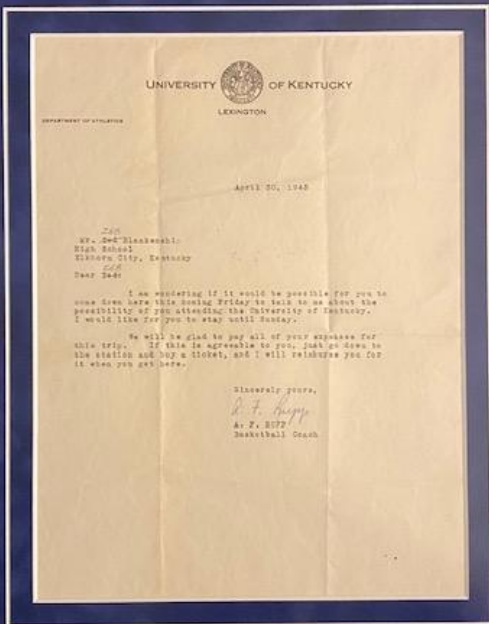
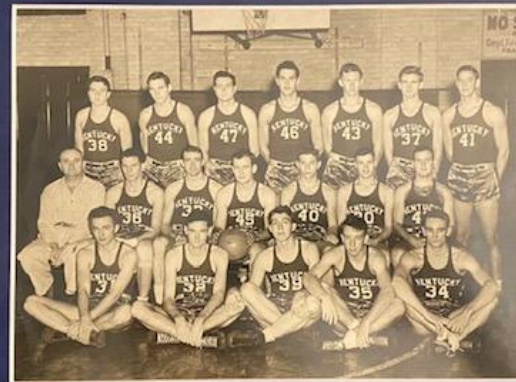


