



NAMING FACILITIES NOMINATION FORM

DIRECTIONS: Please complete all requirements and portions of this form that relate to your nomination. Only one name is accepted per form submission. Partially completed forms will not be considered.

NOMINATED NAME IS SUBMITTED BY: Shaunna P. Foster

ADDRESS: 1426 Patricia Circle, Knoxville, TN 37914

PHONE NUMBER: (865) 591-3536 DATE OF NOMINATION: February 28, 2021

EMAIL: shaunna.foster@knoxschools.org

NOMINATION

NOMINATED NAME: Coach John B. Foster, Jr.

FACILITY RECOMMENDED FOR NAMING: Austin-East Magnet High School gym floor

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the following section if the nominated name relates to a person.

1. How many years has the nominated person lived in Knox County? 67 year s
2. Did the person graduate from a Knox County school? Yes No
If so, what year? 1967
3. How many years has the person served Knox County Schools as a staff member or volunteer?
42 years or N/A
4. How has the person made a significant contribution to the district? Coach John Foster led the boys' basketball team to State Championships in 1985 and 1987 and Runner-Up Championships in 1982 and 1986. He was assistant coach in 1977 when the team won a State Championship. He received the Boys Basketball Class AA Coach's Award from TSSAA in 1985 and 1987. In 1987, he was recognized as State Coach of the Year. In 2000, he was inducted into the Knoxville Interscholastic League Boys Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He taught science at Austin-East over 20 years, then taught at Farragut High School. After retiring, he taught science 9 years as a Distinguished Professional at Austin-East.
5. How has the person represented the virtues or characteristics as a role model to students, staff, and the community? John Foster dressed the part of a professional. He wore shirt, tie and slacks every day. He looked at each student and ball player as unique and worked to teach so each one could learn. He worked with staff, parents and the community to provide the best learning environment possible for students. When students did not have lunch money or a fee for something, he gave it to them. He encouraged students' efforts not only in school, but in various aspects of their lives.

6. How has the person made a significant contribution to public education? John Foster not only taught subject matter, but he taught life skills to his students. His name is still known today in the Knoxville community and in surrounding counties as a great coach and teacher. He instilled a mindset in students to be diligent in moving forward in life. Students would come to his classroom or to the gym after school to talk to him. He encouraged students to look to the future and to pursue post-secondary education whether college, technical or trade school. Many students who were under his leadership have become lawyers, teachers and other professionals.

7. How has the person made a substantial contribution to his or her field of endeavor or to society in general? His impact as a coach and teacher remains in the heart of the students he taught and the communities he served. He was inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 for outstanding character and performance in the field of athletics. In 2005, he carried his coaching skills to Knoxville College and coached the team there for one season.

8. How has the person exemplified scholarship, creativity, leadership or humanitarian and public service? An article from the Knoxville News Sentinel described him well. His name, Foster, described who he was. He fostered goodwill and success to his students, and he was one who served as a foster parent providing parental love and care for children that were not his own. He was an encourager and a driving force on the basketball court, in the classroom and in the community. He not only served in the public education arena, but he was a mentor at Wesley House. His mentoring has positively affected many young people in Knox County and beyond.

DIRECTIONS: Please complete the following section if the nominated name represents an event, place, or geographic location:

1. What is the significance of the nominated name to Knox County Schools and the Knox County community? _____

2. How does the nominated name exemplify the values of Knox County Schools and the Knox County community? _____

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Required:** If you have nominated a person's name, please include a written and signed release from the nominated person, or the most closely associated family representative to the nominated person (e.g., spouse, parent, children, or sibling).
- **Required:** Please include contact information for the nominated person or the most closely associated family representative.
- **Required:** Please attach any and all research that supports the name that you have nominated for consideration, including picture(s).
- **Required:** Three (3) letters of recommendation.
- **Suggested:** Additional letters of recommendation are welcome, but not required.

This form, along with all attachments, should be mailed or delivered to:

**Knox County Board of Education
Naming Facilities Committee
P.O. Box 2188
Knoxville, TN 37902-2188**

Reference: Knox County Board of Education F-140 "Naming Facilities"

<https://www.knoxschools.org/cms/lib/TN01917079/Centricity/domain/974/board%20policies/F-140%20Naming%20Facilities.pdf>

Note: Names may be submitted at any time. The Naming Facilities Committee shall convene within a reasonable period of time following receipt of nomination and submission of all required documents. The Committee recommendation will be submitted to the Knox County Board of Education for consideration as part of the regular session agenda process.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that I have reviewed Knox County Board of Education Policy F-140, have submitted the Naming Facilities Nomination Form with all required documentation and confirm that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, all information provided is true and correct.

Signature Shauna B. Foster

Date 02/28/2021

For questions, please contact the Board of Education office at (865) 594-1630 or by email at board.office@knoxschools.org.

For Use by Naming Facilities Committee only

Principal acknowledgement and confirmation of review of documentation, research and input.

Signature [Signature]

Date 3/23/2021

Superintendent acknowledgement and confirmation of review of documentation, research and input.

Signature Bob Thomas

Date 4/5/2021

Statement of Nondiscrimination: In accordance with Public Law 101-336 and 42 U.S.C. § 12101, Knox County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex or disabilities in providing education services, activities, and programs, including vocational programs, in accordance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

**NAMING
FACILITIES
GUIDELINES**

The Knox County Board of Education shall have complete authority and responsibility for the naming of district facilities.

The term "facility" shall refer to a new or existing school or district-wide complex owned and operated by the district. The term "portion of a facility" shall include a building, library, media center, auditorium, performing arts center, gymnasium, athletic field, or other portion of a school support complex or property owned and/or operated by the district. A portion of a facility shall not include individual classrooms.

The following guidelines shall govern the permanent naming or renaming of new or existing district-owned facilities or portions of facilities. A facility or portion of a facility may be named for a person, in honor of a history event or place, a distinctive geographic location, or for a major donor.

The Board shall consider naming a facility or a portion of a facility for a person, historic event or place, geographic location, or major donor who meets one or more of the following criteria:

1. The person has made or is making significant contributions to the district and represents virtues or characteristics that serve as a role model to students, staff, and the community.
2. The person has made or is making significant contributions to public education and has a significant connection to the district as a student, an alumnus, a staff member, an administrator, a donor, or a supporter.
3. The person has made substantial contributions or his or her field of endeavor or to society in general.
4. A name may be reused for facility naming purposes in the event a facility is consolidated or demolished.
5. A facility named for a historic event shall have major significance to the district, geographic area, state of Tennessee, or our nation.
6. Extensive research shall be conducted on a proposed honoree before a final decision is made regarding naming a facility or portion of a facility for a person.

**Recommendation
Process for
Naming Facilities
or a Portion of
Facilities**

The Board may request the Superintendent to solicit names for a specific facility and direct the Superintendent to form a committee for the purpose of proposing a name. Names may also be submitted by the public directly to the attention of the Board of Education Naming Facilities Committee.

**Naming
Facilities
Committee**

Nominations shall be made in writing on a form provided by the district within the designated time frames established by the Naming Facilities Committee and only accepted for the facilities or portion of facilities of which the names are being solicited.

The Naming Facilities Committee shall be comprised of three (3) members of the Knox County Board of Education appointed annually by the Board Chair.

Specific Criteria and Selection Process

The Naming Facilities Committee shall consider the following in making recommendations to the Board for the naming of any facility or portion of a facility:

1. Whether the nominee reflects direct and substantial association and achievement of extraordinary and lasting distinction (e.g., an individual's scholarship, creativity, leadership, and humanitarian and public service).
2. If a nominee has served the district:
 - a. The length of years of service.
 - b. The contributions, both subjective and objective, to the district. Emphasis shall be given to the quality as well as the quantity of benefits and value derived by the district as a direct result of the nominee's contributions.
3. Weight may be given to an individual who gained distinction in the area or areas related to the usage of the facility.

The committee's responsibility shall be to review all submitted names and supporting documentation and conduct background research to determine whether the names meet the requirements of this policy. The district and school administration shall also review all documentation, research, and input to determine whether it is in the best interest of the district to consider a name. If a name is selected by the committee, the name shall be submitted to the Board of Education for consideration.

Selected names shall be recommended to the Board through decision-making consensus. Decision-making consensus is defined as the apparent preference after each committee member has had an opportunity to participate in the discussion, and then the committee members shall decide whether they can support the name as a recommendation to the Board. The committee chair shall declare the consensus of the committee for each name selected and recommended to the Board. A selected name may be tabled or dismissed for further consideration based on the declared consensus of the committee.

Timing

Nominations may be submitted to the committee at any time, but consideration by the Board shall happen as part of the regular session agenda process. Names submitted in an untimely manner may be considered in future years.

Recommendation Process for Programmatic Renaming

A facility or portion of a facility may be renamed based on a programmatic change if the new name would not affect the namesake of the facility or the portion of the facility. This type of name change would only require the recommendation of the Superintendent. For example, if a library had been named after an individual, such as the John Doe Library, and the term for "library" changed to "media center," a recommendation could be made for the name to be changed to the John Doe Media Center.

Authorization for Release of Information

Mamosa Foster
1426 Patricia Circle
Knoxville, TN 37914
(865) 591-1135
(865) 546-5112
mamosa_foster@yahoo.com

I, Mamosa Foster (spouse of John Foster), hereby authorize Knox County Schools to obtain from Shaunna Foster the documents pertaining to John Foster and his career as educator and coach.

I understand that my authorization will remain effective from the date of my signature through the duration of the review of said documents and any period thereafter.

Mamosa Foster

Signature

3/7/2021

Date

Nathan Langlois, Executive Principal

Alvin Armstead, 12th Grade Principal

Ryan Malani, 11th Grade Principal



Brittany Newcomb, 10th Grade Principal

Rukiya Foster, 9th Grade Principal

Denise Watts, Curriculum Principal

To whom it may concern:

In regarding to the naming of the basketball court at Austin-East Magnet High School, we are in support of this request. John B. Foster Jr. had a powerful impact on the culture and history of Austin-East, and his coaching record and accomplishments are worthy of recognition. We will support any decision that is supported by our community. If there are concerns and they are shared by our community, I would ask that these concerns be heard, and a decision be made in the best interests of Austin-East Magnet High School.

So, I hereby ask that our basketball court be name after John B. Foster Jr and Austin-East Magnet High School is in support of this initiative.

Sincerely,

Nathan Langlois
Executive Principal
Austin-East Magnet High School



April 3, 2017

Dear Mr. Langlois,

I hope that you are well today. I am writing in reference and support of Shaunna Foster's efforts to name the Austin-East gymnasium floor after her father John B. Foster. My relationship with Coach Foster began when I was in the 6th grade when I used to attend Austin-East's summer basketball camps. At this time, Coach Foster was an assistant for Clifford Ross who as you know the current gymnasium is named after. At the age of 11-12, there were not many alternatives for young boys my age away from the streets. A lot of us were raised in single mom homes in the projects so our parents turned to Austin-East basketball camps and the likes of Coach Foster and Coach Ross to get us around positive male role models. Our parents knew that their boys would find love and support and also be disciplined in their programs.

I can talk about the countless number of basketball games and state tournaments that Coach Foster was a part of and the two State Championships he won with Coach Ross. Not to mention, the Coach of the Year and two State Championships that I was a part of with him that he won as a head Coach. Instead, I choose to talk about the Coach that would pick most of his players up for games and drop off after because many of our families did not have cars. I would like to recall upon the Coach that came in every Saturday and Sunday when we requested to open up and monitor the gym so that his players and even the neighbor boys and girls could shoot ball. He desired for us to keep busy and not be drawn to the streets where trouble and drugs loomed large. I like to recall upon the Coach that I never heard cuss, berate a player in a rude or undignified way (unlike the Coach that followed him), and used a calm but stern form of discipline to get the best out of his players. I like to recall upon a Coach that got along with ALL of his other teacher peers and they also loved him because they knew that he did not put basketball ahead of life and the academic development of young man. One of his most favorite players (and all of us other players know it) was my classmate Brian Hartsell who ultimately came back home as the Principal for a tenure at Austin-East. I guarantee you that Brian would liken some sense of his desire to return to Austin-East and give back to Coach Foster's tireless example of giving to his school, community, and basketball teams.

