



## ***CHARLESTOWN PIRATES HOOPS-HYSTERIA, Treasure Chest...***

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*By Chuck E. Ledbetter, Sr.*

-**Mike Bottorff**, certainly was a *fascinating athlete to watch* on the hardwood. In his junior year at Charlestown, he was the third ranked highest scorer in the Clark County area. Today, he is the fourth Pirate athlete with over one-thousand-points in his basketball career.

His skills on the court brought out the best of his abilities. For his team, he became the first player to accomplish what no other basketball athlete ever had during their playing careers at Charlestown.

The flashy guard finished high school as the first all-time leading scorer in the school's history to post 1,322 points during his basketball career from 1969 to 1972.

In 1972, Bottorff had his biggest game swishing the nets for 43 against Salem rolling over the Lions, 92-63. He had 20 from the field and was three for seven at the charity toss to capture the high scoring honors to finish out his basketball forte with the Buccaneers.

- **Stanley Bartholomai** was an *elite player for the Pirates* in the 1950's. He would bring his maximum effort to each game when he played for coaches Letcher Norton and John Wood. Alongside him was another one of the great cagers of the game, Denny Lutz, and between the two skillful athletes, they made their opponents dismal on the basketball court.

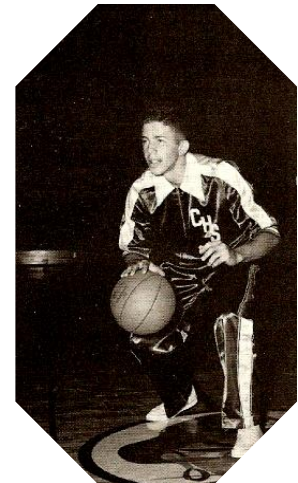
In 1955, he won the coveted Most Valuable Player award in Charlestown's first invitational tournament. He scored a combined total of 35-points for the two-day event at the high school's spanking new sports hall. The Pirates had victories over Corydon and Salem.

The classy forward hit the hoops for 19 against the Panthers. In the finale, he led the scoring attack for the Pirates with 16 over the Salem Lions coached by Don McDonald.

Off the court, "Bart" as he was called by his teammates, was picked as salutatorian of his 1956 graduating class. He was awarded a scholarship at Vincennes College, Vincennes, Indiana, where he was an outstanding star for VU. He may have had fewer sports headlines when he was playing, but he undoubtedly is one of the 'greats' in Pirate history. Coach John Wood always referred to Bartholomai as a "hidden jewel." That he was!



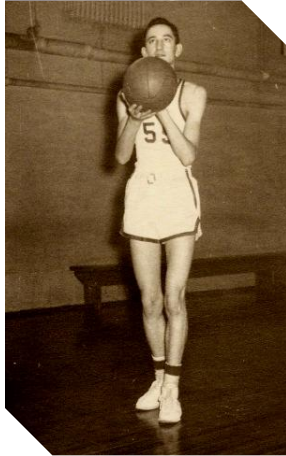
-**Ben Ledbetter**, #35 *could put points* on the board when he played for Coach Dick Longo. In the Crothersville game at Charlestown, he pumped in 33 points.



Ledbetter also had eyes in the back of his head when passing the orange off in a game to his teammates. He had quick hands and several assists in ballgames due to his unselfish play.

After high school, he played for the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Following a very successful college career, he later became one of Charlestown's head basketball coaches in the 1990's.

In 1997, as coach of the Pirates, his team won the last IHSAA single-class basketball sectional tournament at Jeffersonville knocking off Silver Creek and Clarksville and then beating the 16<sup>th</sup> ranked Red Devils in the championship game, 54-to-52, in what has become one of the greatest comebacks of all Charlestown basketball history.

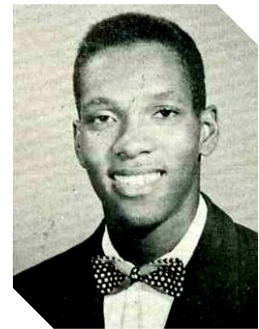


-**Steve Hamilton**, who played center for Coach Billy Abel and Harold "Dutch" Reis, had real finesse underneath the net. He made it look so effortless when he was playing on the hardwood. Hamilton developed into a college basketball star with his style of play at Morehead State University, where he made All-American honors. After graduation, he became the second person and the only MSU alumnus to play both major league and professional basketball. He played in the National Basketball Association for the Minneapolis Lakers from 1958 to 1969. In pro baseball, he pitched for the Cleveland Indians, Washington Senators, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox, San Francisco Giants, and the Chicago Cubs. He pitched in two World Series while with the Yankees. He became well-known in baseball circles for a pitch he developed called the "Folly Floater."

