**Basketball Kit Resource Guide**

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**Introduction**

This resource guide is designed to provide you with tools to help people engage with the past and connect with others. There are images and objects to share with your customers, an oral history interview that can be played and shared, statistics about high school basketball in Kentucky, and articles about Kentucky basketball.

**Images and objects:**

Encourage your group members to look at the photographs included with the kit and to discuss what is happening in them.

There are objects included with the kit like a basketball and pennant. Encourage your customers to hold them and talk about what the objects are. If they want to share stories about their memories related to the objects, please encourage them to do so.

Some conversation prompts can include:

* What do you want to say about what is going on in this picture?
* What do you think is happening in this picture?
* Did you or anyone in your family play basketball? Tell me about the games.
* What was the stadium like? What food did you eat at the game? Did you bring your own food, or buy food at the stadium?
* What were the uniforms like? What was the team’s name?
* What team was your rival?
* Did the players have any traditions that they did before or after the game? What were those traditions?
* What is your favorite memory about a sports event?

**Keywords or Events to discuss**

Final Four

Kentucky Colonels

KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association)

Mr. Kentucky Basketball

Miss Kentucky Basketball

NCAA Tournament

NIT

Owensboro Thoroughbreds

Sweet Sixteen

**Books to share**

*100 Things Louisville Fans Should Know & Do Before They Die* by Mike Rutherford

This guide is the ultimate resource for true fans of the Cardinals. Whether you cheered along for the 1980 and 1986 March Madness victories, or whether you're a more recent supporter in the Rick Pitino era, these are the 100 things every fan needs to know and do in their lifetime. Experienced sportswriter Mike Rutherford has collected every essential piece of Louisville knowledge and trivia, as well as must-do activities, and ranks them all from 1 to 100, providing an entertaining and easy-to-follow checklist as you progress on your way to fan superstardom.

(Book summary provided by Amazon.)

*The Graves County Boys: A Tale of Kentucky Basketball, Perseverance, and the Unlikely Championship of the Cuba Cubs* by Marianne Walker

A classic underdog tale, *The Graves County Boys* chronicles how five boys from a tiny high school in southwestern Kentucky captured the hearts of basketball fans nationwide. Marianne Walker weaves together details about the players, their coach, and their relationships in a page-turning account of triumph over adversity. This inspiring David and Goliath story takes the reader on a journey from the team's heartbreaking defeat in the 1951 state championship to their triumphant victory over Louisville Manual the next year. More than just a basketball narrative, the book explores a period in American life when indoor plumbing and electricity were still luxuries in some areas of the country and when hardship was a way of life. With no funded school programs or bus system, the Cubs's success was a testament to the sacrifices of family and neighbors who believed in their team. Featuring new photographs, a foreword by University of Kentucky coach Joe B. Hall, and a new epilogue detailing where the players are now, The Graves County Boys is an unforgettable story of how a community pulled together to make a dream come true. (Book summary provided by Amazon.)

*High School Basketball in Fayette County* by Dave Redden

Basketball reigns supreme in Fayette County. Home to some of the state's most revered high school teams, the Lexington area schools go head-to-head each season, battling for a chance to play in the state basketball tournament. The blood, sweat, and tears left on the hardwood are reminders of a passion that runs deep in Kentucky, where Cinderella teams and last-second shots become immortal stories and where young men become local legends. This volume documents Lexington area schools, coaches, and players who contributed to the county's renowned basketball heritage. (Book summary provided by Amazon.)

*So You Think You're a Kentucky Wildcats Basketball Fan?: Stars, Stats, Records, and Memories for True Diehards* by Tom Wallace

Learn more about the great UK players and coaches of the past and present, including Adolph Rupp, Alex Groza, Cliff Hagan, Pat Riley, Dan Issel, Kenny Walker, Jamal Mashburn, Rick Pitino, and John Wall. Some of the many questions that this book answers include:

• Who was the youngest Wildcat to earn All-America recognition?

• What two ex-Cats are the all-time leading scorers in the old American Basketball Association?

• Who broke Dan Issel’s record (53) for most points in a game?

• Who are the only three Wildcats to make All-SEC first team and All-SEC Tournament first team four straight years?

(Book summary provided by Amazon.)

**Web resources**

**Kentucky High School Athletic Association: Boys Basketball**

https://khsaa.org/sports-activities-events/winter/basketball/

\*Share the printed statistics with your group members.

**Kentucky High School Athletic Association: Girls Basketball**

https://khsaa.org/sports-activities-events/winter/basketball/

\*Share the printed statistics with your group members.

**Mr. and Miss Kentucky Basketball:**

https://mrandmisskybasketball.com/

**University of Kentucky’s fight song:**

https://youtu.be/CBrybtgmJow

**University of Kentucky Men’s Basketball:**

https://ukathletics.com/mens-basketball-more-archives/

**University of Kentucky Women’s Basketball:**

https://ukathletics.com/womens-basketball-more-archives/

\*\*\* In 1924 the University Senate passed a bill to abolish women’s basketball in part because, according to state politicians, basketball had proven to be a strenuous sport for boys and therefore was too strenuous for girls. In 1974, after a 50-year absence, at the turn of the 70s, women’s teams at UK once again began playing intercollegiate games. \*\*\*

**University of Louisville’s Men’s Basketball history:** https://gocards.com/sports/2015/8/31/GEN\_20140101423

**University of Louisville’s Women’s Basketball history:**

https://gocards.com/sports/2015/3/26/GEN\_2014010139

**University of Louisville’s fight song:**

https://youtu.be/KcR2o4VGzGA

https://youtu.be/-SDSkJqevxg

**Owensboro Thoroughbreds**

https://owensborothoroughbreds.com/history/

On September 13, 2017, North American Premier Basketball (NAPB) announced a team would play in Owensboro, Kentucky, owned by Brandon Lesovsky, a business partner of NAPB founder Dave Magley. The new team replaced the recently folded Kentucky Mavericks of the Premier Basketball League in Owensboro. On October 5, team name was revealed as the Kentucky Thoroughbreds and that owner Lesovsky would also be head coach and general manager. Lesovsky had previously coached the Orangeville A's of the National Basketball League of Canada. *This information was taken directly from the History page on Owensboro Thoroughbreds’ website.*

Owensboro Thoroughbreds. (2021). History. Retrieved from:

https://owensborothoroughbreds.com/history/

**Oral History interview**

Becky Hudson was an Athletic Director and basketball coach at the University of Louisville.

Becky Hudson (May 5, 1981). Interview by Dwayne Cox. [digital recording]. Archives & Special Collections, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY. https://ohc.library.louisville.edu/ohms/viewer.php?cachefile=1981\_81\_110-111\_hudson.xml

Permission to share this interview was given by Heather Fox at the University of Louisville.

**Articles**

Share one or more of the articles below, and ask your group questions about them. You can read the articles to your audience members or have them take turns reading the articles you select.

Questions:

* What do you find interesting about what the article discusses?
* What memories do you have about the events discussed in the articles? Would you like to share your memories with the group?

**Article 1:**

Historic upset rooted in values of small-town life 1952 Graves County team triumphed in sweet sixteen. By Marianne Walker. (March 20, 2014) | Lexington Herald-Leader (KY)

Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

With the Kentucky High School Athletic Association's Sweet Sixteen tournament in full swing, it's appropriate to remember the biggest upset in the history of the boy's tournament.

The story is told in my book, *The Graves County Boys: A Tale of Kentucky Basketball, Perseverance, and the Unlikely Championship of the Cuba Cubs*. It was a book that almost didn't happen, and it tells a story that probably won't happen again.

A friend asked that I write about her husband and his six-member high school basketball team - the Cuba Cubs, from Cuba, Ky. They won the state championship in 1952 against state powerhouse Louisville Manuel, capping a remarkable run for a school with less than 100 students.

Not knowing the story, I declined. She was persistent, however, and invited my husband and me to meet Charles "Doodle" Floyd, also a member of the team, who was visiting.

All during and after dinner, the men enjoyed talking about coaches, players and games, but toward the end of that evening, their attention shifted to a scrapbook that belonged to the mother of one of the players.

