



Litton BLAST

Isaac Litton High School - Nashville, TN
Volume MMXXV Issue 1 January 2025

The MISSION of the Isaac Litton Alumni Association is to preserve the rich heritage of our former school, to provide support to the present Isaac Litton Middle School, and be a positive influence in the lives of ALL the children in our community. We do this with effective communication that continually reaches out to bring the Alumni and the community together to promote our programs and services.

Save this date:
Annual All-Year Reunion Luncheon
Saturday, June 21, 2025
Reservation and pre-payment required.
For more details, see article in April Blast, our FB page, future emails from Class Reps and website, isaaclitton.com.

Please continue to show your support financially through donations and by paying your annual dues (\$15).

Thank you for your generosity!

MAIL CASH OR YOUR CHECK (payable to ILAA) to:
ISAAC LITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 752
MADISON, TN 37116

IN THIS ISSUE			
Cover page/ Save the date!	1	ILHS Sports History	11-21
President's Letter	2	Blast/Communications Committee	21
Veterans' Day Breakfast	3-4	ILAA Board Of Directors	22
Backfield in Motion Gift Wrapping	5	Litton Legacy	23
BiM Christmas Giving	6-7	Roots of ILHS	24-26
BiM Thank You Letter	8	Alumni News and Notes	27
Website Update	9-10	Gone But Never Forgotten	28



By Mickey Collier, class of '65

I continue to be amazed, astounded and grateful for the caring and generosity of the Alumni of Isaac Litton High School. Earlier this year, we requested donations to send the Litton Middle School Band to Dollywood. Due to your overwhelming response to this request and a donation from the Board of Directors, over \$6,000 was raised for these young musicians.

Last month, we requested donations to help defray the cost of the Backfield in Motion Holiday Celebration. Once again, our Alumni stepped forward with very generous donations from many different states. The results of this donation request will be detailed later in this edition of The Blast. I wish that all Alumni could meet the leadership of BIM and some of the children that they educate. They are outstanding!

Part of the ILAA mission is to preserve the rich heritage of our former school, to provide support to the Isaac Litton Middle School and to be a positive influence in the lives of “all” children in our community. Thank you to all alumni for your steadfast support to help continue this mission!

VETERANS' DAY BREAKFAST

NOV. 11, 2024



On Veterans' Day, 2024, 85 alumni and others gathered to honor veterans. This event is one of the initiatives begun by Don Clark, past president of the ILAA. Don presented each veteran attending with a medallion representing their branch of service. Marisue Stalker provided a beautiful banner, shown above, which we can use for years to come, in future Veterans events.

Members of the Board of Directors of ILAA provided a variety of breakfast food items for attendees. Included were breakfast casseroles and sandwiches, fruit, yogurt, sweet rolls, donuts, coffee, juice, and water.

Members of the Isaac Litton Middle School band came on their day off to play a selection of patriotic songs for the attendees. Many of the students had never seen the alumni hall before and were educated on the heritage of our organization in the memorabilia room by ILAA President Mickey Collier.

Join us next year as we honor our veterans.

Among veterans attending were:

Graham Baker	Navy	Jack Benz	Army
Mark Billingsly	Air Force	Jim Brent	Air Force
Phillip Brown	Air Force	Charlie Bryant	Air Force
Pete Bryant	Air Force	John Case	Army
Don Clark	Marine Corps	Mickey Collier	Navy
Danny Cotton	Army	John Demerich	Army
David Dorris	Air Force	Stanley Fish	Army

Durward Fuqua	Army
Bill Hoffman	Army
Bob Jarrett	Navy
Joe Matlock	Army
Melvin Mitchell	Air Force
Sonny Richardson	Coast Guard
Labon Tatum	Army
Donnie Vaughn	Marine Corps
Al Waggoner	Army

John Halliburton	Army
Clifford Hunter	Marine Corps
Marjorie Sittloh Llewelyn	Army
Nancy McPherson	Coast Guard
Darrel Mullins	Army
David Riley	Coast Guard/ Air Force
Phil Taylor	Army
Ron Waddle	Army
David Watts	Navy



Backfield in Motion Gift Wrapping Party

By: Don Clark, class of '70

Our Litton Alumni and Alumni Board came through again this year to help the kids at Backfield in Motion (BIM) have a very Merry Christmas. Our ILAA and alumni donated over \$11,000 to ensure the BIM students received gifts, dinners, etc. to celebrate Christmas. Many thanks to our Board members who came out on Monday the 16th to wrap gifts for the students.



Special thanks to the following who came out to wrap gifts: Mickey and Pat Collier, Judy Cline, Franklin Davis, Mike Riggins, Jerry Bean, Rita Soloman, John Halliburton and Pat Martin. This was a great help to BIM for the Christmas Season again this year. Thanks to all!!

Christmas is for Giving



For several years, ILAA has helped to support Backfield in Motion (BIM). They began as a tutoring and mentoring program in our alumni center for Litton Middle School students and have now spread their operations to multiple middle schools all over Metropolitan Nashville. This amazing non-profit is changing lives by combining athletics

and academics to empower inner-city youth and open doors to a brighter future.

The Board of Directors voted to make a contribution to the Christmas program for BiM. This program allows the students to purchase gifts for others and for BiM to buy gifts for the students. President Mickey Collier sent a challenge to all alumni to make additional individual contributions. The result was overwhelming.

Individual Alumni Donations	\$8,620
Alumni Association Donation	\$3,000
Total	\$11,620

**Listed below are alumni and others who made individual donations.
Thank you for your loving, giving, and generous hearts!**

Jacqueline and Jeff Parkinson
Ann Richards
Gayle Graves
Judy Ann Beier
Kathryn Mendenhall
Larry Winn
Michael and Sandra Biter
Carol and Ron Pettus
Billy Thomas, Judith Gaines
Mary and David Clayton
John and Connie Allen
Pamela Owen
Professional Assoc. Mgt.
Joyce and Louis Hines

Alice Shehane
Jim Smartt
Anne and Robert Smith
Don and Janis Clark
Mickey and Pat Collier
Joyce and Kenneth Bridges
Robert Underwood
Gail and Lewis Sanders
Sander Schwartz, Diane Vanette
Gary Derryberry
Donna Hiller
Richard and Joan Fox
Drew Maddox

**There's no greater blessing than
having your school friends still
in your life.**

**Those bonds are rare and truly
a priceless gift.**



November 27, 2024

Dear Members and Friends of the Isaac Litton Alumni,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of over \$12,000.00 to support our Annual Holiday Celebration. I cannot express enough my gratitude to you for helping Backfield in Motion continue to serve the children of this program. We are super excited about your gift and are very appreciative of your belief in what we do for students in underprivileged areas. More importantly, your donation will bring a special smile to our students as they shop for a gift for themselves and a special gift for a loved one.

