

October 28, 2016

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall of Fame  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, Kentucky 40505

Dear Sir/Madam:

It is my honor and pleasure to write this letter in support of David Wells for consideration for induction into the KHSAA Hall of Fame. I had the privilege of playing for him for 3 years where he served as my position coach at the University of Kentucky,

Besides my parents, Coach Wells was one of the most influential people in my life and I feel all of my fellow receivers felt the same. Coach Wells was a perfectionist in regard to teaching and coaching the fundamentals of football. But most of all, he was concerned about succeeding off the field, especially in the classroom. His passion for high standards and reaching your potential had a great impact on all of his players.

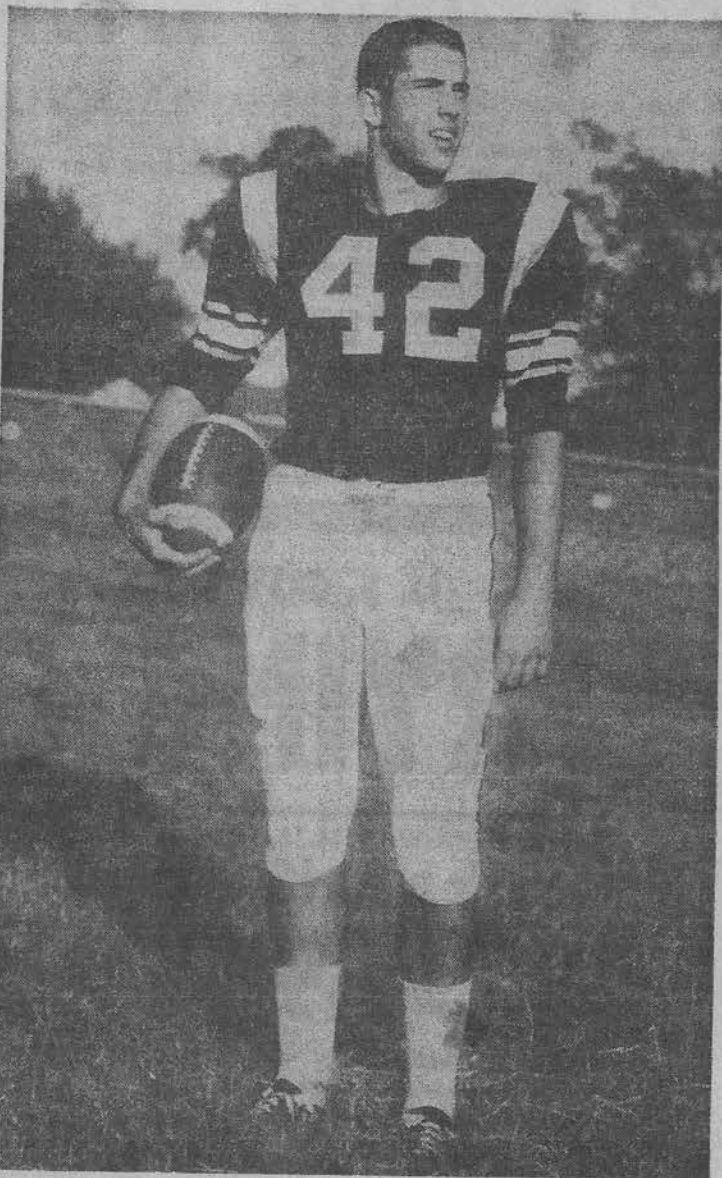
Coach Wells was a two time all-state running back from Madisonville. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> in voting for the Courier Journal All-State Team his senior year and lead the state in scoring. He received a football scholarship to the University of Mississippi, where he played and received his undergraduate degree.

Thank you for considering David Wells for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Fred Bishop

# ALL AMERICAN!



David Wells, all-state Maroon and holder of the 1961 state scoring title with 209 points in eleven games, today was named to the Sporting News high school All-American squad. A nation-wide poll, conducted by the "Wigwam Wisemen of America", announced

its 15th annual teams' selection, to be highlighted in the Sporting News. It is believed that Wells will be invited to play in the All-American game this summer at Memphis, Tennessee. He will receive a plaque and certificate of recognition.

# Maroon Star Seen As Greatest Back Since Billy Cannon

By ELMER KELLEY  
Messenger Sports Editor

David Wells, the most sought-after high school back since Billy Cannon, goes into his seventh game tonight with an excellent chance to pad an already-bulging state scoring and yardage record.

Todate, the statistics look like a combination of Red Grange and Bronko Nagurski rolled into one. In six games, the big Maroon halfback has blitzed his way to 19 touchdowns and two conversions for 116 points. The longest gallop of the lot was 75 yards.

## Yardage Zooms

The individual yardage and game average marks are even more spectacular. In those half-dozen contests, Wells has run a total of 1,388 yards, representing nearly a mile with a football in his arms heading for the double-stripe. His per game average is 231.2 yards per game, and the trip average is 22.6, one of the most fantastic figures ever compiled in high school action.

Wells' figures, strange as it may seem, have not been padded. He has not hogged the show so far as carries are concerned. In one game, in which he scored three times, he lugged the pigskin only nine times. He had 13 trips in another, and 16 in still another. The remainder of the Maroon backfield has not been shunted to the sidelines in order to let Wells do all the scoring.



## Maroons Gallopin' Ghost

David Wells, 190-pound senior halfback strikes a pose not calculated to frighten the enemy until you check his statistics. Going into the Kentucky Shrine Bowl game tonight, Wells leads

the state in scoring, yards gained, average yardage and per trip average. There are plans to retire jersey number 42 when Wells plays his final game. (Webb Studio photo)

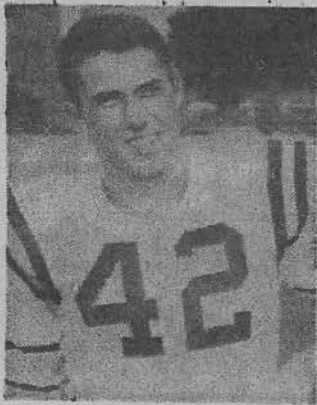
## Coaches Impressed

The "rave" notices are out all the way from Baton Rouge, Louisiana to Champaign-Urbana, Illinois. No less than a dozen major schools have scouted him and invited him to their campuses. Paul Bryant has described him, from scouting reports, as the finest high school back in the modern history of southern football. Kentucky Coach Elanton Collier has said he could build an entire college backfield around him. University of Louisville coaches claim he could play major college football right now.

With all the fanfare and publicity, nothing has changed. Wells is still on the shy side, earning a nickname of "Chapper" because he associates claim to the worst word they ever heard him use was an exclamation of disgust by saying "Oh chap". His academic standing has earned him a membership in the Beta Club, and his choice of a college is going to be dictated by the education he can get as well as further acclaim in football.

Small wonder that when he hangs up jersey number "42", they may retire it at MHS.





DAVID WELLS  
All-Southern Back

## Wells On All-Southern

ORLANDO, Fla., (AP)—Louisville Flaget quarterback Rick Norton topped a list of five Kentuckians named to the 43rd annual All-Southern high school football team announced Sunday by the Orlando Sentinel-Star.

Other Kentuckians named to the 60-man team were David Wells, back, Madisonville; Clint Bacon, end, Louisville Manual; Rick Kestner, end, Belfry, and Roger Bird, back, Corbin.

### 12-State Area

The team was drawn from a 12-state area on the basis of five players from each state. A panel of 132 coaches and sports writers, including Earl Cox of the Louisville Courier-Journal, participated in the poll.

Kentuckians receiving honorable mention were: Charles Ersham, tackle, Louisville Male; Frank Sellingwe, tackle, Louisville Flaget; Lloyd Caudill, guard, Hazard; Rich Stuedle, guard, Louisville Trinity; Phil Menger, center, Paducah Tilghman, and Talbott Todd, back, Richmond Madison.

# Honor Team Wells H-M On Wigwam

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (AP)—Bill Young, a tackle from Ludlow, Ky., high school, has been named to the second team of the annual Wigwam Wisemen high school All-American football team.

Two other Kentuckians were named to the first seven teams. Rick Norton, a Louisville Flaget quarterback, was named to the fifth team, and quarterback Talbott Todd of Richmond to the seventh.

There were no Kentuckians on the first team.

