

BOXSCORE

A publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

TABLE OF CONTENTS

P. 2	One Hit Wonder: Hazleton 1933
P. 3	Ralph Jones Naismith Hall of Fame Nomination
P. 4	Attica vs. Covington: River City Rivals
P. 6	Working With a Legend
P. 8	Mystery Photo
P. 8	IHSBHS Lists
P. 8	IHSBHS Challenge



WINTER 2005

IHSBHS Officers

1957

President	William Ervin	Terre Haute Wiley	1954
Vice-Pres.	Harley Sheets	Lebanon	1954
Secretary	Gary McGrady	Fountain Central	1982
Treasurer	Roger Robison	Frankfort	1954
Co-Editor	Rocky Kenworthy	Cascade	1974
Co-Editor	Gary McGrady	Fountain Central	1982

IHSBHS 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

Introductions

Since Harley turned editorship of the *Boxscore* over to us last fall, he has pestered us to give him our biographical information so he could properly introduce your new co-editors. We refused, using Hoosier humility as one excuse, and a desire to have more space to devote to our passion – Indiana high school basketball – as the other. We would be remiss, however, if we proceeded without thanking Harley for the opportunity to try our hand at continuing the tradition he and Joe Quigley began over ten years ago.

Thank you Harley.

Goals

As always, accuracy in preserving the history of Indiana high school basketball is the primary goal of *Boxscore* and IHSBHS. Additionally, we will be working to develop a website at ihsbhs.com to serve as a repository for all relevant team and coaching records, school photos, a gym database, back issues of *Boxscore* and other information.

Beginning with this issue of *Boxscore*, we have introduced features such as the IHSBHS Mystery Photo, IHSBHS Lists, and the IHSBHS Challenge, all found on the back cover. We hope you enjoy these features, and encourage your suggestions in an effort to continually improve this publication.

Boxscore is published by the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society.
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 Send dues and address changes to IHSBHS, c/o Roger Robison, 304 South Ninth Street, Vincennes, IN 47591.
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Past and Present

One of those most enjoyable aspects of being an amateur historian is tying past events with those of the present. Several stories in this issue contain examples of this phenomenon:

• Harley's story about the 1933 Hazleton team ^{coincides with} was submitted at about the same time the tiny burg was in the national news for withstanding a flooded 30 feet deep White River.

• Ralph Jones' Illinois teams have been referenced several times recently. From last weeks' Big Ten press release:

The Illini have set a school record, notching 21 consecutive victories in Big Ten play, breaking the previous mark of 17 games set during the 1914-1915 seasons. The Illini have also tied the school record for consecutive victories in all games as Illinois won 25 straight games over parts of three seasons from 1914 through 1916.

Last fall when the New England Patriots won their 18th consecutive regular season game, they broke the record held by the 1934 Chicago Bears – a team Jones had molded, and would have coached had George Halas been able to afford to keep him.

• The Attica-Covington story mentions the Rayburn family, four generations of which have had an impact on these two schools. Steffi, DeeAnn, and Brittany Rayburn just finished their first season of varsity girls basketball together at Attica in which they led the Ramblers to a 17-7 record and berth in the regional championship. Attica was 2-19 last year, making this one of the biggest turnarounds in state history.

• Jack Butcher's beloved hometown of Loogootee was in the national news for the worst possible reason on February 20th, as five people were killed in an apparent murder-suicide.

New IHSBHS Member Books

Butcher Ball: It's Not Just a Game

by Jack Butcher

Autobiography of the legendary Loogootee coach. Special price for IHSBHS members: \$27.95 which includes shipping and taxes. Printable order form available at:



<http://www.ihsbhs.com/butcher.pdf>

Or send payment along with mailing address to:

Jack Butcher
 R.R. 2 Box 330
 Loogootee, IN 47553

Who Killed Hoosier Hysteria?

by Wendell Trogdon

"Author's 21st book revisits the glory years of Indiana high school basketball." Available at select bookstores or by sending \$17.00 which includes shipping and taxes to:



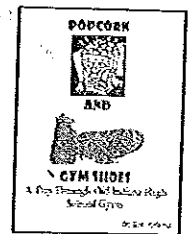
Backroads Press
 P.O. Box 651
 Mooresville, IN 46158

This book is also available at amazon.com

Popcorn and Gym Shoes

by Bob Adams

"A nostalgic trip through old Indiana High School gyms from Metz to Hagerstown." Available by sending \$19.99 + \$4.00 shipping and handling to:



Bob Adams
 1115 W. Madison St.
 Decatur, IN 46733

This book is also available at ehav.com

One Hit Wonder

The 1933 Hazleton Lions

by Harley Sheets

Shortly after World War I, the Volstead Act instituting the 18th Amendment ushered in prohibition. Thirteen years later (1933), the Blaine Resolution led to the 21st Amendment, which repealed the 18th.

At this time, the Hazleton Lions were intoxicating the residents of Gibson County by winning the only sectional in the school's history, but it didn't stop here.

Other county schools had previously won sectionals - Owensville in 1925, 1926, 1927, 1931 and 1932, Princeton in 1928 and 1930, and Mt. Olympus in 1929. However, all had failed to obtain a regional crown. But in this season of 1932-33, after an early one point loss to Plainville, the Lions were devouring all opposition and, in the majority of cases, by substantial margins.

TOUGH TIMES

This soon-to-be-illustrious season didn't start out so good for either the lions or our country, which was in the midst of the Great Depression. In Miami, an Italian immigrant, Guiseppe Zangara, in his attempt to assassinate President Franklin Roosevelt, shot Chicago Mayor Bernard, who died a few days later. Also in the midst of the depression, France, k.a. Marianne, prostituted herself by renegeing on her \$20 million war debt, even though Premier Herriot wanted to pay it. He was soon deposed. The French, to this day, still do not seem to realize that if not for the good old USA, they would in all probability be speaking German, had we not bailed them out in the two great wars.

With France refusing to pay Germany, Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Hungary and Poland followed suit. But to their credit, the other more appreciative countries of England, Finland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania and Slovakia did.

