

October 24, 2019

Commissioner Julian Tackett and Members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee.

The first time I met Harlan Davidson, Jr, I was a senior at Bell County High School. He was doing his student teaching and was an assistant coach for the football and basketball teams. He immediately became someone I respected and at that point we developed a foundation of a friendship that has continued for the past 51 years.

The following year he became the head basketball coach of Pineville High School for two seasons. His next stop was at EKU, where he served as a graduate assistant under Hall of Fame Coach Guy Strong. Upon completion of his Master's program, he was hired as the Head Coach at Washington County High School. After a very successful campaign in his first year, Coach Strong was quoted as saying that Junior Davidson was one of the finest young coaches in the state of Kentucky, but family dynamics made it impossible for him to continue his coaching career. He returned home to Hazard during the summer of 1973.

Wanting to stay involved in high school athletics, he immediately began officiating in the mid 70's and finally called his last game in the year 2000. Junior spent several years in radio and served as "Color Man" for WSGS Radio in Hazard during basketball season. He and Jay Lasslo, a KHSAA Hall of Famer, was fixture at the Sweet 16 for many years broadcasting the State Tournament across the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Junior has also served as a member of the WYMT Basketball Classic Board of Directors since its inception.

On a personal note, Junior is a lifelong friend that has meant the world to the Hazard Sports Community and Kentucky High School Athletics. It is with great honor that I recommend him for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,



Eddie Saylor, 2018 KHSAA HOF Inductee

September 30, 2019

KHSAA Board of Directors

Hall of Fame Nomination Committee

Nomination Committee:

It is my honor to submit the nomination of Harlan Davidson, Jr for your consideration as a 2019 KHSAA Hall of Fame inductee.

“Junior” has had a sixty-one year involvement with Kentucky athletics as a standout high school and collegiate football player, high school and collegiate coach, high school football official, and high school sports radio color commentator, and Advisory Board Member of the WYMT Basketball Committee providing scholarship opportunities for mountain youth continuing their education at the collegiate level. Junior also had a career in business serving as human resource director for some major coal companies in the mountains during the late 1970s through the first decade of the 21st century.

Jr began his career as a high school athlete in the Fall of 1958 as a freshmen football halfback at Hazard High School. Under the leadership of Coach Jim Caudill, Hazard High School enjoyed what many consider the golden age of HHS Bulldog Football. Junior was a standout halfback for HHS Bulldog varsity squads in 1959, 1960 and 1961 in which he was among the state leaders in yards rushed and scoring. During Jr’s varsity years, the Bulldogs would lose only one game in each of these seasons, all to eventual State Champion, FT Thomas Highlands. The highlight of Jr’s senior football season, the 1961 Regional Championship game between Hazard and Corbin, played at Corbin, was what many consider the finest football game of that era. Jr would be the leading rusher and score a touchdown in a 18-6 Bulldog victory that saw Hazard hold future UK and professional football star Roger Bird to one touchdown and negative rushing yardage for the night.

Upon high school graduation Jr continued his football career at Southern Colorado State in Pueblo, Colorado, where he had a successful freshman season being the leading rusher on a 7-3 team that would beat the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, with Jr scoring both touchdowns in the 14-13 victory. Quarterbacking Southern Colorado State that year was Bob Berry who would go on to a successful NFL career with the Atlanta Falcons during the mid-to-late 1960s and early 1970s. Although on athletic scholarship that paid for tuition, room and board, the family economic situation was such that Jr. could not continue his football career at Southern Colorado State following his freshman year.

Following a desire to be an airline pilot, Jr had a brief stint in Kanas City, Mo with Braniff Airlines, in a training program. After realizing that athletics was his first love, Jr returned to Ky and enrolled at Cumberland College in Williamsburg, KY. Jr graduated from Cumberland College in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and a Minor in Psychology.

He began his coaching career as an assistant basketball and football coach at Bell County High School in the Fall of 1968. In the spring/summer of 1969 he was named the Head Basketball Coach at Pineville

High School, and an assistant football coach working with Pineville High School football coaching legend Bill Adams. Junior would spend two full seasons (1969-1970 and 1970-1971) at Pineville High in this capacity. During his tenure Pineville High School, the tiny school became a tough hardwood opponent for schools in the 13th region.

To obtain his master's degree in Education and enhance his basketball coaching skills, Jr. enrolled at Eastern Kentucky University and served as a Graduate Assistant for ECU Basketball for the 1971-1972 school year. Head Basketball Coach at ECU during this time was Adolph Rupp disciple, Guy Strong, who played for Adolph Rupp at UK. The 1971-1972 basketball season was very successful as the ECU Colonels would win the OVC and represent the OVC in the 1972 NCAA tournament. This ECU squad would lose a closely contested game to a very talented Florida State team coached by another Rupp - disciple and former UK player Hugh Durham. The next round of the NCAA that year this FSU squad would soundly beat Adolph Rupp and UK. The consensus was, ECU played FSU tougher than UK did that year. FSU went onto the 1972 NCAA Final Four. Guy Strong was impressed by Jr's coaching aptitude and would go on record as saying he was the most impressive prospective basketball coaching talent; he had seen in a several years.

After obtaining his master's degree, in the Spring of 1972, Jr. would be named Head Basketball Coach at Washington County High School in Springfield, KY. The 1972-1973 Commander Basketball team would post its finest year ever at 20 wins and 4 losses in the regular season. The squad had no starter over six feet tall.

