

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

By HARRY BOLSER, 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.

In a recent game, January 10, Hart hit the hoops for 32 points against Salem, Livingston County. That bag full of baskets boosted his total this season to 316 in 14 games and gives him a grand total of 2,123 points since he started shooting for the varsity in his freshman year, 1946-1947.

Hart now needs only 276 to beat "Wah Wah" Jones' record of 2,398 for four years of high school basketball at Harlan. Frances has 16 regular season games to go, plus the district tournament. He has averaged 22.5 points per game thus far this season. He can drop to a 16-point average the rest of the way and still top Jones' mark.

Getting Tougher

It's going to be a little tougher for Hart in the stretch drive toward a new record, says his coach, Louis Litchfield, known in Kentucky high school basketball as a State tournament referee.

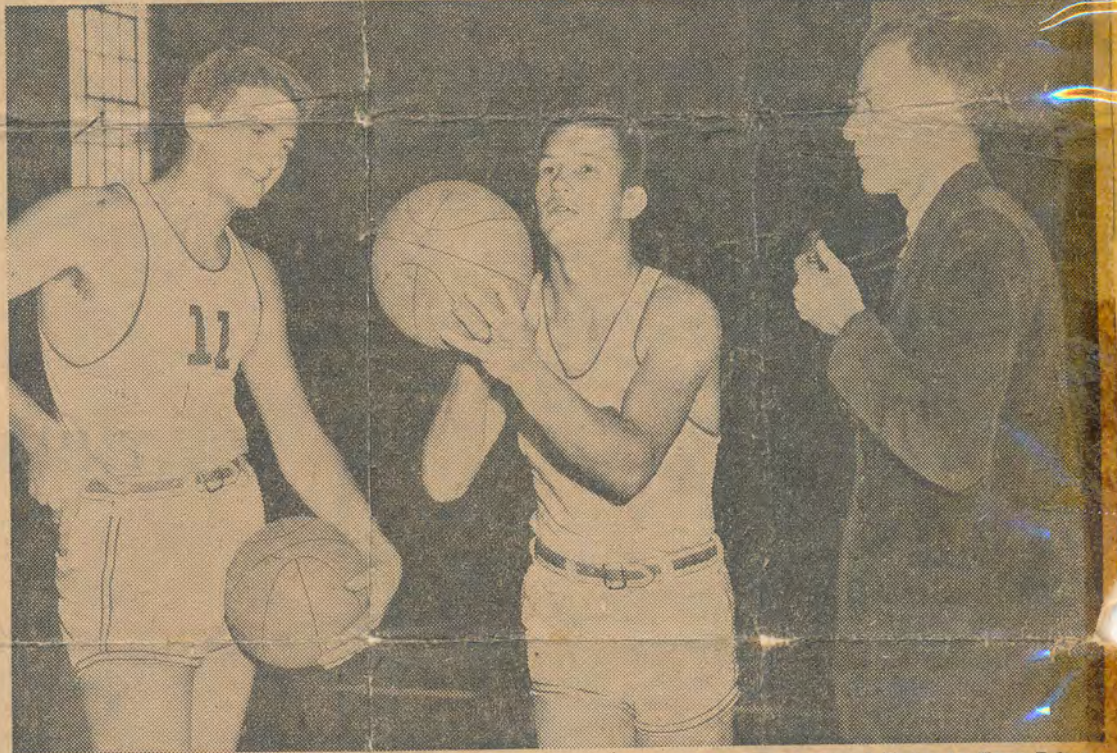
"Everybody is after Hart," opines Litchfield. "For a long time most of our opponents put their two best defensive players on George. Now that he has a chance of setting a new State scoring record they're putting three men on him and resorting to every trick in the game to cut him down and keep him from scoring."

Hart, according to Litchfield, has the most perfect balance of any high school basketball player he has ever seen and the keenest pair of eyes. Even though he seldom takes a set shot, Hart is almost perfectly balanced every time he cracks at the hoop. He is able to balance himself and target the net in less than a split second after receiving the ball. The instantaneous synchronization of mind and muscle in Hart's body is nearly perfect, according to his coach.

Gifted With Good Hands

The boy also is gifted with good hands and powerful wrists. He's built like a middleweight wrestler—5-11, 172 pounds, broad shoulders and bull neck. He is rugged on rebounds and gets his share. Always in top physical condition, Hart constantly is on the move in a game and handles the ball a lot.

Twice in four years Hart has scored 40 points in a game—once against Tolu in the 1947-1948 season and this season against



Courier-Journal Photos by Harry Bolser

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 as teammate Carlos Bailey (left) and Frances coach Louis Litchfield watch. Hart needs 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.

Shady Grove. He played only three quarters against Shady Grove.

Hart's point total per season runs like this: 1946-1947 (freshman) 402; 1947-1948 (sophomore) 840; 1948-1949 (junior) 565; 1949-1950 (senior) 316 in 14 games.

Torrid Article

Bailey, Hart's running mate, is a pretty torrid article in the hoop business, too. He has counted 260 points in 13 games this season for a 20-point average and has a total of 1,315 for the two and half seasons he has played on the Frances varsity. Bailey is the Bulldog tip-in artist who works cleverly from the pivot.

Other members of the Bulldogs, who boast of a 13-1 record this season, are Bill Perkins and Don Brasher, forwards; Clayton Shewcraft and Fred Penn, centers and forwards, and W. F. Simpkins, Bruce Ordway, Clyde Polk and Hollis Ordway, guards.

In the four years Litchfield has been at the Frances helm, the Bulldogs have won 104 and lost 14. They haven't been whipped on the home court since 1947.

There's no doubt they're try-

ing to stop Hart from scoring. He's probably the most marked basketball player in the State at this stage of the season. There's a basketball by-word in the Pennyrite that goes like this: "Stop Hart if you have to stop the game."

Keeps Rolling Along

But this 19-year-old son of the fluorspar country of Crittenden County, just keeps rollin' along. He flips the ball from every angle imaginable—and some you can't imagine—and makes 'em. A coach of an opposite Pennyrite team cracked after Hart beat his boys with 34 points: "It wouldn't have surprised me if he had flipped the ball under one leg and made one."

They say Hart is the most unorthodox basketball shot in Western Kentucky. Opposing

players claim he never shoots the same way twice during a game. Litchfield says Hart uses only five different shots, but he practically has perfected all of them.

Hart himself says his favorite shots are a one-handed push heave from fairly close in, either at an angle or in front of the net, and a jump and hook from the pivot. He also hits with a two-handed push and a one-handed layup on the drive in.

At the gratis line, where he is deadlier than in action, Hart hits with a two-handed overhead toss.

It's Litchfield's opinion Hart's best shot is his one-handed hook on a cut-in to the foul line. He works a lot from the pivot, but more often takes handoffs from rangy Carlos Bailey, the Frances center and the key player in the Bulldogs' attack.