On the plus side in America, Chicago gangster Al Capone had been incarcerated, with Murray Humphreys taking his place as "Public Enemy #1". The famous Hoosier, John Dillinger, was destined to soon assume the title.

THE SEASON

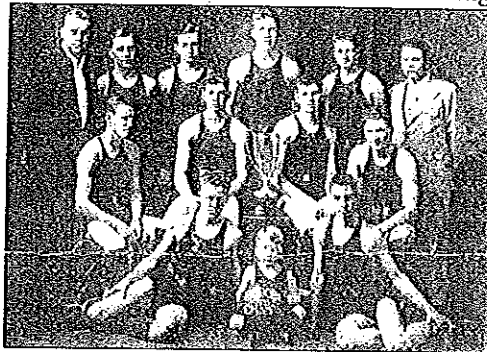
The Hazleton Lions' year did not start so well, either. Besides the early-season loss, a car wreck impaired one of their players. Coming home from the game at Plainville, coach "Casey" Decker lost control of his car. There were no fatalities. The driver and his five passengers were all banged up, but only one had

a serious problem.

John Hauck, one of the team's twin starters, had to have five stitches in one finger with another so badly torn that no stitches were possible. However, this impediment didn't seem to slow team progress as the Lions held together with three decisive wins during John's absence.

After the initial loss and J. Hauck's return, the season was somewhat boring as the Lions rolled to 26 consecutive wins before a heartbreaking loss to Bedford in the 16 team state finals. The only excitement seemed to be that three teams gave the Lions a close game. Princeton and Bruceville came within five points and Ft. Branch lost by three.

In reviewing the regular season games, the Princeton Clarion-News seemed not too energized, interested or enthused. Nevertheless, Hazleton was a mature, well-oiled and smooth running



1933 Hazleton Lions

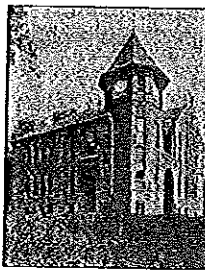
apparatus. They had the big man in 6-foot-4 Harold Shawhan, the 5' 10" twin forwards John and Henry Hauck, guards 5' 10" Albert Dixon and 5'9" Roger Thorne. All were seniors but junior Thorne. All five starters were team high scorers at one time. Although every box-score could not be found, it was a well-balanced scoring team. Shawhan scored around 275 points, the two Haucks and Dixon a little less than 200 and Thorne contributed about 100. The other team members were juniors Malvern Barnett and Byron Boyer, sophomore Forrest Robling (the only other player to get in the scoring column) and freshmen Leiland Dixon and Allan Edwards.

THE TOURNAMENT

Going into the sectional at Owensville the Lions were favored but were not a given due to the intense rivalries that abounded in Gibson County. However, in their four games, only Haubstadt afforded them any competition losing by only four points. Francisco was dispatched by eight, Oakland City by 18 and Princeton by 21, thus sending the Lions to the Evansville regional, where failure had prevailed for Gibson County

teams.

This year presented a decidedly different scenario. In the first game, the Lions faced the Evansville Central Bears of



Hazleton High

future Hall of Famer Markham Wakefield. Using some rough-and-tumble tactics, the Bears led at the half 9-6, but the Lions clamped down on the Bears, holding them to two points in the last half to salvage a 15-11 victory.

In the championship game against Boonville, coached by another future Hall of Famer, Herman Keller, it was no contest, with the Lions dominating 25-13. Gibson County now had its first regional winner and state participant.

The small hamlets of Wakarusa, Beaver Dam (only school smaller than Hazleton, with an enrollment of 33) and Michigantown also had gained entrance into this year's state finals, and all but Hazleton were eliminated by substantial scores by larger schools. But the Lions, with a school enrollment of only 57, were no flukes and were starting to raise some eyebrows.

THE HEARTBREAKER

Hazleton drew the Bedford Stonecutters, a large school from Lawrence County. The Stonecutters although never having won a state title, (they wouldn't until the Damon Bailey era in 1990) had been frequent participants in the finals. They had made appearances in eight of the previous thirteen, advancing to the final four on four occasions.

Evidently, the Lions were not intimidated. After trailing by four tallies at the end of the first quarter, Howard "Casey" Decker's lads took the lead, and held it until the gut wrenching final seconds. To get the full impact of the game here is what the Vincennes Sun-Commercial (March 19, 1933) had to say:

There's quite a story behind the elimination of Hazleton High School. First Bedford was mighty mighty lucky to win. The loose playing of the Stonecutters gave them no right to win, while on the other hand Hazleton, playing in their first state tournament and probably the last for another decade or two, gave the fans what they wanted- speed, action and a high-type brand of basketball.

While Hazleton probably lacked that last minute punch, always welcome in tourney play the Lion's defeat can be directly traced to two bad out-of-bounds decisions made by Umpire Helve. On

