

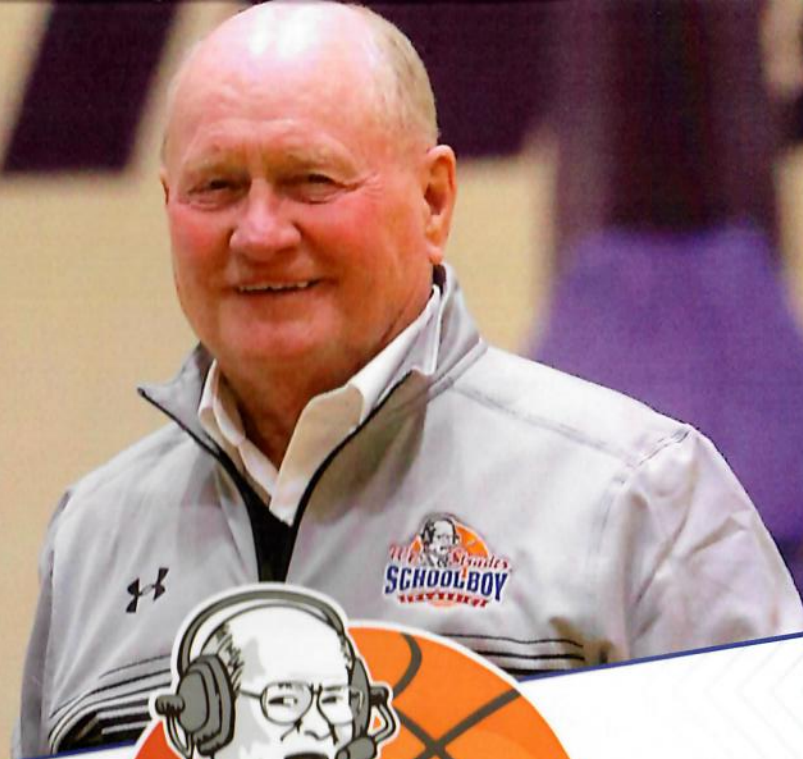



  
**Liberty**  
Print • Apparel • Signs

Winning solutions can keep you in the game.  
Contact Jennifer Oaks for an appointment today!

Full Color Printing   Digital Printing   Business Forms   Stationery  
Graphic Design   Promotional Products   Team Apparel   Screen Printing  
Embroidery   Signs   Mail Prep   Inventory Management   And Much More...

3021 Nashville Road | Bowling Green, KY 42101 | 270.782.7829 | [LibertyImaging.com](http://LibertyImaging.com)



  
*Wes Strader*  
**SCHOOLBOY**  
CLASSIC

HOSTED BY  
WARREN CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM**  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018

  
**BSN SPORTS**

**LEACHMAN**  
 **BUICK** |  **GMC**

**Key Oil Company**  
A DIVISION OF KEYSTOPS LLC





Photo courtesy of WKU Athletics

## WELCOME TO THE 3RD ANNUAL WES STRADER SCHOOLBOY CLASSIC.

Wes Strader is probably the most honored and decorated sports journalist in Kentucky history. His love and commitment to high school sports led to the naming of this Classic.

Charles Wesley "Wes" Strader, the "Voice of the Hilltoppers" was the radio play-by-play broadcaster for Western Kentucky University football and men's basketball for 36 seasons and one of the most prom-

inent figures in the commonwealth of Kentucky's sports broadcasting history, passed away Tuesday evening on January 9, 2018. He was 79.

Please read the following of just some of Wes' accolades, and you will surely agree that we all are honored to be apart of this great Classic.

*David Jagers*

David Jagers  
General Manager  
Leachman Buick, GMC, Cadillac

- Inducted in to the Kentucky Journalism Hall of Fame
- Inducted in to the Kentucky Broadcasting Mic Hall of Fame
- Inducted in to the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame
- Inducted in to the Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame
- Honorary Member Kentucky Mr. Basketball Association
- Honorary Member WKU "W" Club. (Organization of WKU Athletic Letter Winners)
- Recipient of the Media Lifetime Achievement Award from Kentucky Basketball Coaches Association
- Recipient of the Paul R. Just Award presented by WKU "W" Club (Award is for those who would probably be in the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame but that Hall of Fame is limited to former players and coaches.)
- Served on screening committee for the Dawahares KHSAA Athletic Hall of Fame
- Served on the screening committee for the WKU Athletic Hall of Fame
- Associate member of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association
- Broadcast many NCAA and NIT Tournament games including three final fours
- Served as a member



Photo courtesy of WKU Athletics

WES STRADER ON THE SIDELINE OF THE SPRING FOOTBALL GAME DURING THE JACK HARBAUGH YEARS.

of Board of Directors for the Bowling Green Boys Club for 18 years.

- Co-Host of Cats Talk on UK Network for 8 years
- Hosted Local Sports Weekly talk show for 43 years
- In 1996, Wes broadcasted the first professional football game to be played in Asia on English speaking radio throughout Asia. Game was played in Taipei, Taiwan.
- Broadcast Boys Sweet 16, the Boys State High School Basketball Tournament for 53 years, which is the longest anyone has worked a broadcast event.
- Play-By-Play voice of WKU Hilltoppers football and Basketball for 36 years.



## TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

- 10:30 GAME** Redemption Christian Academy vs. Cooper  
**12:00 GAME** John Hardin vs. Butler Traditional  
**1:30 GAME** Owensboro Catholic vs. Fern Creek  
**3:00 GAME** Warren Central vs. Mercer County





## LONGTIME "VOICE OF THE HILLTOPPERS" WES STRADER PASSES AWAY

1/9/2018 9:39:00 PM | WKUSports.com

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Charles Wesley "Wes" Strader, the "Voice of the Hilltoppers" as the radio play-by-play broadcaster for Western Kentucky University football and men's basketball for 36 seasons and one of the most prominent figures in the commonwealth of Kentucky's sports broadcasting history, passed away Tuesday evening. He was 79.

Updated Jan 10, 5:01 p.m. | Arrangements will be held at Eastwood Baptist Church (500 Eastwood Ave.) in Bowling Green and arrangements have been entrusted to J.C. Kirby and Son. Visitation will be held Monday, Jan. 15 from 2-8 p.m., and funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 16. An additional visitation period will also be held Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. until funeral services begin.

Inducted into the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame in 2002, Strader earned a reputation as one of the outstanding radio sports broadcasters in the state through his work covering

Hilltopper basketball and football, and his longtime involvement with the broadcast of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association "Sweet Sixteen" boy's state basketball championships.

"We are deeply saddened at Wes Strader's passing," said Director of Athletics Todd Stewart. "He was an iconic broadcaster in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a loyal member of the WKU family, whose friendship and dedication to the Hilltoppers spanned decades. His Hall of Fame broadcasting career was intertwined with generations of our athletes, coaches, administration and fans and positively impacted all whom he touched. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Sue, son Chuck, and daughter, Kim."

On February 21, 2013, Strader was accorded a unique honor from his alma mater when WKU unveiled a banner bearing his name in the rafters of E.A. Diddle Arena, alongside the great athletes and coaches in the history of Hilltopper and Lady Topper basketball. To date, Strader's banner remains the only banner hung across all WKU sports for

a non-player or former coach.

Over the years, Strader's career coincided with so many of WKU's all-time great coaches, administrators, and student-athletes as evidenced by the fact that 47 members of the W-Club's Hall of Fame inductees from football and men's basketball (88 total) played or coached during Strader's time behind the microphone.

A native of nearby Barren County, he grew up on the family farm near Hiseville, Ky., and was a graduate of Hiseville High School, where he played both football and basketball.

His association with Hilltopper Athletics goes back to the late 1940s when, as a 10-year-old, he began regularly attending athletic events on The Hill with his father, a season ticket holder.

His career in radio began at WKAY (now WGGC) in Glasgow in 1957 while he was in college at WKU. He enrolled at Western Kentucky University in 1955 and spent three years on The Hill before transferring to the University of Kentucky to obtain a degree in radio arts. While in Lexington, he began his involvement with radio play-by-play of athletics, first with the campus station and later as a back-up on the UK network and doing high school games in nearby Frankfort.

Strader then returned to Hiseville to help with the family dairy business that also served the Bowling Green area. It was then that Hank Brosche, the owner of WKCT radio in Bowling Green, asked the young Strader if he would be interested in doing the play-by-play if the station added game coverage of Hilltopper events.

That was in 1964 and Strader has been

associated with Hilltopper football and basketball ever since. His first game on the courtside on the air was the Hilltoppers' 1964 basketball opener, also John Oldham's first game as the Topper head coach and All-American Clem Haskins' first varsity appearance.

Strader handled WKCT (and later WBLG) Hilltopper game broadcasts for the next 36 years until the conclusion of the 1999-00 season. In 2000, Strader began an eight-year run doing a post-game call-in show following Kentucky basketball contests while maintaining his regular sports talk show in Bowling Green. Then, in 2008, he returned to The Hill to host Hilltopper pre-game and post-game call-in shows until his health declined late in 2017. Strader is also the namesake of the local "Wes Strader Schoolboy Classic" which enters its third year in 2018, a high school basketball tournament which annually features eight top local, regional, and national teams.

Strader is survived by his wife, Sue, two children, daughter Kim and son Chuck, two grandchildren, grandson Wes and granddaughter Kara, and a great granddaughter, Olivia.





▲ COLOR ANALYST JOHN OLDHAM, JR. (LEFT), WES STRADER, AND FORMER HEAD COACH JOHN OLDHAM (RIGHT) CALL A HILLTOPPER BASKETBALL GAME.



◀ WES STRADER (CENTER) RECEIVES A COMMEMORATIVE GAME BALL IN CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS FROM JOHN OLDHAM & JIMMY FEIX.

WES STRADER INTERVIEWS FRANK GRIFFIN DURING A HILLTOPPER FOOTBALL GAME. ▶



▲ WES STRADER OVERLOOKS GAME FROM THE PRESS BOX AT L.T. SMITH STADIUM



▲ WES STRADER INTERVIEWS THEN-HEAD FOOTBALL COACH DAVE ROBERTS.

# BSN SPORTS™

FEEL THE STRENGTH



**Mark Harris**  
**270-799-4981**  
**mharris@bsnsports.com**