

MERCER COUNTY H.S.
1961-'63

Mercer 5 Ends Harrodsburg's Regular Season Winning Streak

HARRODSBURG, Ky., Dec. 2 (Special)—Earl Murphy fired in 11 points tonight to lead Mercer County to a 56-42 victory over rival Harrodsburg and hand the Pioneers their first regular season loss since the 1959-60 campaign.

The Scotties jumped to a quick 11 lead at the end of the first period and were never threatened. Larry Yeager was the only Mercer County player in double figures for Mercer County as he tabbed 14 points. Frank Bartleson's 12 points was tops for the Pioneers. Mercer County now stands at 1-1 on the season while Harrodsburg is even at 1-1. The Pioneers won through the 1960-61 regular season unbeaten. They were led by Dunbar in the first round of the 11th Regional tournament.

Mercer County (56)—Ison 4, Murphy 19, Horn 3, Rogers 3, Mattingly 11, Taylor 2, Yeager 14. Harrodsburg (42)—Young 7, Bartleson 12, Johnson 12, Royalty 2, Sharp 9. Mercer County ..17 33 46 56 Harrodsburg11 23 34 42

Scotties Top Anderson, Lose to Frankfort

Mercer county socked Anderson county 61-57 Friday night, with Horn hanging 16 points in the nets. MCHS (61) (57) ANDERSON
Murphy 15 13 Jeffrie
Horn 16 10 Cottrel
Rogers 11 12 J. Crawford
Ison 4 2 Hot
Mattingly 6 4 Gilli
Yeager 9 10 Cammack
Taylor 0 6 Cras

Lose To Frankfort

Tuesday night the Scotties were defeated 63-55 by an improved Frankfort team. The Frankfort crew, paced by Conway with 11 points, led 14-8 at the end of the first quarter, 32-23 at halftime, and 45-39 after three quarters of action. Snyder scored 15 points for the winners.

Murphy caged 20 points for MCHS, Ison 5, Horn 4, Rogers 11, Mattingly 6, Taylor 5, and Yeager 6.

MERCER LOSES TO LAFAYETTE

Jaracz And Gill Combine For 51 Points In Defeating Scotties.

Mercer high school's Scotties ended their regular season of basketball action Friday night by absorbing a 98-51 thrashing at the hands of Lexington Lafayette. The strong Lexington team gained revenge for a 56-49 beating the Scotties gave them last season.

Powered by the 28-point production of Jaracz and the 23-point output of Gill, the Lafayette team was never in danger. They raced out to a 25-13 first quarter lead, held a comfortable 51-21 halftime lead, and were ahead 72-32 after three quarters of action.

Sims was the leading point producer for Mercer with 19. Taylor scored 11 for the losers; Wells 9, Sanders 1, and Meaux and Bugg were held scoreless.

The Scotties will next see action in the district tournament at Jessamine county high school, where they will meet the winner of the Anderson-Burgin game.

Scotties Scoot By Versailles

Mercer county high school's Scotties struggled from behind a 24-11 first quarter disadvantage Friday night to edge Versailles high school 62-61. In fact, the Scotties trailed at the end of all the rest stops before practically shutting off the Versailles scoring in the final frame. Versailles led 38-29 at half-time and 57-48 going into the last quarter.

Yeager headed all point men with 15 markers, Murphy 13 points, Ison 6, Horn 5, Mattingly 7, and Taylor 11.



MAKING THE DRAW—This scene was one of 16 similar drawings held throughout Kentucky yesterday as the 32 coaches of district survivors in the state met to make pairings for this week's regional meets. Amos Black, coach at Mercer County High reaches into a hat held by Tournament Manager Gene Huff of University High. Looking on (left to right) are Joe Orr, Irvine; Ralph Carlisle, Lafayette; Ed Allin, Midway; Homer Bickers, Frankfort; Chuch Mirazovich, Franklin County; Zeb Blankenship, Madison-Model, and S. T. Roach, Lexington Dunbar. (Herald Photo).



ZEB BLANKENSHIP
KHSAA 2004 HALL OF FAME NOMINEE

Section III
Contributor KHSAA
Board & Pres.

The role of sports in education

Perhaps, like me (retired), former members of the school systems and the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA), have expected the active membership to stand up and be counted for the many contributions made by the association. Praise is in order for the efforts of former commissioners Ted Sanford and Joe Billy Mansfield, and current Commissioner Tom Mills and his staff. Not one of them has ever been dictatorial nor had an interest in other than quality, honest athletic programs at the high school level. They have been personally involved in the student athlete's life as a teacher, coach or school administrator.