Zeb Blankenship

KY High School & Collegiate Basketball Player



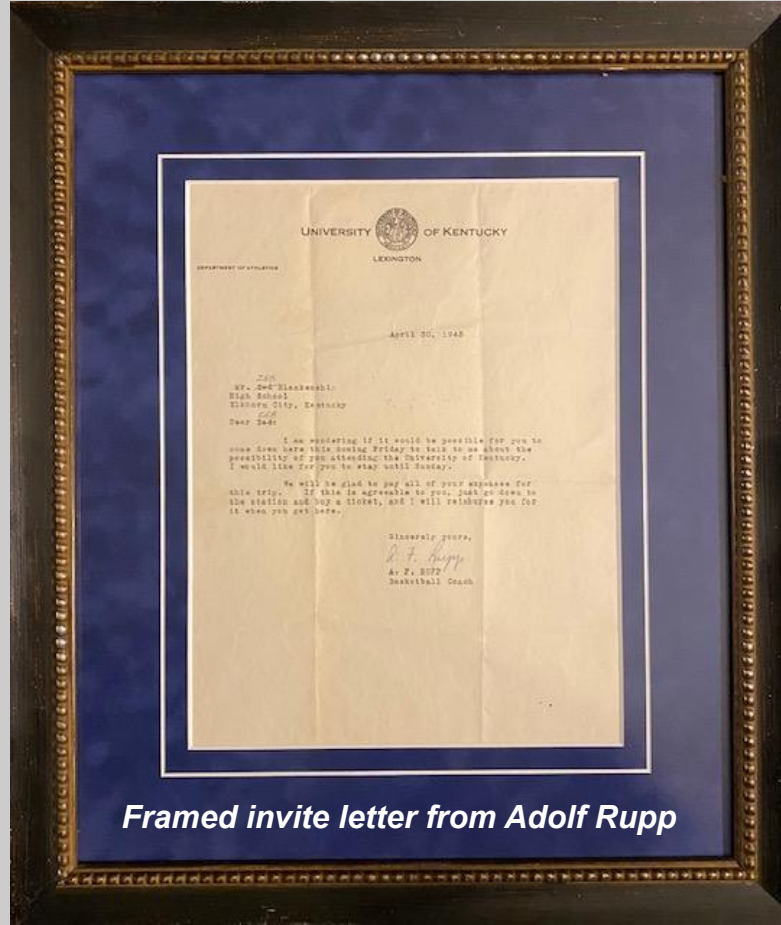
Framed invite letter from Adolf Rupp



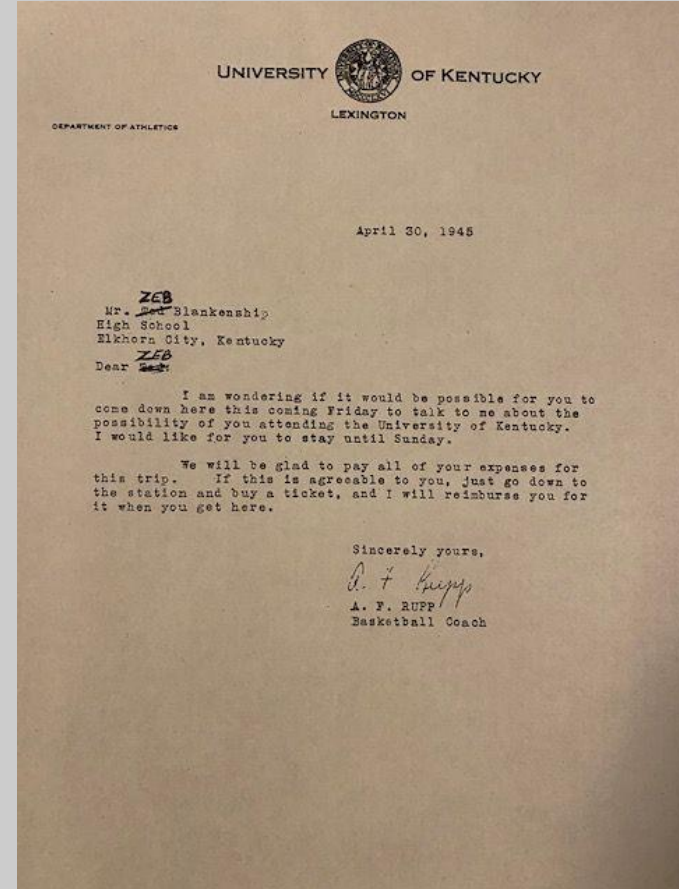
Framed University of Kentucky basketball team 1945-1946

Zeb Blankenship

KY High School & Collegiate Basketball Player



Framed invite letter from Adolf Rupp



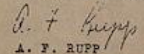
UNIVERSITY  OF KENTUCKY
LEXINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS

April 30, 1945

Mr. ~~Adolf~~ ^{ZEB} Blankenship
High School
Elkhorn City, Kentucky
Dear ~~Adolf~~ ^{ZEB}:

I am wondering if it would be possible for you to come down here this coming Friday to talk to me about the possibility of you attending the University of Kentucky. I would like for you to stay until Sunday.

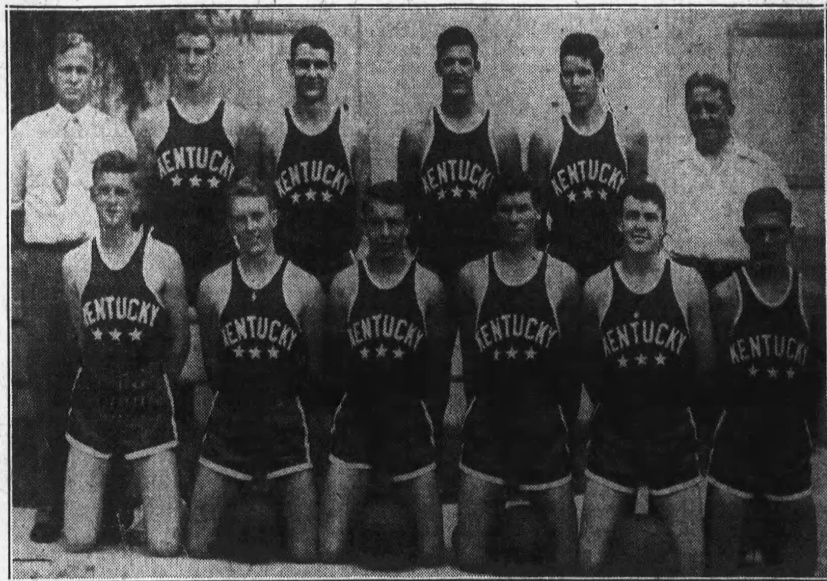
We will be glad to pay all of your expenses for this trip. If this is agreeable to you, just go down to the station and buy a ticket, and I will reimburse you for it when you get here.

Sincerely yours,

A. F. RUPP
Basketball Coach

Zeb Blankenship

KY High School & Collegiate Basketball Player

*12,300 Fans See Diddle's All-Star Boys
Defeat Indiana's Best By 45 To 40 Score*



—Herman Lowe Photo.

