

PR 3G

Office of the President
December 11, 2001

Members, Board of Trustees:

RENAMING SPORTS CENTER DRIVE

Recommendation: that Sports Center Drive on the University Campus be renamed The Jerry Claiborne Way.

Background: Jerry D. Claiborne, a native of Hopkinsville, was a distinguished alumnus of the University of Kentucky. As a student, he majored in mathematics, lettered three years in football and was a member of Lances, Phi Beta Kappa and Omicron Delta Kappa honoraries. He was the football coach at UK from 1982 and 1989, leading the Wildcats to two bowl games. Mr. Claiborne coached and lived with integrity and honesty. He believed in discipline for himself and for his players, and he played by the rules. He was fiercely competitive as a player and as a coach. He still holds the Southeastern Conference record for interceptions in a season. He was President of the National Football Coaches Association, which speaks to the respect his peers had for him. He was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1999. During his 40-year career, 27 years as head coach (the last eight years at UK), Mr. Claiborne compiled a career record of 179-122-8 (59.4 percent), ranking him 21st among Division I coaches. He compiled a winning record of 6-5 in his final season.

In 1989 UK became the first Southeastern Conference Institution to win the College Football Association Academic Achievement Award for graduating over 90 percent of the 1983 recruiting class; in 1988 UK finished second with a 90.5 percent graduation rate. Mr. Claiborne placed more players (17) than any other SEC school on the All-SEC academic squad and two of his players were named to the AP all-SEC team. Mr. Claiborne received the Robert R. Neyland Memorial Trophy from the Knoxville (TN) Quarterback Club for his contribution to college athletics. Mr. Claiborne passed away on September 24, 2000.

The University of Kentucky Alumni Association requested this change that was supported by the Committee on Naming University Buildings.

Action Taken: ☐ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____