

# BOXSCORE

A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

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

### IHSBHS Officers

President	John Ockomon	Pendleton	1960
Vice Pres	Harley Sheets	Lebanon	1954
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### Board Members

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### Publication & Membership Notes

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Dues are \$6.00 per year. Dues runs from January 1 - December 31 and includes newsletters and full membership with voting rights.

Send dues, address changes, inquiries as to membership, and handwritten stories to IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S, Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail: vols@indy.net

All electronic stories should be directed to Tom White: E-mail: whitelitning@gmail.com

2009 Spring Issue

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### Important Meeting Notice!!!

On Saturday, April 18th, there will be a membership meeting at Roosevelt Middle School Gym, 721 W. Broadway in Monticello. The tentative speakers will be John Westfall (talking about the old Monticello Stagg gym where this meeting is taking place), Dr. David Pence (who played in the 9-overtime Swayze-Liberty Center game), Jan Conner (former Martinsville girls' championship head coach), and Jack Schult (former Lafayette Jeff head coach), plus a few others. They will discuss several topics related to Indiana basketball history. The IHSBHS Board meeting will be held at 11a.m. (local time) and the membership meeting will be 12 to 3. All members are invited to attend and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.

### Reminder!!!

If you are reading this and you haven't paid your 2009 dues, then your payment is overdue. This will be your last reminder. Send your payment to the address located in the "Publication & Membership Notes" section (upper right corner, this page).

### Girls' Class Champions

IHSBHS would like to congratulate the four girls' basketball class champions: FW Canterbury Cavaliers (1A), Heritage Christian Eagles (2A), FW Elmhurst Trojans (3A), and Indpls. Ben Davis Giants (4A).

### IHSBHS News

#### Dues Increase

Because of the increased costs of printing and posting Boxscore, we have reached the point where the yearly dues barely cover this cost. Starting this year, we will also be incurring Web site related costs, so we have decided to increase the dues from \$6 to \$7, effective in 2010. The last increase came in 1999, so we are long overdue. For those that have paid their dues a couple of years in advance, this increase will not affect you until your current subscription is up. Lifetime members will not be affected.

#### ...One Small Misstep for IHSBHS...

The creation of our Web site has hit a bit of a snag. Hoosier Authority, which was to host and maintain our future site, will no longer be involved. A couple of years ago, we had a web site set up by Gary McGrady; however, it was allowed to lapse, in part because of lack of interest. We are currently working out the details for a new site and will notify you when that becomes available. If you have any ideas of what you would like to see, contact Jeff Luzadder at jeffluzadder@comcast.net or Tom White at whitelitning@gmail.com. Hopefully, we will have something available prior to the Summer Boxscore issue in June.

### Rewriting Bylaws

We are considering rewriting a portion of the bylaws as they pertain to elections. According to the current bylaws, elections are to be held at the Spring membership meeting. Over the past couple of years, we haven't been able to get many members to any meeting, so elections have been held by the board. We are considering adopting an approach in which ballots are included with Boxscore. These ballots could be filled out and mailed back to us. For those with an e-mail address, you could e-mail us your vote. All of this involves your voting rights, which are part of your membership and are something you haven't been able to utilize lately.

### Notes from the Editors

We have gone back to listing each issue as Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter, as it was in previous years.

While looking through older Boxscores in preparation for the anniversary issue, we ran across a couple of columns which we have resurrected at this time. One is a "Message from the President" by John Ockomon, in which he discusses issues related to IHSBHS. The second is "Doctor's Orders" with Roger Robison commenting on recent books he thinks might be of interest to the members.

Editorial Staff

### New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to IHSBHS - Dick Swank, Mac Conner, Mike Barrett, John Mullen, Marilyn White, Roselyn McKittrick, Rollin Cutter, and Steven Newman.

### Message from the President by John Ockomon

The Milan meeting this past October was a success, although I wish we had more people there. A great list of speakers was headed by Rollin Cutter, Milan 1956, an important member of the '54 champs.

He told about the 12 players for the team and where they came from, among other things, and how they meshed together. He then brought us up to date on what happened to them and where they are today. Very interesting.

Wes Peek, the new Milan coach, gave a short talk on the pressures of being in Milan and what he expects to accomplish. He's a real nice guy, who I hope succeeds there.

Roselyn McKittrick, a Milan legend since she arrived there in 1956, is the force behind the Milan '54 Museum, which she is working to make a first-class operation. A great lady!

Carl Bruns, Sunman 1947, talked about the Milan celebration from a rival town's perspective. All of Ripley County was behind the Indians. He recalled that more than 50,000 people descended on Milan on the Sunday after the game. Most were turned away on the small highways leading into town.

The meeting was followed by a trip to the museum, which is small, but has great stuff and hopefully soon will be housed in the bigger and better bank building next door.

### Article Solicitation

We are looking for an article from a member who is in favor of class basketball in Indiana. It should be about 1,000 to 1,500 words long and express reasons for your pro-class basketball viewpoint. In the future, we plan to publish it together with a short article expressing the opposing view.

In an effort to expand the subject matter for our members, we are also interested in articles related to girls' high school basketball (an initial article is shown at the right) and even class basketball era teams. Generally, articles are from about 1,000 to 3,500 words or from one to three pages in length, just to give you an idea.

If your article has been published elsewhere, let us know where and when. We are not averse to republishing it; we would simply like to give credit to the original publisher.

### Turn of the Century Girls' State Champions? by Leigh Evans

(Reprinted by permission of the author. This article original appeared at [hickoryhusker.com](http://hickoryhusker.com))

Indiana girls' state champions from 1900? Did such a thing exist? You'd better believe it -- At least folks at that time sure seemed to. There was no shortage of high school girls' teams claiming the title of Indiana state champions in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. ...And this was nearly seven decades before the IHSAA sanctioned the first girls' state tourney.

I set about this project quite by accident. Initially, I was simply searching for a photo of the very first Greenwood High School girls' team, which I planned to run next to the current team's photo just for kicks. However, as with most endeavors such as this, the more I found, the more interested I became, and what a treasure trove I uncovered in the process.

As you might have guessed, research from this period has been pretty muddled. Newspaper accounts of these games were spotty at best, and much of what I've been able to uncover is either incomplete or is a result of research from the most inaccurate source ever placed in a library...the high school yearbook.

I was especially taken with the wide variety of geography involved. Not many high schools fielded girls' teams in the century's first three decades, but those that did were spread out fairly evenly across the Hoosier landscape. Unlike the early boys' teams, greatness was not owned by a single pocket of strong teams, and I'm certain that as my research continues, I might uncover teams from even more areas.

