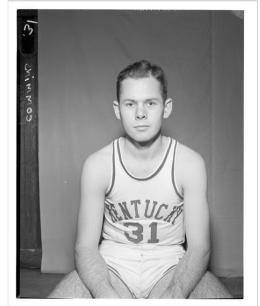


ALBERT CUMMINS

Brooksville High School
Bracken County, KY
10th Region



Notable Honors

Basketball	Baseball
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1944 Undefeated Regular Season (22-0)▪ 1944 District & Region Champion▪ 1944 First-Team All-State▪ 1944 All-State Tournament Team ▪ University of Kentucky<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2x SEC Champion○ 1947 NIT Runner-Up▪ Michigan State University	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 1944 Region Champion▪ 1944 State Runner-Up▪ University of Wisconsin<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1945 Minor 'W' award (letterman)▪ University of Kentucky<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1947 Varsity letter▪ Michigan State University<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 1949, 1950 varsity letter○ 1950 2nd Team All-American○ 1950 .367 BA, 43 Hits▪ St. Louis Cardinals minor league<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2 seasons before injury○ 267 hits in 269 games○ .253 BA, .948 Fld%
World War II Navy Veteran	

Albert Cummins was born on June 23rd, 1926. Growing up playing baseball in Bracken County, Albert Cummins told the story about losing one of his friends in a freak baseball accident almost 80 years ago (article attached). He played basketball for four seasons from 1941-1944, scoring 793 points. He played for the 1944 Brooksville Polar Bears that were undefeated at 22-0 in the regular season, and ranked the #1 team in Kentucky. Brooksville finished their season at 27-1 when they were upset in the second round of the State Tournament by Olive Hill. 1944 may be considered the toughest after with 4 undefeated teams and players like Wah Wah Jones and Ralph Beard. Albert won two District Championships in 1943 and 1944, and a Region Championship in 1944. He was named to the All-State Tournament in 1944. He also played baseball for Brooksville and was their ace pitcher and middle infielder, where he won a Region Championship and was State Runner-Up in 1944. While there was no All-State or All-Tournament Baseball team in 1944, one can assume Albert Cummins's performance at 2B and SS and being their star pitcher would have earned him that title.

Cummins, and the entire 1944 starting five was offered a Scholarship to Kentucky by Adolph Rupp. Albert, however, was drafted and served in the Navy in 1945 and 1946 during World War II. He played for the Treasure Island basketball team in San Francisco on the U.S. Navy Military base. When he returned to the United States for a short time in the spring of 1945, he played baseball at the University of Wisconsin where he won their minor 'W' award given to outstanding underclassmen.

Albert then returned to Kentucky to play basketball in the 1946-47 and 1947-48 seasons, where he played in 38 games and scored 52 points, winning two SEC Championships. Kentucky would go on to be NIT Runner-Up in 1947. He also lettered in baseball in 1947, but decided to transfer after that, leaving the Kentucky team that would win the 1948 and 1949 NCAA Championship. He told Jerry Tipton in the attached article that he wasn't getting enough playing time at Kentucky, and he just wanted to play ball and have fun. He transferred to Michigan State to play baseball but was ruled ineligible his junior year in 1948. So, in 1949 and 1950, he played 2nd base for Michigan State, lettering both years. He led his team with a .367 batting average in 1950 with 43 hits and was named a 2nd team All-American.

Cummins went on to play baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals minor league team in Allentown, PA for two seasons in 1951 and 1952. For his career, he played in 269 games with 267 hits – almost a hit per game for a .253 BA. In 1,129 plate appearances he had: 267 hits, 45 doubles, 9 triples, and 8 homeruns. With detailed stats only available for 1951, in that season he had 582 plate appearances with only 15 strikeouts, 75 runs, and 59 walks. Albert was a sure major league prospect, however, he threw out his arm and would have required today's Tommy John surgery. Albert Cummins decided to retire and raised his family in Bracken County where his kids attended school.

In honor of his achievements, [Albert Cummins was inducted to the 10th Region Hall of Fame in 2018](#), and the Bracken County Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. His jersey was retired at Bracken County High School in 2019.

To the KHSAA Hall of Fame selection committee: Albert Cummins is currently 93 years old and is in remarkable mental and physical shape for his age. He fondly remembers watching his brother Jay Cummins, and KHSAA Hall of Fame member Warren Cooper win the 1939 State Championship for Brooksville. He dreamed of repeating that goal and to this day still thinks about getting upset in the quarterfinals of the state tournament almost 80 years ago.

