

MIKE CARSON TIGERS' ONLY BASKETBALL ALL-AMERICAN

Sistersville High school played scholastic basketball for nearly 100 years, and only one player during that time — 6-foot-7 Mike Carson, Class of 1969 — made multiple legitimate national All-American teams, including the prestigious Scholastic Magazine team and four preseason All-American teams.

Mike Carson became a starter midway through his freshman season in 1965-66 and helped lead the Tigers to the four-team state Class A semifinals in Huntington — the only time in his career he played in the state event.

Once he began scoring, he didn't stop. He had two games of 20-plus points as a *freshman* (27 against Wirt and 20 against Tyler) and 15 games of 20 or more as a sophomore, when he first made all-state. (Including 54 points against Wirt and 35 the following game against Ravenswood.) As a junior, he had a three-game stretch of 41, 45 and 41 points in which he made 39 of 41 free throws (including a then Ohio Valley and state record of 21-for-21 against Parkersburg Catholic, and a state record 33 in a row). During four tournament games that season, he averaged 32 points and ended up leading the state with a 30.4 average. He averaged 29.96 as a senior.

During Mike's junior and senior seasons, Sistersville ranked as high as No. 5 in the UPI all-class (AAA, AA and A) state rankings on multiple occasions. He had a career high of 61 points against

in his final career home game (against Wirt County again). About the same time, a national story by AP sports writer Ed Rice from Charleston appeared in dozens of newspapers nationwide, including many big cities.

Mike Carson was the most recruited basketball player in school history, generating interest from more than 125 colleges — including national champion UCLA and Kentucky. He visited Kentucky, where he was heavily recruited by legendary coach Adolph Rupp, before eventually signing with home state West Virginia.

During his senior season, Mike Carson and Allan Hornyak of nearby Bellaire, Ohio, St. John's were arguably the most two heavily recruited players in Ohio Valley history. For my Substack site, I wrote a story in 2026 outlining the recruiting of Hornyak and Carson that season.

Mike Carson ended his career with 2,269 points, third in Ohio Valley history to that point (Hornyak was first with 2,385, including an 86-point game against Warren Consolidated). He still ranks 10th all-time in West Virginia scoring (Josh Delawder of Paw Paw leads with 2,965 points). Mike's 54 points against Wirt County in 1967 remain nearly 60 years later as the most by a sophomore in West Virginia history; he also is the only three-time first-team all-state basketball player in school history.

The Substack story I wrote about Mike and his recruiting is included on this site.

— **Alan Robinson**

Mike Carson Is the Answer To Many a Basketball Coach's Dream

By Ed Rice

SISTERSVILLE, W.Va. (AP) — He can run, he can shoot and he's nearly 6-foot-9—the answer to many a basketball coach's dreams.

He's Mike Carson, center for tiny Sistersville (W.Va.) High School. Sistersville is an Ohio River town with a population of 2,300.

The schools that have contacted Carson, one way or another, include Kentucky, Southern California, Indiana, Illinois, Duke, North Carolina, Davidson, Maryland, Kansas, New York University, Dayton, Kent State, Ohio State, Ohio University, Rutgers, Arizona and Oklahoma.

"Any one you can think of, they've contacted him," Sistersville Coach Tom Cuppett said.

What has attracted all the attention?

Carson, touted as the best big man in West Virginia high school basketball, led the state in scoring last year with a 30.4 average. So far this year he's averaging more than 32 points and 23 rebounds a game.

Here's what Cuppett says about his star player:

"He's rated as a very good shot. He can dunk the ball flat footed with both hands. He's unbelievable. I've seen him hook



MIKE CARSON

four straight from inside the key where the fouls are shot.

"One game we didn't go to him at all hardly the first half.

We just stuck him over in a corner and told him to stand there.

"They came off him in the second half and he scored more than 20 points. He had 33 for the game.

"He could be averaging close to 50 points if we went to him exclusively. But we won't do that. We never have."

The 17-year-old weighs 208 and is gaining. Cuppett said Carson takes vitamins and drinks a diet supplement. He also lifts weights to build his strength.

Among the 125 coaches interested in Carson is Raymond "Bucky" Waters of West Virginia.

"We make no secret about it, he's one of ours. He's a West Virginian and we'd like to have him come to WVU," Waters said.

"Carson definitely has potential. I think he'd be a credit to any college. And, he's a fine boy too."