It contained a few of his school pictures, Kodak snapshots of him as a teenager and a number of fragile newspaper clippings from the 1940s and '50s.

That scrapbook started them talking quietly about their childhoods in Pilot Oak and Cuba. Those stories are what caught my interest. As we prepared to leave, I asked them if they would tell me more about their lives before they met Coach Jack Story in 1947. They seemed surprised but offered us a guided tour of their old homeplaces in Graves County and a catfish supper in Mayfield, the county seat.

For a couple of years afterwards, I continued to visit Graves County to talk with its oldest inhabitants about the history of little Cuba. I spent many hours with Mary Lee Story, the coach's widow, and with historian Lon Carter Barton. On multiple occasions, I met with the individual players, their classmates, families, friends and neighbors. Then, very slowly, the stories of their lives began to unfold.

While the contrast between basketball then and now fascinated me, I saw the real story as the changes in the way we in rural Kentucky lived then and now.

Like many in rural areas. those in Graves County during the first half of the 20th century lived simple lives. Hardship and poverty were a way of life. They grew what they ate and made what they needed. Their motto was "Make it do, or do without."

After finishing their chores, children were free to roam, fish, swim, hunt, snack on blackberries or whatever fruit and nuts they found. "No Trespassing" signs did not exist. Adults kept a sharp eye out for each other's children and had the right to discipline any miscreant. They swapped work, called everyone by his or her first name, and knew that a handshake was a contract. No one ever locked their doors.

The outline of the story the Cuba Cubs is similar to the movie Hoosiers. I must admit I did not see the film until much later, but when I did, I loved it. Both teams were rural underdogs with exceptional coaches, both schools won state championships against all odds after losing in the finals the previous year, and both stories transcend basketball.

While Hoosiers is loosely based on the success of the real-life Milan, Ind., basketball team in 1954, it received Hollywood's inevitable embellishment.

The Graves County Boys, on the other hand, is a true story gleaned from hours of listening to real people, seeing real places and learning about real events. I learned best about the joy that a basketball game once brought to an entire community that had supported its team - win or lose - wholeheartedly. It is our story, and it needs no embellishment.

In the years since the Cubs' championship, small schools have been swallowed by larger ones. Today, even the poorest high school in the commonwealth has athletic resources that Cuba High could only dream of. It is not likely that the Cuba Cubs' story will ever be repeated, for it is about a place and a time and a way of life that has gone with the wind.

And that magical kind of euphoria that the Cubs created - that euphoria that does not vanish quickly after the tournaments - has also disappeared from the American scene. It's worth remembering.

Marianne Walker is a retired professor of English and philosophy at Henderson Community College and the author of *Margaret Mitchell and John Marsh: The Love Story Behind Gone with the Wind.*

**Article 2:**

Commentary-John Y. Brown, Jr. played a colorful role in Kentucky Sports. By Mark Story. (November 25, 2022). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

John Y. Brown Jr. may have made his biggest impacts in the realms of business and politics, but his role in the sports history of Kentucky is both large and colorful.  
  
Before Brown Jr. - whose children announced Tuesday that he had died at age 88 - served as Kentucky governor (1979-83), he was team owner when the American Basketball Association's Kentucky Colonels gave our state its only major-league, professional sports championship in 1975.  
  
During his time as governor, Brown Jr. initiated one of the commonwealth's largest sports controversies of the 1980s. He publicly tried in the summer of 1981 to force the University of Kentucky to oust its head football coach, Fran Curci, and replace him with iconic former NFL head man George Allen.  
  
Brown Jr. was also governor at the time of the massively hyped 1983 showdown between Joe B. Hall's Kentucky Wildcats and Denny Crum's Louisville Cardinals in the NCAA Tournament round of eight - the first men's basketball meeting between the teams in 24 years.  
  
Famously, Brown Jr. wore a sport coat and baseball cap to the game that were each half UK blue and half U of L red.  
  
"I think more people remember that coat than remember anything I did as governor," Brown Jr. told the Herald-Leader in 2012.  
  
Owning a champion  
  
Brown Jr.'s involvement with professional basketball in the commonwealth began during the 1969-70 season when he was among a group of five Louisville movers and shakers that purchased the local ABA franchise, the Kentucky Colonels.  
  
The new ownership, Kentucky Fried Chicken magnate Brown; health-care executives David Jones and Wendell Cherry; banker David Grissom; and trade school baron Stuart Jay, invested the money sufficient for the Colonels to sign college stars Dan Issel (Kentucky) and Artis Gilmore (Jacksonville).  
  
Paired with the team's existing star, sharp-shooting guard Louie Dampier (another UK product), the Colonels had a nucleus of such talent that Kentucky became one of the best professional basketball teams in any league, the more-established NBA included.  
  
However, even as the Colonels gained in popularity, the team was losing money. So in 1973, the "group of five" owners sold the team to investors who planned to relocate the franchise to Cincinnati.  
  
"We had a shareholders meeting, and we decided the thing just didn't have a viable future," Brown Jr. told the Herald-Leader in 1996. "We had given it two, three years. We were losing money, so we sold it to the group from Cincinnati. I totally agreed with that decision."  
  
However, when Brown Jr.'s then 10-year-old son, John Y. Brown III, learned about the sale of the team, he was crushed. The little boy made a tearful plea to his dad to get the Colonels back.  
  
"When your son looks at you like you are being disloyal, it tends to affect your thinking," Brown Jr. said in 1996.  
  
Against his better business judgment, Brown Jr. said in 1996, he went back to the Cincinnati group that had bought the Colonels and began to "un-negotiate" the deal. He eventually succeeded, though he had to agree to have the team play some games in Cincinnati's Riverfront Coliseum.  
  
With the team staying in Kentucky, Brown Jr. sought a different way to market the Colonels. He installed his then-wife, Ellie, as the team's owner of record and appointed an all-female board of directors.  
  
A very good decision made by the Ellie Brown-led front office came when the Colonels hired as head coach for 1974-75 a Milwaukee Bucks assistant who was then on the front end of what remains a decades-long career in basketball.  
  
Hubie Brown coached the Colonels to their one and only league championship in 1975.  
  
However, even at the moment of their greatest triumph on the court, the Colonels were not a success at the cash register. Published reports at the time put the team's loss at $500,000 a year. Brown Jr. said in 1996 it was closer to $1 million a year.  
  
To close the deficit, Brown Jr. sold Issel's contract to the Baltimore Claws for a reported $700,000.  
  
The trade set off a firestorm. Issel was, arguably, the most popular public figure in Kentucky at the time. Phones in the Colonels' offices rang off the hook with ticket cancellations. Attendance the following season plunged.  
  
"It killed me. Just killed me," Brown Jr. said in 1996 of the Issel trade. "But what were we supposed to do? We weren't selling Dan for commercial gain. We just wanted to stop losing money."  
  
After one more season, the Browns put the Colonels up for sale in the spring of 1976. Unfortunately for pro basketball adherents in the commonwealth, an NBA-ABA merger was then in the works. With the Colonels' franchise ownership in limbo, Kentucky was not one of the four ABA teams invited to join the NBA.  
  
Brown Jr. got $3 million for folding his franchise, then turned around and bought into the Buffalo Braves of the NBA for half that amount. Once Brown acquired the Buffalo franchise, many disappointed Kentucky Colonels fans hoped he would move the team to Louisville.  
  
"When I got the Braves, I made some noise about moving that team to Louisville," Brown Jr. said in 1996. "And you know how many calls I got from (interested Louisville businessmen)? Not one."  
  
Instead, Brown later swapped the Buffalo franchise for ownership of the Boston Celtics. In the short time (1978-79) Brown owned the Celtics, his insistence on making trades without consulting with Red Auerbach made a lifetime enemy of the venerable Celtics general manager.  
  
In a March 1987 interview with the Harvard Business Review, Auerbach said of Brown Jr. "He had a tremendous ego, like he knew it all."  
  
Trying to fire UK's coach  
  
In the summer of 1981, "The Cats' Pause," the UK sports specialty publication, rocked the commonwealth when it broke the news that the Kentucky governor, Brown Jr., was seeking to force the University of Kentucky to fire head football coach Fran Curci.  
  