The Isaac Litton Alumni has been an integral part of BIM and without you all we would be in a tough position to make this program succeed. I personally thank you all for being a part of the BIM Family!!

Backfield in Motion is a non-profit organization helping low-performing students to improve their academic achievement, school attendance, and classroom behavior. Your donation will help us by employing Tennessee state certified teachers to tutor the students in reading and math beyond regular school hours. In addition, the students will receive character education and mentoring from our staff of program coordinators.

The donation you gave is important due to Backfield in Motion operating solely on grants, donations, and fundraising events. Thank you for your willingness to support our efforts in helping Nashville's low-income youth to be **Educated, Engaged, and Empowered**, becoming the best they can be, regardless of their current social or financial situation.

Again, thank you for supporting Backfield in Motion. It is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,

Todd E. Campbell

Todd E. Campbell, Ed.D.
Chief Executive Officer
Backfield in Motion, Inc.
920 Woodland Street
Nashville, TN 37206

100% of all contributions to Backfield in Motion, Inc. is deductible. Our Tax-ID number is 62-1826603.

Website Update

By Judy Cline, class of '70

As we approach the anniversary of the death of Jerry Newman, our former webmaster, we thought it would be timely to update you on the status of our website.

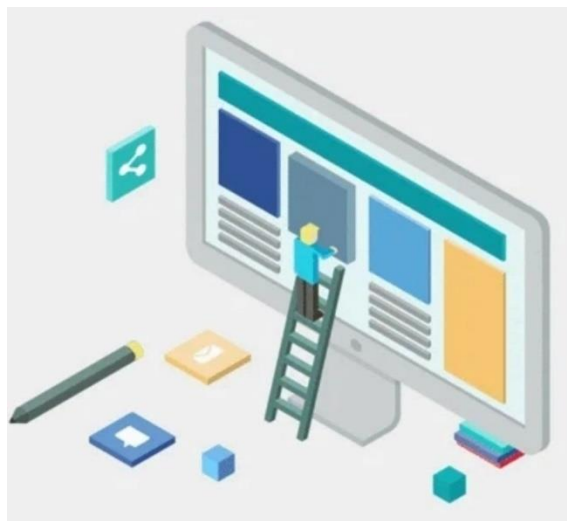
We have been so proud of our website. It has been a wonderful communication tool for all our alumni, with pages for Events, The Blast, Directories of Board Members, Class Representatives, Legacy Donors, and Gone but Never Forgotten. We also have pages for

photo galleries and articles about our history. And perhaps you opened this issue of the *Blast* from the website itself, with the accompanying *Blast* archives dating from August, 2004. With the help of our new webmaster (as of June 1, 2024), most of these pages are current.

Jerry was so devoted to the IsaacLitton.com website, spending many hours every day, asking only token payment for his services. As an alumni organization with limited resources, we simply cannot afford to pay anyone to duplicate the time that Jerry spent maintaining our website, so we are doing the best that we can within our budget to maintain these elements of our website.

Our greatest challenge is the section of our website devoted to the classes. With the exception of the class of 1932, none of this section has been updated since January, 2024. It is simply a daunting labor-intensive task to maintain the current structure of this section. Our current webmaster has a vision of what this section could look like, but even this is likely beyond our financial resources. However, we are continuing to investigate and research alternatives, and we ask for your patience.

Please know that we are continuing to keep records of all address/phone/email changes, deaths, etc. We have a good process, so please continue to notify your Class Rep of any changes, who will in turn notify Kaaren Andrews. If you need updated information regarding anyone, please notify your Class Rep who will contact Kaaren. Kaaren, Alice Shehane, and I are working closely together to



maintain updated records. If you have previously notified us about an update, please be assured that we have it—no need to send it again, even though you do not see the update on the website.

We commit to keeping you updated on the progress of our website and, again, we appreciate your patience.



As the world fights to figure everything out, I'll be holding doors for strangers, letting people cut in front of me in traffic, saying good morning, keeping babies entertained in grocery lines, stopping to talk to someone who is lonely, tipping generously, waving at police, sharing food, giving children a thumbs-up, being patient with sales clerks, smiling at passersby, and buying a stranger a cup of coffee.

WHY? Because I will not stand to live in a world where love is invisible.

Join me in showing kindness, understanding, and judging less.

Be kind to a stranger, give grace to friends who are having a bad day, be forgiving with yourself.

Author, unknown

We're in the process of updating pages on the website. Here is an example of what the site will be showing in the future.