Albert Cummins overcame the tragic death of his friend during a baseball accident, being drafted to fight for our country during World War II, and a career-ending arm injury. Despite all this, Albert still had a Hall of Fame-worthy career in high school and college. I believe Albert has represented the challenges faced and goals reached by high school students during his time. Albert also represents the emphasis by Bracken County and the KHSAA about playing multiple sports and being successful in them. Which is almost a requirement for small-town teams like Brooksville and Bracken County High School to be successful.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me at 606-402-1972 or williamscottjones@outlook.com if you have any questions. I have attached newspaper articles and pictures for verification and curiosity. Here is the link to a Facebook video and pictures of him accepting his 10th Region HOF award.

<https://www.facebook.com/1825764802/videos/10208962848268189/>

ALBERT CUMMINS ARTICLE

BY: JERRY TIPTON

He was a star on a high school basketball team that received a scholarship offer, en masse, from Kentucky.

As a UK teammate, he competed against Ralph Beard. He was a World War II veteran and an All-American baseball player for Michigan State.

Albert Cummins, whose life has had plenty of eye-catching moments (a childhood friend was one of 18 siblings), will be honored on Friday. Bracken County High School will retire his baseball jersey. Cummins was a star pitcher and middle infielder for a (pre-consolidation) Brooksville High School that advanced to the 1944 state championship game.

The Brooksville High basketball team had an undefeated (22-0) regular-season record in 1944. The team lost to Olive Hill in the Sweet 16 quarter-finals, but Adolph Rupp was impressed enough to offer each player a UK scholarship. Cummins, now 93, was inducted into the 10th Region Hall of Fame and the Bracken County Athletic Hall of Fame last year. He recalled being a good-shooting guard.

“Adolph had a long-shot shooting contest one time,” he said of his time as a UK player. “And I won it.”

With World War II raging, Cummins left UK when he was drafted before the end of his freshman year of 1944-45. He served in the U.S. Navy before returning to UK in 1946. He recalled competing against Beard, who had arrived at UK while Cummins was in the Navy and went on to become one of Kentucky basketball’s most iconic players.

Of the practice competitions with Beard, Cummins said, “Every day, every day, we did that. Ralph and I would push each other. Sometimes I’d get mine. And sometimes he’d get his.”

“When I played against anybody else, it was always easier.”

These practice competitions could get intense.

“Just playing hard,” Cummins said. “It wasn’t anything that was actual fighting. But sometimes it almost got to that.”

Clint Cummins prodded his father to re-tell a story the family has heard many times about being benched by Rupp. Kentucky was playing St. John’s. Cummins recalled playing well. Then trouble came late in the first half.

The player Cummins was guarding took a perimeter jump shot. Cummins blocked out, but the long rebound went over his head and the head of teammate Alex Groza, who had established rebounding position closer to the basket.

Cummins’ man got the long rebound and hit a shot at the halftime buzzer.

“At halftime, I was the only guy Adolph talked about,” Cummins said. Rupp concluded his halftime oratory by telling manager Humzey Yessin to give Cummins a warmup jacket. “He’s not going back in the game,” a chuckling Cummins recalled Rupp saying.

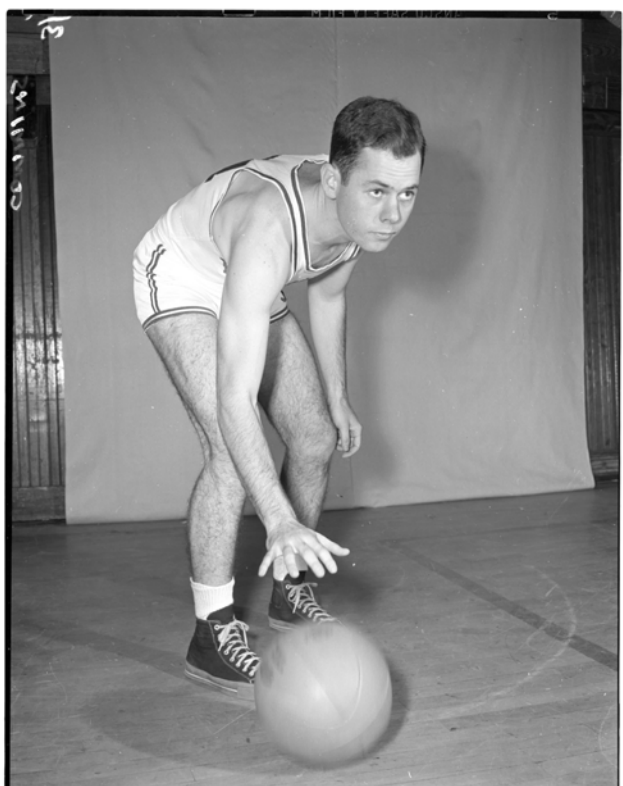
Cummins recalled his St. John’s player who prompted the benching as Dick McGuire, one of that program’s iconic stars.

