

Corky Withrow

***Central City High School
1952-56***

Some of his accomplishments

***Central City's Basketball Team Record during the "Corky Withrow Era"
Freshman Year Won 24 Lost 9: Sophomore Year Won 35 Lost 1,
Junior Year Won 30 Lost 6, Senior Year Won 31 Lost 4***

Central City's Four Year Team Total Won 120 Lost 20

***All District Basketball Tournament Team: 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55,
1955-56***

All Region Basketball Tournament Team: 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56

All State Basketball Second Team - 1953-54 Seasons

All State Basketball First Team - 1955-55 Season

All State Basketball First Team - 1955-56 Seasons

Member of the All State Basketball Tournament Team in - 1955

Member of the All State Basketball Tournament Team in - 1956

***All-American High School Basketball Team: Selected by the Dell
Magazine in 1956 (one on only 5 players)***

***All American Basketball High School Team: Selected by the Street and
Smith Magazine for in 1955-56***

***North/South United State High School All Star Game: Played for the
South Team (Old McDonalds All American Game)***

Kentucky/Indiana All Star Basketball Team - 1956

Kentucky/Ohio All Star Basketball Team - 1956 (Most Valuable Player in Both Game)

Kentucky/West Virginia All Star Basketball Team - 1956 (Most Valuable of the Game)

Kentucky High School Coaches Association East/West All Star Team 1956 3 Game Series (Most Valuable Player of the Three Game Series)

John McGill State Tournament Basketball Hall of Fame

Scored 3190 in his Career (Three Thousand One Hundred Ninety Points)

His last three years of high school basketball Corky average over sixteen rebounds per game.

Corky was outstanding free throw shooter, 85% for his career.

He is Central City's career field goal % leader with 65%.

Central City High School played the Sweat Sixteen 1956, 1955 and 1956 all three years they were led in scoring, rebounding and leadership by the Team Capitan Corky Withrow. In 1954 and 1956 beaten by the team won the State Tournament.

His teams won 120 games and lost only 20 games in his four year as a starter for the Central City Gold Flash. Playing one of the very best schedules in the state of Kentucky.

Corky Withrow holds the single Game scoring record with 38 points for historic Louisville Invitational tournament.

Scored over fifty points in seven different games during the 1955-56 basketball seasons.

Coach Adolph Rupp made twelve recruiting visits to Central City to recruit Corky Withrow during his junior and senior years.

Corky Withrow sign basketball scholarship with University of Kentucky in the spring of 1956.

College Basketball

Played two years for Georgetown College

Player of the Year in the KIAC 1957-58

Player of the Year in the KIAC 1958-59

Average 25 points per game in his career at Georgetown College

NAIA Consensus All-American in 1956

Drafted by the Philadelphia 76ers in the fourth round in 1959

Baseball

Corky Withrow was as good at baseball as he was basketball. Not many records were kept in high school baseball in the 1950's. He gave up a basketball scholarship from Adolph Rupp and the University of Kentucky Wildcats to play professional baseball.

Led the state tournament in hitting in 1955

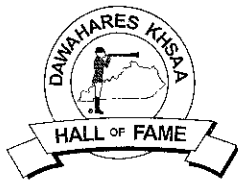
He played professional baseball for ten years for both the Milwaukee Braves and the Saint Louis Cardinals organizations. He played the 1963 season in the major leaguers for the Saint Louis Cardinals.

STATISTICS FOR CORKY WITHROW

- Four-year starter at Central City High School (1952-56)
- Central City record during those years: 117-20
- Led Central City to three Sweet 16 appearances (1954, 1955, 1956)
- Scored 3,136 points (19th on all-time Kentucky scoring list)
 - Scored 1,052 points, averaged 30.9 ppg as a senior
 - Scored 1,086 points, averaged 30.2 ppg as a junior
 - Scored 696 points, averaged 19.3 ppg as a sophomore
 - Scored 302 points, averaged 9.2 ppg as a freshman
- First-team All-American in 1956 (Dell Magazine)
- Two-time All-State Tournament selection (1955, 1956)
- Two-time Courier-Journal first-team All-State selection (1955, 1956)
- Two-time Paducah Sun first-team All-State selection (1955, 1956)
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- Star of Stars in 1956 East-West All-Star series (72 points in three games)
- Kentucky Star of Stars in 1956 game against West Virginia (led by Jerry West)
- Elected to Sweet 16 Hall of Fame (1987)
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- First player signed to UK by Adolph Rupp in 1956
- Played two years at Georgetown College (1957-1959)
- Scored 1,378 points (22nd on school's all-time list)
- Scored 26 in Georgetown's 84-78 upset of Louisville in Freedom Hall (UL later beat UK in NCAA tourney)
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- Hit more than 325 home runs in minor leagues
- Twice named Minor League Player of the Month

