

Fall 2000

Volume 5 - Issue 3

Boxscore is the quarterly publication of The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society, which was founded in 1994 by A. J. Quigley, Jr. (1943-1997) and Harley Sheets for the purpose of documenting and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball.

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This newsletter is the last one you will receive if dues are not paid.

Dues are \$6.00/year - \$55.00 / lifetime. Dues were due as of July 1, 2000. See next page for other options.

NEW MEMBERS

Steve Brett 1237 Kensington Drive Seymour, IN 47274 Loogootee '67

Patrick Cavanaugh 6421 Barberry Drive Avon, IN 46123 Vincennes '83

Keith Doades 4291 E. Stagecoach Road Vincennes, IN 47591 South Knox '75

Dana Green 1406 Miami Court Plainfield, IN 46168 Mooresville '68

Ralph Holscher 2573 Miami Street Vincennes, IN 47591 Oaktown '45 Don Lambert 527 Churchill Court Elizabethtown, KY 42701-1859 Lebanon '54

Jim McKinney 11333 Lakeshore Drive, West Carmel, IN 46033 Columbus North '64

Randy Westfall 2716 Peach Tree Terrace Vincennes, IN 47591 Vincennes '61

Bill Williams 405 Maple Court Crawfordsville, IN 47933 Crawfordsville '60

Brian Williams 571 N. Ewing Drive Winamac, IN 46996 Crawfordsville '83

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Name		Street	
City		Phone	
Fax, E-Mail, etc			Year Grad
Dues-individual (1 year Dues-duo (1 year) Dues-lifetime	;) \$6.00 10.00 55.00	Dues-individual (3 Dues-duo (3 years) Dues-duo lifetime	28.00

Send to:

Bob Whalen

908 Cottage Avenue

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

Make payable to IHSBHS.

From the President (Bill Ervin)

What components make for a really good program? The same old standbys: dedicated planners; a good story; interesting speakers; and a high level of enthusiasm for the subject. All of those components came together for at least 40 members and guests at our July 1, 2000 meeting at Vincennes.

IHSBHS recognized Lloyd Bateman, who in 1958, after 50 years of high school basketball in Indiana, became the very first player to break the 2000 point barrier with 2,078. As a sophomore he led tiny Plainville to the sectional title at Washington. We were also entertained by Jack Butcher, Indiana's winningest high school basketball coach with 771 wins, and met and shared memories, refreshments and hospitality with many of our members and guests.

A big thank you to members Bill Stedman, Randy Messel and Hugh Schaefer for an excellent job of hosting the get together and a very special thanks to Dr. Frank Emmert for providing the fine facility. We appreciate the time that Mayor Terry Mooney took from his busy schedule to stop by to welcome us to Vincennes and the beautiful lapel pins which he presented to all board members.

Our meeting on October 14th, addressed elsewhere in this newsletter, will feature some of the many interesting referees who have guided our game over the years.

A final note. Lloyd Bateman is not in the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. He richly deserves to be and has been endorsed by several coaches. Included among them are Sam Alford and Jack Butcher. Please lend your support to this long overdue honor. Urge the Hall of Fame to vote for his induction!

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWS-LETTER UNLESS DUES ARE PAID. DUES RUN FROM JULY 1 - JUNE 30.

Food For Thought

There has been much discussion among the membership about instituting an IHSBHS Hall of Fame or All-Star roster, due to the fact that it is felt that many deserving people have been overlooked for induction by the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Let us look at a few possible candidates.

RALPH JONES - This man deserves the title, "Godfather of Indiana high school basketball". He was successful coaching at all levels (high school, college and professional). While still a student at Indianapolis Shortridge, he started coaching his high school team. Jones later mentored luminaries such as "Piggy" Lambert while at Wabash College and George Halas while at Illinois University. He went on to successful stints at Purdue and Illinois before coaching the Chicago Bears for George Hallas.

1905-09	Wabash	75-06
1910-12	Purdue	32-09
1913-20	Illinois	85-34
1921-29 1930-32 1934-49	Lake Forest* Chicago Bears* Lake Forest*	25-10-7 57-27-10

Mr. Jones had undefeated seasons at Wabash in 1905 and 1908, at Purdue in 1912, at Illinois in 1915 and Lake Forest in 1938 and 1939. He also had 5 unbeaten seasons out of ten at Lake Forest Prep Academy.