I was fortunate enough to reminisce and fellowship with Coach Foster as I became an adult for my mom would invite him over to our house with other friends to play Bid Whist. Coach Foster loved to golf, fish, and play Bid Whist. Even retired, I witnessed the same old caring spirit, infectious smile and laugh, and just a genuine sweetheart of a man. I am sure like all of us, if you dug hard enough you could find some negative things to say about Coach Foster. Fortunately for me in the primary growth and development part of my life as a young man, I NEVER saw anything but a dedicated and dignified purpose driven Coach. His long-time tenure as teacher, community servant, Coach, family man, and friend results are definitely worthy of his name being forever placed on the gymnasium floor at Austin-East.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I would be happy to come in and answer any questions or assert the above sentiments in person. I cannot believe to date that we have not gotten together anyway so I am still looking very much forward to us connecting.

All the best,

LeRoy Thompson (865-363-2004)

Class of 1987 (5 Time State Champion, 2 basketball, 2 Football, 1 Track) And you probably didn't know that I was on Coach Foster's 1985 State Championship Basketball Team and was that tournament's Most Valuable Player as a sophomore. Just a little history for you on my hoop game!!! :)

Knox County Schools Student Enrollment Department



Dear Mr. Langlois,

My name is Brian Hartsell, and I am writing this letter in support of the acknowledgement of John B. Foster. As a former student/athlete and Administrator at Austin – East; I fully believe the recognition of “Coach” is much deserved. He served as the head girls coach for several years, while serving as the assistant to the boys program. After the retirement of Coach Ross, he then accepted the responsibility of heading the Boys program. He performed that task for about 12 years. He is the coach of two State Championship teams and one Runner –up. Whatever honor you all decide for this “Outstanding “ man / Coach will be greatly appreciated.

Warm wishes,

Brian Hartsell

Frank Terrell

1221 Holston Park Rd.
Knoxville, TN 37914

August 9, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to nominate Coach John B. Foster, Jr. to be honored by naming the Austin-East High School basketball floor in his memory. I have known Coach Foster for over 50 years as a coach, an educator, a friend, and a dedicated husband and father. Coach Foster, who passed away Feb. 16, 2016, was my friend, fishing buddy and golfing partner. We also worked together for 20 years as I served as the Austin-East statistician from 1971 – 1991 while Coach Foster served in various coaching capacities at Austin-East.

As the Austin-East basketball coach, it was under his leadership as coach that the Austin-East basketball team advanced to the Tennessee High School AA Championships, having won not one but two state championships in 1985 and 1987. The championship in 1987 was the last for the Knoxville City Schools System before the transition into the Knox County Schools System. His record speaks for itself – during the 84-85 season the team won 29 games and lost 4; in the 86-87 season, they won 28 games and lost 3. He was an outstanding coach who was deeply committed to young people in the classroom and on the basketball floor.

Coach Foster began his basketball career at Austin-East in the mid-1970s as assistant boys' basketball coach under Clifford Ross. Following the retirement of Mr. Ross, Mr. Foster became head coach. He also served as basketball coach for the Lady Roadrunners.

The career of Coach Foster spans two decades of steadfast and committed service to the young people of Austin-East as a chemistry teacher, to the athletes of Austin-East as an outstanding coach, and to the community as a role model to many young men and women.

In closing, it would be an outstanding achievement to have my friend recognized permanently in the history and legacy of Austin-East High School by naming the basketball floor in honor of Coach John B. Foster, Jr.

Sincerely,



Frank I. Terrell
865.603.5491

August 14, 2017

To whom it may concern,

“Young folks often follow paths similar to those of persons who spend time coaching, teaching, and parenting them. Give them a goal to shoot for, a pattern they can clearly see, and you give them something money can’t buy.” Billy Graham said this many years ago, and it is still true today. Coach Foster realized, and followed through on this concept during his years of coaching, and teaching.

I served as assistant coach under coach John Foster, Jr. for thirteen years. As his assistant, I found Coach Foster to not only be an excellent coach, but a man of excellent character. Because of his coaching style, and care for his players, his record is exemplary.

- 1985 and 1987 he led his team to the state championship
- 1982 and 1986 his team was runner-up for the state championship
- As assistant coach at Austin-East High School, his team won four district junior varsity championships
- 1971-1975 he served as assistant football coach at Austin-East

Coach Foster won many awards and honors.

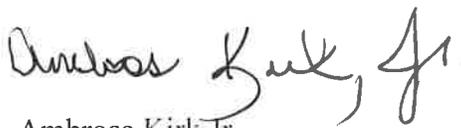
- Wins 259 losses 81
- 6 district TSSAA championships
- Knoxville Hall of Fame
- 1987 coach of Tennessee vs Georgia All-Star Basketball game
- 1987 District Class AA Basketball Coach of the Year
- 1987 East Tennessee Boys’ Basketball Coach of the Year
- 1985 State Basketball Coach of the Year Class AA
- 1983 He coached the East Tennessee All-Star Basketball team in Memphis, TN

August 14, 2017

This is an impressive record. What this record does not include, is the effect he has had on the lives of his athletes, and the Knoxville community, throughout his coaching years, and beyond. Not only was coach Foster a successful coach on and off the court, but a caring father whose children all are productive citizens in Knoxville. He was also a loving husband to his college sweetheart, Mamosa Foster. It has been my honor to serve as a coaching assistant with coach John Foster. Not only was he a wonderful colleague, he was a great friend.

I move to encourage the committee to dedicate the Austin-East High School gym floor in honor of coach John Foster, because he certainly deserves this honor. Knoxville wants to honor him in this way.

Sincerely,



Ambrose Kirk Jr.

Former Assistant Coach

August, 18, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing you in support of honoring the late John B. Foster, by renaming the Austin-East High School Basketball Court. Coach Foster, as he was so lovingly called, dedicated many years of his life serving the Austin-East students, staff and community.

Coach Foster was an educator, mentor, and coach at Austin- East High School from 1971 - 1991. He taught science for many years at Austin-East High School and also returned as a distinguished professional after his retirement. As an educator he was selfless and always had the best interest of his students at heart. In addition, during my early years as a teacher, he was an outstanding mentor. As a mentor, he was full of knowledge on best practices, very supportive, provided me with opportunities for leadership, and was always ready to provide a solution to any problem that I may have encountered. As a coach, he was skilled at implementing techniques and strategies in order to make his players successful at every level. While at the high school, he coached football and basketball (girls and boys).

During his successful coaching career, he was bestowed with many awards, accolades and honors. He won three state championships as an assistant coach in 1977 and the head coach in 1985 and 1987. He was State Coach of the Year in 1985 and 1987, as well as the coach of the East All Stars in the East - West All Star game in 1983. Furthermore, he was inducted into the Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame, August 2000 and recognized in the KIL Boys Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2000.

In conclusion, I believe that the above information clearly exhibits the reasons why the basketball court at Austin-East High School should be renamed in Mr. John B. Foster's honor. During his lifetime, he made it a priority to remember and represent the AE community to the best of his ability, with pride and dignity. Therefore, it is now time that the community give back and rename the court in his honor.

Thank you very much for your consideration regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rukiya Foster". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rukiya Foster

Dear Selection Committee:

This letter is in support of the naming of the gymnasium floor at Austin-East High School to honor the legacy of John B. Foster.

I could begin this letter by championing John Foster's record as the boys' basketball coach at Austin-East High School. I could talk about his tenure as coach from 1983-1992 and state titles in 1985 and 1987. I could also discuss sportsmanship, teamwork, positive attitude, and respect that he demanded from all of his players and himself. And I could mention the patience, basketball knowledge, and time commitment he brought to the game. But, all of this can be garnered from old newspaper articles, former players, opposing coaches, etc. and is more than enough to have his name painted on the hardwood at Austin-East High School. I'd prefer to talk about John Foster, the man behind the basketball coach, because I believe John would also want us to honor that person.

John occupied the room across the hall from me at Austin-East for many years. I learned how to be a good teacher from him. He respected students and valued his colleagues' ideas and opinions. He provided a supportive, collaborative environment in and outside his classroom, and was warm, accessible, enthusiastic, and caring. He had high expectations for himself and his students, loved his subject matter, and was extremely flexible. He was a superb teacher and an even better colleague.

For many years, I watched from a distance as John discreetly bought shoes and coats for students who needed them, paid the lunch tab for students who were hungry and had no money, and purchased school supplies to ensure all students had the basic necessities to succeed in class. I saw him arrive early and stay late to remediate students who needed the extra help and provide summer help to those who sought enrichment. He distinguished himself in such a way that his students admired and wanted to emulate him. Through his values, attitudes, and behaviors, he was a splendid role model to all of the students at Austin-East.

To his colleagues, John was friendly and congenial, possessed a great personality, communicated often, and had a great sense of humor. He cared about the people he worked with and it showed on a daily basis; he selflessly worked with everyone. He knew that making these collegial relationships not only benefited his work, but also set an excellent example for the student body to see adults express care and concern for one another. He was one of the most giving colleagues I've had in my 35 years of teaching.

I sincerely hope that the committee votes in favor of naming the Austin-East basketball court in memory of John Foster. This is a man who not only uplifted, motivated, and inspired his players, he did the same to everyone he encountered. This honor is well deserved.

**Jannice Clark
Mathematics Teacher
Knox County School System
Dr. Paul L. Kelley Volunteer Academy**

November 1, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

My working relationship with Coach John Foster was truly an inspiring one! He delivered on a daily basis encouragement to the students at Austin-East Magnet High to give and be at their best at all times.

Coach Foster would create a learning environment that would constantly draw students toward him. He would take the time to help and show them how to reach a level of success both academically and athletically. Oftentimes, he would even share with students the necessities for interviews, i.e. shoes, shirts, and ties upon sensing their need for additional support.

Coach Foster's calm demeanor and work ethic was a valuable resource in Austin-East Magnet Science Department. And, his engaging spirit still lingers today! I would definitely support the naming of the Austin-East Magnet High's gym floor in his honor!

Lisa Davidson
Chemistry Teacher
Austin-East Magnet High School

August 7, 2017

3745 Seven Road

Batesville, MS 38606

To Whom It May Concern:

As a former coach and teacher at **Austin-East High School**, I highly recommend that the floor of the Clifford Ross Gymnasium at Austin-East be named to honor the late ***Coach John B. Foster, Jr.***

John was an extraordinary young man and coach at Austin-East High for many years. As a former co-worker for five or more years, I have seen many examples of his talent and was highly impressed by his diligence and work ethics. These qualities are evident and exhibited in the history and record of the basketball program at the school during his tenure. I had the pleasure of interacting with him on many occasions over the years we coached together, and was always impressed on his management and coaching skills.

As a coach and science teacher, I must also make note of John's exceptional insistence on academic performance of his athletes. Players' above-average performance was a direct result of his hard work and strong focus.

If the goal is to seek a superior candidate with a record of achievement, the naming of the gym floor after John is an excellent choice. He consistently demonstrated an ability to rise to any challenge that he faced.

To conclude, I would like to restate my strong recommendation for John B. Foster, Jr. If you have any further questions regarding John's worthiness for this recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me using the information on this letterhead.

Sincerely,

John C. Morris

Austin East High School

Baseball Coach (Retired)

August 17, 2017

P.O. Box 6671
Augusta, Ga. 30906

To Whom It May Concern:

As a former teacher, coach, mentor, and colleague of the "Late John B. Foster, Jr.," I humbly support the naming of the gymnasium floor in his name.

Coach Foster was a man that lived sports, he loved teaching, and he saw fit to establish meaningful relationships with his family, students, colleagues, stakeholders, and others within the community. So, this effort would more than befitting.