The Mountaineer coach also noted the Sistersville basketball court is very small, "not conducive to getting him to move and do the things he'll have to do on a larger court."

Right now Waters seems to have the inside track to Carson, but his choice of colleges is still undecided.



Clay's Corner

Mike Carson

Please Stay Home

By KENNETH CLAY
Register Sports Editor

He's 17 years old, he weighs 206 pounds, he stands 6-9, he's a senior, he can run and shoot, he's Mike Carson, center for the Sistersville High School basketball team.

Many sports fans have never even heard of Sistersville. It's a small Ohio River town with a population of 2,300.

Mike is probably the most sought-after high school basketball player in the state of West Virginia this year.

I had the good fortune of watching Mike and the Tigers play when he was a freshman. It was a regional tournament game held at the St. Mary's high school gym.

The Tigers' competition that night were the Glenville Pioneers. Mike's personal opposition was Kenny Fisher, a 6-8 senior now attending Glenville State College and playing for Coach Jesse Lilly's Pioneers.

Mike was the most talented player on the floor in my opinion. He could run, pass, shoot, jump better than any other player on the floor that night.

Although only a freshman, Mike was definitely the finest big man I had the pleasure to see that year.

Since then, Mike has improved his shooting, jumping, passing and running. Also, he has grown three inches in height.

Mike is what most sports fans call, a "one-man team".

Playing on a team from a school the size of Sistersville, Mike has not had the pleasure of playing against tough competition yet.

Mike is a fine student and as nice a gentleman as you could meet, on and off the floor. He's not a selfish ballplayer. He could average 50 points a game, but he prefers to pass off to his teammates, even when he knows he has a better chance to score.

Just a few of the schools that have contacted Mike are Kentucky, Southern California, Indiana, Illinois, Duke, North Carolina, Davidson, Maryland, Kansas, New York University, Dayton, Kent State, Ohio State, Ohio University, Rutgers, Oklahoma, Arizona and West Virginia University.

Mike was the state's leading scorer last year with a 30.4 ppg. average. So far this season he's averaging more than 32 points and 23 rebounds a game. He's expected to hit the 2,600-point high school career mark this season.

Coach Bucky Waters at WVU, sung a right nice song in 1967. It went like this: "Carey Bailey, won't you please come home". All indications show that Bucky will be singing the song a little different this year. Something like, "Mike Carson, won't you please stay home".

Wintersville 17 21 15 23 - 78

State Record In Foul Shots Is Matched

Mike Carson, a 6-foot-7½ junior at Sistersville High School, sank 21 of 21 foul shots in a 78-68 basketball triumph over host Parkersburg Catholic Friday night. He scored 45 points.

The perfect performance ties the West Virginia high school record, according to a Wheeling Intelligencer sports writer, Doug Huff, who keeps such records as a hobby.

Huff said the previous 21-of-21 free throw shooting was by Ralph Bennett of Elkins in a game against Clarkstown Roosevelt-Wilson in December, 1963.

Hickwood's Mike Triplett poured in 38 points but the lumberjacks dropped a three-overtime 104-103 decision to eighth-ranked Princeton. The regulation game ended at 80 and the first two overtimes ended in ties of 83 and 90.

Charleston's slick Mountain Lions, only unbeaten Class AAA team and ranked overwhelmingly No. 1 in the United Press International poll, showed why again Friday. With all-state Curtis Price playing half the game and slipping in 11 points, the Lions routed third-ranked Parkersburg 92-54.

Second-ranked Williamson whopped Huntington St. Joseph 80-47 and fourth-ranked Mullens mauled Oceana 83-64.

However, fifth-ranked Huntington lost 7-60 to Portsmouth, Ohio, and sixth-ranked Wheeling lost for the second time this season to 10th-ranked Triadelphia 75-60.

GULF 100

Sistersville Clinches State Title As Mike Carson Scores 61

SISTERSVILLE — Big Mike Carson saved the best for last 98-58 triumph over Wirt County Tuesday night as the 6-6 senior High scored 61 points to lead Sistersville to a Little Kanawha Conference

the all-time scoring leader. The gifted scorer now has 218 points, one more than Mike Cooper of Hamilton High. Big Mike had 26 of 32 field

goals in the final home game of the season. Assistant Coach Heinlein netted Carson with 17 points, while Wirt's attack was Dave Fleek and Steve Cale. Fleek summed in 26 points on 10 field goals and six fouls, while Cale added 21 on seven from the floor and the same number from the line.

