



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Basketball Greats Honored with Retired Jerseys



Harmonie King Franklin, Whitney Lee and Ryan Steger

Three exceptional Montgomery County High School alumni were honored during the 2013-14 basketball season with the retirement of their jerseys. Basketball standouts **Harmonie King Franklin, Whitney Lee** and **Ryan Steger** were recognized on January 3rd when the Indians faced Clark County.

Jersey retirements are prestigious and reserved for the best of the best. Harmonie, Whitney and Ryan join Beth Vice Barrier (basketball), Billy Ray Fawns (basketball), Mary Ratliff (softball), and Drew Lee (baseball), whose jerseys were previously retired and hung in the Montgomery County High School Arena Lobby.

During the ceremony, each athlete was presented with a recognition plaque by one of their former coaches. A reception was held prior to the ceremony.

The three honorees' highlights include:



L-R: Former coaches Mark Crain and Mike Kindred, Athletic Director Gene Heffington, and former coaches Hopey Newkirk and Bart Rison.

Harmonie King Franklin

Harmonie King, a.k.a. #22, thrilled Indian fans with her talent and ability from 1996 – 1999, boasting a high school record of 146 wins. Her impressive career stats include 1,833 points, 671 assists, and 407 steals. During her years as an MCHS Indian, the team was undefeated in 40th district and 10th region play for four consecutive years, state semi-finalists for two years (98, 99), and state runner-up in 1998.



Individually, Harmonie was named as Miss Kentucky Basketball Runner-Up in 1999 and selected for the State Tournament All-Tourney Team in 1998 and 1999. She was also chosen for the Kentucky Junior All-Star Team, Kentucky-Indiana All-Star Team, All-State 1st Team, Pickerington, Ohio Classic All-Tournament Team, and received an Honorable Mention All-American. She was named as the Co-MVP of the Berea Holiday Tournament and the Louisville Invitational Tournament. The high school coaches and assistant coaches under whose leadership Harmonie flourished include: Mike Kindred, Tracy Kindred, Mark Allen Crain, Sondi Eden, Hopey Newkirk, and Lea Prewitt.

Harmonie is the daughter of Larkin and Sandra King. She cites spending time with her brother Cornell as her fondest high school memory, and lists Mrs. Kim Barnes and English as her favorite teacher and subject. Her best high school basketball story involves another honoree, Whitney Lee, when the team was playing in the 1998 State Tournament against Boone County. With 30 seconds left and down by 3 points, Whitney tied the game with a 3-point shot, rebounded the potential winning Boone County shot, and passed it to Harmonie, who was fouled and hit two free throws, winning the game and advancing to the final game of the state tournament. A favorite college team memory was playing in San Juan, Puerto Rico on her 21st birthday.

Following high school graduation she earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Marketing from Saint Louis University, where she also continued her basketball career. She was named the Most Improved Player in 2002 and the Saint Louis University Women's Basketball Co-MVP in 2003. She also received the U. S. Bank Women of Distinction Award in 2003. Her college coaches were Jill Pizzotti, Dan Rolfes, Amy Cherubini, Ty Evans, and Bobbi Morse.

Harmonie proceeded to earn Master's degrees in Business Administration and Management from Fontbonne University in St. Louis, Missouri. She currently resides in St. Louis with her husband, Victor Franklin and her daughter, Sydnie (pictured above). She works as a Senior Sales Consultant for a pharmaceutical corporation, and has received four national awards in her six years of service.

Whitney Lee

Whitney Lee was a star of one of the greatest Lady Indians basketball teams in Montgomery County High School history. She played from 1996 to 1999, and each year the Lady Indians were undefeated in the 40th district and 10th region. The team was state runner up in 1998 and in the state semi-finals in 1998.