Late in the 1947-48 season, Cummins decided to transfer. He moved to Michigan State, where he played baseball in the 1949 and 1950 seasons. As a senior, he led the Spartans with a .367 batting average.

Cummins left a UK program that went on to win the 1948 and 1949 national championships. He had no regrets, he said. “I was glad they won.”

When asked why he transferred, Cummins mentioned a reason that still resonates more than 70 years later. Think Brad Calipari transferring to Detroit Mercy earlier this year.

“Well, I just wanted to play,” he said. “I wasn’t starting, of course. I wanted to play more ball.”



Brooksville Favored In State Tournament With Record Of 22 Victories, No Losses



Brooksville's Polar Bears, winners of the Tenth Regional Tournament, with a seasonal record of 26 victories without a single defeat, are given top ranking in state tournament play beginning at Lexington this week. Coach Jarvis Parsley is to enter service of the United States Navy.

Dall squad.

OTHER HONORS

In the 1942 State tournament at Louisville, Jones was chosen on the all-tournament team and again this year at Lexington he was named on the squad of 10 players in the tournament, every person serving on the committee voting for Jones.

Courier-Journal All-State Squad

FIRST SQUAD.

Player and School.	Vote Pct.
Wallace Jones, Harlan	64
Ralph Beard, Louisville Male	39
Don Sparka, Dayton	36
Glenn Combs, London	33
Albert Cummings, Brooksville	33
Or Johnson, Valley	31
Fields McGregor, Brewers	29
J. V. Morris, Calhoun	26
Corkey Howerton, Olive Hill	23
Lacy Risner, Hindman	22

SECOND SQUAD.

Johnny Lewis, Male	21
Carl Eagle, Harlan	20
Earl Bradford, Harlan	19
Alonzo Nelson, Madison	18
James Durham, Anchorage	17
Jack Garrett, Corbin	17
Garland Townes, Hazard	15
Jack Walker, Barbourville	15
William Warren, McHenry	14
Robert Gillespie, Brooksville	13

THIRD SQUAD.

Robert Mohler, Brewers	12
Ben Johnson, Madison	12
Bobo Davenport, Bowl. Green	11
Charles Parris, Bowling Green	11
Bob Wright, Elkhorn City	11
E. Sparkman, Carr Creek	10
Buddy Hampton, Lee County	10
Bob Finnell, Dayton	10
Edd DeCoursey, Wayland	10
Zeb Blankenship, Elkhorn City	9



RALPH BEARD, Male, stood second with 39 per cent.



DON SPARKA, Dayton, ranked third with 36 per cent.

Southern Tour Opens MSC Baseball Season

Just as sure a sign of approaching spring as the first robin is the sight of Michigan State baseball players heading to daily indoor workouts on the campus.

John H. Kobs, beginning his 26th year as head baseball coach, will have a tough job replacing star performers of the 1949 team—a team which compiled a record of 19 wins, 8 losses and one tie.

Ten Lettermen Return

Kobs has ten lettermen, plus several likely-looking sophomores, working out daily in the Stock Pavilion. Capt. Jack Kinney, Owosso senior, heads the list of veterans. Kinney batted a lusty .344 last season and led the team in home runs and runs batted-in with 35.

Other returning veterans include Joe Bechard, Detroit; Joe Barta, Detroit; Wendell Lawrence, Whitehouse, O.; Al Cummins, Brooksville, Ky.; and Ted Maupin, Monroe, all senior infielders; outfielder Vince Magi, Detroit junior, and catcher Ed Zbiciak, Flint senior. Wally Beggs, Birmingham junior, and Lou Block, Dearborn senior, are returning pitchers.



Kircher Readies Spartan Hoopsters For Rugged 24-Game Basketball Shed

Six veterans and a host of promising newcomers hold the key to Michigan State College's success in basketball in the 1949-50 season.

Spartan mentor Al Kircher, beginning his first year as head coach, has had his charges working out for six weeks in preparation for the Dec. 3 opener against Michigan in Jenison Fieldhouse.

