

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

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Dues are \$7 per year. Dues runs from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 and includes four newsletters. For a lifetime membership the cost is \$50. Send dues, address changes, and membership inquiries to

IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail: rock2@tds.net

All electronic stories should be directed to

Tom White: E-mail: whitelitning@gmail.com or Jeff Luzadder: E-mail: jeffluzadder@comcast.net

2010 Spring Issue

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Reminder!!!

For those who haven't paid their dues for 2010, the price is \$7. Send a check to Rocky Kenworthy at the address shown in the Publication and Membership Notes section, above right of this page. We hope you have enjoyed your association with the IHSBHS and wish to continue in the future.

... One Large Leap for Mankind

We have purchased and are just now starting to build our Web site, lhsbhs.org. If you have any suggestions as to content or wish to contribute anything yourself, contact Tom at whitelitning@gmail.com or Jeff at jeffluzadder@comcast.net.

Notes from the Editors

We have added an advertisement page as the last page of this issue. It is for items related to Indiana high school basketball. Some are for places to visit, while others are for recently published books. Please support the authors by purchasing a book or, if you are traveling, stop by one of the places of interest.

We have also added Notes and Quotes for membership comments.

Message from the President by John Ockomon

Class basketball arrived in 1998 and, to my chagrin, is still here. I came up with a solution a few years later and with another after that.

My first solution was to take the largest 240 schools and put them into 30 eight-team sectionals. I would take the remaining small schools (about 140 in number 10 years ago), and they would be in 16 sectionals and play until a champion was crowned. The enrollment break point was approximately 435 students.

Now the small-school champion would join the 15 regional winners from the bigger schools. The 30 sectional winners would play a one-game regional. Now you would have the old "Sweet 16."

My second solution, which I find I like a little better, starts off exactly like the good old days--sectional lineups using Jeff Sagarin's One Class assignments based on location, i.e., minimum travel for all.

Now when sectionals are over, all schools that lost and have less than 435 students go into a small-school tourney. Now you have two tourneys going on simultaneously. Play the regionals. If a small school is defeated, it can join the other tournament. Play the semistates and if a small school is left, but gets defeated, it can join the smalls.

If a small school makes the Final Four, I don't think it would have time to join the smalls, but I think it would be happy enough.

The logistics and timing would have to be worked out, but it's doable.

Invitation Made To IHSBHS Members From HickoryHusker.com Publisher

Leigh Evans, HickoryHusker.com editor and publisher and an IHSBHS board member, has invited all IHSBHS members to his annual boys state finals breakfast gathering at LePeeps in downtown Indianapolis at 7:30 on the morning of the state title games. LePeeps is located on the corner of Illinois and New York streets, northwest of Monument Circle. The restaurant has been voted as having the best breakfast and best omelet in Indianapolis since 1988. LePeeps specializes in unique breakfast and lunch creations - including frittatas, French toast, pampered eggs, exciting new egg-white omelets, homemade soups, and creative sandwiches. Leigh said last year had one of the biggest turnouts yet, with more than 30 basketball geeks getting together to swap stories. Leigh would love to see any IHSBHS member at LePeeps to trade basketball stories with him and other high school fans. Hope to see you all there.

New Members

In the Winter Boxscore we forgot to list our new members. They were Brent Keck, Chick Weaver, and Bob Denari. For this Spring issue the new members are Troy Ingram, Jim Mallers, and Chris May (HoF Executive Director), Brian Miller, and Gary Robison. We welcome them all to IHSBHS.

"We'll Be Back! ... (Big Ed Denton)"
by Pat Hennegan

1930-31 Jeffersonville Suspension

On January 24, 1931, the Indiana High School Athletic Association suspended Jeffersonville High School until June 1, 1931, for "failure to comply with Association rules and regulations." The basketball Red Devils, who were undefeated at 16-0 when the decision was rendered, saw their season end immediately (with no chance to compete in the postseason tourney).