One very peculiar trend was that in the course of these thirty-odd years, girls' basketball was really taking off. Schedule lengths had begun to rival those of today, and newspaper accounts were beginning to become more numerous. More impressive still were reports of larger crowds and the practice of girls' games acting as the curtain raiser for boys' games. This was quickly becoming the standard across the state, and then almost overnight, it came to an end. No doubt the Great Depression was the biggest culprit in the demise of the girls' game,

but it would seem that a changing attitude toward the role of women also was a factor. For whatever the reason, the girls' game became nearly extinct for decades. However, for a brief time in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it shone nearly as brightly as our hallowed boys' version.

As you might have guessed, the number of teams playing during this era fluctuated greatly. So, too, did the rules, number of games played, and pretty much everything in between. Just as with the boys, the only real standard during the first 30 years of girls' basketball in Indiana, as far as I have been able to determine, is that nothing was standard.

Boys' rules with the more traditional 5-on-5 often were utilized, but just as common were six-player rules -- four stationary players and two rovers. No real end-of-the-year tourneys existed beyond the local level, and those were pretty rare, except in certain regions.

However, all of this didn't deter many teams from staking a claim to a state championship. In a handful of cases, cross-state challenges were issued and sometimes answered in the form of a postseason playoff game(s). Equally entertaining to me was the realization that the early girls' game produced true shooting stars not unlike those of our modern era.

What follows is a working document that attempts to make the case for every team that has staked a claim to the then-mythical title of Indiana girls' basketball state champion.

### 1900

**Shortridge** -- Undeclared on the year. OK, a bit of qualification. Shortridge played one real game, but it also happened to be the only girls' game played that year. Tough to argue that is not a state championship. Perhaps more noteworthy is that this game was the earliest girls' game on record to be contested in Indiana between two schools. SHS downed Indianapolis Girls Classical School 18-9 in the game played, at the losers' gym. In two scrimmages later that season, the pioneer gals from Shortridge also downed a team from German House (which by all accounts was not considered a high school). A later scheduled scrimmage against Butler's girls' team was canceled by the Bulldogs before tipoff. A final 19-4

scrimmage victory over the Indianapolis YWCA rounded out the 'championship' season. At the time of this title, Shortridge was simply called Indianapolis High School. Only after Manual was opened as the second Indy high school was Shortridge used as its moniker. The coach was Frederic Herzsch.

### 1907

**Rensselaer** - Not a great deal on which to base this school's claim of a state championship, but we do have record of the pre-Bombers going undefeated this season. While I have not been able to come up with a list of fallen opponents or scores, I was able to verify Rensselaer's 9-7 win that year over a very dogged Hobart team. This was to be the only loss for Hobart, a team that trounced several Region teams by double digits.

### 1912

**North Vernon** - North Vernon's undefeated season came in the school's third year to field a team. Three-year starter Marie Tech led NV to back-to-back wins over Seymour, a win over Franklin College, and a 9-7 nail-biter over Aurora. North Vernon was coached by Nelle Baldwin.

**Warsaw** - Coach Francis Elder's Warsaw squad played, for the decade, a very full schedule. The Tigers went 8-0-1. They downed Columbia City, Goshen, and Ligonier twice, and took out Winona in their only meeting. A midseason tie with Elkhart was their only blemish, and Warsaw topped the Blazers in that same season.

### 1913

**Bristol** - Tiny Bristol High of Elkhart County put together a 5-0-1 season that resulted in its claim as the best in the state for 1913. Bristol downed Elkhart Baptist 22-5, tied Elkhart 12-12, defeated Elkhart Baptist again 5-0, gave Nappanee its only loss on the year 21-12, once more beat Baptist 12-5, and rounded out the year with a 12-8 victory over Bristol Alumni. So what of its lone stain, the tie with Elkhart? Reports support Bristol's championship claim, as Elkhart dropped a game to Baptist, giving Bristol the 1913 tiebreaker.

### 1920

**Bedford** - Went just 2-0 with victories over Mitchell, 10-6 and 16-1. Not much of a resume, but a state championship was claimed nonetheless. Of special note, this was the first instance I have run across of female athletes being awarded letters for athletics. "Monograms" were selected for six of the girls by coach Lappin.

**Monrovia** - Coach Glen Clodfield directed his girls to a perfect 19-0 record in a time when few teams played half as many games. Of special note was a 29-9 drubbing of Terre Haute in the first official game to take place in the gym that would be renamed later in honor of Branch McCracken.

### 1921

**Boonville** - Coach Ritchie (first name yet to be recovered) directed BHS to a 'stellar' season. In its first year to field a team, Boonville won the southern Indiana championship and staked claim to the state title.

### 1922

**Freelandville** - The Freelandville Five of Knox County ran the table in 1922 with a perfect 11-0 season. The southern Indiana news media proclaimed the girls to be state champions. The school reportedly went so far as to issue a challenge to any school that wanted to play them after the season was over. Receiving no takers, the school joined the media in the claim of a state title. Coach Margaret Hardie's squad downed Decker, Plainville, and Frichton all twice. Freelandville defeated Edwardsport (reportedly a very strong team in the area) three times, and handled Vincennes and Sullivan in their only meetings.

**Monrovia** - Coach Glen Clodfield carried over the winning ways of his 1920 undefeated squad and again ran the table, although the number of wins has remained elusive to this researcher. This undefeated squad laid claim to another state championship and was invited to play Kentucky's champion in a one-game playoff. The girls traveled to the land of the bluegrass and downed Henderson 12-8. Henderson had not lost a game in three seasons before falling to Monrovia.

**Scipio** - The Black Diamonds, as the team was called, made their claim as the state's best after capturing the Jennings County high school tournament. Coach Clyde Wilson's team finished that season unbeaten and was led by star player Blanch Hayes, who herself would coach Scipio to county titles in 1926, '27, and '28. The 1922 squad was arguably the best of the bunch. That season the Black Diamonds notched convincing victories against Butlerville, Hayden, and Paris Crossing, and downed previously unbeaten and highly regarded North Vernon 13-3.

### 1923

**Mt. Vernon (Posey)** - Finished a full schedule of games 17-1 and publicly laid claim to a state championship. A loss to Boonville was reversed later in the season. The title claim was not disputed. Wins over strong southern Indiana programs Evansville Central and Huntingburg helped to solidify the claim. Mt. Vernon was coached by George Brown.

### 1924

**Morristown** - Coach Ethel Van Cleave took her school's first girls' basketball team and ran the table, albeit a short table, Morristown went only 4-0, but that did not deter it from claiming the title as the best team in the state. Scores and opponents have yet to be unearthed.

