

Little Question Why Lafayette Won State Halo

By Jerry Finch

When the excitement of the celebration died away upon the return of the 1950 state high school basketball champions to Lexington, there was little question how or why Lafayette had gained its second such title in eight years.

Those who had been following Coach Ralph Carlisle's team over a two-year span knew he had drilled into his squad an essential quality that was difficult for any opponent to overcome—teamwork.

It was teamwork that sent Lafayette through a season record of 15 triumphs in 21 games and undefeated through 10 tournament games, which included the Generals' fifth straight 43rd district and their second straight 11th region crown.

Throughout the entire eight weeks of the Associated Press schoolboy cage poll, Lafayette had held first place.

Then it entered the March state tourney in Louisville, Lafayette was the solid choice to redeem its loss to Owensboro in the 1949 state finals and sweep to the championship.

The Generals obliged. Louisville Male was spanked 63-41 in the first round and Fairdale 75-53 in the quarterfinals. Corbin, one of the Commonwealth's finest outfits, which had lost only to Lafayette and Clark County in 32 games, put up a scrap but was topped 75-65 in the semifinals.

Moving up from the opposite bracket was the team which had been bounding the Generals all season, both in reputation and in action. Clark County, which split with Lafayette during the regular campaign, swallowed Newport Public, Maysville and Central City to set the stage for the finals, a pairing which had been predicted

since cage warfare had begun in the late autumn.

In their two previous meetings, each had defeated the other by one point, and the first half of their championship battle loomed as another such struggle, the Generals holding a 30-24 advantage at intermission.

In the second half, however, Lafayette pulled away. In the third quarter the Lexington team pushed ahead to a 12-point lead and it looked as if the Winchester rival was going to fade.

But with only four minutes remaining, the plucky Cards had pulled to within two points and only a combination of stalling by Lafayette teamed with a pair of sly layups by Charles Hadden and Bob Mulcahy gave the Generals the 55-51 victory and the big trophy.

Carlisle had said that he had assembled a team that a coach hopes to have only once in a lifetime. Two of the lads, Bob Mulcahy and Jimmy Wieland, were named to the all-state team for the second time, and big Bob Adams was voted to the honor role at the close of the 50 meet.

Mulcahy and Wieland had played at forward through most of the season, the 6-1 Mulcahy known for his devastating push shots and the 6-9 Wieland for his spectacular guarding and rebounding ability. Adams, standing 6-0 and weighing more than 190, was a bruiser in the pivot and about tops in rebounding.

Breaking into the first team lineup only in the state semifinals was stubby Guard Charles Hadden, whose late flurry of set shots had secured the win over Corbin. He totaled 15 points against Clark County.

Guard Jimmy Hutchens was declared to be the most overlooked player in the tournament when voters failed to place him on the all-state list. Leader of the fast breaks, the 5-10 junior had tallied 17 points in the final game.

He was Lafayette's individual high scorer for the tournament with 58 points.

A strong factor in Lafayette's march to the title was its reserve strength. Carlisle could and did substitute five men at a time and lose little punch.

Brown Sharp held a starting guard post throughout the season; Don Langston could rebound with the best; Connie Aubrey could handle the door game; W. C. Florence could provide the scrap, and 6-6 Eddie Ward had the height.

That crew held six seniors—Mulcahy, Wieland, Sharp, Adams, Florence and Ward. Mulcahy now is performing with the Eastern Kentucky College quint, Wieland with the University of Kentucky freshmen, Sharp with the Greenbrier (W. Va.) team, Adams with the North Carolina State frosh, Ward with the Western Kentucky freshmen and Florence played football at Centre College last season.

A lot of the talk on the tournament boiled down to the question: How can you beat a team that averages 41.1 per cent for all games? Lafayette tried for 277 field goals in its four tourney tilts and connected 114 times. Against Corbin they tallied for 48.6 per cent.

After the final game, Carlisle, who began coaching in 1937 at Madison High, commented, "I've been trying for this championship for 13 years. Thirteen must be my lucky number."

UK's Minor Sports Teams Contributed To Big Year

By Bob Gorham

Students and fans of the University of Kentucky are proud, and rightly so, of the football and basketball teams, which in 1950 compiled records that gained national recognition.

But the so-called minor sports—baseball, fencing, track, golf, tennis and the rifle teams—contributed their share to making the year just coming to a close the second in a great, new sports period of Kentucky.