There needs to be some support of the KHSAA by all the member schools, and I feel there is. It is time to speak up for its role in the education process! Some order must be applied to athletics — just as order is essential to traffic control. Turn us all loose in our cars without regulation and observe the chaos. There are always some abusers.

Having been involved in high school athletics as a player, coach, referee, and as a teacher and high school principal — I can speak with some authority on the realities of education and sports in the school, home and community.

Physical development of the body is essential for full and active development of the mind. Academic achievement must in part be attained with assistance, encouragement and determination by the student, parent and teacher. Encouraging the student to achieve his greatest potential in academics will prompt him or her to strive to reach their goals in their special interest area whether that be excellence in sports, the arts, science or the teaching field.

The school body as a majority takes pride

in the achievements of their fellow students in the sports, band or choral programs. Large numbers of students participate in these areas. Smaller groups enjoy their drama, foreign language and science activities. I watch with great interest when students compete in the intelligence "battles" on television. Training in these areas is the pursuit of those who have a gifted intelligence and superiority in academia. Most of us are of average intellect, but we may excel in sports, music, etc.

What actually matters here is not to penalize the athletes, but to encourage them. The public at large may enjoy athletic competition more than it enjoys the "IQ battles." With guidance from teachers, coaches and parents the athlete must be shown the proper place for sports in their personal life situation. Life beyond the sports age for them is to prepare them for a career, job, or vocation where they may happily engage in mingling with family, community and country.

The KHSAA is a contributor, not a conspirator in the field of education and in the lives of our students. If coaches tend to give sports a bad name and students a poor slant on life let them be disqualified and made exempt from involvement in school activities. Personally, I agree that coaches rather than athletes should be penalized for infractions.

The KHSAA should be allowed to pursue its primary purpose, which is to promote the student athlete in an honest manner, and to support the development of sports for any student who wishes to participate in their special interest whether that be basketball, football, swimming, tennis, baseball, wrestling or track.

ZEB BLANKENSHIP
Former KHSAA president

Nicholasville

Zeb Blankenship Installed President Of KHSAA Friday At Ken Lake

Zeb Blankenship was installed Friday as president of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association.

The formal action took place at Ken Lake State Park near Hardin in Western Kentucky. Orlan County Principal J. D. Minnehan was installed at the same time as vice president.

Outgoing president is Barney Thweatt, principal at Christian County High School.

Nearing completion of his 13th year as principal at Jessamine County High School, Blankenship had been elected to the prestigious post April 17 at Lexington by the KHSAA 10-member Board of Controls.

Having mixed coaching experience in the four major high school sports at three different districts over 14 years prior to arrival at Jessamine County in August, 1967, Blankenship is well qualified to assume a leadership role in state public secondary school sporting activities.

He coached baseball, basketball, and track at Pike County four years, basketball and football assistant at Madison County five years, and basketball at Mercer County five years.

Duties of Blankenship as president of KHSAA will be to preside at board meetings and at delegate assembly meetings in April. During latter sessions, delegates have the option to amend old laws, adopt new regulations and may vote on constitutional or bylaws changes.

All high school districts send delegates to the delegate assembly. All public high schools in Kentucky are members of KHSAA. The membership totals 309.

Tom Mills continues as commissioner of KHSAA. His job is to handle the day to day administration of business matters relative to public high school sports. He interprets the association rules, represents the board, and enforces standards.

The 53-year-old Blankenship is a native of Elkhorn City. He graduated from Elkhorn City High School in 1945. He was a member of that school's basketball team which represented the 15th region in state



Zeb Blankenship

tournament play in 1943, 1944, and 1945.

The Nicholasville resident received a scholarship to University of Kentucky. After his freshman season he went on a two-year tour of duty with the United States Army. He was recreational director at Fort Meade, Maryland, in 1945-47.

Blankenship received his bachelors degree in 1952 from UK, majoring in physical education and biological science. He earned his masters in education from the same institution in 1953.

The principal and his wife, Nel, an employee in the Department of Human Resources at Frankfort, have four children.

Miss Kathy Blankenship is a minister of youth at Southside Baptist Church, Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Barbara Treadway works at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Lexington in medical records.

Chuck Blankenship is married to the former Kathy Hall of Nicholasville and resides here. He is employed by Stratton Lumber & Hardware Company.

Scott Blankenship is a sophomore at Western Kentucky University.