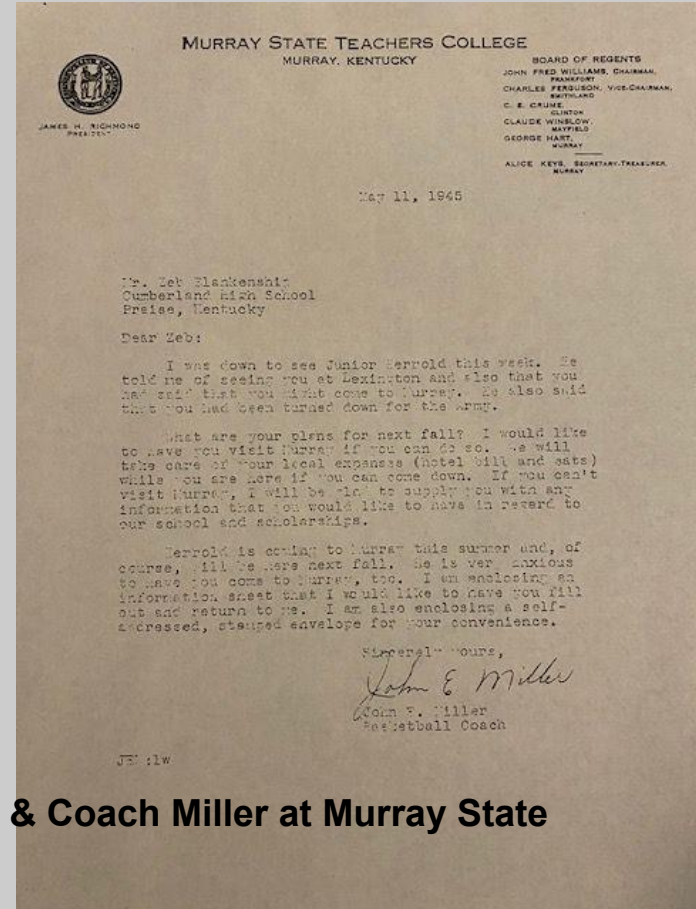
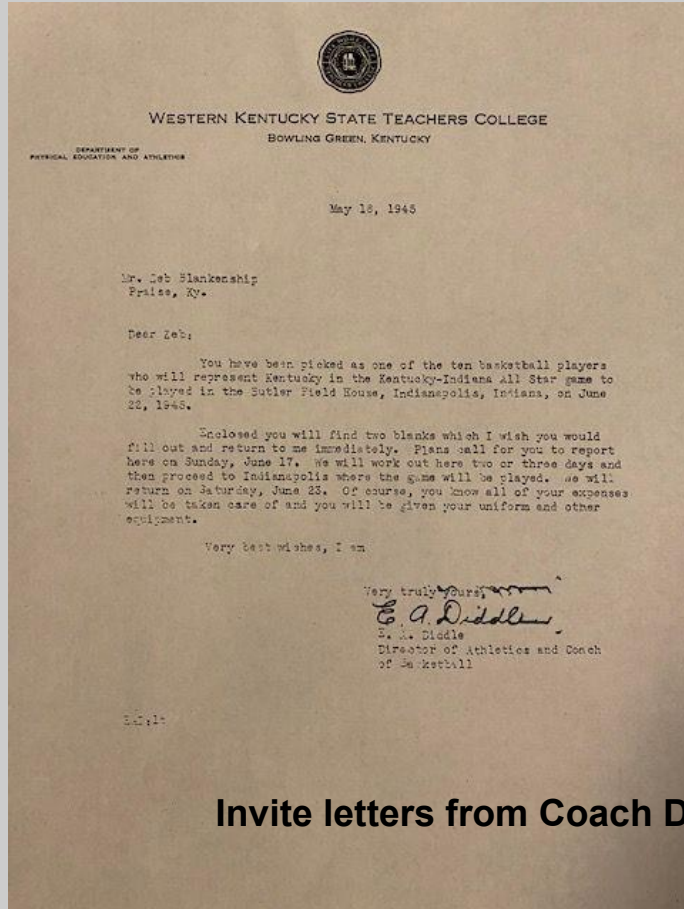
Pictured above are the 10 Kentucky High School basketball All Stars, who Friday night gave Kentucky its first victory over the Hoosier All Stars, by a score of 45-40 at Indianapolis. Front row, kneeling, left to right: Dick Webb, Madison High, Richmond; Joe Brummett, Danville; Zeb Blankenship, of Cumberland; Maurice Hale, Daviess High, Owensboro; Dick Heman, Bowling Green, and Ralph Beard, of Louisville. Second row, standing, left to right: Coach Ted Hornback; Bob DeMoss, of Dayton; Jim Hughes, of Danville; Wallace Jones, of Harlan; Lawrence McLin, West Liberty, and Coach Ed Diddle.

