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VISITATION

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019
12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Dayton High School
Gymnasium
200 Green Devil Ln
Dayton, OH

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SERVICE

Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019
4:00 PM

Dayton High School
Gymnasium,
200 Green Devil Ln
Dayton, KY

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Stanley Steidel

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Stanley Steidel

Cold Spring - Stanley William Steidel, 78, of Cold Spring, KY passed away unexpectedly on November 4, 2019. He graduated from Dayton High School in 1959 and went on to play basketball for Brewton Parker Junior College in Mt. Vernon, GA. After playing two years there, he transferred to Villa Madonna College (now Thomas More College). After a 2-year stint with the Army, Steidel graduated with a bachelor's degree in education from UC and later obtained his Master's from Xavier University. Upon graduation, he began teaching at Dayton High School. While at Dayton, he held the title of the Coach with the most wins, with more than 300 victories in over 34 years. He never expected recognition for his accomplishments because in his eyes, he was just "doing his job." He was the Founder of the All A Classic for Northern Kentucky schools, which became a statewide tournament. He raised and awarded millions of dollars in scholarships for All A students. Starting this year, one female and male athlete will receive a scholarship in his name. He dedicated many hours to the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association (KHSADA) and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA). He served as president and chairman of the finance committee on the KHSADA board. Stan proudly served in the United States Army. He was the athletic director for Dayton High School and most recently, Holmes High School. Dayton High school gymnasium floor was named "Stan Steidel Court" in 2018 for his dedication to their athletic program. He was selected twice as the Kentucky High School Athletic Director of the Year, chosen as one of the 50 Most Powerful People in Kentucky Sports and inducted into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010. In addition to the Legacy Stan leaves behind, he is survived by his wife; Louise Jean (Baker) Steidel. Daughters; Melanie Pelle, Jennifer (Joe) Jones. Grandchildren; Paige Pelle, Steven (Abby) Pelle, Jordyn and Joel Jones. Great Grandchild; Addyson Pelle. Brother; Thomas (Sharon) Steidel and 3 nephews. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Elizabeth Steidel and son in law; Steve Pelle. Visitation will be held at Dayton High School Gymnasium, 200 Green Devil Ln, Dayton, KY 41074 on Sunday, November 10, 2019 from 12pm-4pm. Service will begin at 4pm. Memorials are suggested to the All A Classic Scholarship fund, c/o Dave Cowden, 1320 Lincoln Road, Lewisport, KY 42351. Cooper Funeral Home is serving the family.

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in peace."*

-Dean Traylor

*"Stan understood the importance
of relationships. His..."*

-Bill Smallwood

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HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

The father of the All 'A' Classic has died. 'His heart was to help.'