According to sources of that and more recent times (*The Jeffersonville Evening News* and Dale Glenn's *The History of the IHSAA*, Salem High School and New Albany High School were concerned that much of Jeffersonville's success was caused by a pair of transfers from Kentucky and urged an investigation. The Red Devils had in the previous weeks defeated New Albany and Salem and were scheduled to play the Bulldogs again. Bradford Lair had moved to Jeffersonville on October 1 (the first day a school could begin practice). His mother moved with him, but his father and sister remained in Monticello. Lair was a 6'10" center. Ray Weber was the second transfer in question. He was a quick guard and team captain. He transferred from St. Xavier High School in Louisville, although he lived in Jeffersonville.

The IHSAA Board of Control and Commissioner Arthur L. Trester felt that Lair's attendance at Jeffersonville High School was under "unusual and questionable" circumstances, and his reason for changing schools remained in doubt. The board also ruled that Weber had been enrolled in parts of four previous seasons, was a "five-year" man, and thus was ineligible for athletics. In an additional charge, Red Devil player Sam Rauth was accused of playing in an independent game.

The IHSAA also ordered that Jeffersonville forfeit its 16 victories from that season. Bill Johnson, in his book *On Red Devils*, says Jeff was dealt an "unfair decision" because of false claims from Salem and New Albany. Newspaper accounts, yearbooks, and record books indicate that Jeffersonville High School chose not to forfeit those contests, in part, because Ray Weber played for the Red Devils in 1929-30 and had not just transferred in. Official Jeffersonville



1930-31 Jeffersonville Red Devils

Front row, from left: Harold Perrin, Ed Mires, Garland Guernsey, Paul Ewan, Gordon Raney. Back row, from left: Coach Hunk Francis, Ray Weber, Ed Bolly, Bradford Lair, Charles Scott, T. Horn, Dan Marra. Sam Rauth not pictured.

High School records will indicate that the basketball team was 16-0 that season, while other sources may claim those contests forfeited.

Not surprisingly, within a week of the IHSAA decision, state Sen. Russell Kehoe (of Jeffersonville) authored Senate Bill 148. This bill would place public and parochial high school athletics under the sole control of the State Board of Education. He reasoned that athletics were too vital and too large an enterprise for control to be vested in the hands of private interests (*Indianapolis News*). Before he had entered politics, Russell Kehoe had been head football coach at Jeffersonville High School.

1949-50 Jeffersonville Suspension

On Tuesday, November 2, 1949, the Indiana High School Athletic Association suspended Jeffersonville High for four months as a penalty for recruiting high school athletes. The penalty, invoked by the association's Board of Control, had the effect of canceling the Jeffersonville basketball schedule for the 1949-50 season. At the same time, the board approved a previous action by Jeffersonville officials, which declared Harry Hinton Jr. and James Regan permanently ineligible for athletics at Jeffersonville High School.

Coach Ed Denton and Jeffersonville were cleared of using undue influences to affect the transfer of a third athlete, Alfred Hustedt. IHSAA Commissioner L.V. Phillips said the school could apply for readmission to the IHSAA on March 1, 1950, and could be readmitted on a probationary basis for one year. That would permit it to compete in spring sports and football the following year.

Specific Findings of the Board of Control (Hearings of October 21 & 28, 1949)

1. That Harry 'Butch' Hinton and James Regan had cast their basketball fortunes together and what affected one affected the other.
2. That Coach Denton did, on a number of occasions, discuss (both with Butch Hinton and his father) the matter of securing an athletic scholarship in college, provided the boy came to Jeffersonville and could be made eligible to participate on the Jeffersonville High School team, where he could be seen by more fans and more scouts.
3. That it was the intention of Regan to accompany Hinton to Jeffersonville, also for the purpose of getting an athletic scholarship through Denton's assistance.
4. That Denton accompanied a well-known out-of-state college coach to Silver Creek last spring for the purpose of meeting and interviewing Butch Hinton (the IHSAA did not name the coach, but several sources reported that it was Adolph Rupp of Kentucky).
5. That when James Regan went to Jeffersonville, before school opened, Coach Denton gave him employment on the high school football field and paid him in cash from his own personal funds.
6. As further indication of Coach Denton's personal interest in these boys, he made determined efforts (both before and after the boys were declared ineligible) to arrange a joint meeting with Jeffersonville and Silver Creek school officials

