



The 1952 Thoroughbred Basketball Squad

Twice staying in the race down to the wire, and twice finishing second—that's how it went with the Murray Thoroughbreds in two of 1952's most highly regarded basketball tournaments.

After completing a tough regular-season card with a record of 18-8, the Racers came within a flicker (of doubt in the officials' eyes?) of winning the tournament championship of the rugged Ohio Valley Conference for the second straight year. Then came the National Association of Intercollegiate Basketball meet, in which the fourth-seeded 'Breds galloped to the finals before losing out.

The entire season record for Harlan Hodges' crew was 24-10—not bad, as a glance at the caliber of Murray's opponents will prove. The team also scored 2,444 points for a game average of 71.9; both are all-time highs.

But perhaps the most outstanding, and, to many, the most surprising feature of this over-par season was the blossoming of little Bennie Purcell into an all-time Murray great. The bespectacled 5' 8" guard had been an asset to the team in previous years, but never anything to compare with his 1951-52 achievements. Take a look at the record: all-time Murray high for scoring in a season, 600 points; all-time Murray high for scoring in a game,

The Aces are in the hole as Charlie connects

Who says it's a game for seven-footers?

And folks, he's twenty-nine years old!

