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100 W. Broadway, Frankfort KY

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) educates and engages the public through Kentucky's history in order to confront the challenges of the future.

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Profile: Butch Beard

Butch Beard, a 1965 graduate of Breckinridge County High School, was the first African American the University of Kentucky tried to recruit. At the time, the SEC did not recruit African Americans.

UK's efforts were unsuccessful. Beard went to the University of Louisville.

Under Beard's leadership, Breckinridge County went to the 1964 Sweet Sixteen® and lost the championship game to Seneca High School.

Beard and his team returned in 1965 and beat Covington Holy Cross for the state title. Beard scored 30 points in the 95-73 win, and was All-State and All-State Tournament as a junior and a senior. He was Mr. Basketball in 1965.

Beard is in the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame and the Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame.



(Photo courtesy of the Kentucky High School Basketball Hall of Fame.)