hazel Green and Laurel County High School basketball star G.J. Smith shakes hands with his former coach during UK's halftime recognition on the 1974-75 Kentucky Wildcat basketball team (below)



See G.J. B-6

# G.J.: Was part of Adolph Rupp's and John Wooden's last games as head coaches

from page B-1

26-5 mark and will be remembered most for knocking off then-No. 1 ranked Indiana 92-90 during the Mideast Regional in Dayton, Ohio.

The win for Kentucky ended the unbeaten Hoosiers' 34-game win streak. Indiana hadn't lost a game dating back to March of 1974.

"That was the nicest moment for me, when we beat Indiana. They beat us by 20-something points earlier in the year. They were a lot of talented team," Smith said. "I just remember the trip back. We came back on a charter bus and every exit we went past, there were people lined up on the interstate.

"When we got back to Lexington and to Memorial Coliseum to have a pep rally there, there were about 10 or 11 thousand people there," he added. "It was a real special time because it showed how much interest people had in Kentucky."

After the Indiana win, the Wildcats managed to beat Syracuse 95-79 in the Final Four before losing to John Wooden's No. 1 rated UCLA Bruins 92-85 in the finals. The game turned out to be Wooden's last as a coach.

"I was able to be a part of Adolph Rupp's last game and John Wooden's last game and that's something special."

Dreading going at first, Smith said he's glad he went to Rupp Arena this past weekend.

"It was really nice, just really nice," he said. "I really enjoyed being there and being there brought back some old memories."

"It was really nice, just really nice. I really enjoyed being there and being there really brought back some old memories."

— G.J. Smith,  
Former UK Player

FEBRUARY 16-22, 2005



THE WAY IT IS  
LES DIXON

## Smith is a big part of Laurel Co. history

When it comes to being involved in some the greatest moments in basketball history, go no further than Laurel County's own G.J. Smith.

Smith, along with his teammates from the 1974-75 University of Kentucky Wildcats Mens basketball team, was honored by the university Friday and Saturday and it was deservedly so.

If you know Smith, he's very quiet-natured and doesn't brag about anything he has been a part of, or accomplished, which is very rare of a any former athlete these days.

You would never know Smith's father, Charles, helped lead Hazel Green High School to a state championship in 1940.

You would never know that Smith made the All State Tournament team while playing for both Hazel Green and Laurel County High Schools.

You would never know that Smith helped guide both Hazel Green High School and Laurel County High School to 12th Region Championships.

You would never know that Smith was one of top high school shooters around in the early '70s.

You would never know Smith was a member of University of Kentucky great Adolph Rupp's last recruiting class, which was named the 'Super Kittens'.

You would never know Smith participated on 1974-75 National Runner Up team, which barely lost to the UCLA Bruins, while ending No. 1 and unbeaten Indiana University's win streak at 34 games.

You would never know Smith was also a part of history...TWICE. Yep, he's one of the few players that can actually say that he suited up during Adolph Rupp's and John Wooden's last games as head coaches.

