

HIGH IMPACT

Influence that has reached the High School, State and Collegiate Level

by Ellen Wilfong

Coach Bill Self, Sr., was familiar with the State Fair Arena, which is now known as the Big House. But, when he walked in with his team back in 1966, his country girls' eyes were as big as half dollars. He told them to look at the arena. "I said to look around at everything." He expounded further, "Check out the stands, the court, the lights, or whatever else you need to see. Look at everything now and get it out of your system. Because when it's time for our game, I don't want anyone looking around at parents, friends, or anything else in here. That's the time to focus on our goal." The Morris team understood what he meant and tried their best not to be overwhelmed by how different it was than the gym back home.

Since this was the first year for basketball to be played at the State Fair Arena, there were some wrinkles to iron out. Coach Self describes the situation saying, "The OSSAA had hired a group to run the tournament that knew nothing about basketball. A city worker had actually installed one of the basketball goals upside down." Although they got that fixed right away, Self points out, "That's just one example of their lack of knowledge about the sport and shows that the group the OSSAA had hired really had no business running a basketball tournament, especially not one of this magnitude."

According to Self, dressing rooms wouldn't be unlocked when they were supposed to be, and the arena leaked in different places. Another example of the hiccups they experienced that first year happened when the Morris team was going out to warm up. They had given different colored passes to coaches and players. "My girls and the assistant coach had the right colored passes, and they had already gone onto the court." Self explains, "But, when I tried to join them, the guy they hired to run the gate wouldn't let me through because he said I had the wrong colored pass." Expressing increasing frustration, Self says, "I could literally see my team out there warming up, but this guy would not let me out to coach them because someone had given me the wrong colored pass!" After a brief pause, Self says, "We had words for a while, and I won't tell exactly what I said... but eventually he did let me through."

Another problem arose because the Morris team had gotten new uniforms that year. He says, "The uniforms were really sharp, orange and black uniforms." Morris had never had an issue

wearing them before. But, when they were playing Sterling in the finals, both teams had the same colored uniforms. "We had to wear our old uniforms..." Self explains, "which wouldn't have been a problem except there had been a rule change that year, and the colors on our numbers didn't comply with that change." Because of the violation, Morris had to start the game with a technical foul. Coach Self laughs as he says, "I can remember that game like it was yesterday. The Sterling coach pretty much begged them not to enforce it, saying it would only serve to get us fired up." After a brief pause, Self continues, "And he was right."

The Morris team was a talented group of girls, and according to Coach Self, their confidence was really built earlier in the season when they beat Bixby. They had beaten Bixby in 3 overtimes at Morris the year before. But in 1966, a year later, with the same players on both teams, Morris beat them pretty convincingly. "I remember the score was 75-38 at the end of the 3rd quarter, and our subs played the rest of the game." Self continues, "That win really boosted their confidence."



BILL SELF, SR. - 1966

"We had a lot of very talented players, but Carol Lane was definitely the star." Coach Self continues, "...And on that day, she could hardly miss." Self asks, "Did you know Carol was nearly blind?" She wasn't actually blind, but apparently couldn't see good at a distance. According to Coach Self and his wife, Margaret, Carol's vision was so bad, she couldn't see the score board when she was at the other end of the court. "She would yell over and ask what the score was," her coach explained. Carol needs over 3 diopters of correction for near sightedness, which you would assume would have affected her on the court. Although, most of their points were scored on the screen and roll,

Carol could shoot really long shots, too. Self says, "Because of her vision, she had to look down at the court and evaluate the distance before she shot from very far. But she just had such a smooth and natural release, she could really knock them down."

There were a lot of girls on their team who were good, but Self says they were all very different. Self confesses, "They were actually kind of difficult to coach, to be completely honest, just because their personalities and backgrounds were so different." When asked if their differences caused drama or division, Coach Self stressed, "Not at all. I wouldn't have allowed that."

Determined not to allow jealousy, bickering or anything that might cause division, Self made the decision to have closed practices. He did not even allow parents to come watch. This may seem harsh to some, but according to Carol Lane, Coach Self's no nonsense approach to team unity was vital to their success.

Patsy Hill was the star for Sterling. She shot long shots, and was making most of hers. Coach Self remembers telling Rita Foster, who was guarding her, "Come out another foot on her to stop her from shooting! I must have yelled that 8 to 10 times," Self said. When Rita got out far enough, Patsy missed some of her shots. Morris was hitting almost everything so the Morris side of the scoreboard was moving ahead.