Continued on Page 8

Ralph Jones

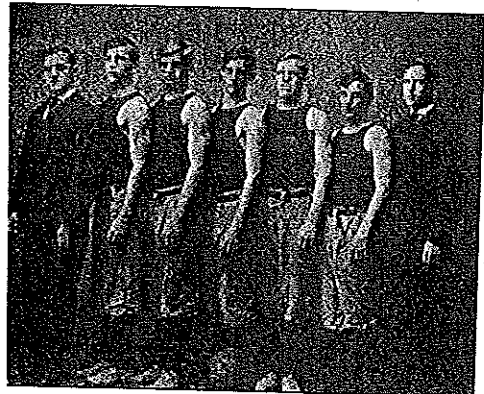
Naismith Hall of Fame Nomination

by Roger Robison



Ralph Jones

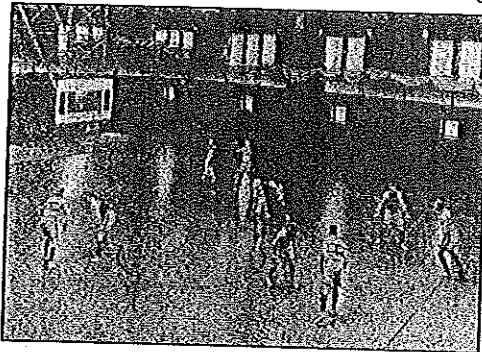
R.R. Jones was born September 22nd 1880 near Shelbyville Indiana. Basketball was first played in Indiana at the Crawfordsville YMCA against the Lafayette YMCA in March 1894. Intercollegiate play started in February 1897 between Wabash College (Crawfordsville) and Purdue University (West Lafayette). The Indianapolis YMCA started a competitive schedule in 1897/98. The first Indiana High School to play a competitive schedule, 5 wins & 2 losses, was Indianapolis Shortridge in 1899/1900 when they were coached by high school junior R. R. Jones. Jones was the first high school basketball coach in Indiana. Interscholastic play started in Indiana in 1900/01 and Jones continued to coach the Shortridge team from 1899/1900 through 1903/04. After High School graduation in 1901, Jones entered the Indianapolis YMCA Training School for Athletic Directors from 1901/02 through 1902/03 and took over coaching the YMCA team as well. From January 8-21, 1903, he coached Indiana University in Bloomington; 3 wins and 1 loss. In January and February of 1904 he was coaching the Crawfordsville High School to the unofficial state title. In March of 1904, his Indianapolis team claimed the state YMCA championship. Jones was then hired at Wabash College in Crawfordsville from 1904-1909 as head basketball coach. Later he became the Athletic Director, head baseball coach and head football coach. He also coached multiple sports at the local YMCA and High School. The Crawfordsville YMCA team, composed of his Wabash starters, claimed the 1905 state YMCA title. The High School was the unofficial state champion in 1907 and



1906 Crawfordsville High School Team

1909. Wabash College went 75-6 during his five years there and was state college champion for 1905-06-07. Wabash was 14-1 against the Big Ten and 5-0 against Yale, Columbia, Louisville and Vanderbilt. Wabash was ranked nationally in 1906-07-08 by the Premo Power Poll (computer analysis by Professor Patrick Prento of St. Bonaventure Business School). Jones had three All Americans at Wabash (Williams, Sprow, Wicks) and mentored future Purdue coaches Ward Lambert and R.E. Vaughan.

From 1910-1912, Jones was head basketball, cross country, and track coach at Purdue University. He won two Big



Undeclared 1912 Purdue team practicing at Memorial Gymnasium

Ten titles in three years and had a 32 and 9 record. He recruited and coached the Hoosier version of Jim Thorpe, Elmer Oliphant, and coached two other All Americans: Charters and Stockton.

Jones spent eight years at the University of Illinois, 1913-20, where he won two more Big Ten titles. Illinois was Helms National Champion in 1915 and ranked #4 and #5 in 1916 and 1917 (Premo). Jones coached four All Americans and had four Conference scoring leaders in eight years. He assisted Bob Zuppke on national titlists in football in 1914 and 1919. He assisted Athletic Director George Huff in baseball and in developing the unique University of Illinois Summer Coaching School from 1914-20. In this capacity, Jones, in 1916, authored the first successful coaching manual, which went through three editions. At Illinois Jones was mentor to future coaches Ken "Tug" Wilson, Everett Case, Burt Ingwersen, and George Halas, among others.

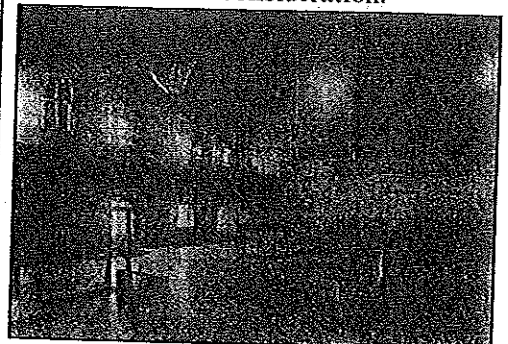
Jones retired from major college coaching in 1920 and relocated to the elite suburban community of Lake Forest IL, 30 miles north of Chicago. It was the home of three church related educational institutions; Lake Forest College (coed), and the Lake Forest Academy (boys) and Ferry Hall (girls) boarding schools. Jones was hired as Athletic Director and coach of everything at the Academy from

1920 to 1930. His prep basketball teams played the freshman squads from Notre Dame, Marquette, Loyola, and DePaul in addition to their prep school schedule. Jones had an incredible record of 97-9 with five undefeated seasons and the 1928 National Academic Tournament Title at Milwaukee. His football teams were 62-10-2 with four undefeated seasons as Jones experimented with new rule changes.

In 1929 the Chicago Bears were losing games and money. In 1930 owner/coach George Halas (IL-1918) hired Jones to take over the team. By 1932 the Bears were NFL Champions and the lackluster game had been revitalized to produce the modern spectator sport industry. Jones is immortalized in the historical records of the NFL for developing the modern T-formation, the spread offense and the man-in-motion (Red Grange). Also in December 1932 the goal posts were moved to the goal line, sideline hash marks were created and the rules on the forward pass were liberalized.

In 1932 Halas had to pay Jones partially in I.O.U.s as the 'Depression' got worse. In 1933 Jones returned to Lake Forest to be A.D. and coach at the more stable College, where his job was to revitalize their mundane athletic program. He produced winning seasons in football, basketball and baseball but his main concentration was now football. Jones' football teams were 53-30-10 (0.60) over 13 seasons with two undefeated teams. The College record over 100 years is 0.472. His basketball teams were 43-59 (0.422) and the school average is 0.399. He and his wife retired in 1949 to Colorado where he died in 1951.

Jones' success with the Bears, his NFL innovations, and his 1946 book on the modern T-formation all served to obscure his extraordinary and pioneering role as a basketball coach. The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society is respectfully submitting his credentials to the Naismith for consideration.



Crawfordsville YMCA Gymnasium in 1902, shortly before Ralph Jones arrival. Also used by Crawfordsville High School and Wabash College. Note closed bottom net!

