

Dawahares / KHSAA Hall of Fame Nomination Form

KHSAA Form GE30
Rev. 4/03

Information about Nominee

Name:	Sam Harp
Is the nominee deceased? (circle)	YES NO
<i>(if nominee is not deceased, please fill out address information below)</i>	
Address:	605 Lorabrook St
City, State, Zip	Danville, KY 40422
Phone (list day and night)	Day - 859-238-1327 Night - 859-236-6944

Information about person making nomination (list "self" if self-nominating)

Name:	Bernie W. Miller
Address:	P.O. Box 482
City, State, Zip	Scottsville, KY 42164
Phone (list day and night)	(D) 270-618-4505 (N) 270-618-9855

Important Information Needed for ALL Nominees. This information is important to the Selection Process in helping to ensure that the desired objectives with regard to the consideration of nominees and the induction process is satisfied. (Application will not be accepted without this information)

Please list the primary category of nomination (circle)-

PLAYER	<input checked="" type="radio"/> COACH	OFFICIAL	CONTRIBUTOR
--------	--	----------	-------------

Birth Date of Nominee	8-17-53
-----------------------	---------

Sex (circle one)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Male	<input type="radio"/> Female
------------------	---------------------------------------	------------------------------

Is the nominee a minority (African American and others) as defined in 2(c)	<input type="radio"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No
--	---------------------------	-------------------------------------

If this person is being nominated as a Coach, please complete the following additional information-

Coached at which High School(s)	Calloway County H.S. Anderson County H.S.
Year of Retirement	NA
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	12th

(over for remainder of application)

If this person is being nominated as an Athlete, please complete the following additional information-

High School Attended	
Graduation Year	
Primary KHSAA basketball region as defined in 2(b)	

If this person is being nominated as an Official, please complete the following additional information-

Primary Officiating Accomplishments at the High School Level	
--	--

For persons being nominated in all categories, please complete the following additional information

Please summarize this person's accomplishments as a coach, player, official or contributor at the high school level in Kentucky.
<i>See attachment</i>

Please list any other factors about this individual that you would like for the Hall of Fame Committee to consider.
<i>See attachment</i>

I certify that I have truthfully completed this information about the nominee with the permission of the nominee, that he/she will accept induction if selected, and I will cooperate with the KHSAA should additional information be needed for his/her consideration.

Signature *Berny Miller* Name (print) Berny Miller Date 2-28-12

Attach any relevant press clippings and materials which would verify coaching win-loss records, or other statistical information. Also attach any other letters of recommendation of other information which may be helpful to the committee in making a final selection.

SAM HARP – Head Football Coach Danville High School

OVERALL CAREER (Danville, Anderson, Calloway)

309 wins – 98 losses 407 Total games 76 % winning percentage (31 years)

Playoff record- 79 wins – 19 losses 81% winning percentage

6th on Kentucky's All Time Winning List—3rd on Kentucky's Active Coaches Winning List

CAREER AT DANVILLE

259 Wins – 58 Loses 82% winning percentage

7 State Championships – 1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 2000, 2001 & 2003

Tied for 3rd in Kentucky History for most State Championship Appearances (10)

Third in Kentucky History for most State Championships won (7)

3 State Runner-ups – 1998, 2004 & 2006

Kentucky's 3rd longest winning streak in history – 42 (1991-1993)

16 Regional Championships 19 District Championships

Best career won-loss record in school history since 1924

COACHING HONORS

Kentucky Coach of the Year (Coaches Poll) 1986 & 1993

Associated Press Coach of the Year – 1993

Head Coach Kentucky All-Stars – 1991

Class AA Kentucky Coach of the Year – 1986, 1988, 1992, 1993 & 1994

Toyota Kentucky Coach of the Year – 1992 & 1994

National Federation Coach of the Year for Kentucky – 1994 (KY, PA, D.C., WVA, OH, MD)

Western Kentucky Conference Coach of the Year – 1981 & 1982

Advocate Messenger Football Coach of the Year – 1989 & 1995

Top 10 Kentucky Sportsman of the Year – 1992 & 2003 (Lexington Herald Leader)

Mid-State Conference Coach of the Year – 2001

District Coach of the Year – 2001, 2002, 2006, 2007 & 2010

NHSACA Finalist (1 of 8) for National High School Coach of the Year – 2003

Finalist for Kentucky Athletic Director of the Year – 2005

NHSACA Region 3 Coach of the Year– 2003 & 2008 (NC, SC, KY, TN, GA, FL, AL)

PROFESSIONAL

Founding Father & past President of the Kentucky Football Coaches Association –1994 & 1995

President of the Kentucky High School Coaches Association – 1995-1996

Executive Committee of the Kentucky High School Coaches Association – 1993-1996

Football Advisory Committee Member to the KHSAA – 1995-2011

Inducted into Franklin County High School Class of 2000 Hall of Fame

Inducted into Danville High School Class of 2006 Athletic Hall of Fame

ACHIEVEMENTS OF COACH SAM HARP

In addition to the outstanding achievements of Coach Sam Harp, he is also a devoted family man and a fine dedicated teacher and athletic director. Here are three examples of those personal situations.

At the wedding of his daughter Kila, his four year old granddaughter was the flower girl. Coach Harp, dressed in his tuxedo, was ready to escort Kila down the aisle. At the last minute, the little flower girl refused to walk ahead of the bride. After a few minutes of coaxing and pleading, Sam picked his granddaughter up in his arms and walked her down the aisle, spreading the rose petals himself as the congregation smiled and clapped. It is a tender memory that friends and fans of Coach Harp will never forget.

As a teacher, he exhibited dedication to the students of Danville High School. One year he was assigned to teach two classes in addition to his responsibilities as the school's athletic director. Even with the heavy load he was already carrying, he asked the administration to assign him another class so that he could reach even more students. When the class was announced, more than eighty students signed up for the class -- an obvious show of the students' respect for their football coach.

As athletic director, he closely monitored the grades of every athlete in the school, not only his football players. He conferred with teachers, held study halls, and counseled those students who were not succeeding. Because he was actively involved in the academic facet of the student athletes, he won the respect of the student body, the teachers, and the parents.

Coach Sam Harp is an exceptional football coach; moreover, he has had a huge positive impact on the entire student body and on the fans of Danville High School.

Berny Miller

2-28-12

Dear Selection Committee:

July 12, 2011

In the 23 years that I have known Sam Harp, there have been hundreds of moments during my association with this outstanding football coach, tremendous person, and true personal friend that reflect the character and integrity of this man we call "Coach Harp". The stories of the ups and downs of coaching and working in the school business would fill a book. But, one particular moment that I shared with Coach Sam Harp is particularly memorable. It has become more profound as time passes and I think illustrates the fiber of the man and what he stands for.

It started as a simple conversation with Sam while supervising the lobby of Danville High School. He had recently won his first state championship as the coach of the Danville Admirals. On that January afternoon the hype of the championship had begun to settle, allowing time for reflection. I posed the question, "So, what's next, Sam? What do you do now that you have won the state championship and have achieved what every coach lives and dies to do?" I fully expected him to say that he would like to coach in Danville for another couple of years, perhaps win another championship and then move on to a bigger school or perhaps coach at the college level. I honestly felt that with his ability and the quickness with which he attained such a high level of success, he would be gone in a season or two and I would be looking for a new head coach.

What he said was both astounding and gratifying. "I would like to build a program here and win a second championship, then a third, and a fourth, and just keep building on success after success. It's easier to get to the top than to stay on top. On top, everyone is gunning for you. I'd like to build our program to stay on top even when everyone is gunning for us." He told me that day that he was not done here and that he may never fully get finished building here. It was not about building his resume or establishing an awesome winning record as a coach. It was about building a program, about developing kids (some with talent and some with less) into players and a team that would be a title contender year after year.

Some people think that Danville just reloads every year. Others say that anyone could win in Danville. There are years that it might look like anyone could coach the team to at least a .500 season. But, none of this is true. In my 22 years as an administrator in the Danville Schools, I can think of only 4 Division I players in our program. Practically every team we played has had more. We have had a lot of good players, hard working and committed to winning when they walked onto the field. We have enjoyed that success year in and year out (even taken it for granted) because these players have been cultivated through a well conceived, finely tuned "program" that has developed them as people as well as students, players, and athletes to become contenders for a state championship each year. Sam Harp has done what he said he wanted to do. He has continued to operate a program that wins, builds on success, and remains on top even when everyone else is gunning for him – and has done so with the integrity and character of a champion. I respectfully request that he be selected to the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Bob Rowland



Retired Superintendent of the Danville Schools

Dawahares/KSHAA

Hall of Fame

Selection Committee

Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive

Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Selection Committee Members,

I consider it an honor to be selected to write a letter of support for Sam Harp to enter the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Three hundred wins coming this past 2010 football season is an outstanding achievement and milestone for Coach Sam Harp, assistant coaches, and many years of football players. It is truly remarkable that Sam's longevity of success of a winning football coach has placed him in the annals of high school football history in the state of Kentucky.

Sam is a shining light/ambassador/icon for the football program, the athletic program, Danville High School and the community of Danville. I sincerely hope Sam will continue to coach for many years to come. Yes, the winning tradition is great, but also important are the values his players learn from the coach to benefit their lives. Players before, now and in the future will leave high school ready for whatever their goals in life due partly to participation in the football program.

Coach Harp's reasons for success are simply stated as he is the "total package" and has all the qualities needed for success as a football coach. These are the essence for success for any coach:

- **Dedication and commitment to the players and the love of the game.**

The work ethic is incredible in relation to time in and out of season with the students. Great knowledge of the game is evident in the weekly game plan and his ongoing desire to be a student of the game to improve himself.

Sam and I attended the Kentucky High School Athletic Association convention yearly. After daily attendance of all athletic director workshops and training, Sam would spend most of his free time talking X's and O's with other football coaches from all over the state.

- **Adaptability/ player personnel decisions.**

Sam has developed great skills in regard to using the best systems for the talent pool of players on any given year. His placement of players in the total team concept is outstanding. He also is superb making game adjustments that gives him an edge in the competition.

Coach Harp initiated the Danville Youth Football program for younger students to promote football participation and skills development for the student athletes.

In 1988, when Sam arrived in Danville, I invited him out to lunch his first week here. I welcomed him to Danville and extended a hand of friendship between us and the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Danville athletic programs. Previous coach Tom Duffy was a true friend of KSD, and I hoped that Sam Harp would be also. Coach Harp was just super in cooperation and maintaining a good relationship between the schools. We contacted each other often and had a good professional relationship that benefited both schools.

In his first season we talked often about both football programs. Sam's transition to his new defense from the prior coach was most difficult, which is usually the case when the team is vested in a system.

Midway through the season, Harp adapted to the challenge by using some of the former defensive sets along with the new systems. The team had immediate success after the decision was made. Total acceptance occurred and from that point on, history of the program speaks for itself.

- **Unselfish leader.**

Harp leads by example and follows the Golden Rule with interpersonal relationships with all persons connected to the program. The assistant coaches at Danville are valued and are delegated responsibilities as part of the total program. This goes for all other folks connected to the program. Harp has affected the quality participation of many football players across the state by being actively involved with the Kentucky Football Coaches Association. Sam served a term as the president of the organization.

In 1993 the Kentucky Coaches education program began. Harp was exempt from the requirement, but he chose to take the class because he knew all of the DHS coaches would take it and he did not want to require them to do so if he did not take it himself. It really made me nervous as the teacher to have him and Gary Reynolds in the very first class, for I thought they were more qualified to teach the class than I was. The day was most successful and a learning experience for all of us.

For the next 10 years Harp volunteered and came to almost all of the classes taught in Danville. He presented a six-page handout of how to be a successful coach and spoke for about 30 minutes to coaches from all sports programs. The after-class survey showed he was the most appreciated speaker who talked to about 1,000 coaches from hundreds of schools.

- **Humility.**

Harp is a humble person who does not seek attention for himself and prefers to always recognize his student athletes.

In 2008 the Danville Board of Education and superintendent decided to honor Harp by naming the Danville athletic total areas the Sam Harp Athletic Complex. The honor was presented to Harp in a full stadium prior to a home football game. He gave the shortest acceptance speech in history and immediately returned to be with his players.

Also, we always attended the KHSAA annual meeting together in Lexington. Several years back the hot issue of public and private schools was discussed and voted on. Prior to the meeting two TV stations asked Sam for an interview after the meeting. Due to the discussion the meeting was long, and upon departure Sam declined to be interviewed for he wanted to get back to the school to be with the players. I will never forget his polite declining of interviews and our quick departure and our return to Danville.