THE HISTORY OF ISAAC LITTON HIGH SCHOOL IN SPORTS

Edited and updated by Larry Collier, class of '69

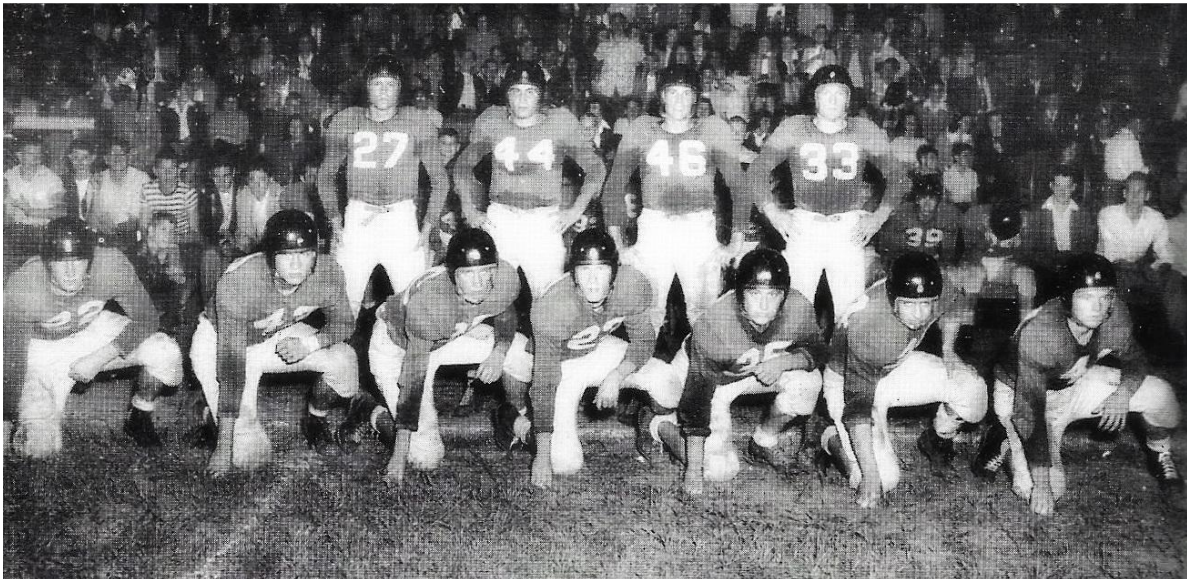
In the realm of athletics, Isaac Litton High School forged a great and honorable name during its history, when the Lions who wore the Red and Blue built a tradition of unequalled spirit and pride. Its first football coach was Mr. James Brandon, ably assisted by Mr. Julian Crocker. With a record of 5 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie in its first season, the team started a winning tradition that would distinguish Litton for years to come. In the second season, Mr. Crocker took the reins as football coach and held this position until 1940 when Mr. James Hamblen was named head coach. During these early years, Mr. Crocker had several assistants: Mr. Carroll Tallent, Mr. Granville Waggoner (a former Litton student), and James Hamblen. Subsequent fine coaches were Mr. Charles Miller (a Litton grad), Mr. Carl Yates, Mr. Charles Rounds, Mr. Marshall Foster, Mr. Bob Cummings, Mr. John Witt, Mr. Bill Harris and Mr. Richard Hewitt.



One of the best teams Litton ever fielded was the undefeated team of 1940-1941. Having completed the regular season unbeaten, they were declared City Champions. They journeyed to Murfreesboro to play Fayetteville in the Mid-State Tournament. In one of the most exciting games Litton has ever played, the Lions finally, in a sudden death playoff, were declared the winners. As a result of this victory, the Litton team played Gallatin at Dudley Field, where in a heartbreaking game, it lost. Leonard Staggs and Bob Bingham were chosen to be on the All-City team and Staggs was voted the most valuable player award in the NIL.

Then there was the exciting team of 1947-48, who roared to an 8 wins, 1 loss, 1 tie season and then defeated powerful MBA in a post-season game at Dudley Field. They were named the champions of the Nashville Interscholastic League and awarded the impressive trophy as such. Kenneth Duke was named on the Banner's All-City team, along with Tommy Patton. Kenneth was also chosen to be a member on the Tennessean and Good News All-City Teams, and brought further glory to Litton and himself by being chosen the MVP in the NIL and by being named to the prestigious All-State squad.

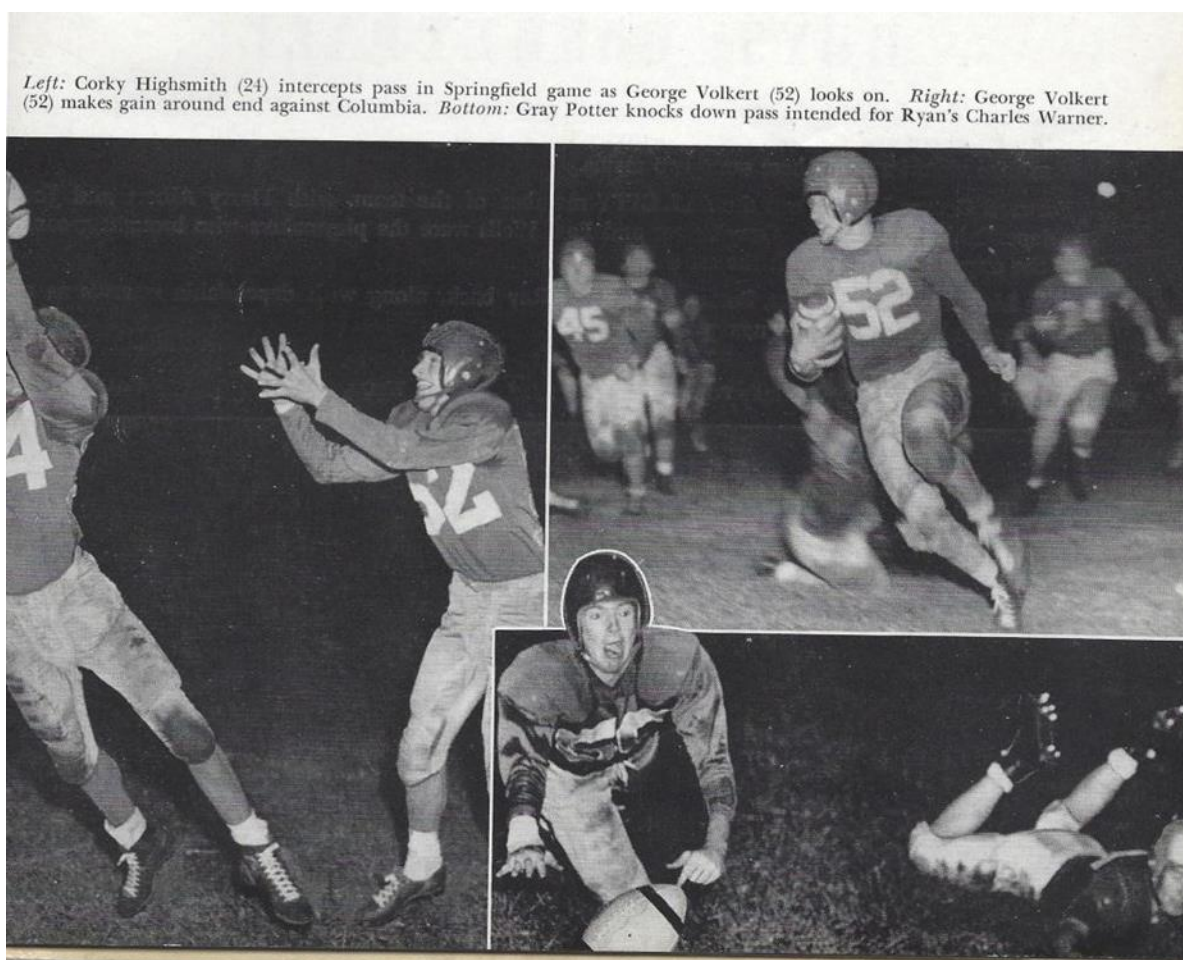
When the 1948-49 season ended, the Litton Lions again had an outstanding record with only one loss. This loss was a heartbreaker, as the Big Red from MBA emerged victorious over the Big Blue from Litton by a single point, 20-19. Several members of the Litton team received special honors. Tommy Patton, Buford Partee, and Kenneth Duke were selected on the All-City team and James Presley was voted the MVP in the NIL.



