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## Profile: Robert Graves

Robert Graves was the first African American coach to win the Sweet Sixteen.®

He claimed that distinction in 1969, four years after he became coach at Louisville Central High School. But that was not his *first* state championship title. Graves played on the Central team that won the Kentucky High School Athletic League state title in 1956.

Graves also helped to open the Kentucky High School Athletic Association to black officials. After a close loss to Anderson County in the 1971 Sweet Sixteen®, during which he felt the officiating was biased against his team, the NAACP filed a lawsuit on Graves' behalf in federal court. The resulting federal decree required KHSAA to recruit black officials, train them and give them opportunities to officiate games.

Graves coached at Central until 1985. He had a career 445 wins, including another state championship in 1974, and 116 losses. Graves is in the Dawahares KHSAA Hall of Fame.



*(Photo courtesy of John C. Wyatt Lexington Herald-Leader collection, University of Kentucky, Special Collections and Research Center.)*