Due to family dynamics and financial/economic pressures Jr. would return to his hometown of Hazard in 1973 and leave the teaching and coaching profession after the 1974-1975 school year, for jobs in vocational education and as human resource manager for several coal companies. Although he was out of the teaching and coaching business per se, he managed to remain tied to the world of high school athletics by serving as a football official from 1976 through the early 2000s. The ultimate highlight of his officiating career would be serving on an officiating crew during a Class 3A state championship game.

For several years during basketball season, Jr. would serve as the "color man" on high school basketball radio broadcasts on WSGS Radio in Hazard with Jay Lasslo. Jr and Jay had a long run of broadcasts from the KHSAA Boys and Girls Basketball Tournaments.

Since its inception Jr has served with the WYMT TV Basketball Classic Board of Advisors which provides scholarships for mountain region students furthering their education.

In closing, I feel Jr. is deserving of this award because his life has been a fulfillment of the reasons we play athletics. We learn that hard work, striving to become better individually and as a team does not come without adversity and sacrifice. It also means that sometimes it is necessary to forgo individual achievements to further the goals of family and society.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael R. Duff, PE

Bryan, TX

Michael R. Duff Mini-Athletic / Professional Bio

1974-1978 Hazard High School Athlete

1976-1977 Hazard High School Football Varsity Quarterback

1978-1980 Georgetown College Football Player

1979 & 1980 Georgetown College starting Defensive End/Outside linebacker

1984 BS Electrical Engineering -University of KY

1992- Present: Registered Professional Engineer Texas (Texas PE #72509)

2018 Retired City of College Station Substation Superintendent



Estill County Schools

Every Child Succeeds

October 22, 2019

Commissioner Julian Tackett and Members of the KHSAA Hall of Fame Selection Committee:

During my early years I was blessed to be able to travel with my brother and his friends to many athletic events across this state. I met many fine people during this time, and one of the individuals I was blessed to meet was Harlan Davidson, Jr.

Harlan, known as Junior by his friends, has spent the better part of 60 years involved in high school athletics as a player, assistant coach, head coach and contributor. He was a standout athlete at Hazard High School from 1958 – 1961. After graduation from college, he spent several years in education serving as an assistant coach and two head basketball coaching jobs at Pineville High School and Washington County High School.

During the early 70's, Junior decided to return home and work in private business, but his love for athletics could not allow him to totally turn his back on high school sports. He immediately began officiating in the mid 70's and finally called his last game in the year 2000. His greatest officiating accomplishment was serving as a crew member during the Class AAA State Championship.

Junior spent several years in radio and served as "Color Man" for WSGS Radio in Hazard during basketball season. He and Jay Lasslo were fixtures at the Sweet 16 for many years broadcasting the State Tournament across the mountains of Eastern Kentucky. Finally, Junior has served as a member of the WYMT Basketball Classic Board of Directors since its inception.

So as you can see, Harlan Davidson has a long and storied past of making contributions to high school athletics in the State of Kentucky. It is with great honor that I recommend him for induction into the Kentucky High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Jeff Saylor, Superintendent
Estill County Schools

Davidson is New Coach at WCHS

Twenty-nine-year-old Harlan Davidson, Jr., is the new head basketball coach at Washington County High.

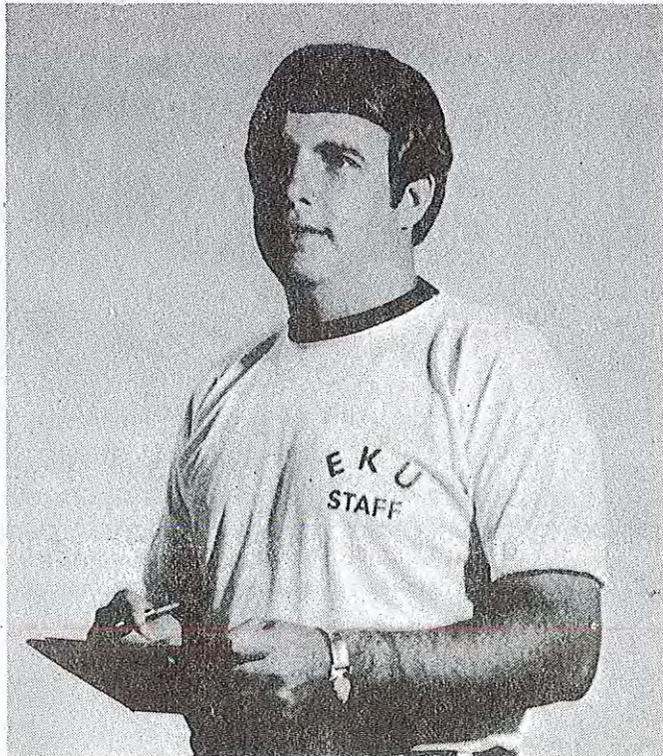
Davidson, a graduate assistant last season at Eastern Kentucky University, was hired at Monday's local Board of Education meeting. He will teach business and serve as assistant football coach as well as head the basketball program at WCHS. There were 53 applications for the job here.

Davidson is a 1962 graduate of Hazard (Ky.) High School and spent one year at Colorado State University on a football scholarship where he was named most valuable freshman footballer. The next year he transferred to Cumberland College where he got his BS degree.

During the 1968-69 year Davidson taught and was assistant football, basketball and baseball coach at Bell County. The following two years he compiled 19-8 records as head basketball coach at Pineville High.

