

Sports At Pittman Center High School

1921 - 1963

It has been stated elsewhere in this book - that the purpose and aim of Pittman Center School was to educate and develop the whole person. It has also been stated in this book that the directors of Pittman Center school believed that all work and no play made "Jack" a dull boy. Therefore all efforts were made through their Physical Education Department to see that their purpose was carried out through their teaching and building teams in the different sports. Two of the teams that are note-worthy, are basketball and football. Football, not for its accomplishments but for the effort that was made to develop and organize a team. To be able to build a football team with students that had never seen a football game, let alone played, was some challenge for the faculty.

The first obstacle was no place to practice. The school with a small playground, that could not be shared with the football practice, had to look for some other place. The school officials talked Jesse Stamey out of his watermelon patch. Mr. Stamey's farm was across the river from the mouth of Webbs Creek. After obtaining a place to practice, learning rules, regulations, and formations was quite a chore for Coach Haskell T. Ogle. He must have had the patience of Job. The team was outfitted with as good equipment, uniforms, and gear as could be bought. It would not meet regulations in this day. Mr. Ogle found it was not hard to get his team in good shape as they came already in tip top physical condition from all the farm work they had to do at home. They had to do lots of walking to and from school and after following the plow all day long and with the chores of getting wood for the fires they were ready. The team was big and robust and I imagine hard to bring down. When they tackled an opponent, they knew they had been hit.

It came time for a game and there were lots of parents and spectators. The problem was getting across the river; for you see, there was no bridge. Planks were laid from rock to rock across the shallow part of the river. You either had to walk the planks or wade the river. To walk the planks it took good balance or you would end up in the river. It was like walking a tight rope. Some spectators went to the game soaking wet.

The team didn't play many games but won most of what they played. After a year or two, this endeavor was abandoned since there was not much encouragement from the parents. After a few injuries, the parents thought it was a lost cause. Some of the members of that team were Conley Huskey, Taylor Price, Ottis Wilson, Beecher Parton, Carl Price, Pearl Huskey, Glen Bradshaw, Allen and Roy Whaley and others we cannot recall.

Pittman Center was always noted for its good basketball teams. They won many trophies and awards over the years. There is a display case in the Gatlinburg-Pittman High School to prove it.

Before a gymnasium was built, practice and games were held in the school auditorium. Many of the first students that attended Pittman Center School remember this. One of these is Oliver Huskey, who was a member of the first basketball team. He remembers that the first team they competed with was Pi Beta Phi High School of Gatlinburg. This they won and what a thrill that was. Other members of that team were: Clyde Ownby, Raymond Price, Clifford Price and Ashley Williams.

The first Gymnasium was built in the early 1900's. Who ever designed it must not have known the standard deminsions of a basketball court. Paul Flynn said it best, "where else would you find a Gymnasium as high as it was wide". The ends of the court was also the end of the Gymnasium. The goals were fastened to the wall at the end of the Gym. Allen Whaley could run up that wall and score. To add to everything, the entrance door was also in the end of the building. There was no heat in the building and no windows only wire mesh where the glass should have been. The very worst thing about the whole thing was there was a balcony extending out over part of the court. This was where the spectators had to stand to watch a game. In spite of all these handicaps, we were one of the leading basketball teams in East Tennessee. Haskell T. Ogle was the basketball coach during this time.

After a time somebody realized that they had made a "boo-boo" and rebuilt the Gymnasium. The sides and ends were extended to build bleachers and to make room for a big "pot-bellied" stove for heat. They also enclosed those open windows. There were no complaints from the spectators but lots from the visiting teams.

In later years, when the new elementary school was built they also built a new modern Gymnasium. What an improvement!

The school had both girls and boys teams. The first girls team was made up of Blanche Watson, Pauline Hoffman, Kate, Kitty and June Price, and Rosalee Parrott. The girls basketball suits made history. Not that they were of shoddy material, but because of the make. They were Gold Jersey's with blue, wool, serge bloomers. How awful-looking we must have been to other teams. We stood out like "sore thumbs". Mr. Flynn, our Principal, explained to us we were different in that our school was a Christian institution and we must act and play the part, this was after we had cut off those old big bloomers, without permission. It is a shame we do not have a picture of those suits.

The boys basketball teams were always good and so were the girls teams in later years. It would be so nice to mention all the really good players the school had but that would be impossible. But we must mention some of the most outstanding ones. Emerson Watson (Nov. 5, 1983) and Eugene Huskey (Nov. 17, 1984) were inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame at Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tennessee, as outstanding basketball players for their school. Some of the others are: Lester McCarter, Larry Huskey, Roy and Allen Whaley, Raymond Huskey, and Ray Lindsey. So many others come to mind and deserve recognition.