Whitney, who is the daughter of Bret and Kathy Lee, was a Miss Kentucky Basketball Runner-Up in 1999. She was selected as a member of the KHSAA State All-Tournament Team in 1998 and 1999, Kentucky-Indiana All-Star Team, 1st Team All State, and Pickerington Ohio Classic All-Tournament Team. She was named Co-MVP of the 1998 Berea Holiday Tournament and 1999 Louisville Invitational Tournament, received an Honorable Mention for All USA High School Girls Basketball, and was the 10th Region Player of the Year in 1999. Additionally, Whitney graduated Summa Cum Laude, in the Top 25 in her graduating class.

Throughout her career, Whitney Lee, who sported the number 42 in both high school and college, is credited with 1,399 rebounds (1st on the All-Time Rebounding List); 1,734 points; a 55% field goal percentage and starting in every college game (101 starts). She attended college at Campbellsville University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's degree in elementary education. On the basketball court the #42 jersey continued to serve her well as she was named NAIA First Team All-American, NAIA Academic All-American, Kodak First Team All-American, Mid-South Conference All Conference, Mid-South Conference Academic All-Conference, and Mid-South Conference Player of the Year. She also received an NAIA All-American Honorable Mention and was the Campbellsville University Career Rebound Leader and a 1,000 Point Club Member.

Whitney, like her former team member Harmonie, cites the win against Boone County in the semi-finals of the 1998 state tournament as her fondest high school basketball memory. Whitney tied the game with a three-point basket with less than 30 seconds remaining. Harmonie, in turn, hit two free throw shots with less than 4 seconds left in the game to claim the win. Her best college basketball memory was breaking the all-time rebounding record on senior day and becoming the all-time leading rebounder. She also lists opening the doors at the EKU McBrier Arena and seeing a sea of red, white and blue supporters for the Lady Indians as a high school favorite.

Influencing her career were Whitney's high school coaches Hopey Newkirk, Lea Prewitt, Mike Kindred, Tracey Kindred, Mark Allen Crain and college coaches Donna Wise, Ginger Colvin and Shannon Wathen, as well as her favorite teacher, Martha Payne. As an academician, her favorite subject was pre-calculus, which perhaps led to her decision to become a teacher. She currently teaches physical education at Mapleton Elementary School.

Ryan Steger

Ryan Steger had an illustrious career as a basketball forward and guard for Montgomery County High School from 1992-1996, and during his college years at Belmont University. With Ryan's help the Indians won four consecutive district titles, one regional championship, and advanced to the state tournament for the first time in history in 1995.

Ryan's numerous high school awards include freshmen rookie of the year, two 110% awards, most improved player, defense player of the year, 10th region MVP, 10th region



player of the year, 1996 Cole Ford Classic Player of the Game, 1996 High School Honorable Mention All-American by Street & Smiths, and McDonalds High School All American. He was selected for the 1996 Ashland Invitational All-Tournament Team, 1996 Louisville Invitational All-Tournament Team and 1996 Kentucky/Indiana All-Star Team. Ryan's records include 4th all-time leading scorer with 1,470 points and 3rd all-time leading rebounder with 764 rebounds. In 1996 he averaged 22 points and 10 rebounds per game.

Ryan, who is the son of Curt and Ann Steger, lists history as his favorite class in high school and his fondest memories of playing are the lifelong friendships he developed with teammates and coaches. He particularly remembers playing in the state tournament in 1995 against Paintsville, when he hit a half-court shot to end the first quarter. His high school coaches were Bart Rison, Phil Rison, Marty Feltner and James Scott, and in college he was coached by Rick Byrd and Casey Alexander.

Belmont University became a Division I, NCAA school in 1996, the year Ryan joined the team as a freshman. He started for the Bruins during all four years of college and scored over 1,000 points during his playing time in Nashville. His Belmont career culminated with a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. The Stegers (pictured above), Ryan and his wife Jenifer, have three children, Will, Ford and Annie. Ryan is proud to serve his community as the President & CEO of Commonwealth Bank.