



JOHN SNOWDEN, former coach at WCHS and the old Versailles High School, was presented a plaque on December 1, 2000, by the KHSAA in honor of winning the state football championship while at Versailles High School. The presentation was made in Louisville during this past season's Kentucky high school championship football games. John's wife, Mary, accompanied him at the games. (Photo submitted)

Career Profile

John A. Snowden

- ❖ Winchester High School in 1946
- ❖ Graduated Cedarville College, 1951
- ❖ Overall record - 119 wins and 65 losses over 18 years
- ❖ Average 6.6 wins and 3.6 losses per year
- ❖ Head Football Coach - Madison High School 1953-1957
- ❖ Won Central Kentucky Conference - 1957
- ❖ Head Football Coach Versailles High School 1958-1962
- ❖ Won Central Kentucky Conference - 1961
- ❖ Coached the Class A State Football Champions - 1962
- ❖ State Football Coach of the Year - 1962
- ❖ Head Football Coach - East team - East-West All-Star Game 1963
- ❖ Head Football Coach - Lafayette High School 1963-1966
- ❖ Head Football Coach - Woodford County High School 1966-1969
- ❖ Six players played Division IA football in college
- ❖ Six players played Division IAA football in college
- ❖ One player played professional football
- ❖ He and other state champion football coaches were recently honored with plaques at the state football championships

February 7, 2001

The Board of Control
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Committee Members:

It is my sincere honor to place the name of John A. Snowden into nomination for membership in the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Coach Snowden had a very distinguished career over eighteen (18) years as a high school football coach. He coached at four different schools and amassed a record of 119 wins and 65 losses. In 1962 his team won the Class A State Championship at Versailles High School. In 1963 he was the head coach of the East team in the East-West All-Star Game.

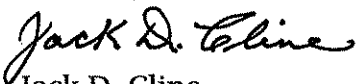
I first met Coach Snowden in 1966 when I came to Woodford County High School as assistant football coach and head wrestling coach. I had ample opportunity to evaluate his work and his relationships with athletes, coaches, officials, and fans. I can assure you that after thirty-five (35) years I continue to be most impressed by this remarkable coach and gentleman. He is one of the most knowledgeable and professional coaches I have known.

Coach Snowden is a wonderful Christian man who has been a member of the same church for forty-three years. In the years that we worked together I can recall numerous occasions when players would approach him and ask if they could attend church with him and his family. That is the finest tribute I can think of from a player to his coach.

I know that you will have a number of qualified candidates for induction. However, it is my professional opinion that none will be more qualified than Coach Snowden. Those who have been associated with him over the years hold him in the highest regard. His ability as a coach, his relationships with athletes, officials, fans, and fellow coaches, and his professional character were of the highest caliber.

Those of us who have been associated with Coach Snowden through the years sincerely believe that the time is right for him to take his rightful place with this distinguished group of Kentucky sports figures. I make this recommendation without reservation and strongly urge you to honor him with induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I truly believe that you could not honor a more worthy or deserving sports figure.

Sincerely,



Jack D. Cline
Manager, KHSAA State Wrestling Tournament
Member, KHSAA Wrestling Committee
Member, KHSAA Hall of Fame

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
OFFICE OF MAJORITY WHIP

February 28, 2001

The Board of Control
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Committee Members:

It is my genuine pleasure and a privilege to join with others in nominating and recommending John A. Snowden for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

I am sure you will review his record as a coach and recognize that, standing alone, it meets Hall of Fame standards - but it does not tell the full story of Coach Snowden's achievements.

Coach Snowden's win-loss record, while evidence of coaching skills does not portray those achievements which, I believe, should also be considered in Hall of Fame selections--such things as personal integrity, loyalty and respect of his teams, and his positive, lasting influence on players, students and community.

As a former player, I know firsthand that Coach Snowden excelled at getting our team to reach its potential and, more importantly, he provided a role model which inspired us to achieve our individual potential long after we left high school.