* Coached football

MOSE PRUITT - Not too much is known about Mr. Pruitt other than he went to college at Franklin around the same time as the Franklin "Wonder Five" and it is believed that he may have attended Trafalgar High School. What is known is that he coached 20 years at Connersville High School (1923-42). After the 1942 season he went to serve his country by reenlisting in the United States Marine Corps. At the end of World War II, he returned to Connersville were he taught until around 1960. However, he did not choose to return to coaching. It is said that he did fill in at the lower levels when needed. In his 20 years as head coach he won 18 sectionals, 7 regionals, and had two Final 4 appearances in 1927 and 1930.

LOWELL DALE - Mr. Dale as a junior in 1912 led Lebanon High School to the Indiana basketball championship. He not only led them to victory, but scored more points individually than any team entered in the tournament this year with the exception of his own. In his most productive game (2/9/12) against Frankfort he scored 46 points. He was All-State first five in both 1912 and 1913. He set a scoring record of 42 points in the final two state tournament games of 1912. This record held until Johnny Wilson of Anderson broke it with 47 in 1946. Below are the scoring totals for the top five scoring high schools entered in the 1912 state tournament and games played, along with Lowell Dale and teammate Richard Porter's totals.

744 2	Lebanon H. S. Lowell Dale Franklin H. S. * Orleans H. S. * Richard Porter Whiting H. S. Richmond H.S.	Points 157 082 073 064 057 057 044	Gms. 4 4 4 3 4 3 2
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* teams eliminated by Lebanon

What makes Dale's point total even more impressive is that Porter (already inducted into the Hall of Fame) got to shoot all of the team's free throws.

Mr. Dale, as a basketball coach was inducted into the Illinois High School Basketball Hall of Fame in the second year of its existence.

As a freshman at Wabash college in 1914 he averaged 9.8 points per game on an 11-5 team. As a sophomore, he captained the 7-2 Little Giants and averaged 17 points per game. Hall of Famer-Homer Stonebraker was a freshman on this team. As a comparison, here is what the Wabash yearbook had to say about both men.

DALE. "Pug" with his natural ability as a basket ball player and his customary good head has been a winning combination both as a man on the team

See IHSBHS All-Stars (p. 5, col. 1)

A Trip To Centralia By Harley Sheets

Part I: How It Came About

Approximately 1988 or 1989, in the process of doing research for "Tiger Basketball - A Lebanon Passion", I was drawn to Illinois. The reason for this was that many of the men who had played in the era of Lebanon's three state championships (1912-1917-1918) had migrated to our western neighbor to coach.

During one of my trips I was given a book entitled "March Madness - The Story Of High School Basketball In Illinois" by Jim Enright. It was while reading this tome that I became aware of the great high school basketball coaches in Illinois, foremost among them Arthur L. Trout, an Illinois legend from Bruceville, Indiana. Although the book only touched briefly on the better coaches, enough was gleaned to know that Mr. Trout was special.

I had also become friends with member Don Nicholson from Wisconsin, a very enthusiastic Indiana high school basketball supporter until class basketball appeared. He was also well versed in Illinois high school basketball. We had discussed a possible rendezvous at Centralia. However, my attention was soon diverted elsewhere.

Sometime later, in attendance, at an IHSBHS meeting in Bloomington, Indiana was an Illinois high school basketball historian, Scott Johnson, He was interested in what the IHSBHS was trying to do. He also did not come empty handed. Scott passed out, at no charge, several Illinois high school basketball publications. The one of definite interest to me was "Trout - The Old Man And The Orphans" by Don Schnake.

To read this book gives one an insightful glimpse of a very intriguing and unique individual. Soon, thereafter, I wrote a short expose of Arthur Trout that appeared in the Winter 1997 issue

of Boxscore. At the end of the article I vowed to make my long anticipated trip to the oil fields of Centralia.

Hesitation

Many times along life's trail I have had a propensity for prognostication. Many times the trip came to mind and then faded. Would it be worth my while. As I read the book for the third time Iwas again enthused. I imagined interviewing Arthur Trout, watching him instructing his football and basketball teams, observing him teach in the classroom and watching him coach from the sidelines.

