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## Profile: Hazard High School

“Athletics was rarely, if ever, mentioned as an incentive for desegregation, but local teams were often the inadvertent beneficiaries.”\*

Don Smith, Linville Wright and Bobby Baker had played for the Liberty High School Dragons in Hazard, but their school closed, and they became part of the Bulldogs in 1956, helping to turn around Hazard's team. The Bulldogs went from 7 wins and 20 losses for the 1955-56 school year, to 22 wins and 9 losses for the 1956-57 school year.

In 1957, Hazard made history when it entered the Sweet Sixteen® with an integrated team. Although the Bulldogs lost to Pikeville in the quarterfinals, Baker, Wright and Smith broke the Sweet Sixteen® color barrier, which was another significant victory.

\*Author James W. Miller in “Integrated: The Lincoln Institute, Basketball, and a Vanished Tradition.”



The Hazard Bulldogs team, 1956-57. (Photo from the Photographs from Cat Sizemore and the John Farler collection at Hazard Community and Technical College.)