In addition, there were 33 prep footballers from Kentucky given honorable mention on the team. These were:

Charles Mudd of Fairdale; Don Brinley of Fairdale; Jack Dunn of Lexington; Roger Walz of Fort Thomas; Phillip Mengel of Paducah; David Wells of Madisonville; Buddy Salyers of Raceland; Bob Slater of Russell;

Clinton Bacon of Louisville; Frank Sellinger of Louisville; Bob Selwyn of Harlan; Roger Bird of Corbin; Freddy Ballou of Richmond; Rick Kestner of Belfry; Homer Coins of Evarts; Jimmy Jameson of Loyall;

Charlie Mitchell of Princeton; Leslie Mallory of Princeton; Jimmy Elliott of Pineville; Mike McGraw of Fort Thomas; Samm Ball of Henderson; Dennis Brown of Newport; Larry Miller of Newport; Harvey Dennis Smart of Paris;

Rex Edwards of Danville; Larry Johnson of Russellville; Paul Alexander of Jeffersonton; Paul Hyden of Louisville; Richard Wilder of Louisville; Lloyd Caudill of Hazard; David Davidson of Catlettsburg; Charlie Robertson of Murray, and Steve Williams of Murray.

# Wells Is The Best, Old Timers Declare

By ELMER KELLEY

MADISONVILLE, Ky.—Football old timers around this coal town agree to a man that David Wells, the "wheel" that turns the 1961 Madisonville High School team, is the greatest back in the city's history.

Mayor David Parish says it would have cost the Chamber of Commerce a fortune to have bought the publicity that Wells has gotten for Madisonville and it hasn't cost a cent.

The well-mannered 190-pounder is a product of the grade-school football program begun over a dozen years ago which is still feeding coach Bill Welborn with big, well-conditioned boys who are "over the hump" in basic fundamentals when he gets them for varsity competition.

Wells has been no flash-in-the-pan. His career has been well-timed and precisioned from the start. He was a junior high star at old Seminary Street school and earned headlines as a freshman.

Welborn has commented on several occasions that "Wells could have made the varsity as a freshman, but I didn't want to take the chance of getting him hurt by throwing him in with older and bigger boys. We could see greatness written all over him. He figured in our future plans."

As a sophomore, Wells made the All-State second team and was voted the outstanding player in the Kentucky Shrine Bowl game. As a junior, he sustained a cracked ankle bone near the end of the season, and sat out the last three games. Even then, he just missed breaking a state scoring record.

Now, in his final year as a Maroon, he is within striking distance of setting an all-time Kentucky scoring mark. In the first nine games of an 11-game schedule, Wells had racked up 28 touchdowns and four conversions, and his per-game yardage was over 225. His per-trip mark is beyond a fantastic 20



**BILL WELBORN**

... another one on the way

yards every time he handles the ball.

You might ask, "What does he have that other good high school backs don't?" Welborn describes it as a "phenominal amount of desire."

Says his coach: "His 100 per cent concentration seems to be one of his greatest assets. He has his head in the ball game every second, has learned his plays to perfection, and is always in position. Not only that, he knows the position of every other backfield man and constantly reminds them in the huddle if they are in the wrong place.

"Naturally, you can have all kinds of desire, but the natural ability has to come with it. Wells is blessed with tons of ability. His size (6-1, 188 pounds) gives him tremendous power, and he'll be bigger by the time he's a college sophomore. He has strong legs, big shoulders and a slim waist. There's not an ounce of fat on him."

Perhaps the greatest change local fans have noted from the last two years is the rapid maturity of the big Maroon half-back. He was prone to leg and ankle injuries during his first two years on the varsity, but this season he has learned several tricks to keep himself from getting hurt.

In one game, Wells started pulling his ankles under him when tackled because he thought the opposition was trying to "get him out of action." After another game, Wells said, "They were rolling over on me after I was down, or putting a knee on my ankles when they'd get up off me."

day and night in the week. He gets airplane reservations, tickets, dinner invitations, the works.

Georgia Tech coach Bobby Dodd is scheduled to fly from Atlanta later this month to talk to him. Dodd was due here last week but postponed his visit. Bear Bryant from Alabama has called almost weekly since the season started. Blanton Collier of Kentucky has been to see him three times and has an assistant coach in Madisonville for every game. Bowden Wyatt has spent a small fortune on telephone calls from Tennessee.

Wells has toured the Vanderbilt campus arm-in-arm with Art Guepe and Johnny Vaught says he can have the biggest Confederate flag in Mississippi.

Wells wants to study business administration while playing college football. A B-student and member of the Beta Club, he is not going to college just to play football. But the school that signs him has, barring injuries, an All-American in the making.

After Nov. 10, they'll retire No. 42 at Madisonville, make Wells honorary president of the Chamber of Commerce, then sit back and wait. There's another Wells on the way—Marc, burning up the grade school league.

They say around here, "Marc runs just like David." Coach Welborn just grins.

With his size, power, concentration, and knowledge of the game, Wells has two other valuable assets — burning speed and a fade-away sidestep which has befuddled the opposition all season. One fan, who watched Red Grange in his hey-day at Illinois, swears that Wells has the same cross-step ability that Grange used so effectively.

He can cross one foot over the other and change directions almost at a 90-degree angle without checking his speed. More than one safety man has tackled nothing but thin air in trying to solve the Wells fade-away.

Wells is actually shy by nature. Once he almost broke his neck climbing a tree to escape an admiring group of "Daisy Maes" on Sady Hawkins Day at MHS. When asked to speak at chapel pep sessions, he gets red-faced and gropes for words while the audience howls in appreciation. His father likens him to a grizzly bear when trying to speak, never knowing what to do with his hands and feet.

Where's he going to college? Nobody knows as yet. At least a dozen major schools are camping on his doorstep every



# Wells, Todd, Bird, Mengel And Caudill Honored On All-State; Kestner Repeats

By EARL COX

It was a great year for backs in Kentucky high-school football—and balloting for The Courier-Journal's 39th annual All-State team proved it.

Rick Norton, Louisville Flaget's great quarterback, led the voting to earn the honorary captaincy of the dream team. . . . David Wells, Madisonville's dazzling runner who led the state in scoring with 208 points, was second. . . . Talbott Todd, the versatile quarterback from Richmond Madison, was third. . . . It took

a repeater from last year's team, end Rick Kestner, a young giant from Belfry, to break up the backs' monopoly in the voting.

Kestner and Norton were the only repeaters.

Others on the elite group:

Back Rodger Bird of Corbin, end Clint Bacon of Manual, tackle Charles Ehrsam of Male High, tackle Frank Sellinger of Flaget, guard Lloyd Caudill of Hazard and center Phil Mengel of Paducah Tilghman. The team was chosen by vote

of the state's prep coaches. No one else voted.

The linemen, while a sturdy group, aren't big as All-State linemen go, averaging 204 pounds. The backs, however, are big, hitting a 183 mean. The team is an all-senior unit. Flaget, the state Class AA champion, was the only team with two players, Fort Thomas Highlands, the Class AA king,

landed two berths on the Second Team and one on the Third. Murray, the Class A ruler, got one Third Team spot. *Thumbing the All-State's* scored (18). Hatfield set a state record with 26 scoring passes. . . . A good student and a standout also in basketball and baseball, the Belfry end may be the best player ever. *Continued on Page 5, Col. 6*

**Rick Kestner** . . . This repeater from last year's All-State eleven combined with quarterback Floyd Hatfield to

## Second Team

- Pos. Player School**  
 E—James Bosley, Richmond Madison.  
 E—Gary Overton, Pad. Tilghman.  
 T—Sam Ball, Henderson Co.  
 T—Bob Heinze, Highlands.  
 G—Star Evins, Somerset.  
 G—David Carter, Manual.  
 C—Tom Binkley, Lexington Lafayette.  
 B—Fred Ballou, Richmond Madison.  
 B—Larry Johnson, Russellville.  
 B—Jim Levitch, Owensboro St. Highlands.  
 B—Roger Walz, Ft. Thomas Highlands.

## Third Team

- Pos. Player School**  
 E—Joe Tennill, Shelbyville.  
 E—Bill Bouchard, Flaget.  
 T—Terry Bird, Elizabethtown.  
 T—Maurice Mooreman, St. Xavier.  
 G—Richard Workman, Murray.  
 G—George Withers, Versailles.  
 C—Mike Murphy, St. Xavier.  
 B—Toby Thomason, Henderson Co.  
 B—Danny Lawson, Shawnee.  
 B—Gordon Thompson, Ferris Creek.  
 B—Mike McGraw, Ft. Thomas Highlands.