An Eventuality

Eventually, the spirit (maybe his spirit) moved me and I sent an inquiry to Centralia High School. On November 12, 1999, Lynn Strack, the school superintendent replied by sending a nice letter which included a schedule for the coming year. He graciously said that two complimentary tickets would await my choice of game(s). I had my choice of 12 games and two tournaments to be held in the Arthur Trout Gymnasium. I chose to see a home game with Mt. Vernon (4 state championships), Centralia's (3 state championships) arch-rival from 20 miles down the road.

Next issue: Part II - The Trip.

IHSBHS QUIZ

1.In what state was Oscar Robertson born?

2. After leaving ISU, John Wooden would have been coaching at----and not UCLA had a snow storm not have

caused a delay in this institutions phone call.

3. In what small community was John Wooden born?

4. What high school consolidation absorbed the Roll Red Rollers?
5. Who was the first Indiana high school

basketball coach to win 4 state champion-

6. When Attucks beat Gary Roosevelt in 1955 to win Indianapolis' first state title. who were the other 2 teams in the final four?

7. Excluding Thorntown in the first year when sectionals were conceived, who was the first high school to win the state championship after winning their initial sectional? Answers - Page 8

NORTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE INDIANA'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CONFERENCE

Can members help with information on other conferences?

Member Profile

Barbara Cavanaugh is the new IHS-BHS Secretary. She was a lifelong resident of Vincennes until retiring from Good Samaritan Hospital in February of 2000, were she worked with Dr. Roger Robison.. She then moved to Plainfield, Indiana to be nearer to her grandchildren, who live in the area.

She graduated from Vincennes High School and Indiana University. In 1956 she married John Cavanaugh, a Washington, Indiana native. After his graduation from dental school they left Indianapolis and returned to Vincennes where her husband practiced dentistry until his death in 1974.

Barb is the mother of six sons, five of whom are married. She has five grandchildren and is enjoying living closer to them and being more a part of their lives.

She enjoys watching sports on TV and in person, especially when her sons are coaching. She is an avid bird watcher, a sometimes gardener and couldn't possibly do without her computer. She, also, plays a lot of computer bridge and has begun to enjoy her association with the IHSBHS.

Watching Plainfield win the state 3 A basketball championship, with her son as assistant coach and watching Vincennes win the 1981 state championship are among her fondest sports recollections. She loved it when the Chicago Bears won the Super Bowl and wishes that she could do something about those Cubs.

IHSBHS All-Stars (cont. from P.3)

and the captain. His elusive dodge and sure basket eye from every conceivable position on the floor has brought panic to the opponents and perfect team work to the Scarlet. Never in a hurry, "Pug" has netted basket after basket for the Little Giants.

STONEBRAKER - Playing his first year on the varsity, "Stoney" has demonstrated his worth through his efficiency to shoot baskets with two or three men hanging to his arms. Also, he has been able to get the tip a majority of the time, thereby starting the team work in a very satisfactory manner. Coming fresh from high school "Stony" has removed some of the rough spots and should be a tower of strength in the next three years.

LLOYD BATEMAN - Lloyd became Indiana's first 2000 point career scorer in 1958. He was a 6-foot-5 enforcer who besides scoring, probably retrieved as many rebounds as he scored in points. He could score from outside as well as inside and had an almost unstoppable hook shot. He led his team to the Washington sectional title as a sophomore in 1956.

JIM HARKNESS - Jim has been almost completely overlooked, evidently, because he never played on a sectional winner. His biggest problem was that he played for Terre Haute State the same four years that Arley Andrews played at Gerstmeyer. Nonetheless, he was chosen Terre Haute freshman of the year over Arley. He scored around 100 points less then Arley's accurate total of 1,890 but had a higher points per game average, having played several games less than his adversary.

If the IHSBHS is going to approve this, some guidelines would have to be established. It would be nice to get some membership input, along with other possible inductees. Direct your comments to the editor.

