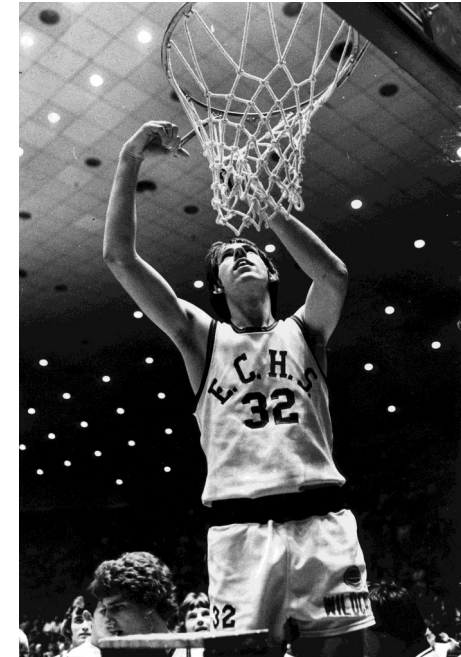## Profile: Edmonson County

Edmonson County High School may be the "team that saved Kentucky's Sweet Sixteen®," at least in its traditional one-title-for-all format. The school in Brownsville, Kentucky, had only 450 students when it won the 1976 title in its only Sweet Sixteen® appearance.

Victory was not a given. Before the tournament began, the Courier-Journal ranked Edmonson 14 of the 16 teams, and the team advanced to the finals with only a one-point win over Shelby County.

The championship game, however, was not close. Edmonson County won over Christian County 74-52.

In winning, the rural team broke a streak of titles going to schools in large cities (Louisville and Owensboro), and it may have swayed a vote to determine the future of the tournament.

Kentucky High School Athletic Association member schools were set to vote on whether to keep one tournament for all schools later that spring. The results came out 119 to 110 in favor. Some say without Edmonson's win, it would not have gone that way.

Mark Hennion scored 25 points in Edmonson County's win over Christian County for the state title. *(Photo courtesy of the Herald-Leader, KYphotoArchive.com.)*