Brown Jr. even had a replacement lined up - George Allen, who had coached the Los Angeles Rams and Washington in the NFL. "An opportunity like George Allen doesn't come along very often," Brown Jr. said then.  
  
A UK alumnus and passionate Wildcats sports backer, Brown Jr. had been a patron of Curci early in the coach's Kentucky tenure (1973-81). However, that changed after the football coach declined to endorse Brown Jr. during his whirlwind and, ultimately successful, run for governor in 1979.  
  
Otis Singletary, then the UK president, resisted Brown Jr.'s attempt to orchestrate a football coaching change on the grounds that personnel decisions at the university needed to be made by the school's chain of command, not in the governor's office.  
  
"Doc is a good friend of mine," Brown Jr. said that summer of Singletary. "But I'd like to turn him over my lap and spank him real good and tell him to let his governor have a football team over there."  
  
Once it became apparent that UK was not going to oust Curci and hire Allen, Brown Jr. said "the establishment has won out. I guess we can look forward to a good tradition of 30 years of losing. It didn't work out and I accept that."  
  
Given a summertime reprieve, Curci coached Kentucky to a 3-8 record in 1981. He was then fired after the season. Rather than Allen, UK chose Maryland's Jerry Claiborne, a Kentucky alumnus, as its next head football coach.  
  
In his final year as governor, the picture of Brown Jr. in his half blue/half red sport coat would become the preeminent, lasting image of the 1983 NCAA Tournament meeting between UK and U of L.  
  
Brown Jr.'s influence likely played a role in UK and U of L launching an annual basketball series the ensuing season - one that continues to this day.

**Article 3:**

Cards Capture NCAA Championship. Associated Press. (April 8, 2013). Retrieved from: https://gocards.com/news/2013/4/8/Cards\_Capture\_NCAA\_Championship

ATLANTA (AP) - What a week for Rick Pitino! He's elected to the Hall of Fame. His horse is headed to the Kentucky Derby. His son gets a prominent head coaching job.

Then he caps it off with what he wanted most.

Another national championship.

For that, he can thank 13 of the grittiest guys he's ever coached.

Luke Hancock produced another huge game off the bench, scoring 22 points, and Pitino became the first coach to win national titles at two schools when Louisville rallied from another 12-point deficit to beat Michigan 82-76 in the NCAA championship game Monday night.

"This team is one of the most together, toughest and hard-nosed teams," the coach said. "Being down never bothers us. They just come back."

More like relentless to the very end.

They're not stopping now, either. The players intend to hold Pitino to a promise he made: If they won a national title, he'd get a tattoo.

Better leave a lot of space, coach, if you want to make this a tribute to the team.

"I have a couple of ideas," said Hancock, who became the first sub in tournament history to be designated as most outstanding player. "He doesn't know what he's getting into."

"Our biggest motivation," Peyton Siva added, "was to get coach a tattoo."

That's about the only thing that didn't exactly turn out in Petino's favor. Earlier Monday, he was introduced as a member of the latest Hall of Fame class. On Saturday, his horse won the Santa Anita Derby to set up a run for the roses. And last week his son got the coaching job at Minnesota.

The Cardinals (35-5) lived up to their billing as the top overall seed in the tournament, though they sure had to work for it.

Louisville trailed Wichita State by a dozen in the second half before rallying for a 72-68 victory. This time, they fell behind by 12 in the first half, then unleashed a stunning spurt led by Hancock that wiped out the entire deficit before the break.

"I had the 13 toughest guys I've ever coached," Pitino said. "I'm just amazed they could accomplish everything we put out there."

No one was tougher than Hancock, who matched his season high after a 20-point effort in the semifinal victory over Wichita State. This time, he came off the bench to hit four straight 3-pointers in the first half after Michigan got a boost from an even more unlikely player.

Freshman Spike Albrecht made four straight from beyond the arc, too, blowing by his career high before the break with 17 points. Coming in, Albrecht was averaging 1.8 points a game and had not scored more than seven all season.

Albrecht didn't do much in the second half, but Hancock finished what he started for Louisville. He made it 5-for-5 when he hit his final 3 from the corner with 3:20 remaining to give the Cardinals their biggest lead, 76-66. Michigan wouldn't go away, but Hancock wrapped it up by making two free throws with 29 seconds left.

While Pitino shrugged off any attempt to make this about him, there was no doubt the Cardinals wanted to win a national title for someone else - injured guard Kevin Ware.

Watching again from his seat at the end of the Louisville bench, his injured right leg propped up on a chair, Ware smiled and slapped hands with his teammates as they celebrated in the closing seconds, the victory coming just 30 miles from where he played his high school ball.

Ware's gruesome injury during the regional final will forever be linked to this tournament. He landed awkwardly, snapped his leg and was left writhing on the floor with the bone sticking through the skin. On this night, he hobbled gingerly onto the court with the aid of crutches, basking in a sea of confetti and streamers.

Louisville again came out wearing Ware's No. 5 on the back of their warmup jerseys; the front said, "Ri5e to the Occasion." When the title belonged to the Cardinals, Ware put on a championship cap and got a big hug from Pitino. Then, they lowered the basket so the injured player could cut a strand out of the net.

This one belonged to him as much as anyone on the court.

"These are my brothers," Ware said. "They got the job done. I'm so proud of them, so proud of them."

Siva added 18 points for the Cardinals, who closed the season on a 16-game winning streak, and Chane Behanan chipped in with 15 points and 12 rebounds as Louisville slowly but surely closed out the Wolverines (31-8).

Michigan was in the title game for the first time since the Fab Five lost the second of two straight championship games in 1993. Players from that team, including Chris Webber, cheered on the latest group of young stars.

But, like the Fab Five, national player of the year Trey Burke and a squad with three freshman starters came up short in the last game of the season.

"A lot of people didn't expect us to get this far," said Burke, who led the Wolverines with 24 points. "A lot of people didn't expect us to get past the second round. We fought. We fought up to this point, but Louisville was the better team today, and they're deserving of the win."

Louisville has a chance to make it two national titles in 24 hours.

The surprising women's team faces Connecticut on Tuesday night in the championship game at New Orleans.

Good luck matching this breakneck finale. The first half, in particular, might have been the most entertaining 20 minutes of the entire men's tournament.

Burke started out on fire for Michigan, hitting his first three shots and scoring seven points to match his output from the semifinal victory over Syracuse, when he made only 1-of-8 shots.

Albrecht took control when Burke picked up his second foul and had to go to the bench for the rest of the half. The kid whose nickname comes from his first pair of baseball spikes showed he's a pretty good hoops player, knocking down one 3-pointer after another to send the Wolverines to a double-digit lead.

When Albrecht blew by Tim Henderson with a brilliant hesitation move, Michigan led 33-21 and Louisville was forced to call timeout. The freshman was mobbed on the Michigan bench, as if the Wolverines had already won the national title, with one teammate waving a towel in tribute.

"That was honestly, probably back to high school days," Albrecht said, remembering when he's had a similar stretch. "Coach (John) Beilein doesn't play guys with two fouls in the first half, so I knew I was in the rest of the half, and I was fortunately hitting shots. Teammates were finding me. That's about it."

It didn't last. Not against Louisville.

The Cardinals came back one more time.

"We just went into war right there with a great Michigan team," Hancock said. "We needed a rally and we've been doing it for a couple of games straight, being down. We just had to wait and make our run."

Burke, who played only six minutes in the first half because of foul trouble, finished with 24 points and did his best to give Michigan its first championship since 1989. But he couldn't do it alone. Albrecht was held scoreless after the break, and no one else posted more than 12 points for the Wolverines.

Still, it was quite a run for a fourth-seeded team that knocked off No. 1-seeded Kansas with the greatest comeback of the tournament, rallying from 14 points down in the second half to beat the Jayhawks in the round of the 16.

But they came up against the ultimate comeback team in the final.

"I've had a lot of really good teams over the years, and some emotional locker rooms, and that was the most emotional we've ever had," Beilein said. "The team unity we had, the sacrifice we had from five seniors who did not get to play very much, to these young guys buying into the team concept.