The new IHSBHS Website aficionado is Leigh Evans. Leigh has been authorized to run any or all of the information found in all Boxscores on his very informative Website.

www.HickoryHusker.com

A Meeting With Joe Otis By Harley Skeets

President, Bill Ervin called me one day about an article that he had read in the Indianapolis Star about Joe Otis, the head basketball coach at LaPorte High School. It suggested that he was also a basketball historian. Bill urged that I contact Joe. I looked at my calendar and saw that I had scheduled a post-card show in of all places, LaPorte on July 19th.

I wrote to Joe explaining the situation and suggested that he might meet me at the Ramada Inn, the postcard show location. I told him a little bit about the organization and myself, not knowing if he would respond.

About two hours into the show, as I was tending my booth, a distinguished looking gentleman walked up to me and introduced himself. Joe and I had a nice 15 minute conversation and got to know each other. I found out that he had played for Virgil Sweet at Valparaiso and then went on to graduate from Northwestern University. He gave me a short discourse on the negative aspects of class basketball and then presented me with a few pages of basketball history. Most of it was information already known or printed in Boxscore, but I gleaned some really neat tidbits from it which I think will be of interest.

Few people ever heard of Bennie's Corners near Almonte in northern Ontario, Canada. Having lost his parents at age 8, it was here that young Jim Naismith lived with his uncle and frequently played with the other village boys their most popular game, "Duck on the Rock." It was years later that Dr. Naismith, professor at Springfield College, Massachusetts, gave much credit to the memory of this game as being important in his invention of the game of basket ball (2 words in the beginning) in 1891.

The late Carl Burt, for years one of Indiana's most popular and highly respected basketball officials, reported at length on his many varied and interesting experiences. One of his favorites is the time that he was working a state finals game and was panned unmercifully by a screaming woman all during the first half. As the half ended, she leaned over the railing and yelled in his face as he went to the dressing room, "You're terrible - you can't see a thing. You're as blind as a bat"! Carl stopped, looked her straight in the eye and delivered this retort which left her limp and subdued, "Lady, so was your husband"!

Hal "Beanie" Harris was a member of the great 1917 Gary Emerson team. He said that they were the first state finals team not to wear stockings. They lost the championship game that year, after winning 24 straight, to Don White, "Cat" Adam and company from Lebanon. The Indiana Daily Student reported that the "no stocking" boys of Gary looked indecent.

Surprisingly, not counting forfeitures, there have been five shutout games in Indiana high school tournament competition, all in the sectionals. Ironically, three of these happened in 1921; Rochester beat Argos, 47-0; Milroy over Laurel, 44-0; Sullivan drubbed Carlisle, 42-0. In 1922 Muncie blanked Albany, 53-0. And in 1933 it was North Vernon over Vernon, 43-0.

IHSBHS OFFICIALS

President - Bill Ervin
President Elect - Roger Robison
Secretary - Barb Cavanaugh
Treasurer - Bob Whalen
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Leigh Evans
John Ockomon
Jack Poore
Harley Sheets

Don White Ruth White

Editorial Committee Harley Sheets (Editor), Bill Ervin, John Ockomon and Bob Whalen

Godfathers of the Indiana All-Star Game (Part III) by Roger Robison

Evolution of the Indiana High School All-Star Game (1939-45)

All-Star Game Incunabula

	-				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1945
opponent	Ind. Champ	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky	Kentucky
date	August 18	August 16	August 22	August 28	June22
nominated by	fans	fans	media	media	media
top 10 by	fans	fans	fans	fans	media
Mr. Basketball	G. Crowe	E. Scheinbein	J. Bass	B. Brown	T.Schwartz
	(Franklin)	(Southport)	(Greenwood)	(Burris)	(Volume)
coaches	T. Downey	G. Curtis	G. Curtis	P. Lostutter	(Kokomo) G. Curtis
	D. Plunkitt	T. Hinkle	O. Cuttis	B. Perigo	G. Curus
selected by	fans	fans	Indy Star	Indy Star	T. J. O.
Star of Stars	D. Frazier	Joe Fulks	L. Mangin		Indy Star
	(Greencastle)	(Kuttawa, Ky)	OV-1-1-1	K. Cage	Mary Fifer
	(Gradicastic)	(Kullawa, Ky)	(Washington)	(Tipton)	(Muncie)

The 1940 schedule ended with three undefeated teams; Greenwood (21-0), Gas City (20-0) and Mooreland (22-0). Hammond High School had won sectionals from 1933-39 and had been a title contender in 1937, 1938 and 1939. Hammond Tech, a weak sister in the Calumet region had no gym and had never won a sectional. Tech, however, had four boys who had started for three years; Shimala, Kramer, Bicanic and Thomas. This team became the first to win the state title after winning its initial sectional, since Thorntown had done it in 1915 in the first year that sectionals were instituted.

