

MAY 09 2013



NOMINATION

**DAWAHARES/KHSAA
HALL OF FAME**

ALLEN SMITH

**MAYSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
MAYSVILLE, KENTUCKY
CLASS OF 1958**



Ken Downing
105C Breezy Tree Court
Newport News, VA 23608
Email: kendowning38@gmail.com
856-535-7717

MAY 09 2013

May, 2013

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

Re: ALLEN SMITH, Maysville High School, Maysville, KY Class of 1958

Dear Screening Committee:

I am writing to nominate Allen Smith for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Allen Smith was an exceptional athlete who excelled at both basketball and baseball.

I had the pleasure of playing with Allen at Maysville High School. I was a year older and did not witness his outstanding performance in the 1958 State High School baseball tournament.

I saw "Smitty" from the time he was an 8th grader through the 1957 basketball season. His basketball skills were second to none. He was quick as a cat, great shooter, and, at 5'8", could dunk the ball with both hands. Of course that wasn't allowed back in the day. He is second all time on the Maysville Bulldog scoring list with 1975 points.

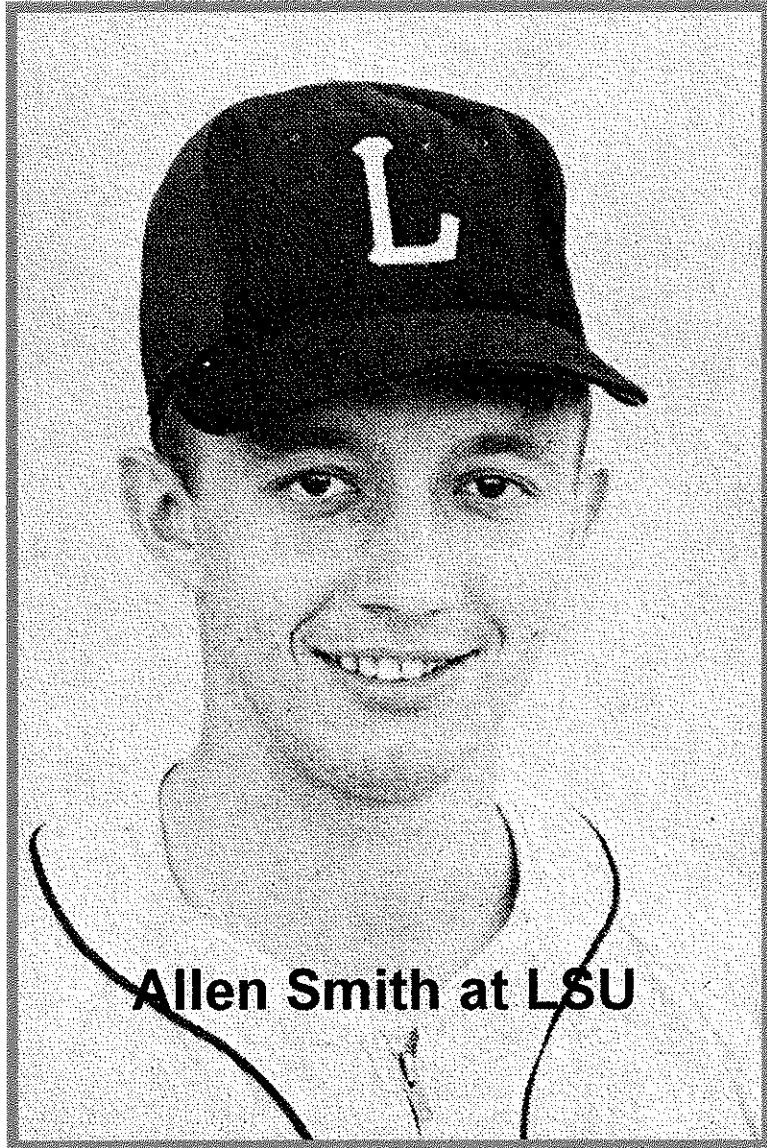
As a baseball player he was nothing short of sensational. His pitching ability made him, at times, almost impossible for high school players to hit. He also was a great hitter. Probably batted over 400 for his high school career. He was the winning pitcher of all 3 games of the 1958 State High School baseball tournament. He went to LSU on a baseball scholarship and had a brilliant college career. He was honored in 1961 as the MVP of the baseball team and was LSU's first baseball All American.