Classification rears controversial head

KHSAA keeps present basketball setup

By KATH COX

Courier-Journal Staff Writer

AURORA, Ky. — Kentucky will continue its present state high school basketball tournament, one for boys and one for girls.

The Kentucky High School Athletic Association's Board of Control voted yesterday to accept its Basketball Committee's recommendation not to switch to classification tournaments based on school enrollment.

The board's 8-0 vote followed a recent close vote (148-144) by member schools to keep the present setup.

Following yesterday's vote at Kenlake State Park, it took all of five seconds for classification to rear its controversial head again.

When can schools request another

vote? asked new board member A. J. Johnson, the Harrodsburg football coach. Several people have asked me to have another poll. They feel it would be a waste.

"Is there any sense to it?" asked board member Fayette Woods, principal at Fleming County. "If the people who won had lost, they would want another vote," he said.

New KHSAA president Zeb Blanks, principal at Jessamine County, said the board will decide if another vote will be taken, and he predicted that the issue will come up again "in the near future."

Blanks told his fellow board members that they should set up some plans for classes in case members do vote in favor of classification.

A visitor, assistant principal Sammy

Worham of Ballard Memorial, said that when nearly half of the schools say that they don't want to play the bigger schools, the board should act but commissioner Tom Mills said there was no way to tell which schools voted now, and Blanks ended the discussion by noting that the board had already acted.

Board member Robie Harper, basketball coach at Drakesboro, did not vote although he said he favors classification. "I'm a member of the basketball committee, which voted against classification, but my conscience wouldn't let me vote today."

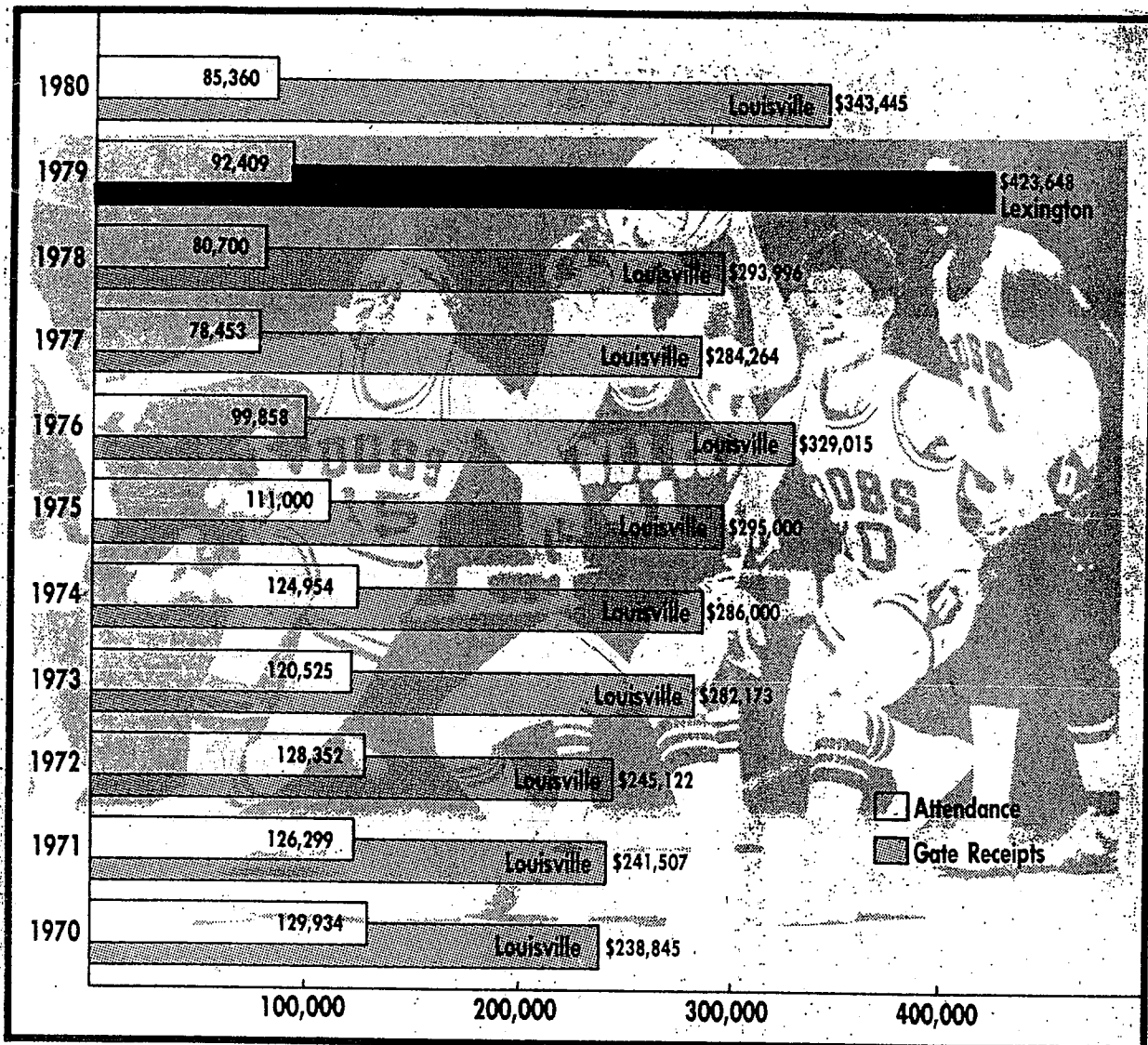
Next year's girls' state tournament will be held at Eastern Kentucky University, site of recent tournaments, or at the University of Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum.