with the IHSAA to take these boys out of Jeffersonville and back to Silver Creek, with immediate eligibility and all charges dropped.

The IHSAA said that to apply for reinstatement, JHS must file proof that, "responsibility for the inter-school athletic program has been restored to the principal in fact, as well as name."

Response to the IHSAA announcement of suspension was quick in coming. Basketball team members left their classes and, by lunch, more than 100 students milled in front of the school during their lunch break. Coach Denton vowed that, like Gen. MacArthur, "We will be back." By that evening, more than 1,000 students, parents, and Jeffersonville fans conducted a demonstration downtown at Warder Park. There were chanting, signs, cheering, and threats of students going on strike and not attending classes the following day. Businessmen were generally supportive of the demonstration, and some of the demonstrators even ventured to New Albany, where, evidently, seven were arrested.

The next day, Wednesday, November 3, hundreds of Jeffersonville High School students did go on strike and refused to attend classes in protest of the IHSAA decision. Principal Emory Theiss, Superintendent of Schools William F. Vogel, and school board attorney Owen Voight drove to Indianapolis to plead their case with officials of the IHSAA. Commissioner Phillips and Board of Control President R.B. Miller met with the Jeffersonville

group for four-and-one-half hours, but refused further action.

The entire situation continued to escalate. On Thursday and Friday, the student strike continued as hundreds of students refused to return to class, despite the pleading of Principal Theiss. Attorney Owen Voight threatened legal action against the IHSAA, calling the IHSAA ruling "unjust and an outrage" and Jeffersonville Mayor Sam Shannon said he was "in sympathy with the high school students." Demonstrations continued throughout downtown, students drove through the streets chanting and singing, and signs were posted everywhere. Commissioner Phillips was burned in effigy.

Neighbors and opponents of Jeffersonville were not especially sympathetic, however. Newspaper editorials trashed the Jeffersonville basketball program and especially Coach Denton. Papers in Hammond, Bedford, Vincennes, Madison, Washington, New Albany, Evansville, and Indianapolis all weighed in on the side of the IHSAA. Opponents on the 1949-50 schedule had to scramble to find replacements for Jeffersonville only days before the beginning of the season. Some schools like Anderson, Evansville Central, and Evansville Memorial would not return to the JHS schedule for decades.

By all accounts, the 1949-50 Red Devil basketball team was expected to be very strong. All but two players returned from the 20-5 team of the previous season. The team was expected to be tall (6-4 Chet Beam, 6-5 Jim Hook, and 6-4 Hobby Gibbs) and

skilled (Jim Ashton, Jerry Bandy, Brooks McComas, Ronnie Tharp, Tuck Coots, Chuck Long, and Graham Hinton) and many predicted it would be the best squad since the 1934-35 state runners-up. The addition of the three youngsters, who were fine players (Hinton and Regan had been starters) at Silver Creek, strengthened a powerful squad.

Butch Hinton and his family had moved to Jeffersonville. James Regan moved to Jeffersonville to live with his mother and stepfather (former Jeffersonville star Nod Adams). Buddy Hustedt had been living with his grandparents, but moved to Jeffersonville to live with his parents. Silver Creek High School acknowledged that Hinton and Regan had been disciplined following a loss to Jeffersonville in the 1949 Sectional in which the boys had broken a field house door. The IHSAA was aware of these students moving to Jeffersonville during the summer and suggested that by declaring the boys ineligible to play at Jeff High (*before* school began), school officials could avoid any disciplinary action. However, school officials did not make that decision until October 10.