Bill Self, Sr. only coached high school basketball for 4 years. After winning the State Championship in 1966, he stepped down as the coach. Self actually served as the Superintendent for Morris Schools starting the fall of 1965, until he resigned to open a school supply business in Stillwater. He went on to be superintendent again at another school before going to work at the OSSAA. He remained at the OSSAA for 27 1/2 years, serving as the Executive Secretary for the association 1991 thru 1999.

In regards to the Big House, Self says that during his time as Executive Secretary, it became increasingly embarrassing to have the tournament there. "We continued to have leaks all over the building. They would fix one, and another seemed to pop up somewhere else. The city just didn't seem to fix things like they should." So, Self says he put out feelers to see if there was any interest in moving the tournament somewhere else. There was none. "Those small schools were dead set on playing in that barn," Self says, "...so we kept it there and I'm glad we did."

Another thing Self says that he did as Executive Secretary was hire Charles Hatley. The games up to that point were pretty quiet. When the games had been played at the Municipal Auditorium, school bands filled the game with music. The only music they had up to that time at the Big House was the playing

of the national anthem. "When I hired him," Self explained, "I asked him to put a little jive in this thing and get people rockin'." Self emphasized, "He played Sweet Georgia Brown and songs like that which really made the state tournament experience more lively." Self added, "I hated to see him retire a couple of years ago, because he always did a great job."

Bill Self, Sr., lives with his wife Margaret in Edmond, OK. They enjoy attending the sporting events that their family members participate in, especially watching their son, Bill Self, Jr., coach the University of Kansas Men's Basketball team.



Bill Self, Sr. and Bill Self Jr.

A few years ago, when the 2013 class was inducted into the Oklahoma Sports Hall of Fame at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Bill Self, Sr. had the privilege of presenting his son, who is one of the nation's top college basketball coaches.

When Bill Self, Jr., was asked by Mike Baldwin during an interview for the *Daily Oklahoman* about why he chose his father to present him, he had this to say: "I thought about Coach (Eddie) Sutton, but his health isn't real good right now," said the KU coach. "Others suggested people like (Dick) Vitale. My answer was, 'Why wouldn't I have the person who had the biggest influence on me present me?' It was a no-brainer asking my dad." Bill Self, Jr. went on to say, "No person, no matter who I've been around, has been more positive or a bigger influence on me than my father."

Bill Self, Sr.'s, impact was seen through coaching a group of high school girls to come together to win the State Championship, which was the highest level of achievement that was possible for them. His example has inspired players like Carol Lane Tiger to follow his lead in coaching other high school athletes in achieving greatness. But, perhaps his most notable contribution is that he continues to inspire his son to do the same but at the collegiate level. Bill Self, Jr.'s, KU Men's Basketball team earned the highest honor for a collegiate team when they won the NCAA National Championship in 2008 and are currently one of the topped ranked teams in the nation.

Whether it's life lessons learned by the teams he coached, by his son, or those who dealt with him while at the OSSAA, Bill Self, Sr.'s, influence continues to impact those who are influencing others.

1966 CLASS B GIRLS

QUARTERFINALS @ Northwest HS

MORRIS 59, WAKITA 54

| | | | | | |
|--------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Morris | 5 | 19 | 20 | 15 | -59 |
| Wakita | 17 | 13 | 17 | 7 | -54 |

Morris (26-1) - Rita Foster 0, Laura Price 0, Guards - Janet Russell 0, Marsha Broadhead 5, Deloris Herriage 20, Carol Lane 34 - *Coach : Bill Self*
 Wakita (22-4) - Shirley Alden 0, Carol Cordray 0, Susan Sutton 0, Guards - Sheryl Feist 0, Marie Pierce 9, Marilyn Feely 11, Marcia Cantrell 34 - *Coach : Kenneth Beal*

OOLOGAH 60, ALLEN 46

| | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Oologah | 16 | 20 | 16 | 8 | -60 |
| Allen | 13 | 7 | 14 | 12 | -46 |

Oologah (25-3) - LaRea Penner 0, Betty Vanderpool 0, Phyllis Wallis 0, Guards - Kitty Dillion 0, Coeta Parker 0, Sherylen Carter 0, Phyllis Jordan 2, Schwaesdall 2, Loretta Thomason 26, Kay Brazeal 30 - *Coach : Doc Bennett*
 Allen (24-3) - Elissa Hughes 0, Janice Stinson 0, Guards - Pam Cozad 0, Sharon Matthews 12, Janice Jones 12, Rita Hughes 22 - *Coach : Bob Somerhalter*