**Sullivan** - Sullivan had an undefeated year under Coach Harry Gilmore and capped it off with a most unusual post-season contest. A strong Mt. Vernon squad (see 1925 and 1926) went 13-2, and in the process avenged its only two losses. Following the season, it issued a challenge in the Indianapolis Star. Sullivan answered that challenge and topped Mt. Vernon 22-16 to claim the state championship. Other confirmed victims of Sullivan's title march included Vincennes twice, Shelburn twice, Terre Haute Garfield, Carlisle twice, Terre Haute Wiley, and Coalmont.

### 1925

**Mt. Vernon (Posey)** - Coach George Brown's strong program continued its dominance with a sparkling 18-0 season. Mt. Vernon reportedly scheduled all comers and was led by one of the early stars of the girls' game, junior Sara MacGregor.

MacGregor was tabbed by the Evansville paper as "Never-Miss-Sally" for her prolific scoring. She averaged more than 18 points per game. This total outpaced the entire opposition's average points per game against Mt. Vernon that year.

### 1926

**Mt. Vernon (Posey)** - New Coach Homer Allgood took over the defending state champions squad and guided them to another remarkable year of 18-1. "Never-Miss-Sally," Sara MacGregor, returned for her senior season and reportedly averaged more than 24 points per game, a seemingly unthinkable total for that era. Details of the team's lone setback are remarkable as well. Huntingburg High boasted its own superstar in Ruth Heitman, who averaged more than 20 points per game, and the clash between their teams on Nov. 25 could easily be compared to the Church Street shootout of Ray and Pavy fame that would take place decades later. The Happy Hunters of Huntingburg took it 34-32. What made this game remarkable was that MV's MacGregor netted 24 points of her team's 32, and Huntingburg's Heitman took top honors with 29 of her team's 34. Mt. Vernon would later defeat Huntingburg near the end of the season in a rematch in a tourney hosted by Huntingburg. However, the tantalizing details of individual heroics of that contest have yet to be uncovered. As a result of this win over Huntingburg, Mt. Vernon was offered a postseason invitation to play in a national championship tourney in Youngstown, Ohio; however, IHSAA Secretary Arthur Trestler informed the school it would not be permitted to participate. There is some irony that although girls' sports were unsanctioned by the IHSAA, King Arthur's word still ruled out of fear of reprisals to the boys' team.

### 1927

**Fulton** - Undefeated season reported. Fulton was led by literal twin towers: the Zook twins, Janet and Jane. The former dropped 75 points on an outgunned Roann squad as Fulton stomped them 81-2. Fulton was led by coach Vernee Bowen, father of future Indiana governor Otis Bowen.

**Montgomery** - This Daviess County team's state championship claim is based on the fact that while it finished the season, 7-2-1, it was able to avenge both losses and the tie by season's end. Coach Pauline Williams' lasses beat an Alumni team, Loogootee, and Shoals twice. Early season setbacks to Odon and Epsom were later reversed, as was a tie with Glendale.

### 1928

**Petersburg** - PHS reported a "stupendous season," but no won-loss record could be determined. An argument can be made for them, though, as powerful rival Mt. Vernon finished the season undefeated. The two agreed to a special extra game on the neutral floor of Jasper's gym. Petersburg prevailed 17-12 to claim the state championship and no one challenged the proclamation. Petersburg was coached by Belle Bryant.

### 1929

**Boonville** - Coach Ruth Bateman publicly claimed to the Evansville newspaper that her Pioneers were state champions following their 22-2 season. Both losses were avenged later in the season to solidify her claim. No southern Indiana schools disputed.

**Griffith** - Few details have been uncovered regarding this Griffith squad, but what is known is tough to top. GHS finished the season 17-0. More impressive is all-time Indiana girls' record holder Ruth Hutchins. Her 106 points vs. Ross were topped a week later by her 120-point outing vs. Merrillville, still an Indiana record for points in a game by an individual. Want more? These incredible totals were tallied in 28-minute games.

**Wabash** - The Wabash Snowballs, nicknamed for coach Marcia Snow, wrapped up a 12-0 season with their own challenge in the Indianapolis Star. Wabash invited any other undefeated team to play them in a two game, home-and-home, postseason series. Argos was the only school to answer the call, and Wabash downed the Dragons easily in both outings, 30-17 and 39-13. Other confirmed wins that season came against Chippewa, Roann twice, Columbia City twice, Auburn twice, Peru twice, Jonesboro twice, and a team of Wabash alumni. Wabash

averaged 41 points per game (a staggering sum for the era) while giving up just 11 points per game to the opposition.

### 1931

**Wabash** - The Snowballs continued their winning ways by going 10-0-1. The lone tie was reportedly avenged later in the season. Undefeated Tipton threw down the gauntlet at the conclusion of the season for a one-game championship. Wabash took out the Devils on their own floor 36-21 to claim its second state championship in three years. Wabash was led by one of the true stars of early Indiana girls' basketball, Doris 'Bill' Smyers, who averaged an astounding 27 points per game during her three years as a Snowball. In one contest against a very outgunned Fairmount team, Smyers dropped 69 points. Teammate Lavinia 'Beanie' Davidson added 53 for good measure. The duo accounted for all of the Snowball points in a 122-1 thrashing of Fairmount's first-year program.

### 1932 and 1933

**Brownsburg** - It can be argued that Brownsburg had one of the most dominant teams of any of the early Hoosier girls' squads. The Bulldogs ran off 18 straight victories as they went undefeated during the 1932 season (11-0) and the 1933 season (7-0). During this impressive two-season run, BHS scored nearly 40 points per game in an era that routinely saw scores not reach double digits. They gave up 11 ppg over the course of these two years.

**References:** Bedford High School Yearbook, Boonville Standard, Bristol High School Yearbook, Evansville Courier, Hoosier Hysteria by Herb Schwomeyer, North Vernon Plain Dealer, Rochester News-Sentinel, Shortridge High School Yearbook, Wabash High School Yearbook, Wabash Plain Dealer

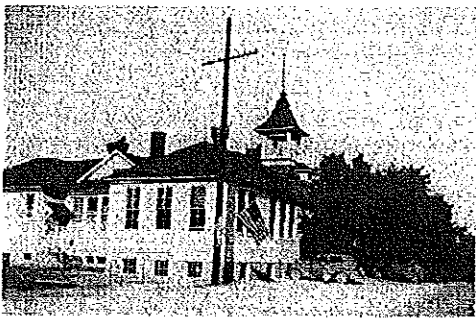
## Reelsville Again? by Harley Sheets

Even though the writing of the Reelsville story, published in Boxscore 2008 Issue 3, was frustrating at times, it was a story worth the time and energy exerted. I started out as a perplexed and somewhat frustrated researcher-historian and ended up a detective, to some degree. I just wanted "the facts." All it took was some time, digging and inquiring. Now I know why I always liked Dick Tracy, Sherlock Holmes and The Shadow. Instead of putting cardboard puzzles together, they used gray matter to solve mysteries. A side note to the writing of the story has me coming into contact with a current and former resident of Reelsville. I contacted a tree company about looking at some walnut trees on my property. During my conversation with the lumber representative, I found out that he lived in, of all places, Reelsville. Later on, I gave a postcard presentation at the Angola library. It was there that I met Terry Burgher, a Reelsville graduate. I gave both fellows a copy of my Reelsville article. But the story of Reelsville wouldn't be complete without telling of the team that won the school's one and only sectional.