Kentucky High School All Star Team - 1945

*First winning KY team in
Kentucky vs. Indiana
All Star Game*

Zeb Blankenship

KY High School & Collegiate Basketball Player



Invite letters from Coach Diddle at WKU & Coach Miller at Murray State

Zeb Blankenship

KY High School & Collegiate Basketball Player

Elkhorn City Has Balance, Power

By TOM HOLLAND, Courier-Journal Correspondent.

Pikeville, Ky., March 12.—“We have a fair ball club, and although McHenry might pin one on us in the first round, the Merry Macks will know they've been in a ball game.”

So says Navy-bound Arthur Mullins, coach of Elkhorn City's Region 15 champions, in commenting on the State high school basketball tournament starting Thursday in Lexington.

Mullins didn't like the way his Cougars performed in the regional tourney as a whole, but was mighty well pleased with that bolt of lightning they manufactured in the final game as they shocked West Liberty 67-35.

Although Elkhorn City has won two regional championships in succession it will be the Cougars' first trip to the State tournament. They were beaten in the final game of a sectional meet last year by Mt. Sterling 40-29.

DIVIDED

The feature of Elkhorn's success this year has been the fact that scoring among four of the first five has been well divided.

Bob Wright and Danny Ratliff are leading with the same number of points, 495 in 35 games for a game average of 14.1. Zeb Blankenship has scored 302 in in 28 games for an average of 10.7 and Chick Spradlin follows closely with 360 in 35 games for 10.2. Estill (Big Stoop) Hogston, tower-

ing center, has 189 points for a 4.4 average.

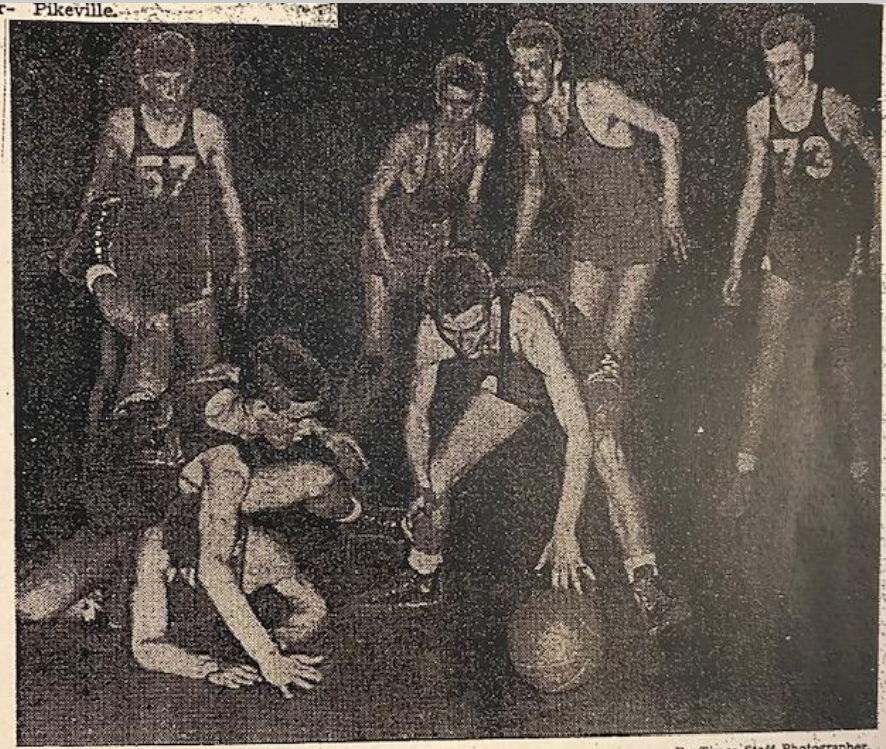
Just lately a boy named Guy Baliff has broken into the line-up quite often with satisfying results. He was responsible for much of Elkhorn's success in the regional final.

The team's average is 35.5 points a game which was good enough to win 34 of 35 games. The Cougars have scored 1,943 points.

Elkhorn is nicely balanced as to height, Wright and Ratliff stand 6 feet, Hogston 6-3, Blankenship 5-11, Spradlin 5-7 and Baliff 5-5.

The school, with an enrollment of about 200, is called Cumberland High because Elkhorn City is located amid the beautiful Cumberland Mountains at one end of the famous Breaks of the Big Sandy, where the river comes through a gorge from Virginia. The city is the second largest in Pike County, located 25 miles toward the Virginia border from Pikeville.

er- Pikeville.