Sistersville roared into a 24-14 first quarter advantage as Carson tallied 18 while Cale had six for the Elizabeth team. Carson tallied nine in the second go-around as the up-river Bengals upped their lead to 47-33. Fleek led the down-river Tigers with nine.

The LKC champs, with Carson scoring 15, ran away in the third canto and led 73-50 at the turn. Cale (8) and Fleek (7) paced Wirt.

Carson pumped in 19 of Sistersville's final 25 points while Fleek netted six in the losing cause.

Sistersville, now 15-0 in the LKC and 18-1 overall, closes its regular season Friday at Ravenswood. Wirt travels to Mason to meet Wahama the same night.

Wirt	14	19	17	8	58
Sistersville	24	23	26	25	98

Wirt (58)

Fleek	10-6-26	S. Cale	7-7-21
Robinson	1-0-2	McFee	3-0-4
Galleys	0-0-0	Valentine	1-1-3
Bruce	1-0-2	TOTALS	22-14-58 (30)

Sistersville (98)

Heinlein	8-1-17	Swisher	0-0-0
Menighan	2-0-5	Carson	26-9-61
Lathey	4-1-9	Wright	1-0-2
Rutherford	1-0-2	Howlett	1-0-2
Graves	0-0-0	TOTALS	43-12-98 (29)

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The Boston Celtics' captain, **Bill Russell**, pulls away from **Hal Greer** and **Walt Frazier** as he drives past **Billy Cunningham** for a layup against Philadelphia 76ers at the Spectrum arena Wednesday night's NBA playoff game between the Celtics and 76ers. The Bridgeport High and Ohio State University players tallied 35 points to the Celtics to a 114-100 victory. (UPI Unifax)

MORAN'S FIRST RECRUIT WVU Signs Carson

Garland "Son" Carson, a 6-foot-8-inch senior veteran of the West Virginia University basketball team, has announced that he will sign with the Mountaineers for his 1969-70 season. Carson scored 20 points during his four-year career at the Tiger varsity level, finishing fifth on the all-time scoring list at Virginia. He led the team in scoring during his senior season. He was also named MVP of the 1968-69 season.

Carson, who played at Kentucky and Williamsburg, Kent State and West Virginia University. Beside visiting his parents' home in Barrackville, he also toured the campus at the end of the season.

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MIKE CARSON becomes a Mountaineer

dent and a suspension of more top golfers from the event in today's opening of the new National Airlines Open, but the \$200,000 tournament drew the rest of golfing's bluebloods.

All but six of the world's richest golfers are after the \$40,000 first place money on the 6,927-yard par-72 West Course at Miami Country Club.

Among the missing are Lee Trevino, U.S. Open champion and third-place money winner so far this year, who jammed a thumb on a locker room door Tuesday, and Dave Hill, 13th-place money winner who was banned from the money for using "abusive and profane" language to PGA officials during the Jacksonville Open.

Also missing are Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus.

Wednesday's event, which is a match between Jackie Gleason and Joe Namath, prize money was among the 56. They got \$89,290.

But Namath had a comic licked by Gleason. After the match, Gleason announced, "The er had agreed to Variety Children's Rounding out were Arnold Palmer and Hans Zimmermann, \$10,000 to the privilege of playing er three.

Gonzalez Roche In Garfield Tour

NEW YORK (UPI)—Juan Gonzalez Roche of Australia, who put on a tennis player and ruled the courts for a decade, meet in quarter-finals of Madison Square Garden Trophy Open.

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FRESHMAN YEAR.

Team	Goals	Fouls	Points.
Pennsboro	1	0-2	2
Magnolia	0	0-1	0
Bishop Donahue	5	4-8	14
Harrisville	1	1-1	3
Williamstown	2	2-3	6
Wirt Paden City	2	1-2	5
Park.Catholic	1	2-3	4
Tyler	3	1-2	7
St. Marys	3	4-8	10
Magnolia	0	0-0	0
St. Marys	7	2-5	16
Paden City	3	3-5	9
Park.Catholic	1	1-1	3
Tyler	8	4-4	20
Harrisville	4	0-1	8
Wirt <i>Wirt</i>	12	3-8	27
Bishop Donahue	4	0-2	8
Williamstown	4	1-2	9
Wirt	7	1-2	15
Pennsboro	9	0-0	18

SECTIONAL

Tyler	6	0-0	12
Paden City	4	7-10	15

REGIONAL

Barr_cksville	6	7-8	19
Bethany	3	5-5	11

STATE

Williamson Lib.	3	4-5	10
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TOTALS 99 field goals, 43-88 fouls 251 points.