**Attica vs. Covington
River City Rivals**

by Gary McGrady

On March 1st, 2005, when Attica plays Covington in the first game of the North Vermillion sectional, it will mark the 200th meeting of the longtime rivals, the most of any two teams in the state. When Attica defeated Covington in the title game of the Bi-County Tourney in December, they pulled to within one game in the overall series which Covington leads 100-99, an indication of how evenly matched these two programs have been for nearly one hundred years.

But the rivalry between Attica and Covington extends far beyond basketball in the 20th century. By the time Charles Dickens published his classic "A Tale of Two Cities" in 1859, the animosity between these similarly sized Wabash River cities had already been well established. When Fountain County was formed in 1826, a tussle developed as to which town would become the county seat. A *Kiwanis Magazine* story about their rivalry explains:

The state senate asked for a census, promising to pick the larger city. Attican census takers visited the local cemetery in making their count. Covington, however, went even further. They included their muster for the War of 1812, which exceeded Attica's dead.

Attica would exact some revenge on county seat Covington in 1846 by being upriver, and therefore a temporary terminus on the Wabash and Erie Canal (eventually the second longest in the world). This didn't sit well with Covington, as evidenced by this passage from Wesley Whickers' book *Sketches*

of the Wabash Valley:

Inasmuch as the boats could not get beyond Attica, competition soon began to arise with the people of Covington who got the idea into their heads that Attica wanted to keep the water from reaching that place. They could not understand the leakage of water in the gravel beds below Attica....After nursing their wrath for some time, they concluded that in the love of God and the kindness of their hearts they would visit Attica, take matters into their own hands, destroy the locks which were located there, and let the water flow down the big ditch to the town that had been blest with the county seat.

Some diplomatic relations were carried on between the two contending towns. Covington sent her last note. The answer

was not satisfactory and Covington declared war on Attica...and called at once for volunteers. Three hundred mighty men of valor answered the call. They started up the towpath under the leadership of U.S. Senator Edward [Fifty-Four Forty or Fight] Hannegan. Word reached Attica that her territory was being invaded by this hostile army from the south.

The Covington army besides being armed to the teeth with rifles, shotguns and pistols, had an old cannon. The Atticans were well armed but had no artillery. The battle started at once. Ezekiel McDonald was knocked into the canal, and tradition says "General" Hannegan also measured its depths. A few of the persons from Covington had black eyes...but the superior numbers of the invading army prevented the Atticans from shutting the gates of the lock.

For a few years afterward there would be an occasional scrap between participants in the battle and even though that scrap took place in 1846, the feeling still crops out in political contests, regardless of party affiliation. The two cities have ever since gotten along without physical collision, although many red-hot controversies might be related.

The cities got along "without physical collision" until they began playing basketball, that is. Even though both schools joined the IHSAA in the first year of its existence in 1904, Attica didn't field a basketball team until 1907, and Covington followed in 1911. Their first game

was played at Covington on February 23, 1912, in a gym with a dirt floor, with the host Trojans prevailing 33 - 23.



Attica's first team, 1907

Covington would win the first four games between the two schools, a trend which has continued throughout the rivalry, as Attica's recent win ended a seven game Covington winning streak.

A final score which stands out among the 199 games played is from February 13, 1920: Attica 4, Covington 1*. The asterisk, as stated in Don White's *Covington High School Sports History*, is "Covington and Attica got into a fight during this game (at Attica) and Covington walked off the floor." Whereas the 1846 version of the Attica-Covington "skirmish" involved U.S. Senator (and potential presidential candidate until he murdered his brother-in-law) Hannegan, the 1920 battle involved a Covington player who would go on to become one

of the most decorated generals in United States military history. David Shoup was a junior forward for the Trojans who later was one of just five Hoosiers (including a non-basketball Attican, Thomas McCall) to win the prestigious Medal of Honor during World War II. In 1960, General Shoup became the 22nd Commandant of the United States Marine Corps and the bridge over the Wabash River at Covington bears his name.

The two towns would go at it again in 1928, this time in a less physical, but just as devastating way. Covington had finished the regular season 21-2 (losses to Crawfordsville and Attica) and were the favorites to win the sectional at Veedersburg. The Trojans were led by senior Louis Henderson, who had played for Hillsboro (their high scorer in the 1926 state finals) his freshman through junior years. Henderson had moved to Danville, Illinois for the start of his senior year, but then moved to Covington in November in time to join the basketball team. The week before the sectional, Principal Coffing of Attica filed a protest with IHSAA Commissioner Trester as to the eligibility of Henderson, centering on the issue of Henderson's residency and the possibility of "undue influence." Covington officials were confident nothing would come of Attica's protest as they prepared for the sectional. Then the bombshell dropped in the form of a telegram from Czar Trester on February 24, 1928: Henderson was suspended for the rest of the season, and Covington was to forfeit all second semester games, which included a win on the court against Attica in December.

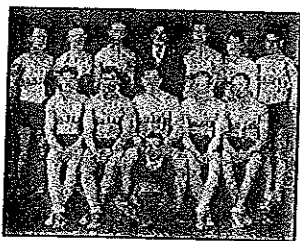
The newspapers of the two cities underscored the emotions of the citizens as the *Attica Ledger-Tribune* declared simply in the top headline: "COVINGTON PLAYER DELARED INELIGIBLE", while the *Covington Friend* was in an understandably more foul mood: "TECHNICAL DECISION KILLS ATHLETICS, DECISION REGARDED AS UNJUST" followed by passionate opinions on Trester's telegram that filled nearly the entire newspaper, including this commentary:

There are things much more important than the winning of a basketball game. In the heat of the contest everyone likes to win and a friendly rivalry is alright and does no harm. But more important than the game or anything else is a cordial, friendly, helpful feeling between the several towns of a county. No school official or anyone else has a right to do anything to destroy this. It is a well recognized fact

Continued on Page 5

that the towns of this county have had a more friendlier feeling toward each other than ever before... Co-operation was fast taking the place of combat. At first blush one would not seriously believe that the declaring of a basketball player ineligible would have far-reaching results, but the statement can be truthfully made that the Henderson ruling will do more to destroy this friendly feeling and stir up antagonism between the principal towns of the county than most any other circumstance that could be imagined.