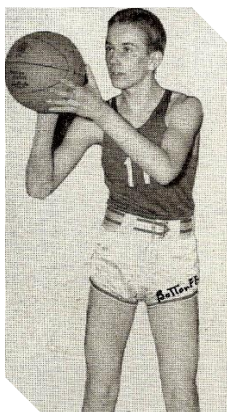
-**Henry Parker** was the first African-American athlete to play for the Pirates and the first basketball Pirate to set a single-scoring record at Charlestown.

He was another fascinating pivot man to watch with his high-jumping shooting skills on the basketball court. Shooting more than 21 points per game in his senior year, the lanky center had all the quickness and grace anywhere on the hardwood.

In 1955, 6'-4" Parker scorched the nets at Jonathan Jennings setting a school record of 42 points against top-rated Flaget Braves of Louisville, Kentucky, that was coached by Jim Huter, who later took over the reins at Henryville. What makes this extraordinary is the fact that he did it *without the three-point shot!*



Parker had several ballgames where he blazed the nets with double-figures and led his Pirates to victories. He was an amazing player in Charlestown Pirate's legacy.



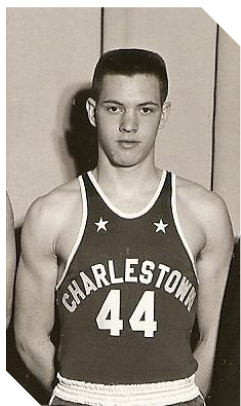
- **Canby Bottorff** was more than likely the first elite Pirate cager who had superstar status on the court. He always appeared at ease when he set foot on the hardwood. Known as "Dead-Eye" Bottorff, due to his crafty shooting during the 1940's, he usually wound up in double figures in every game.

Due to his fast moves and powerful shooting skills, he was difficult to control on the floor.

In 1946, Bottorff played his basketball for Coach Cecil B. Sonner. In 1947, 1948, and 1949, he played for Coach George Temple. He was the first Pirate athlete to hit consistently in the 20-point range per game. In 1949, he won the annual Charlestown Lions Club Free Throw trophy award. In 1964, he became the city's

fourth sitting Mayor.

His son, Mike Bottorff, who would become a basketball standout at Charlestown almost three decades later under the guidance of Coach Tom Hamilton, was one of the few father-son athletes to make a mark in the sport at Charlestown High School.



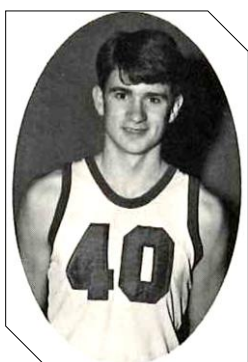
- **Donnie Bush**, who played both the guard and forward positions, was the leading scorer for the 1962 Pirates. He jelled into a fantastic athlete under the guidance of head Coach Dale McNeely.

In his junior year, he was an outstanding sixth man for Coach John Wood. Wood said of Bush, "The Courier-Journal used to have a high school section where they would give one star each week to a high school player and five stars was tops. Phillip Duncan got that 5 star award for his defense on Steve Redenbaugh, and Donnie Bush coming off the bench got the 5 star award for his play. Bush was an outstanding player."

Bush had unorthodox moves that would catch his opponents off guard. Defensive measures to stop him were almost unstoppable in many instances when he was playing for the Pirates. He was very tricky with the ball in his skillful hands. His quick body fakes were smooth when he scored off the defense. As a fan, it was a beauty to watch his moves.

On February 9, 1962, Bush scored 35 points, connecting on 11 field goals and 13 free throws at home against Vevay. The Pirates, would set a team scoring record in the sports hall that night, 104-to-54 over the Warriors. The next night, Bush burned the nets for 31 defeating the Salem Lions in the last regular season game prior to the 1962 Jeffersonville Sectional Tournament.