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Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

Friday, May 29, 2009

Corky Withrow
3605 Decidedly Ct.
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Corky:

Congratulations on your selection to be inducted in to the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Enclosed you will find the sample bio that was mentioned in your notification letter that was previously sent.

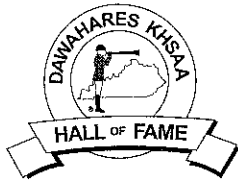
Also, this is a reminder about the golf outing on June 16 at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort in Lexington. Shotgun start is at 8 a.m. and lunch at 12:30 p.m. If you are able to play, your individual fee is complimentary.

Finally, the date of the banquet has been set. The 2010 ceremony will be Saturday, May 15 at the Lexington Center beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Please contact me if you have further questions and we hope to see you on the 16th!

Sincerely,

Butch Cope
Assistant Commissioner



Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

May 14, 2009

Corky Withrow
3605 Decidedly Ct.
Owensboro, KY 42303

Dear Mr. Withrow,

It is with great pleasure that I inform you of your selection for induction into the 2010 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. Your selection is based upon the many contributions you have made to the rich history of high school athletics in Kentucky. Individuals such as you continue to add to the stature of this prestigious Hall of Fame.

The official induction ceremony and banquet is scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2010. The event will be held at the Lexington Center, Bluegrass Ballroom in Lexington. You will receive further information concerning the ceremony later in the year.

The Class of 2010 will be released to the media on May 29. We ask that you not make public your selection prior to this date. The first event commemorating your induction is the Annual Golf outing scheduled for Tuesday, June 16 at Marriott Griffin Gate, in Lexington. We invite you to play in the outing on this date but if you are not able to play, we encourage you to be in attendance at the luncheon.

As an inductee, your individual fee for the golf outing will be complimentary. Should you have others interested in playing to complete a foursome, please contact Butch Cope or Marilyn Mitchell at the KHSAA for more information.

In preparation for the banquet, enclosed please find a sample biographical sketch that we need from you which will be published in the banquet program and will appear on your commemorative plaque. Please be prepared to bring a draft bio and 6 or 7 photos along with you when you attend the golf outing. If you are unable to attend please mail this information to our office by June 16th.

If you have any questions regarding the induction ceremony or golf outing, please contact Butch Cope.

Again, congratulations on your selection.

Sincerely,

Brigid L. DeVries
Commissioner



[Print] [Close]

From: "Amy Reid" <Amy_Reid@georgetowncollege.edu>
To: <twahwah@worldnet.att.net>
Subject: Corky Withrow
Date: Tue, 6 Dec 2005 16:01:26 +0000

Tom-

Corky is currently 22nd in the Georgetown College Men's Basketball 1,000 Point Club. He posted 1,378 points from 1957-59. Unfortunately, other records (field goal percentage, etc.) were not kept very meticulously until the 1960s, so we do not have any other information on his standing as far as that goes.

Hope this helps a little.

Amy

Amy C. Reid
Sports Information Director
Georgetown College
400 E. College St., Georgetown, KY 40324
502-863-7972
fax 502-868-8892
cell 859-608-7335

Sept. 1, 2006

Ken Tippett
KHSAA
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Ky. 40505

Ken:

I recently communicated with Chuck Broughton concerning the best way for me to mount a campaign to get Corky Withrow inducted into the Dawahare Hall of Fame. Chuck recommended that I send you statistics and information on Corky's career, which I've done. Louis Stout, for whom I was ghostwriter on his book *Shadows of the Past*, also said you were the best person to contact.