Among the returning lettermen available for a rugged 22-game schedule are Bill Rapchak, Whiting, Ind. senior, last year's leading scorer; Ray Steffen, Flint junior; Robert Robbins, Belflower, Cal. senior; Jim Snodgrass, Pierceton, Ind. junior; Hugh Dawson, Gary, Ind. senior; and Leon Hess, Auburn, Ind. senior.

Feature of the 22-game card is the new Spartan Basketball Classic, double header attractions Dec. 28-29. Wednesday's bill pits Ohio State against Cornell, and MSC against Harvard. The following night Ohio State faces Harvard, while the Spartans meet Cornell.

The regular schedule boasts 10 games against eight Western Conference foes, with Illinois the only Big Ten rival not listed. Thirteen games will be played at home and nine on the road.

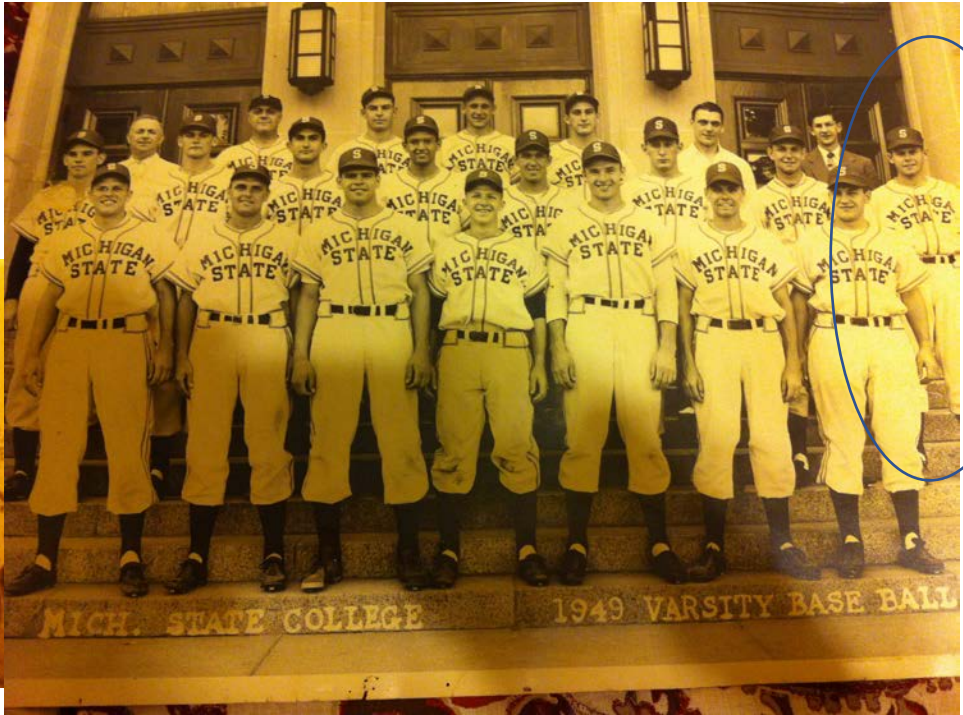
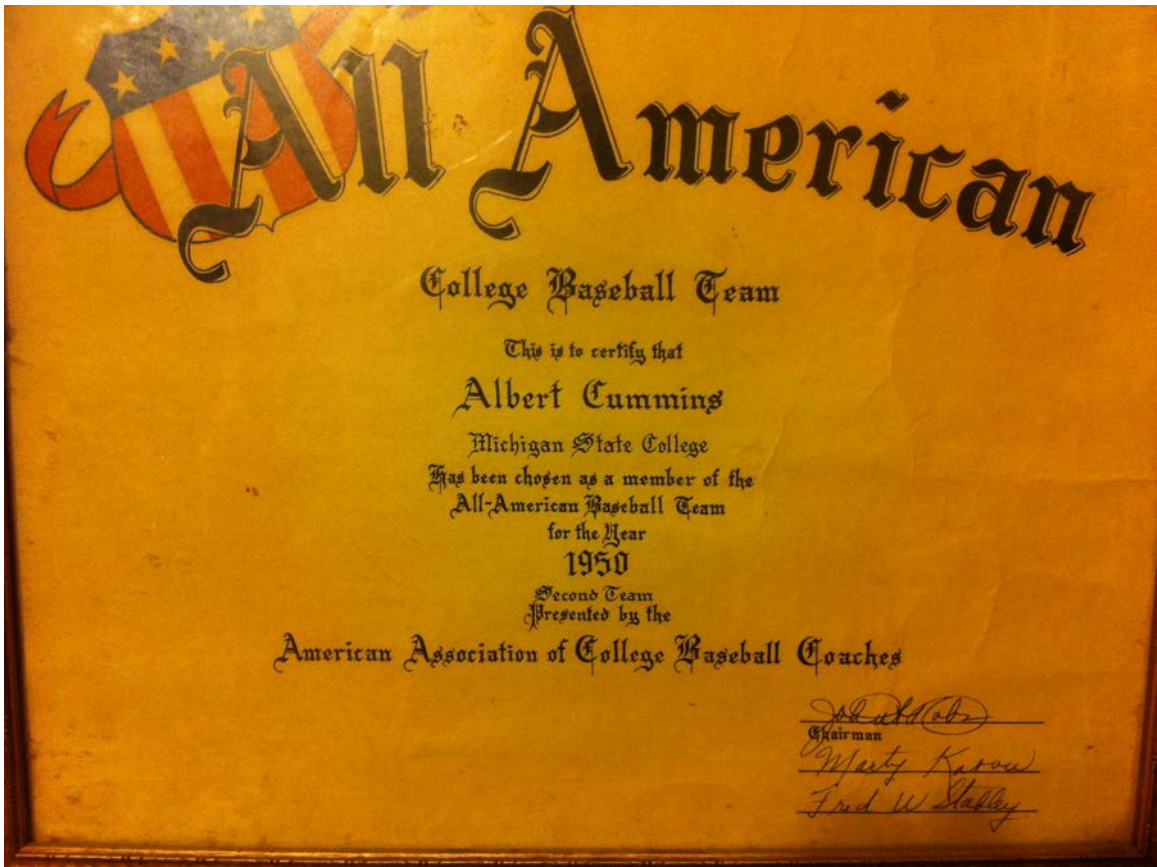
Several promising sophomores will be available for the first time. Top candidates include Dan Smith, a forward from Gary, Ind.; Gordon Stauffer, Ft. Wayne, Ind. guard; Sonny Means, Saginaw

