



Presented by



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.

KHS, an agency of the Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet, is fully accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian affiliate.



Becoming the Sweet Sixteen®



The Sweet Sixteen® was 14 years in the making.

The first Kentucky High School Athletic Association-sponsored state tournament took place in 1918.

The tournament was invitational, the same as it had been for the first two contests. Centre College again provided the facilities, team lodging and a trophy; KHSAA provided the rules of eligibility, officials and marketing.

The tournament moved to Lexington in 1920 and remained an invitational until 1921, the year, KHSAA instituted "sectional tournaments" to decide which teams would advance to the finals.

It took KHSAA a few years to work out the tournament process. By 1932, the organization had settled on 16 regions (each divided into four districts) and a system whereby district tournament winners advanced to the regional tournament and those winners advanced to the state tournament.

The Sweet Sixteen® had arrived.



The University of Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum during the opening game of the Sweet Sixteen® in 1953. (Photo courtesy of the Herald-Leader, KYphotoArchive.com.)