Both schools want to be the host, but Mills said he wants to wait until he hears from the federal Office of Civil Rights before selecting the site. Human relations and several women's groups have filed a discrimination complaint against the KHSAA for what they say are inferior facilities at Eastern.

Mills said that Louisville's Oct. 4 Joe Binks Memorial Run will not be sanctioned for high school cross country runners unless a member school conducts it. The Victory Athletic Club is the sponsor. Mills said that he had sanctioned the meet in previous years because he thought it was conducted by high school people.

"A school must be the sponsor and must get the entries fees," said Mills.

*Not in the paper
#517A*



Herald-Leader

Chart compares gate receipts and attendance figures at Sweet Sixteen tournaments.

Lexington Has Chance to Keep Sweet Sixteen

by Jim Paxton
Herald-Leader Business Writer

Lexington may not become the "permanent home" of the boys' state high school basketball tournament — the Sweet Sixteen — but it appears poised to wrest the event away from Louisville for long, long time.

The main reason, both from the standpoint of the Kentucky High School Athletic Association and the city, is money.

A second reason, according to some of the athletic association's officials, is a relative lack of enthusiasm in Louisville's efforts to get future tournaments.

To the association, holding the tournament in Lexington means \$100,000 more in annual gate receipts and thousands of dollars more in fringe benefits from area businesses.

To Lexington, it means a quick infusion of \$4 million — and in practical terms, probably more than that — into the local economy.

For instance, Lexington Center Corp.'s executive director, Tom Minter, said that to Rupp Arena alone, the tournament means "about the equivalent of two Rolling Stones concerts in terms of economic impact — about \$120,000."

That converts to a savings in local tax dollars because the Urban County Government pays the portion of the civic center's annual bond interest that is not covered by the civic center's income.

"What it amounts to is this: If we get the state high school basketball tournament, it means \$100,000 to \$120,000 of debt service that the taxpayer will not have to bear," Minter said.

When the tournament was brought to Lexington's Rupp Arena in 1979, after more than a decade at Louisville's Freedom Hall, gate receipts reached \$423,648, by far the most taken in during the Sweet Sixteen's 64-year history.

It was \$130,000 more than Louisville grossed in 1978 and \$100,000 more than the tournament took in when it returned to Freedom Hall last year.

The tournament returns to Rupp Arena March 18-21, and Lexington officials and businessmen have been campaigning since last August to keep it there.

They have an excellent chance to succeed, according to Zeb Blankenship, president of the athletic association's board of control, a 10-member panel that decides where the tournament will be played from year to year.

"If you go by the bottom line, which is money, we made \$100,000 in 1979 above what we have the last several years in Louisville," said Blankenship, who is principal at Jessamine County High School.

3

events in Freedom Hall.

"We feel that rotating the tournament every other year would keep both cities on their toes. It would keep the tournament from getting in a stagnant condition, as it did in Louisville because it had been here so long," he said.

"There are some things Louisville can offer that Lexington can't and some things Lexington has that we don't," Bell said.

"We have a different facility than Lexington has. We can offer parking on the grounds and 1,200 hotel rooms right at our front door," he said.

However, some of the things Lexington offers that Louisville doesn't amount to big pluses for the athletic association.

For instance, the Blue Grass Area McDonald's restaurants are providing the trophies for the tournament. That means a savings of about \$2,000 to the association.

The area Burger Queen restaurants have agreed to defray the cost of printing the tickets — another \$4,000 savings.

The Lexington Center is cutting its "event parking" fee from \$3 to \$2 during tournament games.