By Times Staff Photographer.

Elkhorn City took Valley for a ride in the tourney opener and here a Viking actually is riding a Cougar. This fast action for a loose ball shows Blankenship, Elkhorn star, on the floor with Kaufman, Valley, atop him, as the ball rolls away with Huebner of Valley reaching for it. Moving in are Shephenson, Valley, wearing No. 57; Ratliff, Elkhorn, No. 11; Hogston, Elkhorn, No. 9, and Maulon, Valley, No. 73. Blankenship, despite this upset, was Elkhorn's individual star.

Zeb Blankenship

High School Basketball Coach

KHSAA Hall of Fame Endorsement
from former player & colleague,
Everette "Mutt" Varney

City of Georgetown

GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY

EVERETTE VARNEY, MAYOR

Memo

TO: Kentucky High School Athletic Association

FROM: Everette Varney *E. Varney*

DATE: May 19, 2003

RE: ENDORSEMENT FOR ZEB BLANKENSHIP FOR INDUCTION
INTO THE KHSAA "HALL OF FAME"

Zeb Blankenship is one of the most deserving individuals I know of who is not already a member of the KHSAA "Hall of Fame."

Coach Blankenship was my coach at Belfry High School 1953 - '56. Everything I am, and what I have, is the direct result of his advice, leadership, and overall interest in my development and future.

After high school I did not have a scholarship to college nor did I have funding of my own to attend. I ended up in a factory in Cleveland, Ohio with my dreams of college and the continuation of my playing career gone. My dream was to teach and coach and model myself to be just like him. This dream was shattered; I was heartbroken.

One day a letter arrived from Coach Blankenship. He said I could get into Berea College at mid-term if I would apply. He never gave up on me and did get me in school. I applied immediately with renewed hopes of fulfilling my dreams.

After completing high school, I earned my BS, MA and Rank I degrees. This education allowed me to be a teacher, coach and administrator for thirty-three wonderful years. I am now in my second term as Mayor of the City of Georgetown. This wonderful man made all of this possible for me. *3 terms*

I look forward to attending his induction into the KHSAA "Hall of Fame."

Zeb Blankenship Coach

Mercer Co. High School 1961-1963

Mercer 5 Ends Harrodsburg's Regular Season Winning Skein

HARRODSBURG, Ky., Dec. 2 (Special)—Earl Murphy fired in 19 points tonight to lead Mercer County to a 56-42 victory over arch-rival Harrodsburg and hand the Pioneers their first regular season loss since the 1959-60 campaign.

The Scotties jumped to a quick 17-11 lead at the end of the first period and were never threatened. Larry Yeager was the only other man 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 5-1 on the season while Harrodsburg is even at 1-1. The Pioneers went through the 1960-61 regular campaign unbeaten. They were beaten by Dunbar in the first

round of the 11th Regional tournament.

At Mercer County (56)—Ison 4, Murphy 19, Horn 3, Rogers 3, Mattingly 11, Taylor 2, Yeager 14.

Harrodsburg (42) — Young 7, Rue 3, Bartleson 12, Johnson 7, Smith 2, Royalty 2, Sharp 9.

Mercer County	..17	33	46	56
Harrodsburg11	23	34	42

Week's Cage Card

Week's Cage Schedule

Tuesday

Lafayette at Catholic.
Henry Clay at Bourbon County.
Midway at Bryan Station.
Dunbar at Mt. Sterling Dubois.

Wednesday

Douglas at Stanford Lincoln.

Friday

U-High at Nicholas County.
Grant County at Lafayette.

Scotties Top Anderson, 61-57

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 improve Frankfort team. The Frankfort crew, paced by Conway with 1 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 10, Mattingly 6, Taylor 5, and Yeager 6.

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 points with 15 markers, Murphy 13 points, Ison 6, Horn 11, Mattingly 7, and Taylor 4.

MERCER LOSES TO LAFAYETTE

Jaracz And Gill Combine For 51 Points In Defeat of 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.

Zeb Blankenship

Coach

Richmond Madison Model HS 1956-1961



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; Chuck Mirazovich, Franklin County; Zeb Blankenship, Madison Model, and S. T. Roach, Lexington Dunbar. (Herald Photo).