Coach Snowden is worthy of this honor (as are the other nominees, I'm sure) but I know of no other more deserving of this recognition. I strongly encourage you to enhance the KHSAA's Hall of Fame by selecting John A. Snowden for induction.

Sincerely,



Joe Barrows
House Majority Whip

March 2, 2001

MEMORANDUM

TO: Commissioner
KY High School Athletic Association
Lexington, KY

SUBJECT: Hall of Fame Nomination

Dear Commissioner,

The intent of this letter is to endorse the nomination of John A. Snowden for membership into the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

I had an invaluable opportunity to serve as teacher and Assistant Football Coach under John Snowden at Woodford County High School (WCHS) from July 1966 to June 1968. I taught physical education to grades 1-8 by traveling throughout the county to Millville, Mortensville and Nonesuch elementary schools on a prescribed schedule during the regular school day and drove to WCHS for my football coaching duties, which were conducted after the school day. These duties were very demanding for a rookie just out of college! Coach Snowden was a super mentor and role model for me during this difficult period; he always provided sound advice that I continue to use today.

Coach Snowden was a teacher and coach of tremendous character which was apparent by his daily conduct of business, but more importantly, during periods of extreme pressure or during the heat of athletic competition. I never saw Coach Snowden lose control of himself in front of the public, his players or parents to cause embarrassment for his school or community. I am extremely proud to say that I have never heard Coach Snowden say a single curse word. He is a true sportsman who leads by example.

In addition to his outstanding character, Coach Snowden was an extremely technically competent professional in the classroom as well as on the athletic field. He had a tremendous understanding of the game of football and the ability to keep the opposition off balance even in the face of superior talent, which allowed his team the edge they needed to win. He was always so well prepared on game day and in the classroom that you never had to worry about anything except doing your best and having fun. Today, this is a lost art among coaches and teachers across this country.

I hold the highest regard for Coach John Snowden's personal character, teaching ability, coaching competency and his outstanding record during his career. It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to endorse the nomination for John Snowden into the Hall of Fame.



Elmo C. Head, Director
KYNG Youth ChalleNGe Program

George Withers

3470 Troy Pike
Versailles, Ky 40383
859/873-8206 859/221-2899

March 2, 2001

The Board of Control
Kentucky High School Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Ky. 40505

Dear Committee Members:

This letter is to support the nomination of John A. Snowden for membership in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. It is indeed my honor and privilege to write this letter in support of a fine honorable gentleman who has meant so much to so many young people over the past years.