The wild week came to an end as Coach Ed Denton called a press conference and public meeting. Denton invited his accusers: Coach Don Saylor and Principal Austin Walker of Silver Creek and Coach Gordon Raney of New Albany. He also invited IHSAA Commissioner L.V. Phillips, saying "Commissioner Phillips' face will be red if he does not attend this meeting." Phillips' response was, "I would rather my face be red than be burned at the stake. Since I have been burned in effigy at Jeffersonville, I do not care to go down there and be burned without benefit of effigy."

The situation came to a climax on the evening of Sunday, November 7. More than 5,000 Jeffersonville students, fans and reporters packed the field house. The meeting began at 8 p.m. Commissioner Phillips, obviously, did not attend. Silver Creek's Saylor and Walker and Raney of New Albany were also "no shows." Surprisingly, Principal Theiss and Superintendent Vogel were also absent. Jack Gardner, a public relations counselor from Louisville, was the master of ceremonies. The packed house listened to Coach Denton, parents, and community leaders. In



November 7 meeting at the Field House as Coach Ed Denton resigns. Front row, from left: Charles Regan, Buddy Hustedt, Jimmy Regan, Butch Hinton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hinton. Back row, from left: Chet Beam, Brooks McComas, Chuck Long, Ronnie Gray, and Ronnie Tharp.

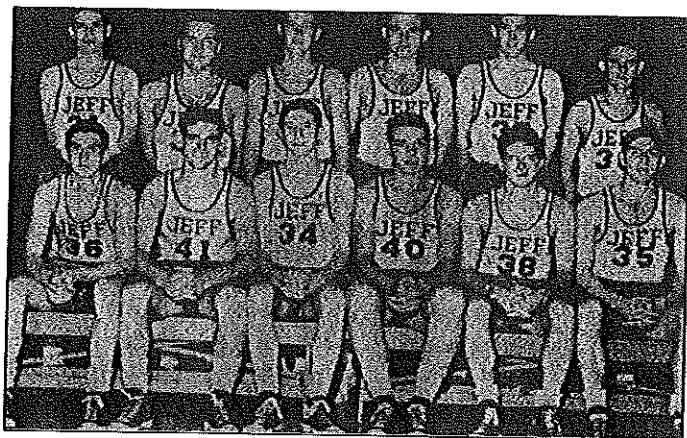
addition, they heard from the former Silver Creek players in question. They all said that "no undue influence" was used by Denton or others in Jeffersonville and that their moves were "voluntary." Butch Hinton said he could not get along with Silver Creek Coach Don Saylor. "He called me a quitter. I told my parents I would rather quit school than return to Silver Creek," he said. Jimmy Regan also said that he could not get along with Saylor and that, "I wanted to come to Jeffersonville and play basketball." Hinton's father had unkind words for Silver Creek trustees and the IHSAA commissioner.

Finally, Coach "Big Ed" Denton spoke again. He was greeted with mostly cheers and a few boos. He referred to the people booing as "being from New Albany." Denton spoke for 45 minutes and denied the charges, claiming that Jeffersonville was a "victim of circumstances." Coach Denton did admit paying \$20 to Regan to help move some concrete blocks. He said, "Public opinion has killed us. Three boys moved in from Silver Creek. What did the newspapers say? They said Denton has imported three players from Silver Creek. Any high school in Indiana could be thrown out for the same cause that Jeffersonville was."

Denton continued, "I think it's best that I now relinquish my hold on basketball. But they'll have to fire me next year if they want to get rid of me." Denton said he planned to continue as a health and safety teacher. The school board scheduled a 10 a.m. meeting on Tuesday and accepted Denton's resignation as head coach and athletic coordinator. According to the *Evening News*, Denton would eventually admit that undue influence was used in the transfer of the Silver Creek players. He denied that he was involved in the deal and said he did not know anything about it until it had been completed. He placed the blame on several individuals "downtown" who were connected with

the Jeffersonville school system, but refused to divulge their names.

