



SEP 27 2011

September 19, 2011

Mr. Julian Tackett, Commissioner
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Dr
Lexington, KY 40505-4808

Dear Commissioner,

The purpose of this letter is to nominate Claude Sullivan to the Kentucky High School Sports Hall of Fame.

Claude had an outstanding career as the greatest Kentucky Sportscaster of his time. He was known not only for the UK Standard Oil Network, but for broadcasting the high school games on WVLK radio as well. He began announcing high school sports in 1947 when he broadcasted all the games of the Sweet Sixteen. He continued broadcasting high school sports until 1966 (both football and basketball), when he became ill with cancer. He died in 1967.

I can personally attest to his enthusiasm and enjoyment of broadcasting high school sports, as I worked with him on many occasions. What he did to carry on a back breaking schedule to promote high school sports has never been equaled since his passing.

Claude is in every way worthy of a position in the Sports Hall of Fame in Kentucky. I would deeply appreciate your consideration of this nomination.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "W. James Host".

W. James Host
Chairman and CEO
iHigh.com, Inc

Dawahares/KHSAA

Hall Of Fame 2011 Submittal

Claude H. Sullivan, Sportscaster

Claude's High School Sportscasting Career

The highlights of Claude's short 19 year career are summarized by many accomplishments in the field of Sportscasting. Claude began broadcasting high school sports of his Winchester High team in 1942 when an injury kept him from continuing as captain of his team. He broadcast from the PA system and after graduation moved to Ashland Kentucky where he began a broadcasting and quickly moved to Louisville and WAVE.

By 1947 Claude had broadcasted his first KHSAA tournament from the Guard Armory in Louisville. We have two tape recordings that have been preserved of the classic Carr Creek victory over Covington Holmes in the Semi Finals in 1948 and then a Regional final in Ashland with Winchester and Ashland in 1950. I have digital recordings available for the KHSAA museum as well an every state tournament program he did from 1947-1964 with the brackets and scores filled in!

Claude went on to broadcast until 1966 every single game of every state tournament. His love for high school basketball and football would continue even through he was broadcasting the Cincinnati Reds baseball.

Career Accomplishments:

- Claude announced the Kentucky State High School Basketball Tournament from 1947-1966.
- Claude was in the first class to be voted into the University of Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame in the fall of 2006.
- Earlier in 2006 Claude was inducted into the Kentucky Journalist Hall of Fame and with ceremonies on April 11, 2006.
- National Broadcasters Association Sportscaster of the year for Kentucky eight consecutive years from the initial award in 1959 until 1966 as the outstanding sportscaster in Kentucky. In 1960 he was a finalist for the national award that went to Hall of Famer, Lindsey Nelson.
- April 12, 1975 Claude was inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame in the same induction class with such notables as Paul Hornung, and Don Shula.
- In 1967 Claude was awarded the "Golden Mic Award" by the Kentucky Broadcasters Association for outstanding service to Kentucky Broadcasting.

- He began the Standard Oil Sports Network consists of 17 stations from 1952 through 1967.
- In 1960 at the age of 35 he announced his 500th game of Kentucky Basketball and football. He announced the games from the 1948 Championship team to the 1966 Rupp's Runts.
- He announced the Cincinnati Reds Games from 1963 until his death in 1967.
- He announced the Keeneland feature race from 1949 to 1966.
- One of his most proud accomplishments were his overseas travels and taking the first tour group to Russia during the "cold war" in 1956 and returning in 1957.

The following is an excerpt from the book I am writing for University Press of Kentucky called, **"The Best Seat in the House –with Claude Sullivan"**.

"Claude began the High School Basketball State Tournament in 1947 the year he began his call of the UK basketball and football games. He saved all the programs and kept the brackets filled out with the scores of the games.

We also know that in March of 1948 Claude recorded a landmark game between the tiny mountain school of Carr Creek against northern Kentucky powerhouse, Covington Holmes. This was the earliest recording of any sports contest, although we know Claude broadcast the 1947 state basketball tournament from the Louisville National Guard Armory over WKLX.

That championship game in 1947 was also Claude's last day at the WKLX mike as his notes indicated that he left WKLX for WZIP in Covington where he broadcast the Covington Holmes game against Carr Creek the next year. We have his closing notes from the 1947 state tournament, as well as game the program with the "brackets" filled out with the scores of all the games documented.

Not only did Claude broadcast each high school tournament, he did all the games himself! Without a doubt, it was high school athletics that was most instrumental in molding Claude's broadcasting career as he played, was injured and had a new career in broadcasting due to his association with high school sports. He never stopped giving back to high school sports and that is one of the threads that weaves throughout his career.