"We feel bad about it. There are some things we could have done better and get a win, but at the same time, Louisville is a terrific basketball team. We have not seen that quickness anywhere."

Louisville had already pulled off a stunning rally in the Big East championship game - down by 16 in the second half, they won by 17 - and another against Wichita State. They surged back again behind their own ace off the bench.

Hancock matched Albrecht from the 3-point stripe. Then, trapping the youngster and knocking the ball away, he set up a fast break that ended with Siva flipping up a lob that Montrezl Harrell slammed through for a dunk, capping a stunning 16-3 run in less than 4 minutes that gave the Cardinals their first lead of the night, 37-36.

Glenn Robinson III made two free throws with two seconds left to give Michigan a 38-37 lead at halftime.

But everyone knew this game was just getting started.

And when it was done, Pitino, Ware and the Cardinals were celebrating in the middle of the mammoth Georgia Dome, assuring the national title will stay in the bluegrass another year.

Last season, it was Kentucky winning it all, the same team that gave Pitino his first title in 1996.

Now, he's got another one - right down the road in Louisville.

**Article 4:**

U of L Hall of Famer Von Macklin On Basketball And Breaking The Color Barrier. By Bill Burton. (February 18, 2017). 89.3 WFPL News. Retrieved from: https://www.lpm.org/news/2017-02-18/u-of-l-hall-of-famer-von-macklin-on-basketball-and-breaking-the-color-barrier

This Sunday, the Yearlings Club in association with the University of Louisville is presenting “A Salute to African-American Athletes: Trailblazers Who Broke Color Barriers in College Sports.”

Among the honorees is Von Macklin, the first female African-American basketball player to get a scholarship at U of L. I spoke with Macklin about her time at the school. Listen to our conversation in the player above.

On her life in basketball prior to attending U of L:

"I learned to play during a summer. I never played before, I was a cheerleader at the junior college prior to that. So, it was exciting, I don't know...it was a good time for me. God was good to me because as I said, I did not play basketball in high school. I only played at the University of Louisville for two years."

On how she ended up at U of L:

"I just wanted to complete my education; I had two years completed before entering the University of Louisville. I'm originally from Alabama and I attended a junior college in Alabama which was called Alexander City Junior College. So when I got married and moved to Louisville, I called over at U of L to see if they had scholarships and the coach — coach Becky Hudson — said, 'how tall are you?' And I told her 5'9, 5'9 and a half, and I never heard anything from her after that. So when tryouts began, I came over and tried out and made the team."

On how she felt at the time knowing she was a part of school history:

"If you want to know the truth, at that time, that wasn't on my mind. In fact, I didn't know I was the first to receive a scholarship until maybe a couple months ago. It wasn't discussed, and like I said, I was there to make sure I went to class, got good grades and worked hard on the basketball team so I could keep that scholarship."

**Article 5:**

UK Women-Kentucky to Honor Legend, Leaders. (February 5, 2017). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

The University of Kentucky women's basketball team will pay tribute to top athletes of the past on Sunday as it honors 2017 Southeastern Conference Legend Bernadette Madigan-Dugan and three recipients of the 2017 Sue Feamster Trailblazer Award while hosting Vanderbilt.

Madigan-Dugan will represent UK at the SEC Tournament. One of the great distance runners in Kentucky history, Madigan-Dugan was the first UK female to win a national track crown when she won the NCAA two-mile run in 1982.

Former UK women's coach Sue Feamster will present her award to Becky Hudson, Wendy Martin and Susan Bradley-Cox. The award is given to those who have provided leadership and paved the way for others to succeed.

Hudson, a Lafayette High graduate in 1958, was a member of the UK basketball and field hockey teams. She went on to coach women's basketball at the University of Louisville before becoming assistant athletic director for women's sports with the advent of Title IX in 1974.

Martin, a member of UK's first varsity women's basketball program from 1974-76, served as the girls' basketball and field hockey coach at Louisville Collegiate School and helped lead her teams to a combined 12 state titles.

UK grad Bradley-Cox began training for triathlons in 1978 and has won 11 world championships and 12 U.S. titles by age group. She also coached UK cheerleaders.

**Article 6:**

Bernadette Mattox is the trifecta of trailblazing. (May 2020). SEC. Retrieved from: https://www.secsports.com/article/29248073/bernadette-mattox-trifecta-trailblazing

Bernadette Mattox knows about firsts. She was Georgia's first female athlete to earn All-American and Academic All-American honors. She made NCAA history when she became the first female to serve as a Division I assistant for a men's team. In 1995, she became the first African American to coach Kentucky women's basketball. She also became the first African American to coach women's basketball in the Southeastern Conference.

A native of Philadelphia, Tenn., Mattox began her college basketball career at Roane State Community College, graduated in 1979 and then followed her coach, Andy Landers, to the University of Georgia. Following her career as a college player, Mattox joined the Lady Dogs staff as a graduate assistant and an academic counselor before then becoming a full-fledged assistant coach in 1985.

She spent five years in Athens making an indelible mark on the program. In fact, UGA women's basketball annually gives out the Bernadette Locke Award, which is "awarded to the player exemplifying integrity through her actions."

In 1990, she made the move to Lexington, beginning a four-year stint with the men's basketball team as an assistant coach. Mattox then spent a year as an assistant athletic director at Kentucky before taking over as head coach of the women's team.

Mattox spent eight seasons at the helm of the Wildcats women's basketball program. Her most notable season came in 1998-99, when she led the Cats to their first 20-plus win season and first appearance in the NCAA Tournament in nearly a decade. The Cats won their first NCAA Tournament game in 17 years, finished with a 21-11 overall record and captured seven wins in the SEC, the most conference wins in school history at the time.

After leaving UK in 2003, Mattox served 10 seasons as an assistant coach for the WNBA's Connecticut Sun.

Without a doubt, Mattox opened many doors for those that came after her in the SEC. Dawn Staley, Joni Taylor, Nikki Fargas, Terri Williams-Flournoy, Yolette McPhee-McCuin, and Nikki McCray-Penson are part of the legacy that she began.

Dawn Staley said it best, "In the SEC, Bernadette Mattox is the trifecta of trailblazing. First, at Georgia she was the first female student-athlete to earn All-America and Academic All-America honors. Second, at Kentucky she was the first female assistant in NCAA men's basketball. And, third, in 1995 she made history again when Kentucky hired her as the first African American women's basketball head coach in the SEC. However, her impact goes beyond the SEC as we now have women of color in head coach positions at multiple Power 5 institutions. We all owe a great deal of gratitude to Bern because she was in the trenches long before many of us knew we wanted to coach."

**Article 7:**

Denny Crum, legendary UofL basketball coach, dead at 86

Crum was a Hall of Fame coach and two-time NCAA champion.

By. CJ Daniels. (May 9, 2023). WHAS. Retrieved from:

https://www.whas11.com/article/sports/denny-crum-uofl-basketball-coach-dead-at-86/417-ff423237-cf19-4ac3-9b6c-1fe7b48cd4b9

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Denny Crum, former UofL men's basketball coach from 1971 to 2001 and a beloved figure in basketball as well as the Louisville community, has died at 86.

The University of Louisville announced Crum's death on Tuesday, May 9.

Crum began his coaching career at UCLA as an assistant under one of the most revered coaches in basketball history, John Wooden. The team would go on to win three NCAA titles with Crum’s help. He remained at UCLA until his departure for Louisville in 1971.

The California native was hired as head coach at UofL, taking over from John Dromo. While coaching at UofL, the program dominated basketball in the 1980s, winning two NCAA championships at the school in 1980 and 1986.

Crum won 12 Metro Conference titles and 11 conference tournaments. Louisville had 23 NCAA tournament berths and three 30-win seasons.

The Cardinals also went to six Final Fours under Crum -- in 1972, 1975, 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1986.

Crum went on to be named 'Coach of the Year' in 1980, 1983 and 1986. He was the fastest coach to win 500 games and was nicknamed "Cool Hand Luke" for his calm, cool demeanor while coaching.