The 1953 Reelsville team with big-time scorer Dick Neal (1700 points) in all probability was the school's best. This tribe of Indians scalped everyone it encountered by an average of 26 points per game. It amassed 1,717 points to its opponents' 1,093. Its only close game was a 66-63 victory over Amo, but it failed to win the school's second sectional, losing a close game to Greencastle (57-60) in the championship game.

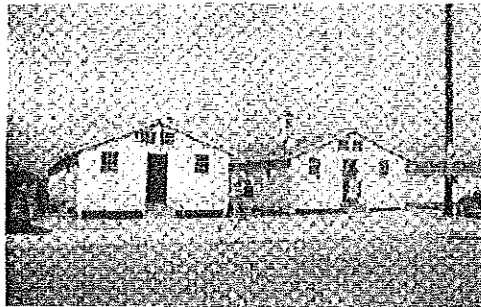
### 1946

This is the year that Reelsville claimed its one and only sectional, and an unexpected feat it was. Early on March 2, 1945, the school caught fire



Reelsville School that burned down

and burned to the ground. The students did not return to school that year, but somehow things were arranged and the seniors graduated. The question now was where the students would attend school in the 1945-46 school year. Reelsville is equidistant from Brazil and Greencastle, and it was assumed they would attend one or the other. When Mr. Hammond, the township trustee, approached the two schools, he was told they could accommodate only the athletes. The irony here is that neither Brazil nor Greencastle won a sectional that year, and both were coached by future Hall of Famers, Harold "Babe" Wheeler and Kern McGlothlin. Not to be foiled by such hypocrisy, Mr. Hammond worked out a deal with the state to obtain some barracks from Shakamak State Park. The barracks had housed workers when the park was turned into a CCC camp during Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. In the summer of 1945, many students and members of the community pulled together to get the barracks disassembled, moved and reconstructed for the start of the school year. However, there was no gym.



Reelsville barracks

I have never taken time to research the record of these 1946 sectional champions, nor do I know what transpired in the Greencastle sectional, but I do know that their achievement was accomplished under less than advantageous circumstances. There was no gym. World War II was concluding and there was still rationing. I am also sure that the Reelsville community enjoyed a huge amount of satisfaction when their athletes that Greencastle wanted beat the Tiger Cubs in the final game of the sectional. Four of the ball players and two of the cheerleaders were in the graduating class of 1946.



Reelsville Indians 1946 team picture

Row 1: Ernest Cook, Ray Wells, Jim Hutcheson, Jim Taylor, Jim McCullough  
Row 2: Mel Bowen, Gilbert Hassler, Bob Rissler, Bill Hammond, Bob Hathaway, Coach: Russell Reeves

## One-Hit Wonders Single Sectional Champions

Listed below are 168 schools that won only one sectional title. Schools that were absorbed into a new school are shown as [new school]. An \* indicates schools that have had stories written about them by IHSBHS. Note that the schools listed do not include class sectional one-time winners.

- Amboy Pirates - 1940 [Oak Hill]
- Andrews Cardinals - 1943 [Huntington North]
- Atlanta Cardinals - 1937 [Hamilton Heights]
- Atwood Greyhounds - 1922 [Warsaw]
- Avon Orioles - 1978
- Bloomington Academy Immortals - 1915 [Turkey Run]
- \* Bowers Blackshirts - 1927 [North Montgomery]
- Bridgeton Raccoons - 1944 [Riverton Park]
- Brighton Wildcats - 1959 [Lakeland]
- Brownsville Lions - 1946 [Union County]
- Butler Windmills - 1942 [Eastside]
- Central Wildcats - 1936 [Madison]
- Central Noble - 1977
- Chalmers Cardinals - 1933 [Frontier]
- Chandler Panthers - 1950 [Castle]
- Clark Township Lions (Johnson County) - 1953 [Whiteland]
- Clarksburg Knights - 1964 [North Decatur]
- \* Coal Creek Central Bearcats - 1966 [North Montgomery]
- Colfax Hickories - 1957 [Clinton Prairie]
- Cortland Eagles - 1927 [Seymour]
- Cory Apple Boys - 1947 [Clay City]
- Cowan Blackhawks - 1976
- Cromwell Spartans - 1945 [West Noble]
- Cross Plains Wildcats - 1942 [South Ripley]
- Daleville Broncos - 1985