In his senior year, he amassed over 400 points and compiled over 700 points during his playing days at Charlestown. In the four winning ballgames of the 1962 Jeffersonville Sectional, he scored a combined total of 79 points leading the Pirates to their first sectional tournament in the history of the school.



**Danny Albertson** – In 1969, this sinewy 6'-3" Pirate forward broke a single-player scoring mark in the Silver Creek Holiday Tournament against Clarksville, when he garnered 34 points on 14 field goals and six of seven free throws. Albertson was named to the holiday All-Tournament team that year.

Albertson seemed to be the only Pirate athlete that basketball season meant to break records of sorts. He broke the all-time single scoring record of 42 points set by the fabulous Pirate pivot man, Henry Parker back in 1951 at the Jonathan Jennings Gym.

Albertson burned the nets for 45 points against the Henryville Hornets in Charlestown's sports hall in 1970. Albertson had a great career under Coach Tom Hamilton. Averaging 24 points a game, his single shooting scoring rampage on the hardwood posted 30 points or more against three separate foes. He scored over 500 points in 21 starts that season. Albertson's father, Ralph, was a star player for the Silver Creek Dragons under Coach Ed Denton in the 1950's.



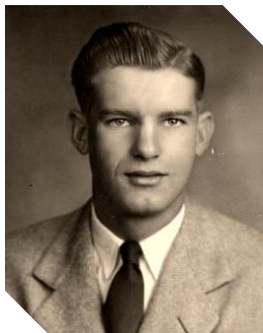
**Albert Combs** – If there ever was an athlete with “basketball smarts” it would be Combs. He probably is the most underrated athlete to come out of Charlestown. This unlikely gentleman, with unorthodox moves on the hardwood, knew exactly where to stuff the leather.

Combs knew exactly how to worm his way in between the giants under the glass. He would swipe the ball right out of their hands in many a starring role for the Pirates in the 1960-61 seasons. He had played on the hardwood at Charlestown beginning in elementary school.

He was a quiet sort of individual off court but was energized the moment his foot stepped on the floor with the sphere. He was always ready for action. John Wood, his mentor in the 1960's, was always filled with praises when it came to Combs and his athletic ability to discern the mastery of the game. “Albert Combs was one of the most underrated players I had. He just got better and was an intelligent basketball player. He played at Berea.”

**Rex Davidson** – Davidson had several games where he blazed the mesh nylon with over 30 points in his basketball starts with the Pirates. Rex had a career high of 35 against a rugged Warriors club from Scottsburg and 31 in overtime against the potent Providence Pioneers, canning 12 field goals and 7 free throws in one of his spectacular games. Davidson was an off and on shooter preferring to run the offense but produced enormous effectiveness at the right moment on the hardwood. His shots were lightening fast when he was hot for a short-sized athlete who ran the offense for Coaches Bill Dunn and Tom Hamilton. He may have been only 5-8 amongst the giants, but he was hard to control once the sphere was in his capable hands. His exciting shooting and speedy moves were in the years 1969, 1970, and 1971.

**Dennis Schafer** – Dennis was a unique and intelligent player who could run with the ball due to his agility as a track and cross-country star for the Pirates. On the playing floor he was an excellent athlete with a nice soft touch with the roundball from the outside corner. Most of the time it saw nothing but the bottom of the net as it swished gracefully into the mesh. Schafer, under Coach Bill Dunn's direction, posted 437 points in two seasons and was near perfect when he popped the nylon with 30 against Borden and 27 points versus formidable foe Jennings County in the next encounter. He had 13 points per game average (ppga) in the 1970-71 seasons. His father, Jim Schafer was the ‘blond bomber’ back in the early 1940's playing for coaches Jim Gridley and Cecil B. Sonner.



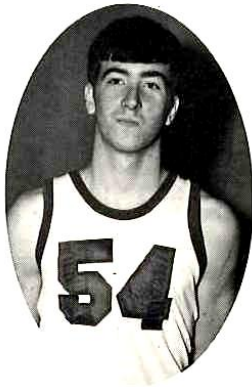
**Jim Schafer** – “*Charlestown High School will have a Basketball Team*” – That was the local newspaper headline in the fall of 1943, and Jim the “Blond Bomber” Schafer was one of the premier pivot men for the Pirates under Coach Cecil B. Sonner, the new head basketball mentor from Hillsboro, Indiana.

