



RETIRED JERSEYS

As the videotape rolls through the history of the Kentucky basketball program, the highlights are countless.

Eight national championships. Numerous Southeastern Conference titles. Last-second shots. The trophies. The net cutting. Victory upon victory. The pictures and images continue to roll.

Year after year, the Wildcats have contended for national championships and produced a host of All-Americans. The UK program also has stocked the NBA with top young talent.

But the ultimate honor for a Wildcat player or coach is to have his jersey retired. Through the years, 45 former players, coaches and contributors have received this recognition.

According to former UK sports information director Russell Rice, the first jersey retired was Layton "Mickey" Rouse, an All-SEC guard who captained the 1940 UK squad. At the annual banquet following the season, Coach Adolph Rupp surprised Rouse when he presented him with his entire uniform.

Following the 1949 season, Rupp honored the four seniors from the back-to-back national championship teams — Cliff Barker, Ralph Beard, Alex Groza and Wallace "Wah Wah" Jones, along with 1948 team captain Kenny Rollins

— by retiring their jerseys and stating that their numbers would never be worn again by a Kentucky player. It was then that they were tagged "the Fabulous Five" after Rupp made mention there would never be another team that "fabulous."

However, with the streamlining of jersey numbers by the NCAA, the jerseys are retired but the numbers remain active.

Two contributors have been selected for the basketball program's highest honor, including the late Cawood Ledford, the radio "Voice of the Wildcats" for 39 years. In 1997, Bill Keightley, the lovable and dedicated equipment manager known as "Mr. Wildcat," also was selected. And the great coaches have been honored as well — Rupp, Joe B. Hall, Rick Pitino and Tubby Smith.

Each selection has been presented with a framed jersey and a banner proudly hangs from the Rupp Arena rafters.

An individual must be a member of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame and be 10 years removed from a UK Athletics Hall of Fame career to be eligible for jersey retirement. A committee consisting of Hall of Famers, media members, campus representatives, and current coaches and administrators elects new inductees each year. A subcommittee also considers possible jersey retirements.

In recognition of outstanding contributions to the University of Kentucky basketball program, the UK Athletics Department has retired jerseys honoring the following:



Basil Hayden
1920-22



56 - Burgess Carey
1925-26



Carey Spicer
1929-31



Adolph Rupp
Head Coach — 1931-72



Forest "Aggie" Sale
1931-33



*7 - John "Frenchy"
DeMoisy*
1932-34



*4 - Layton "Mickey"
Rouse*
1938-40



**26 - Kenny Rollins*
1943, 47-48



**15 - Alex Groza*
1945, 47-49



**12 - Ralph Beard*
1946-49



**27 - Wallace Jones*
1946-49



**22 - Cliff Barker*
1947-49



77 - Bill Spivey
1950-51



**30 - Frank Ramsey*
1951-52, 54



**6 - Cliff Hagan*
1951-52, 54



***16 - Lou Tsioropoulos**
1951, 52-54



***42 - Billy Evans**
1952, 54-55



***20 - Gayle Rose**
1952, 54-55



Cawood Ledford
"Voice of the Wildcats"
1953-92



***22 - Jerry Bird**
1954-56



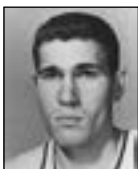
***44 - Phil Grawemeyer**
1954-56



50 - Bob Burrow
1955-56



52 - Vernon Hatton
1956-58



24 - Johnny Cox
1957-59



Bill Keightley
"Mr. Wildcat"
Equipment Manager
1962-2008



44 - Cotton Nash
1962-64



10 - Louie Dampier
1965-67



42 - Pat Riley
1965-67



44 - Dan Issel
1968-70



Joe B. Hall
Head Coach – 1973-85



35 - Kevin Grevey
1973-75



21 - Jack Givens
1975-78



53 - Rick Robey
1975-78



4 - Kyle Macy
1978-80



31 - Sam Bowie
1980-81, 84



34 - Kenny Walker
1983-86



32 - Richie Farmer
1989-92



12 - Deron Feldhaus
1989-92



34 - John Pelphrey
1989-92



11 - Sean Woods
1990-92



Rick Pitino
Head Coach – 1990-97



24 - Jamal Mashburn
1991-93



00 - Tony Delk
1993-96

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