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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

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Profile: Louisville Central

Central High in Louisville went to every Kentucky High School Athletic League state tournament from 1932 to 1956, winning the championship five times and coming in second five times.

Coach William L. Kean led the Yellow Jackets from 1923 to 1958. In that time, the school won 800 games, including three national championships.

Under coach Robert Graves, himself a graduate of Louisville Central who had played under Kean, Central won the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Sweet Sixteen® in 1969.

Central was the first historically black school to win that title. The Yellow Jackets claimed the title again in 1974.

Central opened in 1870 and had a basketball team as early as 1913 (even though it did not have a gymnasium at that time).



The 1926 Central High basketball team. (1926 Central High yearbook, KHS collections.)