

## CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM – 1965

The 1964-65 basketball season for the Central High School Trojans proved to be an exceptional one. The 10-man team from Amherst, with only one set of uniforms, and probably one ball for practice, raced through the district season with an unblemished record. Most games had scores with the Trojans well in control, but William Thomas preserved the undefeated season with a last-second shot against Nelson Memorial.

The Trojans led the district in offense, averaging 73 points per game. Leading the team were Melvin Franklin, Nyal Colmore, and William Thomas as the principal scoring threats, and Franklin as the best defender. Albert Turner and Kenneth Braxton were the leading rebounders.

The team considered their former teammate from an earlier Central team, Dan Braxton, to have been a big influence in teaching them strong fundamentals, especially in how to play the power forward position. They had learned how to play well as a team, and were unselfish in feeding the man who had the “hot hand”.

The district tournament featured much excitement with several upsets, but the top-ranked Trojans prevailed over Central High School of Charlotte Courthouse to win the championship. Center Albert Turner led the tournament in scoring and was named to the All-Tournament team.

The regular season had its memorable moments, with less than state-of-the-art facilities in the early 1960s. Archrival Carver-Price High School in Appomattox had a gym that doubled as an auditorium, and one of the goals was mounted on the stage on which spectators would be seated. The students shook the goal, but the Trojans nevertheless prevailed.

Carter G. Woodson had pot-bellied stoves in the gym, and the Trojans ran a fast break that resulted in the upending of one of the stoves.

Coach Carlton sometimes felt that his top two players were getting too nervous before big games, so he created a calming atmosphere, with wooden pallets, outfitted with pillows and blankets, to allow them a place to relax in preparation for the game. The tactic apparently worked well.

Following the district tournament championship, giving them a 17-0 record, the team headed to Hampton for the state playoffs. After a bye in the first round at Hampton Institute (now University), they were matched against Carter Woodson of Hopewell. They then advanced to the state finals, losing to Suffolk.



## Regular Season

|         |    |                        |    |
|---------|----|------------------------|----|
| Central | 91 | Nelson Memorial        | 72 |
| Central | 60 | Carter Woodson         | 45 |
| Central | 86 | Russell Grove          | 49 |
| Central | 77 | Luther P. Jackson      | 31 |
| Central | 70 | Carver-Price           | 59 |
| Central | 73 | Central, Charlotte Co. | 64 |
| Central | 71 | Lunenburg              | 48 |
| Central | 89 | Nelson Memorial        | 87 |
| Central | 68 | Carter Woodson         | 59 |
| Central | 75 | Russell Grove          | 43 |
| Central | 58 | Luther P. Jackson      | 53 |
| Central | 67 | Carver-Price           | 54 |
| Central | 69 | Central, Charlotte Co. | 57 |
| Central | 68 | Lunenburg              | 56 |

## District Tournament

|         |    |                        |    |
|---------|----|------------------------|----|
| Central | 85 | Luther P. Jackson      | 49 |
| Central | 53 | Russell Grove          | 36 |
| Central | 65 | Central, Charlotte Co. | 40 |

## State Tournament

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Central (win)  | Carter Woodson |
| Central (loss) | Suffolk        |

## 1964-65 Central High Trojans

Carroll Austin  
James Braxton  
Kenneth Braxton\*  
Nyal Colmore  
Quintus Ferguson  
Melvin Franklin  
Donald Hendricks  
James Ligon\*  
Homer Richerson  
Gene Smith\*  
William Thomas, co-captain  
Albert Turner, co-captain  
Willis Winfree

Charles Thompson, manager

Coach, James Carlton  
Assistant Coach, William D. Langhorne \*

\*deceased