Coach Foster was more than a teacher and a coach. He was an individual that made the platform easier for others because of his overwhelming passion for his career; he made an everlasting impression on his community. Having the pleasure of working alongside Coach Foster, someone who always gave his best, inspired me to do more and be more. We coached together, we taught together, and we developed a lifelong friendship, along with his former colleagues and students; something that will be forever cherished.

With the desire and effort to name the gym floor in honor of the "Late Coach John B. Foster, Jr.," it's a priceless respect that would make all of us proud, especially proud of his many accomplishments and his dedication to his community and school that he so dearly loved.

In conclusion, I support the recommendation as he will forever be a part of the Austin-East High School Family.

Respectfully submitted,

Warren Williams
Austin-East High School
Former Track and Football Coach

January 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Shirley Rowans and I have been an Austin East supporter and fan for many years. Through the years my support has included the band, sport and academic programs. The basketball program has always been dear to my heart. I was elated when Coach Foster was named head basketball coach since I knew him as a star forward on the East High team from 1965-1969.

During his tenure as head basketball coach the Austin East teams always represented the school well. In fact, they won many district and regional championships and represented the district in the state several times. To my knowledge Austin East won two state championships under Coach Foster's leadership.

Coach Foster's record as head basketball coach should absolutely be taken into account as you consider naming the Austin East gymnasium floor in his honor. I was very sad to hear of his passing and wholeheartedly believe that this recognition is well deserved. I can be contacted if more information is needed.

Sincerely



Shirley Rowans
304 Carta Road
Knoxville, TN 37914
865 659-1270

January 6, 2019

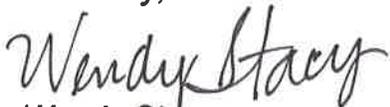
To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Wendy Stacy and I am writing to recommend Coach John Foster be recognized and honored by having his name placed on the Austin East High School gym floor.

Coach Foster was my homeroom teacher from 1979-1981. He always treated students with dignity and respect and as a result he had an excellent rapport with students and parents. We all knew he loved basketball but he also loved teaching science. He didn't hesitate to call our parents if our class effort was not what it should be. Coach Foster spent time encouraging us to work hard to accomplish our goals and would assist any student when asked.

I was delighted to hear that Coach Foster was being considered for this honor. Through the years, Austin East has won many sport honors and Coach Foster's teams were responsible for several. This should certainly qualify him for consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any other information that I can provide.

Sincerely,



Wendy Stacy

Wendy.Stacy@elavon.com

(865) 805-3150

September 1, 2017

I am writing this letter in support of having John B. Foster, Jr's name on the floor of the gym at Austin-East High School. I have known John for many years as a minister in The Church of God Sanctified and as a friend. John was a tremendous basketball coach who brought great success to the athletic department at Austin-East High and the Knoxville community. He was also a good teacher who cared for his students academically, as well as outside the classroom. Based on the performance of John as a teacher and coach, it would not only be an honor to the school to have his name on the floor, but it would be an honor to the Knoxville community and state of Tennessee.

In conclusion, I would highly recommend John B. Foster, Jr.'s name be placed on the floor of Austin-East High School gym. If you have any questions, you may reach me by telephone (865) 521-7199 anytime.

Sincerely,



Bishop Zack Flack



“Support Naming A-E Basketball Court in Honor of Coach Foster”

The family of John B. Foster, Jr. would like your support. We would like to honor Coach Foster by having the A-E basketball court bear his name. Coach Foster was an assistant coach on the boys' basketball 1977 Championship Team and head coach on the boys' basketball 1985 and 1987 Championship Teams. Please support us as we look to honor a coach that meant so much to our community.

Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
David Giles	<i>D Giles</i>	6510 Bay Circle	628-5838
Troy Etheridge	<i>Troy Etheridge</i>	5161 Garden Meadow	2566209
John Woodall	<i>John Woodall</i>	5516 Meadow Run Tr	748-3694
HONSEL Biliter	<i>Honsel Biliter</i>	3365 Vickie Karen Dr	705-5290
Steve Welch	<i>Steve Welch</i>		
Les Walker	<i>Les Walker</i>	2224 Cedar greens	806-9052
Beverly Carr	<i>Beverly Carr</i>	PO Box 321	256-3163
Stacy Sanders	<i>Stacy Sanders</i>	806 Hazelbrook Way 37912	865-405-9230
Sherry Ammons	<i>Sherry Ammons</i>	8003 Frederick John St	8657485770
Joel Ammas	<i>Joel C Ammons</i>	8003 Fredrick John St.	865851-5555
Joe Stanley	<i>Joe Stanley</i>	146 Peach Tree Cir	865-335-6411
Billy White	<i>Billy White</i>	3313 Winter Karen Dr	865 804 8033
Joe Vandergiff	<i>JACK VANDERGRIFF</i>	7000 Beaver Brook	712-219-9452



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Edward Green Lee	Edward Lee	2300 Center Ave	455-9435
Tracy Thaxton	Anacu Thaxton	962 Anniversary Ln	394-4692
Linda Connor	Linda Connor	501 Flennwood	237-02107
Jamille Bowers	Jamille Bowers	202 Selma	237-0310
Darrell Willis	DARRELL WILLIS	3118	_____
William Faulkner	William Faulkner	5203 Holyton Dr	525-1722
Misty Moore	Misty Moore	2201 McNamee St	275-1017
Carlton D. Porter	Carlton D. Porter	2908 E. Magnolia Ave	712-7201
Denny Coats	Denny Coats	4505 Eremouth Rd	407-4409
Gerudetta Dizon	Gerudetta Dizon	7155 Cherry St	865-474-1208
Marshall M. Bailey	Marshall M. Bailey	5223 Blue Star Dr	865-7608087
CECIL BAILEY	Cecil Bailey	310 MILLIGAN ST Apt 1	(865) 443-6441



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Blenza Davis	Blenza Davis	1704 Rivershore Dr	865 524 0130
Cleta Book-Ker-Slate	Cleta Book-Ker-Slate	1913 Rivershore Ln	865-546-9755
Willie Slate	Willie Slate	865 546 9755
Richard Davis	R. Davis	1704 Rivershore Dr	865 524 0130
Marie Aumon	Marie Aumon	1116 FELLOWSHIP LN KNOXVILLE, TN 37914	865-385-4621
Wendy Stacy	Wendy Stacy	3004 Ray Ave Knox TN 37914	865-865-3150
Carolyn Littlejohn	Carolyn Littlejohn	2625 Sunset Ave	865-546-3189
Athaleen Strong	ATHALEEN Strong	3217 Mountain Spring	(865) 637 2273
Mama Martin	Mama Martin	4918 Sunset Knoxville	37914 (865)-546-9990
P. RUDOLPH LONG	P. Rudolph Long	2501 BROOKS AVE	865)637-3231



ROAD RUNNER

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
PAT DeLANEY	Pat DeLaney	4303 Olive Road	249-6027
Melen Banks	H.L.B.	628 Luttrell St	673-8935
Mildred V. Kelso	Mildred V. Kelso	2101 Linden Ave	525-9502
Natalie Littlejohn	Natalie	5203 Bryn Lane	903-7070
Walter Stacy	W. Stacy	307 Beaman	524-1933
Marie Bathe	Marie Bathe	1728 Birdsong	637-8618
Katasha Bathe	Katasha Bathe	1728 Birdsong	1078-923-4858
Tracy Brannan	Tracy Brannan	3008 W. Ridge	865 314 3674
C.J. Brannan	Charles Brannan	3008 W. Ridge	865 363 090
Ernestine Brannan	Ernestine Brannan	3008 W. Ridge	865 522 830



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Kimberly Jones	<i>[Signature]</i>	3206 E. Mona Ln Knoxville, TN 37914	865-242-1469
Faye Levent	<i>[Signature]</i>	1725 Magnolia Knoxville, TN	865-525-3372
Cherry C. McClellan	<i>[Signature]</i>	2406 Parkwood Ave	865-237-7588
Leslie Henry	<i>[Signature]</i>	1212 Picquet Ave, Knoxville	(865) 201-6051
Alberta Greene	<i>[Signature]</i>	3830 Catalpa Ave	521-6469
Audrey Budgett	<i>[Signature]</i>	5201 Village Crest apt 204	524-7929
Marilyn Jones	<i>[Signature]</i>	3206 Mona Lane	865-5466787
Janice Brandenburg	<i>[Signature]</i>	4418 Aylesbury Dr	865-281-0195
Janette Brandenburg	<i>[Signature]</i>	6232 Babelay Rd	865-687-6513
Margaret Houston	<i>[Signature]</i>	Oakwood Assity Learning	



ROAD RUNNER

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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Yvette Troutman	Yvette Wynder-Troutman	807 Graves St. Knox, TN	
Chyring Wynder	Chyring Wynder	4237 Holston Dr 57914 4311 Hembree St	
Victor Pearson	Victor Pearson		
Markise Witt	MARKISE WITT		
Robin Morris-Valentine	Robin Morris-Valentine	2521 Cypress Bridge Pike	
Shelia Carter	Shelia Carter	Barker	
Michael Braden	Michael Braden	820 Castle	
J. Perm	DeMarcus Pearson	2045 Chestnut St	
Brianna Davis			
Adam Davis			



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
KEVIN SADLER	KEVIN SADLER	2037 PINEY GROVE CHURCH RD	
Brandon Fearis	Brandon Fearis	3604 WARNER DR	
Delkeys TATE	Delkeys Tate	Castle St. Knoxville TN	
Tray Allen	Tray Allen	Lay Ave	
Kennel Nebo	Kennel Nebo	CASTLE ST. KNOXVILLE TN	
Jay Allen	Jay Allen	Lay Ave	
Tylon Gibson	Tylon Gibson	2505 E. Fifth Ave	
Jha'Niyah Holland	Jha'Niyah Holland	717 SPRING PARK RD	
Salith Joseph	Salith Joseph	The 1100th Studio Apartments	
Lara Thomas			



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Mabryia Tillery	Mabryia Tillery	##	865-607-1715
Elysh Jeter	Elysh Jeter		917-652-4428
DAVID Douglas			865-244-7356
Neisha White	Neisha White		865-973-0855
Gianna Hawn	Gianna Hawn	—	865-441-2172
Melani Wallace	Melani Wallace		865-300-3904
Andre Blake	Andre Blake	—	865-454-5984
Felicia Blake	Felicia Blake	—	865-310-5933
Joshua O'Neal	Bethel Street 425		
EDONII MACK	[Signature]		(865) 209-7121



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Beverly Johnson	Beverly Johnson	Holston DR #24	
Danyana Ajumaka	Danyana Ajumaka		
DANIEL FOSTER	Daniel Foster	1305 E. WOODSHIRE	865 257 4114
Shawn Porter	Shawn Porter	4121 Alma Ave.	865-679-2676
Lucky Clark	Lucky Clark		
Ashanti Bailey	Ashanti Bailey		
Andrea Leonard	Andrea Leonard	Wildert	
Markisa Chapman	Markisa Chapman	1113 Mechanics Hwy	865-454-5150
Carla Carlos	Carla Carlos	3700 Summercrest way	
Darlene Mynatt	Darlene Mynatt	" " "	



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Jaiton Johnson	Jaiton Johnson	3018 Winpole	(865) 386-2411
Jaron Hull	Jaron Hull	2817 Woodbine	(865) 637-1938
Jalessa Woods	Jalessa Woods	200 Grata Rd	(865) 591-1240
Donna Woods	Donna Woods	200 Cartard	(865) 604-1811
Nitra Woods	Nitra Woods	200 Cartard	(865) 249-5892
Lajuan H	Lajuan Harrison		(865) 257-2781
EDWINA CHANDLER	EC	2048 LAY AVE	865) 455-2511
Carlton Branson	Carlton Branson	1902 VERGESSA AVE.	865-936-1657
Barbara M. Cozart	Barbara M. Cozart	129 N. Chestnut #2107	NONE
Shalonda Johnson	Shalonda Johnson	4113 Alma Ave	