The Records Were Good

As for individual accomplishments, they can boast of:

THE BASEBALL TEAM, which copped the SEC Eastern Division halo for the second straight year, and was runner-up for the conference title. Under Frank Moseley, it again took part in the NCAA playoffs which were held in Charlotte, N. C., where it was runner-up in 1949.

THE FENCING TEAM, which won seven matches and suffered only three losses. The bladesmen were led by their captain, Alan Solomon, who was runner-up to his coach, Scott Breckinridge, in the foil division of the state amateur meet.

THE TRACK TEAM, which wound up with a 2-2 record. The two losses suffered this season were only the second and third times that the cindermen have been beaten in the last three seasons. Tony Dallas, the Paducah flyer, who finished his career with the amazing record of 36 first places in 14 meets over a three-year period and compiled the staggering total of 211 points, led the thirlies of Coach Don Seaton.

Owens Wins Title

JOHNNY OWENS, senior captain of the Wildcat golf team, who won the Southeastern Conference individual title, the first Kentuckian ever to accomplish this feat. Owens led the Cat golfers to a season record of 12 won and four lost.

THE TENNIS TEAM fared worst of all, winning only one meet while dropping six. The netters of Coach Andy Paton were handicapped by a lack of experience and the fact that one of their top performers was declared ineligible in the middle of the season.

THE RIFLE TEAM: The Air Corps team finished second in the national Hearst Trophy matches, losing out to Fordham by a single point, after having won the event for the past two years. The Army squad finished fourth in their division of the same meet.



THE HEROIC TACTICS—Ken Kuhn, U. K. publicity director, has his hands full trying to keep the sports world abreast of the record-breaking feats of Babe Parill and Bill Spivey. It's even more trouble when the seasons overlap and they pull a switch with their weapons of war. They're probably the most publicized athletes in Kentucky's history.

UK's Two Highest Scorers In History Came To University Of Own Accord

By Larry Shepphird

Two of the greatest point performers in the school's athletic history found their own way to the University of Kentucky campus, neither the quarry in great bird-dogging efforts by alumni recruiters nor of talent-hunting coaches.

Neither Babe Parill nor Bill Spivey was urged to appear at Kentucky to accept an athletic scholarship.

As a matter of fact, they more or less invited themselves to visit the campus as candidates for Wildcat roles, and there is no record or recollection that the arrival in Lexington of either caused any shouts of joy or even mild elation among those who are interested in seeing Kentucky enjoy success in college sports.

Neither of these two great pitchers—Parill signed a football letter the arms of wildcat mites with deadly accuracy and Spivey is a prodigious scorer when he lays a hand on a round ball and sees an iron hoop situated 10 feet above court level—suffered buzzing ears from listening to the earnest entreaties of college scouts.

Spivey inquired if he was a basketball player because he had scored a lot of points in high school games in and near his home town of Warner-Robbins, Ga., and he felt a good college would be interested in his services because he had grown to a height of seven feet.

One day, less than three years ago, according to Harry Lancaster, the assistant coach who scouts from teams and usually runs the first essay on basketball talent that Kentucky enrolls, the tall Georgian wrote a letter to Coach Adolph Rupp, saying he would like to have a tryout at Kentucky.

A letter sent in reply invited him to come to Lexington if he wished and if he thought there was some way his brittle, seven-foot frame could be transported that distance without damage.

When Parill first came to Lexington from Rochester, Pa., he was just tagging along with a high school chum who had been hearing fervent pleas from representatives of Kentucky and numerous other successful or ambitious football schools. His buddy didn't choose U. K. as the school where he would like to pursue his career as a gridironer, but Parill did, even though Coach Bear Bryant doesn't recall that he even saw him when the quiet Italian boy made his first visit on the campus or paid him anything more than scant notice on a subsequent visit.

But Parill was around when football practice started in the fall of 1949. A fullback in high school in single-wing play, he happened to jump around a bit and throw the football a few times when Bryant was looking his way, and from that time on he was a quarterback.

Spivey was a follow freshman. He had come to town during the summer of '49, while some of Rupp's great players were preparing to participate in the Olympics, and he had looked hungry and awkward.

Rupp wondered how long the slender roed might go in college competition before becoming unjointed, so when he left to take the engers to London he gave Lancaster instructions to see that Spivey packed away a lot of victrolas in hopes he could put on some weight, and to see that he got some work and exercise designed to build him up.

How those two unsought college prospects developed is already well known among those who follow Kentucky's teams.

Parill already has gained recognition as one of the greats in college football, Kentucky's first backfield all-American in more than 50 years of the sport at the local school. Spivey is known the length and breadth of the land after record-breaking exploits as a sophomore, and at present is less than halfway through his second varsity campaign.

