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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future.

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≡ African American Girls Basketball: Lost to History? ≡

There is little documentation—scant newspaper articles and oral histories—on girls' basketball at African American schools.

Historians have determined that:

- Central Kentucky schools had a tournament as early as 1920.
- In the early days, as with white schools, a limited number of available opponents caused high schools, colleges and other teams to play each other.
- As the number of high school teams grew, schools traveled outside of their towns to play other schools.
- In a few communities, support for girls' basketball was as great as that for boys' basketball.
- African American girls played beyond 1932, the year the Kentucky High School Athletic Association stopped sanctioning girls' basketball. (KHSAA did not sanction sports for African American schools.)



Oliver Hill High School Shebas of Winchester in 1921.
(*University of Kentucky, Special Collections and Research Center.*)

Generally, girls' sports were not documented as well as boys' sports, and after integration in the 1950s, many of their records, trophies and other documentation were destroyed.