MIKE CARSON'S SCORING
AS A SOPHOMORE.

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>GOALS</u>	<u>FOULS</u>	<u>PTS.</u>	<u>REBOUNDS.</u>
Wirt	8	6-8	22	24
Pennsboro	10	2-6	22	33
Magnolia	2	5-7	9	18
Harrisville	23	2-4	28	25
Williamstown	12	2-3	26	21
Alumni	9	3-3	21	16
Paden City	8	4-4	20	15
Park. Catholic	6	3-3	15	20
Tyler	7	2-3	16	19
Pennsboro	9	2-4	20	18
St. Marys	2	2-5	6	16
Magnolia	5	4-5	14	23
St. Marys	9	4-7	22	21
Paden City	9	7-11	25	16
Park. Catholic	10	6-10	26	18
Tyler	9	3-4	21	24
Harrisville	23	5-6	31	18
Ravenswood	15	12-16	42	24
Williamstown	6	0-1	12	15
Wirt	21	12-18	54	27
Ravenswood	16	3-7	35	26

Reg. Season

199

89-135

487

SECTIONAL

Pennsboro

9

5-6

23

Wirt

11

1-4

2 3

Williamstown

6

1-2

13

546

**MIKE CARSON'S
SCORING IN JUNIOR YEAR.**

Team	G	F	Pts
Wirt	16	9-11	40
Pennsboro	7	5-11	19
Magnolia	12	8-16	32
Harrisville	10	2-2	22
Williamstown	7	17-27	31
Paden City	18	4-5	40
Park. Catholic	13	9-13	35
Pennsboro	9	2-6	20
St. Marys	6	6-8	18
Magnolia	7	3-7	17
St. Marys	14	13-15	41
Park. Catholic	12	21-21	45
Tyler	18	5-5	41
Paden City	11	5-8	27
Harrisville	16	4-5	36
Ravenswood	10	9-16	29
Williamstown	9	6-10	24
Wirt	13	3-6	29
Ravenswood	9	6-9	24

missed Tyler game there due to illness.

SECTIONAL

Williamstown	12	6-7	30
Tyler	18	4-6	40

REGIONAL

Normantown	12	2-6	26
Barrackville	14	5-9	33

For release at will

Sistersville, W.Va. : 25 March -- Sistersville Tiger cager Mike Carson, W.Va.'s leading scorer for the 1967-68 campaign, has been picked ~~xxx~~ on the Wheeling Intelligencer All-Valley team for this past season. Carson was the first of the two centers named to the 8-man "small" school team. He was one of 5 juniors picked on the two 8-man aggregations (small school and big school).

CARSON LED STATE SCORERS

The choice was actually no surprise since Carson was West Virginia's leading scholastic scorer for the 67-68 campaign. Mike netted 699 points in 23 regular season tilts for a 30.4 ppg norm. This, in addition to leading all W.Va. 'A' performers, made Mike the leading W.Va. scorer, regardless of school classification. Mike is a 6-8 junior center, weighing 200 lbs.

PROBABLY ~~XXXXXXXX~~ STATE'S HIGH REBOUNDER, TOO

Mike was probably the leading rebounder in West Virginia too. He had a 24.8 rebounds per game average, which should put him head and shoulders above any other cager. Even though only a junior, Mike is usually recognized as the state's premier pivotman. He has already received over 75 concrete college offers, with more letters pouring in each day. The offers have ranged from schools as far away as California, Texas, Florida, etc.

ALL-STATE TOO ?

Big Mike was an all-state pick last season as a sophomore, when he had a 25 ppg norm. With the all-state selections to be released sometime this weekend, Mike should make the W.Va. All-State team again this season. Hopes are generally high in Sistersville that in addition to being selected to the Class 'A' All-State squad, Mike will also be "first-team" center on the "All-All State" team. This is the squad where the best 8 men are chosen at their positions regardless of school size. Certainly Mike has more credentials for the position than any other of his challengers.