Claude always kept his commitment and dedication to high school sports, partly due to his career being cut short by injury in high school. I believe that Claude felt that high school sports gave him his start in broadcasting and he always kept that connection throughout his career. Claude announced the high school games with Ted Grizzard for years, and never tired of the grind.

High School Basketball State Tournament

Claude broadcast his first high school tournament game in 1947 in Louisville at the Jefferson County Armory. The sponsor of the broadcasts in 1947 was Purcell's Department Store in Lexington touting a total of 225 employees! Ted Grizzard also was sponsored by Dixie Ice Cream and Kerns Bread in later broadcasts.

Claude's first game in the 1947 tournament was won by Maysville over the Brewers 54-50. Claude's Alma matter, Winchester High (now known as George Rogers Clark) was defeated in the second round of play by Owensboro 61-43. The Clark County team would go on to defeat Cuba in the finals to capture the 1951 State Tournament. Claude was announcing a UK game at that time and Ted sent him a telegram about the victory.

In 1967, the year Claude died, he had scheduled 30 high school games that he produced on the Standard Oil Sports Network, and he announced most of the games. Jim Host was hired by Claude to do some of the games that year as his illness progressed and his voice became ineffective.

In addition to the 24 high school games were 5 Transylvania University games, and a game between Georgetown College and Eastern Kentucky! Claude certainly was busy and he enjoyed his work.... but he never tired of high school sports."

October 23, 2011

Mr. Julian Tackett, Commissioner
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Dr.
Lexington, KY 40505-4808

**RE: Hall Of Fame KHSAA
Nominee Sportscaster: Claude H. Sullivan 1924-1967**

Dear Commissioner:

I have attached the application for the Dawhares/KHSAA Hall Of Fame and have included the following in this submittal.

- A letter of nomination by Jim Host of iHigh.com, Inc and former CEO of Host Communications.
- Graphics from Claude's high school sportscasting days 1947-1966.
- Copy of an article Billy Reed wrote about Claude's high school and NCAA dedication.
- Program copy of 1947 11th regional at Alumni Gym, Lexington
- A summary of Claude's accomplishments including an excerpt from the upcoming book entitled, "The Best Seat in the House with Claude Sullivan."

Claude was dedicated to high school sports throughout his career and never tired of doing the regular season games as well as the state tournament.

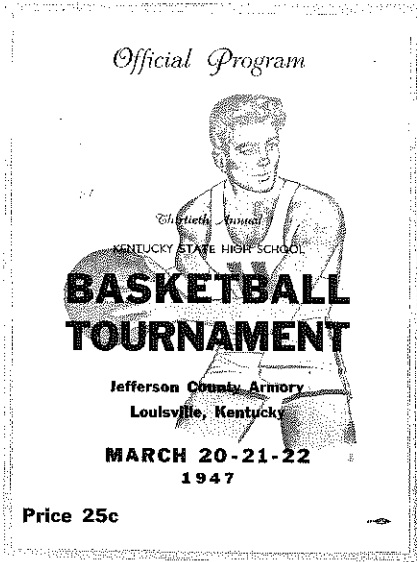
Please give this application your serious consideration, his family, friends and fans would be most appreciative!

Alan Sulliyvan

Sponsor 

1005 Belmont Park Drive
Union, Kentucky 41091

859-437-5010 Cell



BASKETBALL

Every Exciting Minute of The Kentucky State High School Basketball Tournament will be heard live on WVLC.

The best in basketball by the best combination in broadcasting!

TED GRIZZARD and CLAUDE SULLIVAN

Top Left: KSHSAA Program from 1947 Claude's first for WKLX
 Top Center: Alyce Sullivan and Nell Ferrell at KSHAA Tournament 1960
 Right Top: WVLC High School Add and Bottom Right: WKLX add for Winchester and Clark Co games Claude was following...
 Right Bottom: Add for KSHSAA broadcasts for WVLC and WKLX
 Below: Covington Holmes team Claude broadcast game against Carr Creek 1948

Every Big Game Brought To You By
 American Dairy Association
 Brought Dairy and Dixie Ice Cream
 Kerns Bread
 L. R. Cooke Chevrolet

WVLC **BIG 590**

Basketball Broadcast

As a Community Service to the Winchester and Clark County High School basketball fans, we are bringing you a PLAY-BY-PLAY Radio Broadcast of the 16th Regional Tournament in which our local teams will participate.

