

= Basil Hayden =

Basil Ewing Hayden ( May 19 , 1899 ? January 9 , 2003 ) was an American college basketball player and coach . A Kentucky native , he began playing the sport in the sixth grade and , after a year at Transylvania University , transferred to the University of Kentucky to study chemistry and play on the school 's basketball squad . He captained the team to victory at the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship and was named an All @-@ American for his efforts ? the first basketball player to earn the honor at the University of Kentucky .

After graduating in 1922 Hayden took on a number of different jobs and was called to coach the University of Kentucky 's basketball team in 1926 following the departure of Ray Eklund . After a 3 ? 13 record in his first year he was replaced with John Mauer and returned to his previous occupations . When he died in 2003 , at the age of 103 , he was the University of Kentucky 's oldest former athlete , and his jersey is among those hung in the school 's Rupp Arena .

= = Early life = =

Hayden was born in Stanford , Kentucky ; his father Joseph was a grocer , and his mother Annie ( née : Brown ) was a tutor . He moved to Paris , Kentucky at an early age and began playing basketball in the sixth grade , which he continued upon entering Paris High School . He was drafted into the United States Army during World War I , but the conflict ended before he was shipped out . He entered Transylvania University in 1918 , intending to become a minister , but switched to the University of Kentucky the following year to study industrial chemistry . While there , he played tennis and competed in the javelin throw , setting a school record .

= = Basketball career = =

Hayden joined the school 's basketball team for the 1919 @-@ 1920 season and was the squad 's leading scorer with 133 points in 12 games , leading to an average of 11 @.@ 8 points per game ; no other player on the team scored more than 56 points or had an average greater than 7 . While he slipped to 9 @.@ 71 points per game the following year ( and finished second in both points and average to rookie William King ) , he found success captaining the team to the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association Championship ? the University of Kentucky 's first victory at a major basketball tournament . He was named an All @-@ American in 1921 , the first University of Kentucky basketball player to be so honored . He also had his highest @-@ scoring game ever that season , scoring 20 points against Georgetown College . He injured his knee in the high jump prior to his final 1921 @-@ 1922 season but still finished with an average of 4 @.@ 92 points per game , the third best average on the team that season and the fourth highest amount of points . At the peak of his playing career he was 5 ' 11 " , weighed 165 pounds , and was nicknamed " The Blond Adonis " . His overall career statistics saw him amass 333 points in 39 games ? an average of about 8 @.@ 5 points per game .

After his graduation Hayden moved to Detroit to work for Dodge but returned to Kentucky after the first summer because of homesickness . During the 1922 @-@ 23 basketball season he coached at Kentucky Wesleyan College which was in Winchester at the time . In his one season at Kentucky Wesleyan he went 8 @-@ 1 . He then taught and coached at George Rogers Clark High School while taking a job in the insurance business in Richmond , Kentucky . In 1926 he was called to replace Ray Eklund as the head basketball coach at the University of Kentucky but was given only one week to prepare for the task with a team made up of unskilled members . The squad consisted primarily of football players , many of whom lacked the incentive to fully participate . The team finished with a 3 ? 13 record , winning once against the University of Florida and twice against Centre College . When Harry Gamage was named the new head coach of the university 's football squad , he had Hayden replaced with John Mauer . The team would not have another losing season until 1988 ? 89 under Eddie Sutton .

= = Later life = =

After his experiment with coaching , Hayden went returned to the insurance business and also worked as a banker , accountant , a hospital administrator , school teacher , and Kentucky state bank inspector . He also worked as the treasurer of a Methodist church until his mid @-@ 70s . He was a lifetime member of Rotary International and the Kappa Sigma Fraternity . He was married to Mary Hardin for 67 years until her death ; he would remarry to Edna Lytle . At the time of his death on January 9 , 2003 , at the age of 103 , his jersey was one of 41 retired jerseys hanging in Rupp Arena , ( with his name only , as the jerseys did not have numbers during his era ) , and he was the oldest living former University of Kentucky athlete . As of 2009 , he is the only one of the 49 University of Kentucky basketball All @-@ Americans to have been born in the 19th century , as well as probably being the shortest . He is a member of the Paris High School Greyhound Hall of Fame .

= = Head coaching record = =