He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1994.

On his 64th birthday, Crum announced that he would retire at the end of the season.

Funeral arrangements will be released once finalized, officials said.

**Article 8:**

45 years ago, Kentucky Colonels won 'a piece of treasure' as world's best basketball team. By Hayes Gardner. (May 22, 2020). Louisville Courier Journal. Retrieved from: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/sports/nba/2020/05/21/45-years-ago-kentucky-colonels-worlds-best-basketball-team/3100859001/

They’d come so close previously. There were the Game 7 heartbreaks of the 1971 and 1973 Finals, the record-setting 68-win season, yet disappointing 1972 playoffs, and another great season punctuated by anguish in 1974. But finally, finally, the Kentucky Colonels did it. They won the American Basketball Association championship, bringing the commonwealth’s first, and only, major pro sports title.

“I’m stunned right now,” Colonels point guard Louie Dampier said when asked how it felt shortly after the historic win at Freedom Hall on May 22, 1975. “Ask me in about an hour.”

An hour, sure. How about in 45 years?

Kentucky Colonels coach Hubie Brown on the sideline of a playoff game against the St. Louis Spirits. April 23, 1975

Dampier, Dan Issel and the towering Artis Gilmore led the Colonels to the ABA title 45 years ago, Friday, with a team that the legendary Hubie Brown called the greatest team he ever coached. And they did it here in Louisville, winning 22 of 25 games to close the regular season, beating Julius Erving and the Nets in a No. 1-seed playoff and then running through the postseason, beating George McGinnis and the Indiana Pacers in five games for the title. Brown had their rings engraved with the word “pressure,” for their dominance during crunch time.

The following fall, the Colonels defeated the NBA champion Golden State Warriors in a preseason game, and Brown has maintained for decades that his Colonels were the best team on the planet.

“The 1975 Kentucky Colonels were the best team I have ever coached. No other team has even come close,” Brown said in Terry Pluto’s book on the ABA, "Loose Balls."

Brown, now an NBA broadcaster, still wears his ABA championship ring when he calls games.

For that season, the Colonels stood alone in the world of hoops. The 1975 title was memorable, redemptive, and, decades later, still singular. The ABA was absorbed by the rival NBA a year later, washing away the Colonels just after they’d reached the pinnacle of the sport. The commonwealth has not fielded a major pro team since.

A title to remember

The Colonels boasted four eventual Hall of Famers that season — Gilmore, Issel, Dampier and the 41-year old coach Brown — and that title was the only one that any of them, or anyone else on the Colonels, for that matter, would win throughout their illustrious careers.

Dampier played in the NCAA Finals as a UK Wildcat. So did Gilmore, at Jacksonville, knocking out Issel’s Wildcats on the way. And all of them had been close as Colonels, but had never broken through.

That trio was a previous generation’s Big Three, and since their union in 1971, they’d been among the ABA’s elite. In fact, the Colonels won more games than anyone in the league’s nine-year history and, during that stretch, won even more games than the NBA’s Los Angeles Lakers.

Prior to 1975, though, the Colonels had never taken home the grand prize.

“Going into that championship season, having not won a championship before that, we were a little bit under-achievers,” Issel said recently.

Steve Higdon, currently the board chair of the NBA 2 Louisville movement, was 12 years old at the time, and he remembers listening to Colonels’ games on a transistor radio, saving box scores and memorizing players’ stats.

“All of these guys — Issel, Gilmore, Dampier — they were all heroes of mine, just like the Lakers were to the kids who grew up in LA,” Higdon said. “It was no different.”

Kentucky Colonel Artis Gilmore handled the ball against a St. Louis Spirits defender. April 21, 1975

Tony McElwain was 11 years old, and he recalled scheming to gain entry into the games. A group of a dozen kids or so would find a couple dollars to buy a single ticket, and one would enter the game. That boy would leave, get a stamp on his hand for re-entry, and then stamp a few kids’ hands, who would mimic his move until everyone had access.

In 1975, the commonwealth boasted two Final Four college teams — both Kentucky and Louisville made the national semifinals, losing to UCLA — but to McElwain, it was all about the Colonels. After all, they were they pros.

He’d wait around on the floor for players’ autographs, and particularly remembered the 7-foot-2 Gilmore, who would wear a full length fur coat, elevator shoes, and his trademark afro.

“He looked like he was 10 feet tall,” McElwain said.

He might as well have been. Gilmore, a smooth, enormous lefty with an unstoppable hook shot, averaged a preposterous 23.6 points, 16.2 rebounds and 3.1 blocks per game that season and earned Playoffs MVP honors. Gilmore would finish his pro career with the best field-goal percentage in ABA/NBA history.

After the Colonels topped the Pacers in Game 5 of the finals to win the series, Gilmore retreated to the locker room, overcome with emotion. He cried tears of joy before his teammates retrieved him, bringing him back onto the floor for the celebration.

“I would say it was gratifying,” Gilmore says now of the title, “sweet, a piece of treasure.”

An all-night celebration

The championship was welcomed and overdue. Harry and Larry Jones, former DuPont Manual and UK football players, held a party at their home that night, and Issel said he and his wife didn’t leave until about 6 or 7 a.m.. They were home for about an hour before the Dampiers, riding around on Louie’s motorcycle, began ringing their doorbell.

“It was a wild celebration, and everybody had a great time for a number of days,” Issel said.

The Colonels were the commonwealth’s team. They’d won a title in front of 16,622 fans at Freedom Hall, and they’d done so with Kentucky natives (Bird Averitt), former UK standouts (Dampier and Issel) and Louisville Cardinals (Ronald Thomas). As Higdon remembers it, it was something that both Cardinal and Wildcat fans could unite over.

“Everybody loved the Colonels,” said Higdon, who was there for the title-winning Game 5. “Everybody hated the Pacers. So it was so cool that UK and U of L were on the same page. The total same page. Hated each other, but loved the Colonels together.”

It wasn’t to last, though. Prior to the 1975-76 season, Issel was sold to the ABA’s Baltimore Claws and then traded to the Denver Nuggets. He was devastated.

“After four years at UK and five years with the Colonels, I didn’t think they could have a team in Louisville without me being a part of it,” Issel said.

The Nuggets knocked the Colonels out of that year’s playoffs in what turned out to be the final game in franchise history, as the NBA absorbed the ABA. Gilmore, Dampier, Averitt and defensive standout Wil Jones were all drafted into the NBA via the dispersal draft. Gilmore would go on to play with the likes of Michael Jordan and Larry Bird, and Issel would become one of the greatest Nuggets of all time and, later, the team’s head coach.

Issel is enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame, the College Basketball Hall of Fame, and has his number retired by the Nuggets. He has the most points ever in UK history and the 11th-most in ABA/NBA history. Of all his accolades, though, the 1975 title is number one, he says.

“It just goes to show how difficult it is and how fleeting those moments are,” he said.

ABA leaves its mark

Remnants of the ABA are obvious across basketball. The 3-point line was popularized by the ABA, as was the dunk contest, and the ABA’s Pacers, Nets, Spurs and Nuggets live on. In Kentucky, the Colonels’ legacy is less pronounced, although many in the city share the memories. In 2005, 30 years after the title, a banner from the title season was hung in Freedom Hall.

Next year, Louisville will welcome a major pro team for the first time since the Colonels with the advent of a club in the NWSL, the highest league of women’s pro soccer in the country. And there remains hope that the NBA, which the Colonels opted out of joining in 1976, could pick Louisville as a spot for an expansion or relocated franchise.

Issel is the president of NBA 2 Louisville, and he says part of his motivation is memories from that championship season, 45 years ago, and the feeling that it generated in the city, when the best basketball team on the planet called Louisville its home.

“That was easily the best team that I ever played on,” Issel, the Hall of Famer, said. “That wasn’t (only) the best team in the ABA that year. That was the best team in professional basketball.”