Most of the students returned to class on Monday. The 1949-50 Jeffersonville High School basketball team's season was canceled. Some of the players competed in a series of scrimmages against teams such as the Hanover College and University of Louisville freshmen. They were coached for that "season" by Purdue graduate James Ertel. Coach Denton may have planned to return to



1949-50 Red Devils

Front row, from left: Charles Hoodenpyl, Pete Fry, Loren Franz, Hobby Gibbs, Tuck Coots, Jim Ashton. Second Row, from left: Pete Carroll, Jonas Howard, James Applegate, Ronnie Tharp, Brooks McComas, Chuck Long.

coaching at JHS, but was recalled to active duty in the Army and served in Korea. He did return to coach, ironically, at Silver Creek, from 1952-58 and again in 1966-67. Hinton, Regan, and Hustedt remained at Jeffersonville and graduated in 1951. They did not participate in any sports. Butch Hinton would eventually play basketball at the University of Louisville. Jeffersonville High School reorganized its athletic council and reapplied for membership to the IHSAA on March 1, 1950. The school was accepted and has not been involved in any further problems. The Red Devils returned to the hardwood in 1950-51 and hired former Jeffersonville star Bill Johnson as head coach.

1949-50 Schedule (canceled)

11/19 Paoli, 11/23 Corydon,
11/26 Mitchell, 11/30 Silver Creek,
12/2 Washington, 12/6 Shelbyville,
12/10 Southport, 12/13 New Albany,
12/16 Evansville Central,
12/21 New Castle, 1/7 Evansville
Bosse, 1/10 Madison, 1/13 Vincennes,
1/21 Anderson, 1/28 Evansville
Memorial, 2/3 Bedford,
2/10 Louisville Flaget, 2/17 Jasper

An Incomplete History of South Bend Central Basketball by G. Gregory Gates, MD

To my knowledge, there is no written history of one of the great Indiana high school basketball programs of all time, the South Bend Central Bears. From the mid-1930's to the mid-1960's, South Bend Central was frequently a Top 10-ranked team. It dominated the eastern division of the Northern Indiana Conference and had a tough non-conference schedule that carried it to many parts of the state. Teams like Muncie Central, Marion, Anderson, Lafayette Jeff, Shelbyville, Jeffersonville, Gary Roosevelt, East Chicago Washington, and Hammond were frequent opponents.

South Bend High School was opened in 1913, just before the huge rise in popularity of Indiana high school basketball. As a result, it had no basketball auditorium, only a small multiuse gym on the second floor. By 1924, the city of South Bend was growing so fast that it opened a second high school, South Bend Riley, and the original South Bend High School was renamed South Bend Central High School. A regulation-size basketball gymnasium was never built at South Bend Central. The team practiced and played at the downtown YMCA. In 1941, it started playing all its home games in the plush new basketball auditorium at South Bend Adams High School. That was the basketball home of the Bears until South Bend Central High School closed its doors in 1970.

The fortunes of Central High basketball began to improve when a former Martinsville and Purdue basketball star was hired away from Dayton, Ky., High School in 1934 to become the new head coach. You might remember the name John Wooden. Wooden quickly turned the Bears into a powerhouse. His 1941 team was probably his best. It featured Eddie Ehlers and Lennie Rzezewski. Ehlers went on to become the first-round draft pick of the Boston Celtics somewhere around 1947 or '48 and led them in scoring one year. Rzezewski was an All-American at Indiana State in 1949 and '50. Somehow, Gary Froebel beat SBC in the night game of the '41 semistate at the Hammond Civic Center. Something about a half-court buzzer-beater.

