



Ben D. Ledbetter, Jr. “Pirate discipline”

It took hot, sweltering summer days and tenacious discipline to galvanize Ben D. Ledbetter’s hoops abilities at Charlestown. Furthermore, Ledbetter,¹ both as a player, and coach later on at his alma mater, would rewrite a new narrative in the Pirates 100th boys’ basketball legacy.

Ledbetter began fine tuning his basketball skills in the off season of 1966 under scorching conditions on a sizzling slab of concrete at Jennings terrace basketball court, directly across from the high school. The goals had chained-linked nets, instead of the conventional nylon. And, when Ledbetter throttled the ball in the hole, you could hear the searing chained-nets get a workout until he got it to perfection!

Ledbetter’s self-disciplined summers paid off, remarkably. In his two terrific varsity seasons, he was frequently in double-figures for the Pirates. He had two career-best high performances of 33 points against Crothersville and Henryville, and was voted on the 1965 and 1966 Silver Creek Holiday All-Tournament Teams, and awarded the Most Valuable Player in 1966. He was All-Mid-Southern Conference, 1966 and 1967. In his final year, he posted a 19.0-ppga. He is credited with 38 assists, 60 steals, and 75.8 percent at the charity stripe. He had a career-best scoring performance of 716 points.

In 1967, Ledbetter entered The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, and was an outstanding player for the Bulldogs for four seasons. In 1993, he returned to Charlestown, where it all began and became the Pirates varsity coach. His 1997 Pirates won the state’s last IHSAA single-class Jeffersonville Sectional by defeating Jeffersonville in the championship game.

Coach Ben D. Ledbetter, Jr. and his 1997 sectional champion Pirates celebrate their 20th Anniversary this centennial hoops season. (*Read more on Coach Ben D. Ledbetter, Jr. in “The Pirates” and “Pirates of the Hardwood”*) Ledbetter was well-disciplined!



¹ Ben D. Ledbetter photograph courtesy of The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina.