

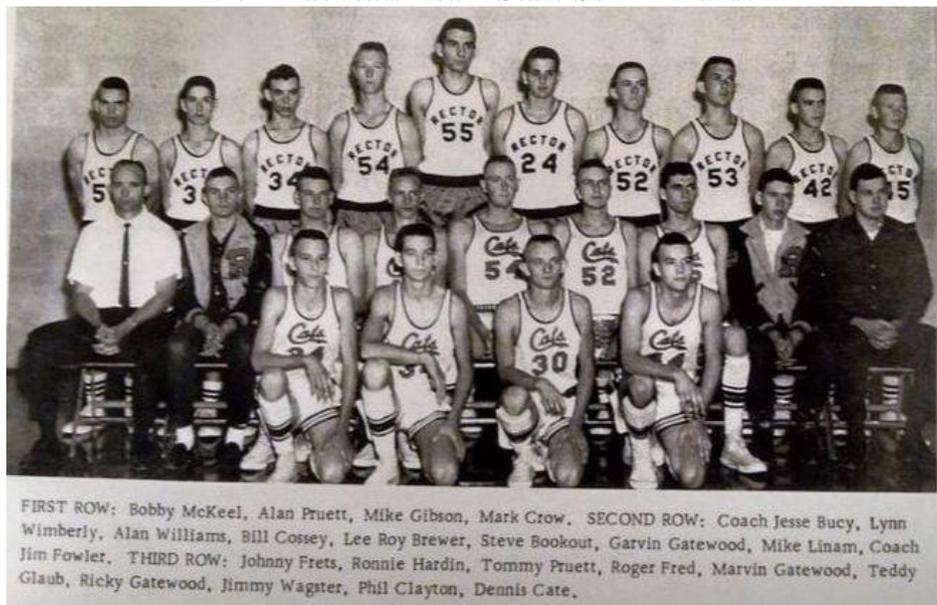
THE CATSPA W
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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF RHSSHOF

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This issue of "The Catspaw" will continue a series of brief descriptions of teams that have been inducted into the Rector High School Sports Hall of Fame (RHSSHOF). The order in which they are presented will be the order in which they were selected and inducted. The fifth team that was selected and inducted was the 1964 Rector High School (RHS) basketball team which was inducted in 2017.

1964 Blackcats Team State Semi-Finalist



The team is noted as one of the best Rector teams of all time as state semifinalists with a 27-9 record.

During the regular season the Cats topped the 100 point mark at least two times. Against Piggott, the Blackcats won by a score of 103-56. Rector topped the Manila Lions 105-89 when Manila was ranked #2 in the state in the combined Class A/B division and had just recently been seeded #1 in the Class A State Tournament. [It should be noted that these 100 point games were before the 3-point shot became the rule.]

Rector was seeded #1 in the NEA tournament and beat Brinkley, the eventual State Champions in Class A, 72-47.

In March 1964 the Clay County Democrat headline read: "Locals Rated 3rd in State; Now In Quarter-Finals". In a separate story the "Democrat" reported: "For the second straight week, the Rector Senior A Blackcats were rated as number three in the top ten best A-B basketball teams in the state, in the final United Press International poll of the 1963-64 season."

After beating Perryville 52-50 in the opening round of the state tournament, Rector lost its starting center, Lee Roy Brewer due to an injury during a workout. The Cats faced Mountain Home in the quarterfinals. Coach Bucy was quoted in the "Democrat" as saying: "Mountain Home has one of the toughest teams in the state...They won their district tournament..." Coach Bucy started junior Garvin Gatewood in Brewer's place...and Gatewood responded with 15 points. The Commercial Appeal, March 6, 1964, reported the following: "Rector nursed a precarious lead most of the game and defeated Mountain Home, 64-59 Thursday to sweep into the semifinals of the Arkansas state Class A high school basketball tournament at Barton Coliseum..." "Rector's Bill Cossey led the scoring with 24 points but the defense of the runnersup from District 3-A was equally vital in the victory...Mike Gibson keyed the rugged man-to-man defense..."

The season for Rector ended with a loss to Waldo in the state semi-finals, 53-70.