No one can forget the great team of 1951. Coach Bob Cummings led the Lions to win the AA Division crown with only one league defeat. However, this time, the crowning climax of the season came when the Litton Lions solidly trounced a good MBA team 39-27, a dream come true for any Litton football team! All of the Litton team players were good ones, but among the standouts were Claude Sharp and Willie Castleman, who were All-City selections, along with Tommy Weiss, Billy King, Ralph Sellers and Clarence Carter.

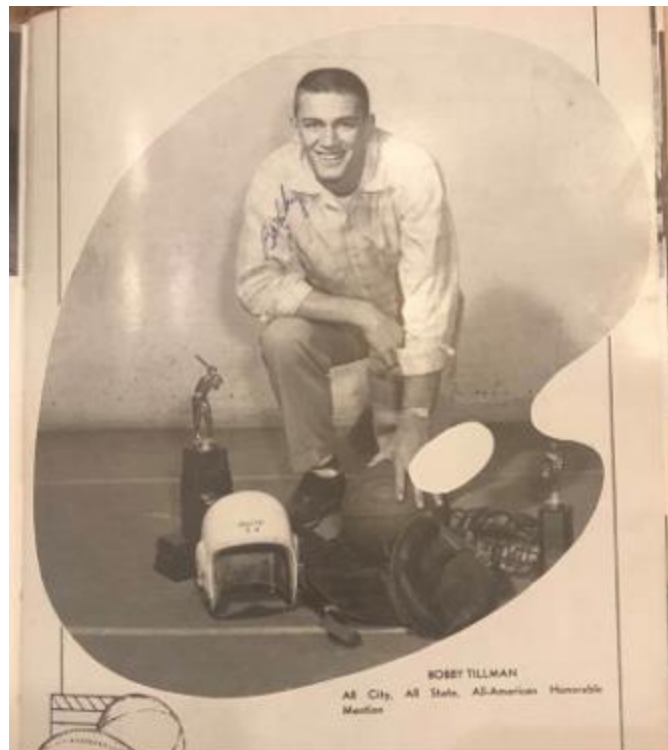
“A season of superlatives” could well describe the great season of 1952. The Litton Lions roared to its greatest football year in the long illustrious history of the school. Season’s play ended with a record of 9 wins and 1 loss – the lone loss being to the top ranked team in the state. The Lions were the proud champions of the NIL AA Division. Then the Big Blue went across town to Dudley Field on Thanksgiving Day and defeated Ryan in the Clinic Bowl, a fitting climax to a tremendous football season! Meriting positions on various All-Star teams were George Volkert (the first player in the history of Nashville high school football to be named on the national All-American team), John Gordy, who went on to become an outstanding player with UT and the Detroit Lions, L.F. McClellan, Gray Potter, Rip Nix and Jerry Kemp.

The Lions’ 1953 season was a tremendous one, also. Going into the first game with a young team, the charges of Coach Bob Cummings again began to roar and completed the regular season with a 9 wins, 1 loss record. Again, the Big Blue were declared NIL AA Division Champions, and for the second year in a row were invited to play in the Clinic Bowl. Bill Kee and Tarzan Adams were among the stars of this team.



As the 1954 season rolled around, the Litton Lions had a big name to live up to as the two previous squads had done to the Clinic Bowl. Well, history repeated itself as this team was again crowned AA Division Champs and were headed to the Clinic Bowl for the third time in as many years. Four boys were named All-City. They were Bobby Jones, Lyell Hunter, Rudolph Schmittou and Bill Ward, who was also selected to the All- State squad.

The Big Blue Lions roared once again to the NIL championship in 1955. Led by one of the most decorated athletes ever at Litton, Bobby Tillman was named all-city, all-state, and all-American honorable mention in both Football and Basketball. He went on to play Major League Baseball for the Boston Red Sox. He also was named to the Metro Schools Sports Hall-of-Fame and the Tennessee Sports Hall-of-Fame. Litton Coach Bill Harris called Tillman the best athlete he ever coached.



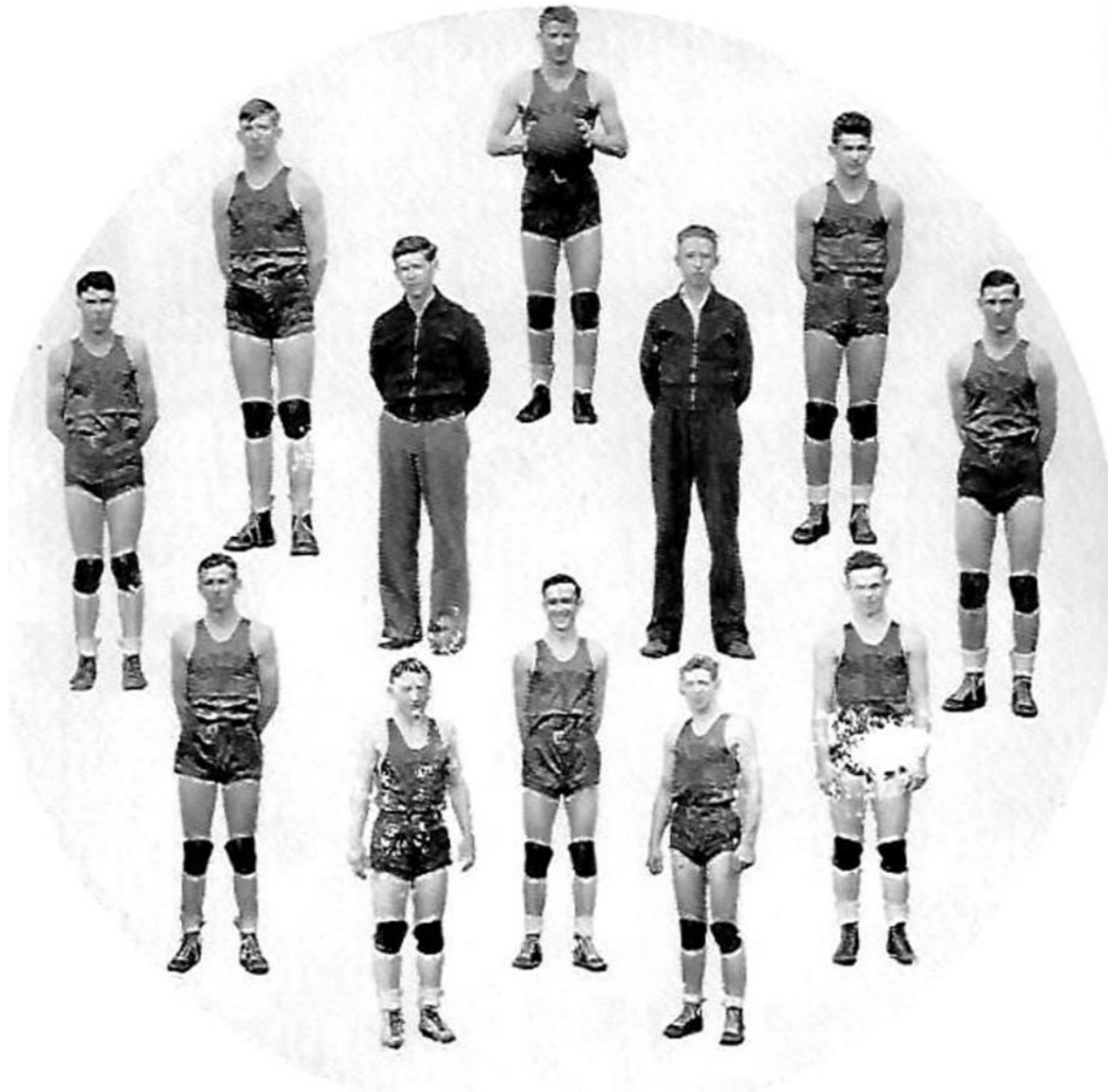
In 1960, the Lions eleven went undefeated and untied in winning the Associated Press state championship. The Big Blue had a stable of running backs led by bruising Jack Patterson, Richard Cutrer and the speedy Billy Tomlinson. Patterson and Tomlinson would accept scholarships to UT while Cutrer would play for Tulane.