In spite of the wrath of the I.H.S.A.A. and the penalties imposed upon Frankfort, the Indianapolis Star went ahead with plans for the second All-Star game. It was played on 16 August 1940 against a team of Kentucky All-Stars, hand picked by selected coach, Ed Diddle of Western Kentucky State Teachers' College. However, the Star again had the Indiana fans involved. They nominated a top 25. These 25 were then put on a ballot for the fans to select a top 10, as in 1939. There were 541,160 votes cast. Only 3 All-State (AS) players were on the list of 25 selected by the Star and only one made the top 10! NOT A SINGLE PLAYER FROM THE FINAL FOUR MADE THE TEAM, but three from the Sweet Sixteen (ss) did. The fans were also given their choice of five coaches.

1940 All-Star Team	1.0	, .
01. Scheinbein - Southport	41,761	06. Heacox - Bloomington (ss) 31,562
02. Duiin - Gosport	34,795	07. Mace - Sheridan 30.257
03. Pearcy - Martinsville	33,433	08. Lewis - New Castle (AS, ss) 29,426
04. Gabriel - Kokomo (ss)	31,641	09. Yates - Anderson 27,809
05. Troth - Spencer	31,564	10. Fowler - Marion 23 886

Since the I.H.S.A.A. had banned high school coaches from participating, the 1940 team was coached by Glenn Curtis (Indiana State) and Tony Hinkle (Butler). For taking part in the game Hinkle was banned by Trester from refereeing in high school games. Playing in 90 degree heat, Indiana trailed Kentucky at the half, 12-18 but pulled out the first interstate All-Star game, 31-29. In 1941 coach Diddle started the entire first five of the Inez, Kentucky team that had won the Bluegrass state tournament. The results were similar to 1939. Indiana won this game, 52-41. In 1942 almost all of the nominees had played in the "Sweet Sixteen" and they eked out a 41-40 win. The game was not played in 1943 and 1944 due to World War II. When it was resumed in 1945 the fans were left out of the selection process.

An Excellent Team In 1909

by Bob Whalen

In 1909 Crawfordsville traveled to Rockville for a high school basketball game. Because of the dirt floor in the gymnasium Crawfordsville got off to a slow start, but won the game with no problem. Rosey Herron led C'ville with 5 baskets and 13 free throws for 23 points. Dan Yount had 12. Ralph Wilson and Walt Breckenridge totaled 4 each. Myers topped Rockville with 12 points. Smith and Adams had the other 4 points.

Crawfordsville finished this season with a 17-1 record, the lone loss coming at the hands of the Crawfordsville YMCA. In addition to Rockville, victories were registered over Lebanon (twice), Lafayette (twice), Rochester (twice), Breaks, Darlington, New Richmond, West Lafayette, Monticello and Hammond. Other wins came against Crawfordsville YMCA (twice), the Medical College of Indianapolis and Culver Military Academy.

case in most of these earlier years, claimed the state high school basketball title, as did Marion. Most believed that Crawfordsville was the best. Some of the reasons for this assumption are these. Herron was placed on the All-State first five, with Yount and Shaw making the second five.

The 1909 team roster included Herron and Yount (forwards), Wilson (center) and Shaw and Breckenridge at guards. The subs were Carroll Stevenson, Grady Chadwick and Kent Lambert, the only senior. "Piggy" Lambert and Perry Stump coached the team.

Recently retired secretary, Ruth White was presented with a Cross pen at the last Board meeting in recognition of her diligent work for the IHSBHS. She has been our secretary, continuously, with the exception of the first three or four meeting when cofounder, Joe Quigley, filled the bill.

One Hit Wonders (Bowers) By Bob Whalen

The Bowers Blackshirts won the 1927 Montgomery County sectional, played at Wabash College in Crawfordsville. Up to this time, no schools other than Crawfordsville and Wingate had won this sectional.