I have enclosed several letters of recommendation, newspaper articles and documents in support of Allen Smith's nomination for induction into the Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Ken Downing



Allen Smith at LSU

Smith was big man with big life — and big heart

He played in the long ago, a small and slender whippet of a boy, seemingly all knees and elbows.

He was breathtakingly quick, fearless, a marvelous passer of the ball, and a shooter of uncommon range and accuracy. He was absolutely immune to pressure.

How good was he?

The argument can be made that he was about as good as it gets. Put another way, he could do lots of the things Ronnie Lyons did many years before the little Mason County gunner shot out the 10th Region lights. I watched him drill 38 against Clark County one night, all the time hounded by defenders who appeared twice his size. I thought I would never see anything like it again, and didn't until Lyons smoked the same school with 45 in the last high school game he ever played.

Allen Smith burst onto the local scene as a skinny Maysville 8th grader in the 1953-54 season, evok-

ating to watch. Jones, flat-out fast and strong as a locomotive, was listed at 6-3, 200-and-something. He played more like 7-8 and two tons. In fact, his skills were such that he would go on to start at center for the Dayton Flyers.

Smith and Jones had a supporting cast which bristled with talent. Jackie Allison from the outside, Gene Peters from the inside, Charles Stewart, Dickie Breeze and Kenny Downing from points in between.

That left Smith, the consummate triggerman, the flashpoint from which everything began, one of only a handful who carried lightning in a bottle.

A pair of games can be instructive. MHS was undefeated, ranked first in the state, and scheduled to play a strong Ashland team in the annual Ashland Invitational Tournament. If

Early on, you won't find his name much in the wonderful

publication(s) put out by Tommy Sapp and Rick Swartz. Neither did the hallowed vaults of the old Bulldog Pukin', Arthur Griffin, reveal much.

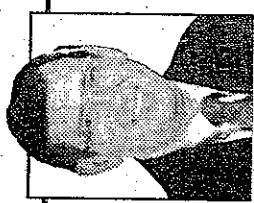
History tells us Smith scored his first two points in a Nov. 7, 1953, win over Minerva, and then his name essentially disappeared. It resurfaced in early January when he scored five in a loss to Ashland.

One month later, with Coach Jones smiling sweetly and looking like the cat who swallowed the canary, the precocious Smitty popped it up with eight more backed it up with eight more against Fleming County and then burned Harrison County, Ashland and Mt. Sterling with a 17, 14 and 16 point outburst.

It was, make no mistake, the start of something special.

Sapp and Swartz tell us Smith

11-24-99



Laurnie Caproni

Guest Columnist

ing memories of George Cooke, yet another Bulldog boy wonder. It was Cooke, some of the old folks can tell you, who helped MHS win the 1947 state tournament.

"He (Cooke) was about as good in the 8th grade as he was when he was a senior," Earle D. Jones told me more than once in a time long since passed.

Not so Smith.

No sir.

He just kept getting better and better.

recovered — and neither did Maysville. So much for basketball.

You should have seen Smitty throw a baseball. Tony Perez, the old Red, long has had a simple theory of hitting: "See de ball, hit de ball." 8 That said, with Allen Smith, it was hard to do the former, let alone the latter.

He had this front porch rocking-chair motion, and then the buzzzzzzzzing ball would just explode past the batter.

He pitched Maysville to a state high school title in 1958. Four years later, as a college senior, he earned All-American honors at LSU. That was the season he pitched the Tigers to

ranks second all-time on the MHS scoring list, behind only the legendary Cooke, and just 25 points shy of 2,000. It would have been a great deal more except an injury sidelined him for six games and parts of others as a junior. In addition, Smith put his scoring machine in moth balls that year. It was during 56-57, you see, that Smitty turned his attention to the fine art of playmaking. Few have ever done it better.