The image above was taken from the article, “45 years ago, Kentucky Colonels won 'a piece of treasure' as world's best basketball team.” By Hayes Gardener. (May 21, 2020). Retrieved from: https://www.courier-journal.com/story/sports/nba/2020/05/21/45-years-ago-kentucky-colonels-worlds-best-basketball-team/3100859001/

**Article 9:**

Former UK basketball coach **Joe B. Hall** dies at 93. By Jerry Tipton. (January 16, 2022). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Joe B. Hall, who made his mark on Kentucky basketball by successfully following a legend and then becoming one himself, died early Saturday morning. He was 93.

His lifelong connection with UK basketball began as a child keeping score as he listened to games on the radio, continued as a reserve player on the 1948-49 team, then later as an assistant and head coach, until in retirement becoming a fan once more. The Big Blue circle was unbroken.

After seven seasons as an assistant coach, Hall was named the successor to Kentucky basketball's founding father, Adolph Rupp, in 1972. He remains the only native-born Kentuckian to be UK coach since Basil Hayden in 1926-27.

"It was not just another coaching job to him," Hall's son-in-law, Mike Summers, said. "It was the coaching job."

Joe Beasman Hall was born on Nov. 30, 1928. He grew up in Cynthiana and brought the reverence and protective zeal of a fan to the job of Kentucky coach. This lack of professional detachment intensified the pressure on a mere mortal following the coaching mahatma that was Rupp.

"He's about as decent a person as I've ever dealt with," longtime friend and Lexington attorney Terry McBrayer said of Hall in 2017. "But he took the program so seriously, and had to defend the program at all times. He was the defender of the program."

One of the critics Hall had to fend off was Rupp, who made no secret of his desire to remain coach. With Hall having gained a reputation as a good recruiter and likely successor, Rupp felt threatened by his assistant coach.

"I just don't think he ever wanted anybody to really succeed him ...," Lexington businessman Jim Host said of Rupp. "Joe really connected with the followers and the fans, yet Coach Rupp was never ready to turn it over to him. He saw him as a competitor."

Kevin Grevey, who was a freshman in Rupp's last season as coach (1971-72), recalled Rupp openly criticizing Hall during practices. Rupp made no secret that he favored another assistant, the newly hired Gale Catlett, who had little chance of becoming Kentucky coach.

"Gale Catlett could do whatever he wanted to do," Grevey said. "And Coach Hall had to step aside. It was kind of weird. I got the feeling Coach Rupp was losing any kind of love he had for Coach Hall, for sure."

With Rupp approaching the mandatory retirement age of 70, something of a Civil War divided loyalties in the Big Blue Nation. Some fans and former UK players supported Rupp's wish to continue as coach. Others supported UK's intention to start a new chapter with Hall as coach.

"I think there's many people hoping (Hall) would fail, thinking of who the next coach would be," Host said. "People are like that."

In a forced retirement, Rupp made the already high-pressure job of Kentucky coach even more difficult for his successor. He did not attend the news conference formally introducing Hall as the new coach. He maintained an office in Memorial Coliseum. He continued to do a weekly television show on which he second-guessed Hall.

"Coach Rupp would say things on the show and in the paper, and he'd criticize Coach Hall," Grevey said. "You know, 'I'd never have done that.' 'I don't know why he was running the 1-3-1 zone.'

"He was an arm-chair quarterback and not helping Coach Hall through this transition which was already difficult in itself, and made it almost unbearable."

After losing three of its first four games, and six of the first 14, Hall's first UK team found its footing. The Wildcats of 1972-73 rode a 10-game winning streak to within one game of the Final Four. A loss to Indiana in the Mideast Region finals completed a 20-8 record. Rupp labeled it "a disappointing season."

Billy Reed, a longtime columnist for the Courier-Journal in Louisville and later the Herald-Leader, recalled Rupp saying on the television show during another season, "'I can't believe it. They got beat by Georgia! Georgia!!'

"That just had to be so hard," Reed said. "(Hall was) not going to tell you, 'Yeah, I was hurt. I was crushed.' But that's what he was."

Host said of Hall during this period, "He was under more pressure than anyone I've ever seen. A lot of pressure he put on himself."

Tom Hammond, then the sports anchor for WLEX, the station that aired Rupp's television show, said Hall handled the situation with grace. But, he added, Hall probably internalized the hurt he felt and became "a bit" defensive.

"I think that rolled-up program he always had in his hand was pretty indicative of how he was feeling," Hammond said. "I really believe that men of lesser character than Coach Hall would have crumbled under that and would have had a nervous breakdown or something."

Hall steadfastly refused to criticize Rupp nor complain publicly about how Rupp made the job more difficult. "See, I'd spent seven years with Coach," he said in 2017. "And I don't know that he ever gave me credit for anything. So I knew him. And he didn't do anything after I took over that I didn't fully expect."

But Hall did say Rupp made the difficulty of the job "10 times worse."

In his 13 seasons as Kentucky coach, Hall had a won-lost record of 297-100. Earlier in his coaching career, he had a 57-50 record in five seasons at Regis and 19-6 in one season at Central Missouri State.

Hall coached seven All-Americans at Kentucky: Jack Givens, Rick Robey, Kyle Macy, Sam Bowie, Melvin Turpin, Kenny Walker and Grevey. All but Turpin have commemorative jerseys in the Rupp Arena rafters.

Hall led Kentucky to eight Southeastern Conference championships, the second-most by any coach in league history (Rupp won 27). His fellow coaches voted him SEC Coach of the Year four times, again the second-most ever (Rupp won the award seven times).

Former Georgia coach (and native Kentuckian) Hugh Durham pointed out that Hall guided three Kentucky teams to the Final Four: 1975, 1978 and 1984. In Rupp's final 21 seasons, UK advanced to two Final Fours: 1958 and 1966.

"I thought he wasn't appreciated at the time," Durham said.

Integrating Kentucky

In addition to winning games, Hall presided over UK basketball when it fully integrated. This came only a few years after Rupp was perceived to be, at best, reluctant to welcome Black players.

"I think Coach (Hall) doesn't get enough credit for the ease of the transition and the contribution he made to integration," said Leonard Hamilton, the assistant coach Hall hired to lead the effort.

Hall refused to take a bow for fully integrating UK basketball. "I never coached a team until I came to Kentucky that I didn't have an African-American player," he said in 2017.

Detroit Pistons Coach Dwane Casey, who came to UK in 1975, said he never heard Hall explain why he moved the program toward fully welcoming Black players nor why earlier in his career he integrated the Regis College team.

"I think Coach Hall has a great heart," Casey said in 2017. "I don't think he sees colors. Coach Hall should be thanked for the huge step he took on integration."

Despite the successes, Hall never attained the exalted status that Rupp enjoyed. In some circles, he was an object of ridicule. A widely circulated joke at the time involved Lexington banks not wanting to hire UK players for security because Hall wouldn't let the guards shoot.

"Almost a tragic figure," Reed said of Hall.

Sensitive to any perceived slight, Hall had, at times, a contentious relationship with the media. Host said this contributed to Hall's coaching accomplishments not being fully appreciated.

"I used to bring him off the cliff when he was about to kill a sportswriter, (saying) 'Joe, you can't do that!'" Host said. "He and I would go to lunch about two or three times during a season, and I'd say, 'Joe, you can't tell that guy to go to hell. You can't treat them like that. They're human beings. They've got their job to do.' And he'd say, 'By God, I've got my job to do.'"

When John Wooden retired as UCLA coach in 1975, Hall said something about following an exalted coach that The Huffington Post included in a listing of "25 idiosyncratic sports quotes."

Hall jokingly suggested that UCLA hire him to follow Wooden. "Why ruin two lives?" he quipped.

His most satisfying game

Several moments are cited as important in assessing Hall's time as Kentucky coach.

Reed saw 1974-75 as the season that "really kind of turned things around for him," A 13-13 record the previous season emboldened critics. A senior-laden team gave 1974-75 a now-or-never feel.

A 98-74 loss at Indiana in early December featured IU Coach Bobby Knight contemptuously cuffing Hall across the back of the head, an action that captured the feeling of disrespect in one gesture.

It ended the Hall-Knight friendship. In his book titled "Basketball: The Dream Game in Kentucky," author Dave Kindred quoted Hall saying, "Knight personally humiliated me. I'll never forget it."