Last year Davidson was varsity graduate assistant to head coach Guy Strong at Eastern. Strong recommended the new coach highly by calling him "the finest basketball coaching prospect we have had in several years."

In other school action Monday, the Board hired Linda Crawford as special education teacher at Mackville, approved the school calendar, adopted Workman's Comp. program for all personnel and accepted the bid of Allied Fence Co. for some fencing work at the high school.



Coach Harlan Davidson

Ellery leads way

Tiny Washington Co. tries for 20th victory

By PAUL WILLIAMS
Courier-Journal Correspondent

The Washington County Commanders posted their 19th victory of the season Tuesday night against Jessamine County and will try to match the 20 victories of the 1967 season at Mercer County Friday night.

The Commanders, under the direction of rookie coach Harlan Davidson, have notched 19 victories and suffered only four losses this season. The Fifth Region club has lost those four games by a total of eight points.

To term the Washington County five as small could be an understatement as coach Davidson starts only one 6-footer. The small and scrappy Commanders rely on quickness and defense.

"Our players are real good jumpers and we play a man-to-man defense all over the court," Davidson commented. "Our top eight men are averaging six points a game or better so stopping one man cannot hurt us too bad.

"No one man carries the scoring. One night one man may be hot and the next another. This should work to our advantage at tournament time."

The leading scorer for Washington County is 5-foot-10 senior Sam Ellery, who is averaging 16 points a game. His running mate, Ricky Hoppes, is averaging 10 points a game and is the team's defensive standout with six steals a game.

Meredith Spaulding, 6-foot senior, is averaging 14.4 points a contest and pulling down 11 rebounds a game. His

brother, Paul, is averaging six points a game. "Paul had the hot hand against Campbellsville with 21 points," said Davidson, "but he has not played as much as he should."

Senior Jeff Tingle is the pure shooter for the Commanders with a 6.1-point average while sharing playing time with juniors Evan Hagan and Jeff Reed.

Washington County is undefeated in district play and has suffered only one loss in the region to Marion County.

Washington County drew Bardstown for the first round of 19th District play. The Commanders posted their first victory over Bardstown at Bardstown this season. Nelson County and Bethlehem are in the other district bracket.

Title up for grabs

When asked about the regional race, Davidson said that as many as eight teams could be in the running for the Fifth Region Crown. "Campbellsville is the regional favorite," Davidson said, "but North Hardin, Adair County, Elizabethtown and Taylor County with Merion Haskins are among the contenders for the crown."

Davidson also considers Washington County in the regional race. "We are taking one thing at a time and right now we are thinking about those 20 wins," Davidson said.

"We don't have the talent or the size of some of the other teams in the region," commented Davidson, "but if it goes down to work we'll win it."

Harlan Davidson Jr. Now Head Mentor at Pineville

Harlan Davidson, Jr. former Hazard High football and basketball standout, now has a 3-2 record as head basketball coach at Pineville High School.

Davidson, a tough and ragged halfback starting his football career at Walkertown Elementary, carried the 8th grade champs and the grade school all-stars to an undefeated season in his first outing in a football uniform.

Davidson, after leaving Walkertown entered Hazard High School and led the Bulldogs to three undefeated seasons (59-60-61). In three title tilts Davidson scored seven touchdowns. Davidson scored four TD's in Hazard's 49-13 win over Middlesboro in the first battle and two in Hazard's second 19-6 win over Middlesboro and in the close 12-6 contest over Whitesburg. Davidson tallied with one TD in the Bulldogs 18-6 district

championship win over the Corbin Redhounds who sported powerful Roger Bird, now a pro with the Oakland Raiders. Davidson, in the Corbin tilt rushed for 184 yards.

Graduating from Hazard, Davidson on a football scholarship attended Colorado State. In his first contest Davidson scored two TD's in his teams 14-13 edging of Air Force. Davidson was top scorer at Colorado with seven touchdowns and 10 extra points and was voted that year M.V.P. The team had a 7-3 record that year for the first winning season in 10 years.

Majoring in Business, Physical education and health, Davidson graduating from Cumberland College, in 1968, with a B.S. degree accepted a teaching position at Bell County High School the same year. Davidson was also assistant football and basketball coach. Davidson, now head basketball

coach and head offensive football coach at Pineville High School also teaches History, Health, and science. Davidson's team this season is 3-2 with a 72-67 upset win over district favorite Bell County, a 76-60 victory over the Corbin Redhounds and a 54-47 edging of Williamsburg. Davidson's team has lost to powerful Lone Jack 68-50 and Evarts 74-62.

The Pineville football team with a 7-3 mark this season defeated Corbin a double A semi-finalist 28-15.

Davidson's basketball team will battle M. C. Napier, a 14th region contender, Thursday, January 8, in the Middlesboro Invitational tournament at Middlesboro.