- **Good person.**

Harp has all those qualities and values that make him effective working with young people. He truly cares for all members of the team. He promotes academics for athletes by setting a high standard, checking grades weekly all year and providing tutors and study hall if needed. Helping students in need, encouraging improved performance, never playing a player if conduct does not merit it and demanding best effort. Seven state championships and a top winner of games in the state indicates that something wonderful is happening in the Danville football program.

In our world today, there are many negative sports stories in the media from high school, college and professional sports. Although Harp does not want the attention, this man and his accomplishments are a positive story that needs to be shared. Young students-athletes can emulate this man and move forward and upward in their lives.

Your consideration of Sam Harp for the Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of fame is truly appreciated.

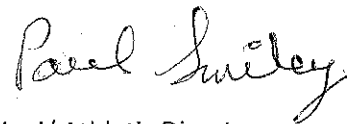
CC: Julian Tackett

KHSAA

Commissioner

Sincerely,

Paul Smiley

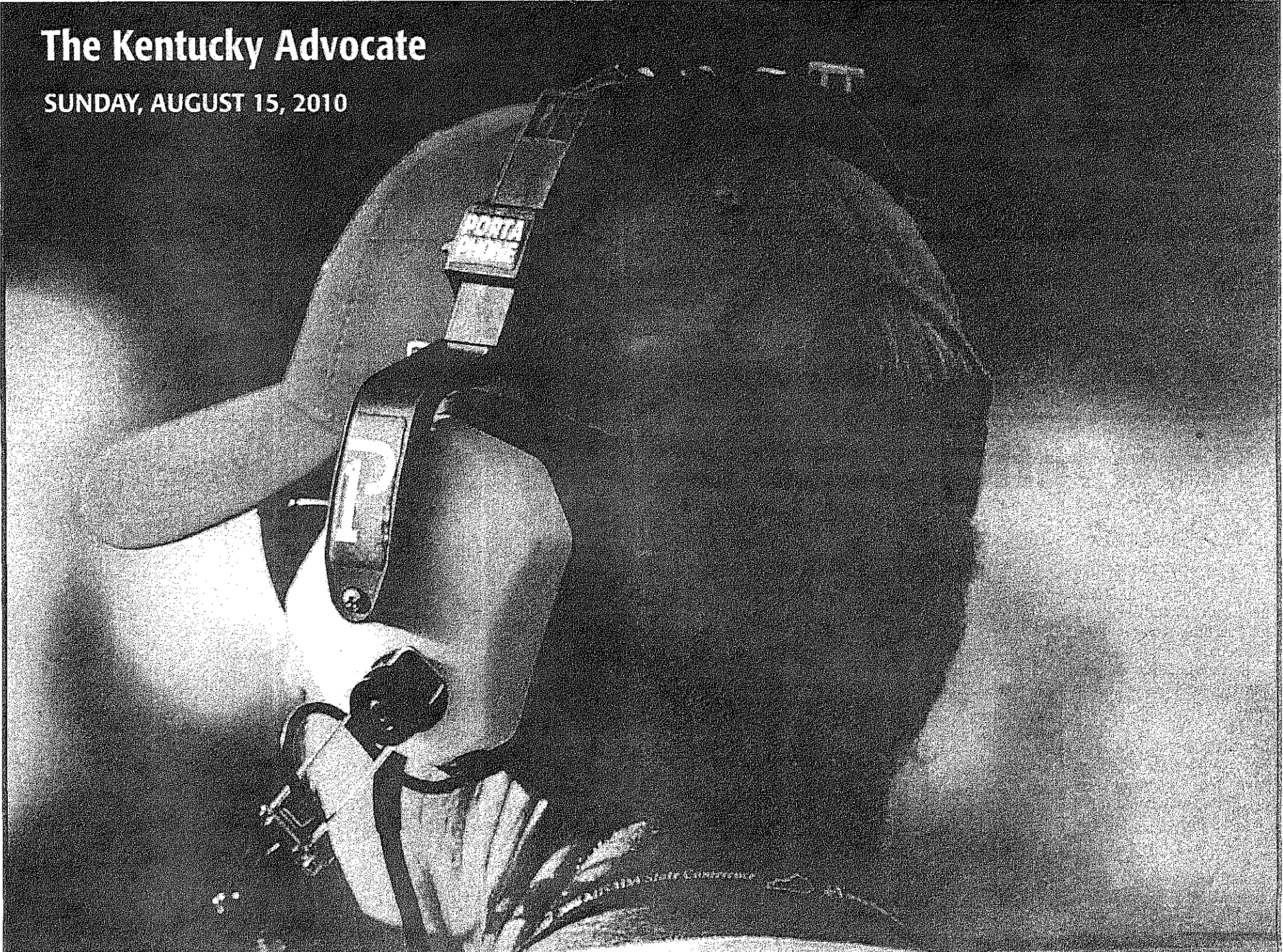
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Smiley".

Assistant Principal/ Athletic Director

Kentucky School for the Deaf (Retired)

The Kentucky Advocate

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010

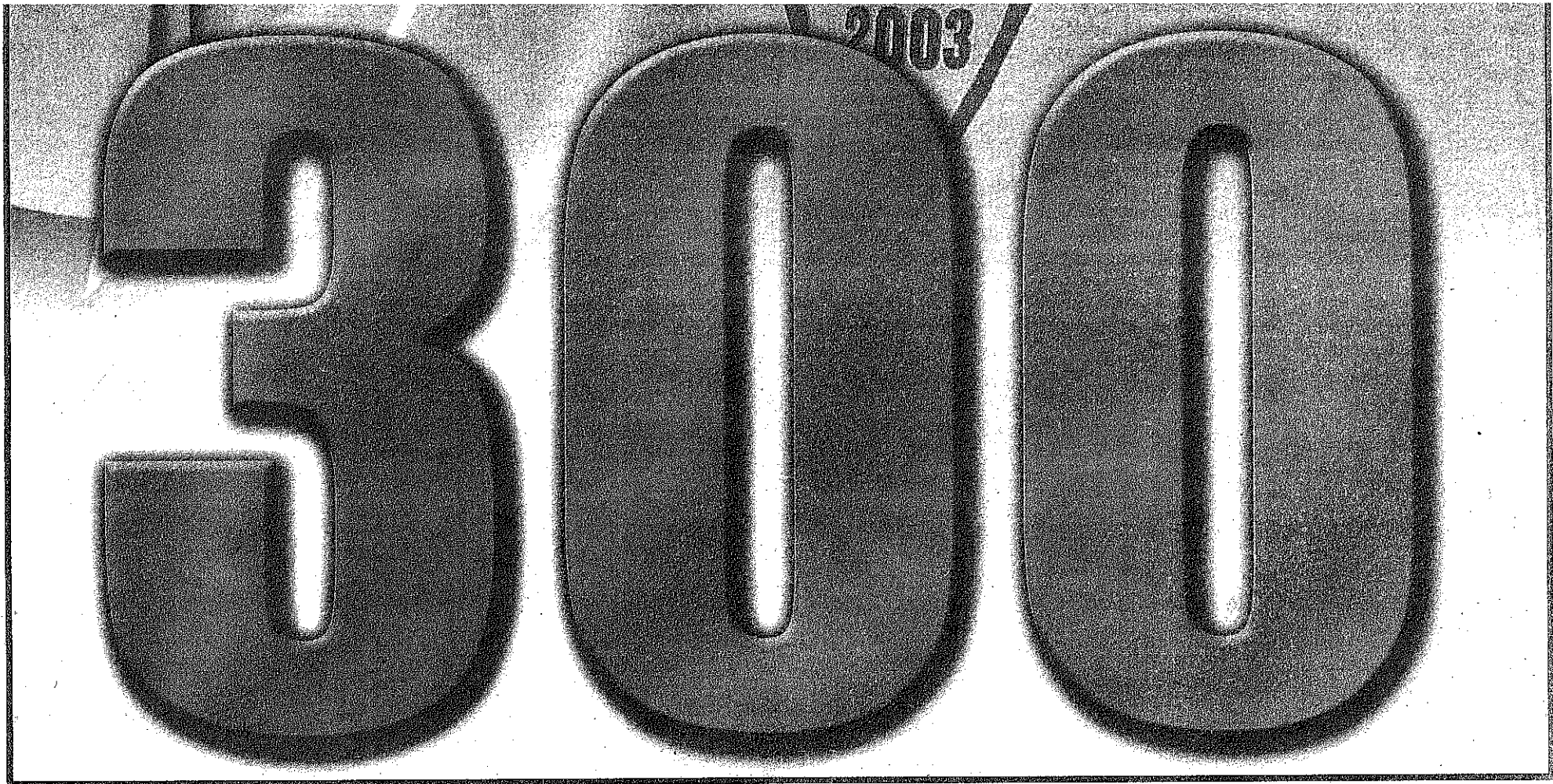




KENTUCKY STATE CHAMPIONS

- 1962
- 1984
- 1987
- 1989
- 1991
- 1992
- 1994
- 2000
- 2001

Danville's Sam Harp is set to become only the sixth coach in Kentucky to win 300 games.



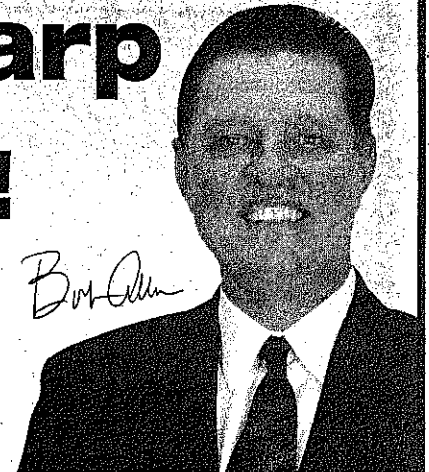
Congratulations Coach Harp from DANVILLE'S DEALMAKER!



NISSAN • PONTIAC • GMC • CADILLAC
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP

Bob Allen Motor Mall
725 Maple Avenue • Danville
859-236-3217
Toll-Free: 1-877-773-3217

Bob Allen Used Car Superstore
Perryville Rd at US 127 By-Pass
Danville • 859-236-9115
Toll-Free: 1-877-325-9115



www.boballenmotormall.com

Harp reflects on wins, titles, family

By LARRY VAUGHT

larry@amnews.com

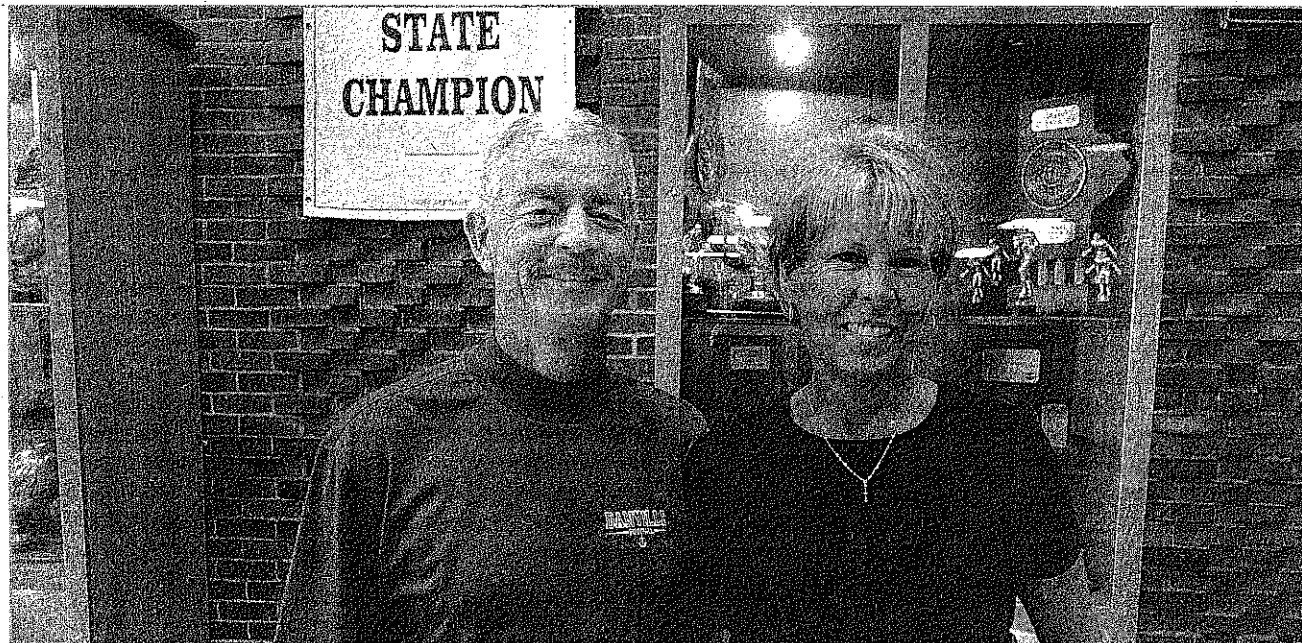
Danville coach Sam Harp has a lot of memories about his coaching career and the 299 wins he already has.