Corky remains to this day one of the greatest basketball players this state has ever produced. The fact that he isn't already in the Hall of Fame is a major oversight, one I hope to help rectify, with your assistance, of course. Had Corky gone to UK like he originally intended, rather than sign a pro baseball contract, we wouldn't be having this conversation. He would have been inducted years ago. As Bob Davis, Corky's coach at Georgetown, told me — had Corky gone to UK, played three years and remained healthy, he would have left as the school's all-time leading scorer and an All-American.

At any rate, I've sent a list of Corky's accomplishments, along with several old articles I pulled from the Herald-Leader. If you need more ammo, let me know. I'll get you whatever you need.

I appreciate any help you can give on this matter.

Sincerely,



Tom Wallace
273-9628

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[Print] [Close]

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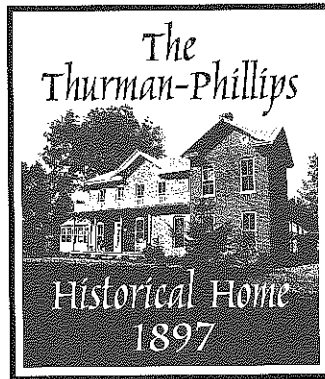
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502-863-7972
fax 502-868-8892
cell 859-608-7335



August 20, 2008

Dear Julian,

I want to thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to visit with Coach Ron Bevars and myself at your office on August 13th. I also appreciate your taking the time to show us around the office, the new Hall of Fame Area, and to say hello to Commissioner Brigid DeVries. As I told you on our visit, for the last two years we have been making documentaries on Kentucky Sports Legends. Last year we did one on Kelly Coleman, Wayland, and their efforts to promote an Eastern Kentucky Mountain Sports Hall of Fame. We had a lot of fun going to Wayland and also spending time in Prestonsburg, Pikeville, and Carr Creek. A wonderful part of this documentary was an interview with Kelly Coleman and Morton Combs talking about their teams in battle in 1956. That is a real Treasure!

Currently, we are working on a documentary called "On the Road with Howie Crittenden". It features videos and interviews in Cuba, Murray, Henderson, and Dixon, Kentucky. Included in the video are interviews with Cal Luther, Benny Purcell, Frank Ramsey, and Roger Bird. While doing our work in Western Kentucky we had hoped to meet and get an interview with the 1956 Sports Legend, Corky Withrow. With the help of Marc Stone, from the Argus-Times in Central City, we were able to contact Corky. He graciously gave us a three-hour interview at the old Central City gym that is now a Sports Museum for Central City. At the time we only knew that Corky and Kelly Coleman were the two premier players of their era and assumed both were in the KHSAA Hall of Fame. Pursuing this matter, we of course found out that Kelly had been selected but had declined induction and that Corky had never been selected. This certainly piqued our interest so we began to investigate further. We found that Corky had been nominated twice, but had never made the top 36 of the nominations. This in itself was incredible. So we gathered all of the information we could on Corky and compared his accomplishments to all the other members already selected to the Hall of Fame. In the famous words of Kelly Coleman "I may not have been the best player in the state but I'm DAMN sure I was in the TOP 20"!!!! After comparing the resumes of all of the inductees we can say without any doubt Corky Withrow could make the same claim. Corky and his teams of the Central City Golden Tide were an absolute power in Kentucky Basketball from 1953 through 1956 with a total of 120 wins and 20 losses. Three appearances in the state tourney and without a questionable call leading to a defeat in the regional finals in 1953 they would have made four straight appearances. Needless to say Corky was the STAR on all of those teams.

I am not going into all of Corky's accomplishments in this letter other than to say I think we all know that Corky Withrow, not being in KHSAA Hall of Fame is a huge injustice to this great player and that omission should be corrected as quickly as possible.

Coach Ron Bevars, Gary West, Howie Crittenden, Bob Watkins, and a very large contingency of Sports Minded Historians across the state of Kentucky and I are working to correct this omission. We need your help and council as to how to remedy this situation.

In closing, Claudia and I want to again extend an invitation to you, Brigid, and members of your staff to let us host you whenever you are traveling through our part of the country. We look forward to that and I have enclosed one of our brochures.