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Phillip C. Wynne	<i>Phillip C. Wynne</i>	2575 Parkview	865-200-4826
Aleta Evans	<i>Aleta Evans</i>	—	—
Kelvin McAfee	<i>Kelvin McAfee</i>	—	—
Obayana A. Sunku	<i>Obayana A. Sunku</i>		
John Webb	<i>John Webb</i>	—	865-323-5521
Charde Joseph	<i>Charde Joseph</i>	—	423 508 7011
Salita Joseph	<i>Salita Joseph</i>	—	—
Erika Glenn	<i>Erika Glenn</i>	—	—
Jarissa Lowery	<i>Jarissa Lowery</i>		
Patrick Schussler	<i>Patrick Schussler</i>	—	—



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Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Oscar Watson	<i>Oscar Watson</i>	7506 Palmer Ln	865-850-3097
Tyler Brown	<i>B. Tyler Brown</i>	2920 Billings Way	865-230-4335
Daniel Bennett	<i>Dan Bennett</i>	7905 Intervale Way	865-335-5176
Randy Gault	<i>Randy Gault</i>	184 LOYSTER RD	865-414-4685
Grey Smart	<i>Grey Smart</i>	8004 Brickyard Pt	865-705-1630
Deb McKeenan	<i>Deb McKeenan</i>	239 Stair Lane Way	865 403 9152
Amy Heist	<i>Amy Heist</i>	7160 Haggard Dr	865 607-8094
OLIVER HALOUMA	<i>Oliver Halouma</i>	2214 E Emory RD	865-661-0030



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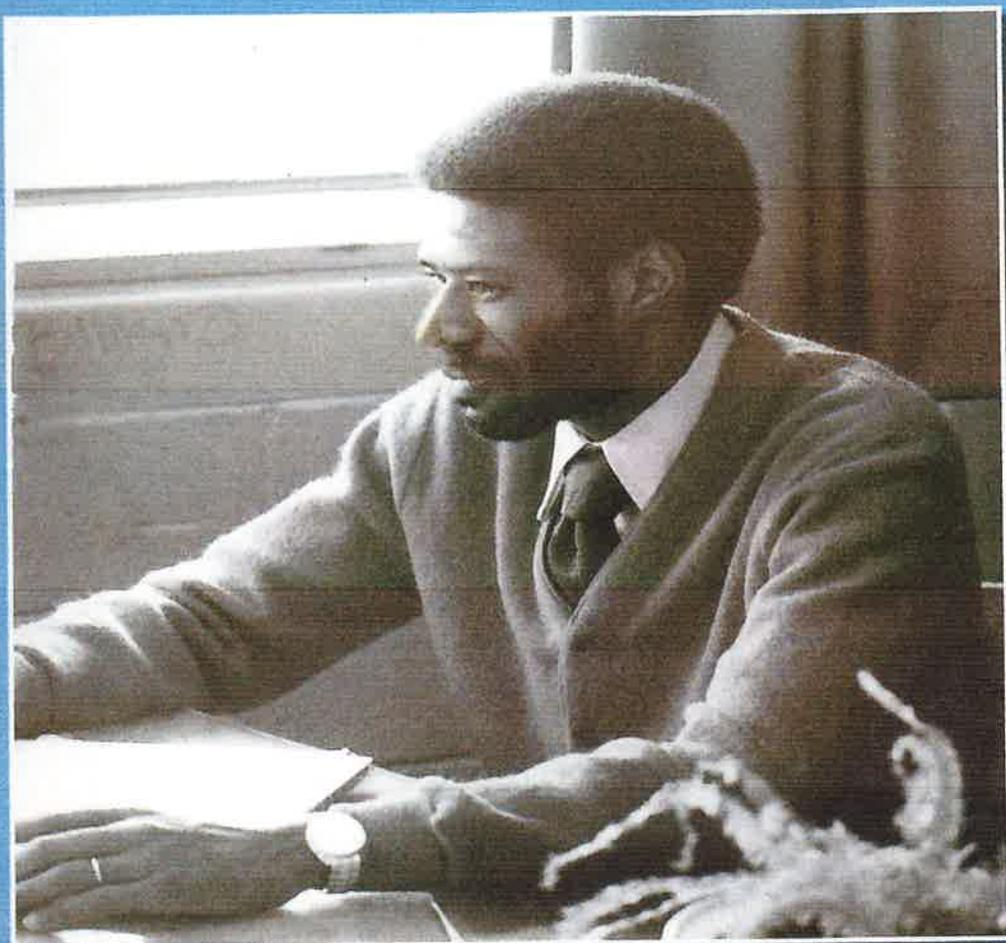
Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
JOHN Webb	John Webb	4215 Skyline	(865) 363-5521
Michelle Davis	Michelle Davis	5716 LIBBARD Way	865-599-3632
Lynn Anderson	Lynn Anderson	713 Elmwood St	865-659-0465
P FUNK	Mr. P-Funk	000 (UNKNOWN)	WHO KNOWS
JAMES GRAY	James Gray	5525 MATLOCK	865-455-1394
Downy Parton	Downy Parton	2520 Linden Ave	405-4344
Dwight Wynder	Dwight Wynder		
Willie Thomas	Willie Thomas		
Marnie Thomas	Marnie Thomas	235 Carta Rd.	469-1020



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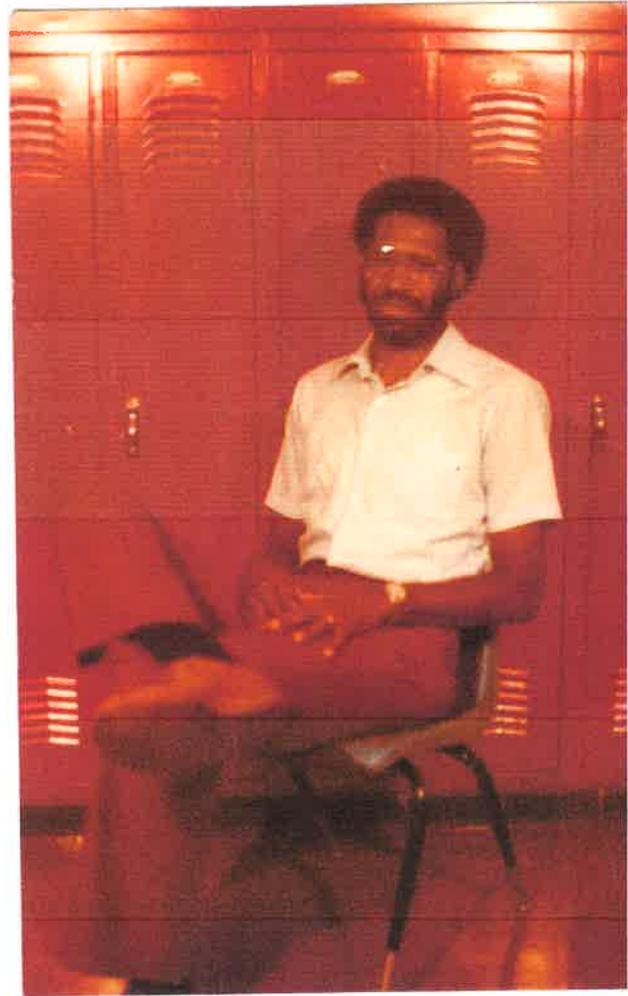
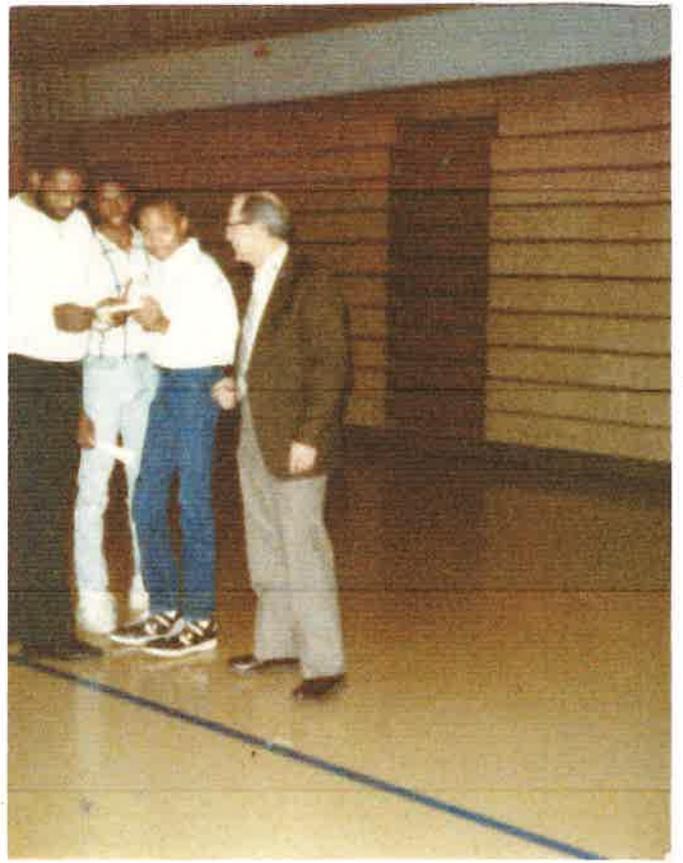
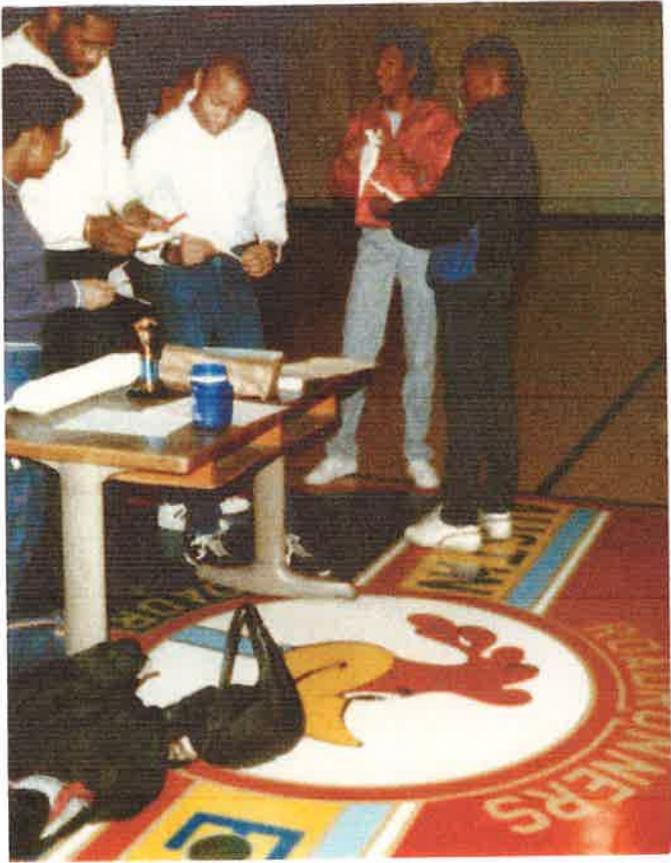
Printed Name	Signature	Address	Phone Number
Erica Burns	<i>Erica Burns</i>	1805 Mac Queen Ln	865 640 6616
Jaime M Huffman	<i>JM Huffman</i>	2701 Alice Bell	865 382 2694
Jean Weaver	<i>JW Weaver</i>		
Michelle Carson	<i>Michelle Carson</i>		865-5
Travis Beeler	<i>Travis Beeler</i>		
Jonas Minkinatt	<i>Jonas Minkinatt</i>	2819 Pebblestone LN	865 599 7877
Robert Wright	<i>Robert Wright</i>		865-208-4859
Brenda A Tugde			
W.C.H. ANDER	<i>WCA</i>		277-6242