Schafer and his teammates had to sit out the season due to the war effort and the fact the high school decided not to hire a head basketball coach for the 1942-43 seasons. Instead, Schafer and his team mates played independent ball to keep in shape like his fellow cohorts.

He was quoted in the school's annual “The Spirit of ‘44’ about their situation when the Pirates ended the 1944 post season play. “I think we could have done better if we could have had more practice and more experience.” Coach Sonner added, “Considering their misfortune in not playing last year, they came out with a ‘swell’ team. I enjoyed being manager for the Pirates this year.” So it was apparent to everyone that the team was hurt in the 1944 season by not having a team in 1943. – [Quoted from: *The Spirit of ‘44 Charlestown High School Annual*]

Returning after a short hiatus in his first game for the Pirates, Schafer was the leading scorer with 17 against Pekin. For the remaining of the season, he would be in double-digits. He ended the season with a 15-point-per-game-average. His highest scoring game that year was against a Pekin team, when he pumped the nets for 29. Three games later, against a rough and rugged Georgetown Bearcats (today, known as the Floyd Central Highlanders) he led all scorers with 26. For the year, Schafer had close to 300 points for his shooting efforts and a 16-point-per-game-average.

In post season play in the 1945 Jeffersonville Sectional, he was the top scorer. He poured in 49 points in three games for high scoring honors for the tournament. He was selected to the "All-Sectional Team" by tournament officials and media.



**Greg Kemp** – This prodigious Pirate ended his career at Charlestown High with a 15 point average under head Coach Tom Hamilton. The 6-3 pivot man for the Pirates was sidelined with a bout of mononucleosis, but came storming back later in his senior year and displayed his prolific athleticism around and underneath the boards getting 30 points against one of Floyd Central Highlanders toughest teams that year. He pumped in 24 against the Austin Eagles and cashed in another 30 in one of his strongest performances on the floor to lead all scorers in a clash between hotly contested Jennings County of North Vernon. He had 25 in an overtime game with Salem to close out the regular hardwood season. This brilliant standout athlete at Charlestown was very personable and we lost him too soon. Kemp passed away in 2007.

**Phillip Duncan** – In the 1950s and 1960s, Phillip Duncan is considered one of the best all around athletes to ever play at Charlestown High School--*not* just basketball. The standout cager made history in the cross-country sectional at Jeffersonville and was a star defensive guard on the 1961 basketball team for Coach John Wood that posted an 18-3 record.

He captured individual honors pacing his Pirates to a championship at the annual Clark County cross country run at the Jeffersonville Elks Club.

Duncan was bare-footed when he stepped across the winning line in the 2-mile hilly event clocking in at 10:36:5 minutes to beat his nearest competitor from Silver Creek, Stanley Byers by 2.5 seconds.

The Pirates were composed of Dickie Bailey, Buddy Bettler, Dennis Briedenbach, and Jimmy Leep.

The 5'-7" cross-country, track, and basketball extraordinary standout made his mark on the wooden court with his sparkling defensive work and ball-hawking. He was a brilliant play maker who could handle the toughest guarding assignments. In 1960 in a clash with the Paoli Rams, he held their ace shooter Steve Redenbaugh---later headed for the Indiana Hoosiers---to single digits.

The Rams' high scoring star was averaging over 20-points per game but was held to only five points due to the defensive play of Duncan. The Pirates won the game on their home floor, 62-to-56.





**Rick Myers** – Myers, who stood in at 6-2, was the leading shooting machine for Coach Scotty Daugherty and his Pirate crew for three seasons. Between the years 1963 through 1965, he amassed 696 points in his high school basketball career.

In 1964, having one of his best performances on the court, he was red hot burning the nets for 10 field goals and 8 tosses at the charity strip to lead all scorers with 28 points against the high-flying New Washington Mustangs. He snatched 18 of the 49 Pirates rebounds from the glass as the Buccaneers hit for 25 of 63 attempts for 40 per cent from the field. Rick Myers was an excellent basketball star for the Charlestown Pirates in the 1963–1965 seasons.