In 1966, Litton won its last Championship in the AAA Eastern Division and made a final appearance in the Clinic Bowl at Vanderbilt's Dudley Stadium. Herbert and Harold Patterson, Bonnie Sloan and Stuart Byrom were outstanding in their play throughout the season.

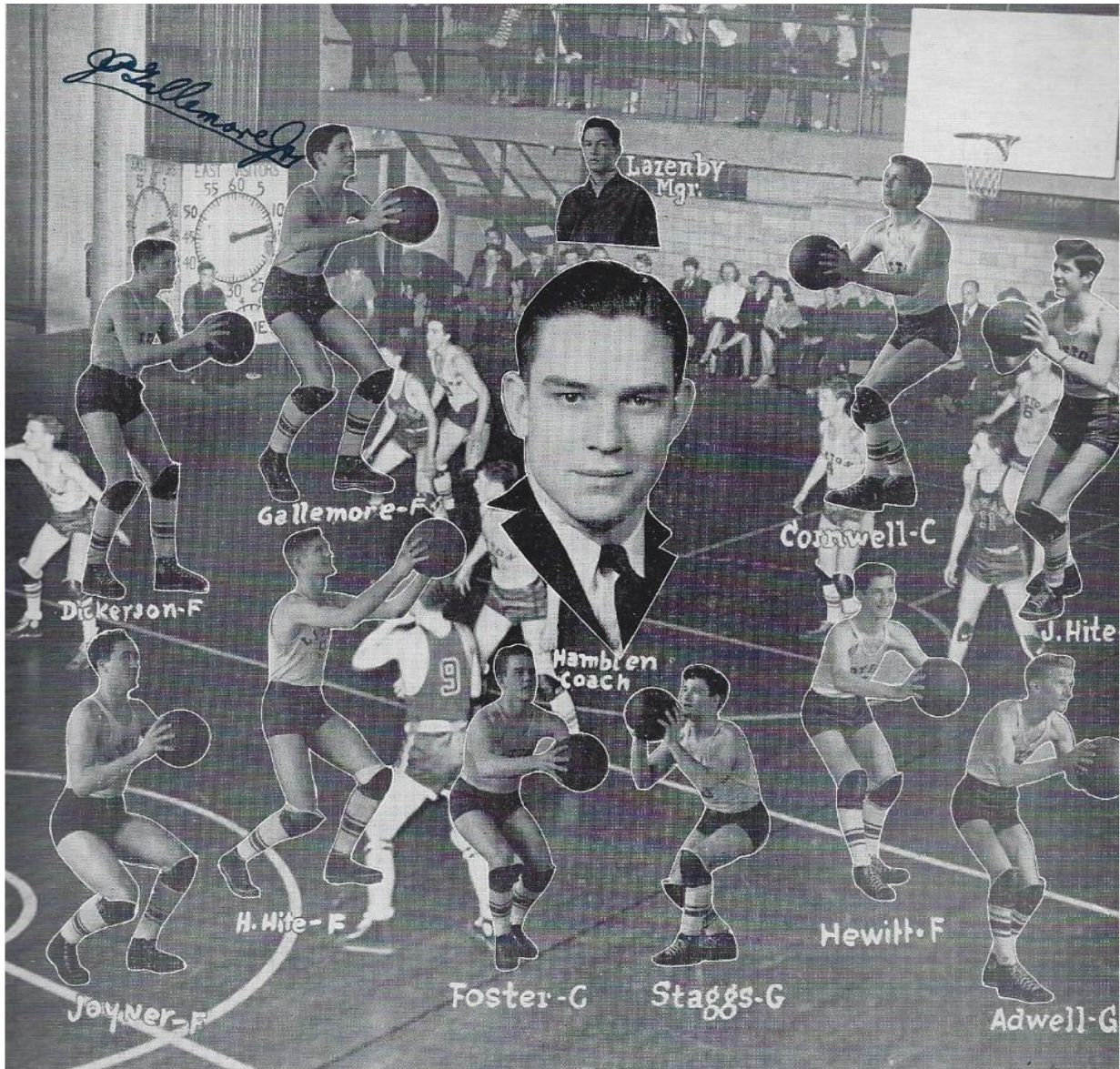
Laurels in athletics have also been garnered by Litton's basketball teams through the years. Among the coaches have been Mr. J.E. (Molly) Malone, Mr. Carroll Tallent, Mr. Granville Waggoner, Mr. James Hamblen, Mr. Carl Yates, Mr. Charles Miller, Miss Ruby Bateman, Mr. Jess Carney, Mr. John Witt, Mr. Marshall Foster and Mrs. Mae Thompson.