Again, Julian thank you for your time allowing Coach Bevars and myself to visit and we look forward to hearing from you and working with you on our special project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charlie Thurman".

Charlie Thurman

Corky Withrow

Central City High School 1952-56

Some of his accomplishments

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Led the state tournament in hitting in 1955

He played professional baseball for ten years for both the Milwaukee Braves and the Saint Louis Cardinals organizations. He played the 1963 season in the major leaguers for the Saint Louis Cardinals.

NOTE: Attached photograph, L-R: Kelly Coleman, Howie Crittenden, Fred Maggard & Corky Withrow.

HD: A Gathering in Wayland - A One Shining Moment for basketball in Ky.

Basketball players in Kentucky who own one-name recognition that spans more than half century, are as rare as a comet fly by. Made precious because time, anecdotal history and written words smooth a path for the likes of Kelly Coleman, Fred Maggard, Howie Crittenden and Corky Withrow,

On a September afternoon recently these 70-something men gathered in the shady climes of Wayland in Knott County to commiserate over basketball's golden age, the 1950s, and reflect on their roles in making basketball Kentucky's dream game.

Those who have seen 60 winters, would say the Wayland gathering was Hollywood equivalent of a sit-down with Eastwood, DeNiro, Pacino and Newman.

On court as on big screen, all have reputations as maverick, marquee entertainer, free spirited risk-taker who, by wit and wile, one time or another, thumbed his nose at convention and marched to cadence of his drum. Sometimes within socially accepted boundaries, sometimes not.

Today, Coleman, Maggard, Crittenden and Withrow smile easy, laugh often and bring to mind a line from Morgan Freeman, "It's been one helluva ride."

They scored a mountain of points, gathered a Great Lake of rebounds, swished game winners, helped win large trophies, and did it all with such flare and panache they still attract autograph seekers.

This foursome won affection and respect that elevated each to pedestals from which their names show up between covers of hardback books and calls for interviews still come.

Beyond the Bunyan-like numbers, Maggard and the rest who had a shining moment or two, are symbols of why a little boy first picks up a rubber ball and shoots at an oatmeal box. A dream is born to chase across the heavens of high school hoops. Few things compare.

A season, a tournament, or one game, we all want a limelight moment to cherish, to revel in. Crittenden, Withrow, Maggard and Coleman got theirs.

The Gathering in Wayland was a natural to those who 'get it' about sports. Good memories. This scene came to us at the perfect time, in

the perfect place with personalities who have, in the afternoon of their days, become semi-perfect perhaps and mellow. Sort of.

Credentials.

- In 1952 Howard Crittenden led Cuba to its *Hoosiers-like* State title. One for the little guy. If there had been Mr. Basketball, Howie was it.

- In 1956 Coleman *was* Mr. Basketball. A prodigious scorer-rebounder, celebrity and title (King) found him too early. Free-spirited Coleman went solo, and became the embodiment of Frank Sinatra's *"My Way."*

But also in the spring of '56 flatlanders would argue for co-Mr. Basketball, Corky Withrow at Central City.

- Maggard could have been tournament MVP in '56 in part because of two game winning shots. Instead, a vote in the Kentucky Legislature got his name onto the all-tournament team.

Today.

COLEMAN. Passage of time and groaning knees may have robbed his skills to play the game, but the 70-year-old with striking blue eyes and reputation as best there ever was, is gracious and glad to see adversaries appear from half a lifetime ago. The King basked in the usual praise, but was more inclined to pay tribute to Withrow, and Maggard's heroics in the State Tournament and admire Crittenden's journey to fame and good fortune.

The man who set almost two dozen Sweet 16 records including a 68-point game, Coleman looked at Maggard and said "ya know, Freddie, those two shots you made in the tournament was the most impressive thing of all to me."

MAGGARD. If humility and hero were one word it would belong to this heart attack survivor. In '56 the Carr Creek kid, who was once censured for popping chewing gum in English class, saved his team's title run twice. Today, he is adamant that the real heroes were his teammates. "I just happened to have the ball at the right time."

WITHROW. He remembers three trips to the Sweet 16 and no title. But gregarious Corky, who went on to play baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals, fills the room with good cheer, boisterous laughter and antics. With a million dollar smile, he made clear (with a wink) he didn't want to hear about Maggard's shot that sent the Golden Tide home.