His father, Robert Myers, a former Jeffersonville Red Devils basketball standout and a graduate of Purdue, was Charlestown's second junior Varsity coach in 1949, when Harold "Dutch" Reis became Pirate basketball coach and was principal of the high school and one-time president of the Mid-Southern Conference in the

1960's.

**Harold Gibbs** – In the mid-1950's, little mighty-might 5'-6" Pirate guard Harold Gibbs had played some real electrifying games. While as a junior and senior, he led the offense for the Pirates. During his junior varsity basketball experience, a clash with first time opponent Brownstown, would carve an enduring memory on the hardwood with him for years to come.

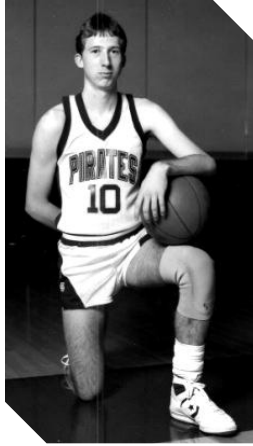
The priceless moment came when the Brownstown JV's had turned the ball over to the young Buck's late in the second quarter before halftime. The game clock was ticking off the final seconds in the stanza. Diminutive stellar Pirate guard Gibbs had the round ball and was dribbling down court approaching the mid-floor stripe. With four ticks left, he unleashed a one-hander from behind the ten-second stripe. He sent the sphere sailing high above the heavens with the ball taking a downward spiral and nosing through the bottom of the net as the buzzer sounded!!



The jubilation in the dressing room was exhilarating! When Coach Letcher Norton, in his marine graveled voice yelled to Gibbs, "Hey, Gibbsy! ---you're supposed to make those types of shots at the end of the game...and not at half-time!" Everyone burst with laughter!!

In the 1955-56 and 1956-57 basketball seasons, he was a great role model and player for the Charlestown Pirates and Coach John E. Wood. Even though he didn't score a whole lot of points in his basketball career at Charlestown, he knew how to move the offense and set up the good shots for his teammates.

Harold Gibbs, marks another one of the truly terrific Pirates with great basketball savvy. He was every bit an extraordinary young athlete during the 1950's. Harold was an excellent ball handler, quality shooter on the hardwood and helped his Pirate teammates bring winning seasons for Coach Wood. And like his counterparts, he was a very likeable and personable person on and off the court.



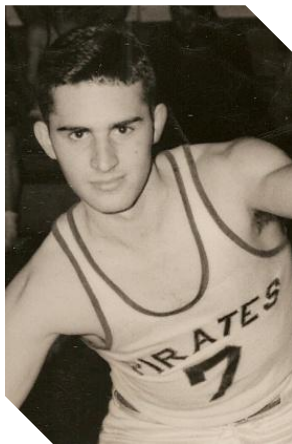
**Tony Knoebel** – One of the terrific marksman's out of the 1980's, was none other than Tony Knoebel. One of his most impressive performances was on the hardwood at the nostalgic Jeffersonville Fieldhouse when he helped Charlestown coach Alan Cundiff's Pirates to a huge victory over the Providence Pioneers of Coach Tony Bennett.

The 5-10 hustling senior Pirate guard was nothing short of fantastic as he torpedoed the nets for 25-points on the rustic fieldhouse floor. The talented Pirate had other classic games during the 1988 basketball season where he scored in double figures.

In a heart-wrenching match with 10<sup>th</sup> ranked Jeffersonville Red Devils he pumped in 22 as the Pirates lost by one point, 83-82. He was high scorer with 22 against the New Washington Mustangs after fighting the flu through the week leading up to the clash on the Pirates floor. He could pop the nets with skillful accuracy and was a good defensive player as well for the Pirates.

Knoebel gave the Rebels of Coach Mike Eneman the fits when he gave the Pirates a 47-39 lead on a steal, layup and a free throw in the final stanza of their game with Southwestern of Hanover. His quick moves and soft shooting touch from the outside with the leather netted him 15 points as he sparked Charlestown to the victory, 75-to-60.

Tony Knoebel had an impressive outside shot and was an excellent guard for the Charlestown Pirates in the '80's.



**Jim Lewis** – The 1940's produced another shining guard for Charlestown High School by the name of Jim Lewis. Lewis and his teammates grew up during World War II and seen firsthand how the community was affected by the enormous migration to ever hit this little town.