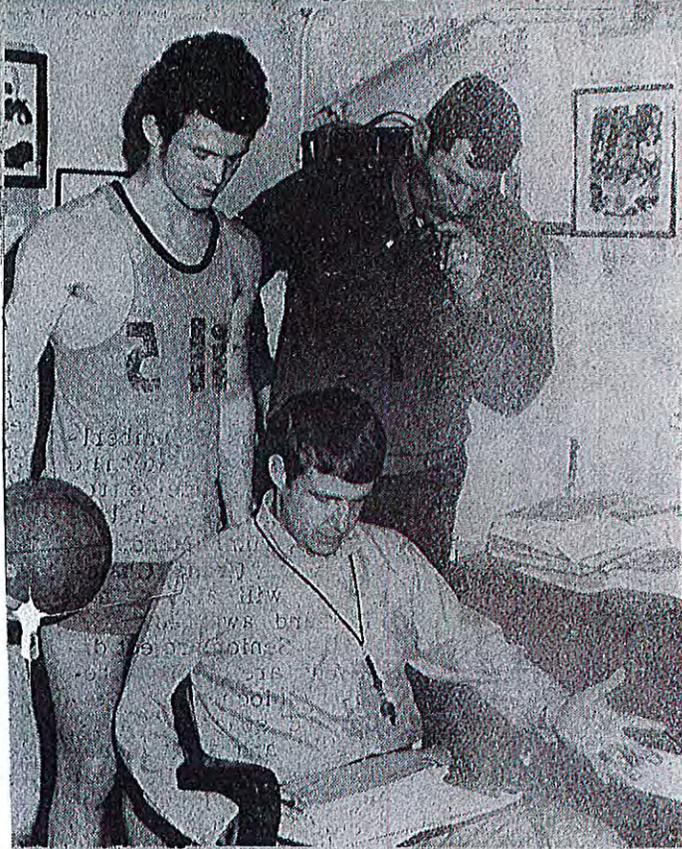
Harlan Davidson, Jr., is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Davidson, Sr., of Walkertown, Ky.



The Pineville Mountain Lions Basketball team has posted a 3-2 record to date in the young season. The Lions are coached by Harlan Davidson. Members are from left: Jerry Lemaster, Steve Chandler, Steve Akers, Rick Washington, Kenny Rosenbalm, Fred Bishop, Otis Foltz, James Watley, James Drake, Frankie Stewart, Tommy Thompson, James Messer and Edward Walton. Kneeling are assistants Bryant Caudill, Bill Adams, Dave Thompson, and coach Davidson. (Sun-Courier Photo)