Question: What do you remember about your first win?

Harp: "We (Calloway County) beat McClean County 14-8. We almost gave that away toward the end. I remember that quite well. I still have the game ball from it."

Question: What still stands out as your most meaningful or memorable win?

Harp: "There is not any



Role model

Did you see the movie "Friday Night Lights?" The book, the TV show, it's all in Texas.

I'd dare to say we've got the same thing here in central Kentucky, and it's thanks to Sam Harp.

Very few are surprised by the fact that Harp is ready to win his 300th game, but it's how he's gotten there. Always with class. Winning and, when he lost, losing with grace. A role model for his players and for the entire Danville community.

Coach Harp has so much passion for Danville football that it's contagious. I'll never forget my first game at Admiral Stadium or my first Title Town battle with Boyle County.

A couple of months after my son Sam was born, I ran into Harp at the KHSAA Hall of Fame banquet. I told him I named my new

Harp: There is not any one particular one. I think winning the state in 1989 was pretty huge. It kind of got the monkey off my back. I came in 1988 and lost my first three games to Bryan Station in a mud game where it poured and they picked up fumble to run in for touchdown, got to go to St. Xavier at Manual Stadium and had them beat and lost 12-8 or 12-7, and then went to Lincoln (County) and they had one of their better teams in school history and lost 21-0.

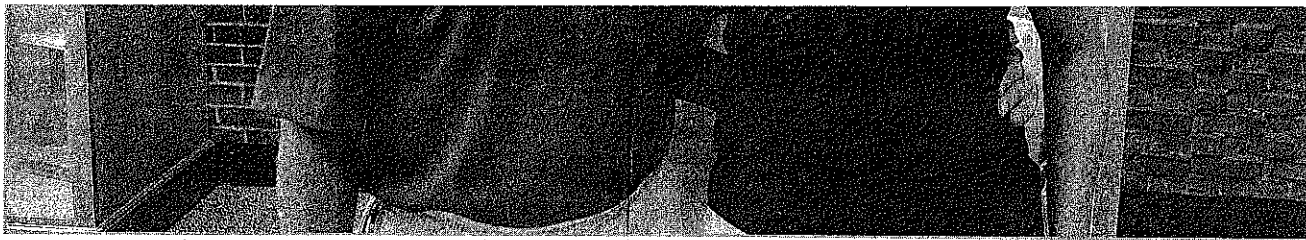
"I told coaches we would meet at 6 o'clock the next day unless I had been fired. I felt the heat. Before I got home after the Lincoln County game there were 'for sale' signs stuck in my yard. I removed them and there were more in the morning. People were not happy.

"We took on Somerset the next week, and they were ranked No. 1 in all classes in Kentucky. We junked the defense we had, and that helped a lot.

"I remember Somerset coach John Cain on the other side, and they were warming up against our old defense. He just stood and shook his head when the game started. We wound up beating them 31-8 and that was a huge win in getting momentum changed for our program.

"We wound up 8-5 and got beat in the state semifinals by Somerset 23-9. But winning against Somerset was huge. The other state championship wins were pretty special, too."

Question: What is your most heartbreaking loss?



Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com

Sam Harp, left, already has won seven state football championships and needs only one more win to reach 300. However, he credits his wife, Karen, for a huge part of his overall success for the sacrifices she's made to help his career.

I will never forget. We had nine illegal procedure penalties called and could only find one. We were so quick and fast off the ball that the game officials were not used to it.

"When (son) Chase was a senior we were playing Lexington Catholic on our field and outplayed them most of the game. They threw a "Hail Mary" with seconds left and beat us.

"I think of the 1998 championship game in Louisville where we lost to Caldwell County. We were up two touchdowns at the half and should have won. The other one was Newport (Central) Catholic in 2006 in the state final. We up 34-17 and lost. That was tough to swallow.

"Those losses hurt because they were the last game of the season and you have to go all winter, spring and summer until you got to start practice again and try to erase that memory.

Question: What has been the best comeback win you have had?

Harp: "Probably when we played Bardstown on our field and went on to win the state championship in 2000.

"I remember being down 16 points heading into the fourth quarter. We just threw caution to the wind and

"On paper, they were better than us. We had some players that could have started for them, but they were just better overall. We found what worked with Jeremy and Adam, and they couldn't stop them. That was probably my most memorable comeback and probably a win I am as proud of as any win I've ever had."

Question: What do you remember most about your seven state championship teams?

Harp: They are all special in their own way. Kids are different. Sometimes you get closer to some kids on some teams than others just because you know the battles they fought to get there.

"I think every team is special. That really goes for every team you coach, whether it is one that wins a state title or not. If you coach, I think every team becomes special and produces its own memories."

Question: What coaches have you enjoyed competing against the most during your career?

Harp: "I think Joe Morris at Mayfield jumps out at me. The demographics of Mayfield and Danville as far as independent school districts are similar. I had known him for a long time since I

against them. They try to beat you, but when it is over you shake hands and say I will help you any way I can."

Question: What role has your wife played in your coaching success and longevity?

Harp: "Karen has had to make lot of sacrifices in my coaching career. She has meant everything. She has been the backbone of our household. If a coach has a wife at home that can't make sacrifices, then he will not be a good coach and will not be happy.

"The wives are so many times overlooked, but they play a significant role. They hold the family together, take care of the kids, cook, clean. You do not hardly see them during football season. We see very little of each other from July through December.

"If she did not have a strong backbone and willingness to sacrifice, then I would not be in this position still, or I would be divorced.

"Also, moving from town to town and not knowing if she can get a job or where it will be is hard. If you are coaching, you will not be a millionaire, so both spouses have to work. She always had to take what she could get job-wise, but she always

was going to be a freshman when we came to Danville. The hardest thing to do is move your family when kids are in middle school. That kills them.

"My daughter did not want to come out of our house for three months. She hated leaving her friends. Chris came in as freshman, and he had established himself at Anderson and had to start over.

"My youngest son, Chase, didn't care. He was just in the third grade. He just wanted a good football team, and that's all he saw was how would the team be. It was good opportunity for him, or that's what he thought."

Question: But what made you want to come to Danville?

Harp: "I turned down this job three times in the process, not because I wasn't elated or excited about Danville football. It was just very difficult to move after having moved three years prior to that. I had to sell my home and all that to start over.

"People do not see have to selling your house, your wife having to find a job or your kids changing schools when they think about a coaching change. Danville superintendent Jay Min-

quet. I told him I named my new baby after him. While that's not exactly the case, I can't imagine a better namesake.

Coach Harp is what high school football is all about. The small town, the big lights, his fingers almost completely covered in rings.

He hasn't changed the formula, and why would he?

Sam Harp is a true champion. A true winner — now 300 times over.

Mary Jo Perino
WLEX-TV sports anchor

Future success

I had a great impression of Sam Harp before he ever coached a football game or even led a practice at Anderson County.

Back in May 1985, I was a rookie part-time sports writer asked to do a story on this young, unknown coach that had just been hired. I called Sam for the interview, then asked if he could send a picture. He mailed one, but included a short note thanking me for calling, then closed with the words, "To future success."

That, more than anything, stands out in my memory of Sam's three wonderful years at Anderson.

There were many successes such as the Bearcats' first-ever win over Bardstown on the way to an undefeated season in 1986 and the school's first playoff win over Newport Central Catholic in 1987. Those two games, more than any, defined Harp, the coach. He worked, studied film, then worked some more.

He got players to believe they could win the games they weren't supposed win. Bardstown had the great James Brewer and Newport Catholic had been to three straight state championship games. I honestly believe Sam could have con-

most recent taking loss:

Harp: "In 1993 we had a 42-game winning streak going and played Prestonsburg at home in the playoffs and had three touchdowns called back. We were knocking on the door in double-overtime to score. We got stopped when quarterback Colin Rogers was tackled inches short of the goal line and lost 16-15.

"I watched Prestonsburg play in Louisville against Mayfield in the state championship and was thinking we dominated Prestonsburg and should have been there.

caution to the wind and started flinging it. They were playing man-to-man in the secondary, and we found something and started to click. They made mistakes, and we capitalized on it.

"Jeremy Vaught had one of his biggest games he had here getting open and catching the ball in the fourth quarter to save our season. Quarterback Adam Schott was sensational. I think coming from behind and beating them, because they were very good football team, was one of my best wins ever.

him for a long time since I was coaching at Calloway when (his father) Jack Morris was coaching.

"They are very good coaches and they are highly respected throughout the state, but especially in western Kentucky. I just know how huge Mayfield football has been, and I see Danville a lot like that.

"The rivalry we had with each other was good and healthy. I know the years we haven't made it to the state final, I helped them all I could and they did vice versa. It was fun competing

get job-wise, but she always was willing to sacrifice for me."

Question: How hard or easy was it for you to leave Anderson County to come to Danville, and do you ever think about how different your career might have been if you had not made the move?

Harp: "I haven't thought about it too much. It would have been different for me and my kids. You never know where life will take you sometimes. Fortunately we have been blessed.

"My oldest son, Chris,

superintendent Jay Minnehan came to see me after I interviewed. We negotiated. Him and Jane Sellers, the chairman of the school board at that time, drove to Lawrenceburg and met me and Karen at Pizza Hut.

"Quite honestly, it was Jane Sellers that sold it to my wife. I still wanted to think about it, and I did. We talked after they left and decided it was the best thing for us. Or at least I think we decided. Maybe it was just Karen because when Jane left, she was ready for me to make the move."

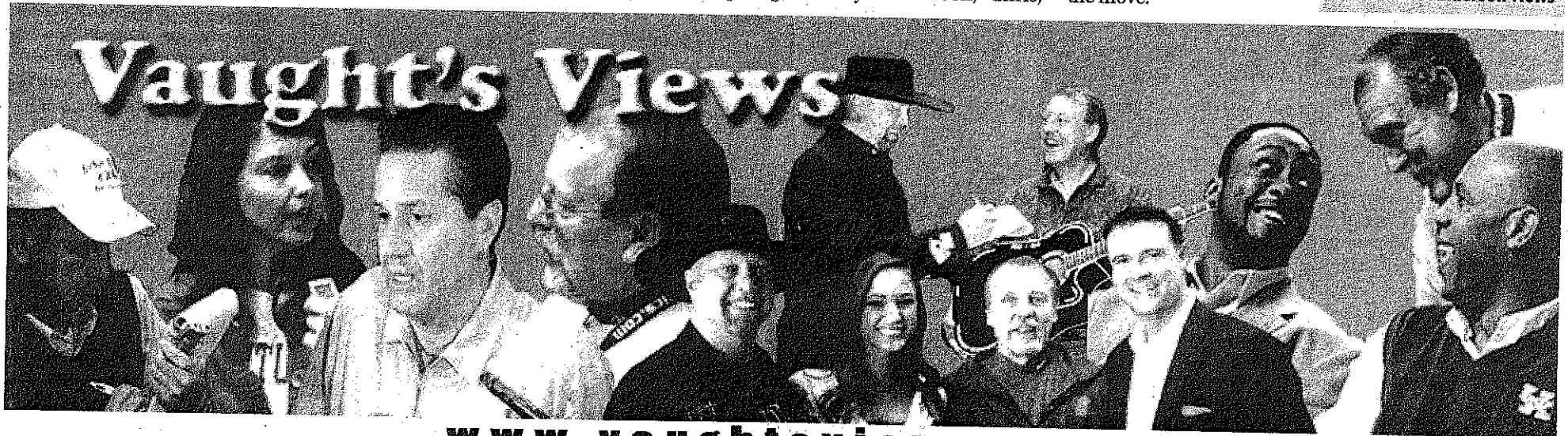
state championship games. I honestly believe Sam could have convinced those kids they could beat the Chicago Bears or New York Giants.

I am glad to say that 22 years later, Harp is still my friend. He was a writer's dream. Over the years, our paths have crossed but just as when he was as an unknown head coach, Sam has always been more than willing to help.

That "future success" is now a reality many times over, but the easy smile, gracious nature and honesty are the same.

Success has not changed him.

John Herndon
The Anderson News



www.vaughtsvIEWS.com

program in any significant

Hal Morris remembers losing to Harp's



Local coaches respect Harp

By LARRY VAUGHT

larry@amnews.com

Mark Scenters is amazed that any high school football coach can win 300 games as Danville's Sam Harp will do when his Admirals win their first game this season.