Almost overnight, Charlestown turned into a booming residential community. Thousands of people coming in from all parts of the country seeking employment at the newly built Powderless Plant by the Federal Government would make their homes here. The booming population caused the schools to become overcrowded.

Even though World War II was winding down, Lewis was completely undaunted by all the commotion as a teenager. On the basketball court he and his teammates would excel against formidable foes from days gone by. The 5'10" guard played four years of varsity basketball and was quick and fast with his offensive and defensive moves on the court. One of his teammates was Canby Bottorff, another remarkable offensive star for the Pirates during those years.

Jim had two exceptional games where he scored 18-points. One was against Campbellsburg and the other was with the highly touted undefeated West Baden team from Orange County, Indiana. Lewis got all of his dazzling blitz performance in the first half against the West Baden five. In the second half, their coach put three defensive players on him to keep him from scoring, but that didn't keep the Pirates from knocking them from the undefeated ranks. Charlestown won 56-to-39 due to Lewis' brilliant shooting and guard play.

**Denny Lutz** – One of the all-time basketball heroes in the saga of Charlestown High School's round ball history. The six-foot, flashy guard was an electrifying player that thrilled many a Charlestown aficionado on the wooden court. Denny Lutz was an outstanding Pirate wearing the blue and white #24 jersey.

Lutz could shoot the ball from any place on the hardwood. Watching the ball, once released from his hands sailing through the air into the nets brought goose-bumps up your spine.

He was an incredible basketball cager for head coaches Letcher Norton and John Wood during the 1954, 1955, and 1956, 1957 seasons, respectively.

He played four years of varsity basketball and had a tremendous career with the Pirates. In 1957, the fast-action guard was the first single-player-athlete to score 25 points in the school's new gymnasium. He amassed 853-points climaxing four fabulous basketball seasons with the Pirates. After graduation, he played for the Wolfpack at North Carolina State under the legendary Coach Everett Case.

One could sing the praises of this fine athlete all day and still couldn't match the adjectives to really describe his dazzling moments on the basketball court. He truly was one of the brightest stars at Charlestown High School during the '50s. He was simply incredible to watch on the court.



**Paul Blevins** – This tall and slim athlete is a Cinderella storybook of sorts. Paul Blevins, who attained Eagle Scout ranking in the summer of 1960, almost put basketball on the back burner in his senior year, until a fiery red-headed mentor by the name of Dale McNeely from New Marion enticed him to rethink his attitude and play for him in 1962.

McNeely theorized with Blevins' 6-4 measurements under the glass to go along with returning lettermen Kenny Blick, Donnie Bush, and the Case brothers, Robert and Roger, he *just might* have a winning combination to win the 1962 Jeffersonville Sectional Tournament.

The first test for Blevins and the Pirates was against the 1961 Jeffersonville Sectional Champions, Silver Creek Dragons of highly successful Coach Ray Green. The match was also the first game of the regular season and for new Coach Dale McNeely.

In front of a near capacity crowd at home, Blevins did not disappoint. The 6-4 center went to work and popped the nets for 12-points in his first-ever start as a varsity player. His Pirates, with great shooting power from his friends on the hardwood, upset the Dragons, in overtime 77-to-74.

Later in the season, Blevins had another thrilling game. Against Clarksville, he hit the basket to knot the score and sparked the Pirates to a victory over the Generals, 64-to-62. He also pumped in 14-points in the winning effort.

Blevins had other key games where he scored in double-figures. They were: Providence, 12; Southwestern, 10; and 12 points in the 1962 Jeffersonville Sectional Tournament semi-final game against the

Georgetown Bearcats of Coach Joe Hinton. His solid performance and several key rebounds helped the Pirates coast to an easy tournament win.

Paul Blevins, the tall and slim 6-4 pivot man, who almost decided to leave the roundball on the hardwood and move on to other things in his senior year, ended up becoming one of the star basketball players for Coach Dale McNeely. His teammates are winners of the 1962 Jeffersonville Sectional! McNeely had it right!



**Jim Knight** – The ‘*granddaddy*’ of the glass. This phenomenal athlete had tank-manlike moves underneath the boards and was described by Coach John Wood as being like a “*human vacuum*” in swiping the roundball clean from the glass during the 1970’s. Coach Bill Dunn admired his tenacity underneath.