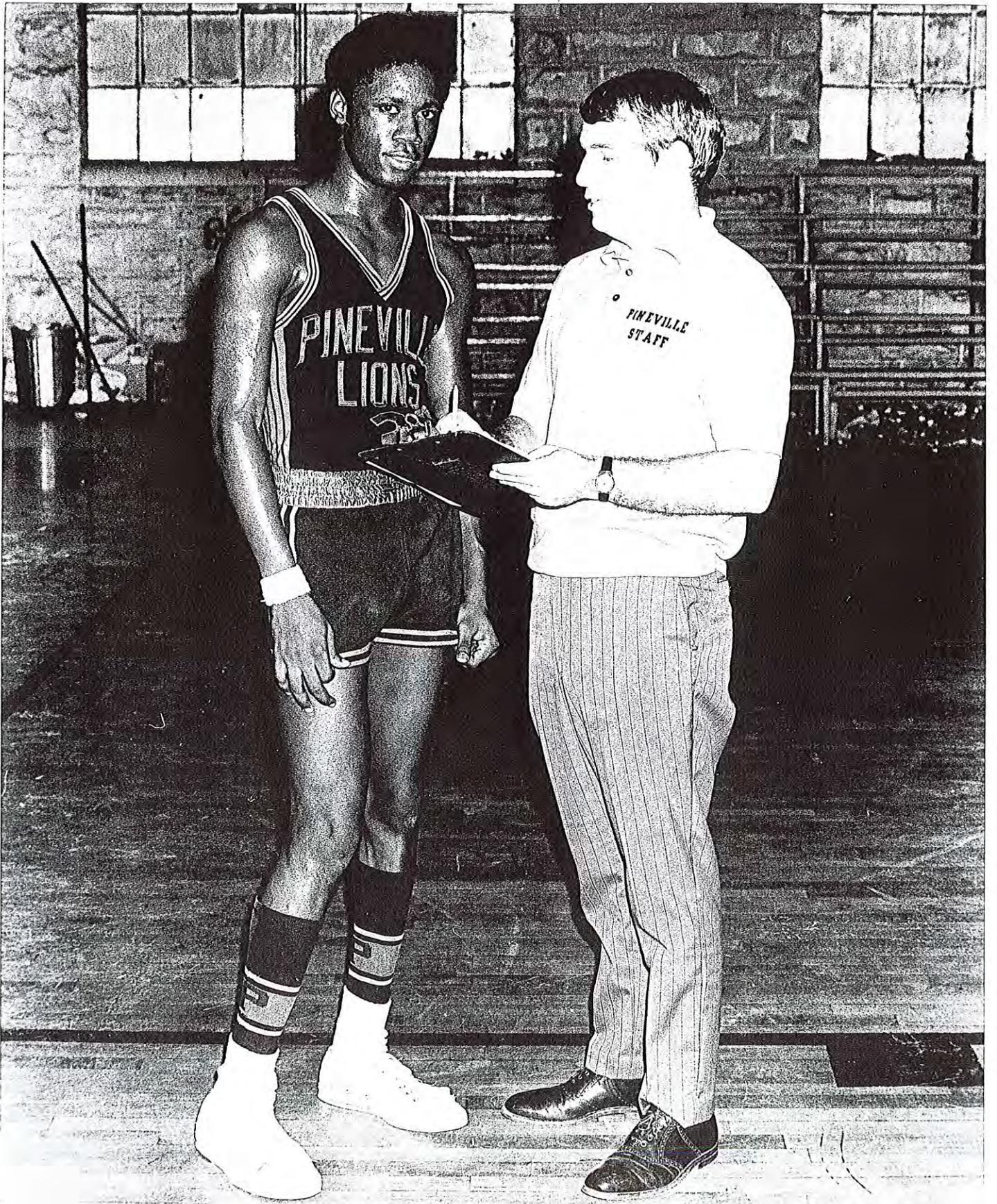
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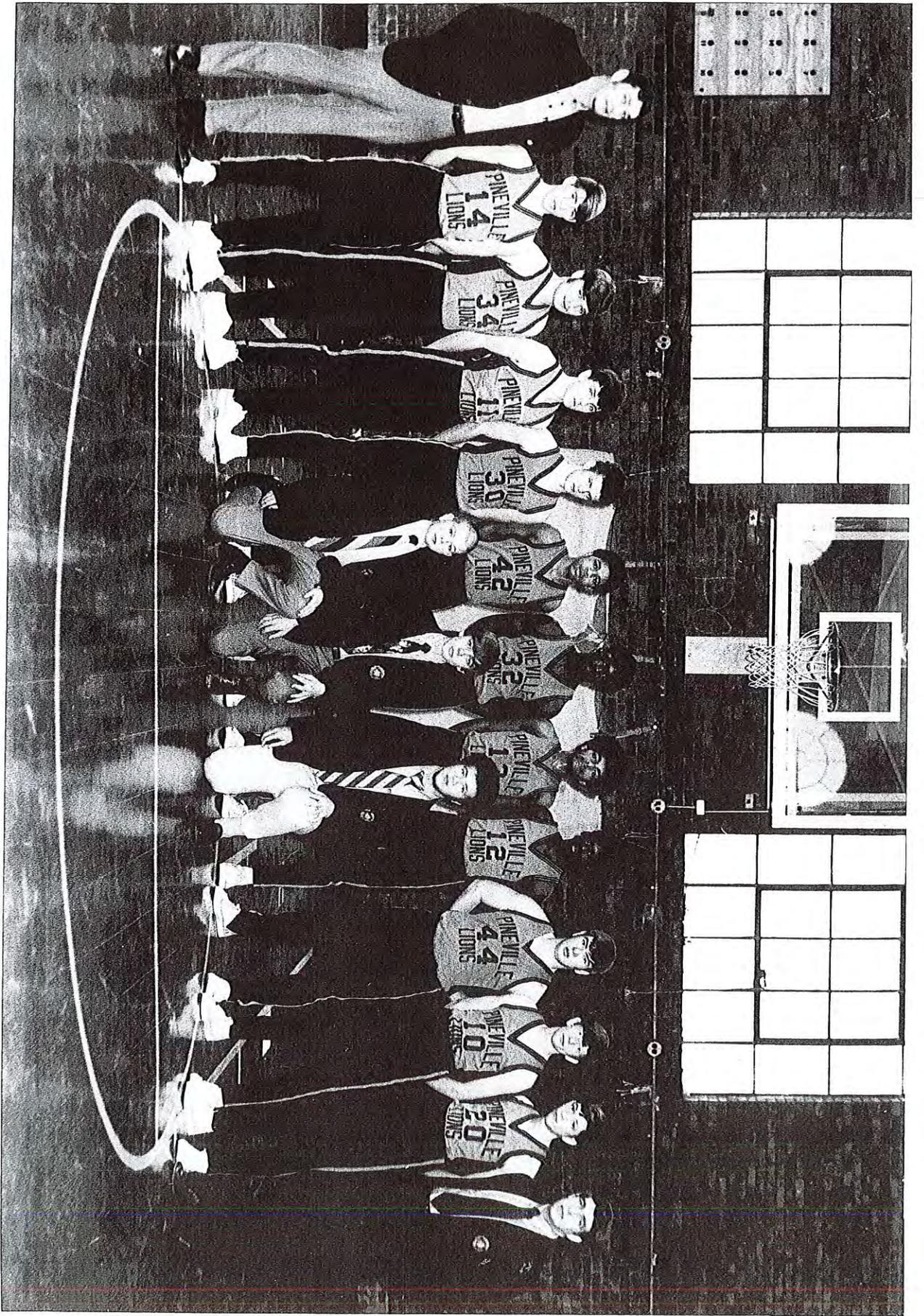
SUN-COURIER SPORTS



Tournament Plans

Pineville head basketball coach Harlan Davidson goes over last minute plans for the Mountain Lions first tournament test tonight. With Davidson are assistant coach Bill Adams and Mike Crockett. The Pineville Team is scheduled to meet the winner of last night's Lone Jack-Henderson Settlement game. (SUN-COURIER Photo.)