Ray Lindsey, an outstanding basketball player also excelled in baseball as well. After leaving Pittman Center School he played professional baseball for the state of North Carolina.

Not only did the teams from Pittman Center school win many trophies for excellent play but many trophies for good sportsmanship as well. The school held this in high esteem, teaching, it was not always winning the game that counted but how you played. They stressed that we would find that true in life.

We have talked about the good teams that Pittman Center School had but not a word about the coaches. We have already mentioned Haskell T. Ogle, who was a Sevier Countain, also Paul Bogart, Ernest Thurman, C. Pern Price, Harvey Lewis, and Eugene and Raymond Huskey. All these coaches were Sevier Countains except Harvey Lewis.

Most of the good teams were coached by Eugene Huskey. A very talented man having played the game himself, he thoroughly understood what it took to build a winning team.

Compiled by
Kate Price Reed



Basketball Coaches during the history of Pittman Center: Gene Huskey, Earnest Thurman, Raymond Huskey, H. T. Ogle, Charlie Franklin, Paul Bogart (not pictured) Harvey Lewis, Glenn Robertson.



First Basketball Team at Pittman Center: Left to Right; Wayne McCarter, Allen Whaley, Ray Lindsey, Ashley Williams, Roy Whaley, Floyd Huskey, Glenn Bradshaw. Coach: Haskell Ogle.



This picture is the first basketball team to enter a district tournament.
 Left To Right: Allen Whaley, Ray Lindsey, Ashley Williams, Roy Whaley, Glen Bradshaw,
 Floyd Huskey, Coach Haskel T. Ogle. Other members of the team that are not pictured
 were Wayne McCarter and Carl Price.

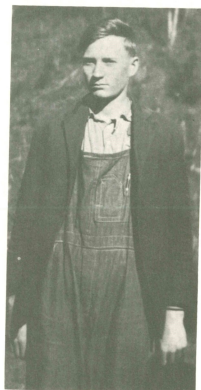
The first basketball team for Pittman Center were: Oliver Huskey, Raymond Taylor, Clifford Price, and Ashley Williams.



Taylor Price



Clyde Ownby



Oliver Huskey



Front liners for Pittman Center in 1937 were Doyle Williams, Cliff Webb, Emerson Watson, Wade McMahan and Gordon Huskey. Top reserves were Gene Huskey, and Clyde McMahan



Girls Basketball Team - 1948-1949

Left To Right Pauline Morris, Cressie Carr, Inez Justus, Freda Layman, Mary Huskey, Ruby Shultz, Charlotte Moyers, Effie Lewis, Ruby Howard and Coach Harvey G. Lewis.

Girls Basketball Team - 1949

Left To Right: Evelyn Branam, Effie Lewis, Velma Watson, Ruby Howard, Frances Ogle, Bernice Watson, Pauline Morris, Cressie Carr, Sue Ellis, Georgia Hopkins, Inez Justus.





Pittman Center Basketball Players 1947
Front Row Left To Right: Charles Dunn, Frank Ramsey, Bruce Valentine, Blain McMahan. **Back Row Left To Right:** Clayton Watson, Earl Ramsey, Edward Justus, Gene Rolan

Front Row Left To Right: Carroll Price, Zell Whaley, Ashley Valentine, ?, Paul Price.
Second Row Left To Right: ?, Wallace (Buck) Stamey, Amos Whaley, Coach Ernest Thurman.



1938 - 1939 High School Basketball Team
Front Row Left To Right: Cora Deats - Chaperon, Grace Hoffman, Sara Jenkins, Grace Free, Ruth Trotter, Coach Ernest Thurman.
Back Row Left To Right: ?, Georgia Huskey, ?, ? Manis, Varnel Shultz. Picture taken in front of Boys Dormitory.





Girls Basketball Team - 1947

Left To Right: Evelyn Branam, Effie Lewis, Velma Watson, Ruby Noland, Frances Ogle, Bernice Watson, Pauline Morris, Cressie Carr, ?, Georgia Hopkins, Inez Justus.



First Row Left To Right: Allen (Cotton) Howard, Arnold Ramsey, George Blalock, Zell Whaley, Ashley Valentine

Second Row: Mitch Phillips, J. L. Ellis, Kenneth McMahan, John Arch Shultz, Jr., Ernest Howard, Coach Raymond Huskey.



High School Girls Basketball Team - 1950-1951

Front Row Left To Right: Mildred Harrell, Beulah King, Georgia Morris, Betty Lou Noland, Betty Jo Huskey, Reva Joyce Emert.