## All-State Team

Pos.	Player	School	Wt.	Ht.	Age	Class
E	Rick Kestner	Belfry	212	6-3	17	Sr.
E	Clint Bacon	Manual	175	6-0	18	Sr.
T	Charles Ehrsam	Male	200	6-0	18	Sr.
T	Frank Sellinger	Flaget	205	5-11	18	Sr.
G	Lloyd Caudill	Hazard	210	6-1	17	Sr.
G	Rich Stuedle	Trinity	195	5-11	17	Sr.
C	Phil Mengel	Pad. Tilghman	210	6-2½	17	Sr.
B	Rick Norton	Flaget	175	6-2	18	Sr.
B	David Wells	Madisonville	188	6-0	17	Sr.
B	Talbott Todd	Madison	195	6-1	17	Sr.
B	Rodger Bird	Corbin	175	6-0	18	Sr.



**Rick Norton**  
BACK: Flaget



**Clint Bacon**  
END: Manual



**Frank Sellinger**  
TACKLE: Flaget



**David Wells**  
BACK: Madisonville



**Talbott Todd**  
BACK: Richmond Madison



**Rodger Bird**  
BACK: Corbin

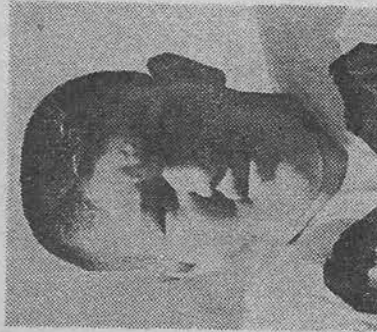
# Meet The Courier-Journal's 1961 All-State Football Team



**Rick Kestner**  
END: Belfry



**Charles Ehrsam**  
TACKLE: Mate High



**Lloyd Caudill**  
GUARD: Hazard



**Phil Mengel**  
CENTER: Paducah Tilghman



**Rich Stuedle**  
GUARD: Trinity

## Bradshaw Here!

Kentucky's new football coach, Charley Bradshaw, made Madisonville his first recruiting target last night. The Wildcats' new boss was in town talking to high school All American David Wells, and indirectly trying to reverse his earlier attempts to lure Wells to Alabama.

Bradshaw told Wells, "This is no direct sales pitch. Naturally I want you at Kentucky, but whatever school you choose, I'm for you". Bradshaw planned to be in Louisville today to talk to Flaget all-stater Ricky Norton.

The new Kentucky coach will catch the final sessions of the NCAA meeting in Chicago this weekend, fly back to Tuscaloosa, and wind up his Alabama affairs early next week. Bradshaw plans to be back in Lexington to assume his duties by the mid-week of next week.



# State Record Barely Missed As Maroons Bombard Sturgis

By ELMER KELLEY  
Messenger Sports Editor

A generous chunk of lost glory was recaptured by Bill Welborn's Madisonville Maroons last night as Kentucky's Blanton Collier watched them wallop Sturgis 40-7, and David Wells miss by only nine points of breaking the all-time state scoring record. But Wells, playing only in spots, wasn't the only artist in the victory.

Quarterback George Pearce tossed three touchdown passes to Wells and missed by an eyelash scoring on two others. Pearce had 160 yards through the air for the best night of his career.

#### Daniels Shines

Roger Daniels, closing out his high school trek, provided a major portion of the fireworks. The senior halfback ignited the scoring with an 81 yard punt return in the first quarter after taking a reverse handoff from Joe Hawkins. He went another 85 yards on a pick-off runback, and missed by a single block of a third lengthy excursion. He picked up 55 yards on the missed opportunity, giving him 221 yards on returns alone. Three of Wells' payoff jaunts were on the receiving end of passes from Pearce, the fourth was a 4-yard smash over tackle.

Points After Touchdown—Butler (4) placement.

Dean Dowdy's MHS band, performing at halftime and honoring the senior members, was praised by Kentucky's Blanton Collier as "one of the finest high school bands I've ever seen." Collier said "All of Madisonville should be proud of this terrific organization."

A signal honor was paid to Ted Stanton, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Stanton, Montrose Park. Young Stanton has been chosen as a member of the United States High School band, of 100 members, chosen from the nation at large, to take a European tour next spring, playing in concerts in several nations. The band is sponsored by the Lions Club of America. Dean Dowdy said it was the highest honor ever paid to a member of his high school bands at Madisonville.

The long touchdown jaunts by the Maroon backfield cut down the first down figures, giving Sturgis the edge 13-8. The game was surprisingly free from heavy penalties, Madisonville picking up 35 yards and Sturgis 25. Quarterback Harry Hina threw 13 passes, hit on two and had three intercepted, with Jim Ashmore snagging two of them and Ricky Wakeland the other. Ashmore played one of his best defensive games, as did Ricky Wakeland, who was credited with 14 individual tackles during the contest. The two new starters, Playl and Carlisle turned in a creditable performance, while Pollock, Jamerson, and Tucker stood out on defense with the middle of Welborn and Demko.

#### Misses Record

Wells, who had been nursing a wrenched knee all week, was used on only eight offensive plays all night, and he turned four of them into touchdowns. His 24 points shot his season total to 208 points, nine shy of the all-time state record of 216. His game yardage figure was 139 overall, making a season total of 2,350 yards in eleven

Last night's Madisonville victory put the Maroons into a three-way tie for the 1961 Big Eight Conference football championship. Tied with Bill Welborn's club are Owensboro Senior and Henderson County. Each had 6-1 records and the defeats in each case represented a setback against the co-champion. Owensboro Senior defeated Madisonville, while the Maroons knocked off Henderson County, and the latter clipped Owensboro Senior.

games, an average of 214 yards per game. His per trip average rose to 24.5 yards everytime he has handled the ball.

Daniels, in picking up two long touchdowns, had the night's top yardage total of 256 yards. Lionel Walls, running on five plays, had 31 yards for the evening.

Sturgis lone score came in the third quarter with Joe Woodring ramming in from the one yard line after a pass interception had started a Bear offensive from the 40 yard line.

## David Wells Is Speaker For Banquet At Waddill

David Wells, outstanding Madisonville High School athlete, Beta Club member and Explorer Scout, was guest speaker at the Waddill Avenue School banquet honoring the school's basketball and football teams, coaches, parents and cheerleaders held in the school lunchroom last Thursday evening, with Russell Badgett giving the invitation.

After the dinner Miss Dixie Lois Logan, school principal, introduced Mr. James Villines, who has been the Waddill Avenue Parent-Teacher Association athletic co-ordinator and basketball coach this year. Mr. Villines in turn introduced the speaker, whose topic was "Good Health Habits."

Mr. Villines then introduced the football coach for the school, Mr. Jerry Adams, thanking him and the parents for a successful athletic season. Co-captain Steve Tucker presented Mr. Villines with a gift of appreciation, a gift having

been presented to Mr. Adams earlier in the year. The runner-up trophy won by Waddill was shown to the group.