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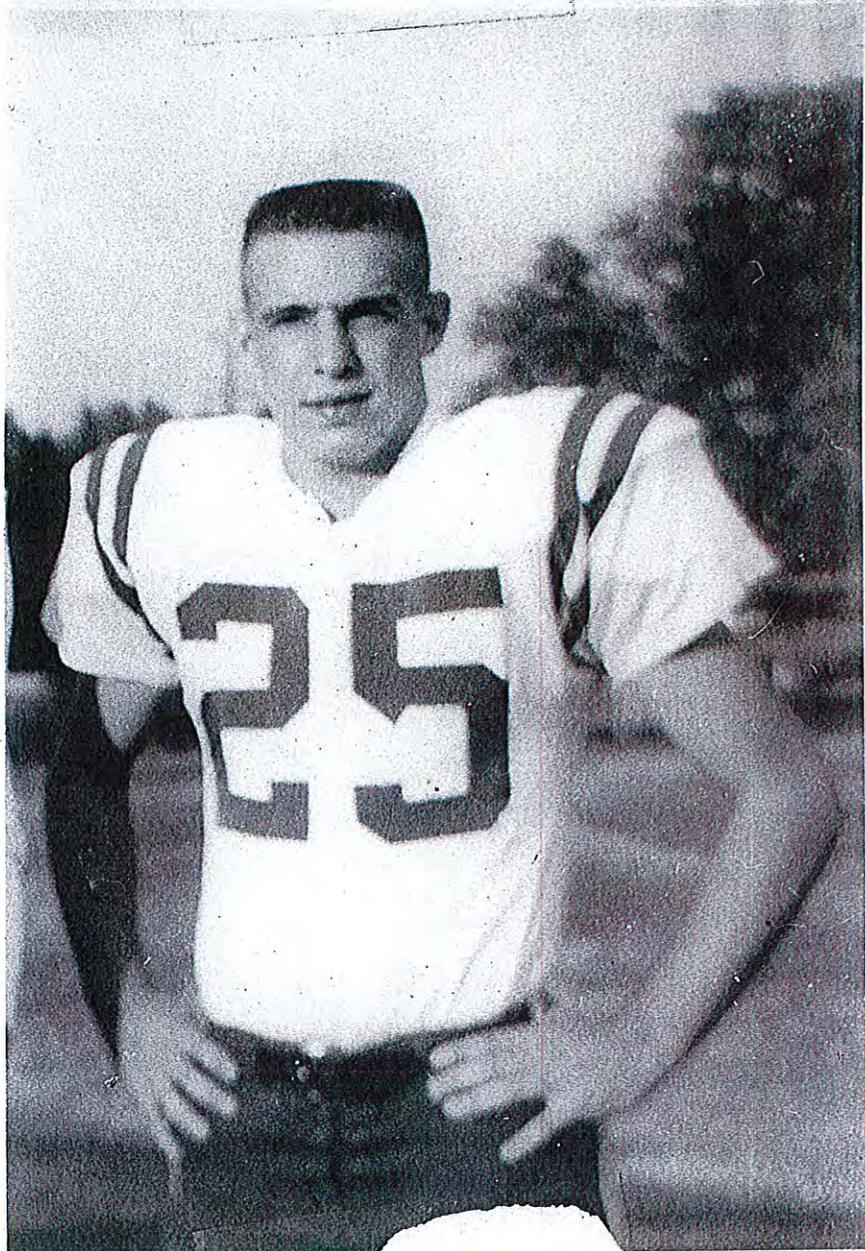
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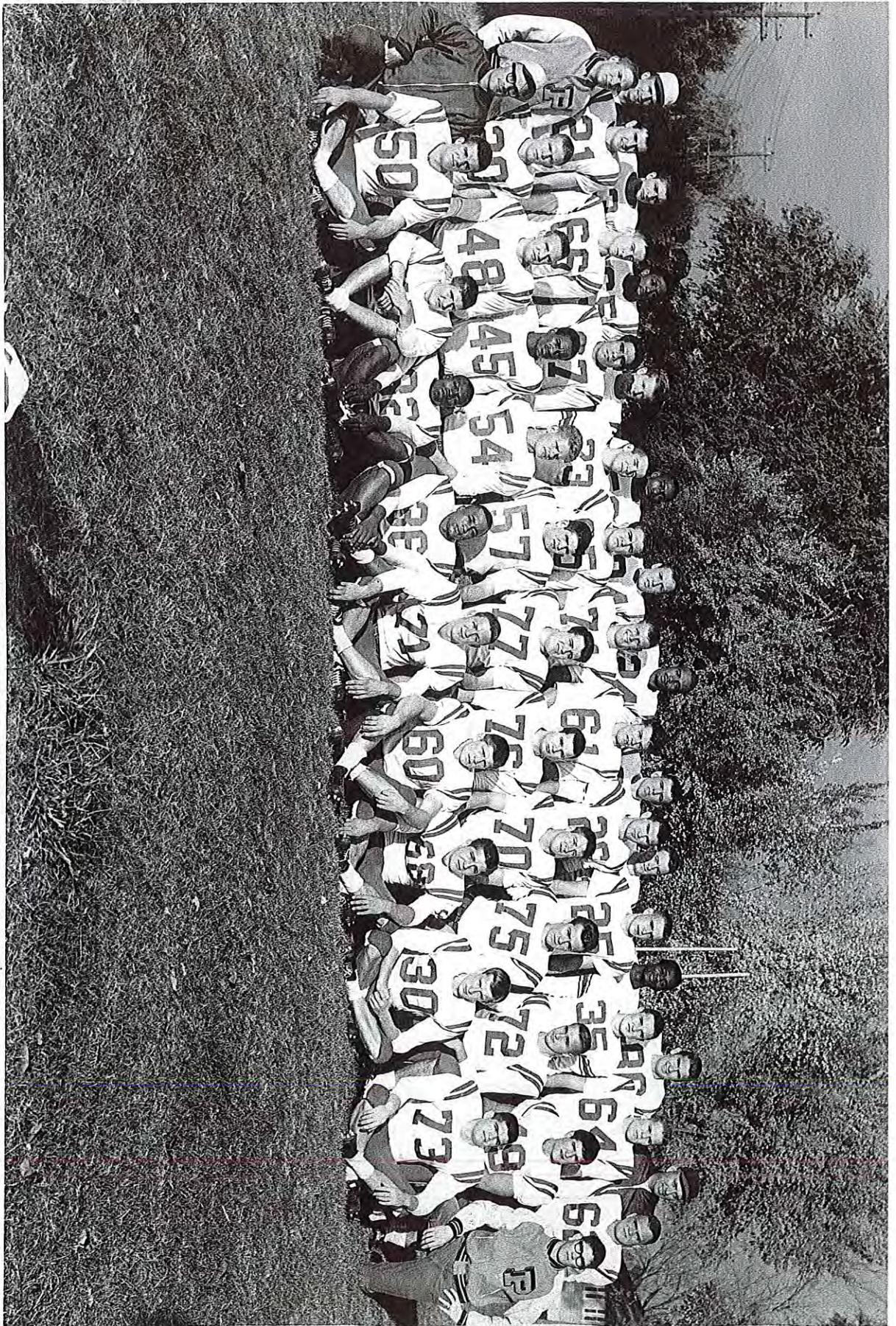
Ex-Bulldog Player Is Colorado Star