OVER **WVLC** 1300 kc

CLAUDE SULLIVAN, Announcing

FRIDAY
WINCHESTER vs. SHARPSBURG
 7:30 P. M. WINCHESTER TIME

SATURDAY
CLARK COUNTY vs. OWINGSVILLE
 12:30 P. M. WINCHESTER TIME

Winchester vs. other lower bracket winner—
 2:00 P. M. Winchester Time

(This game will not be broadcast if Winchester has been eliminated in the first round).

FINALS—9:15 P. M.

(The final will not be broadcast if both Winchester and Clark County have been eliminated)

(This will be a delayed broadcast due to the station carrying the final game of the 10th Regional at Paris—in event the Paris regional is not broadcast, due to the fact that Paris has been eliminated—the 16th Regional final will be on the air at 7:30 p. m. Winchester time).

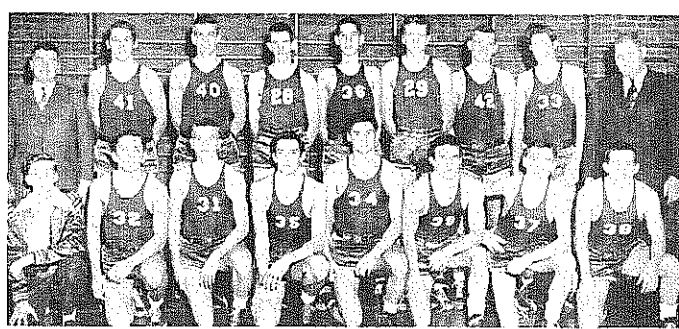
COMPLICATED—ISN'T IT!!!

SPONSORED BY

THORNBERRY GROCERY
EPPS BOTTLED GAS
EPPERSON HARDWARE

COVINGTON HOLMES

Region 9 Champs



Front row, left to right, Charles Jump, manager, Houston Thompson, Charles Vermillion, Charles Stephenson, Jim Hubbard, Harold Ellis, Alan Alexander, Earl Goble. Back row, Coach Robert Massman, Walt Wherry, Jack Hunefeld, Tom Hurley, Alton Kudenbrock, Charles Cook, Ray McPherson, Paul Whalen and Coach Tom Ellis.

TEAM LEADER, Coach SEASONS RECORD: Won 27, Lost 7 COLORS: Red and White

District Tournament Games Won				Regional Tournament Games Won			
Player	Bye	Points	Rebounds	Player	Bye	Points	Rebounds
Holmes	Bye	20	10	Holmes	Bye	20	10
Holmes	Bye	45	10	Holmes	Bye	27	10
Holmes	Bye	45	10	Holmes	Bye	22	10
Cook	Bye	24	10	Cook	Bye	29	10
Kudenbrock	Bye	24	10	Kudenbrock	Bye	26	10
Cook	Bye	24	10	Cook	Bye	26	10
Hunefeld	Bye	24	10	Hunefeld	Bye	26	10
Whalen	Bye	24	10	Whalen	Bye	26	10

In Appreciation . . .

Claude Sullivan: From \$12 a Week To the Big Time in Same Hat Size

By BILLY REED

Courier-Journal & Times Staff Writer

LEXINGTON, Ky. — "Hello, everybody, this is Claude Sullivan. . ."

He always began his radio broadcasts like that and what invariably followed was a professional, well-done job.

But when cancer finally took the life of Claude Sullivan earlier this week, more was lost than a good announcer.

Through his two decades of broadcasting University of Kentucky basketball and football, the thing that set Claude apart was humility.

Honored repeatedly as the best sports announcer in Kentucky and becoming something of a celebrity, Claude Sullivan did not know what "big head" was.

Conceit would have been easy for him, too, because when stricken more than a year ago, Sullivan was at the very peak of his career.

Besides doing UK games, he had succeeded Waite Hoyt as No. 1 announcer for the Cincinnati Reds major-league baseball team in 1965.

Still, he remained the same guy who sprang from humble beginnings in Winchester, Ky., who was paid \$12 a week for his first job, and who took the same pride in broadcasting a high-school

basketball game as he did an NCAA championship.

If the man was humble, he also was courageous.

Those closest to him knew that only a miracle could save him from cancer, and Claude probably knew it himself.

Radiated Hope and Confidence

Nevertheless, despite trip after trip to Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., he always radiated confidence and hope. Only in his eyes could the pain and sorrow be detected.

Even as late as this past Kentucky football season, when a vocal cord was paralyzed and the once-vibrant voice had been reduced to an almost inaudible squeak, Sullivan did not give up. The voice could come back at any moment, he said. And, yes, he would say, forcing a smile, he had never felt better.