- \* Darlington Indians - 1969 [North Montgomery]
- Decatur Catholic Commodores - 1966 [Bellmont]
- Deedsville Trojans - 1926 [North Miami]
- Deputy Warriors - 1925 [Madison]
- Dillsboro Bulldogs - 1961 [South Dearborn]
- Eastbrook Panthers - 1979
- Eastern Comets (Howard County) - 1956
- Edgewood Mustangs - 1993
- Etna Green Cubs - 1958 [Triton]
- Everton Bearcats - 1947 [Connersville]
- Fairmont Academy - 1915 [Mississinewa]
- Farmersburg Plowboys - 1954 [North Central (Farmersburg)]
- Fishers Tigers - 1922
- Fontanet Beantowners - 1933 [Terre Haute North]
- Fountain City Little Giants - 1949 [Northeastern]
- Francisville - 1955 [West Central]
- Freedom Aces - 1963 [Owen Valley]
- \* Freelandville Fighting Dutchmen - 1941 [North Knox]
- Gary Edison Blazers - 1946 [Lake Station]
- Gary Wirt Troopers - 1989
- Gibson Southern Titans - 1975
- Gill Township Rockets - 1955 [Sullivan]
- Glenn Pirates - 1951 [Terre Haute North]
- \* Granville Wells Rockets (Boone County) - 1963 [Western Boone]
- Graysville Greyhounds - 1929 [Sullivan]
- Greensfork Demons - 1936 [Hagerstown]
- Guilford Wildcats - 1934 [East Central]
- Hamilton Heights Huskies - 1975
- Hammond Morton Governors - 1976
- Hancock Central - 1956 [Eastern Hancock]
- Hanover Bulldogs - 1923 [Southwestern]
- Hanover Central Wildcats - 1986
- Haubstadt Elites - 1961 [Gibson Southern]
- \* Hazleton Lions - 1933 [Princeton]
- \* Helmsburg Tigers - 1949 [Brown County]
- Honey Creek Honey Bees - 1946 [Terre Haute South]
- Hope Red Devils - 1945 [Hauser]
- Hopewell Tigers - 1916 [Franklin]
- Hymera Shakamaks - 1956 [North Central (Sullivan County)]
- Indianapolis Scecina Crusaders - 1978
- Ireland Spuds - 1963 [Jasper]
- Jackson Central Eagles - 1945 [Hamilton Heights]
- Jackson Township Stonewalls - 1932 [Eastern (Howard County)]
- Jefferson Red Devils (Randolph County) - 1949 [Winchester]
- Jefferson Township Yankees (Tipton County) - 1956 [Tipton]
- Jimtown Jimmies - 1945
- Kingman Black Aces - 1936 [Fountain Central]
- Kirkland Township Kangaroos (Adams County) - 1928 [Adams Central]
- Lake Station Indians - 1941
- Laketon Tigers - 1926 [Manchester]
- Lakeville Trojans - 1924 [LaVille]
- Larwill Trojans - 1969 [Whitko]
- Leavenworth Rivermen & Wyandottes - 1967 [Crawford County]
- Lizton Blue Blazers - 1917 [Tri-West]
- Losantville Red Devils - 1923 - Union (Modoc)
- Lynn Bulldogs - 1950 [Randolph Southern]
- Mackey Aces - 1946 [Oakland Wood Memorial]
- Markleville Arabians - 1933 [Pendleton Heights]
- Maxwell Lions - 1941 [Greenfield Central]
- Medora Hornets - 1949
- Mellott Derbies - 1928 [Fountain Central]
- Midland Middies - 1924 [Shakamak]
- Milton Sharpshooters - 1954 [Cambridge City Lincoln]
- \* Michigantown Ganders - 1933 [Clinton Central]
- Mishawaka Marian Knights - 1969
- Monitor Commodores - 1943 [Harrison (West Lafayette)]
- \* Monroeville Cubs - 1948 [Heritage]
- Monterey Fliers - 1961 [Culver Community]
- Morgantown Trojans - 1956 [Indian Creek]
- Morton Memorial Tigers - 1953
- Mount Ayr Ayrdales - 1944 [North Newton]
- \* Mount Olympus Mountaineers - 1929 [Princeton]
- \* Nashville Yellow Jackets, Broncos & Hornets - 1959 - [Brown County]
- Needmore Hilltoppers (Marshall Township) - 1964 [Bedford-North Lawrence]
- New Marion Panthers - 1961 [South Ripley]
- New Winchester Warriors - 1939 [Danville]
- Noble Township Pirates - 1962 [Southwood]
- North Central (Harrison County) - 1966 [North Central (Farmersburg)]
- North Knox Warriors - 1964
- North Miami Warriors - 1968
- North Newton Spartans - 1978
- North Posey Vikings - 1966
- Northview Knights - 1988
- North Webster Trojans - 1953 [Wawasee]
- Northwood Panthers - 1995
- Odon Bulldogs - 1959 [North Daviess]
- Osgood Cowboys (Center Township) - 1939 [Jac-Cen-Del]
- Otwell Millers - 1969 [Pike Central]
- Patoka Wrens - 1955 [Princeton]
- Patriot Trojans - 1926 [Switzerland County]
- Perrysville Eagles - 1923 [North Vermillion]
- Pike Central Chargers - 1997
- Pinnell Purple Dragons - 1962 [Western Boone]
- Pioneer Panthers - 1962
- Poseyville Posies - 1925 [North Posey]
- Randolph Southern Rebels - 1994
- \* Reelsville Indians - 1946 [South Putnam]
- Rockcreek Center Dodgers (Wells County) - 1927 [Norwell]
- Rockport Zebras - 1954 [South Spencer]
- Roll Red Rollers - 1951 [Blackford]
- Russellville Bees - 1921 [North Putnam]
- Sandborn Blue Jays - 1957 [North Knox]
- Sandcreek Township Indians - 1946 [South Decatur]
- Sandusky Blackhawks - 1921 [North Decatur]
- Scipio Tigers - 1928 [Jennings County]
- \* Selma Bluebirds - 1967 [Wapahani]
- Shipshewana Indians - 1944 [Westview]
- Silver Lake Ramblers - 1947 [Warsaw]
- South Bend Jackson Tigers - 1972 [South Bend Riley]
- South Central Rebels (Harrison County) - 1974
- South Central Satellites (LaPorte County) - 1982
- Southmont Mounties - 1994
- South Vermillion Wildcats - 1986
- Spartanburg Tomcats - 1947 [Randolph Southern]
- Spencerville Red Raiders - 1947 [Eastside]
- Straughn Yellow Jackets - 1942 [Northview]
- Swayzee Speedkings - 1964 [Oak Hill]
- Tangier Tigers - 1957 [Turkey Run]
- Trafalgar Redbirds - 1917 [Indian Creek]
- Triton Trojans - 1965
- Tri-West Bruins - 1991
- Union (Modoc) Rockets - 1970
- Union Center Badgers (Wells County) - 1936 [Norwell]

- \* Union Mills Millers - 1950 [South Central]
- Union Township Ramblers (Johnson County) - 1952 [Franklin]
- Unionville Arrows - 1966 [Bloomington North]
- Vallonia Redbirds - 1950 [Brownstown Central]
- Wainwright Mustangs - 1968 [McCutcheon]
- Wakarusa Indians - 1933 [Northwood]
- Wallace Peppers - 1925 [Fountain Central]
- Ward-Jackson Flyers - 1961 [Winchester]
- \* Washington Center Wildcats (Whitley County) - 1916 [Columbia City]
- Washington Township Hatchets - 1949 [Lewis Cass]
- Waterloo Wildcats - 1960 [DeKalb]
- Wayne Township - 1937 [Union City]
- West Baden Sprudels - 1935 [Springs Valley]
- West Central Trojans - 1987
- Westland Bears - 1932 [Eastern Hancock]
- Westport Warriors - 1915 [South Decatur]
- West Vigo Vikings - 1990
- Whitestown Panthers - 1946 [Lebanon]
- Whitewater Bears - 1927 [Northeastern]
- Young America Yanks - 1920 [Lewis Cass]

#### Missing School Colors

This is the last time this article will appear in Boxscore. If any member can add new school colors, it would be appreciated. Contact Jeff at [jeffluzadder@comcast.net](mailto:jeffluzadder@comcast.net).