One of the most illustrious and best basketball teams to wear the Red and Blue was the squad of 1938. They were the winners of the Seventh District championship, runners-up to Central in the Regional Tournament, and completed in the State Tournament at Kingsport. Talent on this squad was abundant: Walter Wells made All City, All Regional, and All State; Jimmy Harris was All City; and Boonie Simmons was named to the All-Regional team as was Grady Cornwell. Jimmy Jackson, Roscoe Jackson and Paul Fudge were also among this talented group.

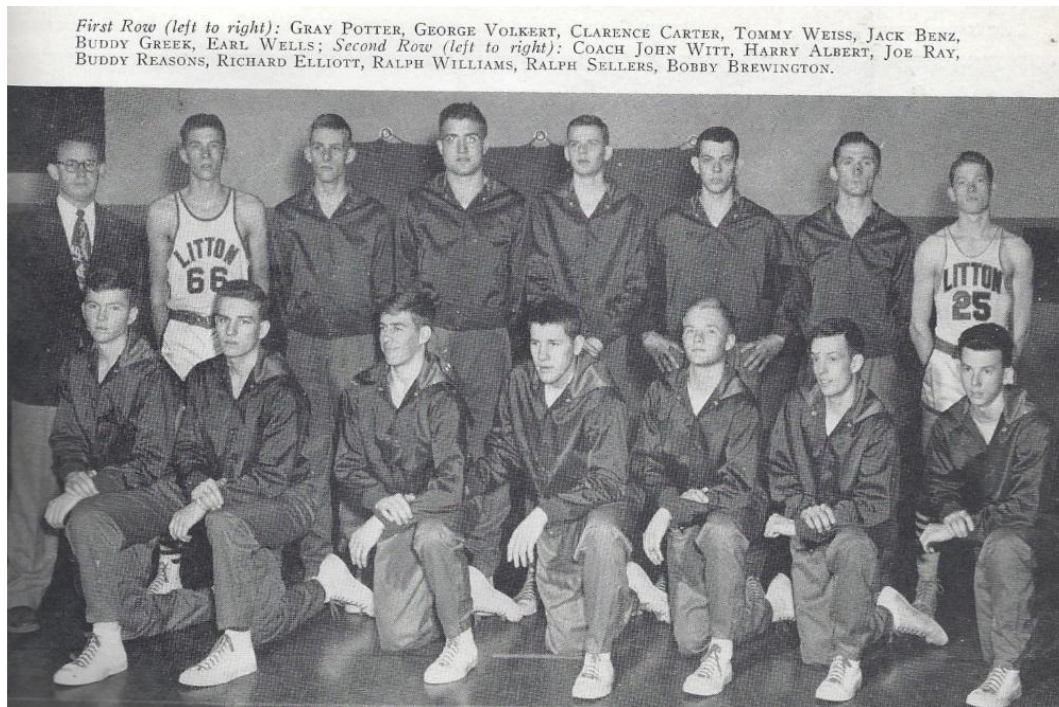


Again in 1939, the Litton Lions went to the State Tournament, only to be downed in the finals. Jimmy Jackson and Boonie Simmons were chosen on the All- District and All-Mid-State teams. Homer Dehoney was picked on the All-State Squad.

During the years of the early forties, the basketball boys brought many glories and honors to Litton High. In 1941 the team won both the Seventh District Tournament and the Second Regional Tournament. It traveled to Maryville to compete in the State Tournament. Among the many stars on this squad were Albert Dickerson, Ned Joyner, Harold Hite, Johnny Hite, Bubber Adwell, Grady Cornwell, Kirby Foster and Leonard Staggs. When the 1942 season rolled around, Litton once again was blessed with experienced ball players. By the time the tournaments were over, the Lions had won the Seventh District and were runners-up in the Second Unit Tournaments. Harold Hite made the All District Team; both Harold and Johnny Hite were selected on the All-Tournament team and Calvin Emery was named "best long distance shooter". Not to be outdone, the boys representing the Red and Blue in 1943 also won the Seventh District championship and went to the Regional Tournament at Murfreesboro. Harold and Johnny Hite, Doug Clifton, Preacher Warren and Enoch Thweatt made up this team.-up" team of 1955-56.



Another championship and trophy were won in 1951 when the Lions won the Nineteenth District Championship. Among the standouts of this group were George Volkert, Clarence Carter, Jack Benz, Ralph Sellers and All-City Richard Elliott.



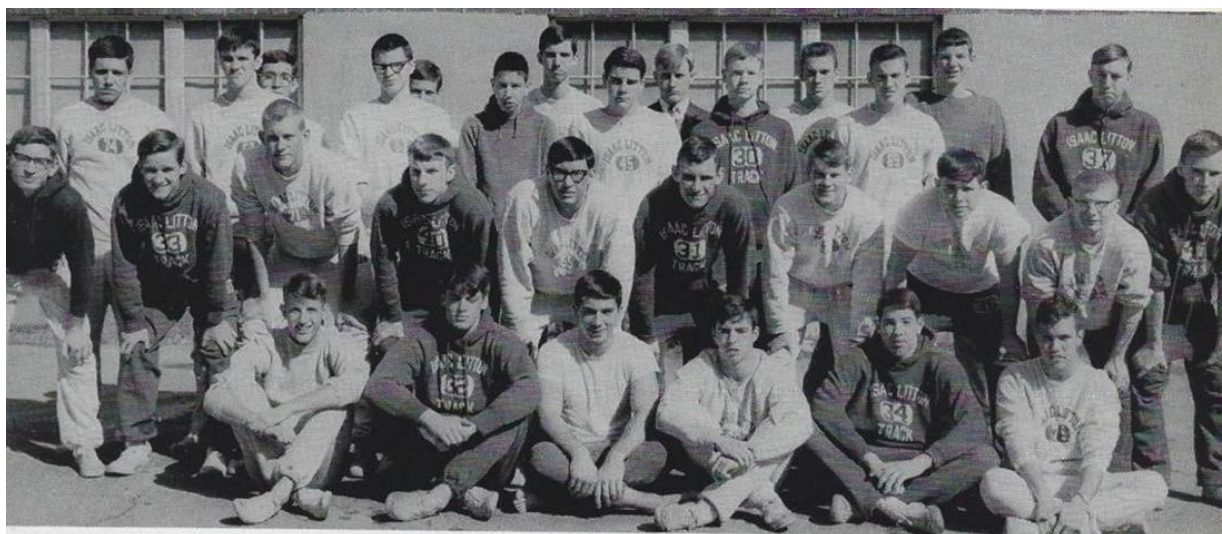
Then there was the team of 1955-56. It was named runner-up in the District Tournament, Region V Tournament and finally in the State Tournament. Ray Dickerson was chosen All-Nashville.

