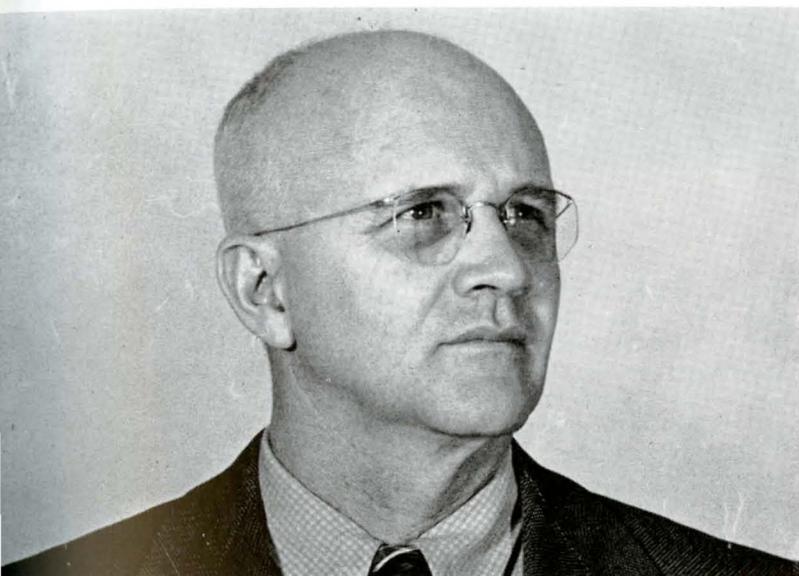


# ACTION ON THE HARDWOOD

41 points; topped previous all-time Murray high for scoring in a college career with 1,108 points; All-OVC tournament team; UP All-America honorable mention; UP "Small America" second five; and finally, NAIB All-America and most outstanding player in the 1952 tournament.

Not only was the diminutive Purcell's eye sharp on his now-famous one-handed jump shot, but also his ball handling and floor generalship were superb. And not to be forgotten are his fancy-Dan dribbling tactics in the late stages of the game which goaded many an opponent into a deliberate foul.

Garrett Beshear also had another great year, as he too broke his own season scoring record of 366, set only last year. The 29-year-old youngster from Dawson Springs



Harlan Hodges, Head Basketball Coach

poured in 541 points, and also made the All-OVC tournament team, UP All-America honorable mention, and NAIB All-America.

In addition to these laurels, Beshear has surpassed in three years Bennie's total scoring in four, and so has another big season in which to better his own sensational mark of 1,155 points.

High scoring was, of course, the exception rather than the rule with the Thoroughbreds. Charlie Lampley hit for 360 and Melvin Deweese, with the best shooting average on the team, made 320. Joe Mikez tallied 195 and Gene Garrett, who played 14 games before being snatched by Uncle Sam, racked up 148.

As they had the year before, the Thoroughbreds opened the 1951-52 season with an impressive winning streak. After thumping Southeastern Louisiana in the opener, Murray took a close one from Tennessee Tech, and then romped over Morehead and Evansville. Another

victory over Morehead and a conquest of Marshall sparked a short road trip, followed by a hard-earned win over New Mexico A. & M. which completed the home pre-Christmas schedule.

The holiday swing through Texas was one of the nicest presents Thoroughbred rooters ever received. In successive games against the Universities of Houston and Texas, Charlie Lampley pulled the bacon out of the fire in the waning seconds. A last-half surge against Baylor gave the Kentuckians a clean sweep.

Back home again, the Big Blue ran its string of triumphs to eleven by taking a close decision from tough little Kentucky Wesleyan (later crowned KIAC champ). Dayton's high-soaring Flyers snapped the skein, as the Murraymen hit a pitiful 23 percent of their shots against the 1952 NIT finalists.

A sad week followed for Hodges' Hosses, as they were soundly defeated by two OVC foes, Eastern and Western. (There went that towel, drat it!) The tailspin (aided by the flu epidemic and the loss of Garrett and Bobby Clark) continued as Memphis State pulled a slow break on the Racers and swung an upset. A convincing rout of Marshall restored some of Murray's prestige, but then Kentucky Wesleyan, in a wild and woolly overtime bout, eked out an amazing 102-101 victory.

Rebounding after midterm exams, the Thoroughbreds evened the count with Eastern, and took lop-sided decisions from Austin-Peay and Evansville. Memphis again gave the Blue and Gold a hard way to go before succumbing in a double overtime. A relatively easy win over Union followed.

Big "Slick" Deweese