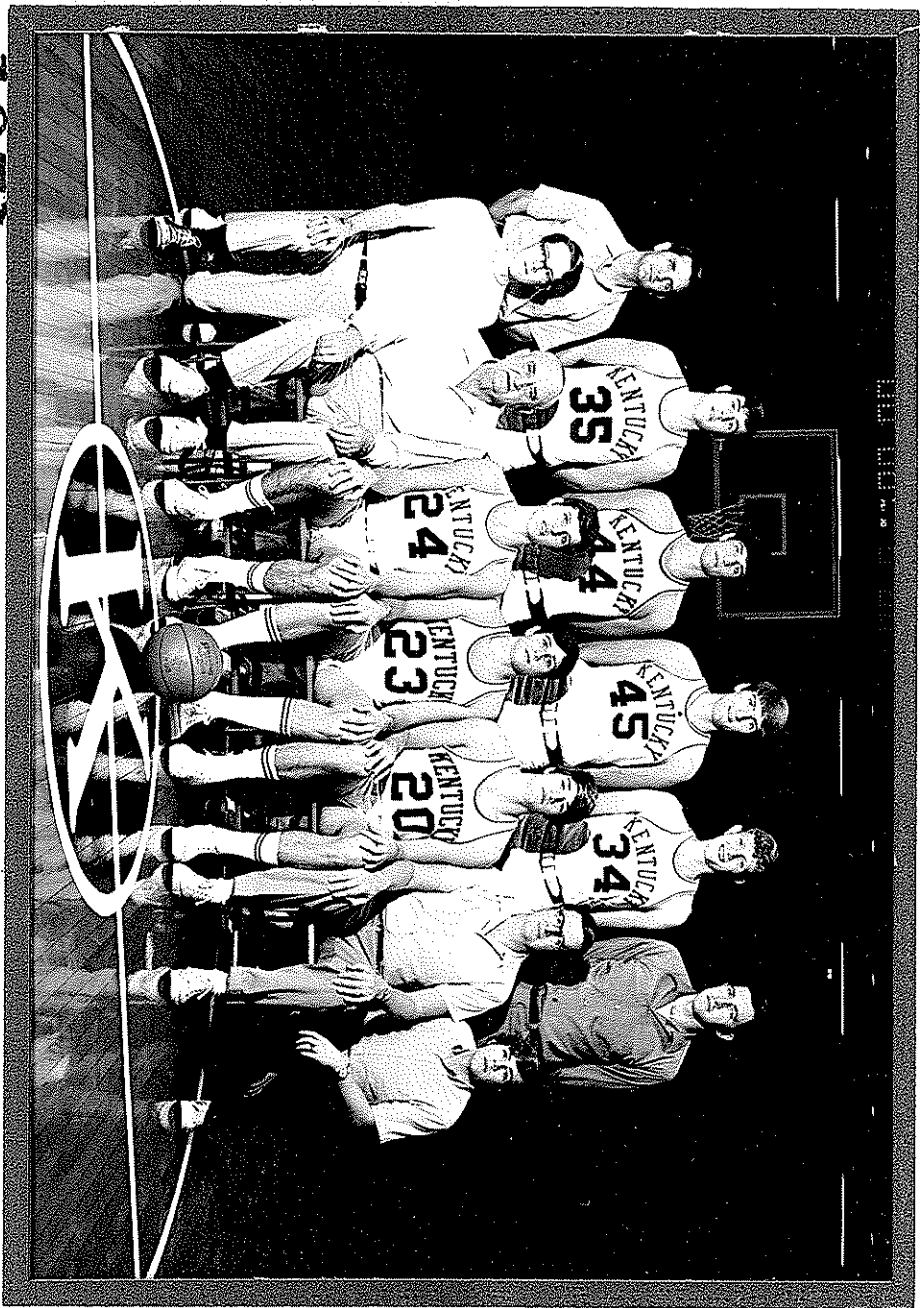
But that's not all. You would never know that Smith is also one of the best high school baseball coaches in the state, too.

You would never know that Smith won 662 games as a coach, 15 district titles, six regional crowns, four final four appearances, while garnering an impressive .767 winning percentage.

You would never know that Smith, along with his father, are both in the Laurel County Hall of Fame (he's also been inducted into the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame).

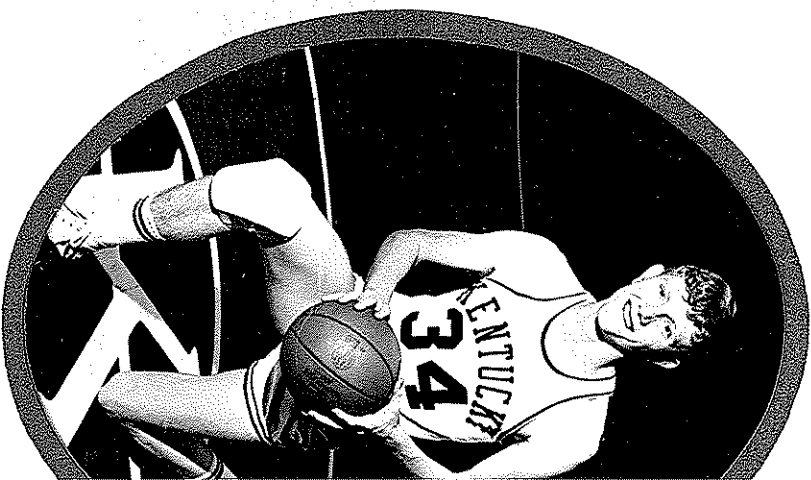
You know why you wouldn't know this stuff? Because Smith isn't the type that likes to brag. He's a top notch individual that I am very honored to have been able to interview this past week.