Coach Wooden left for duty in World War II, returned to coach South

Bend Central in 1946, then was off to Indiana State and UCLA. Bob Primmer, a former player for the legendary Everett Case at Frankfort, became SBC's head coach in 1947. His Bears were regional champs four years in a row between 1947 and '50. Entee Shine, 6'5" center, was the big star in '49 and '50, when SBC was the No.1 ranked team in Indiana for parts of those two seasons. They lost in the afternoon round of the finals in '49 and in the Lafayette Semistate in '50.

Primmer left to become head coach at Ball State University before the start of the 1953 season. I was just a grade school kid then, but I will always remember how intense and red-faced Bob Primmer was while he was coaching. It wasn't good for his health, because he had a heart attack shortly after going to Ball State and died young. He was replaced at SBC by an outwardly calm coach whose basketball roots also started in Frankfort. Elmer McCall had a strong basketball resume. He was a star player at Fresno State University, a head coach at Delphi and Bloomington high schools, and head coach at Ventura Junior College in California, where his teams were California junior college champions. Nevertheless, so powerful was the lure of Indiana high school basketball and the prestige of the head coaching position at SBC that Elmer McCall was induced to come back home to Indiana. His first year back, he took SBC to the promised land, winning the Indiana state high school basketball tournament! I was in the seventh grade, but somehow, my older brother and I got on one of the five fan buses that caravanned down to Butler Fieldhouse for the finals. You can imagine my awe at seeing the stadium and 14,983 screaming fans. I was hooked. In the morning game, SBC, featuring future Michigan State star Jack Quiggie, easily beat a team from the little town of Milan. Milan had a really good junior guard, though, a kid named Plump. The second game was not as exciting as expected. The Terre Haute Gerstmeier Black Cats, featuring Harley, Arley, and Uncle Harold Andrews, handled the Richmond Red Devils and their huge, somewhat lumbering center, Lamar Lundy. The night game was a hard-fought, back-and-forth game between two tough teams. Paul Harvey, SBC's star guard, put in a hook shot with about two minutes remaining. That held up, as

Harley Andrews missed a desperation heave that bounded off the backboard and front of the rim at the buzzer. Final score: SBC 42, THG 41. My brother was so worried we were going to miss the bus back home we hustled down the aisles and missed the wild celebration on the fieldhouse floor. Our bus didn't get out of there for another half-hour or so. On the way back to South Bend, our bus caravan stopped at a roadhouse outside of Rochester, on U.S. 31, for a midnight treat of hamburgers and milk shakes. We were tired but happy kids when we arrived at Central High School at 2 a.m.

Indiana high school basketball was king when I was growing up. For an adult, just getting a season ticket to SBC games was as hard as getting a ticket to the NCAA Final Four. I had a Central classmate, Aleda Hering, who was chosen to pick names out of a bowl to determine which adults would get season tickets. Come tournament time, to get a ticket, all students would get in a long line in the Central hallways, starting at 5 a.m. the Friday before the regionals, etc.

In 1956, one of the great high school basketball players in the long and glorious history of Indiana high school basketball started his career. He was a 6-4 freshman at SBC, and he was a star on the varsity from the start. Sylvester Coalmon had an older brother, John, who was also pretty darned good. In fact, John led SBC to an undefeated state championship and was named Mr. Basketball in 1957. But Sylvester was special. He could really get up and down the court, he had a long wingspan, he could jump, and he could score in a variety of ways. He, his brother, John, and the two complementary guards, Herb Lee and Denny Bishop, made SBC an unstoppable team. Lee McKnight was also an excellent player for them. Three of them are in the IBHOF. Herb Lee, a star at Indiana, should be in that hall also. In 1958, after helping lead SBC to its 37th consecutive win, Sylvester was undercut under his basket during a spin move in a game at Lafayette Jeff. My dad and I were at that game as fans. The injury happened right in front of us. Sylvester's career was effectively over at that time. In those days, torn knee ligament surgery required a major incision, and 100% recovery was not in the cards. In 1959, a hobbled Coalmon would still average about 14 points a

game, but now he scored from the wing, with limited movement.