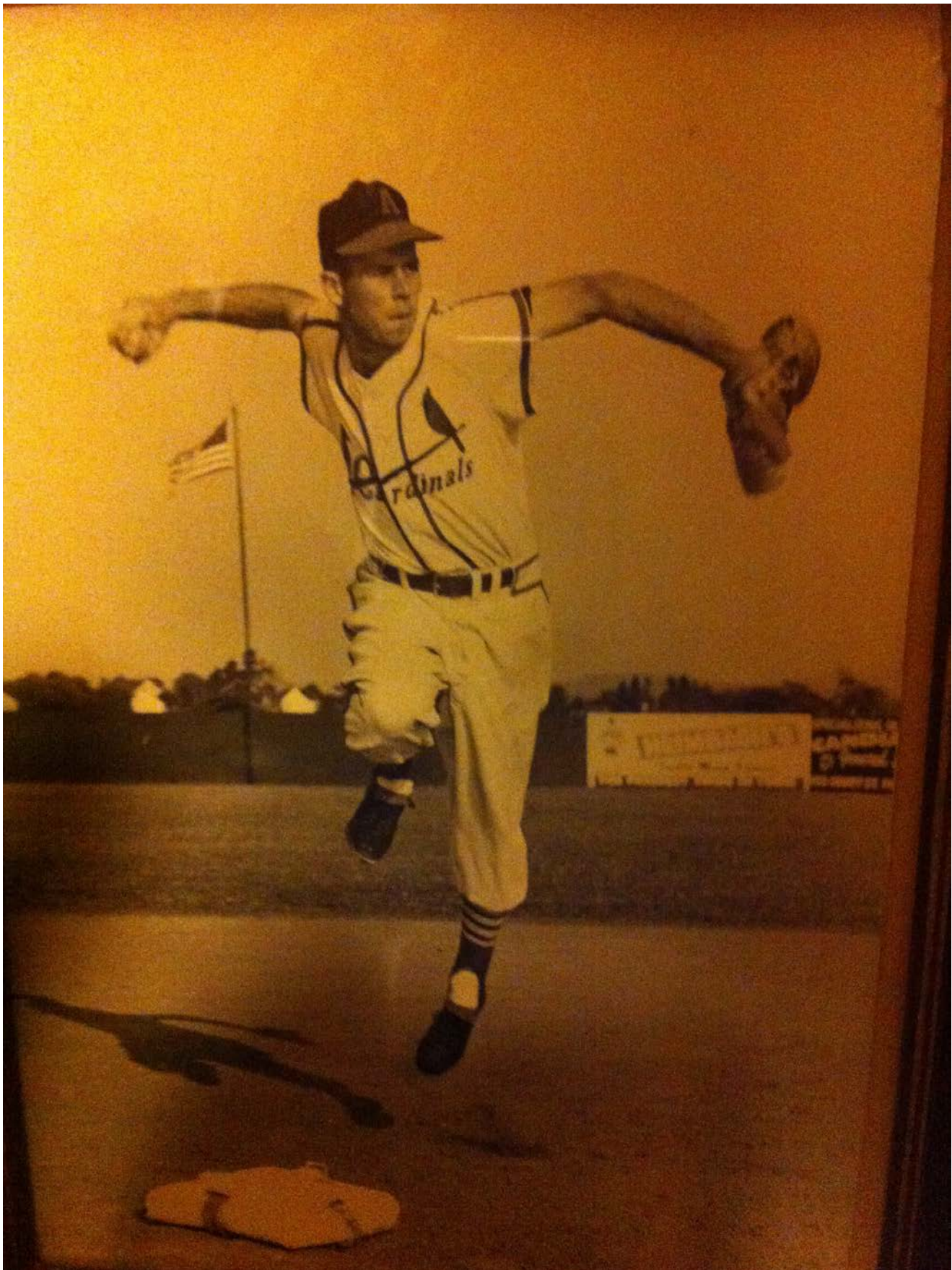


Kircher

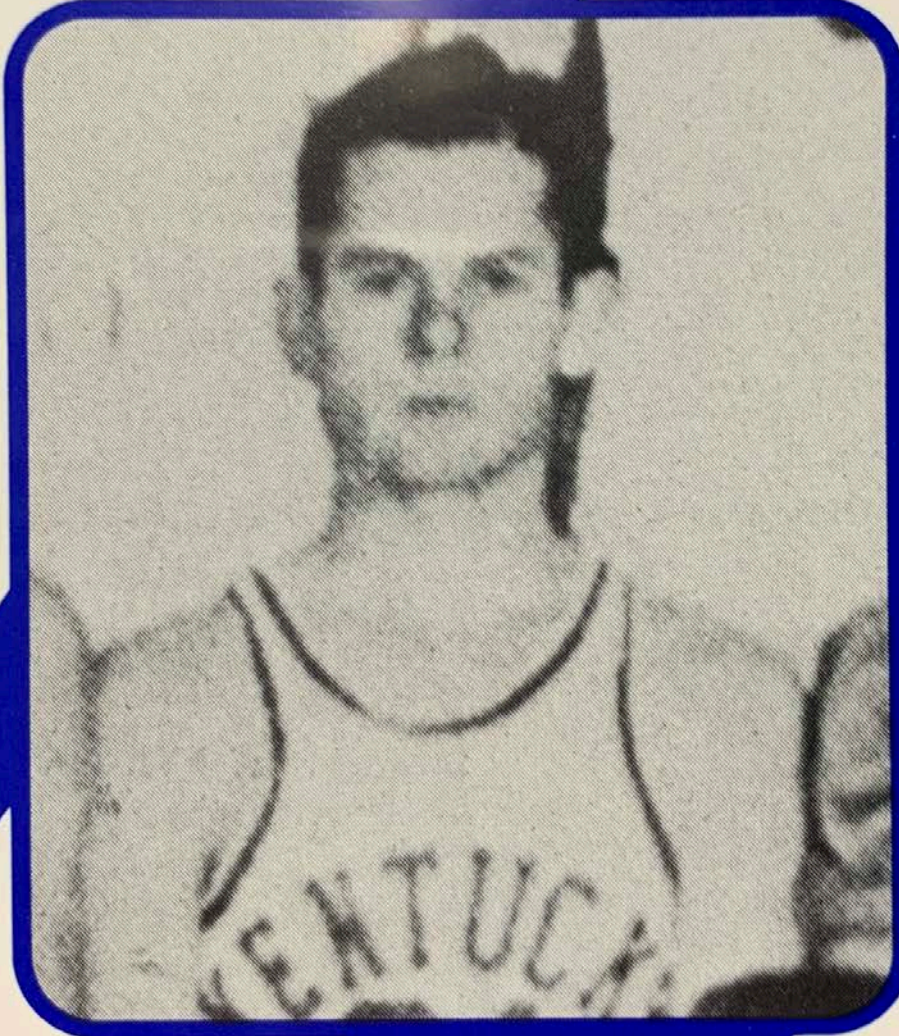
forward; Al Cummins, transfer from Kentucky; and Bob Carey, 6 foot 4 inch center from Charlevoix and star end on the Spartan football team.