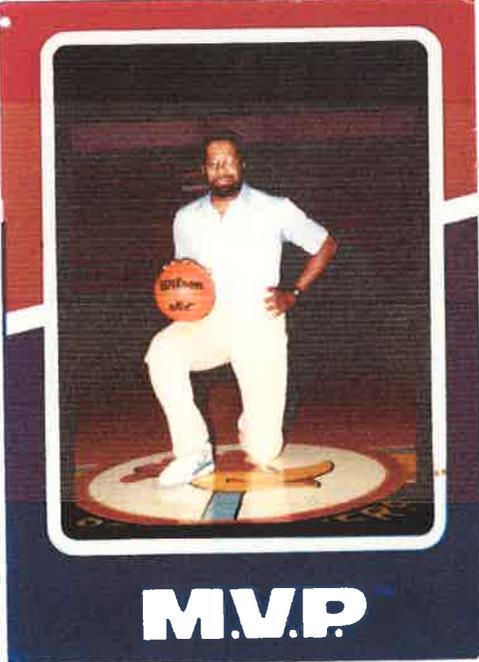
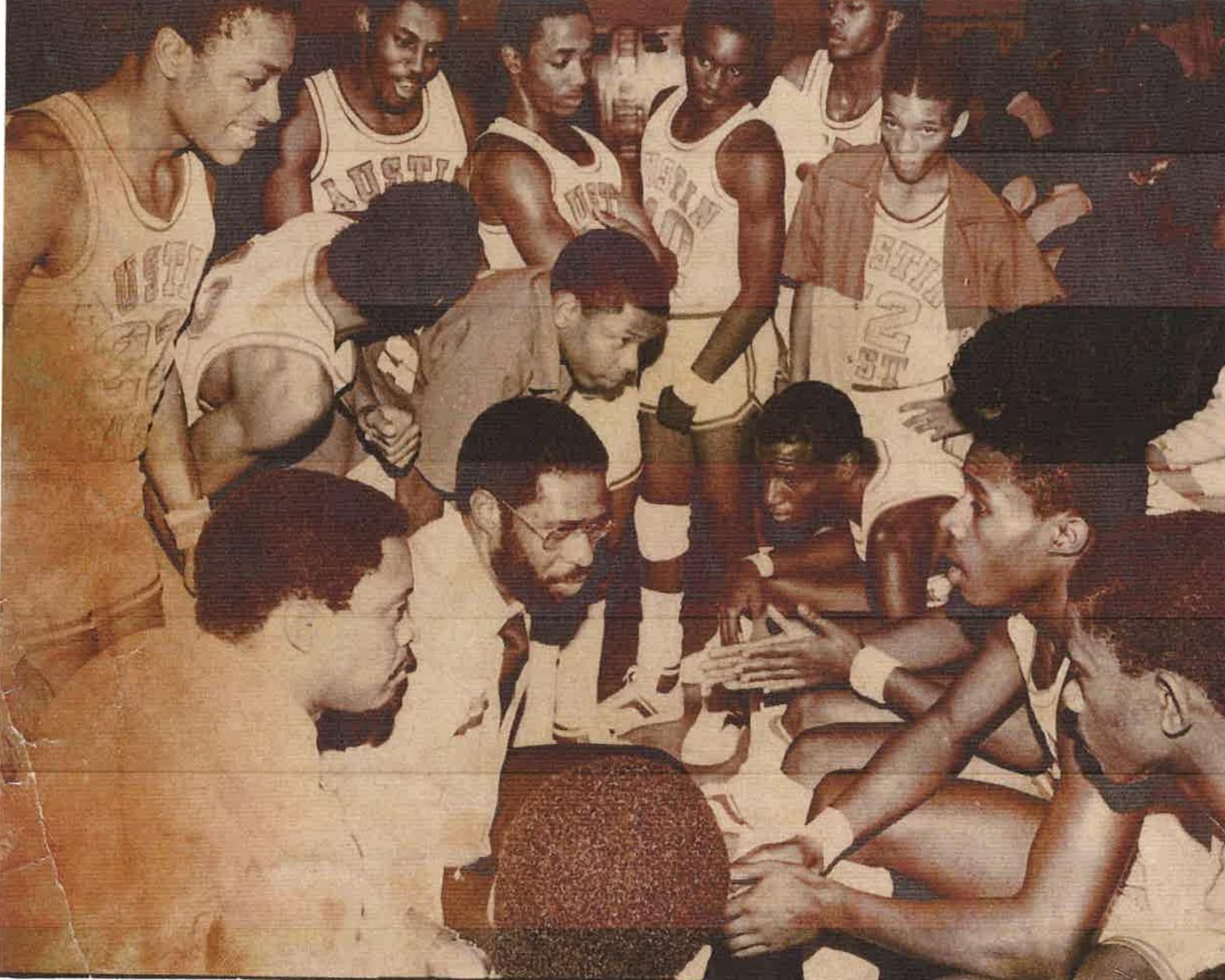


Coach John Bell Foster Jr.

February 1, 1949 - February 16, 2016

Perhaps one of the greatest achievements a teacher can attain is that of admiration and respect of the student. Mr. John Foster, a distinguished professional, superceded such expectations. The Knoxville community holds Mr. Foster at high regard because he was the epitome of altruism, persistence, and influence. His character set the tone for educators and coaches alike who have chosen to serve our community's youth. His wit, tenacity, hardworking personality, life, and legacy will be forever etched into the hearts of many and in the halls of Austin-East Magnet High School. Because of our love, admiration, and debt of gratitude for Mr. Foster, we the students, faculty, and staff, respectfully dedicate the 2016 volume of the Roadrunner to our late beloved teacher, coach, and friend, Mr. John Foster.







The Knoxville Journal/GARY HAMILTON

Austin-East Coach John Foster discusses strategy with his players during a timeout in A-E's game with Bearden Wednesday night.



Blue and Gray

Volume 6 – Number 2

KNOXVILLE EAST HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
1952 - 1968

October 2017

KEHSAA 2017 Hall of Fame Inductees



Carolyn Ellis Cottrell
Class of 1953



Bob Bostick
Class of 1954



Alfred Billips
Class of 1955



Carey F. McWilliams
Class of 1955



Sue Meador Campbell
Class of 1956



Zafer Roback
Class of 1958



Richard Hillard
Class of 1963



John Foster*
Class of 1967
**Deceased*



Cheryl "Sherry" Wright Nelson
Class of 1963



James "Jay" Nelson
Class of 1963

The Sixth KEHSAA Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor took place on August 5, 2017, at the "Lighthouse." A special Presentation of Colors, by the Lt. Bonnyman Young Marines, coordinated by Sgt. Major David Hatfield, USMC, and *The Lord's Prayer*, sung by Wilma Thomas Loy, began the program. Larry Leibowitz was the Master of Ceremonies.

The afternoon's presentation was especially meaningful as Martez Hill, Class of 2013, Austin East High School, and one of the Academic Scholarship Recipients, was recognized and congratulated on his graduation from Austin Peay State University in September 2017.

KEHSAA 2017 Hall of Honor



Don Sherrod
'62
U.S. Army



Jerry Lynn Smith
'64
U.S. Army



Larry G. "Skip" Bradley
'65
U.S. Army



Billy Joe Harrison
'66
U.S. Marine Corp



David S. Whitman
'67
U.S. Marine Corp



Robert "Bobby" Roebuck
'67
U.S. Marine Corp

OBITUARY

Foster, who led A-E to state titles in 1985, '87, dies at 67



NEWS SENTINEL ARCHIVE

John Foster during his tenure as Austin-East High School boys basketball coach in 1987.

By Tom Mattingly
sports@knoxnews.com

John Foster, the former boys basketball coach at Austin-East High School, died Tuesday morning at his home in Knoxville, according to long-time friend Brian Buckmon of Patton Funeral Home in Cleveland. He was 67.

Mr. Foster graduated from East High School in 1967, where he played forward on the Mountaineers basketball team. He graduated from the University of Tennessee with a bachelor's degree in 1971 and received a master's and educational specialist's degree from Lincoln Memorial University.

"He loved fishing,

hunting, and, most of all, basketball," said Buckmon. "Bass Pro Shop was his home away from home, with his close friends, John Davidson, Clarence Tate, and Frank Terrell."

Mr. Foster was basketball coach at Austin-East (1983-92), winning state titles in 1985 and 1987. He was an assistant under coach Clifford Ross when the Roadrunners won the title in 1977.

"I learned a lot from being with Coach Ross," Foster said in a 1987 interview with the News Sentinel. "He taught a tough and aggressive defense, and I've attempted to do the same. You play that brand of defense or you give the other team the

same opportunity to win as you have."

He taught science courses in the Knox County School System at Austin-East and Farragut high schools for more than 40 years. After Mr. Foster retired, he joined Knoxville College and coached there in 2005 with the same tenacity and gusto he had shown in his years at Austin-East.

"He was a quiet, humble man, who did his job without a great deal of bravado," said former Knox County commissioner Rudy Dirl, whose family lived next door to the Foster family on Hillside Avenue in East Knoxville. "He was just as good a science teacher as he was a

basketball coach. He was just as interested in his players as young men as he was in them as basketball players."

Mr. Foster was inducted into the Greater Knoxville Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 for his outstanding coaching career.

On June 2, 1969, Mr. Foster married Mamosa Eleanor Bewley, becoming the first couple to be married at Church of God Sanctified, Cherry Street, in Knoxville.

He is survived by his wife, a daughter and two sons.

Services were held Friday at the church.

Tom Mattingly is a freelance contributor.

Chemistry made A-E state champs



Ambrose Kirk, George Underwood, John Foster (assistant coach) and James Bowden, from left, were members of the 1977 Austin-East team that defeated Memphis Hamilton 72-59 for the state Class AAA basketball championship.

WADE PAYNE SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

12 Roadrunners went on to play at some level of college basketball

BY MIKE STRANGE
strange2@knews.com

When the Austin-East Roadrunners won the TSSAA state championship March 19, 1977, it was the culmination of one of the great seasons in Knox County high-school basketball history.

It was more than that. It was the culmination of almost a lifelong bond for the

players who hoisted the trophy that night in Murfreesboro.

"This was guys who had played together for so long," Elston Turner recalled last week. "In junior high, in the system, in the streets, in the rec centers.

"We had tremendous chemistry."

Turner was the MVP of that team and of the 1977 state tournament. Today, he's

an assistant coach for the NBA Houston Rockets.

He had a standout career at Ole Miss, played for four NBA teams and spent the past two decades as an assistant coach in the NBA.

In short, he's seen a lot of good basketball teams. Still, he marvels at the strength and excellence of that '77 Austin-East

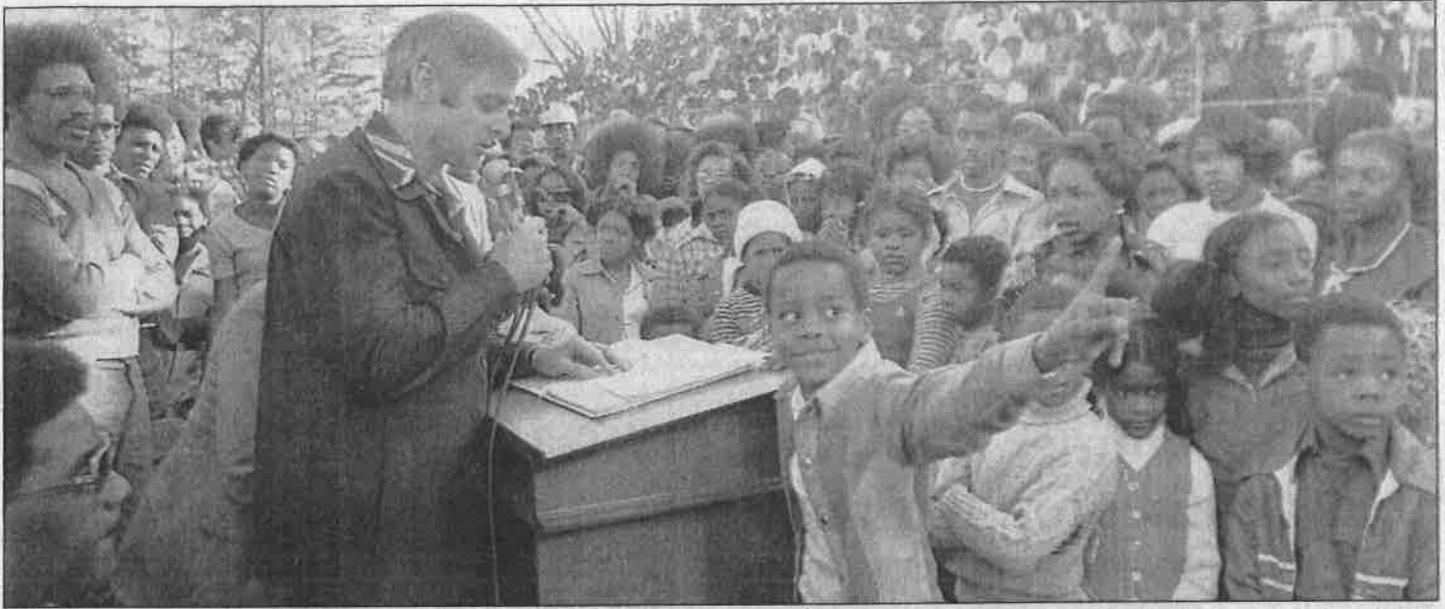
squad.