Looking back, that team was as good as any in the free world, let alone Kentucky. It was the time of integration and then-fledgling coach Woody Crum was in his second season after succeeding Jones.

Yet another Jones — Bobby by name and late of Maysville's Fee High School — joined the veteran Smith in the Maysville starting lineup. It was a match made in heaven. The team was nothing if not exhibi-

See SMITH on page 10A

the College World Series; title, winning two tournament games in the process.

So commanding were his skills that the Houston Colt .45s (now Astros) offered him a signing bonus. It was an offer Smith was to turn down, part-and-parcel said brother-in-law Dennis Redmond because of the old ankle injury suffered in high school. It had put basketball, his first love, on the shelf and it also effectively ended his budding baseball career.

Allen Smith was indeed a small and slender whippet of a boy, seemingly all knees and elbows. But he was, boy and man, so much more.

A RESOLUTION honoring the 50th anniversary of Maysville High School's 1958 KHSAA baseball championship.

WHEREAS, 50 years ago, the Maysville High School Bulldogs Baseball Team defeated Harlan 7-1 to win the KHSAA State baseball championship, and became the first and only Maysville team to accomplish this feat; and

WHEREAS, the Bulldogs' star was pitcher Allen Smith, who was the winning pitcher in all three games the team won during the state finals; and

WHEREAS, in the state semi-final against tournament favorite Louisville Manual, Smith's superb pitching was aided by a manufactured run, and the Bulldogs won 1-0 without ever getting a hit in the game; and

WHEREAS, the championship game against Harlan was highlighted by a long home run by right fielder Ulysses Greene who, along with Robert Alexander and Dwight Murphy, was one of the first African-Americans to play in the state baseball tournament; and

WHEREAS, the Bulldogs themselves thought little of the social significance of their desegregated ranks at the time; according to one player, "There was no friction between the black and white players. We didn't realize we were being pioneers"; and

WHEREAS, the unassuming words of the players aside, the team would make a huge statement two years later when they walked out of a restaurant in Louisville that refused to serve the black players; and

WHEREAS, the surviving members of this team include Jackie Allison, Duane Faris, David Green, Chuck Hayslip, Bob Hutchinson, Phil Hutchinson, Bob Reetz, Robert Alexander, Eugene Feters, Ulysses Greene, and Kenny Smith, while Allen Smith, Dwight Murphy, Billy Knox, and head coach Woody Crum have passed away in the intervening years; and

WHEREAS, on Friday, February 8, 2008, the 1958 Maysville High School Baseball team will hold a reunion and be honored at half-time of a basketball game at Mason

County High School, a one-time rival now entrusted with preserving the heritage of Maysville High; and

WHEREAS, the legacy of these young men, the example they set, and the honor they brought their hometown, their school, and themselves should be recognized and applauded;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

âSection 1. The members of this body, both individually and collectively, do honor and commend the members of the 1958 Maysville High School Baseball team for the skill, dedication, fortitude, and honor they showed during their championship season and applaud the efforts to recognize their accomplishments.

âSection 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this Resolution to Representative Mike Denham to present to the members of the 1958 Maysville High School Baseball team.