The home schedule is: Michigan, Dec. 3; Indiana, Dec. 10; Missouri, Dec. 17; Georgia Tech, Dec. 22; Spartan Basketball Classic, Dec. 28-29; Notre Dame, Jan. 7; Minnesota, Jan. 23; Western Reserve, Jan. 31; Wisconsin, Feb. 6; Detroit, Feb. 14; and Wayne, Feb. 17. Games away will be: Iowa, Dec. 5; Northwestern, Dec. 23; Indiana, Jan. 2; Detroit, Jan. 9; Purdue, Feb. 4; Ohio State, Feb. 11; Michigan, Feb. 20; Marquette, Feb. 25.





**KENTUCKY'S
FINEST**



**ALBERT
CUMMINS**

ALBERT CUMMINS

100

5'10" • 160 lbs. • GUARD

BROOKSVILLE • Brooksville High School

WILDCAT CAREER

	G	FG	FGA	PCT	FT	FTA	PCT	PF	TP	AVG
1946-47	14	12	49	24.5	3	7	42.8	10	27	1.9
1947-48	17	13	37	35.1	6	9	66.7	13	32	1.9
Total	31	25	86	29.1	9	16	56.3	23	59	1.9

Al transferred to Sewanee after his junior year. He is a past president of the K-Men's Association.

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Dick Carpenter Wins Baseball Letter at U. W.

MADISON, Wis.—(U.P.)—University of Wisconsin baseball players and members of the tennis team have been voted major and minor awards for outstanding play this spring, Athletic Director Harry Stuhldreher announced today.

Of the awards, 28 are for members of the baseball squad, which won second place in 1945 conference play, and eight are for members of the tennis team. Awards for track and golf have not yet been completed, Stuhldreher said.

Baseball awards:

Major "W" — James Ackeret, Medrodd; Lloyd Auman, Manitowoc; **Richard Carpenter, Racine, Wis.**; Gene Jaroch, Chicago; Eric Kitzman, Menasha; Dan Murphy, Chicago; Phillip Nelson, Minneapolis; Wallace Pearson, Waterloo; Robert Perthel, West Allis; John Robinson, Concord, N. C.; Robert Sutton, Kenosha; Jerome Thompson, Cameron; Orvell Zimmerman, Winneconne. Minor "W"—Harvey Jacobson, New York City; Winfield McQuarrie, Peotone, Ill.; Richard Myhers, Eau Claire; Nelson Waity, Sherdon, Ill.; George Wirtz, Elkhart Lake. Numerals — Albert Cummins, Brooksville, Ky., and G. M. Dennis, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Tennis awards:

Nine-Year-Old Boy Is Hurt Fatally At Play

Special

MAYSVILLE, Ky., Sept. 1.—Little nine-year-old Jesse Happe, son of Jailer and Mrs. Louis Happe, of Bracken county, tagged out 13-year-old Albert Cummins, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. "Punk" Cummins, of Brooksville, at third base in a game of softball at Brooksville but in so doing the Happe youngster made a final out for himself.

The children were playing softball Monday afternoon in the Brooksville school yard. Happe was playing third base, Cummins was a runner on second base. The next batter hit to Happe who fielded it in direct line with Cummins who was attempting to reach third. As Happe was bending over to field the ball Cummins' knee accidentally struck the third baseman on the temple.

The youth was picked up unconscious and removed to the office of a physician, where it was discovered a brain concussion had resulted from the impact. Tuesday morning he regained consciousness and appeared greatly improved. In the afternoon, however, he became worse and succumbed at 7:45 Tuesday night at the home of the parents in Brooksville.

