

Hart Was State Basketball Legend

BY JON GARRETT
Press Sports Editor

Before there was Michael Jordan, Larry Bird or Magic Johnson to talk about there was a 5-10 hard-nosed player by the name of George Hart down in the small community of Frances.

Hart was a fan-favorite at the tiny school and brought the team national attention with his impressive scoring on the court. He also garnered lots of recognition for his antics on the court, and was a crowd favorite everywhere the Bulldogs traveled.

Many schools would have to transfer their home games to a larger gym to accommodate the fans that wanted to see the "Sensational Hart" play.

This bullnecked forward learned to play basketball in his childhood years in Baltimore, playing "alley-ball." He was a four-year starter for Frances (1946-50) and shattered the high school scoring mark set by Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones of Harlan.

"I grew up playing with the blacks in Baltimore," explained Hart. "And even back then they were more advanced in the game."

Hart scored 402 points in his freshman season, an amazing 840 his sophomore year. 565 as a junior and finished his illustrious career with 698 senior points, to give him a 4-year total of 2505 points.

During his career at Frances Hart's team had a combined record of 130-18. Not bad for a school that had a grand total of 27 boys — all of which played basketball.

"Back then people were too poor to do a whole lot, so basketball offered the kids entertainment," he said.

Three times Hart led his team to the regional finals, and three times they were defeated by Frank Ramsey and the Madisonville Maroons.



George Hart

as he did was amazing."

Following his high school career Hart was offered a scholarship to play for the University of Kentucky and legendary coach Adolph Rupp.

Hart traveled to Lexington and worked out with the Wildcats during summer practice following his graduation, but things didn't work out.

"I got up there and was amazed by all the pretty girls and things to do. It was a big adjustment coming from Frances.

"Coach Rupp told me I wasn't here to look at the girls, I was here to play basketball. It just didn't work."

Hart said another factor in him opting not continue his playing career was the opportunity to get a job and start making some money.

"Back then things were a lot

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Sensational George Hart of Frances May Eclipse Wah Wah Jones' Record

BY HARRY BOISER, Courier-Journal Staff Writer

Frances, Ky., Jan. 21.—Bullnecked George Hart, the husky hardwood harrier of the Frances Bulldogs, is rolling on to a new individual scoring mark in Kentucky high school basketball.

Hart hit the hoops for 32 points today, that put his total at 316 for his big full season.

He finished this season with 14 games of 20 or more points in his shooting.

Hart hit the net for 1946-1947, 1947-1948, 1948-1949 and 1949-1950. He has averaged 22.5 points a game and still top Jones' mark.



HOW HE DOES IT—George Hart of Frances, who may break "Wah-Wah" Jones' four-year high school scoring record, shows how he makes em and Frances coach Louis Edfield watch. Hart makes only 276 points to equal Jones' national mark of 2,398 points. Hart had a 22.5 point average per game in the first 14 contests.

Sturdy Jones. He played 14 games against Shiloh. He is a point guard and a forward. He has scored 402 points in 14 games. He has a 28.7 average per game. He is a very good player. He is a very good player. He is a very good player.

Gifted With Good Hands. The boy also is gifted with good hands and power. He is a very good player. He is a very good player. He is a very good player.

Other members of the team are Bill Brown, Fred C. Brown, and Fred C. Brown. They are all very good players. They are all very good players. They are all very good players.



IN THE LATE '40s and early '50s George Hart burned the nets at Frances High School. The Courier Journal was just one of many papers following his accomplishments. To the