"When you look at his record and he has won over 75 percent of his games, that is just amazing. Then when you think about reaching 300 wins, that puts in even a different category. It's just amazing," said Scenters, the head coach at Garrard County.

However, Scenters is impressed by more than just Harp's wins and seven state championships.

"The thing I respect most about coach Harp is how he has treated me each time we have crossed paths. When I was still an assistant coach at Madison Central and played Danville in the Bob Allen Pigskin Classic, I messed up pretty bad," Scenters said.

"I was responsible for all the game film and trade film, copying and dubbing, et cetera at Central. We had a particularly late night the night before I was to trade

Danville coach Sam Harp, left, always looks for his parents, Rosemary and Kenneth Harp, as soon as the game ends. They both plan to be present when Harp's next win gives him No. 300. "We will be there unless I break a leg or something. We don't like to miss unless it is so far that we can't make it. If do miss, it sort of eats at us," Rosemary Harp said.

HISTORIC

Harp on verge of 300th career victory

To those who have known Sam Harp for years — and still call him Sammy, not Sam — there's nothing surprising about his upcoming historical win.

"I was a teammate of his in college. We both were freshmen at Morehead State University back in 1972 playing on the baseball team. Even as an 18-year-old young man, Sammy exhibited traits of a true gentleman and sports legend. Sammy could have started on both the baseball team as well as the football team," Daniel Gadlage of Louisville said.

"I have followed Sam's career for some years now, and have been proud to say I knew him when. ... He's truly a class act. He has more knowledge and class than any other coach I have had the pleasure to have known."

He's also set to become only sixth high school football coach in Kentucky ever to win 300 games. Most though it would come last year, but Harp suffered his first losing season since coming to Danville in 1988. However, he comes into the 2010 season, which opens Friday with his Admirals hosting Mason County, with a 299-94 record in 30 seasons at Calloway County, Anderson County and Danville.

"He will probably be stoic and try not make a big deal out of it, but the rest of us will when he gets the win," said his mother, Rose-



VAUGHT'S VIEWS

Larry Vaught
Sports Editor
larry@amnews.com

knew he would be good teacher and coach. He loved sports, too. So it's not a great surprise to me that he not only became a coach but that he became so successful."

And has he been successful.

He's won seven state championships — 1989, 1991, 1992, 1994, 2000, 2001 and 2003 — and had three more teams — 1998, 2003 and 2004 — lose in the state title game. His Admirals had a 42-game win streak, the state's third-longest streak. He's been the state coach of the year and the National Federation of Coaches Association coach of the year.

Yet there is more than just wins when it comes to defining Harp's career. My son played for him and was on two state championship teams — 2000 and 2001. There's no one he respects more today than Harp. My daughter was a football manager under him for four years. There's no one she respects more today than Harp.

And many, many others feel the same way.

Julie Dexter's son, Stephen, also played for Harp. Yet her classic Harp memory has nothing to do with football. It came in a

On the Web

Visit amnews.com to see a slide show of pictures of Sam Harp going back to his playing days at Franklin County High School. Also see a game-by-game list of his wins at Danville.

retrieved his happy daughter, and proudly continued his duties as father of the bride.

"No doubt that Sam is an incredible coach and role model to countless young men and women, but let it be known that he is a devoted family man as well. He is a perfect example of always doing whatever it takes ... even if that means stepping aside from the tough-guy exterior and being simply a good guy to the core."

Gadlage said Harp, who transferred to Kentucky State to play football after one year playing baseball at Morehead, always went 100 percent at anything he did.

"Sammy was a great athlete. He was built like a desk. Everybody else on the baseball team would be playing handball and racquetball, but on alternate days he would be in the weight room pumping iron. He was clearly the strongest man on campus pound for pound," Gadlage said. "If he did anything, he did it 100 percent. If you did something, he expected

I am also proud of what he has done for students. I feel like I get bigger and taller every time we win, so I couldn't be prouder of him."

She also hopes Danville players, students and fans understand how much Danville means to him.

"He has a true love for Danville. He has never regretted coming there, and that was a big decision for him leaving Anderson County. He really loves the people in Danville and the boys he has coached," Rosemary Harp said.

It's impossible to list the accomplishments players playing for Harp have had because there have been so many. However, he always emphasized a team-first attitude and didn't believe in a star system. Some of his best teams were loaded with talent, but players had to accept the team-first theory.

Harp, though, has also won with far less talent at times than many understood. He has not always had a roster of players who could run the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds. He's had to develop talent and team chemistry just like other coaches — and he's always done it well.

"He will be remembered as one of the greatest coaches in the history of Kentucky high school football," said Mason

film with coach Harp on Saturday morning.

"I make my way over and we trade and I'm thinking all is well. Then about 1 p.m. I get a call from (then Madison Central) coach (Kenny) Turner. Coach Harp has called and one of the films does not work. Apparently I had forgot to check the copy of the last film I made for them before rushing out the door.

"Even though it was an honest mistake, he could have been pretty mad. I took him the film and apologized profusely, and he just laughed about it. That's the kind of guy he is. With his record and championships, he could have been pretty hard on me. But he wasn't at all. I won't forget that.

"Three hundred wins is a great accomplishment. But the young men he has coached over the years equal a number far greater than 300. Congratulations to him for his upcoming 300th win."

Lincoln County coach Mike Settles says just thinking that a coach would have to average 10 wins per year for 30 seasons to reach 300 victories makes Harp's upcoming milestone mind-boggling for him.

"He has been fortunate enough to have been involved in football programs that have been consistently good, something that is extremely hard to do because of complacency with players, coaches and administration," Settles said. "It takes a great leader, but even a better person, to win 300 games.

"Some coaches build programs, some rebuild programs, some tear down programs and some just flat out win. Sam Harp's programs just flat out win. He has done a lot to promote football in the state and he is one of the reasons that high school football has been better over the

mary Harp of Frankfort. "Coaching has been a good life for him, and I know this win is going to be very, very special."

His mother is not surprised he became a coach because his coach at Franklin County, Sonny Adkins, got him interested in all aspects of football.

"They were our neighbors behind us on the street. Sammy developed such a love for it playing for Sonny. They would talk across back yards about football. That is when he first started to feel he wanted to coach. He always loved football, but that is when coaching got into him," Rosemary Harp said.

"Sammy loved children, and I

church foyer on his daughter's wedding day.

"I happened to be a witness to watching Sam, a man's man, turn into a flower girl," Dexter said. "Picture Sam's little 4-year-old granddaughter suddenly getting stage fright just before she was to walk down the aisle. Her mom, the bride and Sam's daughter, frantically whispered, 'Dad, do something!' Without missing a beat, Sam scooped up that little girl into his arms and paraded down the aisle, gracefully dropping rose petals from her basket as he walked.

"The whole church erupted in laughter. He was undaunted. He marched back up the aisle,

100 percent out of you. If you couldn't, he would help you.

"He was a gentleman at 18. If a pitcher would throw at Sammy, he would just dust himself off and do his job. He was a real trooper. Sammy's demeanor is nothing but class."

His mother appreciates the way he has helped students, especially the ones few people know about.

"I know that the games mean a lot to him, but the players mean a lot, too. He has done a lot of things to help kids he has never told. He has helped out at times when kids really needed it," she said. "I am proud of the wins and championships, but

school football, said Mason coach David Buchanan, the son of former Boyle County and Mercer County coach John Buchanan. "I don't think there is one defining moment with him. He's just had a career defined with great moments."

The biggest defining moment will come with the next win that will give him that elusive 300th victory.

"He doesn't say much, but he will be so proud of it," his mother said. "To be perfectly honest, his life would be empty without football. I don't think he will ever find enough to do with himself except for sports and teaching. If he ever gets away from it, he will be lonesome."

football has been better over the last 15 years.

"If you play his teams, you better be ready to strap it up and play for four quarters. You know when a coach does a good job with a program because everybody wants his job when he is ready to leave and that's the way it is with coach Harp. He's one of a kind."

300 club

Kentucky high school football coaches who have won 300 games:

■ **345** — Bob Schneider, Newport Central Catholic, 345-183-2 in 44 years.

■ **332** — Dudley Hilton, Bell County, 332-100 in 34 years.

■ **327** — Philip Haywood, Bell County, 327-114 in 35 years.

■ **317** — Bob Redman, Male, 317-115 in 35 years.

■ **310** — Mike Glaser, St. Saviour, 310-65 in 28 years.

Hilton, Haywood and Glaser are active coaches, as is Danville's Sam Harp, who has 299 wins.

The closest active coach to reaching 300 wins after Harp is Ivan McGlone of Russell, who has 289-130 in 34 years of coaching in Kentucky. He also won 28 games in four years in West Virginia.

Harp guided his students to be responsible adults

By RENE PAYNE

My husband, Bill, and I wish to congratulate Sam Harp and know full well his dedication to the welfare of young people. His positive influence has guided and molded students with the goal being to produce responsible and productive adults.

We feel fortunate that he

touched the lives of both our children. Our son, Hunter, played football for Danville, and our daughter, Taylor, was a manager on the team.

During Taylor's senior year, Sam asked me what her plans were after graduation. When I said she wanted to pursue a degree from Indiana University in something involving sports,

he offered to set up a meeting for her with Brooks Downing, the sports information director for Kentucky basketball. Taylor met with Brooks, and after he explained SID and media relations work, he ask her to volunteer one day a week in his office for the summer.

At the end of the summer Brooks called Greg Elkin, the

SID for basketball at Indiana, and asked him to let Taylor work in the athletic department at IU.

That was just the beginning for Taylor. Today she is the media relations director for the U.S. Olympic synchronized swim team. We feel Sam was instrumental in launching Taylor's success in her career and as a young adult.



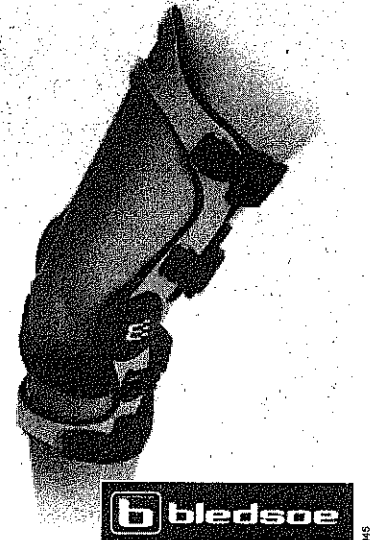
THE MEDICINE SHOPPE

Congratulations Coach Harp on an OUTSTANDING record!!

The Medicine Shoppe
PHARMACY
Caring beyond prescriptions.™

900 Hustonville Road Danville
 859-238-0002

636 South College
 Harrodsburg • 734-4314



Harp a shining light and an icon

By PAUL SMILEY

Three hundred wins coming this year is an outstanding achievement and milestone for coach Sam Harp, assistant coaches and many years of football players. It is truly remarkable that Sam's longevity of success of a winning football coach has placed him in the annals of high school football history in the state of Kentucky.

Sam is a shining light/ambassador/icon for the football program, the athletic program, Danville High School and the community of Danville. I sincerely hope Sam will continue to coach for many years to come. Yes, the winning tradition is great, but also important are the values his players learn from the coach to benefit their lives. Players before, now and in the future will leave high school ready for whatever their goals are in life due partly to participation in the football program.



Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com

Sam Harp "is a humble person who does not seek attention for himself and prefers to always recognize his student-athletes," former Kentucky School for the Deaf athletics director Paul Smiley said.

a term as the president of the organization.

Harp wanted to build on success

By BOB ROWLAND

In the 23 years that I have known Sam Harp, there have been hundreds of memorable moments from my association with this outstanding football coach, tremendous person and true personal friend. The stories of the ups and downs of coaching and working in the school business would fill a book. But one moment that I shared with Harp is particularly memorable and has become more profound as time passes.

It started as a simple conversation with Sam while supervising the lobby of Dan-

Some people think that Danville just reloads every year. Others say that anyone could win in Danville. There are years that it might look like anyone could coach the team to at least a .500 season. But none of this is true. In my 22 years at Danville as principal and superintendent, I can think of only four Division I players in our program. Practically every team we play has had more.

We have had a lot of good players, hard-working and committed to winning when they walked onto the field. We have enjoyed that success year in and year out (and even taken it for granted) because these players have been cultivated through a well-conceived, finely tuned program that has developed them as people as well as students, play-

as the cheerleading coach for DHS and will never forget that first phone call with a man I had seen and respected from afar for so many years. The great Sam Harp called me and invited me to his office to talk about details of the coaching job. As I stood outside his office, nervous with the excitement of meeting someone I had admired for so long, I took a deep breath and knocked.