A former Hazard Bulldog gridiron star, Harlan Davidson, Jr., is continuing his winning ways in college football. Now a freshman at Pueblo College, Pueblo, Colorado, he has played first string football nearly all season.

The Pueblo Indians finished a few days ago the '62 season, with a 7-3 winning record, which Coach Joe Prater called Pueblo's best in his 6-year regime.

In the season closer, halfback Junior Davidson was on the receiving end of a 17-yard touchdown pass from teammate Bob Berry, who successively connected on 10 of 24 passes for a total of 153 yards. Final score was Pueblo 30 — Colorado State 6.

Davidson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Davidson, Sr. of Hazard, was a Bulldog star throughout high school play.



"We Were Winners!" Says Former Hazard Great Junior Davidson

When he moved from Chavies to Walkertown little did Junior Davidson know about the course his young life was about to take in the world of athletics. Junior had played basketball of course but had never played organized football.

Moscoe Blackburn and Shockey Bowling were the grade school football coaches at Walkertown. There were four grade schools in the city that played football. Walkertown, Broadway, Lothair and Liberty. In Junior's first season, as a football player, his team, Walkertown, won the City championship, going undefeated. This was the beginning of a very remarkable string of victories for young Mr. Davidson.

Other than the much disputed 19-6 loss by Hazard to Somerset in Junior's freshman year, (Hazard had two touchdowns called back) only three times more would the flashy half back taste defeat as a member of the Hazard Bulldogs. Three straight years the Bulldogs lost to Fort Thomas Highlands in the playoffs. 1959, 1960 and 1961. But there were not any regular season losses other than the Somerset game.

In Junior's freshman year at Hazard he played with the likes of "Cat" Sizemore, Kenneth Cobb, Josh Handy, Joe Baker and Newt Green, to name a few. Davidson thought he was playing with grown men, being just a young freshman.

In his sophomore year he saw the beginning of what would become the "greatest football years" of Hazard High School. Hazard rolled through the 1959 season undefeated, only to lose to Highlands in the playoffs.

His junior year would be the same. Once again the Bulldogs would go undefeated only to lose to powerful Ft. Thomas Highlands once more.

Junior was hurt during his senior year. He had a torn cartilage at the beginning of the year. The coaches took him to a local Doctor who said that Junior had to have an operation and that he was through for the season. The coaches asked Davidson what he wanted to do and Junior said "I want to play!" No operation, Junior played, and played he did.

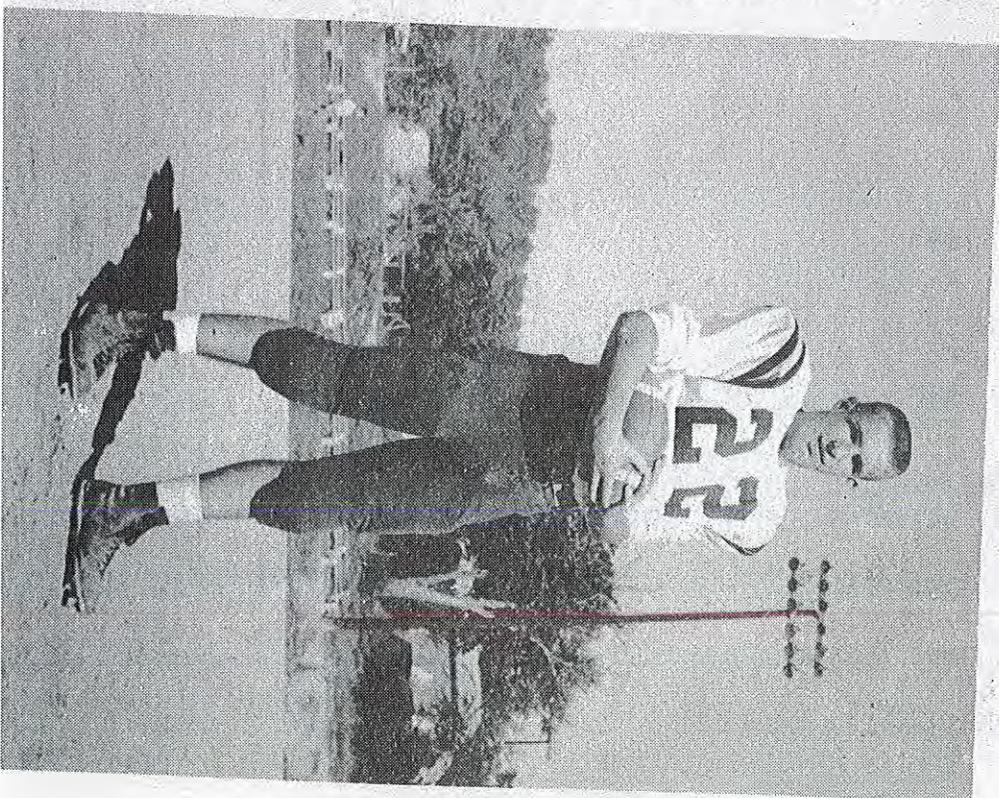
Hazard was the number one defensive team in the