Besides the bereaved parents, the little victim leaves two sisters and two brothers, Mrs. Evelyn Cummins, of the Brooksville-Augusta road; Miss Emma Jane Happe, Louis J. Happe, Jr., and Fred Happe. He was a member of the Brooksville Baptist church. He would have entered the fifth grade in school this year.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

Fielding:

Year	Level	Lg	Team	Pos	GP	PO	A	E	DP	Fld%	RF/G
1951	B	INSL6	Allentown Cardinals	2B	134	355	389	33	91	.958	5.552
Totals					134	355	389	33	91	.958	5.552

Minor League Service:

Year	Level	League	Team	Affiliation	First Appearance	Final Appearance
1951	B	Inter-State League	Allentown Cardinals	SLN		
1952	B	Inter-State League	Allentown Cardinals	SLN		

Albert Cummins

Albert Barker Cummins
 Born: 1927
 Primary Position: Second base
 Bats: Right
 Throws:
 Height: 5'11"
 Weight: 165
 Career: 1951-1952

Albert Cummins compiled a career batting average of .253 with 8 home runs and 70 RBI in his 269-game career with the Allentown Cardinals. He began playing during the 1951 season and last took the field during the 1952 campaign.

Click on column headings to sort.

Batting:

Year	Level	Lg	Team	GP	PA	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	CS	BB	SO	BA	OBP	SLG	OPS	TB	DP	HBP	SH	SF	IBB	
1951	B	INSL6	Allentown Cardinals	134	582	510	75	139	26	8	6	70	10	59	15	273	.273	.354	.390	.744	199	5	8				
1952	B	INSL6	Allentown Cardinals	135	547	547		128	19	1	2					234	.234	.283	.517	155							
Totals				269	1129	1057	75	267	45	9	8	70	10	0	59	15	253	.253	.295	.335	.630	354	0	5	8	0	0

UK BASKETBALL

Bracken Co. honoree recalls brushes with greats



BY JERRY TIPTON
 jipton@herald-leader.com

He was a star on a high school basketball team that received a scholar-

was always easier." These practice competitions could get intense. "Just playing hard," Cummins said. "It wasn't anything that was actual fighting. But sometimes it almost got to that." **Clint Cummins** prodded his father to re-tell a story the family has heard many times about being benched by Rupp. Kentucky was playing St.



Albert Cummins

than 50 NBA scouts had requested seats for Kentucky's game against Utah on Wednesday, **Brooks Downing** said in an email message. Presumably, most — if not all — will stay for



Herold-Leader file photo

The 1946-47 University of Kentucky basketball team, including Albert Cummins (30), Ralph Beard (to Cummins' left) and coach Adolph Rupp, bottom left, posed for a team portrait in December 1946.

Male Annexes Baseball Title

Icing the game with four runs in the first inning, Male high of Louisville defeated the Brooksville Polars Bears, 8-1, in the championship contest of the state high school baseball tournament at Legion park here yesterday afternoon.

Gene Rhodes, the Purples' ace pitcher, held the Brooksville team to three hits to notch his second victory of the tournament. He was the winner as Male eliminated Harlan, 6-1, in the first round, but watched from the dugout as "Sugar" Cain shut out Henderson, 3-0, in a semi-final tilt Monday afternoon.

Two walks, a stolen base, an error, and hits by McDermott and Rhodes produced the Purples' tallies in the opening frame. Singles by Kern and Kaelin, another stolen base, and another Brooksville error netted the winners their fifth run in the third, and they topped off their scoring with three more runs in the sixth, on two errors and hits by Charlie Hayes and Ralph Beard.

Sammy Cummins went the route for Brooksville and was touched for a total of just six hits, but had poor support.

The Polar Bears collected two of their three safeties in the third to score their only run. J. B. Wood led off with a double and scampered home on a single by Albert Cummins.

Rhodes fanned eight, walked two and hit one batter, while S. Cummins struck out three and walked two.

Brooksville, holder of a first-round bye after Ashland withdrew from the tourney because of class room examinations, advanced to the finals with a 7-2 victory over Olmstead yesterday morning. Clyde Cooper hurled three-hit ball for the Bears in that contest.

Finals

Score by innings:	R.	H.	E.
Male	401	003	0-8 6 3
Brooksville	001	000	0-1 3 6

Batteries: Rhodes and Kern; S. Cummins and Moorehead, Bush.

Semi-Final

Score by innings:	R.	H.	E.
Brooksville	100	023	1-7 9 3
Olmstead	100	010	0-2 3 7

Batteries: Cooper and Moorehead, Bush; Sanders, Mallory and Perry, C. Chapman.

Trotter Will Attempt

ALBERT CUMMINS 2018 10th REGION HALL OF FAME ACCEPTANCE VIDEO

<https://www.facebook.com/1825764802/videos/10208962848268189/>

