

# DH

THE DAILY HELMSMAN

Thursday, November 4th, 2021

VOL. 88 NO. 04

READ US DAILY, ONLINE AT [DAILYHELMSMAN.COM](http://DAILYHELMSMAN.COM)

## IN THE NEWS:

Celebrity Chef Brings Vegan Food to Highland Strip — Page 3

Road Construction Continues to Frustrate Students — Page 4

Women's Soccer Prepares for NCAA Selection— Page 6

From Roommates to Business Owners: Bad Timing — Page 8

## Memphis Tiger Basketball Icon Larry Finch Honored With Statue at Plaza Dedication Ceremony

By Aaron Fleming

The University of Memphis officially dedicated its new Larry Finch Plaza to the former coach and ABA star with a ceremony at its Park Ave. campus Thursday afternoon.

The ceremony, which included the unveiling of a larger-than-life statue of Finch in his Memphis State athletic prime, also saw Memphis Mayor, Jim Strickland, declare Oct. 28 Larry Finch Day.

"This plaza recognizes the life that embraced the values of our university and celebrates the positive impact he had on countless lives in Memphis and well beyond Memphis," said UofM President, David Rudd.

Hundreds of people gathered at the event to honor Finch, drowning the room in a sea of blue and grey and red and gold. Among those present were Finch's widow and other family members as well as members of the Melrose High Alumni Association, the famed school in Orange Mound where Finch got his start in the 1960s.

"Oh, he was a dynamite, and I was a cheerleader, so I got to cheer him when he was playing," said Hazel Glover, a Melrose High alumna who grew up one street away from Finch.

Finch was a shooting guard for the school, eventually going on to lead the Golden Wildcats to a third-place finish in the 1969 TSSAA state tournament during his senior year.

After graduating from Melrose, Finch accepted a scholarship offer from the University of Memphis, then Memphis State, and played for its team for three years. His stint as a Memphis Tiger earned him an appearance in the 1973 NCAA national championship against UCLA where he finished with 29 points and was selected as a second team All-American. Finch also helped the Tigers achieve an overall 63-21 record.

The Los Angeles Lakers selected Finch in the fourth round of the 1973 NBA draft, but Finch stuck to his roots, opting to stay at home and play for the Memphis Tams



The statue of Finch that now sits at the plaza bearing his name. "Though I know he loved me and his family, my husband had a passionate, love affair with basketball that I learned to accept and encourage," his widow Vicki said.

Continued on page 2

ISSUE DESIGNED BY DAKOTA SMITH