

meet the session of the Senate for a hearing on Tuesday, December 12, 1995, at 9:30 a.m., in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing focusing on "Proposals to Strengthen the SBIC Program."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 1995, at 2 p.m. to hold a closed briefing regarding intelligence matters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARKS, HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND RECREATION

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Parks, Historic Preservation, and Recreation of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be granted permission to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, December 12, 1995, for purposes of conducting a Subcommittee hearing which is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. The purpose of the hearing is to consider S. 873, a bill to establish the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor; S. 944, a bill to provide for the establishment of the Ohio River Corridor Study Commission; S. 945, a bill to amend the Illinois and Michigan Canal Heritage Corridor Act of 1984 to modify the boundaries of the corridor; S. 1020, a bill to establish the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area in the State of Georgia; S. 1110, a bill to establish guidelines for the designation of National Heritage Areas; S. 1127, a bill to establish the Vancouver National Historic Reserve; and S. 1190, a bill to establish the Ohio and Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor in the State of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TIM COUCH

● Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Kentuckian and a record-breaking quarterback. Tim Couch ended his high school football career on a high note with a 1-yard touchdown pass during the state quarterfinals. Some may wonder what is so special about this play. Well, that pass will go down in the record books as the one that put the Leslie County High School quarterback over the top as the national all-time leader in touchdown passes. In 4 years, he has thrown an amazing 12,092 yards—an accomplishment that helped earn Tim honors as National High School Player of the Year.

Leslie County is located in the mountains of eastern Kentucky. The last time the national spotlight shone on the small town of Hyden was in 1978,

when President Nixon made his first public appearance since his resignation. He was there to attend a dedication of a gym named in his honor. According to local newspapers, residents said it was an exciting day, because everyone in the nation knew about Hyden. And now history has repeated itself, but this time the spotlight is shining there because of the youth who's become known as "the pride of Hyden"—Tim Couch.

His final game as Leslie County High School quarterback was a memorable one in many ways. Besides breaking the passing record, Tim faced a consistent seven-man rush, he injured his right ankle trying to block an extra point, and he was sacked five times. But check out his numbers: he completed 17 of 34 passes for 223 yards and 2 touchdowns. After the record-breaking pass, the game came to a halt. Fans and the media stormed the field to ask Tim for autographs and interviews. Fireworks lit up the night sky, and sirens and horns filled the air. And before the game resumed, Tim was handed the game ball. What a night!

Every time Tim took to the gridiron, the entire town of Hyden flocked to Eagle Field to watch the "Air Commander" throw another pass on his way to the record books. Sports Illustrated recently did a profile of the star quarterback. In the article, Tim said of his 374 fellow Hyden residents, "everybody around here is just so happy. They all want to see me go to the NFL and become a big star. It gives me a lot of pride, the way such a small place has rallied around one person."

If you think football is his only game, think again! Not only is Tim an award-winning quarterback, he is also one of the best high school basketball players in Kentucky. He led the state in scoring last season, with 36 points a game, and he is one of the front runners in the race for Kentucky's Mr. Basketball. No wonder he's being recruited by the top colleges in the Nation. However, it is my hope that this superstar decides to stay in the Bluegrass State and make one of Kentucky's fine universities his new home.

Mr. President and my fellow Members of Congress, please join me in congratulating the "Pride of Hyden." Tim Couch has an exciting career ahead of him, and I wish him good luck in the future. Mr. President, I also ask that an article from a recent edition of Sports Illustrated be printed the

RECORD.

The article follows:

PRIDE OF HYDEN

(By Steve Rushin)

Elbert Couch parks his white Ford Bronco next to another emblem of American infamy: the Richard M. Nixon Recreation Center in Hyden, Ky. "There's two kinds around here," Couch says. "There's Republicans, and there's Damn Democrats. I'm a Damn Democrat, but we're outnumbered four to one in this county."

This is Leslie County, in the mountains of eastern Kentucky's Cumberland Plateau. It was here, in 1978, that Nixon made his first

postexile public appearance, for the dedication of a grand gymnasium that honors his presidency. "Everybody knew us because of Nixon," says Leslie County High School basketball coach Ron Stidham, standing on his home court inside the Tricky Dick. "But that notoriety aside, Tim Couch has made Hyden—well, if not a household name exactly, at least people know where we are again."

Tim Couch, Elbert's son, is the best high school basketball player in Kentucky. He led the state in scoring last season, with 36 points a game as a Leslie County High junior. He is expected to be named Mr. Basketball of the Bluegrass after this season, which is why most Division I basketball coaches want to upholster Couch in their school colors come 1996.

Trouble is, Tim is also the most highly sought after football recruit in the nation, one who almost certainly will break the national record for career passing yardage this Friday night in the state quarterfinals. He is 50 yards away from breaking the mark of 11,700 set two years ago by Josh Booty of Evangel Christian High in Shreveport, La., and Couch needs only five touchdown passes to break that national record as well. "Couch is the best quarterback prospect I've seen in 17 years," drools Tom Lemming, who publishes a national recruiting newsletter. "Better than Jeff George, Ron Powlus and Peyton Manning. He reminds recruiters of John Elway." ESPN draft nitwit Mel Kiper Jr. agrees and considers Tim, who is 6'5" and 215 pounds, one of the best pro quarterback prospects in the nation. And to think that Tim is just 18.

"Everybody around here is just so happy," Tim says of Hyden (pop. 375). "They all want to see me go to the NFL and become a big star. It gives me a lot of pride, the way such a small place has rallied around one person."

Through it all Tim has remained unflinchingly polite, genuinely humble and undeniably charismatic. Everywhere one goes in Kentucky, people talk about the closely-cropped Couch. He's like Gump, with a pump fake. And there's another important difference: "He's an A-B student," says Leslie County High principal Omus Shepherd. "In fact, to see him in school, you wouldn't know he's an athlete, you wouldn't know him from any other student. I don't know of any problem we've ever had out of the boy."

The boy was excused from class one afternoon early in the football season when Governor Brereton Jones came to Hyden to make Tim an honorary Kentucky Colonel, one of the youngest recipients of the state's equivalent of knighthood. The next evening the colonel threw for three touchdowns and ran for two more in a 34-27 win a Woodford County High, after which several opponents wanted a piece of him. "I saw them coming at me and thought we were in a fight," says Tim. Instead, they wanted his autograph.

The next day Tim drove 124 miles to Lexington to watch the Kentucky-Louisville football game with his folks. En route, they stopped at a diner. Recently retired Los Angeles Laker center and former Kentucky star Sam Bowie approached Tim's table to say how much he has enjoyed following Tim's career. Emboldened, Adolph Rupp's grandson Chip, who also happened to be in the diner, did the same. After the game the Couches repaired to the Lexington home of Miami Heat guard and ex-Wildcat star Rex Chapman, who simply wanted to meet Tim.

"I told him he was my hero growing up," Tim says of Chapman. "I told him how I dreamed in the backyard about filling his shoes some day at Kentucky."

"Tim used to shoot baskets outside for hours in the winter, until his fingers were

bleeding," says Tim's mother, Janice. "I always had to make him come in before he got frostbite."

Come summer, he would throw footballs all afternoon with his older—by four years—brother, Greg. Tim always pretended to be Joe Montana or Dan Marino. Now, Marino aspires to play with Couch. "I hope I'm still in the league when you get here," the Miami Dolphin quarterback told Couch when the two met in Cincinnati, where the Dolphins played the Bengals on Oct. 1.

Tim never played baseball. "He told me in ninth grade, 'Dad, I don't want to stand there and let them throw a ball 60 miles an hour at my head,'" recalls Elbert, who is director of transportation for the county school system. When Greg became the quarterback at Leslie County High, Tim attended practices. "In fifth and sixth grade he was throwing the ball like a rocket," says Eagle football coach Joe Beder, an assistant at the time. "You knew then he would be the quarterback here."

Couch made the high school team as a seventh-grader, backed up his brother as an eighth-grader and became the starting quarterback as a freshman, when Greg went to play football at Eastern Kentucky (where, after redshirting one season, he's now a junior reserve). Tim points to the utility pole in the front yard of his family's comfortable two-story home. "When Greg went to college, I used to throw at that light pole," he says. "I'd take a five-steps drop and try to hit it as if it was a receiver on the run, 30 feet out." Then he would place two garbage cans next to each other and throw "little fade passes" over the first defending can and into the second. "There's not much else to do in Hyden," says Todd Crawford, a physician's assistant who works with the Leslie County team.

So the Hydenites watch Couch. County judge-executive Onzie Sizemore was a star high school quarterback in Hyden in the early 1970s. "Time is the best athlete I've ever seen in Kentucky," says the judge, deliberating on Tim down at the county court and jailhouse. "He's the best thing that ever happened to Hyden. I just hope he doesn't run for county judge-executive, because then I'm out of a job."

They come from all over Kentucky to see Tim play. On Friday nights cars back up for a mile at the toll booth that guards the Hyden exit of the Daniel Boone Parkway. And when the Eagles play an away game, says Rick Hensley, whose son Ricky is Tim's favorite target, "last one outta town turns out the lights."

There is a sign outside of town that reads Hyden: Home of Osborne Bros. Stars of the Grand Ole Opry, the Osbornes wrote "Rocky Top," which is the football anthem at Tennessee, whose Volunteers are unanimously reviled in Kentucky. When Tim engineered a season-opening 44-42 upset of Fort Thomas Highlands High in Lexington, he came home to find that benevolent vandals had altered the sign so it read Hyden: Home of Tim Couch.

This season Couch has thrown for nearly 3,500 yards and 37 touchdowns in 12 games. Clearly, his numbers are preposterous. Last year he completed 75.1% of his passes, a national record. Against Clark County High in the 1994 season opener, he completed 25 of 27 passes. Against Shelby Valley High this fall, he threw for 533 yards and seven scores and was pulled four minutes into the second half. Likewise, in October he played only one half against one of Kentucky's top-ranked teams, Hopkinsville, when the badly outmanned Eagles were bused seven hours each way and lost 61-0.