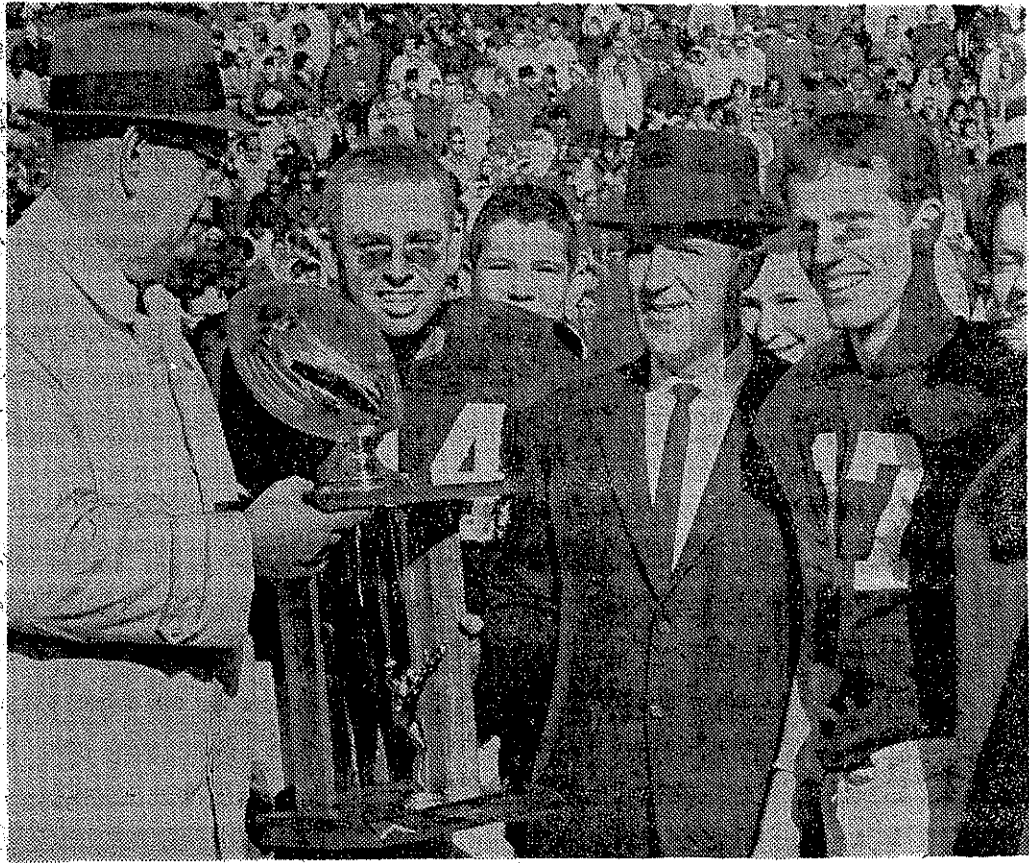
I was fortunate enough to have played football for Coach Snowden for five years while attending Versailles High School. During that period of time Versailles went from winning one game to winning the State Class A Championship. Through Coach Snowden's guidance, I was able to personally win many honors including Prep All American and obtain a scholarship to play football for the University of Kentucky. All of this would not have been possible without the guidance of a fine coach, gentleman, and most of all friend in John Snowden.

My testimony is only one of hundreds of lives that John Snowden has touched during his career as a football coach. I truly believe that John Snowden is certainly worthy of membership in the KHSAA Hall of Fame, not only because of his accomplishments but because of his character and his leadership that he has demonstrated in his life.

Sincerely,



George Withers



TO THE WINNER . . . Versailles coach John Snowden, flanked by two of his stars—George Withers and Carl King, is shown receiving the Class A championship trophy from K. G. Gillaspie, president of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

NOV 22 1962



Staff Photo by Jim Hampton

KENTUCKY'S TOP COACH . . . John Snowden of Lexington Lafayette High School relaxes at home after being named The Courier-Journal's "Coach of The Year" in a poll of the state's football coaches. With him are his daughter Monee, 6; son Johnny, 9, and Mrs. Snowden. Lafayette won 11 of 12, and led The C-J's Littenhous Ratings seven straight weeks.

Clayton 2d, Kuhn 3d

Lafayette's Snowden C-J 'Coach Of Year'

By BOB WHITE

John Snowden, who started out to be a doctor but couldn't slay away from football, has been voted The Courier-Journal's "Coach of The Year."

His fellow coaches bestowed the coveted award on the genial Snowden after seeing his Lexington Lafayette team post its first unbeaten and untied regular-season since 1953.

In his first year at Lafayette, Snowden directed the Generals to 11 straight wins before they fell 25-0 to Caldwell County, state Class AA champion, in a semi-final playoff game.

Deim Is Fourth

Also, Lafayette led The C-J's Littenhous Ratings for seven straight weeks.

Caldwell County's Fred Clayton, the 1957 "Coach of The Year," was second in the balloting. Charlie Kuhn, whose Male High team won all 10 of its regular season games, was third ahead of Waggener's Marty Deim. The voting among the top four coaches was extremely close.

Jim Poynter of Clark County placed fifth.

Snowden succeeds Hopkinsville's Fleming Thornton and St. Xavier's Johnny Melhaus.

who tied for top honors in the 1962 voting.