In the title game Bowers led Wingate 14-8 at the half and went on to win 20-10. Earlier victories came at the expense of Ladoga and New Ross.

The Crawfordsville paper called Bowers' feat a big upset. Even though Crawfordsville was only 10-10 they were the favorites due to their stronger schedule. Other favorites were Waveland and Wingate.

Cayce Cox was in the fourth of his nine seasons at Bowers. His team had finished the previous season as runners-up to Crawfordsville, so 1926 and 1927 were more than likely Bowers' best seasons until '43 (15-6) and '50 (14-6).

The 1943 champs, Crawfordsville, beat Bowers and in 1950, the sectional champs, New Market, took them out. The records for the '26 and '27 teams, as yet, have not been verified.

At the Greencastle regional, the hosts eliminated Attica 30-28 (2 ot), then won over Bowers 24-15, after Bowers had beaten Montezuma, 23-19.

The starters for Bowers were Lee Wells and Willis Loveless-forwards, Boyd Price-center and George Boots and Lawrence Deck-guards. The subs were Walter Tribbett, Maurice Clouser and Martin Campbell.

From what little has been found, the best players seem to have been Price and Wells. George Boots went on to play for "Piggy" Lambert at Purdue and later coached at Columbus from 1937-42, winning four sectionals. His record for these six years was 97-59

In 1955-56 Bowers students were then sent to Darlington for high school. Darlington, in 1971, became a part of the North Montgomery consolidation near Linden, Indiana just north of Crawfordsville.

There are many more one-time sectional winners out there in Hoosierdom's past (also a few present ones) that need to be recognized. Members are encouraged to help in writing up those in your area of the state.

Next issue: The Freelandville Fighting Dutchmen.

Notes & Quotes To The Editor From Bob King:

Enclosed is my check for a lifetime membership. It is an honor to be a part of this group.

From Bob Whalen:

If you are going to print an article by someone, NOTEVEN A MEMBER, who is against class basketball you should get one from someone who WANTS CLASS BASKETBALL. There are two sides to every story.

From Dave Schellhase:

I am very impressed with "Boxscore". I particularly enjoyed the piece on "Hunk" Francis, a truly unsolved mystery.

From Bob Whalen:

I didn't care for your comment under the Mike McCormick article, saying that Mike is the number one sports historian in Vigo County. This may be your thought but how does this make David Lee Compton and Dean Kendall feel. I also doubt that he is number ONE in the state. I HAVE never read any of his research until this article and it is more college than high school.

From Paul Griffin:

The write up on Fred Althaus was great! Keep up the good work.

From Jack Butcher:

I thought the meeting [in Vincennes] went well. I was pleased with the reception everyone gave me. Hopefully, there will be a few less people in Vincennes who hate me.

I still haven't retired from basketball. I would guess the longer I hold off, the greater the chance that I will stay another year. From Don and Ruth White:

You have been doing a very good job with the newsletter.

From Lloyd Bateman:

I would like to thank the IHSBHS and anyone else involved with the meeting in Vincennes where I was presented with the beautiful plaque in recognition of myself becoming the first 2,000 point career scorer in Indiana high school basketball history. I am very appreciative of all efforts put forth on my behalf.

NEXT MEETING

Richmond, Indiana - Oct. 14, 2000

The meeting will be held at the MCL Cafeteria in the Richmond Square Shopping Center (3801 E. Main Street - U.S. Highway 40). We will eat lunch there, from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. We will then have a short business meeting and then our program, featuring several referees from the area. More than likely, Dick Reynolds, former sports editor of the Richmond Palladium-Item will serve as master-of-ceremonies.

Those so far confirmed are Don McBride, former Richmond mayor, Cliff Dickman and Dee Williams. Other possibilities are Wayne VanSickle, Bill May and Troy Ingram.

Member, Vernon Weiss, has been working hard to make the arrangements and it is very much appreciated. Vernon mentioned that Dick Baumgartner might attend, along with several others who may be interested in joining our group.

All members are urged to attend as we will be voting on by-law changes which have been revamped by the board of directors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As president of the IHSBHS I have become an associate director of the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Any member interested in obtaining information about the Hall of Fame or its schedule of events is welcome to contact me. WE.