- Bringhurst
- Fairmount Academy
- Flint
- Greene Twp. (St. Joseph Co.)
- Hanging Grove
- Houston
- LaOtto
- Leopold
- Mace
- Milford
- Modoc
- Monroe Twp. (Washington Co.)
- Newberry
- Noble Twp. (Cass Co.)
- North Bend
- North Caston
- Owensburg
- Putnamville
- Selvin
- South Caston
- South Milford
- Webb
- West Newton

#### Obituary

(Jasper, IN) -- Cyril Birge, best known for refereeing the historic Milan-Muncie Central high school boys basketball championship game in 1954, died following a short illness on Thursday, Oct. 2, 2008, at age 93. The life-long Jasper native was a referee at three IHSAA state final tournaments during his 35-year officiating career.

Birge worked as a basketball official in the Big Ten Conference from 1959 to 1971. During his college officiating career, he worked games involving such coaching legends as John Wooden (UCLA), Adolph Rupp (Kentucky), Ray Meyer (DePaul), Al McGuire (Marquette), Branch McCracken (Indiana), George King (Purdue), and Tony Hinkle (Butler).

An outstanding prep athlete, Birge helped lead his Jasper High School basketball team to the 1934 state finals at Butler Fieldhouse. The Wildcats reached the Final Four of the then-"Sweet 16" state finals before losing to eventual state champion Logansport. Birge, a 6-3 center, was voted All-State and earned a basketball scholarship to Purdue University. However, during the summer following his senior year, Birge contracted typhoid after drinking water from a contaminated well, along with best friend and high school teammate Eddie Rottet. Rottet, who was headed to Northwestern to play basketball, died later that summer. Cyril had a long recovery and was never able to attend Purdue.

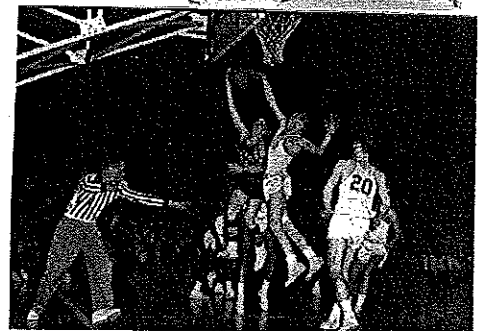
In 1995, Birge was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame as a player. Roger Dickinson, executive director of the hall, said, "Just this past August, we hosted the first-ever reunion of state finals officials. We were very fortunate to have Cyril present, and you could tell by all the attention and admiration he received that he is truly one of the best and most respected to ever officiate basketball in Indiana. And as a player, he was certainly one of the finest of his era."

Jack Butcher, former basketball coach at Loogootee High School, the all-time leader in victories in Indiana high school men's basketball, said, "I can't begin to tell you how many times Cyril refereed games for me at Loogootee. When he did, one thing was for certain: You were going to get a fair shake, both teams were. One

thing I always appreciated is that he never lost sight of Indiana high school basketball. Even after his college career took off, he still found the time to come work a weeknight game for us here in little old Loogootee. Over the years, we became good friends and golfing buddies. Perhaps most important, he was a true gentleman."

In addition to officiating basketball, Birge umpired baseball for many years and was an outstanding amateur baseball player.

Professionally, Cyril Birge served 25 years as the southern Indiana representative for sporting goods supplier Gus Doerner Sports of Evansville. Birge retired in 1985. He is survived by nine children.



### Mystery School Photo by Rocky Kenworthy

From the 2008 Issue 3 mystery school contest, we have a winner. It was Eugene Roberts, and he guessed correctly that the school was Modoc.

In many issues of *Boxscore*, there has been a high school photo (usually from Harley Sheets' postcard collection) for members to attempt to identify. Any person who correctly names the school (pictured twice at the right, different schools in different eras) will win a copy of Harley's *Where in the World*, which lists all consolidations as of 1983. Since these selections have been difficult in the past, we have included a few hints.

1) This school never won a sectional title; however, the school it was consolidated with won two sectionals.

2) As a consolidated school, it is a one-hit wonder in the class era (not listed on Pages 5 to 7).

3) The school building (at the immediate right) was torn down and replaced with a park.

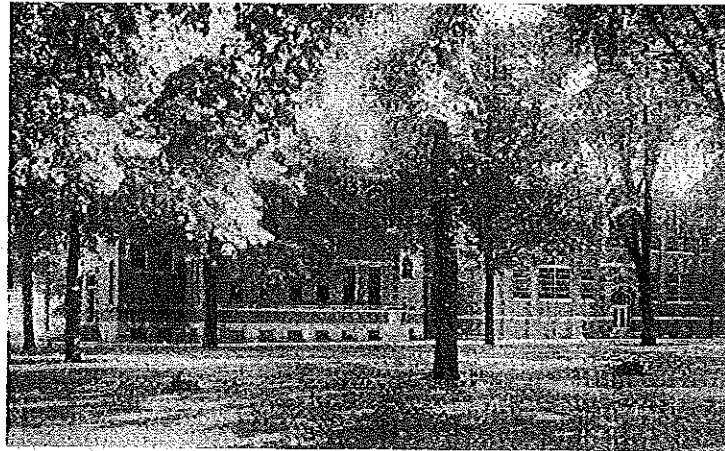
4) This school was located in the northern part of the state.

Send guesses to  
[vols@indy.net](mailto:vols@indy.net) or  
IHSBHS Mystery Photo  
710 E. 800 S  
Clayton, IN 46118

### Doctor's Orders by Roger Robison

1. History of—Loogootee Boy's Basketball 1905-2008, by Tim Nonte, John Mullen, Justin Byrd, and Robert Scott Waggoner. To order, send a check for \$32 (postage included) made payable to Tim Nonte, 622 S Old Patoka Road, Patoka, IN 47666.

This 2008 book of 314 pages is packed with photos and stats. It even includes a poem by Grantland Rice (of Four Horsemen fame) extolling the virtues of the Hoosier pastime. It ain't South Bend Central and it ain't Ben Davis. But it is all wonderful nostalgia about the game as played in 20<sup>th</sup> century small-town rural Indiana. The Lions have never won the state boys title, but then neither has Columbus or Terre Haute. And against the big boys in single class competition, the Lions were in the Sweet 16 six times and in the Final Four twice because they had the winningest coach in Indiana prep basketball, Jack Butcher (806-250).