I imagined that this must be what it would feel like for an up-and-coming boxer to knock on Muhammed Ali's door to get advice. A deep, booming voice welcomed me inside. I was so anxious that I barely stammered a few words before this gracious man put me at ease, beginning our chat by telling me how upset he was

Coach Harp's reasons for success are simply stated as he is the "total package" and has all the qualities needed for success as a football coach. These are the essence for success for any coach:

■ **Dedication and commitment to the players and the love of the game.**

The work ethic is incredible in relation to time in and out of season with the students. Great knowledge of the game is evident in the weekly game plan and his ongoing desire to be a student of the game to improve himself.

Sam and I attended the Kentucky High School Athletic Directors Association convention yearly. After daily attendance of all athletic director workshops and training, Sam would spend most of his free time talking X's and O's with other football coaches from all over the state.

■ **Adaptability/player personnel decisions.**

Sam has developed great skills in regard to using the best system for the talent pool of players on any given year. His placement of players in the total team concept is outstanding. He also is superb making game adjustments that gives him an edge in the competition.

Coach Harp initiated the Danville Youth Football program for younger students to promote football participation and skills development for the student athletes.

In 1988, when Sam arrived in Danville, I invited him out to lunch his first week here. I welcomed him to Danville and extended a hand of friendship between us and the Kentucky School for the Deaf and Danville athletics programs. Previous coach Tom Duffy was a true friend of KSD, and I hoped that Sam Harp would be also. Coach Harp was just super in cooperation and maintaining a good relationship between the schools. We contacted each other often and had a good professional relationship that benefited both schools.

In his first season we talked often about both football programs. Sam's transition to his new defense from the prior coach was most difficult, which is usually the case when the team is vested in a system.

Midway through the season, Harp adapted to the challenge by using some of the former defensive sets along with the new

In 1993 the Kentucky Coaches Education Program began. Harp was exempt from the requirement, but he chose to take the class because he knew all of the DHS coaches would take it and he did not want to require them to do so if he did not take it himself. It really made me nervous as the teacher to have him and Gary Reynolds in the very first class, for I thought they were more qualified to teach the class than I was. The day was most successful and a learning experience for all of us.

For the next 10 years Harp volunteered and came to almost all of the classes taught in Danville. He presented a six-page hand-out of how to be a successful coach and spoke for about 30 minutes to coaches from all sports programs. The after-class survey showed he was the most appreciated speaker who talked to about 1,000 coaches from hundreds of schools.

■ **Humility.**

Harp is a humble person who does not seek attention for himself and prefers to always recognize his student-athletes.

In 2008 the Danville Board of Education and superintendent decided to honor Harp by naming the Danville athletic total areas the Sam Harp Athletic Complex. The honor was presented to Harp in a full stadium prior to a home football game. He gave the shortest acceptance speech in history and immediately returned to be with his players.

Also, we always attended the KHSAA annual meeting together in Lexington. Several years back the hot issue of public and private schools was discussed and voted on. Prior to the meeting two TV stations asked Sam for an interview after the meeting. Due to the discussion the meeting was long, and upon departure Sam declined to be interviewed for he wanted to get back to the school to be with the players. I will never forget his polite declining of the interviews and our quick departure and return to Danville.

■ **Good person.**

Harp has all those qualities and values that make him effective working with young people. He truly cares for all members of the team. He promotes academics for athletes by setting a high standard, checking grades weekly all year and providing tutors and study hall if needed. Helping

supervising the lobby of Danville High School while I was principal. He had recently won his first state championship, and on that January afternoon the hype of the had begun to settle, allowing time for reflection.

I posed the question, "So, what's next, Sam? What do you do now that you have won the state championship and have achieved what every coach lives and dies to do?" I fully expected him to say that he would like to coach in Danville for another couple of years, perhaps win another championship and then move on to a bigger school or perhaps coach at the college level. I honestly felt that with his ability and the quickness with which he attained such a high level of success, he would be gone in a season or two and I would be looking for a new head coach.

What he said was both astounding and gratifying. "I would like to build a program here and win a second championship, then a third, and a fourth, and just keep building on success after success. It's easier to get to the top than to stay on top. On top, everyone is gunning for you. I'd like to build our program to stay on top even when everyone is gunning for us."

He told me that day that he was not done here and that he may never fully get finished building here. It was not about building his resume or establishing an awesome winning record as a coach. It was about building a program, about developing kids (some with talent and some with less)

ers and athletes to become contenders for a state championship each year.

Sam Harp does what he said he wanted to do here. He continues to operate a program that wins, builds on success, and remains on top even when everyone else in gunning for us — just as he said in that memorable moment many years ago.

Harp both a mentor and a friend

By JENNIFER SHEARER

I did not spend my childhood in Danville. However, I grew up knowing exactly who Sam Harp was.

Danville High School sweatshirts from the late 1980s through the '90s littered my closet far away in Elizabethtown. My grandfather, James Lee "George" Shearer, was a bus driver and devoted member of the maintenance crew for Danville schools from the early 1960s through the '80s. He was so devoted to the Admirals that traveling to watch the football team win state championships was simply a part of my family's life.

While I spent a good deal of my time watching the cheerleaders at these games, I also learned all about the winning football tradition at DHS and its coach. Though I had never seen him up close or heard his unmistakable voice, his name was often present in the conversations at our family's gatherings. Along the way, it would have been

over the latest "American Idol" episode. We laughed, and he even shared some stories about what it was like when he first came to Danville to coach.

During that first year, it was Danville's turn to host the KAPO regional cheerleading competition, which fell on Super Bowl Sunday. Nevertheless, coach Harp got on board and could be seen carrying coolers to the concession stand, unlocking doors, wishing the girls good luck or cheering on the teams from the stands.

After our squad placed second in our division, he pulled me aside and said very seriously, "Now, I don't know much about cheerleading, but it looked like our girls were better than them." I learned early on that he was not only the incredible coach I had heard of as a child, but a genuinely good person who was always willing to help or share a laugh.

Six years later, coach Harp remains one of the people I respect the most. His quiet yet constant support of our cheerleading program is among the best I've witnessed in high school athletics. From that first meeting, he not only put me at ease as my athletic director, but also treated me as a coaching equal rather than that gawking child I had felt like on the inside.

The history books of Kentucky football will honor him because of his success as a coach, but the greatest testament to Sam Harp is that he is also a warm, kind man who has positively influenced the lives of the people around him. For me, coach Harp

former defensive sets along with the new systems. The team had immediate success after the decision was made. Total acceptance occurred and from that point on, history of the program speaks for itself.

■ Unselfish leader.

Harp leads by example and follows the Golden Rule with interpersonal relationships with all persons connected to the program. The assistant coaches at Danville are valued and are delegated responsibilities as part of the total program. This goes for all other folks connected to the program. Harp has affected the quality participation of many football players across the state by being actively involved with the Kentucky Football Coaches Association. Sam served

ing tutors and study hall if needed. Helping students in need, encouraging improved performance, never playing a player if conduct does not merit it and demanding best effort. Seven state championships and a top winner of games in the state indicates that something wonderful is happening in the Danville football program.

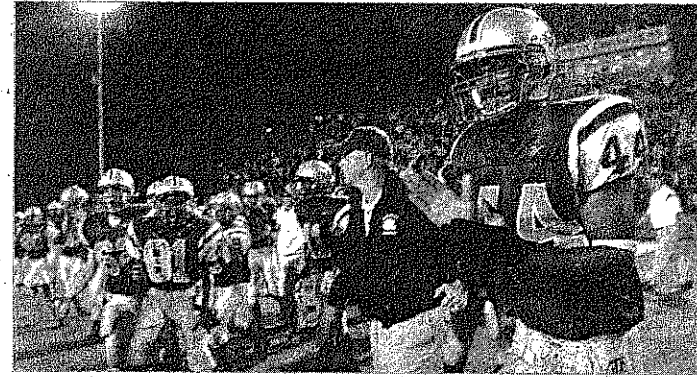
In our world today, there are many negative sports stories in the media from high school, college and professional sports. Although Harp does not want the attention, this man and his accomplishments are a positive story that needs to be shared. Young student-athletes can emulate this man and move forward and upward in their lives.

talent and some with less) into players and a team that would be a title contender year after year.

the way, it would have been hard not to think of Harp as somewhat of a celebrity.

Years later I was hired

him. For me, coach Harp has become a mentor and friend whom I am honored to know.



Sam Harp, second from right, impresses those who have worked with him with his demeanor and willingness to help everyone.

Clay Jackson/
clay@amnews.com

CONGRATULATIONS FROM OUR TEAM!

McDaniel

WEALTH MANAGEMENT, PLLC

Investments * Taxes * Insurance

(859) 236-0595

For Your Complete Financial Game Plan

*Tim McDaniel, CFP, CPA. Securities offered through H.D. Vest Investment Services SM, Member, SIPC, Advisory Services offered through H.D. Vest Advisory Services SM, Non-bank subsidiaries of Wells Fargo & Company. McDaniel Wealth Management, PLLC is not a registered broker/dealer or independent investment advisory firm.

NEW & IMPROVED

CLASSIFIED

Multi-family Garage Sale
Household items, many VHS

MOVING OUT OF STATE SALE
MOVING OUT OF AND MUST SELL

LARGER PRINT!!!
LOWER RATES!!!

Coming In September

All for before sewing machines

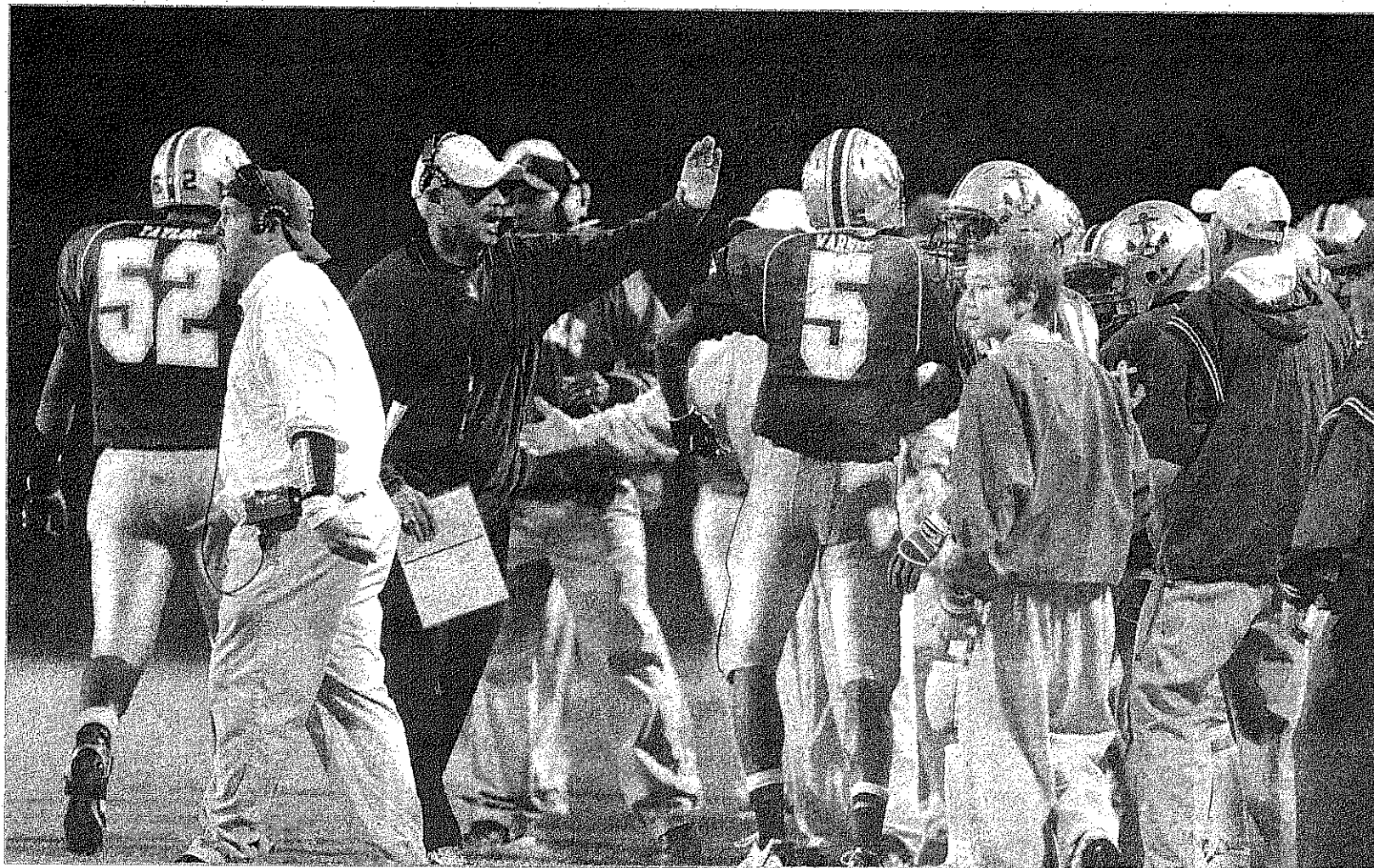
The Advocate
Messenger

The Winchester Sun
CLARK COUNTY'S VOICE FOR MORE THAN 150 YEARS

INTERIOR JOURNAL
Lincoln County's Newspaper

THE JESSAMINE JOURNAL
It's The News You Can Use!