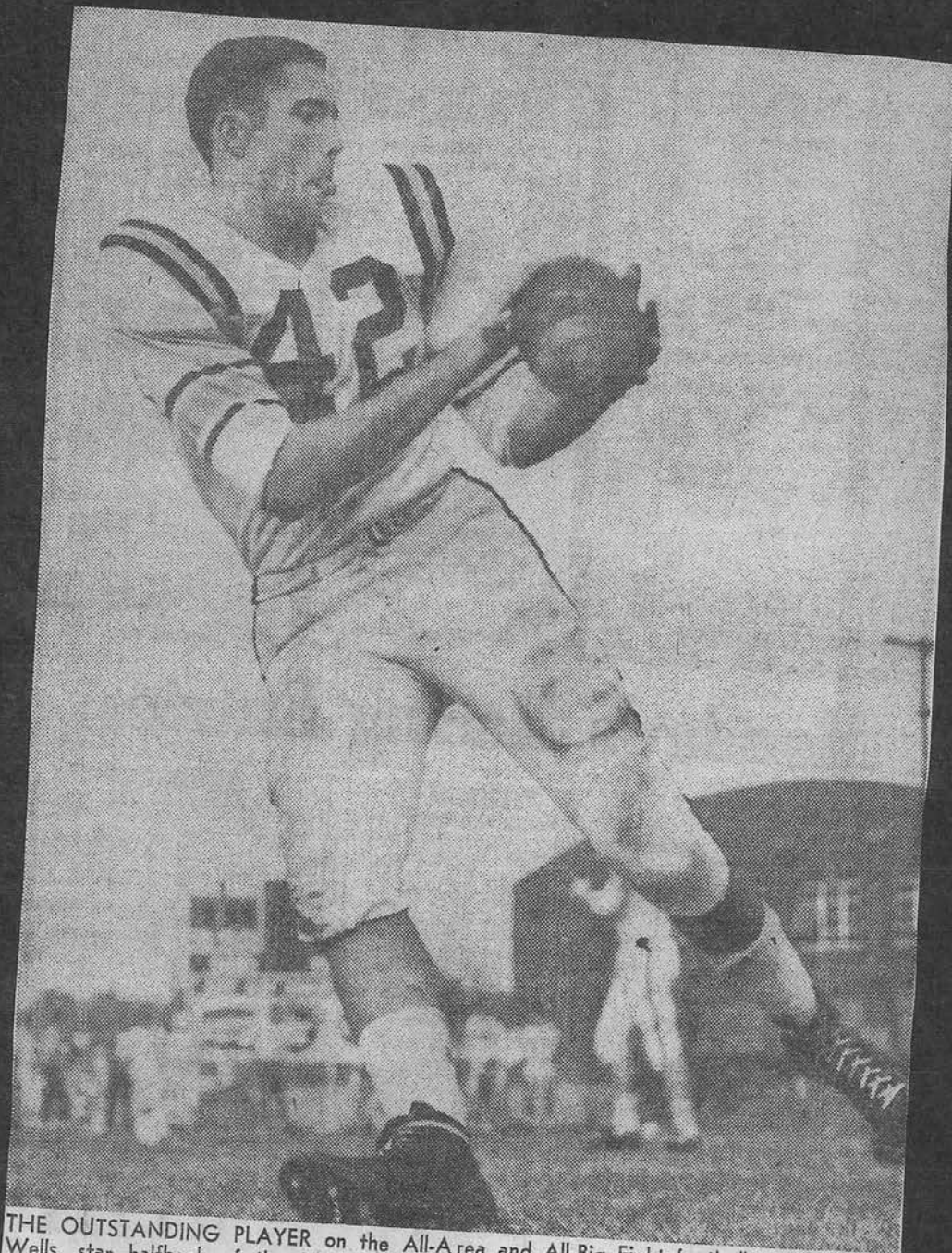
Both squads were presented to the group by Mr. Villines, including:

Basketball, Steve Tucker, Choc Badgett, Bob Fowler, Bentley Badgett, Stroud Rickard, Richard Sanderson, Raymond Davis, Rusty Trover, Jimmy Salmon, Jimmy Harley and Billy Killough.

Football, Tommy Craft, Billy Killough, Bentley Badgett, Choc Badgett, Bob Fowler, Steve Tucker, Charles Ramsey, Richard Husk, Tommy Wilson, Billy Blalock, Raymond Davis, Doug VanTuyle, Kern Hunter, Rusty Trover, Jimmy Harley, Rodger Jones, Ronny Trice, Craig Harmon, Britt Anderson, Larry Vanover and James Phipps.

Mrs. Howard Webb presented the cheerleaders, who are Marion Webb, Diana Baldwin, Nancy Nisbet, Susanne Hargrave and Becky Bishop.





**THE OUTSTANDING PLAYER** on the All-Area and All-Big Eight football teams is David Wells, star halfback of the Madisonville Maroons. In 11 games this fall, Wells had 2350 yards, an average of 264 a game. He averaged an amazing 26.4 yards per carry. The 188-pound senior led all Kentucky backs in scoring with 208 points. He's a senior.

# Former football hero hasn't forgotten the folks back home in Madisonville

By TOM COLLINS  
Courier staff writer

David Wells had injured his ankle in Madisonville (Ky.) High School's football practice earlier in the week, and was questionable for the Morganfield game on that Friday night in the fall of 1961.

But the fleet-footed Wells recuperated in time, and ran for six touchdowns in a 51-7 rout of a Morganfield team that soon would consolidate with nearby Sturgis to form Union County High School.

In the process, Wells became the first Madisonville player to score six TDs in one game. Yet Wells' memory of that record-setting game has nothing to do with scoring points.

"More than scoring any touchdown, I remember a young man from Morganfield getting hurt badly in the game and being removed by ambulance," said Wells, the Associate Athletic Director for Compliance and Student Services at the University of Mississippi. "I never heard how he recovered.

"Morganfield and Sturgis had strong football traditions in the 1950s. Yet they were about to consolidate, and they probably lacked the numbers that schools like Madisonville, Owensboro and Henderson had. I'm sure Madisonville had more depth, and I'm sure that played a role in the game."

No more than Wells, who was on his way to having the greatest season in the state. He capped his senior year by leading the state in scoring with 208 points in 11 games, just nine points shy of the all-time Kentucky record for one season. He scored 34 touchdowns and added four PATs.

He accumulated 2,350 all-purpose yards, and averaged 18 yards per rush.

He received first-team all-state honors from United Press International his junior and senior years, and also got some high school all-America votes.

A three-year starter, Wells led Madisonville to a 23-6-2 record.

However, football wasn't his

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO ...

only love. He lettered three years in basketball, averaging 14 points and 11 rebounds as a 6-foot forward during his senior season of 1961-62. He ran track for four years, clocking a 10-second 100-yard dash in the Western Kentucky Relays in his senior season.

He was the team's captain in football, basketball and track.

"In my time, it was sort of expected," he said. "You went from football to basketball to baseball or track. I enjoyed all three sports, but I didn't have the physical attributes to continue playing basketball or running track.

"In basketball, we were a squatty bunch. The coach, C.G. Sherrill, played a ball control offense. You see the scores of those games now and you don't know if they are high-scoring baseball games or low-scoring basketball games."

He ran the 100- and 220-yard sprints and a leg of the 380 relay and also was a long jumper.

"Back then, lots of folks did that. There weren't any one-sport, or one-event, specialists like now. And lots of coaches coached more than one sport, unlike today."

Wells' focus then turned to college.

"Signing with Ole Miss was a very difficult decision because I became attached to the coaches recruiting me. Schools and prospects got to know each other much better back then because there was more contact allowed.

"Ole Miss has a relatively small, beautiful campus in a small college town (Oxford). It's a good place to live and raise a family."

In 1962, Ole Miss also was a football powerhouse. It was consistently ranked in the nation's top 10 and played in a major bowl game each season.

In Wells' freshman year of '62 — he didn't play because freshmen were ineligible — the Rebels went



David Wells is associate athletic director at the University of Mississippi, his alma mater.

undefeated and won the Sugar Bowl.

He lettered for the Rebels the next three seasons.

During his sophomore year, the Rebels were Southeastern Conference champions and returned to the Sugar Bowl.

Mississippi was ranked No. 1 in Wells' junior season before being upset by Kentucky. That team went to the Bluebonnet Bowl.

As a senior in 1965, Wells played on the Ole Miss team that forced Kentucky into a fourth-and-41 situation, only to see UK's Larry Seiple run for a touchdown on the next play.

"I'll never forget that," he said, laughing.

Ole Miss played in the Liberty Bowl that year.

Wells was first-team academic all-SEC, and was elected "Colonel Rebel," an honor issued to the male student who best exemplified the university.

Six months later, in December, 1965, he signed as a free agent with the Washington Redskins of the

National Football League. He played in three exhibition games in rookie camp.

"As the saying goes, there's a time for everyone to get off the train," he said. "It was a nice experience to play a little pro ball. The Redskins wanted to place me in the old Continental (Football) League. I decided if I wasn't good enough to play in the NFL, I wanted to go back to graduate school and prepare for the rest of my life."

Wells returned to Ole Miss and served as a graduate assistant coach for two years. One of his players was future all-America quarterback Archie Manning, then a freshman.

"That was one of the best classes, overall, I've ever seen."

After fulfilling a military service commitment, Wells was an assistant football coach under Dennis Sexton at Madisonville High. One of his pupils was Alfred "Sonny" Collins, later an all-SEC football player at Kentucky.