"This is just wonderful," said Snowden, "because this award is generally accepted as the best. I'm mighty happy to know so many coaches have that much respect for me."

The 36-year-old Lafayette mentor played high school football at Winchester and college ball at Cedarville, Ohio. He was a guard and tackle. "I was taking pre-med courses and was leaning toward being a doctor," said Snowden, "but I couldn't stay away from the football field. So my father told me to do what I would be happy at."

Snowden began his coaching career as an assistant at Frankfort in 1951. Two years later, he started a four-year term as head coach at Madison Model in Richmond. Then in 1957, he went to Versailles where last year he coached that school (now known as Woodford County) to the state Class A title.

His unbeaten regular-season at Lafayette was his first as a coach. "It takes a lot of good boys and good assistant coaches to win this type of an award," said Snowden. "I had both."

Snowden, who lives in Versailles, is married to the former Mary Wanda Hart of Sharpsburg. They have a boy and girl—Johnny, 9, and Monee, 6.

Other coaches receiving votes:

Andy Hopkins, Lex; Henry Clay; Owen Hauck, Ft. Thomas Highlands; George Perrame, Souderton; Walter Smith, St. Louis; Dan Sullivan, Ludlow; Preston "Ty" Holland, Murray; Bill Huff, Crittenden Co.; Ben Humphrey, Paris; Ed Miracle, Lynch; Tom Sims, Jack; Johnny Melhaus, St. Xavier; Jack Gary Harard, Jack Hall, Elizabethtown; Roy Co., Bill Hagg, John Farley, Boyle Co.; Bill Hagg, Elizabethtown; Henry "Burr" Frezery, Anderson; Ollie Leathery, Frankfort; and George Claiborne, Daviess Co.

Previous winners have been:

1962—(tie) Fleming Thornton, Hopkinsville, and Johnny Melhaus, St. Xavier; 1961—Roy Kidd, Richmond; Madison; 1960—(tie) Paulie Miller, Flangel, and Homer Rice, Highlands; 1959—Donnell, Green; 1957—Fried Claydon, Caldwell Co.; 1956—Johnny Melhaus, St. X.; 1955—Bill Tucker, Corbin; 1954—Ed Rutledge, Danville; 1953—Sam Potter, Lynch; 1952—Paulie Miller, Flangel; 1951—Nick Dennis, Male High; 1950—Paulie Miller, Flangel; 1949—Mike Baszke, Mannin; 1947—Ralph McRight, Paducah Tishman; 1946—Tom Ellis, Covington; 1945—Ray Holmes, Ray Merndon, Frankfort.

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JOHN SNOWDEN
East Football



THORNTON
West Football

SATURDAY-AUGUST 10, 1963

Memorial Coliseum

Lexington, Kentucky

Stoll Field

Snowden's East Squad Handicapped By Injuries

By DAVE BENNETT
Herald Sports Writer

East Football Coach John Snowden has nominated a small but hardy crew to carry the initial load against the talent-laden West squad in Saturday night's Stoll Field tussle.

Snowden, after several key injuries, must depend on a small group of boys to carry most of the responsibility. On the other hand West Coach Fleming Thornton plans to platoon at nine positions.

Given only a slight chance to play in the game's 12th renewal are East stars Sammy Burke of Danville and John Ratliff of Pikeville. Floyd Hatfield of Belfry, also hurt, may see some reserve quarterback duty. He was injured in Monday afternoon's practice session.

Burke, a hard-running halfback and defensive demon, dislocated his shoulder and is given only an outside chance of playing. Ratliff, another halfback, hurt his foot and is given less chance than Burke.

With two halfbacks on the casualty list, Snowden was forced to switch Burke's high school teammate Johnny Jackson from fullback to halfback. "Our line looks reasonably strong, though," Snowden said, looking for reason to smile.