Brown is the coach at Dale Anderson, whose team



Sam Harp, third from left, has always impressed his players as well as rival coaches with his willingness to help others. "I think he's one of the legends of Kentucky football, the all-time legends, and an even better person, and one of the great organizers and motivators," Bullitt East coach Doug Preston said.

Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com

Coaches admire Harp

By **MIKE MARSEE**
marsee@amnews.com

other coaches who have wanted to test their teams against good competition



ville, and Clevenger said he is proud of that.

Football mom admires Harp

By **JANET STATON**

When Advocate sports editor Larry Vaught asked me about how Sam Harp had influenced my son, Pearce Nesbitt, my reply was I would have to write something because if I spoke about the subject tears would start to flow.

Having been a Danville High School football mom for four years from 2004-08, I personally experienced the huge impact he has had on numerous young men, including my son. Not only as a coach, but as a mentor, motivator, role model, father figure, morals teacher, ethics guide, spiritual leader and education advocate.

Coach, as everyone in our family refers to Sam, took a pudgy 14-year-old freshman and guided him into a solid senior athlete who served as co-captain during his last year and made second team all-state.

When Pearce scored well on his ACT, it was Coach who made sure his name was entered in a pool of athletes who excel academically, resulting in his being recruited by Harvard, Columbia and Brown universities. His father, Kevin Nesbitt, and I had no idea such a pool existed, and

By MIKE MARSEE

marsee@amnews.com

Shadon Brown doesn't know where he'd be today if he hadn't spent all of those Saturday mornings with Sam Harp.

Brown is the coach at Rowan County and a former Danville player who was bitten by the coaching bug when he started attending Saturday film sessions in Harp's office.

That's where Brown said he began to make the transition from a mischievous teen to a successful adult, and he said he has Harp to thank for that.

"He's saved a lot of us. I'm one of those kids that wasn't always on the straight and narrow coming through the system, and he stayed with me and kept mentoring me and had a great impact on me as a person today," Brown said. "I used to go to the high school on Saturday mornings and sit with him and (assistant) coach (Jerry) Perry and watch them break down film, and that's where I started developing a love for wanting to be a football coach. I knew that I wanted to be a high school football coach when I was probably 16 years old, and it's because of coach Harp and Jerry Perry."

Brown's story is just one example of the mark Harp has left on coaches throughout Kentucky in 30 years of coaching. He has been a mentor to players and assistant coaches who have gone on to lead their own programs, an advisor to coaches who have tapped into his experience and a worthy opponent for

other coaches who have wanted to test their teams against good competition.

"I could go back to the first game had with Sam, and they beat us — good Lord, I think it was 76-6," said Southwestern coach Dale Anderson, whose team has become a regular non-district opponent of Danville in recent years. "They gave us a whooping. It was pretty early in our career at Southwestern. We just kept playing and competed a little better year after year.

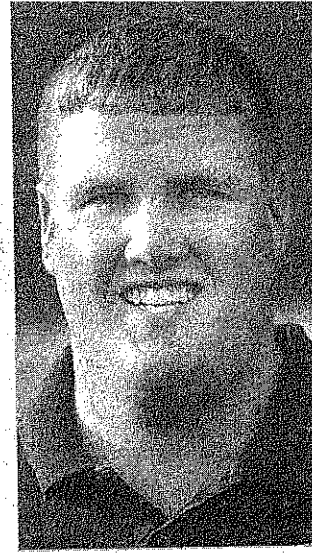
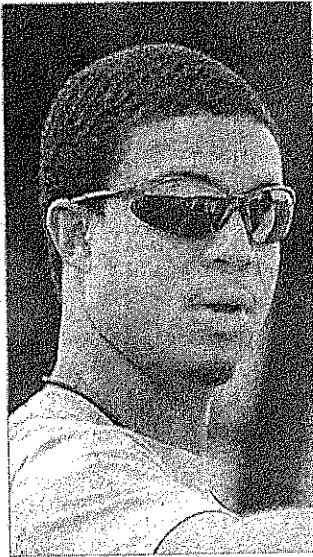
"I think Sam brings the best out of your team and out of your coaching staff, because you know you're going to play against a great team talent-wise, but more importantly one that's coached extremely well, especially technique-wise. They're so strong technique-wise everywhere, as a coach it's a real challenge, and it's always fun."

Mason County coach David Buchanan has faced a Harp team only once, but he has picked up the phone many more times to seek Harp's counsel.

"I have called him several times over the last 19 seasons to get advice — he was one of the people I called to talk about the job at Mason 15 years ago," Buchanan said. "He has always been willing to help me and has become a legend among high school football coaches in Kentucky."

Clay Clevenger also frequently turned to Harp for help as the former Danville player settled into his job at Henderson County.

"Coach Harp's mentorship



Coaches Shadon Brown, left, of Rowan County and Clay Clevenger of Henderson County played for Sam Harp at Danville, and both say his friendship and advice have helped them immensely with their coaching careers.

has been invaluable. I think about every other day for the first two months I was the head coach at Henderson I would call him with questions, concerns, a little bit of everything," Clevenger said. "He is still one of the first people I call when I have an issue or need some advice, and for that I am truly thankful. He has always taken the time to give me some of his great words of wisdom."

Bullitt East coach Doug Preston said he developed great respect for Harp during the time he spent as a Danville assistant.

"I think he's one of the legends of Kentucky football, the all-time legends, and an even better person, and one of the great organizers and motivators," Preston said. "And coach Harp looks to me like he could keep on rolling as long as he wants to. He's one of the greatest.

I feel honored even to have been associated with him at all, and I've learned a lot from him over the years."

Brown said he thinks Harp continues to succeed because he is willing to change when necessary.

"Sometimes it may look like he changes offenses or defenses every two or three years, but I think that's because he looks at what he has and adapts things to his kids, and I think that's how he's been able to stay successful for a long time," Brown said. "A lot of coaches become one-hit wonders when they believe that their system is the best and it's their way or the highway, and I think coach Harp's done a great job of adjusting to the kids he has and trying to make kids better people."

Brown and Clevenger were in uniform for a number of Harp's wins at Dan-

vine, and Clevenger said he is proud of that.

"I am proud to have a played a small part in those 300 victories," he said.

Boyle County coach Larry French, who also coached against Harp's teams while at Mercer County, said Harp's hard work has led to his success and that of the Danville program.

"He's got a tremendous program over there. He's worked hard to get to where he is today, that's for sure, and you've got to respect what he's done for high school football," French said. "Sam's teams are always fundamentally sound, and they go out and play hard and always win a few ballgames, and they've had a lot of success there."

Anderson, who said he has become good friends with Harp as Southwestern and Danville have developed a rivalry, said Harp deserves the accolades that come with the milestone he is about to reach.

"Three hundred wins is amazing in high school football, and he's a legend in the state of Kentucky and always will be," Anderson said.

Buchanan would probably like to delay the celebration of Harp's 300th career victory for one more week — his Mason team plays Danville Friday to open the season — but he is still thrilled for Harp.

"I am happy for coach Harp and this milestone. He is both a great person and great coach," Buchanan said.

idea such a pool existed, and Pearce would never have had those rare opportunities if not for Coach.

An individual doesn't become one of the winningest coaches in high school football history with an exceedingly strong desire to win games. As a parent, what I found most impressive was his equally strong desire for his players to win in the game of life. Academics are always first with Coach. There are no 'stars' on his teams. There are teammates.

If discipline is required, every young man receives the appropriate consequences, even if it means the next game is lost. Respect for parents, coaching staff and each other is mandated. Nothing less is tolerated. Each member is expected to give their very best consistently. These standards are not only those of a great coach, but those of a great man.

Pearce is now a junior at Centre College, having played football there during his first year. Although he's no longer on the field, the lessons and values he learned while on coach Harp's field continue to serve and guide him well.

When someone is good and kind to your child, it is obviously much appreciated. However, when someone has had such an invaluable positive influence on your child's life, it is a difficult subject to properly pen onto paper, impossible to adequately put into spoken word.

Harp's success comes as no surprise to Graham

Editor's Note: Ray Graham is a 1971 Danville High School graduate and is in the Danville Schools Athletics Hall of Fame. He was the long-time head football coach at Harrison County and is getting ready to start his first season as head coach at Lexington Christian. He's also a longtime friend of Danville coach Sam Harp.

By **RAY GRAHAM**

It brings me great pleasure to congratulate Kenneth Samuel Harp on the upcoming 300th victory of a football team of which he has been the head coach.

Sammy is certainly one of the greatest football coaches to have ever coached in Kentucky. His previous two stints at Calloway County and Anderson County were both successful before he came to Danville to coach the team "with all that talent."

I know most of you reading this have heard that before. Some people will say that many could have

done the same thing at Danville that Sammy did, but those of us that really know the business realize that is not true.

Football requires so much discipline, chemistry and teamwork, and the more talent one has on a team, the more difficult the chemistry can be. We can take a peek at the most talented professional football teams and realize that truth today.

Sammy's Danville teams have always been disciplined, and fundamentally sound. The Admirals have many victories over teams with great talent because they have been so masterfully coached.

Sammy has been a great coach in the kicking game, on offense and on defense. He has always fashioned his style to best fit his teams.

He is a coach to be modeled because he has done everything in a first-class manner, and has always played by the rules of the

Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

Sammy has been a great fit for the proud Admiral tradition, and I know that he will be handing out credits to the administration, his staff and the Danville community when he gets his 300th win. He would be the first to acknowledge that those ingredients are essential to a program with the outstanding tradition of Danville High School.

It does not surprise me that Sammy has become one of the best, because I have known him since our high school graduations in 1971 — mine from Danville and his from Franklin County.

We have spent a lot of time together as young athletes in training, as young assistant coaches together on the Franklin County staffs of 1978 and 1979, and as colleagues over the years.

His passion for the game and his will to excel were

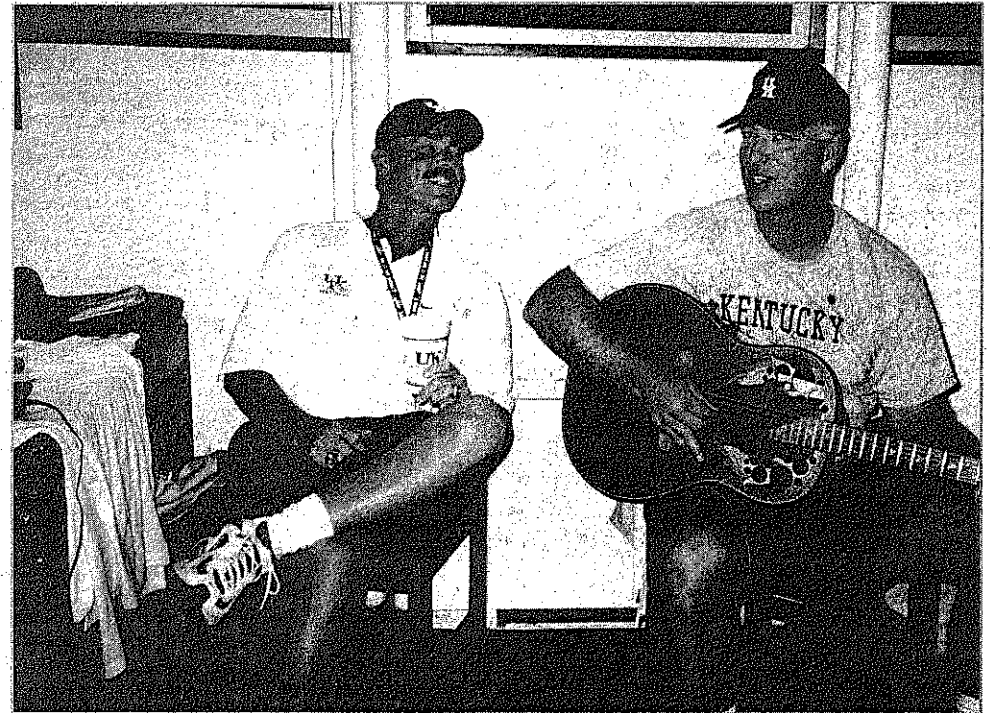


Photo submitted

Ray Graham, right, says his friend, Sammy Harp is "one of the greatest coaches to have ever coached in Kentucky." The two have known each other since 1971 and Graham, a 1971 Danville graduate, and Graham says it's no surprise to him that Harp is on the verge of a historic 300th career win.

evident from the time we met. His integrity and talent for teaching the game has been exhibited consistently over the years.

