

Questions About the 1963 Ramblers' Role in the Civil Rights Movement

- What was the unwritten rule that racialized who played at any one time? How was this rule enforced? How and why did the 1963 Ramblers break this rule?
- Why was it so revolutionary for Coach Ireland to play his best players? How did people react to this decision?
- Rich Rochelle states that, "If we're going to compete nationally, what we have to do is get past race." What did he mean by this? Did the team get past race?
- What does the team's experience in New Orleans teach us about the realities of segregation in the South, about Coach Ireland, and about the team?
- Several commentators asserted that while colleges and universities were eager to recruit the top African American high school basketball players, they were reluctant to recruit the second tier of Black basketball players. Why would this be the case?
- Why were southern segregationists like Mississippi Governor Ross Barnett against white teams playing against Black teams? Why wasn't the Mississippi State basketball team (the best team in the Southeastern Conference) allowed to play in a national tournament like the NCAA tournament?
- Ron Miller contends that, off the court, the Black members of the team were invisible, that they were expected to recognize their place and to behave accordingly. How should we understand this contention? What was campus life like for the Black members on the team? Does the admission by several of his former white teammates — that they were oblivious to the challenges that their Black teammates were facing — lend support to Miller's claim?
- Were the members of the team aware of the civil rights movement and how their own efforts to effect change fit within it? How should we understand their place in the civil rights movement?

Questions About Race and Race Relations in the Present Day

- What is your first memory of race? How old were you? What emotions are associated with that memory?
- What emotions came up for you as you were watching the film? What scenes caused you to feel that way?
- Do you relate to one or more of the people in the film? If so, to whom did you most closely relate and why?
- Did you learn anything from the film that made you think about the Civil Rights Movement in a new way? If so, what was it and how did it reframe your thinking?