Back Row Left To Right: Doris Ann Carr, Dora Faye Large, Lucille Ogle, Nina Noland, Wanda McCarter, Betty Jean Ramsey.



Cheer Leaders Pittman Center High School
These were the first for the school.

Front Row Left To Right: June Clabo, Arnold Morris, Freda Laymon.

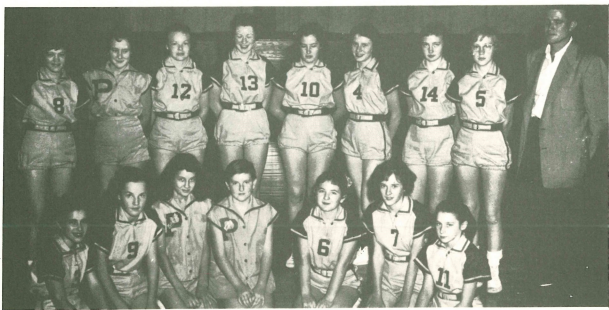
Back Row Left To Right: Eunabe Ramsey, Reba Fowler, Betty Jo Whaley.



Elementary School Boys Basketball Team 1957-1958

Front Row Left To Right: ? Bohanon, Billy Franklin, James Watson, Jimmy Spence, Bill Whaley, Ray Shults.

Back Row Left To Right: Benny Bean - Manager, Ronnie Large, Gilbert Bohanan, Larry Huskey, Winfred Green, Jimmy McMahan, Bennie King, Coach Emert H. Fisher.



Elementary School Girls Basketball Team 1957-1958

First Row Left To Right: Joanne Noland, Patty Huskey, Betty Quilliams, Patsy Whaley, Janice Huskey, ?, ? King.

Back Row Left To Right: ? Spence, Doris Key, Carolyn Whaley, Eleanor Sue O'Shields, Mona Carr, Mary Sue Valentine, Coach Emert H. Fisher.



Girls Elementary Basketball Team 1958-1959

Front Row Left To Right: Patsy Whaley, Gracie Williams, Shirley Whitted, Janice Huskey, Betty Quilliams, Hazel Proffitt.

Back Row Left To Right: Grace Styles, Sue Smelcer, Patty Huskey, Mary Sue Valentine, Doris Key, Deysa Oliver, Coach Emert H. Fisher.



Elementary Boys Basketball Team 1958-1959

Front Row Left To Right: David O'Shields, Fred Ogle, Clarence Seagle, Leon Huskey, Junior Davis, Jerry Whaley, Robert Lethco, Sammy Whaley, Charles Sizemore.

Back Row Left To Right: Coach Emert H. Fisher, Dwight Price, Rex Whaley, Ray Ball, Ronnie Key, James Watson, Ray Shults.



Left To Right: Joe Scudder, Ray Ogle,
Kenneth Shults, Mickey Proffitt.



Betty Quilliams



Ronnie Whaley



Girls Basketball Team

Pittman High School 1956-1957

Front Row Left To Right: Bonnie Bach, Ava Valentine, Mary Manning,
Norma Jean Reece, Reba Watson, Aileen Maples.

Back Row Left To Right: Helen Proffitt, Blanche Whaley, Alice Cantrell,
Jean Harrell, Wanda Wells, Edna Boling, Merle McMahan, Rebecca
Valentine, Virginia McCarter, Coach Eugene Huskey.



Rex Whaley



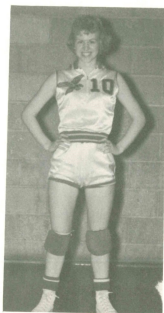
Girls Basketball Team
Pittman High School
1954-1955

Front Row Left To Right: Norma Jean
Reece, Fontella Eastridge, Merle McMa-
han, Vera Harrell, Reba Watson.

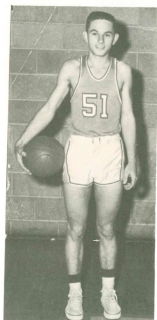
Back Row Left To Right: Coach Eugene
Huskey, Rebecca Valentine, Ruby Green,
Ethel Eastridge, Reva Joyce Emert, Nina
Noland



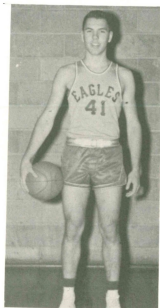
Virginia Huff



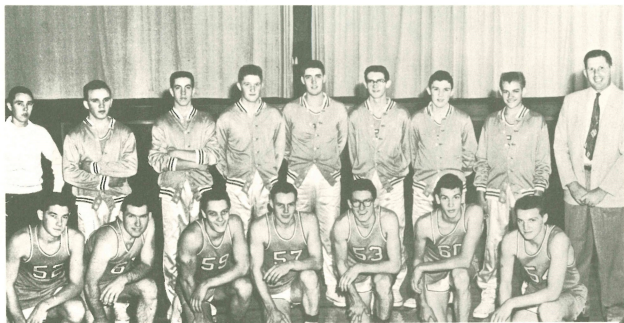
Norma Proffitt



Ronnie Large.