CRITTENDEN. At 74, Howie the country boy has more a patrician bearing these days. Trim and tanned, life is good. His place in basketball's pantheon assured, Crittenden was gracious, shared stories with wit, gesture and a clucky laugh. As banter flew hot through

the afternoon, Howie deferred to his brethren as they sparred and traded opinions.

¢ Withrow has not forgotten the Wayland at Central City game on Christmas Eve, 1955 won by the home team. He and Coleman scored 40 apiece. Back home Coleman allegedly told a reporter ... it took seven of em to beat us, meaning the officials.

Corky has not forgotten. They laugh about the remark today. Sort of.  Maggard (tongue in cheek) apologized for his dramatic shots that sent Withrow, then Coleman, home from the State Tournament. But, he isnt that sorry.

¢ Crittenden imitations of Western coach Ed Diddle were dead on, showcased by Uncle Eds reaction when he discovered Howie had signed with Murray State. A moment that became a two-hour lecture during which the irrepressible Diddle gave Howie a nickname that stuck. *Trittenden*.

On a September afternoon in Wayland, Crittenden from Graves County and Withrow from Muhlenberg in the west. Coleman from Floyd County and Maggard from Knott in the east, amounted to One shining moment shared by four of best there ever was.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Coleman has a home in Wayland, but intends to move to Ohio soon to live near family.

Withrow resides in Owensboro where he dotes over grandchildren, one of whom he believes ... could become a good player.

Crittenden lives in Bowling Green where he mixes good humor and exaggeration stories over breakfast with Western grads.

Maggard lives in Corbin near his daughter and grandchildren and watches them play sports and upon occasion reminds son Freddie who has a State title on his resume and who doesnt.

-
The Gathering at Wayland was arranged by Charles Thurman of Sonora in Hardin County. Host for the event was Jerry Fultz, director of the Historical Center in Wayland.

And so it goes.

**Comment, point of view? Write bob Watkins
at Sprtsinky@aol.com**



Oak Tree Eye Clinic
Freddie M. Mayes, O.D.
John M. Soderling, O.D.
Oak Tree Plaza
Everly Brothers Blvd. • P.O. Box 676
Central City, KY 42330
(270) 754-4515

APR 09 2009

April 6, 2009

To All Concerned,

Central City High School closed its' doors for the final time in 1990, becoming part of a newly formed Muhlenberg North High School the following year. At that point in KHSAA history, The Golden Tide (CCHS Basketball Team) was the winningest high school basketball program in Kentucky, had made 16 appearances in The Sweet Sixteen, and was the second winningest basketball program in the United States. That accomplishment was possible because of a number of outstanding coaches and players through the years, but there is one name that stands above all others relative to 'The Tide Tradition'. That name is Raymond "Corky" Withrow. A contemporary of "King" Kelly Coleman, a full chapter of a book recently written about the greatest legend in Kentucky basketball history is given to a Christmas Eve matchup between those two players in the finals of the Central City Christmas Tournament—they both scored over 40 points and Central City won the game. Corky was voted All-State and All-American for basketball, and I believe was voted All-State for baseball as well. He appeared in at least 3 state tournaments during his high school career and remained the leading all time scorer for CCHS until the school closed in 1990.

I played basketball at CCHS 1967-1970, served as Athletic Boosters President from 1985 until the final season, and served as chairman of The CCHS Museum Committee that established 'The Golden Tide Museum' in our old gymnasium in the 1990's. Although there were many great players that wore the 'black and gold' and were a part of the outstanding success that Central City enjoyed for over 60 years, and although other players were selected as All-State and All-American performers through the years (including my brother Ralph, who played on the 1966 team that lost to Louisville Male in the semi-finals of the state tournament), there is only one player that is honored with his own display in our museum, and that is Corky Withrow. Until just recently, I actually assumed that Corky was already in the Hall of Fame and was surprised to learn that he had never been selected. I hope you will agree that his accomplishments as an outstanding Kentucky high school athlete make him deserving of this honor and that you will move toward his nomination for the 2010 KHSAA Hall of Fame additions.