STERLING 69, WELLSTON 56

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Sterling | 16 | 20 | 15 | 18 | -69 |
| Wellston | 17 | 19 | 8 | 12 | -56 |

Sterling (28-2) - Phyllis Butler 0, Loretta Mancino 0, Guards - Jackie Pinchback 0, Joyce Nunley 18, Patsy Hill 25, Rose High 26 - *Coach : JD McLemore*
 Wellston (22-6) - Nancy Davenport 0, Shirley Caldwell 0, Guards - Jane Martin 0, Anita Williams 11, Chris Stein 12, Angela Burleson 33 - *Coach : Don Willis*

COLBERT 46, SNYDER 43

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|---------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Colbert | 21 | 6 | 5 | 14 | -46 |
| Snyder | 17 | 10 | 3 | 13 | -43 |

Colbert (29-2) - Betty Gary 0, Marsha Jordan 0, Joyce Thompson 0, Odessa Story 0, Guards - Lavern Story 0, Liz Thompson 0, Marquita Kinny 0, Serlina White 7, Teresa Harkison 13, Jerrie Washer 26 - *Coach : Wayne Merryman*
 Snyder (22-6) - Vallis Davis 0, Patty Hamilton 0, Guard - Joan Adams 0, Janice Anderson 4, Marilyn Kelly 10, Kathy Kuns 14, Esther Tubbs 15 - *Coach : Don Muse*

SEMIFINALS @ State Fair Arena

MORRIS 52, OOLOGAH 49 - 2OT

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|---|---|-----|
| Morris | 13 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 0 | 5 | -52 |
| Oologah | 14 | 11 | 9 | 13 | 0 | 2 | -49 |

Morris (27-1) - Laura Price 0, Rita Foster 0, Guards - Janet Russell 0, Marsha Broadhead 6, Deloris Herriage 16, Carol Lane 30 - *Coach : Bill Self*
 Oologah (25-4) - LaRea Penner 0, Betty Vanderpool 0, Phyllis Wallis 0, Guards - Kitty Dillion 0, Kay Brazeal 14, Phyllis Jordan 16, Loretta Thomason 19 - *Coach : Doc Bennett*

STERLING 61, COLBERT 53

| | | | | | |
|----------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Sterling | 19 | 11 | 16 | 15 | -61 |
| Colbert | 17 | 19 | 10 | 7 | -53 |

Sterling (29-2) - Virginia Ramsey 0, Lynn Shoemann 0, Phyllis Butler 0, Loretta Mancino 0, Guards - Jackie Pinchback 0, Rose High 10, Joyce Nunley 13, Patsy Hill 38 - *Coach : JD McLemore*
 Colbert (29-3) - Gail Rambo 0, Ashley Jackson 0, Betty Gary 0, Marsha Jordan 0, Joyce Thompson 0, Odessa Story 0, Guards - Lavern Story 0, Marquita Kinny 0, Serlina White 11, Jerrie Washer 20, Teresa Harkison 22 - *Coach : Wayne Merryman*

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME @ State Fair Arena

| Morris | FG-AT | FT-AT | RB | PF | TP |
|------------------|-------|-------|----|----|----|
| Carol Lane | 10 25 | 9 10 | 7 | 4 | 29 |
| Deloris Herriage | 8 15 | 9 10 | 4 | 2 | 25 |
| Marsha Broadhead | 2 4 | 7 10 | 2 | 0 | 11 |
| Laura Price | 0 0 | 0 0 | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| Rita Foster | 0 0 | 0 0 | 9 | 4 | 0 |
| Janet Russell | 0 0 | 0 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 20 44 | 25 30 | 28 | 12 | 65 |
| Sterling | FG-AT | FT-AT | RB | PF | TP |
| Patsy Hill | 18 40 | 8 12 | 4 | 5 | 44 |
| Rose High | 3 6 | 2 3 | 6 | 1 | 8 |
| Lynn Shoemann | 3 4 | 0 0 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Janet Johnson | 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Phyllis Butler | 0 0 | 0 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Loretta Mancino | 0 0 | 0 0 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Virginia Ramsey | 0 0 | 0 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Jackie Pinchback | 0 0 | 0 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 |
| Joyce Nunley | 0 6 | 0 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTALS | 24 56 | 10 16 | 28 | 23 | 58 |