"He was lots better than I was," said Wells. "He got hurt his senior year, so he was unable to reach his peak."

For the next five years, Wells was a graduate assistant coach, and then a full-time assistant, at UK under Fran Curci. He returned to Ole Miss as an assistant coach for one year, then left the profession.

"I decided I wasn't happy. I got a chance to come back in an administrative role in 1981 and I've been here ever since.

Wells and his wife of 28 years have three sons and one daughter.

"I've had a very rewarding life, been very blessed. I'm very appreciative and I'd be remiss if I didn't thank all the people in Madisonville, friends and teachers, who had a positive influence on my life.

"I believe one of the problems today is the young people don't have the support network of family and friends. I remember all of the civic groups in Madisonville that supported things like youth sports leagues. They helped structure my life."



five. But Apman came up with the loose ball to halt the threat. Wells, who raced 76 yards to score on the first play after the second-half kickoff, rushed for 195 of Madisonville's 270 yards, averaging better than 10 yards for 19 carries. "He can do it all," said Genito. "He's fast, shifty and strong. My boy (Jim) Levitch is nearly as good. Playing both fullback and halfback, Levitch got 123 yards in 16 tries, averaging 7.5."

their luck at picking the loop champions.

Four other Red Devils besides Apman went the distance both ways. They were tackle Bill Taylor, halfback-linebacker LaVelton Kennedy and end John Hofendorfer.

As a reward for their performance, the Red Devils were excused from practice until Thursday by Genito. They don't play this week and will meet Henderson County at Henderson on September 15. If they can get by Mojo Hollowell's dangerous Colonels, ("It could be close, but they haven't been hit like we'll hit them," said Genito), the First Region championship probably will be decided on September 30 when Owensboro visits Paducah.

That's the one you'll want to see, Owensboro vs. Tilghman!

The playoffs, starting their third season, naturally have won some of the attention away from the conference races, but many fans still are interested so we asked the coaches to try



Staff Photo

David Wells  
An All-Stater—For Sure

## Chalk Talk

# ... And Wells Made All-State, Genito Says

By EARL COX

The crowd for Friday night's battle between Class AA, First Region titans Owensboro Senior and Madisonville was between 4,000 and 4,500, possibly the largest in Owensboro's football history.

When the struggle was over, the crowd had seen:

1. "One of the best high-school football games I've seen in a long time." That was the way Owensboro Coach Ralph Genito put it.
2. Owensboro triumph over the Maroons 18-14 and become the best bet to succeed Paducah Tilghman as regional champion. Madisonville actually gained respect in defeat.
3. Madisonville's halfback David Wells establish himself as a Courier-Journal All-Stater. "I'll guarantee you that Wells is an All-State player," Genito said.

"It was the kind of a game that it was a shame that either team had to lose," said Genito. "I was glad to win and I know that Bill Welborn (the Madisonville coach) was broken hearted to lose."

"The game was won in the line," Genito said. "Sonny Apman, a center and defensive end, did a terrific job all night." It was Apman who recovered a wobbly pitchout to Wells that actually saved the game for Owensboro. With 30 seconds to go, Madisonville trailed just 18-14 and had the ball on Owensboro's

## All-Big Eight

Player, School	Pos.	Wgt.	Class
Bill Carpenter, Owensboro.....	E	150	Sr.
Larry Peyton, Henderson Co.....	E	155	Sr.
Sam Ball, Henderson County.....	T	205	Sr.
Steve Smith, Henderson City.....	T	215	Sr.
Jerry Smith, Owensboro.....	G	160	St.
Jim Ashmore, Madisonville.....	G	170	Sr.
Earl Apman, Owensboro.....	C	185	Sr.
Toby Thomason, Henderson Co....	QB	155	Sr.
David Wells, Madisonville.....	HB	188	Sr.
Jim Levitch, Owensboro.....	HB	170	Sr.
Mike Geiger, Morganfield.....	FB	170	Sr.

**COACH OF THE YEAR** — Mojo Hollowell, Henderson County  
**OUTSTANDING PLAYER**—Wells, Madisonville

**CAPTAIN**—Smith, Henderson City

### SECOND TEAM

**ENDS** — Challon Mason, Daviess County; Floyd Pollock, Madisonville.

**TACKLES**—Bill Taylor, Owensboro; W. C. Berry, Sturgis.

**GUARDS**—Jim Gish, Henderson County; Gary Bell, Morganfield.

**CENTER**—John Bennett, Owensboro Catholic.

**QUARTERBACK**—David Watkins, Owensboro.

**HALFBACKS**—Cary McMullin, Henderson County; Joe Woodring, Sturgis.

**FULLBACK**—Gary Gillham, Henderson County.

### HONORABLE MENTION

**END**—John Jamison, Madisonville.

**GUARD**—George Lackey, Henderson City.

**QUARTERBACKS**—Harry Hina, Sturgis; George Pearce, Madisonville.

**FULLBACKS**—David Keown, Daviess County; Tom Schmitt, Owensboro Catholic; Gary Matz, Crittenden County.

## All-Area

Player, School	Pos.	Wgt.	Class
Bill Carpenter, Owensboro.....	E	150	Sr.
Leslie Mallory, Caldwell County..	E	180	Sr.
Sam Ball, Henderson County.....	T	205	Sr.
Steve Smith, Henderson City.....	T	215	Sr.
Jerry Smith, Owensboro.....	G	160	Sr.
Jim Ashmore, Madisonville.....	G	170	Sr.
Earl Apman, Owensboro.....	C	185	Sr.
Toby Thomason, Henderson Co....	QB	155	Sr.
David Wells, Madisonville.....	HB	188	Sr.
Larry Johnson, Russellville.....	HB	190	Sr.
Mike Geiger, Morganfield.....	FB	170	Sr.

**COACH OF THE YEAR** — Mojo Hollowell, Henderson County  
**OUTSTANDING PLAYER**—Wells, Madisonville  
**CAPTAIN**—Johnson, Russellville

## Wells Shuns Low Cut Shoes

David Wells, the Outstanding Player on the All-Area football team, doesn't wear low-cut shoes. The Madisonville half-back suffered a broken ankle late in his junior season so he made sure this year he would have as much support as possible.

Madisonville Coach Bill Welborn doesn't care for low-cuts either. "I don't think they give a boy enough more speed and mobility to make up for the lack of support," he said. "It's mainly psychological. A boy just thinks he can run faster when he wears low-cuts."

This brings to mind the first year that low-cuts were a craze in basketball. I remember one team that wore the shoes and lost a game as a result.

On a fast-break situation, a boy on the team "dressed in style" lost one of his shoes while trying to defend. The offensive player left him sitting on the floor while going for an easy basket that turned out to be the winning two points.

The next season that losing team was back to the old but safer ankle high shoes.

Wells, incidentally, will visit the Georgia Tech campus early in December. Bobby Dodd is among a few hundred college coaches who would like to have the Maroon flash on their campus next fall.

The list of major schools bidding for Wells also includes Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Kentucky, Indiana and Colorado Mines.

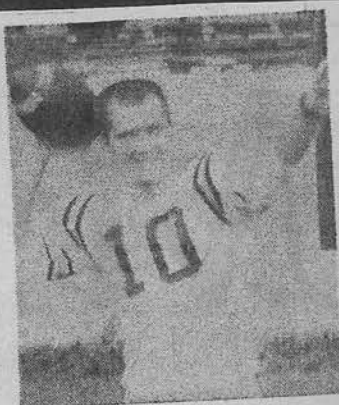
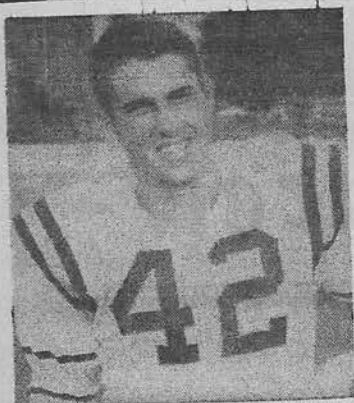




AS IF THEY didn't have enough, the Maroons also boast the best schoolboy halfback in the state in David Wells. A 185-pound bundle of dynamite, Wells ripped through enemy teams for 172 points and 2,041 yards in his first nine games.