state that year. Through ten games the Bulldogs had given up only twenty six (26) points. Seven to Belfry and nineteen to Middlesboro. Both games were routs. Belfry and Rick Kesner 51-7 and Middlesboro 49-19.

Jim Caudill, the infamous Bulldog mentor, never let his teams run up the score on weaker opponents. The Belfry game was different. Caudill had received several nasty letters regarding the game and before Hazard took the field he told his squad with a tear in his eye "Fellows, this one is yours, I won't call you off." With that, the Bulldogs clobbered Belfry.

The previous two seasons saw Hazard gain the playoffs over Corbin due to a system that is now defunct. They used stats, strength of schedule and so on to determine who would represent this region. This year, 1961, would be different. Hazard and Corbin would meet at Corbin to decide who got to play Highlands.

Corbin's hopes were pinned on a player named Roger Bird. You might recall that Bird went on to UK and played Pro ball for some time.



Hazard had a new assistant Coach, Walt Green, who

had been at Corbin the previous year. Green took Wallace "Biggin" Philon, who Davidson calls "as good a football player as I ever saw and also a very humble and as fine a person as you would want to be around," and told him, "Bird is your man. You go where he goes. If he goes to the bathroom, you go with him and knock the @X*& out of him. That's just what "Biggin" did.

Junior Davidson, playing the game of his career, playing hurt, tallied 186 yards and two touchdowns. Roger Bird, Corbin's all everything did manage to score the lone Redhound touchdown from half a yard out. Mr. Bird had minus, yes, minus rushing yardage against the number one team in the state in defense, the Bulldogs. Hazard won 18-6.

The next day the Lexington Herald had a big picture of Junior and a story about the game. Davidson was very quick to point out that the victory over Corbin was not a one man show. That it was a team effort, one that everyone had a big part in. Jack Robinson and A.J. Davis, Davidson's backfield teammates, both had good games, gaining almost one hundred yards apiece. But Davidson says the key to the win over Corbin was Wallace "Biggin" Philon's defensive play

on Roger Bird. That night, Bird belonged to "Biggin."

Hazard would High-lands the next week for the third straight year. This 1961 Bulldog team was thought to be the best ever by a lot of us. High-lands beat Hazard 34-0 to continue their dominance over the Bulldogs.

Thus Junior Davidson's high school career was over. Next was college. Junior signed with South Colorado State and headed West. One of the biggest thrills in Junior's college playing days was playing Air Force in their big stadium and winning 14-13. Junior scored both touchdowns for South Colorado State.

After college, Junior returned to the mountains to begin a career in coaching, at the high school level. He did his student teaching at Bell County High where he also was an assistant coach in both football and basketball. The next season Junior went to Pineville as head basketball coach and assistant football coach. In his two years at Pineville, his basketball team had 19-6 records.

Junior was also a graduate assistant coach under Guy Strong at Eastern. That same year, Eastern, Morehead and Western tied for the OVC and Eastern won the playoff and represented the OVC in the NCAA tournament. Eastern had to play Florida State, with

Ron King and Otto Petty. Florida State beat Eastern by only a single point in overtime. This was the same Florida State team that ended Adolph Rupp's great career and went to be national runner up to UCLA.

After a stint at Washington County, where Junior's team had their first ever 20 win season, he returned home to Hazard where he was an assistant coach in football and basketball and director of the grade school athletic programs.

Junior Davidson gives a lot of credit to his coaches and teammates for his success both in sports and everyday life. He also says that Willie Dawahare, former Hazard Mayor and businessman, played a great part in his young life. Willie played a great part in a lot of our lives. He truly loved high school sports and he truly loved the Bulldogs.

Today, Junior lives and works in Perry County. He no longer coaches, but if you are out on a given Friday night at a local high school football game you will probably see him on the field somewhere with a stripe shirt and a whistle. His love for the game, the kids and fans has never ended.

In basketball season you can hear Junior on WSGS with Jay broadcasting local games, mostly Hazard and the district, regional and state tournaments. Junior says Jay Las-silo has the best recall (memory)

of anyone he knows.

When we did this interview with Junior it was evident that he spoke from deep in his heart. As we talked about days gone by, Junior's face would reflect how he felt and still feels about Jim Caudill, Willie Dawahare, his teammates at Hazard and of course the kids he coached. Junior Davidson was a terrific football player at Hazard High School. He is a terrific human being..... Good Day!

The 1960 Hazard Bulldogs

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