Morris (28-1) 13 12 19 21 - 65
 Sterling (29-3) 6 16 14 22 - 58
 Coaches : Bill Self (Morris) - JD McLemore (Sterling)

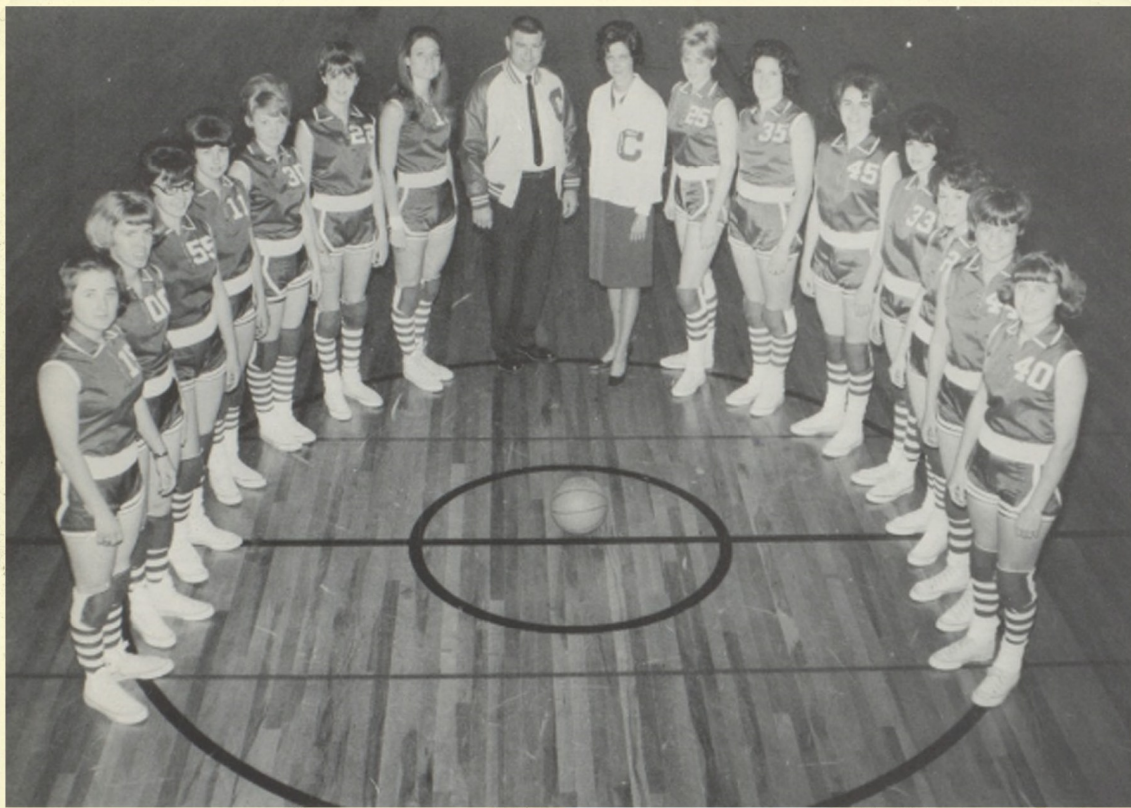
TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Top ranked Morris (26-1) overcame a 17-5 deficit after the first quarter, on 2 of 13 shooting, and avenged their only loss of the season by defeating Wakita 59-54. Morris was led by Carol Lane who scored 34 and Deloris Herriage added 20.
- Allen made their first appearance in the state tournament with a 24-2 record but they could not overcome the one-two punch of Kay Brazeal and Loretta Thomason. Combining for 56 of Oologah's 60 points, Brazeal scored 30 and Thomason 26 as the Lady Mustangs advanced to the semifinals with a 60-46 win. Rita Hughes led Allen with 22.
- Wellston's Angela Burleson scored a game high 33 points, but it was the combination of 51 points by Sterling's Rose High (26) and Patsy Hill (25) that proved to be the winning combo as Sterling advanced to the semifinals with a 69-56 win over Wellston.
- Colbert brought a 28-2 record into the state tournament and added one more with a 46-43 victory over Snyder. The game started off on a fast pace with Colbert leading 21-17 after one but things slowed down for the rest of the game. Jerrie Washer led Colbert with 26 points and Ester Tubbs led Snyder with 15 in the loss.
- Offense makes the papers but defense wins games. Morris got both in the semis against Oologah. Carol Lane, once again, led her team with 30 points but it was two key steals by guard Rita Foster that proved to be the difference. Foster's steals came at key times at the end of regulation and the first OT. Both kept Morris in the game and were key in the victory. Oologah had two shots at the end of the first OT to win but both rimmed out. Lane and Deloris Herriage hit key free throws in the second OT and Morris went on to win 52-49 and advance to their second championship game in three years. Loretta Thomason led Oologah with 19 points in the loss.
- Sterling, paced by Patsy Hill's 38 points, finished the game outscoring Colbert 22-9 as Sterling advanced to their first ever state championship game with a 61-53 win. Hill shot 12 of 29 from the field and 14 of 21 from the free throw line in the win. Teresa Harkison led Colbert with 22 and Jerrie Washer added 20.
- Morris, without a senior on the team, started off looking like a veteran team by jumping out to a seven point lead and holding Sterling's leading scorer, Patsy Hill, to 1 of 11 shooting. Carol Lane and Deloris Herriage led the way throughout the game by combining for 54 points. But when the fourth quarter started, so did Sterling's Patsy Hill. Hill scored all 22 of Sterling's fourth quarter points and was hot enough from the field to pull her team to within two points of Morris with a score of 60-58 at the 1:34 mark. But it was Lane and Herriage matching Hill's scoring binge from the free throw line. Both ended the game going 9 for 10 from the line as Morris got the school's first state championship with a 65-58 win over Sterling. Carol Lane ended the night with a team high 29 points on 10 of 25 shooting, and Sterling's Patsy Hill finished with 44 points on 18 of 40 shooting. Rita Foster led all rebounding at the guard end with nine rebounds for Morris.
- Morris finished the season 28-1 and have accumulated a 87-3 record over the past three season. In 1967, they would go undefeated at 27-0 to finish with a four year record of 114-3.
- Sterling's Patsy Hill finished the tournament with a record 107 points. Games of 25, 38 and 44. The 44 points in the championship game is also a state tournament record.
- Guards - Kitty Dillion (Oologah), Kay Brazeal (Oologah), Marcia Cantrell (Wakita), Deloris Herriage (Morris), Nancy Davenport (Wellston), Angela Burleson (Wellston), Guards - Jackie Pinchback (Sterling), Rita Foster (Morris), Carol Lane (Morris), Esther Tubbs (Snyder), Odessa Story (Colbert), Patsy Hill (Sterling)