Coach Zeb Blankenship



Richmond Madison Model HS 1956-1961

2nd Row— Coach Zeb Blankenship, #31 Jerry Woolum, #30 Russell Lane, #32 Pearl Cewan, #35 Leroy Catching, #33 Don Lane, #34 Don Mize, Asst. George Arrington
1st Row — #20 Paul Motley, #24 Marion Lane, #25 Jerry Walker, #21 William Lane, #23 Arlin Tipton, #22 Dudley Hendricks. Managers: Sammy Saltee, Jerry Woolum, J.C. Long, Billy Buchanan.

Zeb Blankenship Coach

Belfry High School 1954-1956



BELFRY PIRATES

Principal: D. E. Elswick

Coach: Zeb Blankenship

Player	Jersey White	No. Red	Height	Yr.
Ray Bailey	22	22	6'1"	4
Ronnie Blackburn	21	21	6'1"	4
Don Hunt	24	24	5'10½"	4
Joe D. Ball	44	23	6'1"	4
Bill Sears	25	25	6'0"	4
William Morris	23	31	6'2"	4
Charles Blackburn	43	34	6'1"	3
Everett Varney	20	32	5'4"	3
Frankie Justice	45	35	5'9½"	3
Ernest Hatfield	42	33	5'8"	3
Johnny Maynard	40	42	5'6"	2
Luther Baker	41	41	6'4"	2

Managers: Joe Fain, Joe Berry, Harry Blackburn
Colors: Maroon & White

Cheerleaders: Janet Nelson, Judith Hunt, Mary Ellen Bentley, Shelby Jean Baldwin, Nancy Jo Brinkley, Judith Stair.



Charles
Sommers
Blackburn

Coach
ZEB BLANKENSHIP

Ernest
"Mutt"
Varney

Pirates Squeeze Past PJC Frosh 68-65 In First Tiff

Belfry High School's cagers, still jubilant after apparently proving that pre-season expectations were warranted, have a week to wait today before facing their second opponent.

The Pirates will travel to Dorton next Friday.

Belfry opened on the right foot Wednesday night as it squeezed past Pikeville Junior College's freshmen 68-65 at Belfry before an

overflow crowd. It was Coach Zeb Blankenship's debut at Belfry. He came from Virginia during the off-season.

For the Cubs, it was only the second defeat in five games. Close all the way, the game had Belfry ahead 45-40 at halftime. The freshmen came back to take a 58-53 lead over the Buccaneers at the end of the third period.

The two squads exchanged goals on six straight occasions in the final frame until Donald Hunt, leading Belfry scorer with 17 markers, broke the pattern with a 20-foot shot and charity try.

Ronnie Blackburn and Ray Bailey, with 14 and 13, respectively, contributed heavily to Belfry's cause. Lloyd Mullins of Carr Creek led PJC's freshmen with 16 markers while Franklin Salisbury of Martin got 11.

Ronnie Blackburn and Joe Darrell Ball were the defensive standouts for the Pirates, particularly on the bankboards, while Mullins and Lowell Conley of Garrett handled the freshmen's rebounding tasks.

Tommy Dean Runyon, former Belfry performer now with the Cubs, left the game in the third quarter via the personal fouls route after getting 12 points. Bailey and Ball were ejected on the Belfry side for the same reason.

The scoring:
Pos. Belfry PJC Frosh
F Bailey 13 Runyon 12
F Blackburn 15 Swiney 2
G Ball 9 Mullins 16
G Hunt 17 Butcher 5
G Sears 9 Salisbury 14
Belfry subs: Morris 6.
PJC subs: Clayton 11, Johnson 5.

Officials: Clayton Powers & Ted Deskins.

Belfry High School 1954-55 1955-56

Belfry Loses 80-78 Overtime Decision To Dorton Outfit

Belfry faces Meade Memorial at Belfry tonight, with hopes for an added the losing cause. The Pirates lost 80-78 last night in overtime at Dorton. A last-second four shot by Dorton's Seare rebounding while Paul Johnson's game-winning shot sent the Pirates to overtime. Dorton outscored Belfry, 14-10 in the overtime period. It was Belfry's first overtime loss. Ronnie Blackburn and Joe Darrell Ball were the defensive standouts for the Pirates, particularly on the bankboards, while Mullins and Lowell Conley of Garrett handled the freshmen's rebounding tasks.

The scoring:
Pos. Belfry PJC Frosh
F Bailey 13 Runyon 12
F Blackburn 15 Swiney 2
G Ball 9 Mullins 16
G Hunt 17 Butcher 5
G Sears 9 Salisbury 14
Belfry subs: Morris 6.
PJC subs: Clayton 11, Johnson 5.

