

Interview with A. McGuffey
Asbury McGuffey, phone interview, 18 May 2018,
Interviewed by Angelica Miller.
[“Conducted for Carlisle's 1955 Integrated Football Team”](#)
Entry in the Notable Kentucky African Americans Database

1. What positions did everyone play?

Answer: Ronnie Wilson played Center, Gayle Wilson was a Full Back and Asbury McGuffey was a Halfback. All four of them were starters and played in every game.

2. Do you remember the season record?

Answer: The only game we lost that year as against Mount Sterling. It was the last game of the regular season. We were down by one touchdown, I think that's what it was. But we were playing while we had the flu, didn't have enough players for substitutions so that's just what we had to do.

3. Did you all play in any tournaments?

Answer: Yes we played in the CKC Tournament [Central Kentucky Conference].

4. What was the local response to integration like?

Answer: Well, we got a lot of hate on the field. If I had a nickel for every time we were called N-er, we'd all have been rich. Our teammates knew us for the most part because we'd played softball in intramurals. Also, you know Carlisle wasn't that big. I think it had 1500 people, maybe. So it wasn't hard to know nearly everybody. So they were okay. It was actually Billy Shaw's mama who'd cast the deciding vote for the schools to integrate that year, and he played Quarterback with us, so that helped. Truthfully, not too many people messed with us. And in Carlisle, for the most part people were accepting. Some of the white kid's parents would bring us food and stuff when we were on the road because they knew restaurants wouldn't serve us. But when we played on the road, things could get really ugly. Lots of name-calling, jeering, some people threw rocks stuff like that. It was sorta scary, because we were just kids. We didn't have any security on the field. When we won, the opposing team and their fans could get really wild. One time, we had just finished beating Stanford, and before we could leave on the bus, their fans had it surrounded and began to rock it. And everybody was scared. Black, white, coach, student it didn't matter. Then in Flemingsburg towards the very end of the season, all the white players walked out of the restaurant because they wouldn't serve us too. And that was powerful. It kinda felt like we really had become a team

5. What did everyone go on to do with their lives post-high school

Answer: Well Gayle graduated first, and he went into the Army. Then the three of us finished and I went into the Army, and played football while I was over in Europe for three years. And Ronnie, he went into the Air Force, I think he retired from it a few decades back but I can't really remember the date.