Bill Ervin 8158 Frisco Way Indianapolis, IN 46240 (317) 251-4454

Newspaper Coverage

Mike Myers of the Washington Times-Herald covered the Vincennes meeting. Following is most of his article. Thanks Mike!

The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society honored two local legends Saturday afternoon, one you most likely have heard of and one you might not know.

Loogootee's boys basketball coach Jack Butcher, the guest speaker at the event held at the Wabash Valley Eye Center, was honored by the Society for breaking the Indiana state record for coaching wins during the 1999-2000 season. The other honoree was Lloyd Bateman, the former Plainville High School star from the 1950's who scored over 2,000 points during his four years on the hardwood.

Saturday's event was hosted by three IHSBHS members from Knox County; Randy Messel, Hugh Schaefer and Dr. Bill Stedman.

"This organization was founded due to the fact that a friend and I got together and noticed many discrepancies at the Hall of Fame and in basketball publications," founder Harley Sheets said. "We only had eight people show up at the first meeting, which was kind

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of discouraging, but we now have about 120 members."

One of the first tasks the organization tackled was to research the records of every high school coach who claimed over 500 career wins, a job which entered into the fray over how many wins the then recognized leader, former Terre Haute Gerstmeyer and North Knox coach Howard Sharpe, had accumulated. According to Butcher, organization member Doug Bradley contacted him to look at his records, which were found to be accurate. Butcher said that his records were pretty much out there. The same wasn't true of Sharpe's. Butcher said Bradley could not get access to them. The controversy eventually became moot as Butcher notched number 760 this past season in a victory over Shakamak

Prior to his speech Butcher had words of praise for IHSBHS.

"They have a love of basketball, and they want to see the records authenticated."

Verifying records has also been a concern for IHSBHS in the case of Bateman. From 1954-58, Bateman scored a total of 2,078 points for Plainville, a total which the society maintains represents the first career 2,000 point total in state history.

"All of a sudden, about six or seven years ago, Arley Andrews (a Terre Haute Gerstmeyer player whose career ended in 1954) moved up on the scoring list for some reason and nobody knew why," Sheets said. "He began to appear as the No. 3 scorer in state history with 2,772 points. I knew a lot of people who said that this was not right."

"So I personally went to the Indiana Historical Library and looked up the schedule for each of the four years that Arley played at Gerstmeyer and diligently charted every point for every game that he played and came up with 1,890 points," concluded Sheets. "I have the dates, the facts and there is no

question that someone exaggerated some records for Gerstmeyer. I simultaneously checked, twin brother, Harley's points and found his total to be 816. He was credited with 1,815. As for Bateman, he is without a doubt the first to break the 2,000 point barrier."

Though the Hall of Fame has yet to change their information to reflect Sheets' work, he and Butcher both had high praise for current Hall of Fame Director, Roger Dickinson.

He (Dickinson) told me to get the correct information to him. He's a very cooperative individual. He's been able to reconcile with the old boys that hate to see change," said Sheets.

"He's doing a wonderful job of trying to make changes and trying to please everybody."

"The Hall has moved up a notch since Roger Dickinson took over," Butcher explained.

Bateman was presented with a plaque recognizing his historic achievement, but his friends are looking for more. Despite his aforementioned accomplishment, scoring a Daviess County record 53 points in a game, a mark that still stands and leading Plainville to a 65-55 win over Washington in the championship game of the 1956 Washington sectional, Bateman has never been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

Bateman friend and teammate, Jerry Osmon has been leading the charge to get Bateman inducted and he spoke at Saturday's ceremony.

"Lloyd is a humble, Christian man from a small town who was a legend in his time," Osmon said. "He's what high school basketball is all about, and he should be in the Hall of Fame."

Butcher, in discussing the importance of what the Society does, also alluded to Bateman.

"Sometimes people get credit for things they didn't do, and some don't get credit for things they do accomplish. Lloyd is a perfect example of that," concluded Butcher.

Answers to IHSBHS QUIZ: (1)
Tennessee (2) Minnesota (3) Hall, Indiana-Morgan Co. (4) Blackford (5)
Glenn Curtis (6) New Albany &
Ft. Wayne North (7) Hammond Tech.