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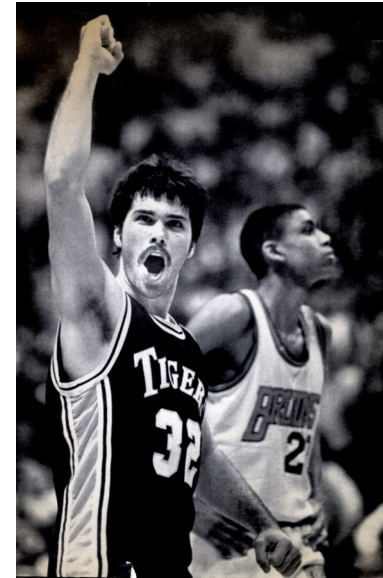
Urban-Rural Divide: Ballard vs. Clay County

The urban-rural divide is real and shows up in many areas, even Kentucky high school basketball. One of the most iconic urban-rural match-ups in recent history is that between Louisville's Ballard High School and Clay County High School. Despite the differences in their student body size and the wealth of their communities and school districts, on the basketball court, the two schools were evenly matched:

- 1987: Clay County, coached by the legendary Bobby Keith, beat Ballard, under Scotty Davenport, by three points in overtime to win the state championship.
- 1988: Clay County again prevailed in a semifinal game of the Louisville Invitational tournament, winning by four points in double overtime.
- 1988: Ballard won a rematch in the state championship game by nine points.

There is only a two-point difference between each team's three-game total score.

The rivalry between Ballard and Clay County was strong, but so was the respect the coaches and players from each school had for their opponents. After their 1988 championship meeting, they even went on to have a pre-season scrimmage against each other for the next nine years.



Richie Farmer, foreground, and Alan Houston, background, were key players for Clay County and Ballard, respectively, in the three games the teams played in 1987 and 1988. (Photo courtesy of the *Herald-Leader*, KYphotoArchive.com.)