Most Publicized In History

Ken Kuhn, U. K. sports publicist, thinks that these two as individuals are perhaps the most publicized athletes in Kentucky history, or at least that they have received more publicity and recognition than any other Wildcat at a comparable stage this far ahead of the end of their college careers.

He finds it no small part of his job to supply the information, data and special stories sought in a continuous stream of requests from newspapers, magazines and radio stations anxious to use features about them.

Parill passed and piloted the 1949 football team into the Orange Bowl as a sophomore. His work was even more sensational, as he helped take Kentucky to its first Southeastern Conference football championship while he was a junior last fall, and into a coveted berth in the Sugar Bowl. He set a new national record by throwing 23 touchdown passes during the season and broke or tied several conference marks, one of them for the most yards gained passing in a single game (338) and another for total yards advanced with aeriels during the season (1,627).

More Records Fall

Spivey scored 578 points in the 30 games Kentucky played last season in basketball, a new school mark for a sophomore. That total gave him an average of 19.3 points a game and enabled him to win the SEC scoring crown by a wide margin. He also set a new conference record for a single game with 40 points against Georgia Tech, equalling another mark in the same tilt by potting 16 field goals, and he matched Alex Groza's record for scoring in a tournament game as he gathered 37 points while Kentucky was beating Tennessee in the SEC finals last March.

He's holding to a strong pace again in his junior campaign, leading the squad in scoring by a wide margin through the early part of the schedule and drawing a fine sight on additional records.

Henry Clay's Return To CKC Championship Was Chief High School Football News Of '50

Blue Devils Forced To Make Re-Entry Through Back Door

By Bob Adair

The Henry Clay Blue Devils' return to the Central Kentucky Conference throne provided the chief football news among high schools in this area last fall.

Although the Blue Devils were tied by Somerset in their final conference encounter and lost four games to outside opposition, they got the CKC know that they still had to be reckoned with where titles are concerned.

Coach John G. Hober's team abdicated in 1949 by playing an inordinate number of loop contests to receive little consideration, but they were different in 1950. The Demons played the required two games, won four and clinched the crown prior to their deadlock—a scorching one—with Somerset in ankle-deep mud.

But while Henry Clay was wrapping up its sixth championship in the last 10 years and its ninth since the CKC was organized, its season was hardly what could be called a howling success. Not only did the Devils lose four games, but they lost to Lafayette in their annual "game of the year."

Lafayette's 7-0 victory in the final game of the campaign for both teams squared the series between the two arch rivals at two victories each. And while Lafayette is not a conference member, the Generals of Coach Jim Belmont defeated five CKC elevens in compiling a 5-3 record, and would have won the crown had they been enrolled.

But, in general, conference teams held away over non-CKC opponents. In 27 contests with outside opposition, CKC teams won 14 games, lost 12 and tied one.

Best season records in the area were compiled by Carlisle (6-1), Shelbyville (6-1-1) and Irvine (6-1-2). These marks were bettered only by Henry Clay (4-0-1) and Somerset (1-0-2) within the Central Kentucky Conference.

Best offensive team in the conference, or least the most prolific one, was Danville, which scored 272 points against all opposition



Coach John Hober

and 240 within the loop. Winchester and Irvine were second- and third-ranking CKC point-scorers with 184 and 177, respectively.

No CKC team failed to score, but it took Cynthia's Bulldogs most of the season to push across their lone touchdown for a 1950 total of six points.

And no Blue Grass outfit rated highly enough in the minds of the bowl committees to receive a postseason offer. Two previously unbeaten clubs, Highlands of the Northern Kentucky Conference and Prestonsburg of the Big Sandy, were picked to play in the Recreation Bowl at Mt. Sterling, and Highlands won, 40-28.

Then, the same Highlands and Louisville St. Xavier squared off in the annual Shrine game here on Thanksgiving Day, and St. X won, 20-15. That meant that two of the state's best met defeat for the first time in postseason action, and it also meant that there was no definite standout.

In a poll conducted on a weekly basis by the Associated Press, top place eventually went to Tighman High of Paducah.

Attendance generally was good in the schoolboy contests, with Henry Clay showing an increase in its first season of night football at home. This was despite a mere handful of fans on hand for the Somerset tilt when it rained incessantly, and a paid crowd of only 2,300 for the Lafayette game, which was played in 30-degree weather on Stoll Field by daylight.

The Recreation Bowl and Shrine game both drew more dollars than spectators, since many fans bought tickets, then didn't attend.

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