The girls' basketball team has not been without their great and glorious years either. The very first team representing the Red and Blue won the Seventh District championship in 1932. Verna Mai Ellis, who later became the coach at Litton, was a standout. Also on the squad were Molly Hardy, Katherine Hardigg, Ann Cooper, and Lucile Bland. When the basketball season for 1933 was completed, the Lionesses were Champions of the Seventh District. Ruth Benz, Jo Woodroof, Margaret Hickerson and Lily Crawley were members of this group, which was coached by Mr. Molly Malone. In 1943 the girls claimed the Seventh District championship and went to the Regional Tournament before being defeated. Among the stars of this team were Dorothy Sims, Rae Alessio, Eloise Mumpower, Betty Pippin and Mary Ellen Allen.



Then in the season 1951-52, the Lionesses had one of the most successful seasons in school history. The Litton sextet wound up with a 17 won 2 loss record. That was good enough to gain a tie for the Nashville Interscholastic League championship. Catherine Burrus, Glenda Compton, Wendle Englert, Margie Johnston, Ann Hagewood, Earline and Barbara Climer were the backbone of this fine squad. Perhaps the finest hour for the Litton girls' basketball team came in the 1957-58 season. With three All-District, All-City and All Regional girls on the squad, the Lionesses were winners of the Region V Championship and went to the State Tournament but were defeated in the finals. Gayle Brumbach was chosen Region V's Most Valuable Player. Besides this honor, she, Mary Wherry and Judy Jennings were selected for the All-City and All-Regional teams.

Although football and basketball dominated the sports scene at Litton throughout most of its history, other sports brought much publicity and many honors to the school in the later years, too. Among them are track, baseball, golf and tennis. Perhaps the most outstanding achievements have been in track. In 1965, the Lions track team won the District Championship with Bobby Petty and Jerry Ballou earning the right to compete in the State Track meet. The next year, 1966, was the big year as the "thinclads" from Litton were State Champions. They were also the winners of the Banner track relays. This outstanding team broke 28 records and tied 1 during the season. Among the more notables competing for the Red and Blue were Jerry Ballou, Herbert Patterson, Harold Paterson, Bonnie Sloan, Bobby Petty and Dwain Kirby.



Row 1: Treve Smith, Harry Murphy, Buddy Wade, Billy Owen, Milton Hathcock, Randy Warren. Row 2: Phil Taylor, Eddie Smith, Wayne Parker, Roger Spivey, David Watts, Chris McDonald, Gene Wherry, Stuart Byrom, Alan Copeland. Row 3: Mike Edwards, Ronny Merville, Tommy Irick, Ronny Thompson, Gerry Scandore, Gerald Head, Harold Patterson, Jerry Pinkerton. Row 4: Tammy Watts, Bobby Petty, Eddie Smith, Bill Covington, Herbert Patterson, David Riley.

In golf, Litton has had its champions too. In 1964, the golfers won the NIL Championship with Jimmy Smith leading the way. Sam Young was the winner of the Individual Championship Golfer in the NIL in 1969.



GOLF TEAM
Jimmy Smith, Ronnie Newsom, Phil Kelley, Bobby Jaurett, John Kirzbrough

The baseball team of 1953 provided a winner for the Red and Blue also, with such players as Joe Ray, Larry Tillman, Tarzan Adams, Bobby Sellers and Sonny Knox. The Lions were proclaimed the captors of the Nashville Interscholastic League crown. Mention must be made of Bobby Tillman as well in this sport. Although he didn't play on a nine at Litton that won a championship, he went on to play in the major leagues. Thus, he became one of the more well-known Litton grads.



There have been many, MANY honors and glories brought to Isaac Litton in the field of sports during its forty-year history, and many worthy coaches and assistant coaches through the years. Isaac Litton High School has an established sports record in the history books of which to be extremely proud.

BLAST / COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Alice Stewart Shehane '65, Chair

Kaaren Frazier Andrews '59

Judy Butler Cine '70

Larry Collier '69

Mickey Collier '65

Marisue Meador Stalker '70

ILAA 2024-2026 Board of Directors

President Mickey Collier, Class of '65, 615-347-7839, mickey4vols@comcast.net

President-Elect Don Clark, Class of '70, 615-305-8067, dc925@comcast.net

Past President Judy Butler Cline, Class of '70, 615-804-3453 clinejb@gmail.com

Secretary Alice Stewart Shehane, Class of '65, 615-516-9287, shehane64@gmail.com

Treasurer Buddy Jones, Class of '68, 615-779-8513, rljonescpa50@gmail.com

Kaaren Frazier Andrews, Class of '59, 615-448-6438, kaarena81@comcast.net

Jerry Bean, Class of '69, 615-804-5726, bjbea202@bellsouth.net

Terry Bumpus, Class of '70, 615-708-3182, terrybumpus@comcast.net

Dr. Wil Clouse, Class of '55, 615-545-9461, Drwil.Clouse@gmail.com

Pat Collier, 615-812-6862, mickeypat.1@comcast.net

Franklin Davis, Class of '70, 615-420-0342, wfdjr@aol.com

John Halliburton, Class of '68, 615-390-0901, johndhalliburton@att.net

Mike Riggins, Class of '69, 615-945-7160. Captnmike69@gmail.com

Rita Solomon, Class of '72, 615-351-2426, rsolomon.tn@gmail.com

Marisue Stalker, Class of '69, 615-337-6865, marisuestalker@yahoo.com

Sammy Swor, Class of '64, 615-218-7507, svsv@comcast.net

Kitty Kincaid Woodson, Class of '65, 615-957-3587, kittywoodson@gmail.com



Litton Legacy Donors, 1st three quarters of the 2024-2025 fiscal year

The Isaac Litton Alumni Association is taking this opportunity to thank our supporters and benefactors for their continuing support and encouragement. Listed here are the names of those to whom we extend our deepest gratitude for gifts received through December 31, 2024. Please note that gifts received after this date will be recognized during the following quarter. This list will also be posted on the Alumni Association website, isaaclitton.com.