And the LexTran bus system will provide shuttle service between local hotels and the arena for a \$1 round-trip fare.

Those and other fringes aside, the biggest selling point for Lexington's bid to keep the tournament would be another year of record gate receipts. Lexington has a head start on that through an aggressive advance-ticket selling program devised by J.D. Reeves, first vice president of First Security Bank.

The bank distributed "season books" — tickets to all eight tournament sessions at a cost of \$44 — to 13 of its correspondent banks in different regions of the state.

Reeves said this week that the bank sent 25 books to each bank and that "they have pretty much sold out."

He said several of the banks asked for more tickets, including one in Elizabethtown that also requested

well ahead of the 1979 pace.

"And this is even before people know what teams are coming here," Reeves said.

Mayor Jim Amato has been heading a campaign to have the athletic association declare Lexington the permanent site for the Sweet Sixteen when it takes up the issue of next year's tournament in either March or April.

Both Blankenship and KHSAA commissioner Tom Mills said the doubt that the board can make a long term decision, such as the one Amato and local businessmen are pushing for, on the tournament's location.

But Blankenship said that, in practical terms, the city's enthusiasm for the tournament adds to its chances for a long run of the Sweet Sixteen here.

"I don't think the board of control can pick a site for the future. I think it can only go on a year-by-year basis," Blankenship said.

But he also said: "In my personal opinion, I think Lexington is the place to hold it."

"I think the board of control is going to have to look at this and really take it into consideration. That's enough money to run our entire spring sports program, so I really can't see changing sites as long as the money is there," he said.

But there's another factor, Blankenship said.

Louisville, he said, seems to have become lackadaisical about the tournament.

"Up to this point, I've only had one short letter from Louisville requesting the tournament next year — just a few paragraphs. I think if Louisville really wanted the tournament, they would show more enthusiasm toward getting it," he said.

Meanwhile, he said: "The people of Lexington have really gone all out for the tournament. They have shown the KHSAA a lot of hospitality and enthusiasm. They really want the tournament. I think this has to go a long way with the board of control."

However, Louisville isn't about to let Lexington keep the tournament without a fight, said Joe Bell, executive vice president of the Kentucky State Fair Board, which schedules

Old-Leader
MARCH 22,
1981

Sports

*2nd year
KHSAA President
1981*

Simon Kenton Captures State

Mason County Was Surprise Of Tourney

John Harris
Staff Writer

The four day high-school basketball marathon (i.e. state tournament) finally come to a grinding halt.

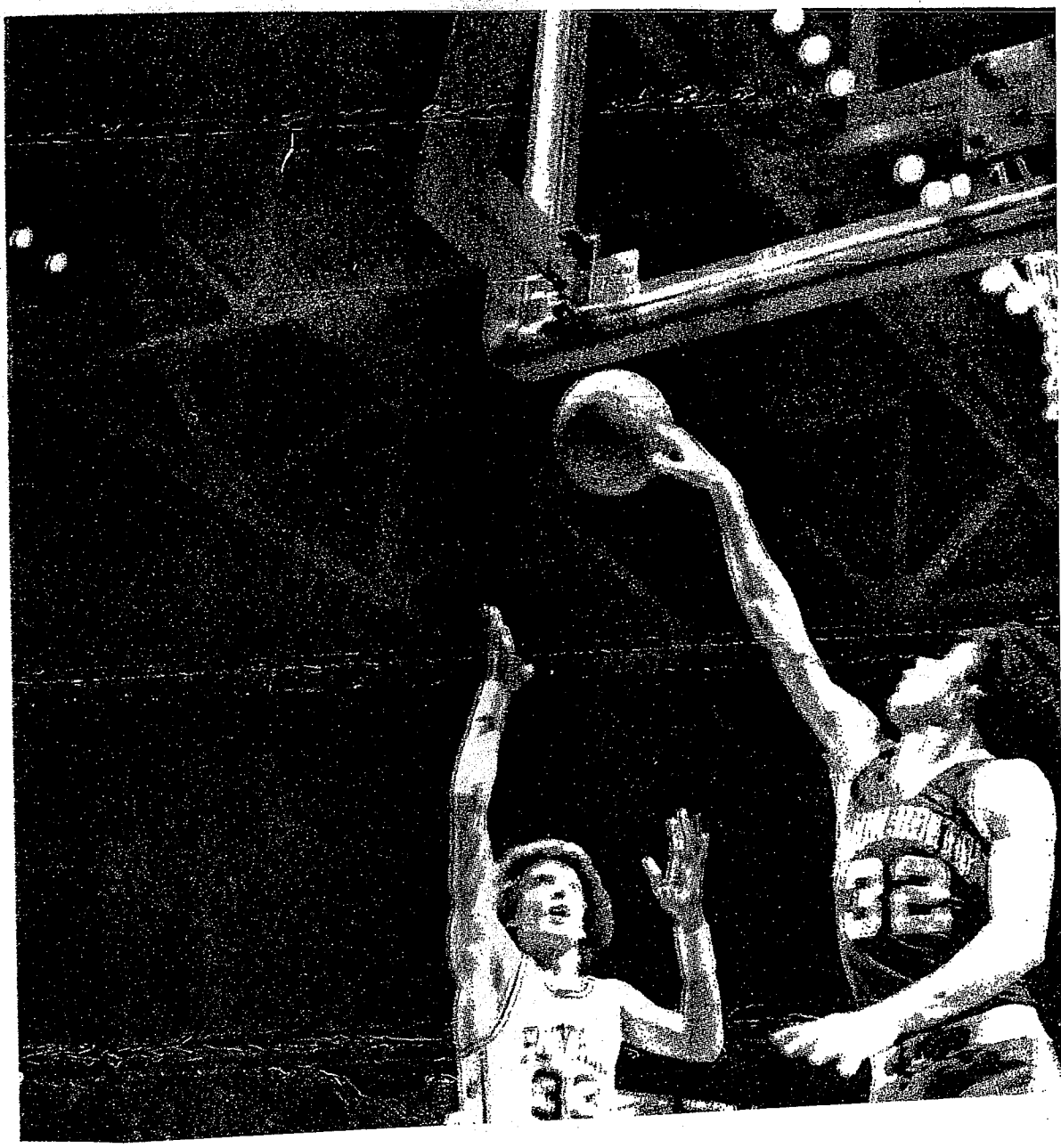
There were many upsets, surprises and almost too much excitement.