The controversy promised to make the sectional tournament an interesting one as officials worried about riots between Attica and Covington, who without Henderson were demoted to co-favorite status along with Attica and Veederburg. The riot concerns were quelled fairly quickly



1928 Covington Trojans

when Covington lost their opening game to Newtown, whom they'd beaten 72-29 in the regular season, followed by an Attica loss to tiny Mellott (the *Covington Friend* called this game a "Swift Execution of Justice" in its top headline). Kingman then knocked off host Veederburg to complete the upset trifecta. Mellott, a school without its own gym, went on to win its first and only sectional.

Just as the 1846 skirmish was the result of a misunderstanding of the reason for a lack of water in Covington – gravel beds between the two cities, not malice on the part of Attica – the 1928 battle was instigated by Attica with the incorrect assumption that "undue influence" was the reason Henderson had gone from Hillsboro to Danville to Covington his senior year. As it turns out, a difference in academic requirements between Indiana and Illinois was the technicality that caused Henderson's demise. The undue influence and residency charges were unfounded, and the Henderson family has remained prominent in Covington to this day, as Louis' daughter-in-law, Susan Henderson, is the current Circuit Court Judge of Fountain County.

A side note in the 1928 debacle is the fact that a teammate of Henderson's at Hillsboro his freshman through junior years, Kenneth Rayburn, also moved to Covington for his senior year where he was a starter. Kenneth's son Fred was a star player for Covington in the 1950s, but his grandson Tom played a part in unquestionably the worst loss in Covington history. In 1978, Covington was 22-0

and led by Indiana All-Star Dale White and current Barr-Reeve coach Bryan Hughes, but lost to Seeger (and Tom Rayburn) in the sectional championship. The fourth generation of basketball playing Rayburns are now at Attica, where three girls bearing that name have led the Lady Ramblers to their best season in the program's thirty year history.

During the first twenty five years of sectional play in Fountain County (1920-1944) much smaller schools were just as successful as Attica and Covington. The Trojans had won only a single title during this era (1923), while Attica, Pine Village, and Hillsboro had each won five. Beginning in 1945, however, Fountain County's two big rivals really began to dominate, winning 15 of the next 18 sectionals. Richland Township, a consolidation of Mellott and Newtown, won the three that Attica and Covington didn't. The 1945 Covington team that ended a 22 year sectional drought, also won the regional at Attica and featured future Hall of Famer Virgil Sweet, along with John Myers, who would go on to become a 15 term U.S. Congressman representing west-central Indiana.

Highlights of Attica and Covington's dominance from 1945 through 1965 include the "Red" Lambert years at Attica (193 wins, all-time Fountain County leader) and the 1960 Covington team which won the first game of the semi-state, the only single-class Fountain County team to do so. Attica won three straight sectionals from 1953-55, a feat unsurpassed until Covington won their fourth straight (by beating Attica, of course) in 2004.

When the non-river towns of Fountain County decided in 1965 to consolidate their five schools into one – Fountain Central – the days of Attica and Covington's dominance over Fountain County basketball appeared to be over, but that was not the case. The first coach at Fountain Central was Al Harden, star of the aforementioned 1960 Covington "Elite Eight" team, who had just finished his playing career as a senior captain at Indiana University under Branch McCracken. Harden went 36-6 in his first two years at the helm, but was nearly fired because there was a slight problem despite the .857 winning percentage: all six losses were to smaller Attica and Covington. Fountain Central would not lose a game to a non-Fountain County school until the middle of their third season.

The era from consolidation to class basketball (1966-1997), saw Attica and Covington continue as basketball powerhouses in western Indiana, even though

they were the only "town" schools left in a sectional that included Fountain Central, Turkey Run, Seeger, North Vermilion, and later Benton Central and South Newton. Covington won seven of these sectionals, and Attica six, proof that the schools could still hold their own, while going from largest in the sectional to among the smallest. Success at the regional level was less common however, as the Fountain Central sectional winner fed into the Lafayette regional, as opposed to the Crawfordsville, Greencastle, Clinton, Attica/Covington rotation of the previous era when the Trojans and Ramblers combined for ten regional titles. The 1968 Attica team was the exception, as they knocked off Lafayette Jeff at Mackey Arena to win the regional, and then gave eventual state champ Gary Roosevelt a scare in the semi-state before bowing out.



1968 Attica Red Ramblers

The class basketball era has both helped and hindered the rivalry between Attica and Covington. The first sectional played under the new system in 1998 saw the two teams play for the championship, a nail biter won by Covington in a packed gym at Attica. But in 2000, in a clear indication that the IHSAA has a few too many classes, Covington (with 20 more students than Attica) moved up to Class 2A, while Attica remained in Class 1A. The schools took advantage of the situation in a big way, however. In 2001, Attica lost to Covington in the regular season and then went on to win the Class 1A State Title. Covington entered that post-season 9-11, but won their way to the Class 2A Final Four, losing to Batesville (with an enrollment nearly three times Covington's) in a close game.

Covington dropped back down to 1A in 2004 after winning three straight 2A sectionals, and renewed their post-season rivalry with Attica in style by beating the Ramblers in the championship game and becoming the first Fountain County school to win four consecutive sectionals. It was Covington's 18th title, closing in on Attica's 23, which is about as big a disparity as can be found between the state's oldest, fiercest, and most prolific rivals.