### The Statistical Corner by Leigh Evans

Most Assists in a Game			
Boys			
23	Jason Young	Logansport vs. Rochester	95-96
21	Jon Costello	Washington Catholic vs. Holy Cross	08-09
18	Josh Maggard	Northwestern vs. Southwood	06-07
17	Roger Embry	Henryville vs. Shawe	80-81
17	Scott Gaskins	White River Valley vs. Clinton Central	89-90
17	Brandon Monk	Zionsville vs. Southmont	94-95
17	Bryan Welsh	Noblesville vs. Westfield	02-03
Girls			
19	Lauren Miller	Speedway vs. Crispus Attucks	08-09
17	Jacci Martin	Eminence vs. Edinburgh	06-07
17	Karen Dennison	Madison vs. Southwestern(H)	99-00
16	Lori Stinson	FW Snider vs. Noblesville	87-88
16	Jamie Clinard	Pike Central vs. NE Dubois	00-01
16	Ashleigh Walters	Indian Creek vs. Edinburgh	03-04

If you know of anyone that should be included on either one of these Top Five lists, contact Leigh Evans at [HickoryHusker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:HickoryHusker@sbcglobal.net).

The highlight of the book is the 45-year reign of Butcher from 1957-58 through 2001-02, with every season in detail. As the acknowledgement of Butcher's record was a major focus of IHSBHS, this book is a must for all.

2. Chuck Taylor, All Star. The True Story of the Man Behind the Most Famous Athletic Shoe in History, by Abe Aamidor, staff writer for The Indianapolis Star, Indiana University Press, 2006, 184 pages, \$22.

Taylor (1901-69) was from Columbus, Ind., class of 1919. Chuck played on the sectional champs of '17, '18, and '19. After three years of semipro basketball, he joined the Converse Rubber Shoe Co. of Chicago and spent the rest of his life selling the company's gym shoes. He accomplished this by traveling the nation and later the globe, giving free clinics for high school and college coaches and players. Additionally, he entertained with trick shots such as shooting free throws backhanded on



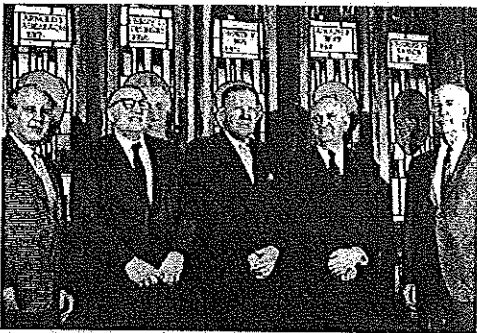
one bounce from one end of the court into the basket at the other end.

In 1932 the name "Chuck Taylor" was added to the ankle patch on the Converse All Star shoe label. He was a



masterful traveling salesman. Converse financially supported the NABC annual meetings and Taylor was a co-editor of the Converse basketball yearbook, in which he selected college All-Americans. Dean Smith and John Wooden were personal friends and supporters. UCLA wore the Converse shoe until 1969.

During World War II, Taylor served in the Army Air Force. In 1944-45, he coached the Dayton, Ohio, Wright Field team, which won 55 games! Taylor recommended Frankfort's Everett Case, a U.S. Navy coach from 1943-46, for the job at North Carolina State in 1946. The book provides a chance to experience the golden era of basketball through the life of this famous Hoosier, who lived most of his life in hotels and always kept his suitcase packed. Taylor's fantastic career culminated in his 1969 selection to the Naismith Hall of Fame.



Legends inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1969 include (from left to right): Red Auerbach, Dutch Dehnert, Hank Iba, Adolph Rupp and Chuck Taylor.

## Recollections in Hoosier Hysteria by Clifford Johnson

*(The new column 'Recollections in Hoosier Hysteria' introduced in Boxscore 2008 Issue 3 could turn out to be a mother lode of interesting anecdotes for members to read. I hope so, since the contributors' and editors' personal knowledge of historical accounts of games and stories is finite.*

*One of the inherent problems to the furnishing of personal basketball stories to IHSBHS is probably that none of us wants to convey an impression of boasting about our personal or team accomplishments 'way back when'. We also might be asking ourselves if anyone today would really care much about such antiquated stories. The answer is 'yes, we sure would!' If the answer were 'no', IHSBHS and the HOF would not exist and be flourishing as they are today. CJ)*

Howard County, where I grew up and played ball in its golden age, is rich with great old stories. Here are a few personal recollections from the years 1951 through 1954. Like Harley Sheets at Lebanon, those were the years I attended high school at Western. Harley's team and mine each represented a species of the 'cat' family, his at Lebanon being the Tigers, and mine at Western being the Panthers. Howard County's 10 high schools had been consolidated into four by the 1950-51 season, when I was a freshman. Before, there had been Ervin, Clay, and Howard townships, which transformed into Northwestern (the Tigers, again); Union and Jackson townships, with Greentown forming Eastern (the Comets), and the small rural towns of Russiaville, West Middleton, and New London combining their townships to form Western. That made the sectionals at Kokomo (the hosts being the Wildkats, by the way—still lots of felines around) a bit more competitive, since all the county schools were now larger, for academic and financial reasons. The IHSAA was also reorganizing its tournament format so that most of Indiana's sectionals would accommodate about eight to 12 teams. That meant several of Carroll and Tipton counties' teams would transfer to our tournament. We started absorbing teams from Elwood, Delphi, Flora, Camden, and the like.

And so we began having very entertaining, challenging sectionals.

Before 1950-51, it was quite rare for one of the nine smaller Howard County schools to win a sectional. That happened five times in 40 years (1915-54), a frequency of once every eight years on average. My father, Cliff Sr., and my uncle Scott were teammates on the West Middleton Broncos of the early '30s, and they were able to recount firsthand several of the earlier tournaments to me. Once (I think they said in 1928), the Broncos beat the Wildkats, but did not win the sectional. The Broncos' Jim Kerby sank a last-effort shot from midcourt to put away the Wildkats. But Sharpsville, a Tipton County team, won our sectional that year and went on to the final game of the regional before being aced out 21-20 by a powerful Oracles team from Delphi.