But, no where was there more apla and just good, old fun than in the contingent from Mason County. From start to finish, the people from Maysville and their underdog basketball team were the talk of the town.

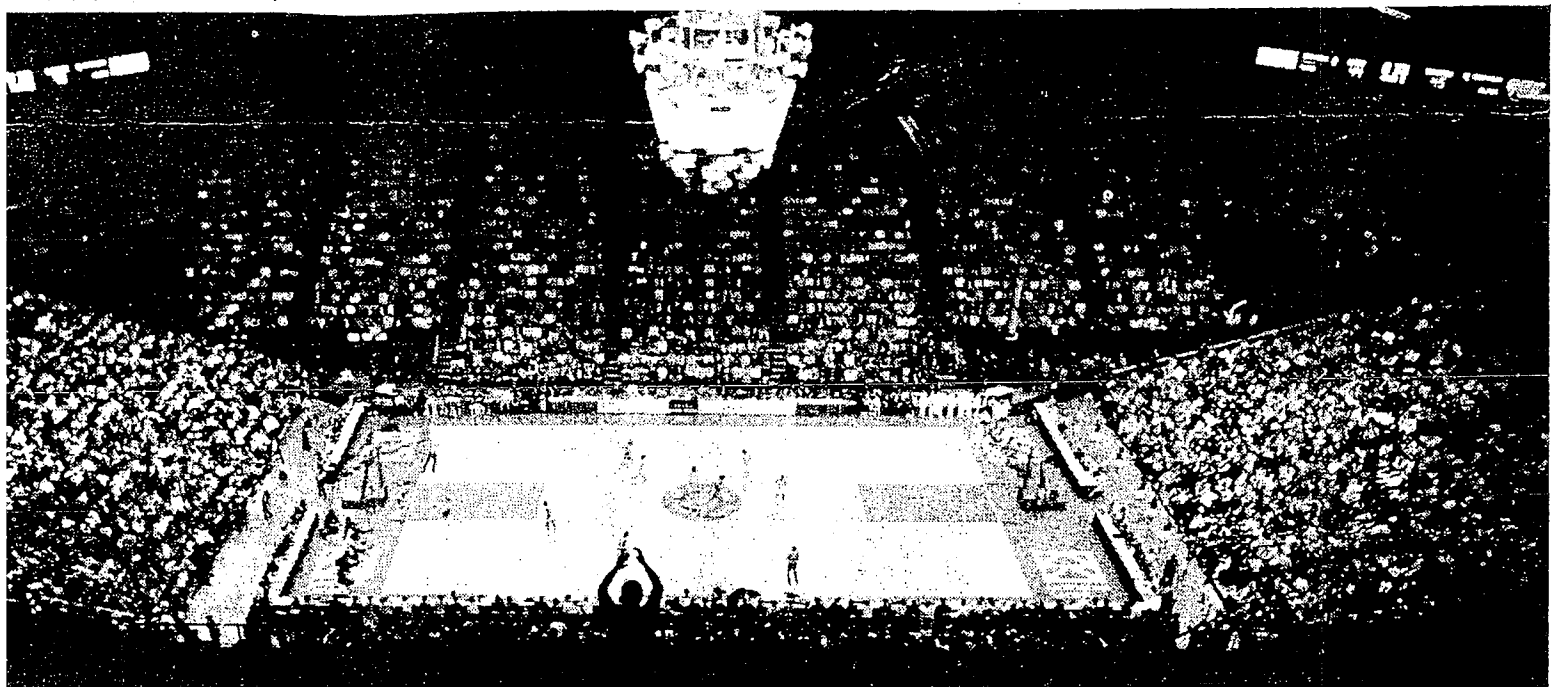
Wednesday night, the Royals knocked off Shelby County in the opening round — a mild surprise. A bigger surprise came in the form of the fans of Mason County. They came, young and old, and they made themselves heard, so much so in fact, that the non-partisans in the crowd found themselves slowly siding with the blue and white clad Mason County Royals. After the first game, the folks from Mason County gave a post-game party at the Continental Inn — sort of a come one, come all extravaganza.