# Wells, Smith, Johnson

## Big Eight Players



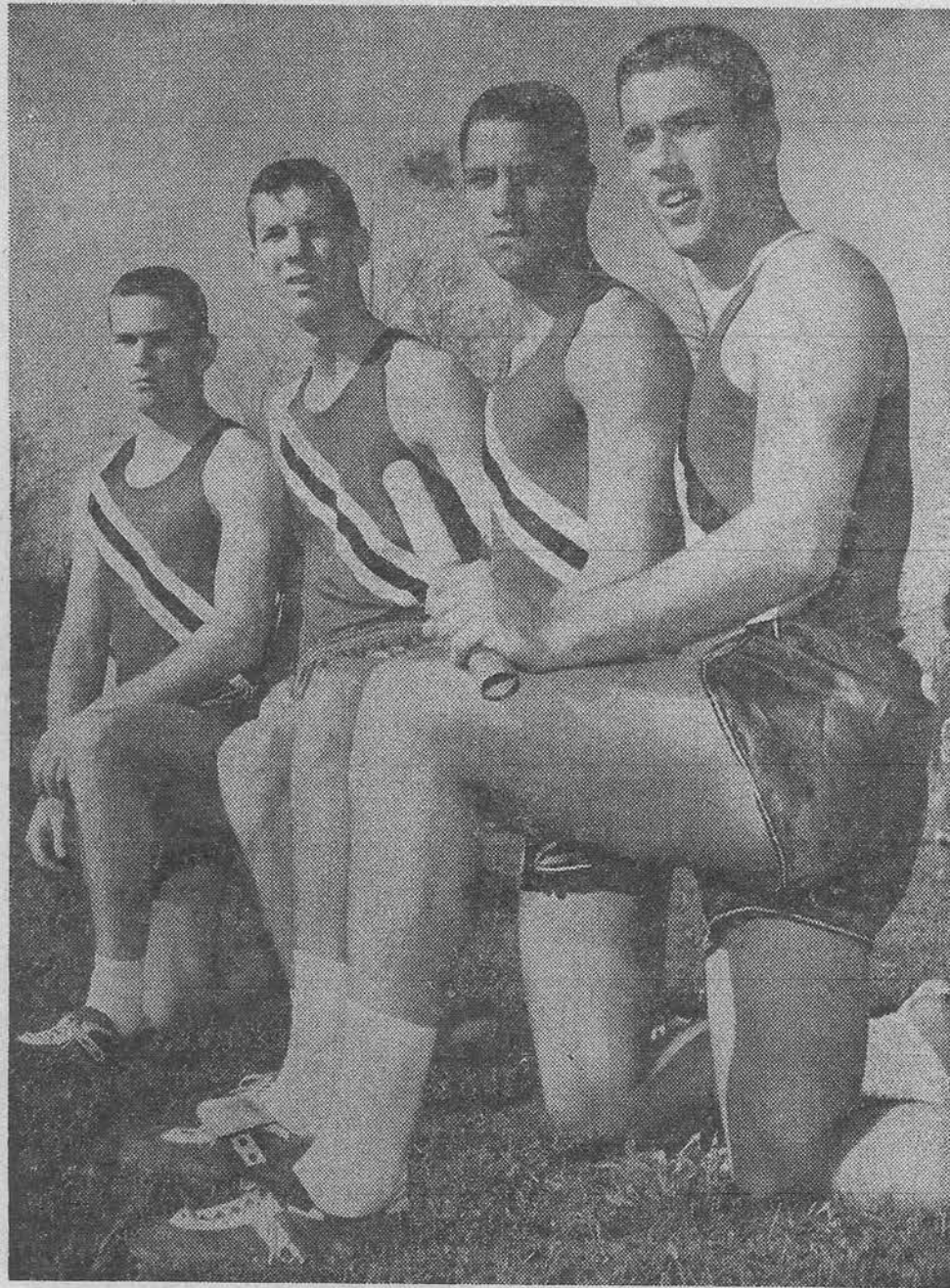
### Pace Final Maroon Victory

These three Maroons had the larger hand in shoving Madisonville into a three-way tie for the Big 8 championship by walloping Sturgis 40-7 last night.

Left to right — David Wells, scored 4 times and wound up season as state leader with 208 points. Roger Daniels, scored

twice on long punt returns in final game. George Pearce, fired six completed passes, including three touchdown passes to Wells.

# Maroons Have Horses



**BEST TIME** in the area for the 880-yard relay — 1:34.6—belongs to this Madisonville foursome of Mike VanCleve, Roger Dainels, John Jameson and David Wells.

## They Run On The 880 Relay Team

By TONY CHAMBLIN

MADISONVILLE, Ky. —A four-man parlay that would make any football coach happy is helping restore lost track prestige to the Madisonville Maroons. And nobody is any happier about it than Bill George, who is both a football and a track coach.

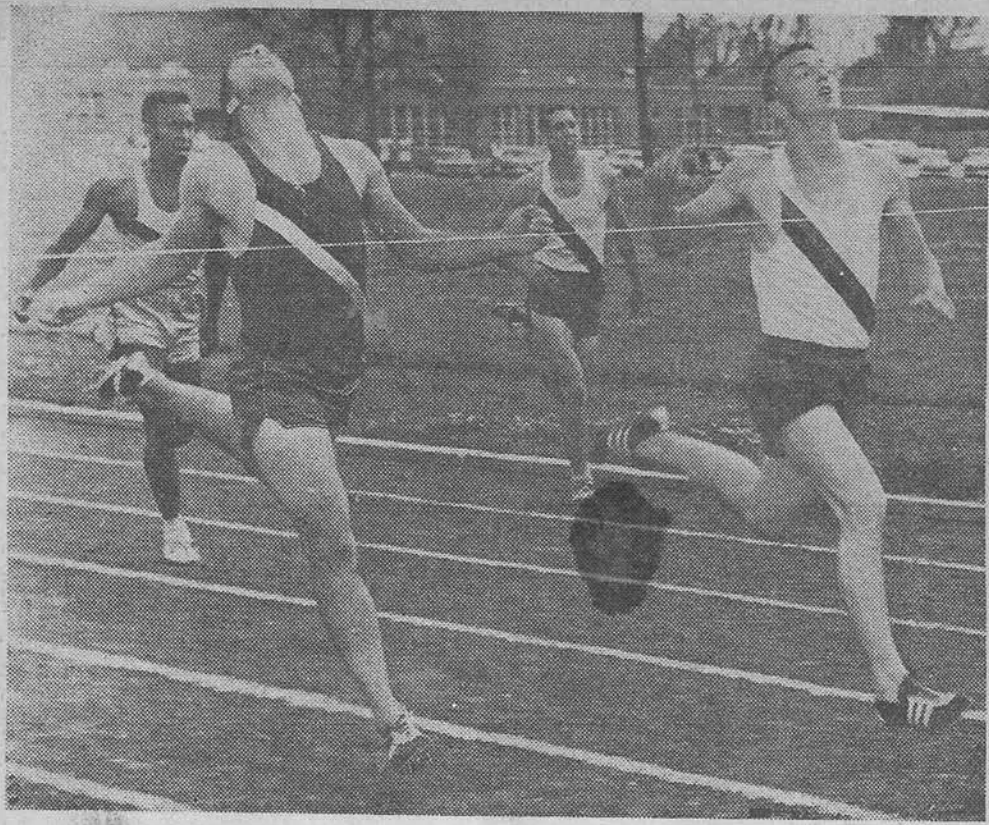
The four men compose the Maroons' 880-yard relay team, which already has posted one of the best times in Kentucky this spring. The team might well be labeled the Three Horsemen and a Pony.

John Jameson (6-1, 194), David Wells (6-0, 191) and Roger Daniels (6-1, 170) are the horsemen. Mike Van Cleve (5-8, 145) is the pony. "That's a lot of beef to be carrying a baton very fast," George admits, "but they can go."

The foursome proved it in a recent meet at Paducah when they breezed 880 yards in 1:34.6.

...we have quantity but not much quality. Wells should be able to make it to state in the 100 and broad jump and Van Cleve should go in the pole vault and Jameson in the half-mile. Otherwise, we're shooting for the future."