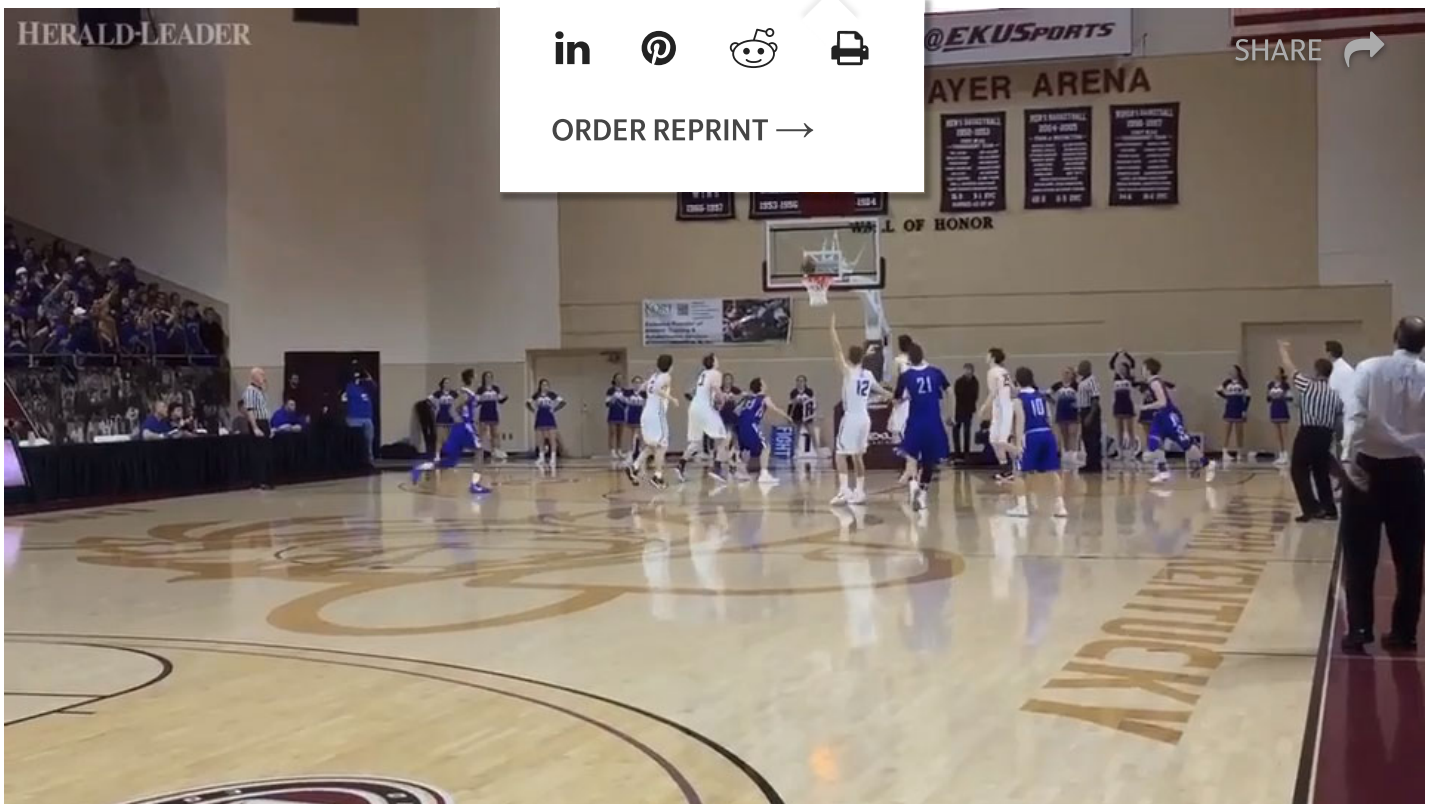
BY JARED PECK

NOVEMBER 05, 2019 04:27 PM, UPDATED NOVEMBER 06, 2019 11:39 AM



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Lexington Christian Academy's boys' basketball team defeated Walton-Verona, 47-41, in the boys' All "A" Classic at ECU on Sunday, January 28, 2018. BY MCCLATCHY

Stan Steidel, the longtime coach and athletics administrator credited with coming up with the idea for Kentucky high school basketball's All "A" Classic, died Monday in an auto accident at the age of 78, [according to reports](#) from several Northern Kentucky media outlets.

Steidel continued to work as athletics director at Holmes High School at the time of his passing and was a coach and administrator at Dayton High School for many years.

He served as the All “A” Classic’s chairman/president since its inception and left a legacy as a champion of students and athletes from Kentucky’s small schools.

“Stan was a great youth ambassador,” said Mike Reeves, who has served alongside Steidel on the Classic’s executive committee as secretary and events coordinator for many years. “The thing that has impressed me the most about Stan is that’s where his heart was. His heart was to help all people, but especially young people. Through the 25 years or so that I’ve worked with him, he’s always, always put the kids first.

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“You can’t hardly find people (these days) who are willing to give the time he gave with no compensation for it. Everything he’s ever done for the All ‘A’ has been free. ...

As a basketball coach at Dayton in 1979, Steidel worked with other small-school coaches in Northern Kentucky to establish the first Class “A” Tournament at Holy Cross High School in Latonia in 1980. It began with eight teams from the area. Soon, it expanded to invite teams from elsewhere in the state until it finally went statewide in 1990 with a Sweet Sixteen-style format played in the middle of the basketball season.

“We’re not on a crusade, and we’re not making a statement against or for anything,” Steidel said ahead of the tournament’s expansion in 1990 amid pressure that Kentucky follow suit with other states and divide high school basketball into classes because of concerns about smaller schools struggling to compete for a state championship. “We just want to give the small schools in the state a chance to accomplish something special. We think it’s an idea that will be successful.”

The 1990 event at Memorial Coliseum was so successful the Classic added a girls' tournament the next year.

“He certainly had given almost his entire career to defending opportunities for small schools,” said Julian Tackett, commissioner of the Kentucky High School Athletics Association. “He will definitely be missed. Passion comes to mind. Tenacity comes to mind. Never really had to question his motivation. It was always about student opportunities. ... He was very much devoted to the experience for the kids, particularly those at the small schools.

Today, there's an All “A” Classic for basketball, baseball, softball, golf, soccer, volleyball, cheerleading and an art competition.

And the Classic awards dozens of \$1,000 scholarships each year to students from small schools with the total over its history topping well more than \$1.5 million, Reeves said.

“So, many times Stan was out trying to get money for scholarships,” Reeves said. “A lot of people don't understand the All ‘A’ is so much more than athletics. That was Stan's dream to not only help the athletes but all the kids.”

The basketball tournament crossed the 1 million attendance mark for its history in 2015.

Many credit the All “A” Classic's success for perhaps helping save Kentucky's traditional one-class basketball system.

As former Herald-Leader writer Mike Fields wrote in 2015: “The All ‘A’ isn't the grand show of the KHSAA boys' and girls' state tournaments, but it's a big deal. The biggest deal, though, is that the

All “A” may have saved Kentucky’s one-class state tournament. By providing small schools a realistic shot at glory, the push to break basketball up into classes — as Indiana did — eased off.”

Tackett said the All “A” certainly helped alleviate calls for “substantial change” to basketball.

“By having (the All ‘A’), smaller schools got two bites at the apple, and it was a very good relationship,” Tackett said of the Classic’s role in the sport and with the KHSAA.

