

# Toppers Triumph By 37-33

## Dick Panther Chosen On All-State Team

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Richmond, Ky., Feb. 25.—The King still reigns, but the pretender to the throne certainly gave the royalty of the Kentucky Intercollegiate Athletic Conference basketball a troublous moment tonight.

But Ed Diddle's Western Kentucky Hilltoppers took their eighth consecutive title by defeating a surprisingly strong Morehead College quintet 37-33 in the final of the 14th annual conference tournament here tonight.

### Eagles Never Lead.

While the Eagles never took the lead, the gale from their wings kept the crown tottering on the head of the King for the full 40 minutes. The victors were never able to pull away to a safe lead, and their largest margin was eight points, at 36-28.

Coach Ellis Johnson's men played inspired basketball, but not quite good enough to overtake the more experienced Hilltoppers. They fought their hearts out, they strove desperately to hold in check Harry Saddler and his team mates, but could not quite make the grade.

The teams advanced to the final battle by winning semi-final battles this afternoon. Morehead upset Murray 44-37 and Western won rather easily from Transylvania 53-40.

their elongated center, John Wiggers, a 6-foot, 11-inch center from Brooklyn, and consequently suffered considerably. Wiggers today collected 18 points. Tonight he was held scoreless most of the first half and Coach Ellis Johnson took him out for the remainder of the game.

Western took the lead at the outset with a field goal by Towery and never relinquished it. The Toppers pulled away to a 5-1 lead but Morehead surged at them and cut the lead to 10-9, midway in the first half. Again Western rallied and went ahead 13-9 and then 16-11. The score at the half was 20-14.

In the second half, at the start, the Eagles flew closer and counted four points to cut the margin to 20-18 before Western got going again and whittled it to 22-21 after Towery had again hit a field goal.

At this point the Toppers went to work and tallied four points to move out to 26-21 and gradually lengthened this margin to eight points at 36-28, the longest lead of the night. The Eagles strove desperately in the waning minutes as Western played a stalling game, but could not catch up.

### Free Throws Cost Game.

It was Morehead's inability to hit free throws that cost the game. The Eagles cashed in on only 11 of 21 free tosses while the champions connected with 17 of 22. Morehead got one more field goal than Western.

Lieut. Gov. Keen Johnson pre-

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# Conquers Morehead

## Win Gives Toppers Eighth Straight Title

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sented the trophies to the winning and runner-up teams and gold and silver miniature basketballs to the individual members. Certificates were awarded to members of the all-tournament squad chosen by coaches and sports writers.

Those named on the all-star squad were John Hackett, Harry Saddler and Carlyle Towery, of Western; Bill Carneal, of Murray; Uak Gant of Morehead; Richard Panther, of Louisville; George Stopp, Transylvania, and Willie Shoupe, of Union.

It was the work of Wiggers in the Murray game which gave the Eagles their advantage, although the entire team played heads-up basketball, passing accurately and guarding tenaciously. Very few crisp shots were made by either team.

Wiggers completely overshadowed Ned Washer, the Murray pivot man, and rolled in nine field goals and two free throws to collect 20 points. He broke by two points the scoring record for the tournament which had been set by Harry Saddler in the first semi-final tilt today.

### Takes 4-Point Lead.

Morehead jumped into a four-point lead on field goals by Wiggers and Kirk and Carneal hit for Murray. Wiggers connected again and Carneal got one free throw and Bland two for Murray. Gant hit from the gratis line and Carneal got a field goal to knot the count at 7. Morehead again jumped into the lead at 9-7 on free throws by Ishmael and Gant. Murray then went ahead at 12-9 on a free throw and goal by Carneal and a goal by McKeel. The lead changed three times again before Morehead went out in front, never to be headed. The count at this half stood 26-21, Morehead.