Jack Butcher

Working With a Legend

by Tim Nonte

I've had the pleasure of being in a unique situation throughout my long coaching career, as I have spent time with three of the winningest boy's basketball coaches in Indiana history. I did my student teaching under Howard Sharpe at Terre Haute Gerstineyer in 1964. Coach Sharpe for a period of time was the all-time record holder in Indiana for wins with 724. I was at Loogootee 17 years of which 11 years (1969-1979) were spent as assistant basketball coach under Jack Butcher; the current all-time wins leader with 806. Coach Butcher retired in 2002 after 45 years as the Lions head mentor. I left Loogootee and accepted the head baseball job at Princeton in the fall of 1982, and during the 1984-85 basketball season, I served as Jim Jones assistant basketball coach. The following season he moved on to Terre Haute North. At the end of the 2004 season, he is the current leader among active coaches with 624 wins in 41 years. All three of these coaches are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

If asked to compare the three, I would say this: "tongue in cheek" all three were short and hated losing with a passion. From Sharpe, I learned an appreciation for record keeping. He gave me a copy of his press guide where he had listed each year he had coached, teams played and the score. He told me if I was going to coach, then to keep track of such information, because no one else would, and besides you will forget in time. His words came back to haunt him, for others did keep track. It saddened me to see some of the information had been changed over the years. Being the number two leader in wins is still a great accomplishment. With Jim, I learned to be more flexible and to compromise. He could get players to play hard without intimidation. He had a softer approach, but could be very stern when needed. Howard and Jim were very verbal and outgoing, but Jack was more reserved. As I spent more time working with Coach Butcher, it is probably more relevant to shed light on his impact, knowledge, and extreme devotion for Indiana hoops. In regards to practice organization, Howard and Jim had detailed plans written out to the minute on paper. For example, 3:15-3:25 stretching, 3:25-3:30 ball handling, etc. But, with Jack it was in his head. Yes, at times he had an index card, but it was mostly in his head. And believe me, his mind was basketball organized. It was like a computer program that could not be ~~deleted~~

in 1964

As to the losing I referred to earlier, all three coaches hated to lose, but none with the supreme distaste the Jack felt. Most of us have experienced losing a game we should have won at some point



Jack Butcher

in our athletic careers either as a player or coach. Of course, then, we would feel all the emotional agony but always vow to work harder over the following few days. But soon that would wane. However, with Jack, I always felt that the emotional agony stayed with him 365 days a year. He did everything in his power to convince his players to work on their game year-round to prevent that agony. In 2004, I spoke at the pre-sectional Loogootee basketball banquet on an invitation from current Lion coach Steve Brett, a former student of mine. My talk utilized several parodies from Jeff Foxworthy's famous comedic routine: "You might be a Redneck..." My comments referenced: "You might have been a Loogootee basketball player..." For example, "If in the summer you were in the gym during the morning working on your shooting and came back that night to shoot more, but were asked, 'where were you at noon?' then 'you might have been a Loogootee basketball player.' If you were 16 years old before you knew that damn and hatchets (Washington rival) were two separate words. Then 'you might have been a Loogootee basketball player.' Sure, I said part of this in jest, but the comments mirrors the type of effort and thinking expected at Loogootee to avoid the losing.

Looking back, it was more fun helping Jack build the program versus sustaining it. Jack and I were a good combination, but nothing lasts forever. I liked basketball but loved baseball. That love stemmed from my Little League days with Coach Les "Buzz" Page. Later in his career, he served as Principal of Loogootee High School for many years. In my mind, there is just something about the smell of dirt and freshly cut grass, the look of straight foul lines and white bases, the drama of a squeeze bunt, the crack of the bat, and the fact that there is no time clock. It was my high. But, it wasn't that Jack disliked baseball because he was a very successful baseball coach for 9 years (1962-1970) with

an overall record of 94-30. He won a sectional championship in 1967. But it was not his love. I use to kid him when I was his baseball assistant, that his idea of a good baseball practice was field 10 ground balls, catch 10 fly balls, take 10 solid cuts in batting practice, then hit 100 jump shots before going home. After a couple of years, he let me become the head coach, and for that I am thankful. He got me a bat with the players' names on it for my 1973 Semi-State finalist appearance. It is now one of my favorite pieces of memorabilia.

With Jack, his love was basketball: the roar of the home crowd as the team came out of the tunnel at the Lion's Den, the deafening boos from the fans as the Lions took the floor in the Washington sectional, the squeaking of gym shoes during a practice drill, the beauty of a long-range jump shot, hard-nosed defense, ripping off a rebound, or a player diving for a loose ball. His high was game night, and the heat of the battle when he had both referees mad at him, and the visiting crowd booing as he roamed the sideline as if out of control. To be honest he was very much in control; he was at his best during such moments. In the time outs, he was hitting on all cylinders, because he had the game just where he wanted it. His voice was often quiet as he diagrammed plays or made adjustments. Oh sure, at times the players heard the high-pitched voice say: "Just what in the hell is going on out there?" Yes more was said at times in the huddle and dressing room, but what happens in the huddle and dressing room should stay in the huddle and dressing room, besides, players seem to exaggerate that stuff at times.

He had a special gift of insight during a game of recognizing when things were starting to go wrong long before most coaches ever suspected a problem. The games were often so much easier than the practice sessions. Our subs many of the years could have finished above five hundred as starters. They took great pride in pushing the first five. That was part of our success, plus, fear of losing and facing practice with Jack the next day was also a great motivating tool. No one worked harder than Jack and the players fed off that energy.

I felt his idea of a perfect day in the winter was having the 5th and 6th grades practicing at the old JFK gym, the 7th and 8th grades at the former St. John's high schools gym, and the freshmen and JV at one end of the high school gym while the varsity was at the other end. But,

Continued on Page 7

then my idea of a perfect day in the summer was when T-Ball, Little and Minor League teams were playing on one side of the school during the evenings, with the Babe Ruth teams having played that afternoon and the high school taking the field that night. So I guess we are pretty even on our ideas surrounding a perfect day.

If an area school wanted to measure how strong their basketball program was, all they had to do was schedule Loogootee's 5th grade through high school teams. I doubt if in any one year, a school ever beat Loogootee at all levels. We defeated schools in the winter because of the dedication of our kids during the summer. In reality, there was no starting date for basketball at Loogootee because it never really ended. Thank goodness the kids and parents accepted that philosophy. I remember one summer evening we had open gym for the high school kids and decided to stay and watch for a few minutes. We usually left. Well, on this particular evening as we sat, low and behold down the steps came Phil Eskew, at the time, commissioner of the IHSAA. Phil came over, sat down to watch, while telling us that he was simply on his way to make a speech and thought he would drop by. He ask how the Lions would be the following year, shook hands, and left. Jack and I just looked at each other and rolled our eyes.