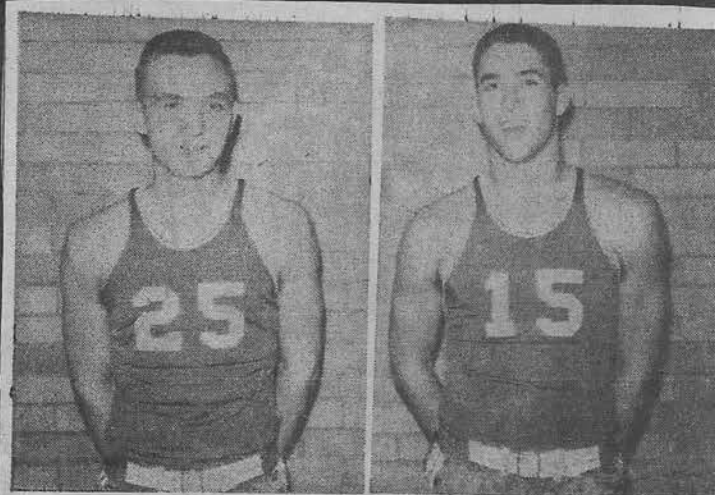


**A PHOTO FINISH** but the decision went to Frankie Ballard of Owensboro, right, over David Wells of Madisonville. The race was the 220 in yesterday's regional track meet. Ballard was timed in :22.7, Wells in :22.8.

## Maroons Grab Two Star Squad Spots On Coaches Teams

By **MERCER BAILEY**  
 Messenger Sports Editor

Bill Miles and David Wells, standout performers this past season, have been named to the Big Eight conference All-Star team, and Buck Sidnor, who was fired several weeks ago at Daviess County, has been voted as the "Coach Of The Year."



### Make Big Eight Team

Bill Miles, left, and David Wells, were chosen to the Big Eight All-Star basketball team of 10 players this week. Selection was made by the coaches in

session Monday night at Owensboro. Miles, with Earlington's Wayne Barnett, has been nominated to the All-America prep squad. (Messenger Staff Photo)

# Madisonville Has All The Ingredients



A TON OF BEEF is represented in the starting offensive eleven of the Madisonville Maroons. Quarterback George Pearce (far right) faces his team in an open huddle. Interior linemen, front from left, are Steve Playl, and John Jameson. The Maroons average better than 180 pounds a man.

Jim Ashmore, Russell Prow, Pete Demko and Hayden Siria. Ends and backs, standing from left, are Tom Scott, David Wells, Lionel Walls, Roger Daniels and John Jameson. The Maroons average better than 180 pounds a man.



# Madisonville, Wells Rout Owensboro Catholic, 34-6

OWENSBORO, Ky.—Madisonville turned loose the state's leading prep scorer here Saturday night to make a shambles of the Owensboro Catholic defense.

David Wells upped his point total to 172 with 26 points here, scoring four touchdowns and two extra points. He has played nine games.

Madisonville scored the first time it got the ball, with Wells taking it in from 14 yards out. The extra point try failed.

The Aces retaliated, moving 69 yards in 15 plays, punching it over from the 11, Don Simon doing the honors. The extra point also failed, and the score was 6-6 early in the second quarter.

The Maroons received the ensuing kickoff and scored in five plays, with Roger Daniels going up the middle for 16 yards. Wells added the extra point.

Madisonville took the second half kickoff and again scored in five plays, on a 12-yard Wells dash, with David adding the point after.

Catholic got down to the Maroon two, but penalties and lost yardage shoved them back to the 31, where the Aces lost the ball on downs. A pass gained 20, and then Wells went 41 yards for his final TD.

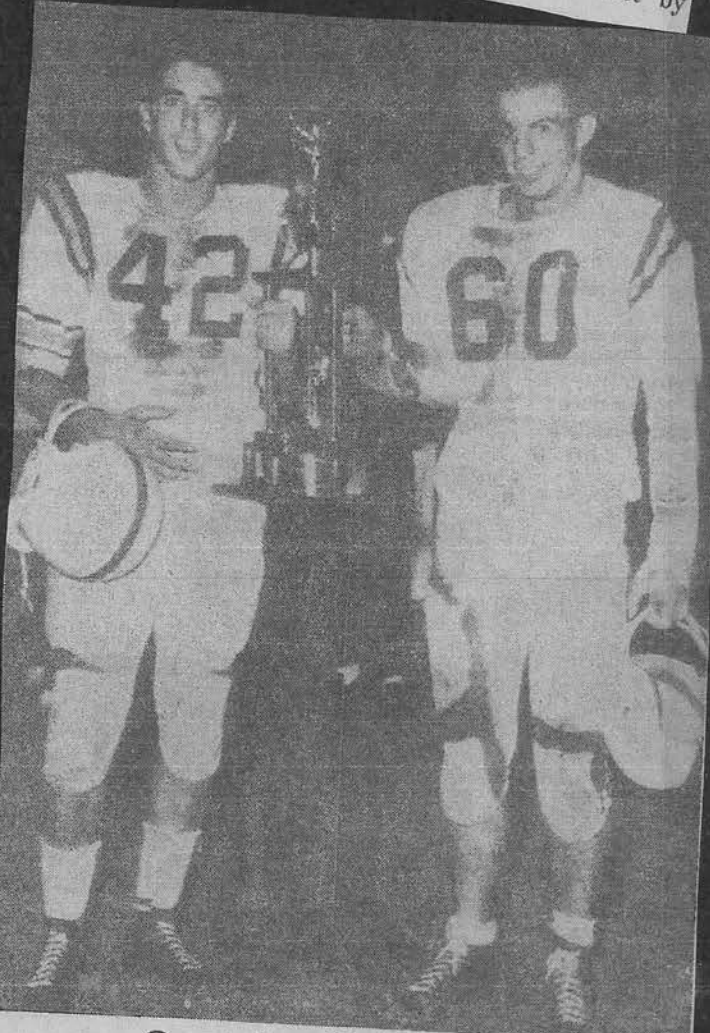
Madisonville is now 7-2 on the season, and tied for second in the Big 8 with a 5-1 slate. Catholic is 2-7 for the year.

Wells got his third score on a 49-yard pass from George Pearce, after Catholic had to punt to the Maroon 37.

MADISONVILLE		STARTING LINEUPS		MAYFIELD	
	POS				
85—Pollock (190)	LE			82—D. Wright (170)	
72—Siria (200)	LT			66—Stone (170)	
66—Demko (175)	LG			63—Gantt (145)	
54—Welborn (180)	C			59—Sharp (185)	
63—Ashmore (170)	RG			68—Wells (145)	
68—Moore (205)	RT			74—Holt (190)	
82—Scott (170)	RE			69—Spillman (155)	
10—Pearce (170)	QB			11—Smith (170)	
21—Daniels (150)	LH			20—W. Stone (160)	
42—Wells (190)	RH			44—Laird (160)	
33—Walls (185)	FB			17—K. Wright (140)	
Kickoff—8 p. m.				Radio WFMW—7:45 p. m.	

The first regional championship and a possible shot at the state title hangs in the balance tonight in Mayfield's Municipal Stadium, where an estimated five-thousand will watch the Madisonville Maroons and Mayfield Cardinals collide at eight o'clock. The battle will be aired live and direct by WFMW FM at 7:45.

By ELMER KELLEY  
Messenger Sports Editor



## Captains Get Trophy

Maroon captains David Wells, left, and Jim Ashmore, display the winner's trophy following Madisonville's 38-0 Kentucky Shrine Bowl victory over Fort Knox in Maroon Stadium Friday

night. Wells scored three touchdowns to run his season total to 22 and Ashmore played an outstanding game from his guard position. (Webb Studio photo)

# Maroons Bump Stubborn Tiger Team After Flat Performance

By ELMER KELLEY  
Messenger Sports Editor

Madisonville football fans were breathing a bit easier today, after some anxious moments in Maroon Stadium last night. A beefy, sky-high Hopkinsville Tiger eleven almost scared the pants off Bill Welborn's once-beaten crew before David Wells blitzed 51 yards for a clincher touchdown that gave the coaltown outfit a 15-6 victory.

For only the second time this season, the Maroons won the coin toss, received, and in nine plays sent Wells in from the four for the first marker. Roger Butler punted a perfect placement, and the score was 7-0 and the evening looked like an easy matter. Then things began to change.

## Tigers Keyed-Up

Hopkinsville missed on one scoring opportunity when a five-yard penalty derailed a mounting drive, but the Tigers came right back in the next series and drove to the one-yard line. On fourth down, quarterback Dave Maddux bulldozed the distance and the Tiger placement try was blocked. The half ended 7-6 in the Maroons' favor and the uneasy feeling began to lift through the stands.