Thanks for your consideration,
Dr. Freddie M. Mayes



Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

April 8, 2009

Mr. Charles Thurman
103 Broadway Street
Sonora, KY 42776

Dear Mr. Thurman:

This letter is in response to your recent correspondence regarding a request for Corky Withrow to be nominated to the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame. I have spoken to Butch Cope and Marilyn Mitchell, who coordinate the material for the screening process and your information will be submitted regarding his nomination to the 2010 Class. As always, members of the Screening Committee will consider all nominations, and I can assure you that Corky Withrow will be given every consideration in this process.

Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Brigid L. DeVries". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Brigid L. DeVries
Commissioner

BD:dk

xc: Assistant Commissioner Butch Cope
Administrative Assistant Marilyn Mitchell

Corky Withrow

***Central City High School
1952-56***

Some of his accomplishments

***All District Basketball Tournament Team: 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55,
1955-56***

All Region Basketball Tournament Team: 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56

All State Basketball Second Team - 1953-54 Seasons

All State Basketball First Team - 1955-55 Season

All State Basketball First Team - 1955-56 Seasons

Member of the All State Basketball Tournament Team - 1955

Member of the All State Basketball Tournament Team in - 1956

***All-American High School Basketball Team: Selected by the Dell
Magazine in 1956***

***All American Basketball High School Team: Selected by the Street and
Smith Magazine for in 1955-56***

***North/South United State High School All Star Game: Played for the
South Team (Old McDonalds All American Game)***

Kentucky/Indiana All Star Basketball Team - 1956

***Kentucky/Ohio All Star Basketball Team - 1956 (Most Valuable Player in
Both Game)***

***Kentucky/West Virginia All Star Basketball Team - 1956 (Most Valuable
of the Game)***

STATISTICS FOR CORKY WITHROW

- Four-year starter at Central City High School (1952-56)
- Central City record during those years: 117-20
- Led Central City to three Sweet 16 appearances (1954, 1955, 1956)
- Scored 3,136 points (19th on all-time Kentucky scoring list)
 - Scored 1,052 points, averaged 30.9 ppg as a senior
 - Scored 1,086 points, averaged 30.2 ppg as a junior
 - Scored 696 points, averaged 19.3 ppg as a sophomore
 - Scored 302 points, averaged 9.2 ppg as a freshman
- First-team All-American in 1956 (Dell Magazine)
- Two-time All-State Tournament selection (1955, 1956)
- Two-time Courier-Journal first-team All-State selection (1955, 1956)
- Two-time Paducah Sun first-team All-State selection (1955, 1956)
- Paducah Sun 1956 Player of the Year
- Two-time Lexington Herald-Leader first-team All-State selection (1955, 1956)
- Herald-Leader 1956 co-Player of the Year (with Kelly Coleman)
- Member of 1956 Kentucky All-Star team against Indiana
- Star of Stars in 1956 East-West All-Star series (72 points in three games)
- Kentucky Star of Stars in 1956 game against West Virginia (led by Jerry West)
- Elected to Sweet 16 Hall of Fame (1987)
- Two-time All-Louisville Invitational Tournament selection (1955, 1956)
- Tied then LIT record of 38 points in a game (1956)
- Four-time All-District selection (1953, 1954, 1955, 1956)
- Three-time All-Regional selection (1954, 1955, 1956)
- First player signed to UK by Adolph Rupp in 1956
- Played two years at Georgetown College (1957-1959)
- Scored 1,378 points (22nd on school's all-time list)
- Scored 26 in Georgetown's 84-78 upset of Louisville in Freedom Hall (UL later beat UK in NCAA tourney)
- Signed baseball contract with Milwaukee Braves in 1956
- Played in Major Leagues with St. Louis Cardinals
- Hit more than 325 home runs in minor leagues
- Twice named Minor League Player of the Month

2008 Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame

Induction Class

(Banquet Ceremony April 25, 2009)

Simidele Adeagbo

Mary Lloyd Ireland

Gene Pendleton

Temitayo Adeagbo

Arthur "Ozz" Jackson

Mel Purcell

Bill Brown

Ivan McGlone

Crayner Slone

Tom Creamer

Sam Moore

Corky Withrow