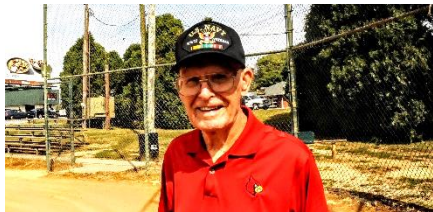




HIS NAME CONTINUES ON



Honorary Hoop Historian **Al Benninger** is one of the most familiar faces along press row at University of Louisville athletic events, having served as a statistician for Cardinals basketball and football teams for five decades. What is less commonly known is that Benninger is a legend in the seniors softball community. Benninger, now 94 years old, had such an impact on the sport that the softball field at Camp Taylor Park was named **Al Benninger Field**. Al started playing slow-pitch softball in 1954 and he started the Seniors Softball League as a player and coach in 1990 at the age of 64 before becoming Commissioner for the next 19 years. Along the way Benninger also served as a coach, organizer, statistician and spokesman for the league. Congratulations Al!

Check out the Video: [Softball field honors senior founder | whas11.com](https://www.whas11.com)



ABOVE: Al Benninger speaks at the ceremony where the softball field was named in his honor

REMEMBERING COACH K'S FIRST ARMY TEAM

Hall of Fame basketball Coach Mike Krzyzewski recently announced his retirement from the sport after this upcoming year. Before arriving at Duke University, Coach K's first head coaching assignment was with the Army Knights at West Point. One of the assistant coaches on those early teams was Hoop Historian **Bob Hutchings**. Hutchings enlisted in the Army and was stationed at West Point working in the school's athletic department where he met the new Knights coach. That first Army team in 1975-76 compiled an 11-14 record, but the squad quickly improved to 20-8 in year two. Coach Hutch recently reflected about the Coach K style of organizational skills and discipline. The job was demanding and sometimes forced Hutchings to drive 300 miles to scout a future opponent. Those fundamentals allowed Hutch to be a successful coach for the next forty-plus years. Hutchings still gets to continue his friendship with Krzyzewski, seeing him every summer and knowing how lucky and humbling it was to have coached with him.



ABOVE: Coach Hutch (top left) with Coach K (bottom left) in 1975.

FINAL FOUR WELCOME EVENT TO HAVE NEW FEEL

The Annual **Hoop Historians Welcome Event** will get a facelift in New Orleans this year. The traditional sit-down dinner has been replaced with a Welcome Social Event which will allow for more attendance of members and Friends of the group. The Welcome Event has been more difficult to manage with the rising numbers of participants each year, and with the anticipated increased attendance for the next Final Four, this makes for a natural solution. This new format will also allow for more socialization as the group tips-off the start of Final Four Week. More information on the specifics of the event will be provided after the Hoop Historians Final Four Headquarters is announced later in the fall.



ABOVE: Hoop Historian Hersh Cherson (right) attended the US Open golf championships at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

FINAL FOUR BOUND



APRIL 2 & 4, 2022