# 1971 UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY BASKETBALL

Photography By Stevens



## The Complete Baseball Handbook

Year	Record		Tournaments:	
	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>		
2001	23	11	District Runner-up lost 1st Round Region	Russell Co.
2002	20	11	Lost Semi-Finals District	North Laurel

		Final Career Record		
		<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>	
Laurel	Co.	407	111	16 yrs.
South Laurel		255	90	10 yrs
Career Total		662	201	26 yrs.

Career Districts won 15      Region championships 6



# Laurel county Baseball G.J. Smith Record

105th win  
Middleboro  
200th  
clay co.  
300th  
McCreary  
400th win  
clay co.

Year	Record		Tournaments
	Won	Lost	
1977	10	3	Lost in 1st Round District clay co.
1978	20	15	won District; Lost Finals of Region
* 1979	31	3	won District; won Region State Quarter Finalist Somerset
* 1980	30	4	won District; won Region State Quarter Finalist Paintsville (Final 4)
* 1981	29	4	won District Lost Semi-Finals of Region Hazard (Runner up) st
1982	24	9	won District Lost Semi-Finals of Region Somerset (Runner up)
1983	16	6	won District Lost Semi-Finals of Region Middleboro (Final 4)
1984	28	6	won District Lost Semi-Finals of Region Russell co.
1985	29	5	won District Lost Semi-Finals of Region Russell co.
* 1986	34	7	Runner-up District won Regional Lost 1st Round state Lex. Tates creek (state champ)

34  
School Record

251      62

8 District championships      2 Region Runner-ups  
3 Region championships

cont

79%

Avg. 26 wins  
7 losses

Year	Record		Tournaments
	Won	Lost	
1987	24	11	won District, Lost Finals of Region Russell co.
1988	26	5	Lost 1st Game of District Somerset
1989	24	6	Lost 1st Game of District Casey co.
1990	25	13	won District; Lost Semi-Finals Region Danville
* 1991	32	8	won District; lost Region Finals Russell co.
1992	25	6	Lost 1st Game District Casey co.
1990	407	111	won 11 Districts won 3 Regionals

South Laurel Baseball  
G.J. Smith Record

Year	Record		Tournaments
	Won	Lost	
* 1993	34	8	won District; Lost Semi-Finals Region Jessamine co.
* 1994	26	10	won District; won Region, state Quarter Finalist Lex. Cath. (final 4)

cont.

Year	Record		Tournaments	
	<u>Won</u>	<u>Lost</u>		
1995	26	7	Won District, Lost 1st Round Region	<u>Boyle co.</u>
1996	28	6	Won District, won Region, Lost 1st Round state	Lafayette
1997	31	5	District Runner-up Lost Region Semi-Finals	Boyle co.
1998	25	10	District Runner-up Won Region, state Quarter-Finalist	Harrison co. (state champ)
1999	20	12	Lost 1st Game District	North Laurel
2000	22	10	District Runner-up Lost 1st Round Region	mercier co.

April 5, 2012

Butch Cope, Assistant Commissioner  
Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Mr. Cope:

As per your request, I am forwarding additional information on the high school basketball playing career of G. J. Smith for consideration by the Hall of Fame Screening Committee.

G. J. Smith holds a rare distinction in the state of Kentucky. He may be the only player to have been chosen to the All-State Tournament Team for two schools in back-to-back seasons. He led Hazel Green to its final state tournament appearance in 1969-70 and Laurel County High to its first "Sweet 16" birth in 1970-71. He was named to the All-Tournament team both times.

Besides being named to the All-Regional Tournament Team three times and All-District twice, he was a High School All-American in 1971 at Laurel County High School. He played on the 1971 Kentucky All-Star team.

G.J. was a Varsity basketball player for four years and a three-year starter during his high school career. He averaged 16 points per game as a sophomore and 18 points per game as a junior. His senior year, he averaged 22 pointer per game and he is the all-time career record holder for Scoring Average Per Game with a 19.8 points per game average. His high game of 38 points is second on the All Time Season Records at Laurel County High School. He also shot over 50% from the field every year of his career and most of his shots were long outside shots, even though the 3-point line had not even been thought about at that time. Additionally, G. J. Smith averaged over eight rebounds per game for his career totaling over 720 rebounds.

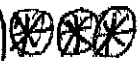
It gives me a great deal of pride to be able to provide this additional information on G.J. Smith. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance. You may contact me on my cell phone at (606) 682-1941.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roscoe Denney  
Nominating Person

FAX TO: MARSHA DAY  
859-293-5499



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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Resca Denny  
Nominating Person