Unenviable Task

Friday afternoon, it was back to business again as the Royals found themselves faced with the unenviable task of facing Bryan Station, the No. 1 team, in its home town. But some-



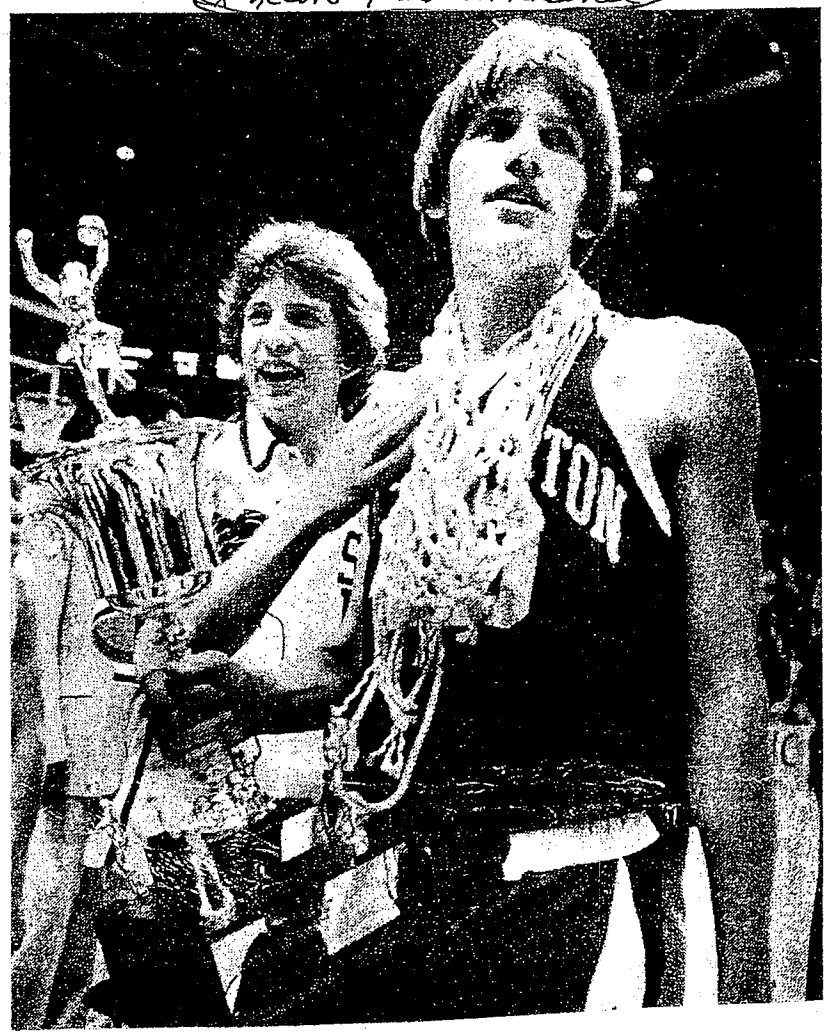
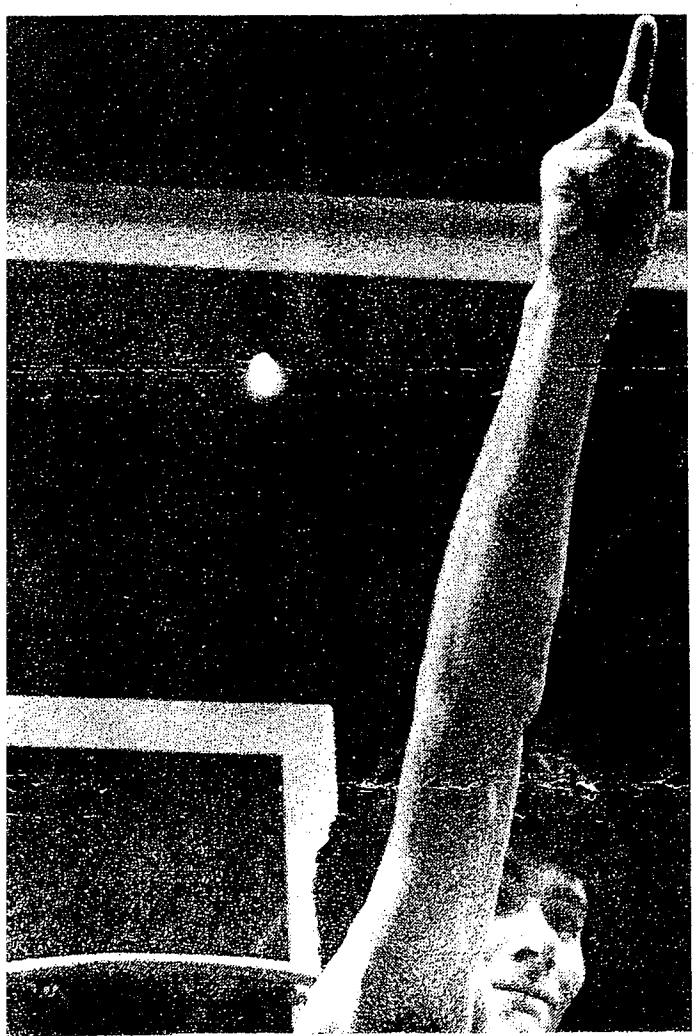
HERALD-LEADER
OXFORD, KY.
MARCH 22, 1981