Even that defeat didn't cool the ardor of the Couch potatoes, as Hyden's residents

have come to call themselves. As he drives home from football practice in his Mercury Cougar on an autumn Thursday, Couch waves like a parade marshal to every passing pedestrian, then enters his house and is handed the telephone. "Tennessee," says Janice, and Tim chats cordially with Volunteer football coach Phillip Fulmer. Bobby Bowden, Terry Bowden, Lou Holtz and Joe Paterno check in weekly as well.

There is enormous pressure on him to play football at Kentucky, and the Cats are on Couch like cats on a couch. Here is a front-page Lexington Herald-Leader headline: Couch To Watch UK Scrimmage. Kentucky basketball coach Rick Pitino met with Tim and promised him a spot on the basketball team if he sign to play football for the Wildcats. And Kentucky football coach Bill Curry, although forbidden by the NCAA to talk about recruits, called him "the best high school prospect I've ever seen." Every Omus, Onzie and Elbert in Kentucky expects Tim to make the Cats an instant football power. "I may be crazy, but I believe Tim Couch is good enough to get this program back to the Sugar Bowl," writes columnist Dave Barker in *The Cats' Pause*, a Kentucky sports weekly. "Yes, that's right. From 1-10 to 10-1."

"Lord God, if Tim goes to UK they'll be namin' babies for him before he plays his first game," says Elbert's friend Vic DeSimone. "Every kid in Kentucky will wear a number 2 jersey." DeSimone—a candy manufacturer's rep who has dropped by Leslie County High to chat—furrows his brow before giving voice to every Kentuckian's darkest fear. "You wouldn't let him go to Tennessee, would you?" he asks Elbert. "I mean, the boy can go to Liberty Baptist and still become a pro."

"Have to take the Fifth Amendment on that one," says Elbert, who later concedes: "If Tim does go out of state, we'll have to move out of state."

Wherever Couch goes, if he plays basketball at all in college, it will be as an afterthought to football, and a great many disappointed people will be left in his wake. "It's hard for an 18-year-old kid to tell a coach whom he's grown up adoring that he isn't going to play for him," says Tim, who is still considering Auburn, Florida, Kentucky, Notre Dame, Ohio State and (sigh) Tennessee. "I'm thinking about it all the time," he says of his impending decision. "Even if I'm just lying in bed, it never leaves my mind."

He has made certain of that. Taped above the light switch in his bedroom is a two-sentence note from a football assistant at Northwestern. "Your talent is God's gift to you," it reads. "What you do with your talent is your gift back to God."

It is the last thing that Tim sees each night when he turns out the lights.

A TRIBUTE TO FRANK SINATRA ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise today to honor one of New Jersey's favorite sons, and one of America's great personalities who will be celebrating his 80th birthday today: Frank Sinatra. Mr. Sinatra hails from Hoboken, New Jersey and we are proud to call him one of our own.

Mr. President, Frank Sinatra is one of the most recognized and revered artists in the world, admired not only for his unique style, but for his ability to reach people on a distinctly personal level. As a musician and actor, Mr. Si-

natra has distinguished himself as one of the most notable figures in the history of entertainment.

For more than five decades, Frank Sinatra has charmed people all over the world with his exceptional, distinctive voice. He began his impressive career in New Jersey, when he won an amateur singing concert. A few years later, he was the featured vocalist with the bands of Harry James and Tommy Dorsey. It was not long before Mr. Sinatra began to embark on a solo career.

The sounds of Frank Sinatra played throughout the country while the Second World War was being fought abroad. Although he was unable to join the Armed Services, he was able to help the servicemen by entertaining them with his voice, known as the "Voice That Thrilled Millions."

Frank Sinatra made his acting debut in 1943, and he then went on to appear in more than 50 motion pictures, among them, "The Manchurian Candidate," a classic thriller reflecting his versatility as an actor, "The House I Live In," a sensitive documentary for which he received a special Oscar, and "From Here to Eternity," the 1953 motion picture which brought him an Academy Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Today, Frank Sinatra maintains that same high visibility by singing and performing throughout the United States and the world. Over the years, he has received countless awards that attest to the greatness of his multifaceted career, including seven Grammys, a Peabody, an Emmy and an Oscar.

Aside from his performing brilliance, Mr. President, Frank Sinatra should be recognized for his many selfless contributions. He played a key role in raising money for an AIDS program and a center for abused children during a special program taped last month in honor of his Eightieth Birthday Celebration. He also has earned awards for his humanitarian and social justice efforts, including; the Life Achievement Award from the NAACP, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. President, we are fortunate that Frank Sinatra's music will live on forever, for he is truly one of a kind. His voice penetrated the hearts of many, and changed the face of popular music in 20th Century America. I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring Frank Sinatra on this monumental occasion and wish him continued success in the future.●

FRANK SINATRA'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to an American who celebrates his 80th birthday on this day. The chairman of the board, Francis Albert Sinatra, legendary performer and American treasure, was born on this day, December 12, in Hoboken, NJ, in 1915.