TOURNAMENT POINTS SCORED

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 107 - Patsy Hill (Sterling) | 18 - Phyllis Jordan (Oologah) |
| 93 - Carol Lane (Morris) | 15 - Esther Tubbs (Snyder) |
| 61 - Deloris Herriage (Morris) | 14 - Kathy Kuns (Snyder) |
| 46 - Jerrie Washer (Colbert) | 12 - Sharon Matthews (Allen) |
| 45 - Loretta Thomason (Oologah) | 12 - Janice Jones (Allen) |
| 44 - Rose High (Sterling) | 12 - Chris Stein (Wellston) |
| 44 - Kay Brazeal (Oologah) | 11 - Marilyn Feely (Wakita) |
| 35 - Teresa Harkison (Colbert) | 11 - Anita Williams (Wellston) |
| 34 - Marcia Cantrell (Wakita) | 10 - Marilyn Kelly (Snyder) |
| 33 - Angela Burleson (Wellston) | 9 - Marie Pierce (Wakita) |
| 31 - Joyce Nunley (Sterling) | 6 - Lynn Shoemann (Sterling) |
| 22 - Rita Hughes (Allen) | 4 - Janice Anderson (Snyder) |
| 22 - Marsha Broadhead (Morris) | 2 - Schwaesdall (Oologah) |
| 18 - Serlina White (Colbert) | |

1966 CLASS A GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS : COMANCHE



Phyllis Martin, Niki Ledford, Donna Combs, Rhonda Talley, Belinda Martin, Angie Lowrance, Rebecca Williams
Head Coach Dewayne Baxter, Coach Dovie West, Kathy Forrestal, Paula Childers, Nancy Sloan, Jo Dean Clark,
Connie Matney, Jo Ann Arrington, Sue Bandy

1966 CLASS B GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS : MORRIS



STANDING : Kathy Wilson, Dalene Curran, Laura Price, Deloris Herriage, Carol Lane, Marsha Broadhead, Janet
Russell and Rita Foster. FRONT ROW : Janet Makinson, Carolyn Lackey, Head Coach Bill Self, Mickey Shipley
and Vicki Dickerson.