Another thing that made a big difference was the one-on-one help from Jack during a lot of evenings. A dimly lit gym, the rebounding machine, one ball, one kid, going up after the ball and making a power move to the basket time after time. Another evening, a toss back or chair as another player made crossover moves and took jump shots, while Jack sat quietly, smoking his pipe under the basket. For Jack, it didn't get any better than that in his 24/7-basketball world.

In 1969, I coached the 7th and 8th grades, freshmen, and JV teams along with supervising the 5th and 6th grade program, plus ran the summer program. We needed more help. The smartest idea we ever had to stabilize the program was one evening in 1969 when we drove to

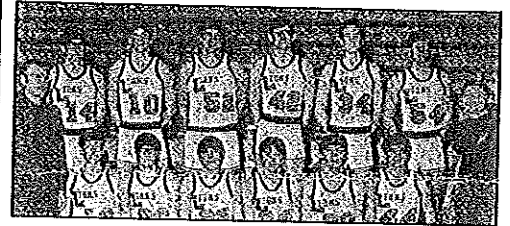
Ireland, Indiana to talk Lee Kavanaugh into coming back to Loogootee to coach in the feeder grades. Of course we had to wait until his softball game was over to talk to him, and we also had to promise him a new pair of tennis shoes each year. Lee is still coaching 7th grade basketball at Loogootee, even though retired from teaching.

I never felt Jack took enough time to smell the roses. Maybe he did in later years; I don't know. But during my time, basketball was his obsession. If we heard that Bloomfield was dribbling the basketball 50 times a day, we would dribble it 51. If Washington was shooting 100 shots, we would shoot 101, and so on. I could count the times on one hand where I felt he finally took a brief whiff of the roses. In 1970, when Jack won Loogootee's first regional, I remember a few days later riding around town with him as he talked, relaxed, and pointed out different places in town where he had played basketball as a kid. Another time was in 1975 when he found out his eldest son, Bill, had made the Indiana All-Star team. One of my favorite memories of being with Jack is not on the sidelines. It's on the White River one lazy summer afternoon. We were wading in shallow water, pulling a boat with milk jugs tied to our waists, turning over rocks looking for hellgrammites to bait a trot line near Paul Arvin's cabin. We could hear birds, the sound of the rushing water, and see the reflecting sun as we skipped rocks, talked basketball, and damned the world. These, however, were very rare hours of relaxation away from the gym.

People need to remember that before Bobby Knight arrived at IU, there was Jack Butcher in the high school ranks with a similar disposition. Jack's impact on Indiana high school basketball is immeasurable. Although a somewhat complex personality, he is in my mind, the best high school basketball coach Indiana has ever produced. During our parting in 1979, one old, loyal Loogootee basketball fan supposedly said, "well, one is stubborn, and the other is double stubborn". In my mind, he was the double, and probably in his, I was the double. The reason for leaving doesn't matter anymore. Loogootee was a force during those eleven years, rarely did the Lions lose both a reserve and varsity game on the same night.

We both survived quite well without each other. In 1982-83 I left for Princeton High School, where I got to coach some basketball and overdose on baseball. I coached the high school baseball team for 16 years, and 13 of those of those, I

also coached the Princeton Post 25 legion team in the summer. We played on Gil Hodges Field, which is a beautiful old park with atmosphere. I renovated the park with the help of the baseball booster club. It's now one of the nicest parks in the state. My wife Joyce and I practically lived at the field from March to August. It was the best of times for me. And the beat went on at Loogootee. Jack continued the winning. We had gone from being best of friends to not speaking for over 17 years. We eventually broke our silence at Paul's Arvin's wake. Paul had been the number one Loogootee fan, plus an influential mentor in Jack's life. I'm sure Paul was smiling down from above. Other than Rita Butcher, the quiet force behind Jack, I always felt I knew him best, and yet, I didn't know him at all. I know this is a paradox, but it is true. From Jack, I learned mental toughness and to work 25 hours a day if needed (no lunch, as the old saying goes). And for this I will always be indebted.



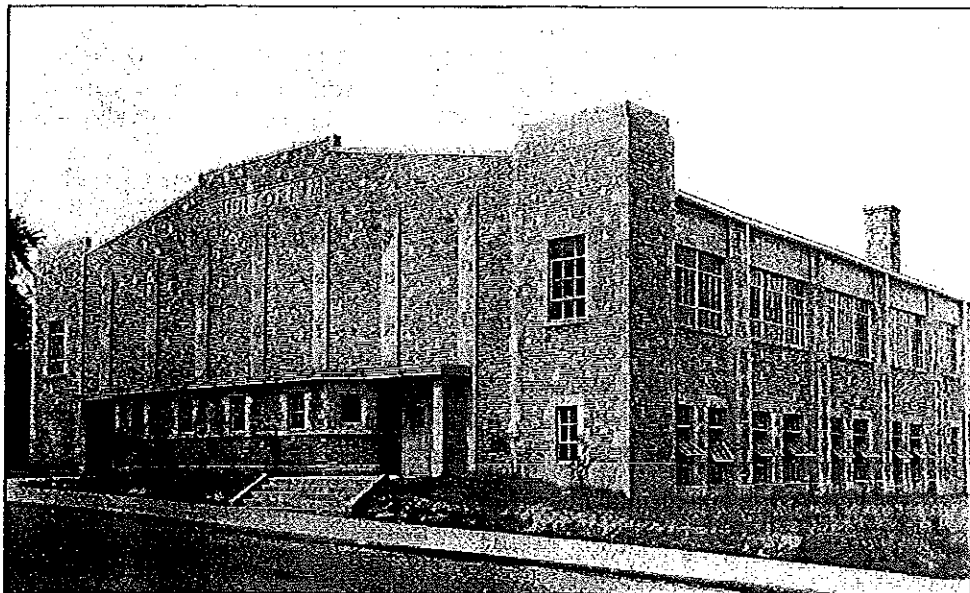
1975 Loogootee Lions
State Runner Up

Jack has written a book this past year called "Butcher Ball- It's Not Just a Game." I have a copy, but have not had time to read it yet. On the other hand I really don't need to read it, "hell I lived it." I would, however, encourage fans of Indiana high school basketball to buy a copy.