After Foul Shot 'Killed'

Belfry Loses Heart-Breaker 59-58 To Meade Memorial

Belfry dropped a 59-58 decision Saturday night in Meade Memorial at Belfry. The Pirates lost despite a tremendous 21-point fourth period outburst and with Meade Memorial player scorer Donald Hutchins, who got 22 points, leading via personal fouls in the third period. It was the second defeat in two nights for Belfry, the pair of setbacks coming by only three points. Belfry trailed by 15 points at halftime, but got Memphis fouled out in the third canto. With approximately 30 seconds remaining the proceedings, Belfry just a fourth quarter scoring outburst. Ernest Hatfield, Everett Varney and Luther Baker, who were ejected on the Belfry side for the same reason.

The scoring:
Pos. Belfry Meade
F Morris 3 Daniels 6
F Blackburn 15 Mack 6
G Ball 9 Butcher 22
G Bailey 10 Swiney 11
G Hunt 17 Varney 6
Belfry subs: Sears 9, Varney 6.
Meade subs: Nelson 5, Varney 6.
Belfry fouls: 10, 9, 12, 12-22
Meade fouls: 19, 18, 11, 15-48
Officials: Newton & Glasgow.

Zeb Blankenship Coach

Belfry High School 1954-1956



Mutt Varney
Belfry
Scores 30 in Win Area
Scoring Race

Belfry Downs Inez; Varney Nets 52 Points To Lead Pirates

Everett "Mutt" Varney scored the nets for 52 points, tying an area record set by Darwin Smith of Pikeville Thursday night, to lead the Belfry Pirates to their 15th win of the season last night and a 35-23 win over Inez.

The game, which was played at Inez, was a high scoring affair with the Pirates taking over in the second quarter after trailing by 22-25 in the first quarter.

Varney's points came on 15 field goals out of 28 tries at the basket and 14 out of 14 from the free throw lane, giving the 5'7" star a new Belfry scoring mark, both individually and for a season. (unofficial) as he finished up with 601 points for a tremendous 33.2 average, probably tops in the area.

After trailing by seven points at the end of the first period, Belfry rallied for 26 markers in the second canto to only 16 for Inez, giving the Pond Creek bats a 21-25 lead. They increased the margin in the third period by six, 24-18, and whipped a last quarter attack by six Indians.

Behind Varney in the scoring department for Belfry came Howard Hatfield with 14 and Charles Blackburn with 13, while Everett Horn paced the Inez shooters with 34 markers.

Belfry thus ended up with a 15-13 mark, and Inez finished its season with a record of 12 wins and 11 losses. Both teams play in District tournaments next week.

Lineups:
Pos. Belfry Inez
P Hatfield 14 Porter 5
F Barnes 2 Horn 34
C Blackburn 18 Horn 34
G Hambrick 4 Fairchild 23
G Varney 52 Davis 3
Belfry sub-Baker 8
Inez sub-Crum 2
Score by quarters:
Belfry 25 26 24 20-85
Inez 32 16 18 23-89

Belfry Varney Nets 31 As Bucs Trim Virgie

Belfry got back into the season form last night by trimming Virgie's slight game, 31-25, in a streak for a loop and with 54, despite a great last quarter rally by Virgie.

Belfry built up an early lead and led by 12-14 going into the final eight minutes, but the Pirates, with four men fouled out, almost blew the lead as Virgie pulled up to within one point at 63-62, but the Pond Creekers rallied to salvage the victory.

With two new starters, James Hunsay, Luther Baker and John Maynard, the Buceos got into a 18-15 first period lead, 40-35, at halftime.

Mutt Varney found his shooting eye again for the Pirates, as he netted 31 for high scoring honors. Mutt had 12 fielders and seven on free tosses for his total, while Maynard was tops for the Buceos with 11.

Top man for Virgie was Tackett, who 21, while Johnson led the record, had 21 fielders to 61-17 for the visitors.

Lineups:
Pos. Belfry Virgie
P Hatfield 8 Brewer 4
P Barnes 6 Johnson 20
C Baker 0 Tackett 21
G Varney 31 Osborne 10
G Maynard 11 Bowling 1
Belfry sub-Dawson 4, Justice 4, Blackburn 7
Virgie sub-Dawson 4, Diller 4

Score by quarters:
Belfry 18 23 18
Virgie 15 17 14
Total 31-25
Virgie sub-Tritelle and 10-12

Belfry Varney Nets 35 As Bucs Trip Phelps

Belfry got above the 500 mark again last night by handing Phelps another loss, 35-26, on the home court. The Pirates now a 15-9 record.

Phelps made a good game for a quarter and a half, but Varney got the upper hand late in second period and held the rest of the game. Mutt Varney once again paced the winners he netted 35 points.