From Maysville Mason County Blog

Allen “ Smitty “ Smith, Maysville High School class of 1958, is arguably the best all around MHS athlete ever. Basketball or baseball Smitty could do it all. A diminutive five foot eight inches and maybe a 140 pounds, his size gave no clues to his athletic ability. He could dunk a basketball with both hands. Shoot a left handed jump shot before jump shots became popular. Quick as a cat he could slash to the basket with the best of them. His scoring prowess places him number two (2) on the all time MHS scoring list with 1,975 points. As a baseball player he was nothing short of outstanding. I don’t have his high school baseball statistics but I can tell you that he probably hit for over .400 for his high school career. However, it was his pitching that drew raves. In 1958 he pitched the Dogs into the state baseball tournament and then pitched every game in the tournament to give the Dogs its only state baseball title. In 1959 Smitty attended LSU on a baseball scholarship. His pitching record, at LSU, is nothing short of sensational. 1960 he won 5 and lost 5 with an ERA of 2.31, 1961 he was 10 and 2 with an ERA of 1.34 and in 1962 he was 7 and 2 with an ERA of 1.93. His three years total were: 22 wins and 9 losses. An ERA of 1.82 in 237 innings. He gave up 107 hits, 75 runs, 48 earned runs, walked 73 and struck out 175. In 1961 LSU went 22 and 5 and won the SEC Championship. Allen Smith was named 1st team All American.

1958 Maysville Bulldog Baseball Team Reunion

They were the pride of Maysville. Fifty years ago, the Maysville High School baseball team rode the strong left arm of star pitcher **Allen Smith to the 1958 Kentucky schoolboy championship**, the first and only Maysville team to win that title. The Bulldogs were more than a good baseball team. They were social pioneers as well, even though most of the teenagers didn't realize it at the time. Members of that team will be reunited Friday and honored during halftime of a basketball game at Mason County High School, the one-time rival now entrusted with preserving the MHS heritage. What this team accomplished on the diamond was only part of the story. The Bulldogs returned from their triumphs at Lexington's Stoll Field and were greeted by local folks with a parade that honored the 14 players, coach and manager. But what made this group so different were three players — Robert Alexander, Ulysses Greene and Dwight Murphy. They had become the first African Americans to play in the state tournament, a fact duly noted in a few commonwealth newspapers. By 1958, segregation in schools had been ruled unconstitutional, though Kentucky and other states, mostly southern, were slow to change. Some still clinged to the Jim Crow South, remnants of which could still be found in Maysville — the "colored" balcony at the Russell Theater and a popular hamburger joint that would sell only take-out orders to black Americans. But in the Maysville schools, the desegregation effort which had begun in 1957 was going smoothly, and black players were welcomed on the athletic teams.

"There was no friction between the black and white players," said Duane Faris, who played left field and catcher as a freshman for the '58 Bulldogs. "We didn't realize we were being pioneers."

That progressive attitude wasn't always evident elsewhere, however. Faris remembers that in 1960, when the team visited Louisville, a restaurant refused to serve the black players, so the whole baseball team left and went elsewhere. Alexander, who had the distinction of being the first black player in the state tournament because Greene and Murphy didn't play in the opening game, said in a telephone interview he wasn't aware at the time that he was being a pioneer. "Quite frankly, it wasn't something we thought about in Maysville," Alexander said. Alexander, who lives in Paterson, N.J., and is retired after a career as a middle school teacher, remembers that while he, Greene and Murphy were breaking the color barrier in Kentucky, blacks elsewhere in America were having a much tougher time. Sure, the black citizens of Maysville were aware of racial discrimination, Alexander said, but the indignities were mild compared to places like Little Rock, Ark., where federal troops had to escort African Americans into newly desegregated schools. In Maysville, the successful interaction of black and white athletes helped make desegregation a success. Of course, politics didn't mean much to the '58 Bulldogs. Baseball did.

The key to the championship run for Maysville was Smith, who was an all-state player in baseball and basketball. He was the first — and apparently only — pitcher to win three games in the state tournament. In 17 innings, he allowed just six hits and one run. Smith, who is deceased, went on to become an all-Southeastern Conference player at Louisiana State. His career was cut short after he got spiked in the foot and returned to pitching before it had properly healed. He changed his delivery to compensate and ruined his arm in the process, Faris said. Smith didn't start the Bulldogs' state tournament opener against Shelbyville. That distinction belonged to Jack Allison, who also played shortstop. Coach Woodie Crum brought in Smith for the final three innings against Shelbyville, and Maysville won, 3-2, when Alexander doubled home Smith.