A stout Madisonville defense and a 15-yard penalty against Hopkinsville stopped another Tiger spurt in the opening minutes of the third quarter. Welborn's outfit then cooled off a sustained drive including a 30-yard gallop by Wells, but gave up the ball on fourth down inside the five-yard line. Minutes later after the start of the final period, a Hopkinsville pitch-out went wild to the goal line and the Maroon defense smothered Maddux in the endzone for a two-point safety.

## Wells Continues

David Wells kept pace with his yardage average, dropping only slightly from the 231.6 game mark he had before last night. Against the Tigers, the big Maroon half-back clicked off a total of 230 yards, scored twice to make his touchdown total 19 for six games, and a point figure of 116. His total yardage now is 1,388 for six games. He had 94 yards in the first quarter, 26 in the second, 31 in the third, and wound up with 79 in the final period. Roger Daniels picked up 55 yards for the night.

Madisonville had 13 first downs against 12 for the Tigers. Pearce hit four aeriels in six attempts with Daniels dropping two near-perfect tosses. Floyd Pollock grabbed one for a long gain and Wells had the other two. Hopkinsville tried nine and connected on two.

The next encounter is the Kentucky Shrine Bowl tilt here Friday night against Johnny Hackett's Fort Knox Soldiers.

## Wells Goes 51

Following the safety, Hopkinsville kicked from the 20 and the Maroons set up another brilliant gallop by Wells. After a 15-yard personal foul penalty put the pigskin back on the Maroon 49, Wells shot through the middle, shifted into second gear, banged between two safety men, went into high and sailed into the endzone. The placement kick was blocked and the final score set up. As the clock ran out the Maroon second string backfield had rammed the ball inside the Tiger 20.

The Madisonville line apparently will be in for some stout defensive drills next week, since the Hopkinsville forwards out-charged and completely dominated the line play for the most part. On offense, the Tiger backs had huge holes through which to gallop. More than 75 percent of the Maroon tackles were made in the secondary during the night.

## Feared Letdown

The game developed along a pattern which had been feared by Coach Welborn yesterday. Before the contest, Welborn said, "I am afraid the whole team is in a flat condition after being so high for last week's game against Henderson County. Our practice session has showed a lack of interest all week."

Although the Maroons dominated the statistics the game was even closer than the score indicated. Madisonville had 349 yards on 47 running plays, Hopkinsville 212 yards on 56 carries. The Maroons lost 19 yards overall, the Tigers 35. Hopkinsville was nipped 35 yards in penalties, the Maroons 30.



Tony Chamblin

# Madisonville Star Can Take It— And Dish It Out

Relations between Madisonville and Caldwell County High Schools reached a low ebb a week ago Saturday night during a rugged game, that ended with the Princeton team spoiling the Madisonville Home-coming, 25-13.

David Wells, the Kentucky state scoring leader from Madisonville, took one of the worst beatings of his career during the game. He came out of it with a wrenched knee and wasn't in top form for his final game Friday night against Sturgis.

There were reports out of Madisonville that Caldwell County was out to get Wells, one way or the other.



CHAMBLIN

Madisonville coach Bill Welborn, while admitting that Wells got "worked over," made no excuses for the loss.

"I never had a poorer defensive exhibition from one of my teams in my career," Welborn said. "Caldwell County came to play. They could have held their own against almost any team in the state that night.

"They played ball possession and had a 19-7 edge over us in first downs."

Asked about the Wells incident, Welborn said:

"Dave doesn't tell you much, but the boys say he was getting slugged a lot around the kidney area. I think the play he got hurt on was a block thrown after the whistle. Someone rolled into the back of his leg.

"Wells has been a primary

target of at least five teams this year."

Caldwell County was penalized 119 yards and its star end, Les Mallory, was kicked out of the game for allegedly slugging Wells, then engaging in a ruckus with referee Bill Womack.

The Wells story reminded sports editor Roy McHugh of the days when Jimmy Brown was bowling over the opposition for Syracuse.

Before Penn State played Syracuse, State backfield coach Joe Paterno told Sam Valentine, a Nittany Lion linebacker, that Brown could be slowed down if he were hit hard on the first play.

On the opening kickoff, Valentine went for Brown and hit him with everything he had.

It was a tired Valentine who slumped down on a dressing room bench at halftime, sweat dripping from his forehead and his head sagging low.

After a while he looked up and saw Paterno walk past. "Hey Coach," he said, "remember what you told me about hitting Brown hard early in the game? How if I did it would make him quit running?"

"Yeah," Paterno replied. "Well, Coach," said Valentine, "you're an awful liar."

Wells is making a liar out of some people, too. If he is getting "the treatment," it doesn't seem to bother him much. He ripped off 170 yards against Caldwell County and scored two touchdowns.

Paducah Tilghman won a regional championship, David Wells broke the 200-point mark and Harrison County put on a scoring spree during Western Kentucky football action Friday night.

Paducah topped Mayfield, 35-19, to win the Region 1 Class AA championship. Wells scored four touchdowns to run his season's point total to 208 as Madisonville beat Sturgis, 40-7. Henderson County and Morganfield scored a combined total of 117 points as the Colonels posted a 71-46 win.

Paducah Tilghman, 7-1-2 on the year, was paced by Phil Bryant, who scored three touchdowns as the Tornados clinched the regional championship by beating Mayfield. Mayfield's overall record is 8-2.

Tilghman will play Richmond Madison in the state's AA semi-final game.

Approximately 8,000 fans, the largest crowd ever to see a high school football game in Paducah, watched Tilghman take a 13-0 first-quarter lead. Tilghman faltered to lead by

only 13-12 at the half, but Ken Hill scored on a 34-yard run early in the third period and the Paducah team went on to post the 16-point victory.

Wells, a shoo-in for Kentucky All-State honors, scored three of his touchdowns on long passes from Madisonville quarterback George Pearce. Roger Daniels, Wells' running mate at halfback, shared the scoring spotlight with two TDs on an 83-yard punt return and an 83-yard kickoff return.

Madisonville ended its season with an 8-3 record, while Sturgis closed with a 5-5 mark.

Henderson County's Toby Thomason passed for seven touchdowns and Morganfield's Mike Geiger scored six during the Colonel-Guerrilla offensive battle at Morganfield.

Gary McMullen and Mike Fulkerson scored four times each for Henderson County.

Henderson County, 11-1, gained 738 yards, 523 of which came on 24 pass completions gained a total of 522 yards.

The Madisonville and Hender-

son County wins came against Big Eight opponents and apparently threw the race into a three-way tie for first place.

Madisonville and Owensboro have 6-1 conference records and Henderson county has a 7-1 Big Eight mark. Officials reported two weeks ago, however, that the championship would be based on a seven-game conference schedule.

If such is the case, Henderson County would get no credit for its extra win. The championship will definitely be determined at a Big Eight Conference meeting at Owensboro Monday night.

In other games Friday, Owensboro Catholic, 4-6 on the year, ended its season by topping Crittenden County (1-10) by a 19-7 score. Don Simon made two of the Aces' touchdowns and passed for the other.

Crittenden County (7-4) continued its late-season splurge by blanking Henderson City, (1-8-1), 39-0. Norman Craner scored two touchdowns for the Tigers.



## Wells Scores First Maroon TD

David Wells (42), drags Owensboro's John Helmers into endzone as Maroon halfback scored from the one-foot line to give Madisonville 6-0 lead. The Maroons led at halftime, lost the margin in the third quarter and tied the game in the fourth, only to lose 19-13. Wells was chosen the "Outstanding Player of the Game". (Messenger photo by Jim Walker)

## Wells Winner Of Essay Contest On Constitution

An injured athlete at Madisonville High School, David Wells, has won the Kentucky Education Association-sponsored essay contest in Hopkins County dealing with the call for a convention for limited revision of the state constitution.

Wells, who is on crutches as result of suffering a broken bone in his foot in last week's Madisonville-Mayfield football game, is a junior at MHS and is a student of Miss Ethell Cox.

Judges gave second place in the county contest to another MHS student, senior Judy Farmer.

Third place went to Harry Jay Hamilton, a senior at the J. W. Million school at Earlington.

Wells' essay will be entered in state competition.

In the contest at Madisonville High School, however, Miss Farmer's essay was judged best, with Wells second and Mary Ellen Salmon third.