

Lexington to host All-A state

SPORTS EXTRA

The inaugural Kentucky All A Classic state basketball tournament is taking shape as Lexington Mayor Scotty Basler, representing the host city for the first year tournament, drew for opening game lists.

The drawing was held in Council Chambers for Lexington - Fayette County Metro Government.

As Kentucky All A Classic Inc. board members and coaches watched, the 16 bracket slots were decided.

Regional tournaments take place in Kentucky January 29 through February 3.

The 16 regional winners will advance to the All A Classic State Tournament held in Kentucky's Memorial Coliseum February 7-10.

Class A schools have an enrollment of less than 425 students in grades 10-12.

Statewide there are about 145 Class A schools. This year 120 will participate in the Kentucky All A Classic regional play.

Lexington - Fayette County Urban Government is host to the state tournament. This year's Sweet 16 will be held in Louisville's Freedom Hall.

Basler is happy to host the event.

"I played basketball for a small high school and I realize how beneficial this tournament will be for those athletes, fans and parents. It will give them a better opportunity to showcase their abilities and show off their school spirit."

"As Mayor of Lexington, I am proud that we will host the first Kentucky All A Classic tournament and will do our best to make this a first class event."

A group of coaches and school officials organized a tournament in Northern Kentucky that was so successful a statewide tournament, the Kentucky All A Classic, was initiated.

The tournament will be funded

by the Kentucky All A Classic Inc. The funding is generated through corporate sponsors, donations and ticket sales.

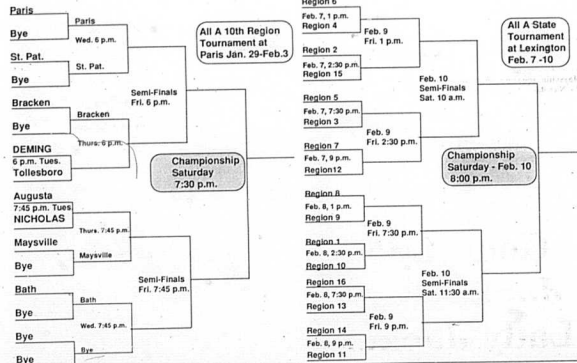
Tickets for the state finals can be purchased by mail. The address is P.O. Box 187, Walton, KY 41094.

Tickets are \$40 per set, but can also be purchased individually.

The "Cinderella Tradition" began in 1928 when little Carr Creek High School lost to Ashland by a score of 13-11 in the state tournament final, but only after four overtimes.

Both teams went to the national tournament that year (there were

Continued on Page 3



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Continued from Page 2
 national championships at that time), and Ashland captured the national tournament and Carr Creek captured the heart of the

10th Region All 'A' to be held at Paris

The 10th region All A tournament will be held and hosted by Paris High School.

There will be nine teams in the regional tournament, since MMI has withdrawn from the event.

Nicholas County will play Augusta in the opening round of the tournament, January 30, beginning at 7:45, or about 20 minutes after the Mt. Olivet - Deming - Tolleboro game, the tourney opener.

On Wednesday, January 31, Paris will play St. Patrick at 6 p.m. the day's only game.

On Thursday, Bracken County will play the Deming - Tolleboro winner at 6 p.m., with Maysville squaring off against the Nicholas - Augusta winner at 7:45 p.m.

Bath County, with two byes, has a berth in the semi-finals.

Semi-final action begins at 6 p.m., Friday, and the second game will be held at 7:45 p.m.

The championship for the 10th region will be decided at 7:30 p.m., Saturday night.

The winner of the 10th region tournament will advance to the state tournament in Lexington,

Jeff, where they caught a bus to Sasafra and from there a train to Richmond, where they won the regional tournament.

The story was simple: Coach Oscar Morgan's players rode a log wagon from Carr Creek to

They played in cut-off overalls for uniforms (Richmond fans collected money to buy them uniforms when they had won the tournament).

Carr Creek had 41 students, 18 boys.

The team played both indoors and outside, depending on the weather.

Coach Morgan was a grade school teacher and had never

played the game.

He took the job, because no one else wanted it.

It was one of the smallest of schools, and yet with determination and talent, plus some luck, the team managed to make it to the national playoffs in Chicago.

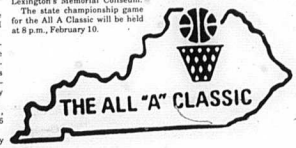
Coach Morgan may have lost in his bid for a national title, but he gave Kentucky high schools something of even more value - recognition.

The national press had never had such a perfect combination of ingredients with which to capture their readers' imaginations, and when they were finished writing about Kentucky's Cinderella, most sports fans knew about high school sports in Kentucky. This was important in a state which has not known much prominence.

This was the first in a long tradition of Cinderella teams.

Teams which not only created a legend (and excellent attendance) but furnished basketball with such players as Carey Spicer, Aggie Dale, Wallace Jones and King Kelly Coleman, to name just a few.

But the tradition continues...



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