The next day, Smith pitched both games. The first was against tournament favorite Louisville Manual, and it was the key to the championship. In the second inning, the Manual pitcher walked a batter and then hit a batter. The next batter laid down a bunt and everyone was safe on a fielder's choice.

That brought up Greene with bases loaded. A pitch from the Manual hurler came a bit inside and brushed his jersey. The hit batsman forced in a run. The Bulldogs had scored the only run of the game without a hit.

After Maysville knocked off the favorite, it was clear sailing. The Bulldogs met Harlan in the state final. Greene, the right fielder who was not particularly known for his hitting, highlighted the 7-1 victory with a long home run. "He closed his eyes and hit it as hard as he could — over the fence," Faris said.

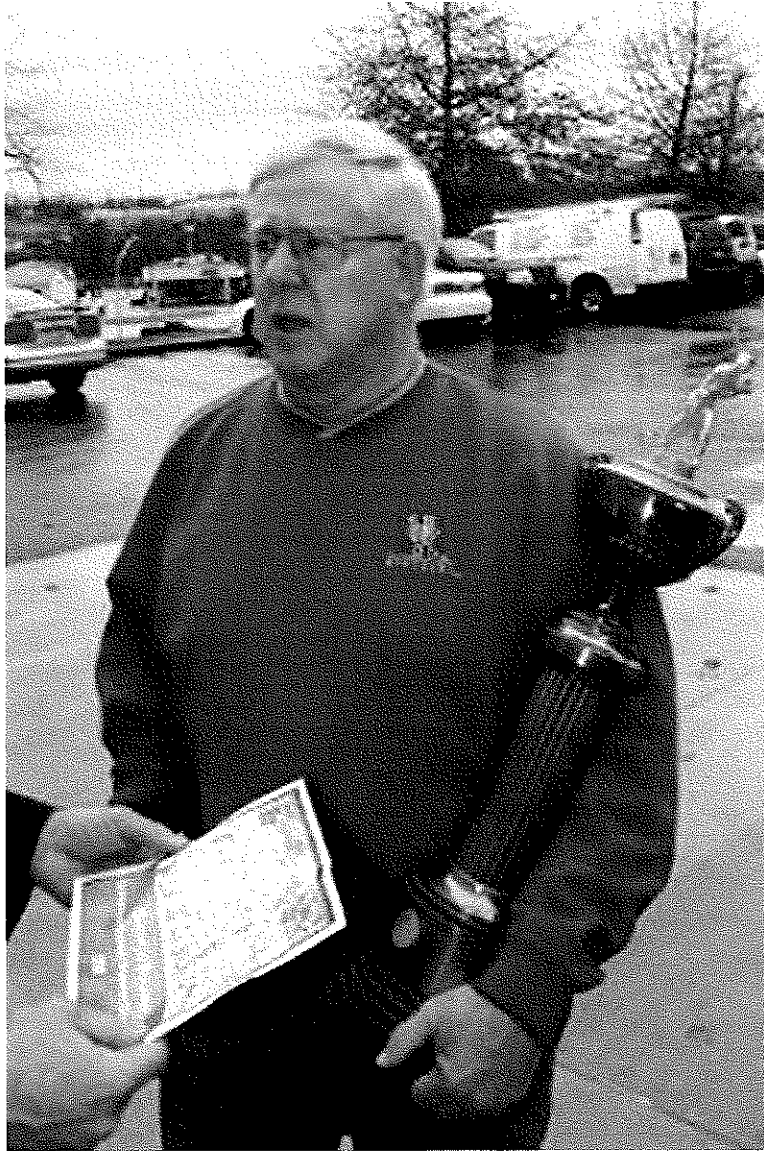
Before making it to the state tournament, the Bulldogs, who were 10-2 in the regular season, had to get through a tough regional tournament, which included powerful teams from Newport Catholic, Campbell County and Boone County. One of the players for Boone County was Allen Feldhaus, who would later become basketball coach at Mason County High. Feldhaus said he knew the Maysville team had plenty of potential because of how well the Bulldogs had played against the University of Kentucky freshman team.