Larry Huskey



Boys Basketball Team
Pittman High School 1957-1958

Front Row Left To Right: Thomas McMahan, Roy Whaley, Eddie Reece, Coy Green, Ray Whaley, Edd Bohanan, Austin Green.

Back Row Dallas Price - Manager, Wallace Whaley, Kenneth Shults, Ray Ogle, Bob King, Mickey Proffitt, Doyle Ogle, Joe Scudder, Coach Gene Huskey.



Girls Basketball Team
Pittman High School 1957-1958

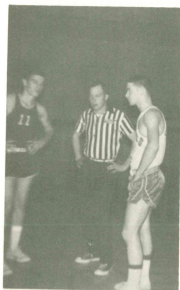
Front Row Left To Right: Jeanette Maples, Jean Harrell, Alice Cantrell, Blanch Whaley, Edna Boling, Rebecca Valentine

Back Row Left To Right: Wanda Wells - Manager, Anna Stiles, Sara Ruth Huskey, Stella King, Avie Valentine, Helen Price, Mary Manning, Joyce Green, Coach Gene Huskey



Boys Basketball Team Pittman High School 1963

Left To Right: Sammy Whaley, Jerry Whaley, Ben King, Rex Whaley, Paul Maples, III.



Thomas McMahan,
Right.



Left To Right: Coach Lewis, Horace Lee Kent,
Blain Justus, ?, Ray Harrell, ? Rolan, Carl Shults,
Billy Ledford, ?, ?, ?



Girls Basketball Team Pittman High School 1958-1959

Front Row Left To Right: Carolyn Whaley, Sara Ruth Huskey, Darlene Sizemore, Jeanette Maples, Avie Valentine, Mary Manning, Helen Price.

Back Row Left To Right: Coach Gene Huskey, Manager Peggy Bean, Edna Boling, Alice Cantrell, Blanche Whaley, Stella King, Joyce Maples.



Boys Basketball Team Pittman High School 1958-1959

Front Row Left To Right: Coy Green, Ben Ogle, Gilbert Bohanan, Larry Huskey, Edd Bohanan, Austin Green, Thomas McMahan, Mickey Proffitt.

Back Row Left To Right: Coach Gene Huskey, Winferd Green, Ronnie Large, Kenneth Shults, Benny King, Joe Scudder, Roy Whaley, Dallas Price.



Pittman Center Varsity Basketball Team 1945-1946

Front Row Left To Right: Charles Dunn, Frank Ramsey, Bruce Valentine, Blaine McMahan.

Back Row left To Right: Clayton Watson, Earl Ramsey, Ed Justus, Gene Rolan



Pittman Girls Eighth Grade Basketball Team 1951-1952

Front Row Left To Right: Dorcas Kent, Lois Shultz, Merle McMahn, Helen Sue Proffitt.

Back Row Left To Right Faye Cardwell - Manager, Ethel Eastridge, Ruby Green, Wilda Grace McMahan - Manager, Coach Ed Justus.



Pittman Boys Eighth Grade Basketball Team 1951-1952

Front Row Left To Right: ?, J. H. Williams, Loy Price, Earl Shults, Rex Howard.

Back Row Left To Right: Johnnie Proffitt, Murrell King, Wayne Shults, Jack McMahan, Marion King, Coach Ed Justus.



Girls Basketball Team Pittman High School 1952-1953

Front Row Left To Right: Beulah King, Ruby Green, Lucille Ogle, Helen Bogart, Bernice McCarter, Vera Harrell, Lois Shultz.

Back Row Left To Right: Eugene Huskey - Coach, Nina Noland, Betty Lou Noland, Ethel Eastridge, Betty Jo Huskey, Mildred Harrell, Reva Joyce Emert.



Boys Basketball Team Pittman High School 1952-1953

Front Row Left To Right: Murrell King, Murrell McCarter, Wendell Whaley, Jack McMahan, J. H. Williams

Back Row Left To Right Eugene Huskey - Coach, Jimmie King, Sherrill Price, Bill Emert, Lawrence Manning, Donald Shultz.