Our 1950-51 sectional featured a very good Northwestern team comprised of four excellent starters over six feet (uncommon in those days) -- Gary Lybrook, Rudy Schroeter, Joe Pence, and Clyde Cox. Cox was 6-3 and, along with his younger brother, Harold, transferred to the Wildkats for his final season. The Kats were ranked No. 1 in the State for most of the 1951-52 season. Clyde teamed with Junior Phipps, Corky Williamson, Jimmy James, and Phil Mitchell to form as awesome a high school fivesome as you could find anywhere that year. Clyde was recruited by Cliff Wells to play at Tulane, but eventually wound up starring for the Evansville Aces, who had one of the nation's best Division II teams during that era. Harold topped the NCC scoring two years later and ultimately joined Clyde at Evansville. Harold and I, after graduation in 1954, were summoned to Purdue by Ray Eddy to interview for athletic scholarships. We made the trip together. The offer was not enough to entice Harold, so while he declined, I accepted. I earlier had been presented with an academic scholarship there, so that, plus the fact that the campus was near home, was enough to persuade me to join the Boilermakers in the fall of 1954.

Western had a winning record in 1950-51. Coach Dan Ballard had been recruited by our principal, Richard Rea, to begin coaching that year for the new consolidation. Ballard had coached an undefeated Converse team to the

semistate in 1944, so that selection seemed to have merit. Dan decided to start me as a freshman at first, but after about six starts, he realized I needed more seasoning. That was soon after two consecutive games against that powerful Northwestern squad I mentioned. After winning every game before that, we were taken apart by the Tigers, 66-32 and 55-45, and I probably looked like a frail grade-schooler trying to play against those big guys. I was appropriately demoted to the bench. Later that season, I and a teammate, Gene Pearson, obtained tickets to watch those same Tigers play another team with claws, the Crispus Attucks Tigers. For some reason, Attucks coach Ray Crowe had agreed with Northwestern coach Merrill Hoban to play a mid-season contest at Kokomo's Memorial Gym, despite the 70-mile drive for Ray and his boys. Gene and I fully anticipated watching a game to surpass all games. But it didn't happen. We saw Northwestern get flattened by an Attucks team that included Hallie Bryant, Wee Willie Gardner, Bob Jewell, and Bailey Robertson, among others. What we enjoyed more was watching the Attucks squad go through its Globetrotter-style warm-up routine before the game. "Sweet Georgia Brown" was played by the Attucks band. I had never witnessed such an entertaining display in my young life, and I doubt that the local Tigers ever had, either. They tightened up during the game and were clearly intimidated by a much superior team. Attucks made it to the Final Four that year -- its very first trip. In the sectional, Northwestern choked up again and lost to Kokomo in the final game 48-36.

In 1951-52, there was no way the state's number one team, the Wildkats, were going to lose the sectional, so it was a done thing almost before it started. Our Western Panthers had their first losing season, mostly the result of immaturity. We were mostly sophomores, with only ourselves and two juniors getting any appreciable playing time. The Kats marched all the way to the Final Eight that year before losing a close game at Muncie. I watched that game from a far-corner seat. The following week, those Bearcats became state champions.

By 1952-53, our team had matured. We finished the season at 16-4 and were primed to rip the Kats apart in the sectional. Our boys had

whipped the Kokomo lads twice when we played as seventh- and eighth-graders in junior-high county tournaments. The game against Kokomo never got played, though, as we were upended by Eastern 60-54 after dealing with a 16-point deficit in the very first quarter. Kats won again.

Much the same thing happened in 1953-54, when Flora, coached by current IHSBHS and HOF member Les Ray, got to us before we got to the Wildkats. The Badgers had an excellent team that year, with plenty of height in Garrison, Kearns, and several others. Les also had a small left-handed sharpshooter named Dean Day who surpassed my 22 points that night with his 27. The Badgers won in overtime 53-50. Coach Ray was a great strategist, but that was not quite enough against the Kats in the final. Bill Kellar, Jack Gabriel, Harold Cox, Rex Watson, et al. had come a long way since junior high. Under coach Joe Platt, they prevailed over Flora in another overtime 69-64.

The next year, 1954-55, the Kats finally got edged out of the tournament by Northwestern 64-62 when Leo Helmuth, who eventually joined me on the squad at Purdue, took a shot from the rear keyhole arc that hit the back of the rim, bounced straight up toward the rafters, and plopped squarely into the net. Quite a finish! I have preserved that radio recording on tape and occasionally am impelled to listen to it for old times' sake.

I'd like to mention that after the depressing sectional loss to Flora in my senior year, coach Ballard came to me on the way to the dressing room and mentioned that Bruce Hale had been watching the game and was offering me a full scholarship to the University of Miami, where he was building a team comprised of several Hoosiers. He had landed Ed Morris and Gene Stage from Elwood, and Marty Burdette from Mississinewa. However, my attitude toward playing basketball in Florida at that time was a little jaundiced. I imagined there'd be very little interest among the public, very hot weather, a small gym or maybe even an outdoor court, and no newspaper coverage. So I rejected his offer on those grounds, which of course were purely imaginary. Hale turned Miami into a respected program within two years. Turning him down was one of the worst decisions of my life. Even though the years at Purdue

were pleasant enough, and Piggy Lambert (Wooden's and Eddy's coach in the early '30s) was terrific as a freshman mentor, I rode the varsity bench for a little more than a season before deciding that Eddy was going to leave me there indefinitely. In my junior year, I gave it all up for science, a discipline I had always enjoyed anyway. The two years I spent in Purdue's sports programs were inspirational nevertheless, and perhaps in a later article, I can share with you some of my recollections of old Hoosier basketballers like Joe Sexson, Lamar Lundy, Jake Eison, Willie Merriwether, Bob Fehrman, Bill Greve, Erich Barnes, and others. Len Dawson was the football quarterback for most of those years. Lenny had an easygoing personality, but also harbored a driving ambition to make good, which he did both in college and as a pro. He was a down-to-earth guy and I always enjoyed his company.

As an epilog, perhaps it should be pointed out that Dan Ballard, the old high school coach, doesn't seem to be recognized within the ranks of Indiana's most winning coaches. But I believe he should be. Ballard must have won well over 300 games. He coached from 1937 to 1963, a total of 26 years at 11 different high schools. As earlier mentioned, he had several outstanding seasons at Converse and Western, and he also coached at Romney, Adams Township (Carroll), Deer Creek, Sheridan, Walton, Fulton, Young America, Burlington, and Lucerne. It would be a worthy cause to the memory of Dan's forgotten coaching career if a researcher could someday arrive at his win-loss record at all these small schools that no longer exist. I know the years he coached at each of the schools, but don't have the information to arrive at his win-loss totals.

(Please send your personal Recollections to Tom White, [whitelitning@gmail.com](mailto:whitelitning@gmail.com))

#### Need Suggestions

We are compiling a list of places for Indiana high school basketball fans to visit for an upcoming article. We currently have the Hall of Fame in New Castle, the Milan '54 Museum and the Knightstown gym. If you have any other suggestions contact Tom White.