Phelps jumped off to a fast first quarter lead, but Belfry came back to outscore the home team by 26, and took a 35-23 half lead. The Pirates then proceeded to outscore the Hornets by 22-11 the next canto, and that was ball game.

Varney had 11 fielders and 14 foul shots for his total, 35. Howard Hatfield was runner up with 22 markers, while Arnold also came through with seven.

Top man for Phelps was Dado, who rimmed 24 points, 11 fielders and seven for a high charity circle. Next in line Phelps was Moore with 15.

In a "B" team prelin, the B team won by a 40-33 score, James Hatfield the high point:

Lineups:
Pos. Belfry Phelps
P Hatfield 23 Pull 5
P Blackburn 4 Moore 17
C Baker 2 Ske 3
G Varney 35 Vang 1
G Barnes 7 Dado 7
Belfry sub-Justice 5, J Mock 6
Phelps sub-Hunt 5, P 5
Score by quarters:
Belfry 19 19 23 17
Phelps 21 10 13 20
Total 38-33
Official: Newcome and 19-22

Zeb Blankenship

Coach

Virgie High School 1952-1954

Virgie Upsets Salversville, 62-61, In 4th Period Rally

Leonard Carpenter Gets 34 Points For Losers With Spectacular Shots

Coach Zeb Blankenship's Virgie Eagles served due notice of their potential power to future 15th region basketball opponents by overcoming a deficit to upset the highly-favored Salversville Hornets, 62-61, at Virgie Saturday night.

Blankenship's charge took an early four-point first quarter lead 21-17 and momentarily lost their grip in the second frame as the visitors collected 15 points while the home-standing lads managed eight. This left the Hornets with a halftime lead, 30-29.

The Salversville quintet increased their margin in the third with 18 points while the Eagles stayed within shooting distance with 11 for praise from Blankenship promoters, all of which found visit-ing coach Leonard Marshall's squad with a third quarter lead, 48-40.

The fourth quarter scoring told the victory story as the Eagles rallied with 22 points to outdistance the Hornets with 13. Search-ing the record book, Leonard Carpenter, Hornets' guard, almost single-handedly spelled the efforts of the Eagles with accumulation of 34 points for high point honors of the night. The Salversville spark plug hit 15 of 16 field shots attempted from about 35 feet out and tabbed four free shots.

record of five wins and three losses have a total of only 10 points between them and are undefeated season. They have lost by that accumulation margin to three opponents, McDowell (64-63), Betsy Layne (64-60) and Maytown (68-58).

Virgie's fast-improving hoopsters got their fourth win Friday night by trimming Phelps, 55-45, after they had downed the Pikeville College Academy Cubs, 58-54, Feds Creek Vikings, 61-43, and the Johns Creek Bearcats, 68-49, on previous dates.

The lineups:

Virgie (62)	Pos.	S-ville (61)
Greer (4)	F	Phelps (8)
Davis (18)	F	Hunley (3)
Subcoo (10)	C	Collinsworth (11)
Hall (13)	G	Carpenter (34)
Dennison (17)	G	Carpenter (4)

Scores by quarters:

Virgie	21	8	11	22
Salversville	17	13	18	12

Zeb's 1st Year of Coaching '52-'53 season

Virgie Romps To Sixth Win, Sets Belfry Back, 50-44

Eagle "B" Team Also Wins, 42-26

Virgie's high-flying Eagles swooped to their sixth win of the season last night by tripping the Belfry High School Pirates by a score of 50-44.

Coach Zeb Blankenship's Virgie five who have dropped three games this season, had a 14-point lead at half time which was whittled down to five points in the third quarter.

The Eagles built the margin back up to 12 points early in the fourth period but the Pirates of Belfry Hall (12) G. May (16) Coach Bill Harrell had carved the margin to six points at the end of the ball game.

Big Gun of the ball game in in-

dividual scoring was Belfry Guard B. May who notched 16 points. Virgie Guard Jay Hall was high point man for the Eagles with 12 points.

A B-Team game also saw Virgie victorious over Belfry with a score of 42-26.

Officials were Clayton Powers, Pikeville, and Bill Benedett, Elkhorn City.

The lineups:

Virgie (50)	Pos.	Belfry (44)
Greer (11)	F	Runyon (12)
Davis (9)	F	Wallen (4)
Subcoo (11)	C	Shannon (0)
Hall (12)	G	May (16)
Dennison (7)	G	Varney (7)

Score by quarters:

Virgie	14	31
Belfry	8	17

'53-'54 season