I know that most people refer to coach Harp as Sam, but he will always be Sammy to me.

It has been a great joy for

me to see my alma mater thrive under Sammy's leadership. Congratulations, Sammy, on the 300th win you are about to get.



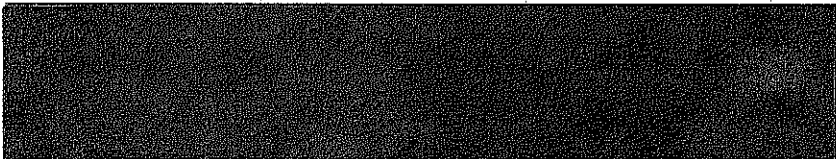
Coaching icon

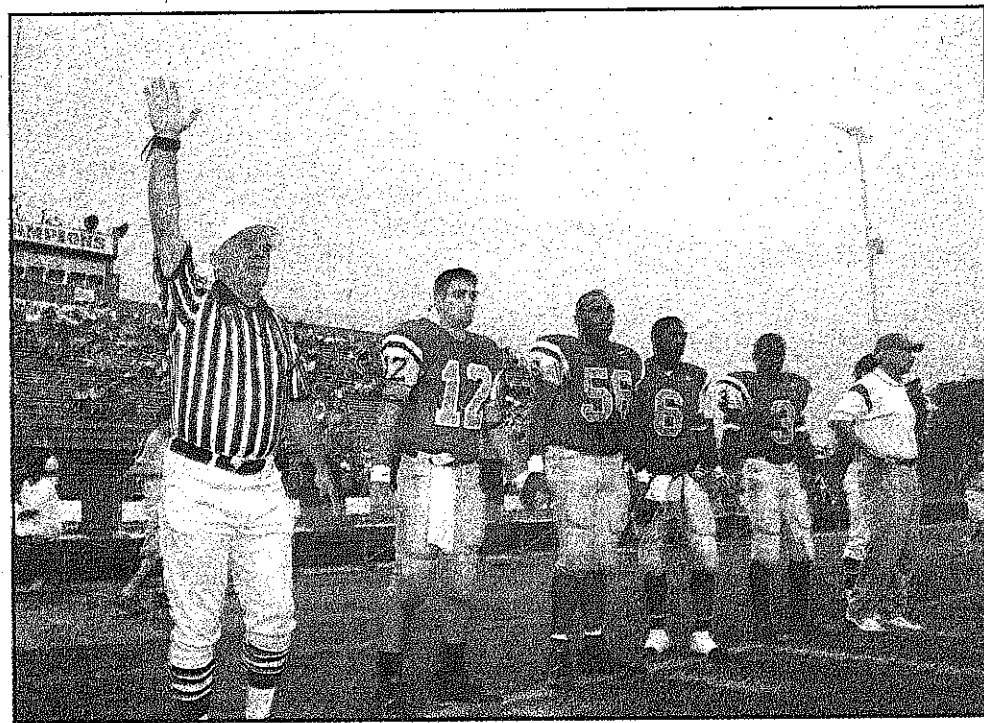
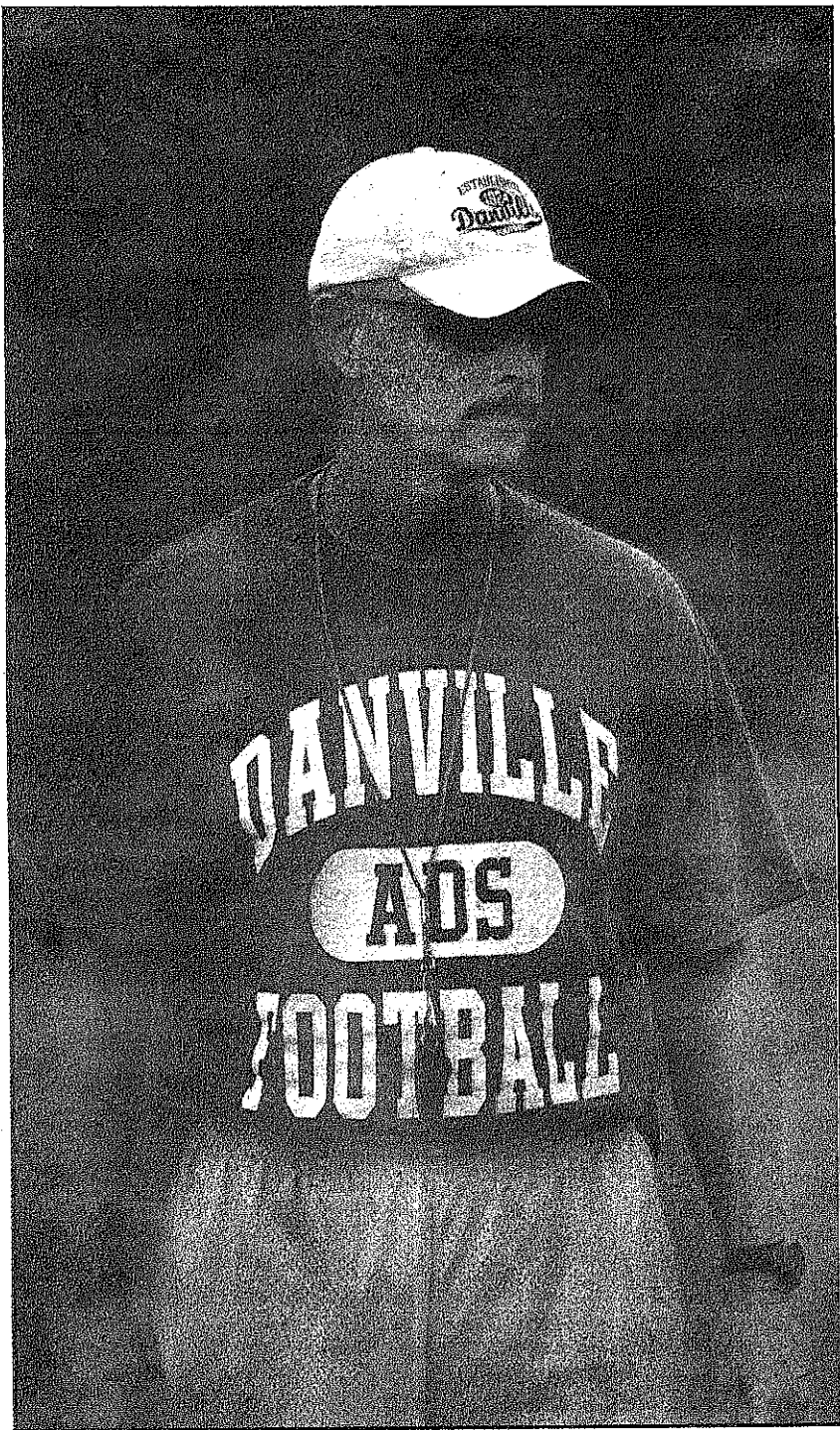




Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com

Danville coach Sam Harp has been able to celebrate seven state championships at Danville as well as 299 victories. He will become only the sixth coach in Kentucky to win 300 games when his Admirals get their first win this season. Harp has an overall record of 299-94 in 30 seasons as a head coach. Danville opens the season by hosting Mason County on Friday at Admiral Stadium.





D.O.E.

DANVILLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT

DANVILLE OFFICE EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

FREE DELIVERY • RENT TO OWN

www.doe.bz

233 W. Main St. • 236-6618 • Danville, KY
 Ted Baker, Owner • Scott Bottoms, President

DANVILLE

233 W. Main St. | Danville, KY
 859-236-6618 | Fax: 859-236-0304

LEBANON

107 W. Mulberry St. | Lebanon, KY
 270-692-6265 | Fax: 270-692-4531

SOMERSET

104 S. Vine St. | Somerset, KY
 606-677-1763 | Fax: 606-677-1884

LIBERTY

Hustonville St. | Liberty, KY
 606-787-9835 | Fax: 606-787-9471



UK coaches on Harp

"Sam has meant so much to high school football, and as impressive as his won/loss record has been, his leadership with the Kentucky High School Coaches Association has been just as impressive. He has always put what is best for Kentucky high school football first with his proposals and recommendations. Sam is a quality person as well as being a great coach. Three hundred is a lot of games to win, and it could not happen to a better guy."

**Recruiting coordinator
 Chuck Smith**

"Winning 300 games no

Kentucky coach Joker Phillips, left, admires the way Sam Harp, second from right, has rebuilt programs. Advocate assistant sports editor Hal Morris remembers losing to Harp's Admirals when he played for Ray Graham, third from right, at Harrison County.

Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com

Admiring Harp

Writer/former foe learned to respect Danville coach

Deep down inside, I was hoping it would have taken Sam Harp about four games longer to reach 300 career wins. But at least I can know I have been a small part of the Danville coach's accomplishment.

Harp and the Admirals ended my football playing career with a loss in the 1989 playoffs, and while I was never a fan of the Admirals, they were something to watch.

I played for Harrison County and coach Ray Graham in the late 1980s, and was on the receiving end of a couple of playoff losses to the Admirals during their state championship runs.

We had Newport Central Catholic as our main rival, but we were always aware of the school to our southwest that fielded powerhouse teams.

We lost to Danville 31-14 under Tom Duffy in



HAL MORRIS
Sports Writer
hmorris@amnews.com

1987, my sophomore year. Then in 1989, we got a thorough beating under the Harp-led Admirals during a preseason scrimmage.

So when we had to face them in the first round of the Class AA playoffs, we were ready for a rematch.

Danville was loaded with Donnie Redd — who should have been Mr. Football that season — Chester Ford, Joe Gannis and a bunch of other talented, fast players.

We lost 10-6, holding Danville to its second-lowest point total of the season. Redd ran a 70-yard touchdown on an option play. I can still remember a TV reporter saying, 'Bye, bye, Donnie!' when I watched the replays from

the news the next day.

We had a chance to win at the end when Preston Winkle intercepted Redd's pass, and we drove to the 7-yard line. But we fumbled the ball away, ending the game and my career.

Everyone knows what happened from there. The Ads steamrolled Newport Central Catholic the next week, a game my dad, a friend and I drove down to watch, and went on to net Harp his first state title.

I never liked Danville when I was player — I'm sure there was some jealousy in the mix there — but I admired the Admirals' success, the way they played and I liked Harp after he spoke to our team one summer.

But I really had a new respect for the team after our season ended. None of us knew beforehand — we were probably the only people in the whole area who didn't — but

the parents of one of our players were shot and his sister was shot and killed the day of that 1989 playoff game. We found out right after the game, which obviously made the game pretty meaningless at that point.

At the funeral for his sister was a signed card by the Danville team and coaches.

I don't know why, but that really surprised several of us, and I thought it was a very classy thing to do.

In 2005, I came to the Advocate and began a professional relationship with Harp, who by then had six more state titles under his belt. I admit it was strange at first talking to the guy who sent you home as a senior. It was even weirder the first time I walked into Admiral Stadium and saw where we fumbled the ball away in that game.

And while we haven't

always agreed, it has been a very good relationship. He's always helpful and honest, and I'm sure he has forgotten more about football than I'll ever know.

I've heard the argument that it is easier to win in a smaller class because the competition isn't as good so certain teams have more advantages.

But I feel it's much harder to win in a smaller town. You don't have the built-in advantage of a large student body from which to pull players.

And unlike the private schools that have been dominating football recently, there is no larger base from which to recruit athletes.

These have been homegrown athletes, which makes getting 300 wins such an impressive feat.

And I can feel I've been a small part of it, 1/300th to be exact.

matter at what level is unbelievable. Certainly for a guy to be that consistent at the high school level when you really don't control players you have coming into your program in any significant way is phenomenal. It just shows the knowledge and ability he has to get the best out of every player that comes through his program.