Probable offensive starters in the East line are John Stafford of Ashland and Don Phipps of Elkhorn City at ends; Jack Flaig of Highlands at one tackle slot with either Conley Congleton of

Madison or Bruce McBride of Shelbyville manning the other spot; Orville Root of Corbin and George Withers of Versailles are scheduled as starting guards with Jack Pierce of Lynch East Main at center.

Snowden indicated his starting quarterback would be Johnny Cain of Cumberland with the fullback job going to Henry Clay's Larry Crane. Ken Alexander of Highlands joins Jackson at halfback.

The big problem confronting Snowden and assistant Owen Hauck are stopping the West's probable pass attack. Mt. Sterling's talented David Ishmael, Stafford and Scotty Russell of Corbin will hold down key positions in the defensive backfield.

The West's Thornton, soft-spoken Hopkinsville coach, indicated he would depend on massive Maurice Moorman and Caldwell Countian Ed Settle to play both offense and defense. Also, Joe David Smith of Mayfield, a quarterback, may see duty on both sides.

Settle and Fulton's Don Burnette were named probable starting ends. Moorman and Bowling Green's Elvis Donaldson will hold down the tackle slots while Trin-

ity's Tom Ryan and Madisonville's Peter Derko will start at guards. Louisville Manual product Bill Noyes was listed at center.

Joining Smith in the backfield will be Danny Lawson, Shawnee, and Bennie Woodring of Sturgis at halfbacks. Seneca's James Swart is at fullback.

Thornton has able reserve quarterback strength in Lewis Henry of Male and John Covington of Fulton. Henry will probably see partial duty when the West is on the ground and on short pass plays. Covington is the "home run" pass pitcher.

The West will practice this afternoon at 2 while the East will again drill from 9 to 11 in the morning and 2 to 4 in the afternoon.

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East FOOTBALL SQUAD

Coach: John Snowden, Lafayette, Lexington
Assistant: Owen Hauck, Highlands

BLUE

NO.	PLAYER	POS.	AGE	HT.	WT.	SCHOOL
14	Kenneth Alexander	QB	18	5-9	155	Highlands
17	John Cain	QB	18	6-0	170	Cumberland
18	Floyd Hatfield	QB	18	5-11	175	Belfry
19	David Ishmael	QB	18	6-1	170	Mt. Sterling
31	Scotty Russell	HB	18	6-3	190	Corbin
32	Samuel Burke	HB	17	5-11	170	Danville
33	John Ratliff	HB	18	5-11	175	Pikeville
35	Jerry Gordon	HB	18	5-10	170	Shelbyville
41	Larry Crane	FB	18	6-1	200	Henry Clay
42	John Jackson	FB	17	6-0	180	Danville
53	Billy Bonny	C	19	6-4	21	Paint Lick
55	Eugene Goode	C	19	6-2	210	Boone Co.
59	Jackie Pierce	C	17	5-11	175	Lynch E.M.
62	Phillip Hines	G	18	5-10	195	Somerset
63	Bill Houpp	G	18	6-1	205	Holmes
64	Bill Lancaster	G	17	6-0	220	Henry Clay
67	Roger Moore	G	18	5-11	210	Cadetsburg
68	Orville Root	G	19	5-11	175	Franklin
69	George Withers	G	18	5-10	195	Versailles
70	Conley Omgleson	T	17	6-2	215	Highland
71	Jack Flork	T	17	6-3	187	Highlands
72	Stephen McBride	T	18	6-0	225	Shelbyville
73	Rick Sergeant	T	18	6-2	240	Lafayette
82	Jeane Goble	T	17	6-0	1	Danville
83	Jay Crawford	E	17	6-2	17	Middleboro
84	Donald Phillips	E	17	6-3	197	Elkhorn City
87	John Stafford	E	18	6-1	185	Archer
88	Kea Ward	E	17	6-1	160	Versailles

August 10, 1963

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Washington, D.C.