Steidel was a longtime member and past president of the KHSAA Board of Control. He was inducted into the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame in 2005. [Dayton honored Steidel](#) by dedicating its basketball court in his name in 2018. Steidel graduated from Dayton in 1959.

Word of his passing generated an outpouring of sympathy and praise on social media Monday evening.

“Sad to hear about the passing of Stan Steidel,” Covington Holy Cross boys’ basketball coach Brandon Grammer wrote on Twitter among many other condolences. “He was a great ambassador for student-athletes and a great man. Thankful for the 2 years I got to work with him at Holmes.”



Stan Steidel, left, created the All "A" Classic in hopes of giving small-school students a better chance at experiencing championship glory. MARK CORNELISON LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER

GALLERY



JARED PECK

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Jared Peck, the Herald-Leader's Digital Sports Writer, covers high school athletics and has been with the company as a writer and editor for more than 19 years.

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BY DAVE CANTRALL *SPECIAL TO THE HERALD-LEADER*

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Steidel made major contributions to Kentucky high school athletics

Posted Tuesday, November 5, 2019 3:27 pm

By **TERRY BOENMKER**, Kentucky Forward

The sudden death of Stan Steidel on Monday will be sad news all across the state of Kentucky because of the impact he had on high school sports. For the last 29 years, he directed the All “A” Classic that gave young people in small schools from Paducah to Pikeville an opportunity to compete for state titles in several sports.

Steidel never received a salary for his year-round work with the non-profit classic that he created. He always said he was “doing it for the kids” and considered it one of his most important contributions to Kentucky high school athletics.

“The coaches that I had in high school and college were amazing people who helped shape me into the person I am today,” he once said. “I knew early on that I wanted to follow in their footsteps and serve as coach and teacher to young men and women when I graduated from college.”

Steidel, 78, was athletic director at Holmes High School in Covington for the last several years. On Monday evening, faculty members received an email from the principal’s office that read: “I regret to inform you that Stan Steidel has passed away. He had a medical emergency on his way home from work today.”

Details of exactly what happened weren’t immediately available. Alvin Garrison, superintendent of Covington Independent Schools, did release a statement.

“He was a great leader and a great athletic director,” Garrison said. “We’re sorry for his family, our school family and, most of all, our student athletes. He will be missed dearly.”

Jack Moreland once worked with Steidel and became a close friend. He said they would always celebrate New Year’s Eve together with their wives.

“His health wasn’t good, but he sure didn’t let that get in his way,” Moreland said. “He’d go every day and

do what he needed to do to take care of things for kids, so you had to admire him for that.” Steidel graduated from Dayton High School in 1959 and returned in 1966 to become a teacher and coach at the small town school. In his 34 years at Dayton, he coached baseball, football, and basketball. He also served as the school’s athletic director for 25 years.

Stan Steidel, left, congratulates former Holmes coach Mike Listerman after getting his 300th win.

While he was coaching at Dayton, Steidel led a movement to force the Kentucky High School Athletic Association to adopt a class system for high school basketball playoffs. When their lawsuit was unsuccessful, Steidel started the All “A” Classic boys basketball tournament for small schools.

Nine high school teams from Northern Kentucky competed in the first tournament in 1980. Ten years later, it became a statewide event with 16 regional champions competing in a small-school state tournament.

The All “A” Classic continued to grow under Steidel’s leadership. It now offers small school state tournaments in boys and girls basketball, soccer, golf, volleyball, baseball and softball.

“I know he had a board of directors, but he was a prime mover behind it all,” said Moreland, former superintendent of Dayton Independent Schools.

“I’ve had dozens of people say, ‘Why is Stan still doing all of that.’ I’d tell them the No. 1 thing is he wants to do it for the kids and No. 2 is he loves it himself. He did it because he loved to do it. I don’t think total retirement ever came to his mind.”

During his 53-year career in education, Steidel was president of the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association and served four terms on the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Board of Control.

His primary goal in both of those positions was doing what’s best for student-athletes across the state.

“I’m not sure how many terms he served on the Board of Control, but he was there for quite a while and he was always doing something in that regard to make it better, too,” Moreland said. “Sometimes, they would make it more of a business and lose its focus in regards to kids and he would bring it back. So he had a big role he played with the Board of Control as well.”

Steidel also served as executive director of the Northern Kentucky Athletic Conference and helped start an annual Hall of Fame induction ceremony to honor local athletes, coaches and contributors.

He was selected the Kentucky High School Athletic Director of the Year twice and inducted into the National High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 2010. The gym floor at Dayton High School was named in his honor last year.

“Stan Steidel has been a mainstay in Northern Kentucky athletics for the last five or six decades,” said former Holmes boys basketball coach Mike Listerman. “When you stop and think about that it’s a tremendous amount of time, but to Stan it was his life’s passion. He always wanted to do what’s best for the kids. That was his motivation and that’s why he continued to do it all the way up to (Monday).”

Terry Boehmker is sports reporter for the Northern Kentucky Tribune



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