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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

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## Basketball Gets Foothold in Kentucky

The exact date basketball arrived in Kentucky is lost, but it definitely was here by 1897. Berea College's newspaper that year urged students to play the game and help increase its popularity.

A report listed basketball as the most popular summer playground game for 12- to 13-year-old girls in Louisville, and by 1904, enough high schools had teams that they could play each other.

People played basketball indoors and outside, year round, on playgrounds and in fields. Anyone could play — regardless of socioeconomic status, gender, race or location. All they needed were a ball and a round hoop—even if it was a bushel basket with the bottom knocked out.



Two boys at Chevy Chase Baptist Church in Lexington, taken in 1953. (*Robert Burns Stone Collection, Kentucky Historical Society.*)