

## Terry Compton

Terry Compton grew up on a dairy farm near Horse Cave, Kentucky in the late 1960s. He was the kid who followed the path that many young boys do in Kentucky; he turned everything into a basketball game. He constructed a makeshift basket in the loft of the barn during the winter. In the summer, he tacked a basketball goal on the outside of the barn door. He needed no one to insist he practice; he practiced because he loved the game.

Yet, his family encouraged him, especially his brother who had a similar passion for basketball that Terry did. His parents allowed him to practice every afternoon after school instead of helping with the farm chores. Terry progressed; he got better and better. Terry was a natural at the game and being 6'5" helped put him ahead of many players who were his peers.

He played the game every chance he had. He played on his junior high school team, but soon was elevated to the varsity when he was an eighth grader. It was no wonder he was ready for high school competition when he got to his freshman year.

Many basketball fans began to notice what a wonder this kid was on the court. He could shoot a ten-foot jump shot, he could hit a three-pointer often (remember these were actually only counted as two at this time in the game), he hardly missed a free throw. He was known for stealing the ball at the end of a game when his team was behind and making a last second shot to win the game. He played several games where he scored forty to fifty points.

During his junior year of high school, Terry began to receive letters from all across the nation from schools like Duke, North Carolina, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Western Kentucky. The number of recruiting letters began to number over one hundred. However, the one school that spoke promisingly to Terry and his parents was Vanderbilt University. The coach and staff believed he would round out the team they had put together beginning in 1970. This, and Vandy being such a noted school for engineering, caused Terry to cast his lot with Vanderbilt. He never regretted his choice.

As Terry began to make himself known in Nashville for his great shooting ability, especially the long shots he made, he became known as the “Kentucky Long Rifle.” He always liked that nickname because it showed that others appreciated the kind of basketball Terry was capable of playing and that he loved his home state of Kentucky.

Hart Memorial High School Hardyville, KY 42746

1966-1969

Hart County High School Munfordville, KY 42765

1969-1970

Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN 37203

1970-1974

Hart Memorial High School

1967 All-District Team

1968 All-District Team

All-Fifth Region Team

All-SKAC (Southern Kentucky Athletic Conference) Team

1969 All-District Team

All-Regional Team

All-SKAC Team

Hart County High School

1970 All-District Team

All-Regional Team

All-SKAC Team

All-State Team

(Scored 20 points with 12 rebounds for state tournament game)

(Scored 25 points with 15 rebounds for still the all-time leading scorer for Hart County Raiders)

1970 Kentucky All-Stars Team

KY-Indiana All-Stars Team

Vanderbilt University

1970 Freshman Team (Holds Record for Leading Scorer)

1971-74 Varsity Team (Leading Scorer for all three years)

- 1973 Traveled with team for good-will tour -  
Dominican Republic and Haiti
- 1974 Mid-east Regional Tournament Tuscaloosa, AL  
All-SEC Team  
All-SEC Academic Team  
All-American Academic Team  
Recognized as a Tennessee All-Star  
Pizza Hut Classic, Las Vegas (Leading Scorer)  
Averaged 87.3% for free throws for entire Vanderbilt career