About the author: Tim Nonte is a long-time teacher and coach, at Loogootee and Princeton, he retired in 1998. He won 452 games as a head baseball coach of 28 years and coached the Princeton Post Legion 25 team for 13 summers. Tim was inducted in 1994 to the Indiana Baseball Hall of Fame. He also coached basketball at various levels for 30 years. His 14-year boy's JV record was 215-61, while as an 8th grade coach he compiled a record of 143-48 in 10 years. Tim organized the first nostalgia basketball sectional at Princeton in 1988 as a baseball fund-raiser. The idea spread throughout the state. He currently spends time working on ballparks in the area and researches high school baseball and basketball records.



Jack Butcher
circa 1951



Mystery Photo

IHSBHS Mystery Photo

Each issue of the *Boxscore* will feature a gym photo (usually from the postcard collection of Harley Sheets) for members to attempt to identify. The first person to correctly name the gym or school pictured will win a copy of Harley's "Where in the World" book, which lists all consolidations as of 1983.

In some cases (such as this one), any additional information – year built, current state, capacity, tourneys hosted, similar gyms, etc. – would be much appreciated and printed in the next issue along with the identity.

Send guesses and/or info. to:

hysterian@ihsbhs.com

or

IHSBHS Mystery Photo

683 S. Maudlin Rd.

Hillsboro, IN 47949

Hazleton
continued

both occasions when he awarded the ball to Bedford, the Stonecutters scored, one which allowed them to tie the score. It was obvious to the 12,000 fans that the official had erred. Sports writers from a dozen or more newspapers, coaches and other basketball officials also stated that it looked like a "putrid in Peru" story [whatever that means].

It's a mighty tough break for Hazleton. Schools in towns that size don't hope for such a basketball team more than once every five or ten years. The circumstances surrounding the Hazleton defeat does nothing to help our sport. Lets give the smaller schools a fair chance. If the big school team has a bad night so be it!

There are many teams that could have been another Milan, but a point or two or a bad break curtailed their chances. Learning about these mighty mites of the past makes it worthwhile and exciting to delve into the archives of newspapers and other periodicals to resurrect these fascinating stories.

"Casey" Decker's career continued on for some time. He won additional sectionals at Kingman in Fountain County in 1936 and Owensville back in Gibson County in 1945.

To show the strength of these Lions from Hazleton, Bedford then lost to eventual state champion Martinsville by four points. Hazleton High School was a truly worthy opponent!

Authors notes: Much thanks and credit goes to top-notch researcher Hugh Schaefer for part of the information herein.

IHSBHS Lists

As recently compiled on Leigh Evans' *HickoryHusker.com*, a list of players who have played on both an Indiana high school champion and a national college champion:

"Mythical" pre 1939

Pete Thorn.....	Wingate 1914 ...	Wabash College 1922
Burl Friddle.....	Franklin 1920 ...	Franklin College 1923
Robert Vandivier	Franklin 1920-22 ...	Franklin College 1923
John Gant.....	Franklin 1920-22 ...	Franklin College 1923
Carlyle Friddle.....	Franklin 1921-22 ...	Franklin College 1923
Ike Ballard.....	Franklin 1921-22 ...	Franklin College 1923
John Wooden.....	Martinsville 1927	Purdue 1932

NCAA 1939-

Jay McCreary.....	Frankfort 1936	Indiana 1940
Tim Stoddard.....	E.C. Washington 1971	NC State 1974
Pete Trgovich.....	E.C. Washington 1971	UCLA 1975
Eric Montross.....	Lawrence North 1989	North Carolina 1993
Kueth Duany.....	Bloomington North 1997	Syracuse 2003

IHSBHS Challenge

Two challenges this issue:

1. Can anyone find a coach with more than eleven coaching stops, as accomplished by the three men at right?
2. Attica and Covington are the two schools who have played each other the most times. What two schools have played each other for the most consecutive years?

Newspaper reports state that Jeffersonville & New Albany began their rivalry in 1907, but it has not been confirmed that they have played each season since then.

Anderson & Kokomo have played each other since 1905, but did not play in 1912, thus their verified string dates to 1913, the oldest we've found so far.

Vincennes & Washington have played each other every season since 1914, as have New Castle & Muncie Central.

A likely candidate would be Lafayette & West Lafayette, but this rivalry has not yet been documented.

Send ideas/suggestions to the e-mail or mailing address listed with the mystery photo at the top of this page.

Coaches who were at eleven different schools

Ernest Curtis

Guilford.....	1925-26
Leesburg.....	1927
Knjman.....	1928-29
Linlawn.....	1931
Boone Grove.....	1932
Cuzco.....	1934
Sanborn.....	1935
Monmouth.....	1936-39
Owensburg.....	1940-41
Liberty Center.....	1942-43*
Clifford.....	1944

* IHSBHS records show an Ernest Curtis coaching at Griffin in 1943. Were there two men coaching in Indiana named Ernest Curtis?

Dan Ballard

Romney.....	1937-38
Adams Township.....	1939
Deer Creek.....	1940-42
Converse.....	1943-44
Sheridan.....	1945-47
Walton.....	1948-50
Western.....	1951-55
Fullon.....	1956-57
Young America.....	1957-59
Burlington.....	1959-61
Lucerne.....	1961-63

Ward Smith

Paris Crossing.....	1938-39
Shawswick.....	1939-41
Austin.....	1942
Silver Creek.....	1943-45
Connersville.....	1947-49
Wabash.....	1950-54
Garrett.....	1955-66
Beech Grove.....	1967
Hauser.....	1968-72
South Central.....	1973-77
Attica.....	1978-79