



KANSAS LEGEND BIOGRAPHY

Adolph F. Rupp (1901-1977)

Adolph Rupp, a coaching icon of men's college basketball, was born in Halstead, Kan. He played basketball all four years at Halstead High School and went on to play college basketball under legendary coach Dr. Forrest "Phog" Allen at the University of Kansas from 1919 to 1923.

Rupp received a masters degree and teachers college diploma from Columbia University, where he studied during the summers and coached high school sports during the school year. After seven years at the high school level, Rupp became head coach for the University of Kentucky Wildcats, where he spent four decades of his life creating a legacy that is rivaled only by John Wooden and Dean Smith in the sport.

Nicknamed the "Baron of Bluegrass," Rupp recruited 80 percent of his players from the state of Kentucky and was a master at developing local talent. The University of Kentucky won its first national championship under Rupp in 1948, the first of four NCAA titles obtained during Rupp's tenure. Rupp's teams were known for their tenacious man-to-man defense and an unstoppable fast break offense. Rupp was demanding and passionate, instilling pride in his players and an intense desire to win.

Under Rupp's leadership, Kentucky won 27 SEC titles, one NIT title and appeared in the NCAA tournament 20 times. Throughout his 41 years as coach, Rupp earned a .822 winning percentage with a record of 879-190, making him the second winningest coach in men's college basketball history. Rupp also co-coached the 1948 U.S. Olympic men's basketball team to a gold medal.

Adolph Rupp's coaching legacy produced 24 All-Americans, seven gold medallists and 28 professional basketball players. A four-time coach of the year, Rupp was also named Coach of the Century by the Columbus, Ohio, Touchdown Club. Rupp is enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Hall of Fame and the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame.

Since 1972, the Adolph Rupp Trophy has been awarded annually to the best player in men's college basketball. Additionally, Rupp Arena in Lexington, Ken., is a constant reminder of the coach who established Kentucky as basketball powerhouse.