"We (Boone County) had gone to Lexington that year and played the UK freshmen. They beat us 3-1 or 3-2," said Feldhaus.

Maysville lost 2-1 in 11 innings to the UK freshmen, which included two athletes destined for stardom in basketball — Billy Ray Lickert and Dickie Parsons. The loss to UK was one of just two the Bulldogs suffered that season. The other loss was to Ashland when the teams split a doubleheader.

Maysville won the regional title by beating Boone County, 11-3. One of the Boone County runs came on a home run by Feldhaus off of Smith. The next day, The Public Ledger's account of that game referred to him as "Fieldhouse."

**Duane Faris holding the 1958 State Baseball
Championship trophy
Faris was Allen Smith's catcher on the
Bulldog team**



March 1, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of the late Allen Smith of Maysville, Kentucky.

Allen was born in Maysville in 1939 and lived there until he left for college. He was a 1958 graduate of Maysville High School.

I had the privilege of playing baseball and basketball with Allen from junior high school as well as being a good friend until I graduated in 1957.

In basketball, Allen actually became a starter on the varsity ~~team~~ in 1953-54 when he was in the eighth grade. He basically replaced Jerry Calvert of UK fame.

Though Allen was only 5'8" or 5'9", he was very quick and could really jump. He was left handed and had a great ability to drive to the basket and finish.

He was the leading ~~scorer~~ scorer on the team his sophomore and senior seasons, leading Maysville to the state tourney both years. Unfortunately we lost to Bell Co. in 1956 and North Marshall in 1958.

In 1957 Maysville only lost two games, but were upset by Nicholas Co. in the regional finals. He and Bobby Jones were the stars of that team which was on a par with Lafayette and Eastern all year.

Allen scored 1975 points during his career at Maysville, second all time for the Bulldogs.

As good as Allen was in basketball he was an even better baseball player. He was contacted by the St. Louis Cardinals when he was in the eighth grade.

He made his mark in high school in 1958 leading Maysville to the state championship. He was a pitcher with great control and he pitched in and won the winning pitches in all three games in the tournament. He also was the best hitter on the team.

He was awarded an athletic scholarship to Louisiana State U. beginning with the 1959 season. Freshmen were not eligible, but in his three varsity seasons his record was 22 and 9 with an ERA of 1.82 in 237 innings. He struck out 175 and walked only 73.

LSU won the SEC championship in 1961 and Allen was named 1st team All American. Unfortunately an injury kept him out of the major leagues.

Allen was also a member of the LSU basketball team his sophomore and junior years and actually started several games for them.

As one of the best athletes ever to come out of Kentucky and despite his size he is certainly worthy of your consideration for his inclusion in the Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

John W. Kirk
6532 Canoe Lane
Carmel, IN 46033

ALLEN SMITH
MOSBYVILLE
1.5.0
1951



**The Ledger Independent
Maysville, Kentucky**

March 6, 2012

Dear Screening Committee:

I am Ron Bailey of the Ledger Independent. I am writing this letter in support of the nomination of the late Allen Smith for induction into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Allen Smith was a 1958 graduate of Maysville High School and is second on the all time basketball scoring list with 1975 points. My support for Allen is not for his exploits on the hardwood, even though they are legendary, but for his contribution on the baseball diamond. Allen was the stalwart on the mound for the 1958 State baseball champions. He pitched the Dogs all the way to the state title and that was no small feat. Allen Smith's baseball skills earned him a scholarship to LSU where he excelled for the Tigers. Allen had a record of 10 wins and 2 losses in the 1961 season to go along with his ERA of 1.34 for the season. His career stats are 22 wins and 9 losses in his three year career with a combined ERA of 1.82 in 237 innings.

Please consider Allen Smith for induction into the Hall of Fame

Thanks

Ron Bailey