

# ARE YOU PROUD TO BE A RACER? New Book Coming 2011!

By JIMMY WILDER  
*Will Aubrey and Steve Parker*

The passion for basketball is legendary in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, where success is expected and often demanded.

These facts must have resonated in 1923 with Judge Rainey T. Wells, the founding father of Murray State University, and Dr. John W. Carr, the school's first president, only months after the state's General Assembly awarded the city of Murray a college whose academic focus would be on training elementary teachers.

For certain, Murray State has carved its niche in the lore of Kentucky basketball, while also earning a place on the national stage. Coach Billy Kennedy's 2009-10 Racers won a school record 31 games, including a 66-65 thriller against Vanderbilt in the NCAA Tournament. Is there a hoops junkie who hasn't heard about MSU's win over Jim Valvano's North Carolina State team in the 1988 NCAA Tournament, the Racers' near upset of eventual champion Kansas

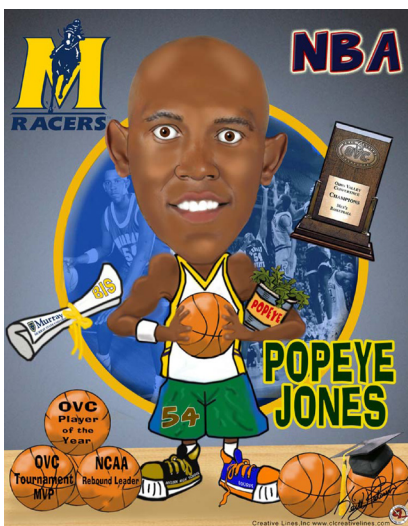
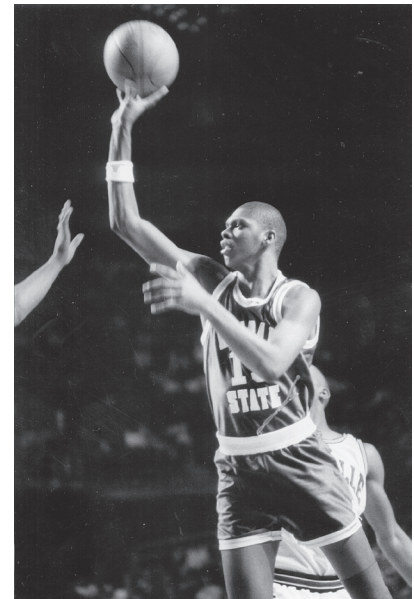
two days later, or this year's 54-52 loss to Butler, which advanced the Bulldogs rather than the Racers to the tourney's Sweet 16? And what university excelled on the hardwood with Popeye Jones, pro-claimed "The Round Man of Rebound" on TV by Dick Vitale, as its center?

MSU basketball got its start in the 1925-26 season and has passed the test of time, establishing itself as one of America's best mid-major programs. Its fans are among the most supportive anywhere, sometimes to the extreme; its natural rivals savor every victory and some now avoid scheduling MSU if they're asked to play a game in Murray, where the Racers seldom lose.

All things mentioned above are expounded in *BANNER YEARS: Chronicling Murray State Basketball*, a 320-page book that tells in words and pictures the history of Racer basketball (an Ohio Valley Conference-best 36 championships, 14 NCAA tournaments, 5 National Invitation Tournament invites and 24 consecutive winning seasons, a mark surpassed only by Syracuse, Kansas and Arizona). The book profiles many of the school's coaches and players, including Carlisle Cutchin, Joe Fulks, Johnny Reagan, Bennie Purcell, Howie Crittenden, Cal Luther, Stewart Johnson, Dick Cunningham, Lamont Slets, Steve Newton, Jeff Martin, Popeye Jones, Marcus Brown, Mark Gottfried and Isaac Spencer.

The book also has colorful anecdotes that readers will find interesting and worthy of reminiscing. Who remembers when coach Luther was hung in effigy on campus and his comments at the Murray Rotary Club? Read about both happenings in *BANNER YEARS: Chronicling Murray State Basketball*. The book will be a keep-sake for your office, library or coffee table. We guarantee it!

**NOTE:** Standard Edition copies of the 8 1/2 x 11" book have a retail price of \$39.95. Collector's Edition books have an embossed leather cover and may be obtained by being a Book Patron (these books will have the recipient's name on the cover and will be signed by current Racer coach Steve Prohm, Billy Kennedy, Cal Luther, Bennie Purcell and six other MSU Athletic Hall of Fame members — Marcus Brown, Howie Crittenden, Popeye Jones, Jeff Martin, Steve Newton and Johnny Reagan).



## DID YOU KNOW?

...Jeff Martin (pictured above) is the all-time scoring leader among Kentucky Division 1 college basketball players. Coming out of Cross County High School in Cherry Valley, Ark. in 1985, Martin had just one NCAA D1 basketball scholarship offer, Murray State University. Can you name the MSU assistant coach who drove to Cherry Valley and saw Martin shooting baskets around prom time and returned a few days later with head coach Steve Newton to sign Martin to a grant-in-aid?

