

Anderson University's athletic teams have been known as the Ravens for more than 66 years, but few people know how the nickname was chosen.

Before 1937, the basketball team – which was the only sport at the university at the time – was known as the Tigers, but that all changed with a local contest in the winter of that year.

According to Ced White's article in the Anderson Herald, there was a contest to give the school a new nickname. More than 130 names were submitted in the contest with each nomination given consideration by the judges.

The judging panel consisted of basketball coach Edgar May, Professor Schminke, Professor Martin, President Morrison, WHBU's Wayne Reeves, Mitt Williams, Louis Frost, Dean Olt and White himself.

The list was pared down to the two finalists, which were the Ravens and Parsons, which is a pastor or priest. According to the judges, Ravens was chosen over Parsons for three reasons. One, the Raven is black and AU's school colors are black and orange. Two, the Raven has its place in "Biblical history as it seems Elijah was fed by the Ravens." Third, the Raven is aggressive, which would be how you would want your athletic teams to play.

Some of the other entries were: Eaglets, Cubs, Hurricanes, Cyclones, Corsican Warriors, Black Legion, Black Cats, Vikings, Rambling Parsons, Trail Blazers, Apostles, Hornets, Angels, Eels, Basket Weavers, Orange Raiders, Giants, Valiants, Chieftons, Colts, Clippers, Ambassadors, Fearless Five and Preyin Parsons.