"We were balanced," he said. "We could play big or small. We had athletic guys. We had penetrators, sharp-shooters, shot-blockers.

"There wasn't anything we didn't have from a chess-match standpoint."

See AUSTIN-EAST on D4

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



NEWS SENTINEL

Randy Tyree as Knoxville mayor in 1977 at a celebration with Austin-East fans after the Roadrunners won the state Class AAA basketball championship. The team was rewarded with a victory parade.

AUSTIN-EAST

from D1

The Roadrunners finished 34-2 after their 72-59 victory over Memphis Hamilton in the Class AAA title game.

The next day they came home to a parade and celebration that included congratulations from Mayor Randy Tyree.

This was, after all, the first Knoxville team to win a state hoops championship since Knoxville High School in 1951.

"It was fantastic," recalled George Underwood, a local attorney who was a 6-foot-7 all-tournament selection in Murfreesboro. "It was a really big deal.

"Austin-East had never done it. It was the first time a Knoxville team had won since integration. It was significant on a number of levels and for a number of reasons."

Austin-East thought it had a good shot at a title in 1976 but was bumped off by Oak Ridge in the regional.

Coach Clifford Ross, who died three years ago, wanted his team leaders to see what they were missing. He took Turner and Underwood to Louisville to watch the Kentucky state tournament at Freedom Hall.

"An awesome environment," recalled Underwood. "That was the first time I had ever seen a state championship basketball game in 1977."



WADE PAYNE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

George Underwood, John Festar, Ambrose Kirk and James Bowden, from left, tour the halls of Austin-High school as they recall memories of the Roadrunners' state championship basketball game in 1977.

"It was fantastic. It was a really big deal. Austin-East had never done it. It was the first time a Knoxville team had won since integration. It was significant on a number of levels and for a number of reasons."

George Underwood, local attorney and all-tournament selection from the 1977 Austin-East state championship team.

AUSTIN-EAST

from D1

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"An awesome environment," recalled Underwood. "That was motivating."

So when the 1976-77 season began, Austin-East was a team on a mission.

The only regular-season loss was in a holiday tournament in Kingsport when Turner was absent due to a death in the family.

Some of their games were played at Civic Coliseum because the crowds were too big for the high school gym.

The third big wheel besides Turner and Underwood was guard James Bowden.

"Basically, I was the quarterback," said Bowden, who is in the auto business in Jacksonville, Fla. "I ran the show and looked for the open man."

"We knew we had something special."

Ross demanded discipline but didn't have to yell or rant to get it. Assistant coach John Foster was nicknamed "Shaft" because of his prominent Afro.

Kevin Looney, one of the few underclassmen, kept everybody loose with humor. Foster wasn't the only one with a fashionable 'do. Eric Smith was dubbed "Hollywood" because, Underwood said, he would check the mirror before every game to make sure his Afro was perfect.

The team was led by a large senior class, most of whom had played together at either Vine or Park junior highs. Namon Hall, Greg Jackson and Tyrone Thomas also played strong supporting roles.

"There were no issues or agendas," said Turner, "from the standpoint of who shot the most balls or playing time."

Added Bowden, "We all trusted each other."

"If one person messed up, we could talk to that person, where nowadays you



George Underwood, John Foster, Ambrose Kirk and James Bowden, from left, tour the halls of Austin-High school as they recall memories of the Roadrunners' state championship basketball days in 1977.

"It worked for a half," said Turner, noting the 14-12 halftime score.

A-E dominated the fourth quarter, holding Germantown scoreless, and won 40-23.

The final step was Memphis Hamilton.

"That was the last one standing between us and the gold ball," said Underwood. "We weren't going to be denied."

They weren't. Turner had 23 points, 14 boards. Underwood went out with a bang: 19 points, 19 rebounds. Bowden scored 15 points.

All three were named to the all-tournament team.

After the celebrations calmed down Ross was proud to see 11 of his 12 players eventually get the chance to play college ball on some level, Underwood said.

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Turner said he was recruited by more than 30 schools. The hometown school, however, wasn't one of them.

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He did. Turner went 4-4 against UT during his career, twice helping Ole Miss win in Knoxville. He was first-team All-SEC in 1981 and still holds the Rebels' record for minutes played in a career.

"It was fantastic. It was a really big deal. Austin-East had never done it. It was the first time a Knoxville team had won since integration. It was significant on a number of levels and for a number of reasons."

George Underwood,
local attorney and
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from the 1977 Austin-East
state championship team.

WADE PAYNE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL



NEWS SENTINEL
Elston Turner during his playing days at Austin-East looks at sports clippings of the team's accomplishments. Turner became an All-SEC player at Ole Miss.



WADE PAYNE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL
Ambrose Kirk, from left, John Foster and George Underwood take a moment to talk in the halls of Austin-East High School, where they helped win the 1977 state title in basketball.



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"Austin-East had never done it. It was the first time a Knoxville team had won since integration. It was significant on a number of levels and for a number of reasons."

Austin-East thought it had a good shot at a title in 1976 but was bumped off by Oak Ridge in the regional.

Coach Clifford Ross, who died three years ago, wanted his team leaders to see what they were missing. He took Turner and Underwood to Louisville to watch the Kentucky state tournament at Freedom Hall.

"An awesome environment," recalled Underwood. "That was motivating."

So when the 1976-77 season began, Austin-East was a team on a mission.

The only regular-season loss was in a holiday tournament in Kingsport when Turner was absent due to a death in the family.

Some of their games were played at Civic Coliseum because the crowds were too big for the high school gym.

The third big wheel besides Turner and Underwood was guard James Bowden.

"Basically, I was the quarterback," said Bowden, who is in the auto business in Jacksonville, Fla. "I ran the show and looked for the open man."

"We knew we had something special."

Ross demanded discipline but didn't have to yell or rant to get it. Assistant coach John Foster was nicknamed "Shaft" because of his prominent Afro.

Kevin Looney, one of the few underclassmen, kept everybody loose with humor. Foster wasn't the only one with a fashionable 'do. Eric Smith was dubbed "Hollywood" because, Underwood said, he would check the mirror before every game to make sure his Afro was perfect.

The team was led by a large senior class, most of whom had played together at either Vine or Park junior highs. Namon Hall, Greg Jackson and Tyrone Thomas also played strong supporting roles.

"There were no issues or agendas," said Turner, "from the standpoint of who shot the most balls or playing time."

Added Bowden, "We all trusted each other."

"If one person messed up, we could talk to that person, where nowadays you say constructive criticism to someone and they take it the wrong way."

The second loss came in the district finals when Holston pulled the upset, 49-48, in overtime.

The Roadrunners regrouped to win the region, getting revenge on Holston in the title game, 59-46.

Next was the Sub-State round at Civic Coliseum. Tennessee High was led by star Derrick Hord. With Hall's defense making life difficult for Hord, Austin-East rolled 77-55. On to Murfreesboro.

The first round was easy enough, a 76-59 win over Memphis East. Turner had 20 points and 20 rebounds. Thomas had 10 points off the bench.

The semifinals was the hard one. Germantown let the air out of the ball in hopes of defusing Austin-East's advantages.



George Underwood, John Foster, Ambrose Kirk and James Bowden, from left, tour the halls of Austin-High school as they recall memories of the Roadrunners' state championship basketball days in 1977.

"It worked for a half," said Turner, noting the 14-12 halftime score.

A-E dominated the fourth quarter, holding Germantown scoreless, and won 40-23.

The final step was Memphis Hamilton.

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Turner no longer bears any grudges. He was glad to see Bruce Pearl avidly recruit his son Elston Jr., a 6-4 guard who signed in November with the University of Washington.

In the years since the Roadrunners broke the drought, state titles have remained elusive for Knox County.

Holston won the 1978 Class AA title. The Roadrunners, with Foster succeeding Ross as head coach, won Class AA titles in 1985 and 1987.

Since then, it's been a long, dry spell.

Ross Scholarship: The Ross family initiated the Clifford H. Ross Scholarship in 2005 to help an Austin-East senior basketball player with college expenses. Donors are needed and a reception will be held April 19 at the Casler Branch Y.M.C.A.



NEWS SENTINEL

Elston Turner during his playing days at Austin-East looks at sports clippings of the team's accomplishments. Turner became an All-SEC player at Ole Miss.



WADE PAYNE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

Ambrose Kirk, from left, John Foster and George Underwood take a moment to talk in the halls of Austin-East High School, where they helped win the 1977 state title in basketball.



WADE PAYNE/SPECIAL TO THE NEWS SENTINEL

James Bowden looks at the state championship trophy he helped win at Austin-East High School in 1977.

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George Underwood, local attorney and all-tournament selection from the 1977 Austin-East state championship team.

Foster, Walker Chosen Coaches of Year in KIL

By BILL LUTHER
News-Sentinel Sportswriter

Although the talent may be in hand when a new head coach takes over, high school basketball players don't always perform to their capabilities.

When Austin-East opened its season three months ago, some Roadrunner fans might have had doubts as to whether John Foster would be able to produce another outstanding club following the retirement of Clifford Ross.

The Roadrunners have erased such doubts, if there were any. They stand 26-2 going into the District 4-AAA tournament at Central. A-E has won 15 in a row and is the state's top-ranked AAA club in both wire service polls.

Foster is *The News-Sentinel's* boys' coach of the year in the Knoxville Interscholastic League. Powell's Rick Walker is girls' coach of the year.

Foster was a solid choice, getting eight of 19 first-place votes and totaling 55 points.

Lynn Sexton of Farragut, whose Admirals are 28-1 and winner of 16 straight, placed second with 40 points. Sexton, the 1981 coach of the year, had five first-place votes. Holston's Howard Rash was the No. 1 choice by three coaches and placed third with 17 points.

Bob Mason (2) of Doyle and David Courtney (1) of Central were other coaches receiving first-place votes.

"John Foster stepped into a tough situation," said one coach. "He has some excellent talent, but following on the heels of Clifford

THE VOTING

Votes were tabulated on five points for first, three for second and one for third.

BOYS

Coch—School	1st	2nd	3rd	Ttl.
John Foster, Austin-East	8	5	0	55
Lynn Sexton, Farragut	5	4	2	40
Howard Rash, Holston	3	0	2	17
Bob Mason, Doyle	2	1	2	15
Ron Kerley, Gibbs	0	2	3	9
George Pitts, Bearden	0	2	3	9
David Courtney, Central	1	1	0	8
John Darden, Rule	0	2	1	7
Phil Dawson, Van Gilder	0	0	3	3
Elliott Stroupe, Webb	0	1	0	3
Dick Campbell, Halls	0	0	1	1
Dennis Payne, South-Young	0	0	1	1

Two coaches did not cast second- and third-place votes.