...Former Racer athletic director Mike Strickland had the Midas touch when it came to selecting MSU head basketball coaches, first choosing Scott Edgar in 1991 and then Mark Gottfried in 1995 (the Racers won three OVC titles with each as their coach). In hiring Gottfried, who was an assistant at UCLA, Strickland passed on current UNC-Wilmington coach Buzz Peterson, who was then a Vanderbilt assistant and had college roommate Michael Jordan as a strong advocate. Do you know the names of two other rising college assistant coaches who made overtures for the MSU position? Hint: One is now the head coach at the University of Tennessee and another is the head coach at Indiana University.

**THE ANSWERS AND MORE...** will be found in the upcoming book,  
*BANNER YEARS: Chronicling Murray State Basketball, 1925-2011*

# BANNER YEARS: Chronicling Murray State Basketball Patron Agreement

## Three Patron Levels To Fit Your Needs:

### GOLD LEVEL PATRON

- Will be listed as a Gold Level Patron in the coffee table-style book.
- Will receive five (5) Collector's Edition copies of the book.
- Will receive a wall plaque acknowledging your support of the book.

COST TO BE A GOLD LEVEL PATRON — \$1,000

### SILVER LEVEL PATRON

- Will be listed as a Silver Level Patron in the book.
- Will receive three (3) Collector's Edition copies of the book.
- Will receive a wall plaque acknowledging your support of the book.

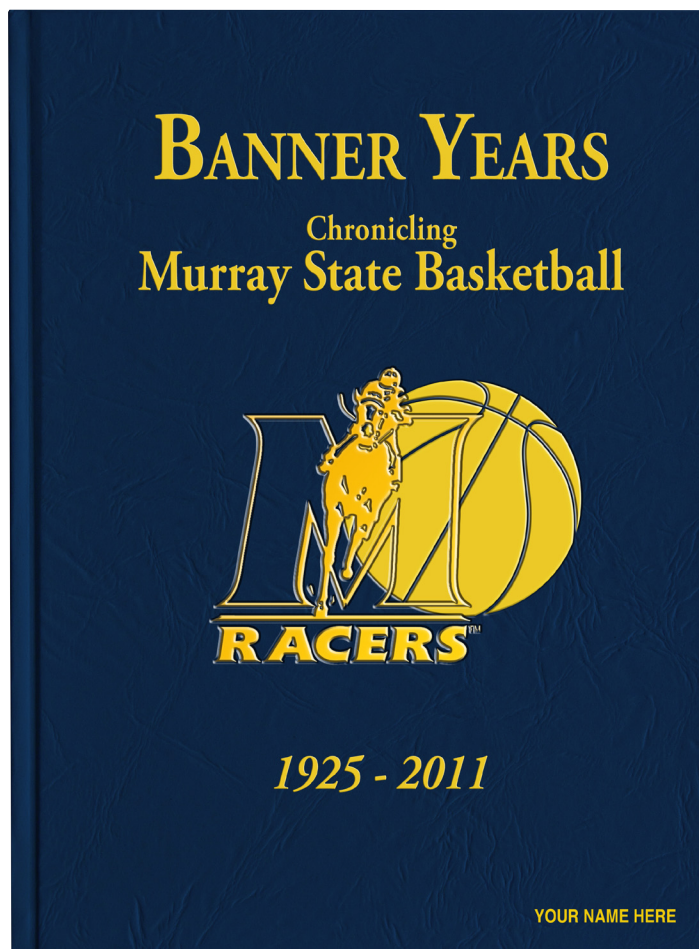
COST TO BE A SILVER LEVEL PATRON — \$500

### BRONZE LEVEL PATRON

- Will be listed as a Bronze Level Patron in the book.
- Will receive one (1) Collector's Edition copy of the book.
- Will receive a frammable certificate acknowledging your support of the book.

COST TO BE A BRONZE LEVEL PATRON — \$100

NOTE: Collector's Edition books will have grained leather-bound covers, will be numbered, will have the recipient's name embossed in gold on the front cover and will be personally autographed by Steve Prohm, Billy Kennedy, Call Luther, Bennie Purcell and six other Murray State Athletic Hall of Fame members -- Marcus Brown, Howard Crittenden, Popeye Jones, Jeff Martin, Steve Newton and Johnny Reagan.



For information about the book, please contact:

**Bennie Purcell: (270 753-6441)**

**Lindy Suiter: (293-2220 cell)**

**Jimmy Wilder: (761-1944, 226-9302 cell)**

## Banner Years: Chronicling Murray State Basketball Patron Agreement

- I would like to support BANNER YEARS by being a Patron.  
My Patron level is:  Gold \$1,000  Silver \$500  Bronze \$100
- I wish to support BANNER YEARS by purchasing \_\_\_\_\_ Standard Edition copies of the book at the price of \$39.95 per book (please add \$5 per book for sales tax and handling).
- I would like to purchase \_\_\_ Gift Certificates for the Standard Edition at the price of \$39.95.
- Check enclosed.
- Check is not enclosed but will be forthcoming by: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:

**PROUD TO BE A RACER**

Return your check and/or completed sponsorship agreement to:

**PROUD TO BE A RACER PUBLICATIONS  
PO BOX 1455 • MURRAY, KY 42071**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Your Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City

\_\_\_\_\_  
State

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s) to be embossed on front cover (up to 24 spaces), if applicable. Use another sheet of paper if needed.