Three months later, Kentucky upset undefeated Indiana 92-90 in the Mideast Region finals.

"A pivotal game in my career," Hall said in 2017. "That was everything. That was kind of the break over with the fans and everybody, I think. That game with Indiana was the most satisfying game, and I think the most important game in my career."

Durham recalled a first-round NCAA Tournament game against his Florida State team in 1978. Another senior-laden Kentucky team, this time ranked No. 1, was saddled with championship-or-bust expectations.

Trailing by seven at halftime, Hall benched three starters to begin the second half. UK rallied to win 85-76.

"I told him, 'Joe, you know what? If we'd beaten you guys, you probably would have gotten fired,'" Durham said. "That was a bold move on his part."

Casey, one of the reserves to start that second half, said he spoke to Hall before the 2017-18 season about the mass benching.

"I told Coach, 'Being a coach now, I understand you had to have big cajones to pull that move,'" Casey said.

Hall told Casey that coming out of the locker room at halftime, he confided to assistant coach Dick Parsons, "If we lose this game, I'm not even going back to Lexington. I'm going straight fishing. No use going back to Lexington."

Casey said he considered the mass benching "the turning point of Coach's career."

Winning the 1978 national championship proved that Kentucky could continue to be Kentucky with someone other than Rupp as coach.

When Hall's successor, Eddie Sutton, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2020, current UK coach John Calipari wondered why Hall had not received similar recognition.

"No disrespect to Eddie; I'm happy he got in," Calipari said. "Matter of fact, I thought he deserved it. But what Coach Hall did here - you have to look back to that time and that era and he walked in after Coach Rupp. Who ever followed a Coach Wooden, a Bobby Knight, a Dean Smith and had that kind of success?

"Who ever followed a living legend and survived it? And not only survived it, thrived?"

'Everybody's granddad'

Hall was born on Nov. 30, 1928. His father, Charles Curtis "Bill" Hall, ran a dry-cleaning plant and was a sheriff in Harrison County. His mother, Ruth, ran a flower shop in Cynthiana.

Hall lettered three seasons in football and basketball in high school. He was captain of both teams as a senior, and voted class president in each of his four years of high school.

How passionately did Hall want to play for UK? He once had a tonsillectomy on a Friday and returned to practice the following Wednesday.

As a freshman, he scrimmaged against the Fabulous Five. But with little playing time likely at UK, Hall transferred to the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn., after the fall semester of 1949.

"I was definitely in over my head with the Fabulous Five there," Hall said of his time as a UK player. "But it was a great experience, and one that kind of ingrained me in sports and allowed me to follow it later in life. I was really bitten by the bug, so to speak."

Hall began post-college life in business. His jobs included a stint as a ketchup salesman before he turned to coaching at Shepherdsville High School. In his second season, he was named conference Coach of the Year.

Hall later became head coach at Regis College in Denver for five seasons before moving for one season to Central Missouri State, where he succeeded Gene Bartow. He came to UK as an assistant for Rupp in 1965.

"Hall's contributions were immediate and significant," Kindred wrote.

When asked in 2017 how he'd describe his UK basketball legacy, Hall said, "I think I was an innovator."

As an assistant coach, Hall started a conditioning program which became the standard at the time in college basketball. As UK's head coach, he began the tradition of a Midnight Madness celebration each October. To combat fears that fans would not fill the new Rupp Arena, he tried to heighten interest by playing preseason scrimmages throughout the state.

As a recruiter, Hall brought to UK such players as Mike Casey, Dan Issel, Mike Pratt, Tom Parker, Turpin, Givens, Robey, Walker and Grevey.

After retiring as UK coach in 1985, Hall worked for Lexington's Central Bank. He also did television commentary.

Later, he teamed with former Louisville Coach Denny Crum as hosts of a sports radio call-in show. The rolled-up program of a person disappeared, replaced by a light-hearted man who was quick with a joke.

"After he retired, it's like he reverted to the real Joe Hall," Reed said. "All of a sudden, he was the guy I had known before he had got the (UK) job, and I was really glad to see that."

The perception of Hall also underwent a remarkable transformation once he retired from coaching. The person second-guessed and ridiculed became one of Kentucky basketball's beloved icons. He regularly attended home games. Each time he appeared on the Rupp Arena video screens fans responded with a full-throated ovation.

"What he's done for this university, for this state (and) Cynthiana, he deserves our adulation," Calipari said upon Hall's 89th birthday in 2017. "And that's what we do ... I love it when he does the 'Y' and people go crazy on his birthday. They're singing 'Happy Birthday.' He deserves all of that. He earned it."

Walker, the last All-American Hall coached for Kentucky, said Hall in later life "kind of filled the Bill Keightley role." Keightley, a longtime equipment manager, was affectionately known as Mr. Wildcat.

Before the 2017-18 season, Givens, the hero of the 1978 national championship game victory over Duke, said Hall had become "everybody's granddad."

Summers' voice softened as he responded to a question about his father-in-law becoming a beloved figure in UK basketball.

"Personally, I'm so happy," Summers said this year. "People now realize what we in the family have always known about him. That he is a person with impeccable character, and genuinely a great person."

Hall was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Katharine. They are survived by three children: daughters Judy Derrickson and Kathy Summers, and a son, Steven Hall. He is also survived by three grandchildren (Jeffrey Derrickson, Laura Derrickson and Katharine Amy Summers) and three great grandchildren (Joe Brack and Tyson Lawyer, and Malory Kate Derrickson).

**Article 10:**

Kentucky's Lasting Images. By Mark Story. (July 25, 1999). Lexington Herald-Leader. Retrieved from the NewsBank database.

Imagine if Bear Bryant had never left Kentucky.

Imagine if Denny Crum had left Louisville.

Remember where you were when Christian Laettner's shot went in?

In the same way, your great-grandparents may remember where they were when the news came that Centre had beaten Harvard in football.

What is your favorite team of all-time?

In the commonwealth, this has been an amazing sports century.

And after spending two months working on the 50 Most Significant Sports Figures (1900-1999) in Kentucky special section, I am over-running with opinions on the people, events and games that made it amazing.

Below are my views on 10 games that had lasting signficance; 10 teams worth remembering; and 10 turning points in the history of sports in this state.

Ten teams

Ten teams that deserve to be remembered (in chronological order):

In Kentucky, we are addicted to catchy team nicknames (Fabulous Five through Rupp's Runts right on up to the Unforgettables). Those nickname teams are easily remembered. Here are some other teams that don't have catchy nicknames but deserve to be every bit as well thought of (and, yeah, there are a lot of high school basketball teams on this list - I like the lore of high school basketball in this state).

\* Carr Creek, 1928. Know how Kentucky basketball fans have a love affair with those small, rural basketball teams in the Sweet Sixteen? This state runner-up team - which according to legend played some games in bib overalls - started it all.

\* Brewers, 1948. Fifty-one years now since Coach McCoy Tarry led Brewers to the boys' basketball state championship without losing a game. No one has done it since.

\* UK's 1951 NCAA champions. They didn't have a nickname. They did have two future Hall of Famers (Cliff Hagan and Frank Ramsey) and a Hall of Fame caliber player (Bill Spivey) on one team. I challenge you to name a more talented team in UK history.

\* Cuba, 1952. The Cuba Cubs were so flashy they took the floor to Sweet Georgia Brown. They were so popular that, 47 years after they won the Sweet Sixteen, a woman wrote a book about the team.

\* The Thin Thirty, UK football 1962. OK, I included one nickname team. In 1962, Charlie Bradshaw became UK's football coach. He inherited 88 players from the team that went 5-5 for Blanton Collier in 1961. Bradshaw implemented a harsh conditioning program. Really harsh. By the time the '62 season began, only 30 players were left. The "Thin Thirty" went 3-5-2, including a 12-10 upset of Tennessee.

\* Central, 1969. The first all-black team to win the integrated Sweet Sixteen. It was an angry time, and Coach Bob Graves' team played with stone, cold fury.