GIRLS

Rick Walker, Powell	10	0	0	50
Dwane Ritter, Gibbs	2	2	0	16
Debbie Jones, West	2	2	0	16
John Hitt, South-Young	1	2	1	12
Trula Kerns, Central	0	3	1	10
Richard Cowan, Bearden	1	1	1	9
Jerry Cannon, Farragut	1	0	3	8
Joe Dooley, Kerns	0	2	1	7
Ken Coe, Doyle	0	1	2	5
Roy Smith, Rule	0	1	1	4
Ed Irvin, Catholic	0	0	1	1
William Anderson, Fulton	0	0	1	1

One coach did not vote. Three did not have second-place choices and five did not vote for third place.

Ross wasn't easy. When a team posts the record (the two losses came to Kentucky teams during a Louisville Christmas tournament) Austin-East has, it has to have more than talent."

In balloting by girls' coaches, Powell's Walker was a runaway victor.

Walker, whose team went 25-2 in regular season, was the No. 1 choice of 10 of his counterparts. Dwane Ritter of Gibbs and Debbie

Jones of West each got two first-place votes, John Hitt of South-Young and Richard Cowan of Bearden one each.

The Powell coach, who shared the award a year ago with Cowan, compiled 50 points. Ritter and Jones each finished with 16 and a tie for second.

A dozen of the 19 boys' coaches and 12 of the 18 girls' leaders received votes.

"In the short time Walker has been at Powell, he has turned that program around," said a District 2-AA coach. "There is no superstar on the team, but there is a lot of balance and the girls complement each other. Rick has done a super job."

KIL teams will be in action in district tourney play tonight — 3-AAA at Halls, 4-AAA at Central, 2-AA at South-Young, 3-AA at Tazewell and 4-A at Tennessee School for the Deaf. The top four teams in each district qualify for regional action next week.

AREA TOURNAMENTS are set for Johnson City (1-AAA boys), Kingsport (1-AAA girls), Greeneville (2-AAA), Athens (5-AAA), Chuckey-Doak (1-AA), Clinton Junior High (4-AA), Loudon (5-AA), North Greene (1-A) and Hiwassee College (3-A). The 2-A event starts Tuesday night at Jellico.

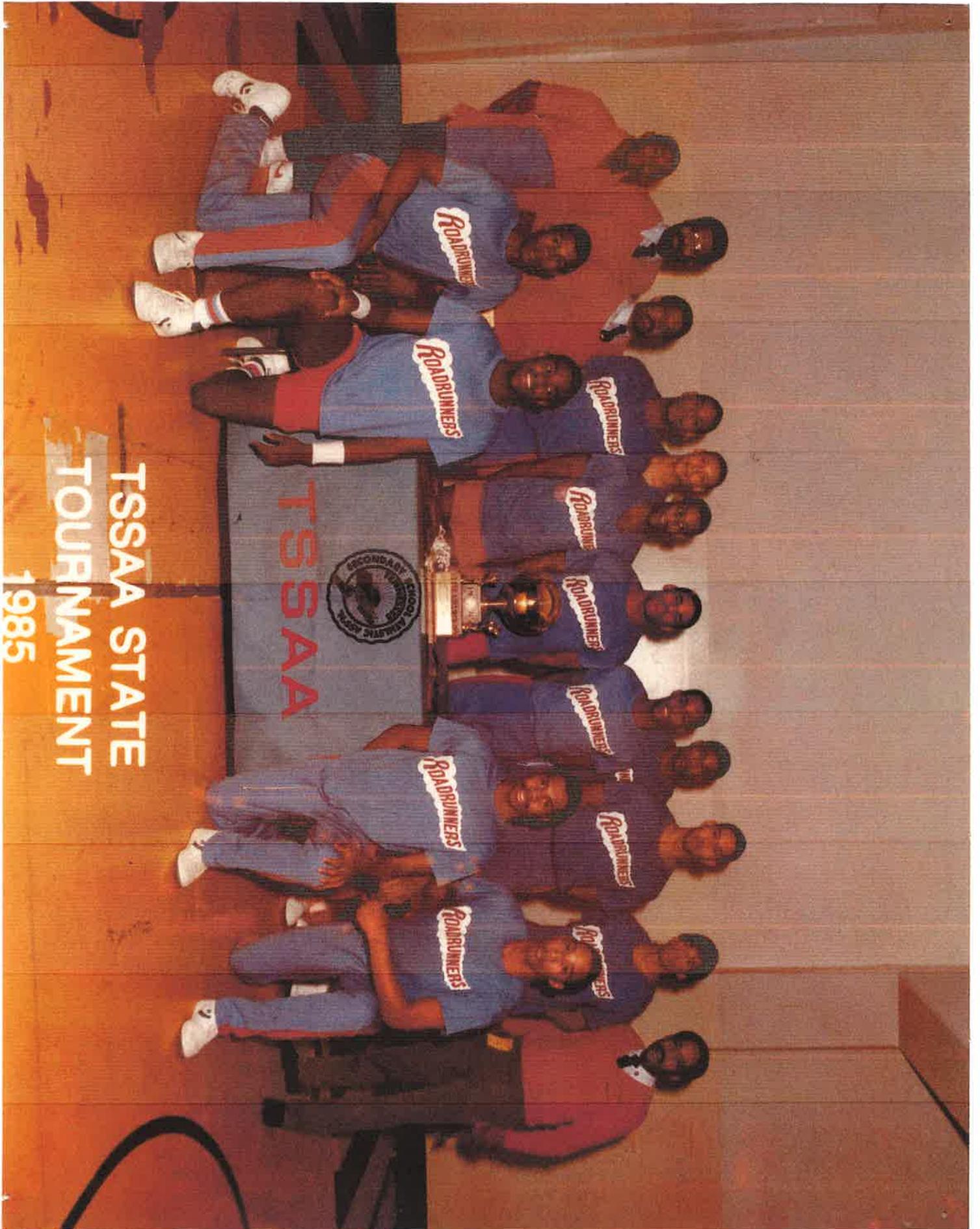
LAKE CITY'S girls enter tournament play as the state's only undefeated team. The 28-0 Lady Lakers play Seymour at 6:30 Tuesday night in District 4-AA.



JOHN FOSTER



RICK WALKER



TSSAA STATE
TOURNAMENT

1985

Foster weathers storm, earns ET coach's award

BY STEVE WILLIAMS
Journal Sportswriter

John Foster, in a way, has an enviable position as head basketball coach at Austin-East. A never-ending stream of talent seems to flow his way every year.

But Foster's job also presents special demands. Roadrunner fans expect a state championship every year. Anything less is not good enough.

Foster felt extra pressure at Austin-East this year. After his team lost to Chattanooga Howard in the Roadrunners' first game in their new gym in January, a petition against Foster was started by some upset A-E fans, according to athletic director Sam Anderson.

"I never saw it (the petition) but I heard about it," said Foster. "I guess somebody thought they could do a better job."

As it turned out, nobody could have done a better job than Foster. Under his direction, the Roadrunners did not lose another game after the loss to Howard and went on to capture the TSSAA Class AA state title in Nashville Saturday night. They finished 33-2.

"I really felt the pressure this year," said Foster. "I guess because we were supposed to win it (the state title)."

For directing the Knoxville Interscholastic League's first state championship team since 1978, Foster has been selected The Journal's KIL and East Tennessee Boys Coach of the Year.

John Hitt, whose South-Yong ball club was the only KIL team to qualify for the Girls' State tourney, is the KIL Girls Coach of the Year.

Greenback's Ken Byrd is the East Tennessee Girls Coach of the Year. His Lady Clerokees went farther down the tournament trail than any other ET team.

"Some people may not agree with how Coach Foster handles the team, but without question, he's the best coach in town," said Anderson. "I feel that way and I think Mr. (Edward C.) Whitehead (school principal) feels that way."

"He may have the best players in town, but so does Kentucky and they don't win the NCAA title every year. He also followed Coach (Clifford) Ross and that's like following Bear Bryant."

"Austin-East fans expect a state championship every year — especially in basketball," Anderson added. "It really has helped Coach Foster to win the state. He's weathered the storm."

Foster, who played at East High and Austin Peay State University, was an assistant for 10 years under Ross before becoming A-E's head coach in 1981-82.

Foster's first team lost to Memphis Central 53-49 in the Class AAA state finals. The next year his Roadrunners were ousted by William Blount in the first round of the regional. His third team lost to eventual Class AA state champion Memphis Kirby 71-57 in the semifinals.



John Foster: sweeps boys' honors

"We had some tough luck in the semifinals and three years ago in the finals," said the 36-year-old Foster after the Roadrunners got the gold with a 68-63 win over Memphis Manassas. "But I think it's an honor just to get to the state. Advancing to the finals is a great accomplishment and winning the state title is the ultimate goal. This is my greatest win."

State of Tennessee
County of Knox



JOE C. FOWLER

Sheriff of Knox County

JOHN B. FOSTER, JR.

BASKETBALL COACH

TO

GREETINGS:

REPOSING FULL TRUST IN YOUR PRUDENCE, INTEGRITY AND ABILITY, I DO, BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER AND AUTHORITY IN ME VESTED AS SHERIFF OF KNOX COUNTY, TENNESSEE, HEREBY COMMISSION YOU AN

*Honorary Deputy Sheriff for
Knox County, Tennessee*

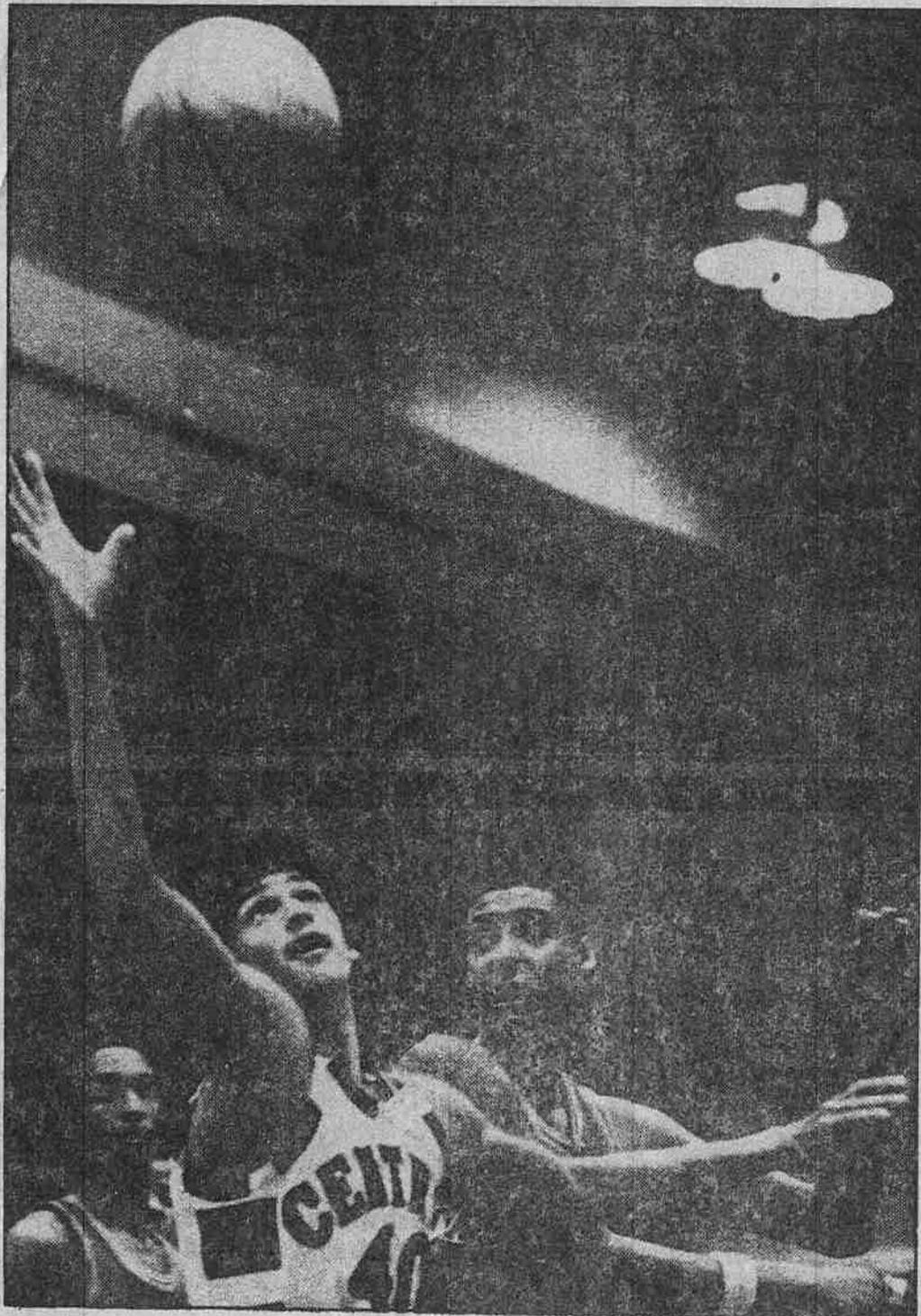
1985 A A BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

In testimony whereof, I have thereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of Knox County, Tennessee, to be affixed at Knoxville, Tennessee, this

TWENTY FOURTH day
of APRIL in the year
of our Lord One Thousand, Nine Hundred
and EIGHTY FIVE



Joe C. Fowler
Sheriff



The Knoxville Journal/SKIP O'ROURKE

A-E streakin' on court, too

By STEVE WILLIAMS
Journal Sports Writer

Another winning streak is in the works at Austin-East.