"When I think of Sam Harp, I think toughness. I think knowledgeable. I think obviously a great motivator. He certainly is one of the best high school coaches in the state of Kentucky and really, in the nation, if you want to be honest. His numbers speak for themselves. His winning percentage, his championships, the way he has been able to keep up at a high level over the years is phenomenal. That's a very difficult thing to do."

**Former head coach
Rich Brooks**

"It just shows his longevity more than anything. He has been in this business for a while and has built programs that were not always winners and made them into winners. When you first take jobs, especially in high school, you have to take jobs that nobody wants. That's one of the things Sam did and he built those teams up and got to a place that he had some tradition like Danville and then won a lot of championships there.

"I am just happy for Sam because he has put a lot of hard work into the programs he has been a part of and has always done it the right way."

Harp left 'God-like' impression on manager

By JESSICA BELCHER

musical. We were putting begins, and we all begin to football





Clay Jackson/clay@amnews.com
Sam Harp has a "God-like" voice that left a lasting impression.

Harp left 'God-like' impression on manager

By JESSICA BELCHER

As a football manager during Danville's 2000 championship season, I have lots of memories of coach Sam Harp on the field and during practice. However, my favorite memory of coach Harp actually happened off the football field some years before.

My first year at Danville High School, I was selected to participate in the spring

musical. We were putting on a production of the "Little Shop of Horrors."

If you have never seen the musical, it is about a killer plant from outer space that comes to take over Earth, and the opening number has a "God-like" voice that sets up the story line.

During our dress rehearsal, we finally got our first glimpse into this opening number. As the music

begins, and we all begin to take our places, the "God-like" voice comes booming over the speakers. To our surprise, coach Harp's voice fills the auditorium.

Yes, that's right! Coach Harp was in a musical! Needless to say, having coach Harp play the voice of God made him a tad bit intimidating.

As you can imagine, as I stepped out onto the field three years later as a

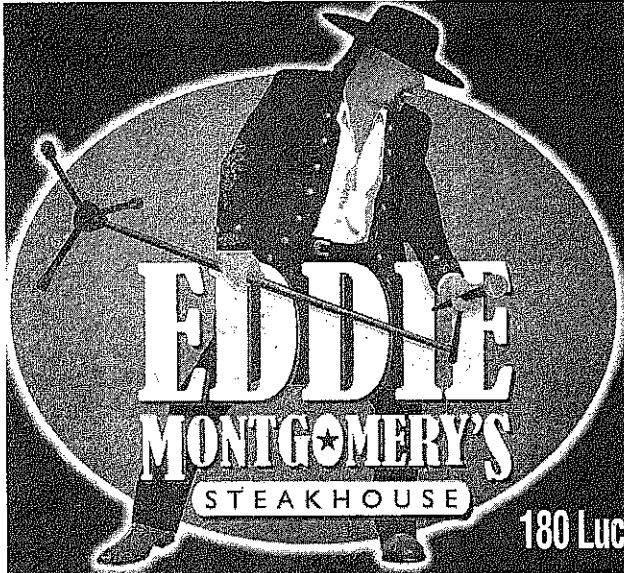
football manager, I was a tad nervous. But all is well that ends well, and I made it through the season as a state champion.

Coach Harp is a wonderful man, and I am so glad I got the opportunity to work for him and with him. My life is very blessed to have him in it, and I couldn't be happier for him and all his success. Congratulations, Coach, on your upcoming 300th win!

because he has put a lot of hard work into the programs he has been a part of and has always done it the right way.

"There's no question he's respected. There is not one coach in this state who doesn't know who Sam Harp is and respects him and I am talking about both at the high school and collegiate level. He has done so many things. He has won. Even in years people thought he would be down, he has won."

Head coach
Joker Phillips



MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL GRAND REOPENING

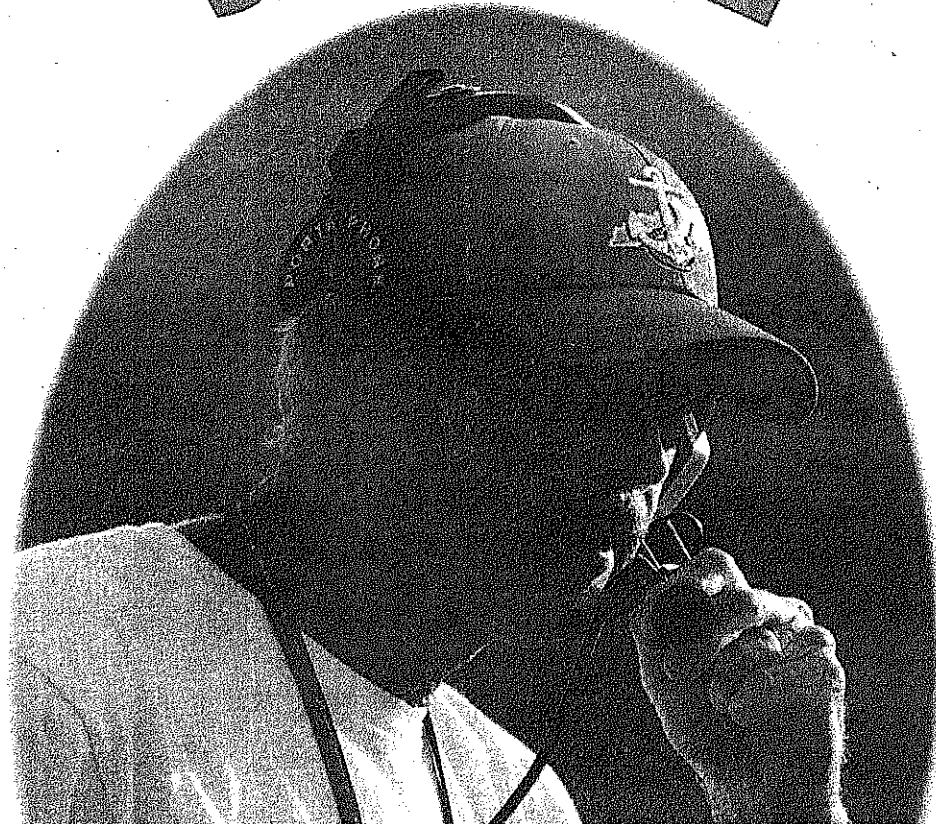
Open Monday Nights at 4pm
Starting August 16

COME KICK OFF THE NEW NFL
SEASON WITH US!

180 Lucky Man Way ★ HARRODSBURG ★ 859-734-3400 ★ www.eddiemontgomerysteakhouse.com

DANVILLE ADMIRALS

SALUTE



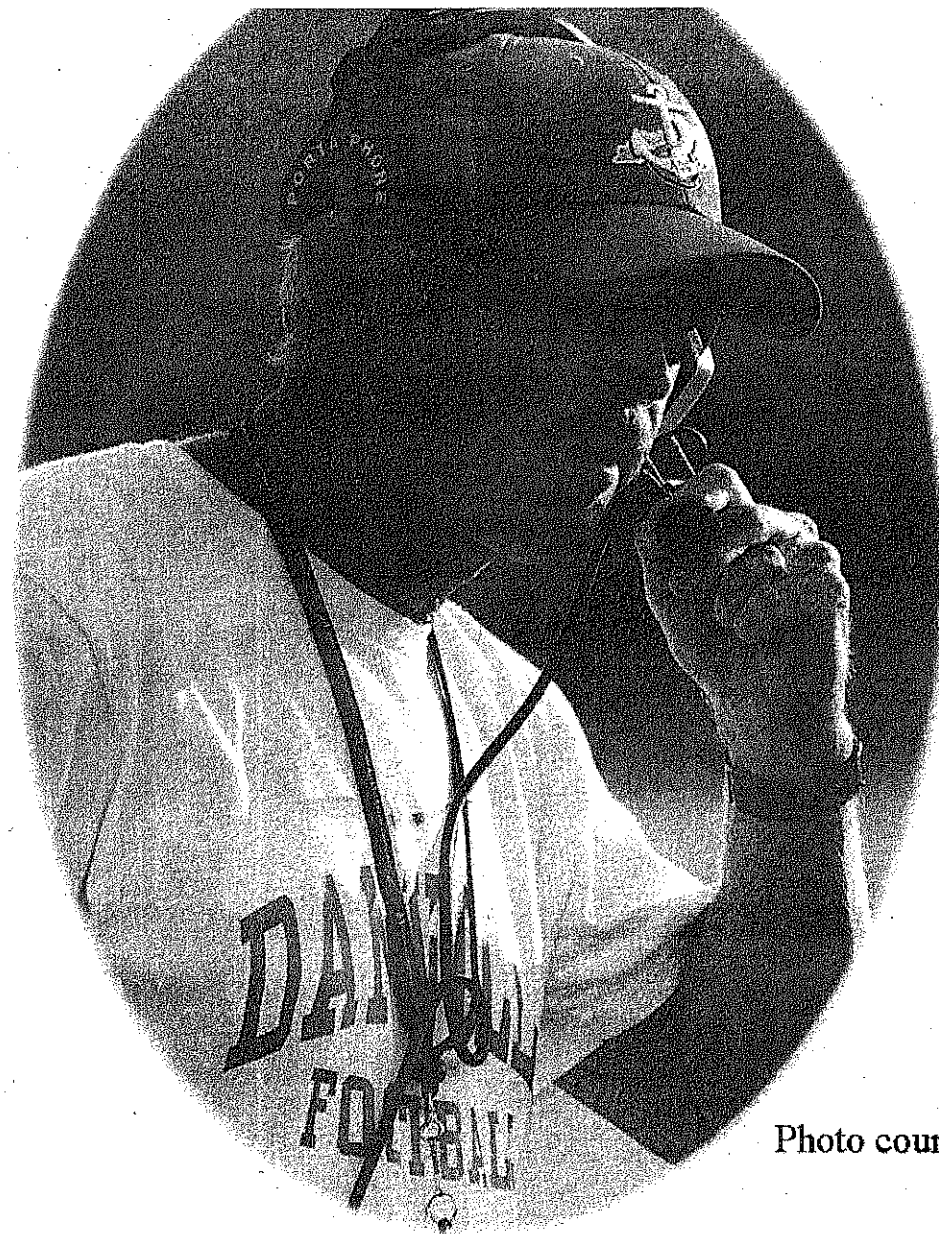
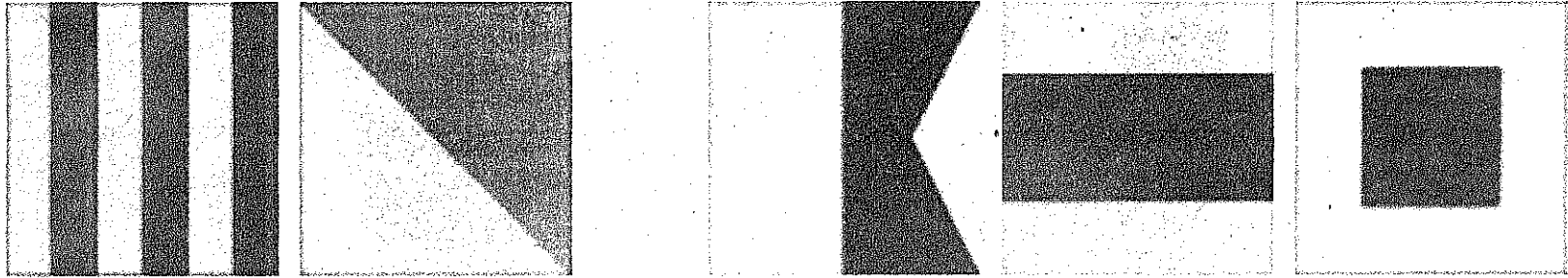


Photo courtesy of Clay Jackson

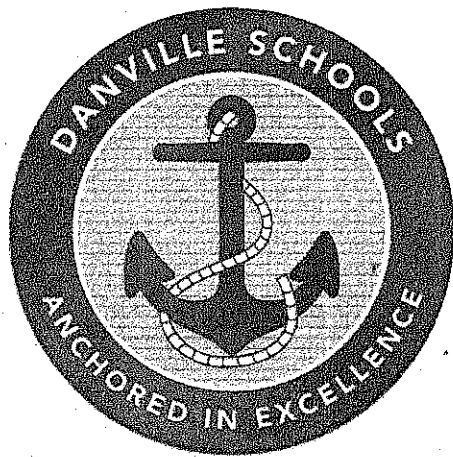
COACH SAM HARP

FOR SETTING THE STANDARD FOR
VICTORIES AND LEADERSHIP
FOR OUR YOUTH



GO

ADS!



Danville Schools

Large enough for a Great Opportunity

Small enough to be Personal