We, the undersigned citizens of Versailles and Woodford County, do
hereby support the nomination of **Coach John A. Snowden** for
induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame

Janet Gordon
Bill Hixon
Tom Hendricks
Arthur Flora
Daggy Flora
Scott Fark
Arri Wilder
Jen Neal
Sobby Neal
Spauldy Wilder
Donald M. Wilder
Gloria Hickson
Angela Hasbun
Ruby Hilton
Debra Bailey
Gary Bailey
Angela Mattingly
Jackie Brown
Lorrie Brown
Heidi Curie
Synday Wilder
Patty Wilder
Richard Royce
Milly Webb
Official

Travis Brown
Pam Brown
Cole L. Brown
Jiffany Evans
Brenda Craig
Mary Ann
Gary Hickson
David L. Lead
Sheri Pinn
Mexico Ham
Rhonda Barrier
Lee Lee Akern
Clyde E. Sack
Jimmy Country
Nancy Wilson
Mollie M. Bradley
Jennifer Mearns
Joe Garraway
May Beth Kiger
Annella Smart Marshall
Cory Wooty
Martene S. Davis
Eddie Davis

We, the undersigned citizens of Versailles and Woodford County, do hereby support the nomination of
Coach John A. Snowden for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Charles T. Smith

Deborah T. Smith

Allison Smith

Jelicia Equest

Norris Rogers

Edythe Cable

Horton Cable

Richard L. Knight

Judith A. Knight

Oliver Barber

Margaret Barber

Karen Shirsley

Jack D. Cline

Joe Wright

Warren Rind

George Withers

Shirley Withers

James T. Smith

Jason Dixon

Steve Watts

Larry Sears

Jay Sears

Rebecca P. Rein

Barbara J. Rein

Donna Laine

Gray E. Bennett

James S. Gould

Jeffrey Edger Thompson

John R. Thompson

John V. Cal

Dick Brock

Carol Crossfield

Don Cummins

Ed M. Lynn

James H. Erbs

Bill Blair

John H. Ewing

Martha C. Ewing

Larry Shissey

Rusty Parks

Joe Egan

Jimmy H. Newell

Shelli Shissey

Letha Reid

Shylla B. Mcmahon

Garnette Sellers

Jerry Boerschinger

Debbie

Linda C. Cook

We, the undersigned citizens of Versailles and Woodford County, do
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induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Gene Feltner
Edith Feltner
Lynn Feltner
Lindsay Flaree
Ernie Bowman
Bill Alun
Allen L. Park
David Flora
Amanda Jenkins
Stuart Stickler
Ruth Johnson
Bob Wilkins
Heith Mobley
Jeff Cline
Curt Cline
Karin Cline
Sarah Lowe
Cris Lowe

Jerry Fitch
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Kelcie Hancock
Joe Fitch
W. Taylor Rowlett
Tobie Graves
Pat Badgett
Darlene Gann
Fly Oliver
Beck Warner
Jeff Compton
E. C. Head
Bert Mullins
Raney Johns
Scott Chock
Ray C. Jones
Jim B. Downey
Tom Mullins

We, the undersigned citizens of Versailles and Woodford County, do
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induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame

Bonnie Perry
Jim Neenan
Kathleen McWhorter
Betty F. Mackay
Stuart Butler
Spurley S Macemon
L Macemon
Raymond J Casner
Dorinda Whitmer
Loanna Whitmer
Dan Moore
Marilyn Moore
Pat Thompson
Jean Clark
Cecil Clark
Johnn Cornman
Ted Gyortly
Judy Gyortly
Alice Casner
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Paul Paul
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Jesse Peterson
Dana Coffey
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Sallene Pittman
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Bernice C. Wolters
Judie Williams
L S. Smith
Jillie Hattley
Karen Wolters
Tiki Simms
Gandy Cotton
Lucia Fittner
Bruce Metzger
John Ketting