



# HOOP HISTORIANS NEWS

*Committed to promoting goodwill through basketball*

Volume # 181 – August, 2025

## HONORARY HOOP HISTORIAN AL BENNINGER 1926-2025



Hoop Historian Al Benninger passed away at age 99. A fixture at the NCAA Final Four that spanned over five decades, Benninger was the captain of the University of Louisville Stat Crew, which has worked every NCAA Championship since 1969. Benninger also worked as chief statistician for Louisville football since 1961, ABA basketball for the Kentucky Colonels, 13 consecutive NCAA Division II Championships and nine Orange Bowls. Besides having the best seat in the house for athletic events, Al liked to participate as well, as he was a Senior Olympic Champion winning the Golden 100 and 200 Meter Dashes several times over numerous years. Benninger started playing slow-pitch softball in 1954 and served as the commissioner of the Louisville Senior Softball League at Louisville Metro Parks for many years. For his efforts with the group, the softball field at Camp Taylor Park was named Al Benninger Field. Benninger was selected as an Honorary Member of the Hoop Historians in April, 2010.

## 2026 NCAA FINAL FOUR



**APRIL 4 & 6  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**

## HOOP HISTORIAN ZOOM CALLS RETURN SEPTEMBER 7

Save the below dates for the upcoming Hoop Historians Roundtable Discussions on Zoom. The monthly conference call discusses pertinent issues within the college basketball landscape, as well as giving our members and friends of the group an opportunity to reconnect. Zoom Calls will be held on selected Sundays at 7:00 pm Eastern / 4:00 pm Pacific.

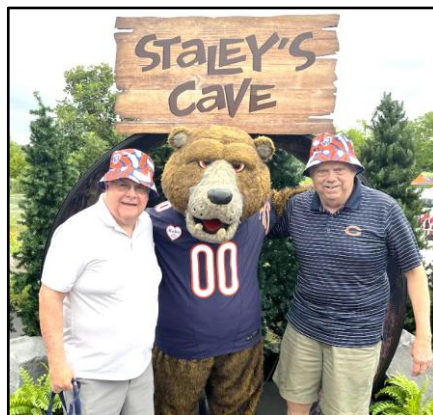
### HOOP HISTORIANS ZOOM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

**Sunday, September 7  
Sunday, October 5  
Sunday, November 9  
Sunday, December 14  
Sunday, January 11  
Sunday, February 8  
Sunday, March 8**



## HOOP HISTORIANS PHOTO GALLERY

Send your pictures to:  
[hoophistorians@gmail.com](mailto:hoophistorians@gmail.com)



*Kevin McCann and Larry Baker join Chicago Bears mascot Staley at a pre-season practice*



*Nancy and Al Sack get a chance to check out Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin.*



*Tom Clancy, Dick Clish, Bob Sabatino, Joe Spagnolo and Sam Lima take a time out to take a picture at the Soldier Field backdrop*



*Hoop Historian Adrian Collins ran into Elvis at a Chicago White Sox baseball game this month*



***The third annual Hoop Historians Midwest Social Event was another success. The two Jeopardy teams had to go to a tiebreaker question to determine this year's champion. Thank you to all that participated.***