Knight, describing himself like “*Mr. Clean*” when it comes to taking the ball off the boards, had no fears about what was needed in the middle. In four years of Pirate action, he pulled down 907 rebounds in his basketball career at Charlestown High.

In 1972, he gave Crothersville the fits, snatching 22-rebounds from the Tigers and helping the Pirates to victory. On February 26, 1975, in first round action against Henryville at the Madison Sectional, he pulled down 26 big recoveries---a single game record at the time. As they went onto defeat New Washington and the Madison Cubs in the championship game and give the Pirates and Coach Wood another sectional crown. This was the second sectional tournament win for the high school.

In 1973, the 6’-5” greatness was in his sophomore year and was singled out as one of the best in the area by Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame coach Joe Hinton. At the same time the Highlanders had 6’-6” superstar Jerry Schellenberg. When the Pirates and Knight played Hinton’s Highlanders, Knight had a terrific game. He swiped the glass for 20 rebounds and netted 15 points in a losing effort, but brought praises from the venerable vanguard of coaches.

*“Knight will get my vote for Mid-Southern Conference. He’s the best sophomore I’ve seen in southern Indiana. He’s also a real worker under the boards. I’d like to have about five ball players like him.”* Quite a testimony coming from one of the vanguard of coaches now inducted in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. [Note: The above quote by Coach Joe Hinton is excerpted from *The Evening News, Jeffersonville, Indiana, dated, January 29, 1973.* - the author]

Even though Knight never considered himself a real good shooter, he still attained 765 points in his four years of basketball. He still holds the most single-career boards of any Pirate athlete with his tally of 907.

Undoubtedly, Jim Knight is the “*grand sweeper of the glass,*” or if you prefer “*The human vacuum on the boards.*”



**-Lonnie Biggers**, was a stalwart athlete that had lots of class on the court during the Scotty Daugherty and Dick Longo eras. This Pirate was a natural on the hardwood. He had fastness and great shooting dexterity; able to switch with both hands unexpectedly on swift moves to the basket leaving his defensive player awestricken.

Biggers, posting up at the forward spot in his senior year, had 40 steals, 25 assists, and led the team in offensive and defensive rebounds with 198 swipes.

The easy-going athlete had an excellent game in his first start for new head mentor Dick Longo. Against the Tigers of Crothersville, the sinuous athlete popped the goals for 18-points in knocking down the rugged Tigers by a margin of 22-points, 79-57. He was impressive assisting his colleagues Bob Bowen and Tony Glotzbach wipe the boards by an overwhelming margin of 51 to 31.

Biggers had several games where he was in double-doubles. He had 20 against Brownstown; 19, Georgetown and Henryville; 18, Providence and Salem; 16,

Corydon, Madison Shawe and Paoli. His superb basketball achievements from 1964-to-1966 at Charlestown finished with 576 points ending his splendid three-year career as a Pirate.



**-David Curtis** was one of the best defensive players that Coach John E. Wood had at Charlestown. One of his tenacious defending matches came in 1957 against Gene Kenny's Flaget Braves, who were ranked fifth in Kentucky and third in Louisville.

The 5-10 Pirate guard held one of their highly touted All-State cager's to six-points that helped the Pirates upset the Braves who won the Kentucky High School Basketball State Championship. The final score was 50-to-47.

Curtis led the offensive attack during his basketball career with the Pirates, but was noted more for his uncompromising stance as a defensive player. On the hardwood, he was always eating away at his opponents which he relished.

For the offensive foe, it was very difficult to move around him on the hardwood. One would think with his upfront guarding he would put himself into serious foul trouble. Not so. He was always able to maintain his poise and keep his opponent in check.

Coach John Wood called him, "one of the best defensive players that I had at Charlestown."

He was a good shooter and could hit in double figures. He had several games where he hit double-doubles. He had one of his great moments when he had 17-point outputs against cross town rivals Silver Creek and Henryville.

In the '57-'58 seasons, against three highly touted teams, Jeffersonville, Scottsburg, and Seymour, he netted 15 markers from the outside.

Known mainly for his relentless defense on the hardwood, David Curtis was another timeless athlete at Charlestown during the era of Coach John E. Wood and one of the key players in Pirate basketball tradition.