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1956 Decision Caused Western to 'See Red (and White) for Good

"Be it hereby resolved by the Regents of Western Kentucky State College . . . that red and white be approved as the official college colors."

No, that resolution was not passed when Western started as a state normal school in 1906. It came years later.

During that time span, Ogden College and Potter College for Women were merged with Western. Ogden's official colors had been red, green and white, and Potter's were green and gold.

In 1912, Western adopted red and gray as its official colors. However, those were not the only ones on campus.

For many years, Western followed the practice many high schools do of letting each freshman class choose class colors to use during their years in college. These were not always the same as the school colors.

But judging from stories in the Herald and Talisman, no one seemed to agree on what Western's colors really were.

Sports stories referred to the basketball team's "white trunks and crimson jerseys," and sportwriters hailed the exploits of the "maroon tide," the "red and gray team" and the "crimson and gray hilltoppers."

During Kelly Thompson's second year as president, the university athletic committee recommended that the regents adopt red and white as the official school colors.

Thompson said one reason for the recommendation was that athletic teams had worn red and white since the early 1940s because it was a more beautiful combination.