Distinguished Donors (\$20,000 or over)

Diamond Donors (\$1000 and above)

William W. Benz III – class of '70

Angela Harper – class of '64

Sapphire Donors (\$500-\$999)

Jay McDonald – class of '64

Gayle Batey – Bailey Family Trust – class of '53

Ruby Donors (\$100-\$499)

Linda Flippo – class of '69

Jim Smartt – class of '69

Nancy Utter Terry – class of 54

David Brawner (50/50 tickets) – class of 68

Louis Hines – class of 53

Gary & Virginia Derryberry – class of '70

Nancy Stackhouse Wilson – class of '54

Charles V. Smith – class of '64

Judy Butler Cline – class of '70



We encourage all alumni to continue to contribute to our Association to help support the organizations with which we work!

The following is a supplement to the history on our website.

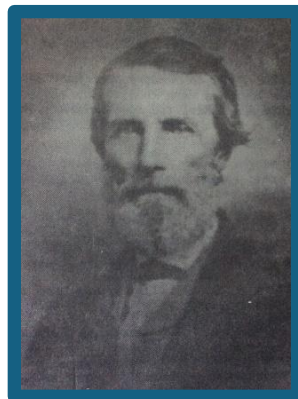
THE ROOTS OF ISAAC LITTON HIGH SCHOOL

Contributed by Kay Rayner Cunningham (Class of 1964)

Prior to 1930, if Inglewood students wanted to go to high school, they had to commute by trolley to Central High or Hume Fogg. As Inglewood grew into a middle-class suburb, it became more important to have its own senior high school. In 1929, the county purchased 11 acres on Gallatin Pike to build what would become by 1954 the largest high school in Middle Tennessee. On October 25, 1930, Isaac Litton opened its doors for the first time. Within just a few years, Litton's reputation as a school of excellence was well established throughout Middle Tennessee. Everyone wanted to attend.

Because of this school, citywide traditions were established, such as the Miss Nashville High School competition (the brainchild of the Litton Blast, the Littonian staff and teacher sponsors). The Clinic Bowl, a game whose proceeds to this day benefit the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, is another tradition that began with Litton. Litton's great band director, Sammy Swor, personified this value. It was this drive for greatness, coupled with the financial support from the community that made Isaac Litton's Band, the Marching 100, nationally known. Litton became the reflection of what can be achieved when the community works brilliantly together.

The history of Isaac Litton had begun with the purchase of that land which was owned by a man named Isaac Litton. He was a successful businessman in lumber and insurance, who died 36 years before the school was opened. At the time of his death, he owned a large farm on Gallatin Road, near where the East YMCA is today.



Isaac Litton 1812-1894

His grandson, Judge Litton Hickman was a judge at the time and had grown up on his grandfather's farm on Gallatin Road. It was Judge Hickman who suggested the school be named Isaac Litton.

When opened, this is how the building looked – not yet its larger, expanded version:



The completed building was truly a vision of excellence and achievement:



So, in 1930, we officially became Isaac Litton High School. For some in the community, the plate lunch served daily was the biggest meal of their day. This feast consisted of a meat and two vegetables, and cost six cents a day.

Within just a few years, Isaac Litton established its newspaper, the BLAST. By 1940, it boasted a staff that many commercial publishers would envy including a business manager, an advertising manager, editor-in-chief, sports editors, photographers, columnists, and even poets. In 1958, it began publishing in color while every major paper in the United States was still in black and white. Isham Byrom, sponsored the Blast while he also taught English and journalism, until the school closed.

Without warning, a 40-year tradition came to an end in 1971 when a court order closed Isaac Litton High School. In 1993, the main building was torn down but the efforts of a strong alumni association saved the gym and stadium for use as a city park. They have created one of the strongest, most organized alumni associations in the country. The Litton alumni, along with Youth Incorporated and the Inglewood Neighborhood Association have renovated the gymnasium building through donations from area residents, community leadership, and businesses. The renovated gym (shown below) as it stands today has served not only its alumni but the Inglewood community as a meeting place and a place where at-risk youth can seek and receive assistance by providing consistent support of the Backfield in Motion organization.



This is just the tip of the iceberg called Isaac Litton High School. We made an indelible mark on more than just our community. Our heritage is one we will always talk about with pride and beautiful memories.

LITTON HIGH FOREVER !!!

SOURCE: Images of America: Nashville's Inglewood by Crystal Hill Jones, Naomi C. Manning and Melanie J. Meadows



ALUMNI NEWS AND NOTES

(If you have activities you would like to share, send them to Alice Shehane, shehane64@gmail.com for inclusion in future Blasts.)

Jimmy Smith, class of '65 will sing the National Anthem in Knoxville at the Thompson-Boling Arena, at Food city Center, Tuesday, January 21, 2025. TN vs MS State. Time TBA. SEC Network.



Litton Kittens' 64 met for their annual Christmas luncheon at the lovely home of the lovely Judy Hooper McGehee. Lots of fun!



Members of the Class of '65, plus stragglers from other classes and Stratford (who got split off from the class of '65 when they were 9th graders) met for lunch at the Scoreboard near the Opryland Hotel. Shenanigans ensued.

GONE, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



Reported October 1, 2024-December 31, 2024

CLASS	NAME	DATE OF DEATH
1967	James Edward (Ned) Benz	09-21-2024
1957	Thomas Earl (Tom) Simpson	09-14-2024
1969	Larry Joe Baker	09-24-2024
1955	Grace Hill Jawkins	10-06-2024
1955	Joseph Webster (Joe) Haley	10-12-2024
1958	Kenneth Garrett Porter, Jr.	10-06-2024
1955	Stewart Anderson Jackson	10-22-2024
1946	Harry Raymond Langlois	10-25-2024
1963	Jerry Michael (Mike) Holloway	11-01-2024
1956	John A. Wilson	11-04-2024
1939	Kathleen Burgess O'Mara Mays	11-27-2024
1959	Joseph Vance Russell	11-30-2024
1962	Linda Herod Clifton	11-25-2024
1961	Charles Randall Smith	12-17-2024
1955	Alvin Lyell Hunter	12-24-2024
1953	Ronald D. Robinson	12-23-2024

NOTE: Due to the publication deadlines for each quarterly issue of the BLAST, the names of those departed alumni received after the 25th of the quarter will be included in the next issue.

Please send your class representative, as listed on the ILAA website, any notices as soon as possible. Thank you.



Wonderful memories!

Want to get involved in alumni activities?
Lots of committees need helpers, so you can get your feet wet learning all we do!
Contact President Mickey Collier.