When asked about his success, Claude always said it wasn't so much due to ability as it was hard work.

He would stay up late at night, memorizing facts and figures about teams. His obligation, he said, was to give listeners the most factual, complete report possible.

And under the most tense game conditions, when some announcers lose their heads, Claude always kept his cool. There

were no awkward silences and never any doubt about what was going on.

Claude's first love was the UK basketball team.

He started doing UK games in 1945 and he saw all the great ones — the "Fabulous Five," the unbeaten Hagan-Ramsey team, the "Fiddlin' Five" of 1958 and "Rupp's Runts" of two years ago.

He knew all the players personally. His favorite UK team, and the one he considered coach Adolph Rupp's greatest, was the "Fabulous Five" of Alex Groza, Ralph Beard, Wallace (Wah Wah) Jones, Kenny Rollins and Cliff Barker.

The team of two seasons ago almost changed his mind — until it lost to Texas Western in the NCAA final. "When you get that far, a great team would have gone all the way," Claude said.

One of Sullivan's two sons, David, 19, was engineer for many of his broadcasts, but what made Claude really proud was the fact that David earned a football scholarship to UK.

A sophomore, David was red-shirted last season, which means he didn't see any varsity action. However, UK coach Charlie Bradshaw says he has plans for the boy next year.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM

UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL

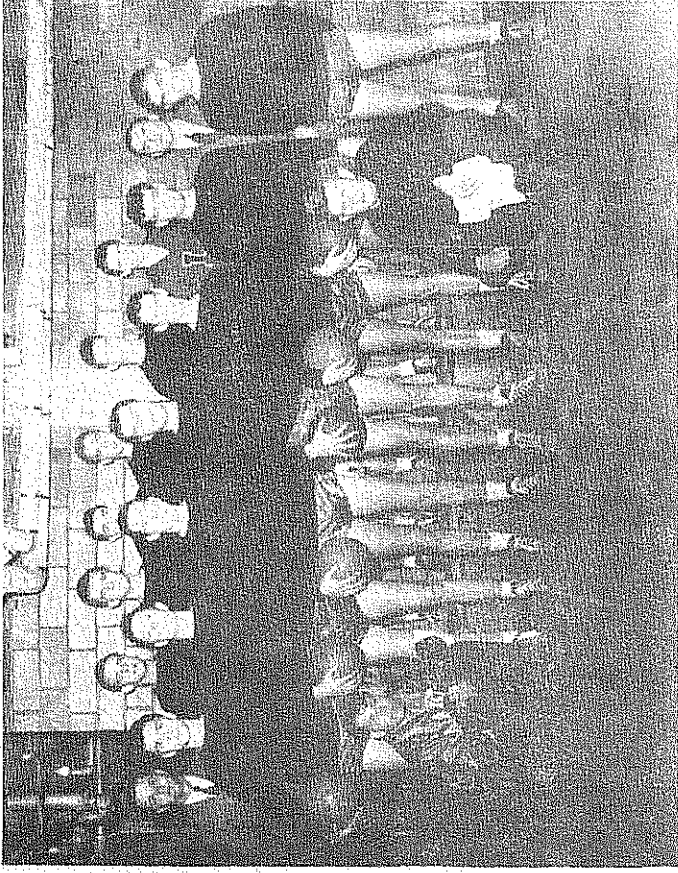
Hosts to the

1947

11th REGIONAL BASKET BALL TOURNAMENT

ALUMNI GYM

MARCH 12 - 13 - 14 - 15



LAFAYETTE GENERALS

Managers: Duke Smith — Donald Cundiff
Trainer: Jack Daniel

	Blue	Red	White
1. Allen	3	3	3
2. Sutherland	10	5	16
3. Polites	8	13	13
4. Sharp	12	14	14
5. Myers	11	15	11
6. Moss	7	7	7
7. Chasteen	9	9	9
8. Plunkett	6	6	6
9. Foley	4	4	5
10. Fletcher	5	10	4
11. Kunkel	13	12	12

Cheerleaders: Betty Gibson, Doris Elliot, Betty Massey, Jean Hardwick,
Marjorie King.

Colors: Red, White and Blue

HERB MASSEY - 10 F

Official Program

Thirtieth Annual

KENTUCKY STATE HIGH SCHOOL

**BASKETBALL
TOURNAMENT**

Jefferson County Armory

Louisville, Kentucky

MARCH 20-21-22

1947

Price 25c