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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

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KHSAA Drops Girls' Tournament Play

Kentucky High School Athletic Association members voted 70 to 45 to strike language about girls in tournament play from the KHSAA guidelines during its spring 1932 meeting.*

The meeting's minutes explain the vote's ramifications:

"This means that there will be no girls' district, regional, or state tournaments next year. It does not prevent schools from scheduling and playing girls' basket ball games, or participating in invitational girls' tournaments, under the regulations and eligibility rules of the association."

There is no record of the reason for the decision, but historians and others think such factors as concern about girls' health, scarce resources during the economic depression, overworked coaches who coached both girls and boys and inappropriate relationships between girls and male coaches might have contributed to it.

*The motion came from W.C. "Bede" Thomason, Georgetown High School coach, whose girls' team had a 164-29 record, including four state championship appearances, three finals' and the 1925 championship. His boys' team had a 140-67 record and did not win a state title.



The 1929-30 girls' basketball team from Trapp High School in Winchester. (William B. Ogden Studio Negatives, Kentucky Historical Society.)