Herald-Leader/Ron Garrison

21,000 people watched in Rupp Arena last night, a world record* for a high school championship game.

** Record paid attendance*



October 22,2003

Dawahares/KHSAA Hall Of Fame
Attn: Nominations
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, Kentucky, 40505

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to recommend for your consideration, Mr. Zeb Blankenship. I have had the opportunity to know and work with Zeb over the past thirty plus years and I feel I know him well both professionally and personally.

Zeb Blankenship's experiences cover the whole spectrum of interscholastic sports as a player, coach, official, school administrator, athletic director and KHSAA President.

Zeb was a member of the Elkhorn City High School basketball team. This team won the 15th Region and played in the Boys State Tournament three consecutive years in the mid-forties. Zeb was named to the 1945 All Tournament Team as a senior.

I have heard Zeb say that he enjoyed his eleven years as a coach and official almost as much as he did as a player. He takes great pride and pleasure in keeping up with his former players.

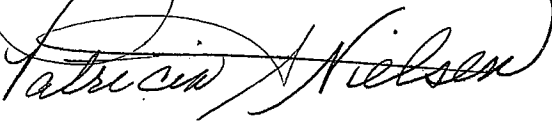
Coach Adolph Rupp offered Zeb a scholarship to play for the University of Kentucky. He entered UK in the Fall of 1945. Fate intervened, however, and Zeb was drafted in to the United States Army in March of 1946. The teammates he entered UK with in 1945 became known as "The Fabulous Five". After playing in the military and at Pikeville College, he returned to UK where he earned two graduate degrees.

Later he found other outlets for his athletic knowledge and leadership. Zeb's background as a High School Principal and Athletic Director made him a good candidate for the KHSAA Board Of Control, where he served on two occasions. He ultimately served as President of KHSAA.

I hope you will agree that Zeb's thirty- plus years in interscholastic sports are exceptional and that he should be considered for the KHSAA Hall of Fame.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I believe you will find all the information necessary in the enclosed pages.

Most Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia Nielsen". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Patricia A. Nielsen
421 Malabu Drive
Lexington, Kentucky
40502