With the school having just celebrated a state football championship and perfect 14-0 season, the Roadrunner basketballers took over the spotlight Tuesday night and crushed homestanding Central 66-46 for win No. 6.

"I guess you could say basketball season at Austin-East officially opened tonight," said Coach John Foster with a smile. "We had a great year in football. It would be nice if we could match it in basketball."

Don't bet against it. Odds are the perennial powerful Roadrunners will reach the state tournament in their first season of Class AA competition, and from there, who knows?

Foster's young but talented club appeared to be in mid-season form against Central, pulling away in the second half for an easy win.

Rodney Jones, 6-5 junior jumping jack, gunned in 18 points to lead the A-E attack. Ruebin Tipton added 14 and Jeff Harper 13.

The rebuilding Bobcats, now 1-4, got 16 points from junior Richard Hill and 11 from sophomore Mark Majors.

Jones, brother of UT basketballer Rob Jones, is way ahead of

schedule, after skipping football this year.

"I can see a big difference in Rodney, particularly in his coordination and timing and mobility toward the basket," said Foster.

"In the past, when he played football, it would take him until the middle of January to get where he is in basketball now. He's a month and a half ahead of schedule."

Austin-East led by only eight (40-32) when Majors picked up his fourth foul and left the game midway through the third period. The Roadrunners reeled off six straight points and Central never recovered.

"We're still kind of young," said Foster. "(Mark) Penson and Harper are the only two seniors who start and they are leading the team real well right now. We've got the talent, we're just lacking maturity."

The A-E coach is hoping he doesn't have that problem in February and March.

"If our juniors and sophomores mature and we get leadership off the bench from our other two seniors, Ken King and Maurice Lanxter, we could go a long way," Foster said.

AUSTIN-EAST (66): Penson 4, Harper 13, Jones 18, Logan 7, Tipton 14, Lanxter 5, King 2, Montgomery 1, Clemons 2.

CENTRAL (46): Cook 5, Hill 16, Young 2, Majors 11, Mitchell 2, Mull 7, Wolfe 1, Huddleston 2.

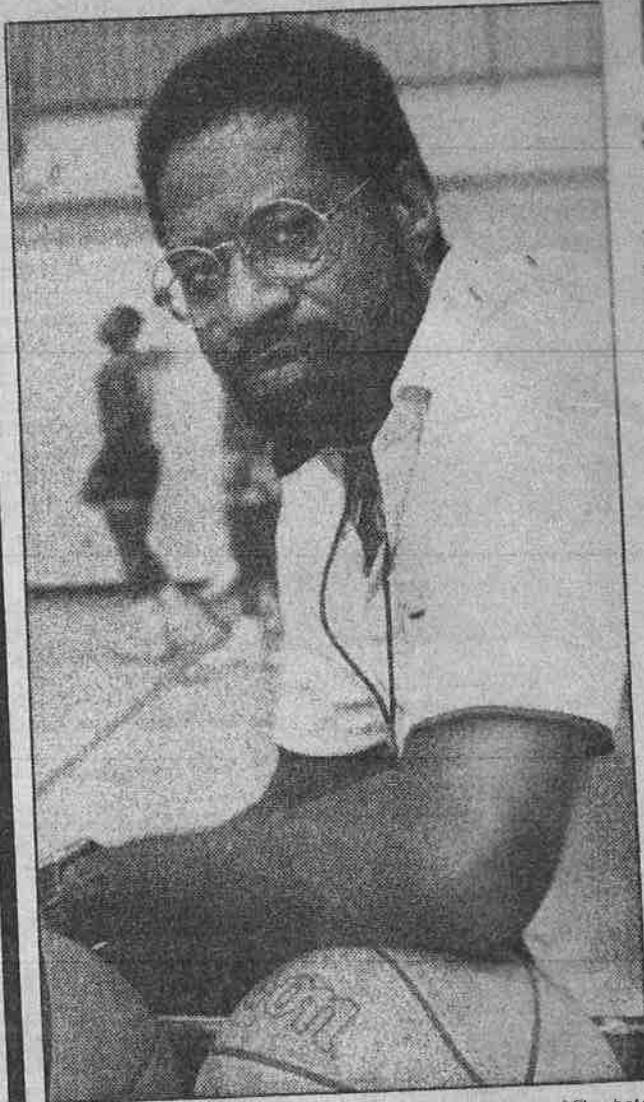
AUSTIN-EAST	17	16	15	18-66
CENTRAL	11	15	11	9-46

ounds and shoot at least 60 percent from the field.

Alford, a 6-2 shooting guard, averaged a team-high 22 points a game in leading Indiana to the Final Four for the first time since 1981.

Smith, 6-3, set a North Carolina record for career assists (767), breaking the mark set by Phil Ford. The flashy point guard led

DRAKE HIRES IBA
Moe Iba was named head coach of Drake University, succeeding Jim Christian, who resigned earlier in the year. Iba, 47, son of legendary State Coach Hank Iba and brother of Coach Gene Iba, had a five seasons at Nebraska.



News-Sentinel file photo

Austin-East Coach John B. Foster made sure the Roadrunners didn't rest easy until they won this season's Class AA state title.

ET continued from page C1

George Pitts, coach at Johnson City Science Hill. "He is the most gifted player I've seen in the three years I've been coaching in the region (I-AAA)."

Said Hayes, a State coach: "He is a really good player."

1984-85 COCA-COLA — TACA COACH OF THE YEAR WINNERS STATE OF TENNESSEE

FOOTBALL

Class A	Mark Medley	Gordonsville High School
Class AA	Bobby Edens	Marshall County High School, Lewisburg
Class AAA	David Alsup	Oakland High School, Murfreesboro

CROSS COUNTRY

Boys	Jim McNamee	Oak Ridge High School
Girls	Bill Parker	Farragut High School, Knoxville

GOLF

Boys	Bubba Lockett	Christian Brothers High School, Memphis
Girls	Herb Hawkes	Greeneville High School

VOLLEYBALL

Sherry Hooks	Sullivan South High School, Kingsport
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BOYS BASKETBALL

Class A	Joe Branch	Bolton High School, Arlington
Class AA	John Foster	Austin-East High School, Knoxville
Class AAA	Robert Newman	Melrose High School, Memphis
	Billy Mayfield	Giles County High School, Pulaski

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Class A	Lamar Rogers	Clarkrange High School
Class AA	Tommy Colvin	Humboldt High School
Class AAA	Robert Newman	Memphis Melrose High School
	Billy Mayfield	Giles County High School, Pulaski

WRESTLING

Gordon Connell	McCallie School, Chattanooga
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SOFTBALL

Class A	Terry Austin	Skyview Academy, Memphis
Class AA	Pat Woolsey	Chattanooga Central High School, Harrison
Class AAA	Dudley Boston	Germantown High School

BASEBALL

Class A	Wade Mitchell	Webb School, Knoxville
Class AA	Gary Rundles	Chattanooga Central High School, Harrison
Class AAA	Mike Ritz	Sullivan North High School, Kingsport

BOYS TRACK

Class A-AA	John R. Atkins	Howard High School, Chattanooga
Class AAA	Jim Nollner	White's Creek High School, Nashville

GIRLS TRACK

Class A-AA	Joe Brock	Collierville High School
Class AAA	Tommy Griffith	Overton High School, Nashville
	Lisa Sanders	Overton High School, Nashville

BOYS TENNIS

Bill Taylor	Memphis University School
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GIRLS TENNIS

Judy Burke	Girls Preparatory School, Chattanooga
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ATHLETIC DIRECTORS

David Cawood	Bradley Central High School, Chattanooga
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A-E, Rule vie at Coliseum tonight

Little Bears aim for 'big' victory

By STEVE WILLIAMS
Journal Sports Writer

Rule's small but talented Golden Bears will be trying to snap a six-game losing streak to Austin-East when the two undefeated prep powers clash tonight at the Civic Coliseum.

"We haven't beaten A-E since 1978," said Coach Johnny Darden prior to the Golden Bears' practice session Thursday. "That was the first season we went to the state (AA) finals. Our starters on that team were Dennis Johnson, Rick Campbell, Chris Thompson, Clifton Jackson and Mike Cofer. That was some time ago."

The Roadrunners' dominance of their cross-town rivals could extend to seven games, unless Rule



Foster



Chapman

can find a way to offset Austin-East's size advantage. The Bears will open with a frontline that measures only 6-2½, 6-2, 6-2½ compared to A-E's 6-6½, 6-4½, 6-3.

The tipoff will be at 8. A girls' preliminary starts at 6:30. Admission is \$2.50. Austin-East brings a 7-0 record into the clash. Rule is 4-0.

"This is always a big game for both teams," said new A-E Coach John Foster. "We usually draw around 3,000 for the first game of the season between the two teams."

Darden said district games are more important, but a win over Austin-East means you can play. "It's a big game," he said. "A-E always has one of the best teams around."

The Roadrunners will open with Rob Jones (6-6½) and Lewis Logan (6-4½) on the posts, William Clinkscales (6-3) and Anthony Logan (6-2) on the wings and 5-11 Eric Hill at the point. Rule will have 5-8 Tony Mapp at point guard, 6-2½ James Chapman and either Kevin Patterson or Barry Mann at the

state. "Without him, we would be hurting," says A-E Coach John Foster.

While Jones sticks out on the boards, Chapman does his thing in a less conspicuous manner. He's a behind-the-scenes type player.

"James is probably our best all around player," says Coach Darden. "He's a good shooter, our second best rebounder and he usually guards the opposing team's best outside player. He's very valuable."

Chapman, who collapsed unexpectedly during state tourney action last season, now has "a clean bill of health," according to Darden. "He's not had any other problems since then. As far as I know, what happened to him was caused by stress plus fatigue and the excitement of the game."

Darden is concerned about the inside matchups.

"They are probably the strongest where we are the weakest," said the Rule coach, referring to the inside game. Darden says his Golden Bears must stay in position, box out and help out each other.

"The secret, if there is one, is to play a containment type defense," he said. "We'll try to cut off the second and third shot. If we can do that and maintain offensive consistency, then we'll have a chance to win."

Foster said he wasn't sure his club had that much of a size advantage. "When I saw them in the jamboree, they looked more like they were in the 6-3 to 6-5 range. Maybe they jump bigger than they look. They're going to be real tough for us to beat."



ROB JONES
Austin-East leader