\* 1971 Western Kentucky men's basketball team. As Kentucky got its comeuppance from Louisville in 1983, so the Cats got it from Western in 1971. Haughty UK wouldn't deign to play the Hilltoppers, either. Jim McDaniels, Clarence Glover and Co. took a hunk out of UK's hide (107-83) when the Toppers got the chance in the '71 NCAA Tournament.

\* 1975 Louisville Cardinals. For my money, this is still the best Louisville team of the Denny Crum era. The Junior Bridgeman/Allan Murphy-led Cardinals let UCLA off the mat twice and lost a heart-breaking 75-74 overtime game in the Final Four.

\* 1975 Kentucky Colonels. In their entire college and professional basketball careers combined, Louie Dampier, Dan Issel and Artis Gilmore played on one championship team. It was in 1975 when the trio led the Colonels to the only American Basketball Association title in franchise history.

\* Edmonson County, 1976. By 1976, Louisville schools were dominating the boys' Sweet Sixteen. The big city boys had won six of the previous seven. In a state in love with the idea of the rural underdog, this was a lethal threat to the tradition of one-class basketball. Then came Edmonson, the little team from the little school that won one of the most improbable state titles ever. Three months after Edmonson won, the state's high schools voted 119-110 to preserve one-class basketball.

Ten games

Ten games of lasting significance (in chronological order):

\* Centre 6, Harvard 0, 1921 Oct. 29, 1921, Cambridge, Mass. The so-called upset of the century. Imagine Centre College having a football team good enough to beat Florida State. In 1921, Harvard was Florida State.

\* Ashland 13, Carr Creek 11 (4OT), March 17, 1928, boys' Sweet Sixteen finals, Alumni Gym, Lexington. The state championship, two undefeated teams, a wonderful contrast between established power Ashland and the first darling from the mountains in Kentucky basketball history. Then it turns out to be a great game. The moment that really launched the legend of Kentucky high school basketball.

\* Loyola (Ill.) 67, Kentucky 56, March 14, 1949, NIT first round, Madison Square Garden. Kentucky was so good, Adolph Rupp decided to try to win both the NIT and the NCAA. Instead, the Cats suffered a shocking loss. Later it was discovered that UK players had accepted money from gamblers to shave points in the game.

\* Kentucky 13, Oklahoma 7, Jan. 1, 1951, Sugar Bowl, New Orleans. Bear Bryant's Wildcats snap Oklahoma's 31-game winning streak in what is still the greatest football win in school history.

\* Texas Western 72, Kentucky 65. March 19, 1966, NCAA finals in College Park, Md. Adolph Rupp and an all-white Kentucky team lose to a Texas Western team with an all-black starting lineup. Rupp, and to some extent Kentucky, have been perceived as being on the wrong side of history ever since.

\* UCLA 75, Louisville 74 (OT). March 29, 1975, NCAA Final Four semifinals in San Diego. Imagine Kentucky and Louisville playing for the national title. In 1975, it was 20 seconds from happening. Louisville, nursing a one-point lead, needed Terry Howard to hit both ends of the bonus from the foul line to ice the game. Howard had not missed a foul shot all year (28 tries). He missed the front end of the bonus. UCLA's Richard Washington hit a 12-foot jumper with the clock running out to deny the All-Bluegrass State final.

\* Kentucky 80, Old Dominion 66, Feb. 5, 1983, in women's basketball at Memorial Coliseum. The eventual growth in the popularity of women's basketball nationally is foreshadowed locally when 10,622 turn out to see Valerie Still, Lea Wise, Patty Jo Hedges and Kentucky bury traditional power ODU.

\* Louisville 80, Kentucky 68 (OT). March 26, 1983, NCAA Tournament Mideast Region finals in Knoxville. For the first time since 1959, the in-state rivals play. The game is hyped to the moon. And lives up to it.

\* Louisville 34, Alabama 7, Jan. 1, 1991, Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz. The mind still boggles. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl. Louisville just spanking Alabama in a New Year's Day Bowl.

\* Duke 104, Kentucky 103 (OT) March 28, 1992, NCAA Tournament East Region finals in Philadelphia. Kentucky in the rare role of prohibitive underdog. A game that keeps getting better and better as it goes. Woods. Laettner. The greatest game ever.

Ten turning points

Ten turning points in Kentucky sports history in this century (in chronological order):

\* 1930. Out of 71 applicants to replace John Mauer as head men's basketball coach at the University of Kentucky, the school settles on a high school coach from Freeport, Ill.

What kind of sports state does this become if UK doesn't pick Adolph Rupp?

\* 1949-52. What if Ralph Beard, Alex Groza and Bill Spivey hadn't gotten swept up in the college basketball point-shaving scandals? Beard and Groza, who both admitted accepting money from gamblers, were banned from the NBA and forced to sell their ownership shares in the team they played for, the Indianapolis Olympians. Spivey, who always denied being involved, was nonetheless banned from the NBA. All three probably lost spots in the Basketball Hall of Fame.

\* 1953. Apparently upset that UK hasn't fired Adolph Rupp as a result of the point-shaving scandal that afflicted the men's basketball program, Paul "Bear" Bryant resigns as UK football coach and goes to Texas A&M. What would've happened to UK football if Bryant had stayed?

\* 1962. What if UK had integrated its basketball program in this year instead of 1969. From 1962-69, the state of Kentucky produced such outstanding black basketball players as Tom Thacker, Clem Haskins, Wes Unseld, Butch Beard, Dwight and Greg Smith and several others. If they'd had the chance, how many would have gone to UK, the state school? If most had gone to Kentucky, would there have been a UCLA dynasty as we came to know it?

\* 1975. When John Wooden retired in 1975, Denny Crum was the obvious replacement. He had played for Wooden. He had coached for him. He had already taken Louisville to two Final Fours. And, at that time, he would've taken the job. Instead, UCLA hired Gene Bartow. Crum stayed at U of L and led the Cardinals to two national titles. What would've happened to Louisville basketball if Crum had left?

\* 1976. Kentucky had an opening for a women's basketball coach. An interested candidate was a woman who grew up in East Tennessee fascinated with Adolph Rupp and UK's men's teams. She reasoned that any type of basketball at Kentucky would be a big deal. Kentucky offered her the job for $9,000 a year. Pat Head was making $8,900 a year to coach at Tennessee. She did not think she could afford to move for $100 a year. How would women's basketball have been different if UK had offered Pat Summitt, oh, $11,000 a year?

\* 1976. Did Kentucky have to be a major-league sports wasteland? The moment of truth came in the summer of 1976. The long-discussed NBA-ABA merger was finally going through. For $3.2 million plus the promise not to get any national TV money for three years, four ABA teams - Denver, San Antonio, the Nets and Indiana - went into the NBA. Colonels owners John Y. and Ellie Brown - who were looking to sell the Colonels because they were losing money anyway - decided the price was too high and folded the team. Was that decision inevitable? Might Kentucky have an NBA franchise today if the Browns or some other Louisville financial big-wig had been willing to take the risk?

\* 1984. What if the upstart United States Football League had not promised to put an expansion team in Miami? Chances are, Howard Schnellenberger, who had just led the Miami Hurricanes to the college national title, wouldn't have agreed to become head coach of the new pro team. And if that USFL team had ever gotten off the ground, he would not have been available to take the head coaching job at Louisville in 1985. And if Schnellenberger doesn't come to Louisville at that time, is there any guarantee that U of L would even be playing Division I football now?

\* 1988. What if the famous Emery package hadn't popped open? You remember the package. Mailed from the UK basketball office to the home of recruit Chris Mills. It allegedly popped open in Los Angeles, revealing $1,000 in cash. That set off a major investigation of UK basketball that ended in probation and the resignations of Coach Eddie Sutton and his entire staff. It also ushered in the Rick Pitino era. As it turned out, did the package incident benefit UK in the long run?

\* 1989. When Jerry Claiborne retired as UK football coach, C.M. Newton first offered the job to Mike Shanahan, then offensive coordinator for the Denver Broncos. Shanahan seemed tempted, but turned him down. Newton then hired Alabama Coach Bill Curry. That didn't turn out too well; you may have heard, things turned out swimmingly for Shanahan. How is UK football history different if Shanahan takes the job?