

## Dan Swartz

“Dangerous” Dan Swartz was a center for the Owingsville Bobcats from 1948–1951. Swartz led Owingsville to top-10 state rankings during both his junior and senior years. He suffered a knee injury that limited him to 10 games his senior season. He finished his high school career with 2,450 points and was named 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-State in both his junior and senior years as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-State his sophomore Year. He signed with the University of Kentucky and was one of the first players in UK history to play as a freshman in 1952. He transferred near the end of his freshman year from UK to Morehead where he was All-Ohio Valley Conference for 3 years, a 2-time All-American in 1955 and 1956 and led Morehead to their first NCAA tournament appearance and first NCAA tournament win in 1956. He finished both his junior and senior year at Morehead as one of the nation’s top 3 scorers each year. Swartz finished his 3-year career at Morehead holding 10 offensive records, including a total of 1,925 points (28.8 pts/gm average) which still ranks 4<sup>th</sup> on Morehead’s All-Time scoring list. Swartz was the Boston Celtics’ first selection in the 4th round of the 1956 NBA draft, but signed with the N.I.B.L. where he was 4-time All-League, 2-time League MVP, and 2-time All-Star Game MVP. In 1959, he won a gold medal in the Pan-American games where he was a starter with players such as Oscar Robertson and Jerry West. He played for multiple USA Basketball teams, traveling the world representing the U.S. in international competitions between 1958 and 1960. In 1960, Swartz joined the American Basketball League (precursor to the ABA), where he was one of the league’s leading scorers and All-Pro for 2 years. In 1962, after holding his NBA rights for 6 years, he signed with the Boston Celtics where he finished his basketball career during the 1962-63 season with an NBA World Championship under Coach Red Auerbach while playing alongside some of the NBA’s greatest legends like Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, John Havlicek and many others. In 1964, Dan retired back to Bath County where he farmed and was involved in local & state politics and law enforcement for many years. He died in 1997 at the age of 65 and was survived at the time by his wife Peggy, daughter Tamie, and sons Scott, Mike, Mark, and Chris.