Elmer McCall went to DePauw University as head coach for the start of the 1959 season. Jim Powers, my tennis coach and a former star basketball player for John Wooden at SBC and Indiana State, took over as head basketball coach for SBC. He led the Bears to the final game of the 1963 state tourney, where they lost to Muncie Central 65-61. Mike Warren was the star player for SBC, with an excellent supporting cast of Jumpin' Jimmy Ward, Curtis Crittendon, and 6-8 DeWitt Menyard. Warren went on to star for national championship teams at UCLA coached by John Wooden. Wooden has called him the smartest player he ever coached.

In preparation to write this article, I had a phone conversation with Coach Powers. He stressed the obstacles that South Bend Central Bears basketball players overcame in order to play at such a high level. They had to arrive around 6:30 a.m. at the antiquated downtown YMCA to dress and be ready for practice at 7 a.m. The dressing room was a large steel wire cage, and the basketball floor looked much like the Springfield College gym where Dr. James Naismith invented basketball. There weren't any peach baskets, but there was an old wooden jogging track above the basketball floor. And home games weren't really at home; they were at South Bend Adams. In the early '60's, the old downtown Y was closed, forcing the Central Bears to practice at Notre Dame Fieldhouse. Players could no longer walk to practice. Coaches and players had to carpool all the way out to the University of Notre Dame. During the practice week leading up to the 1963 Indiana state high school basketball tournament finals, the Bears literally had their practice floor pulled up from under them. It was Bengal Bouts week -- a yearly boxing tournament for Notre Dame students that supported a charity in India. The basketball floor, a portable structure laid over a dirt base, was removed for at least two days that week to put in a boxing ring.

The manufacturing base of the city of South Bend deteriorated in the early '60's. The population decreased. A decision was made to close the aging South Bend Central High School, which happened in 1970. Worse, a new high school was built and named LaSalle.

The storied South Bend Central name was relegated to history.

REFERENCES:

- [1]. South Bend Central High School Remembered, by the South Bend Tribune, 2006.
- [2]. Everett Case and the Frankfort Hot Dogs, by Roger Robison, 1998.
- [3]. Hoosier Hysteria, by Herb Schwomeyer, 1997.

Untold, But Interesting Stories Involving Hoosier Greats By Norm Jones

As a newer member of the IHSBHS, some good experiences already have come my way. For example, I asked former Indiana University great, Hall of Famer, and NBA player Bill Tosheff to become a member, and now we have exchanged e-mails and even phone calls. "Tosh," from Gary, loves Indiana basketball and, as you might guess, has a plethora of stories about the game. One I really enjoyed him telling about was the time he played in a history-making game for the Milwaukee Hawks against George Mikan and the Minneapolis Lakers in Minneapolis. Tosh explained that the NBA wanted to experiment with the 12-foot basket that night. Tosh played in the game and took several shots and related that his arms were sore the next morning from the extra effort it took to get the ball up to the basket. He once averaged 11 points per game in an NBA season and can be proud he represented the Hoosier state so well in the early stages of the NBA.

One night just a few months ago, the phone rang and it was Tosh. I had explained to him that a former Fort Wayne Piston, Frankie Brian, was one of my favorite players back in the Golden Era. He knew Frank, who played at LSU and still lives in Louisiana, and hooked us up to a three-way conversation. The three of us talked for several minutes and it was so neat talking with men who helped start the NBA. Their stories are endless.

Most society members will remember Jumping Johnny Wilson, who led Anderson High School to the 1946 Indiana state title and was the first to score 30 points in a state championship game. Far fewer people will remember this amazing story about him. In a book about his life titled *Jump, Johnny, Jump!* Wilson recalls games in the 1949-50 season

when he was playing with the popular Harlem Globetrotters. The story starts in my hometown of Marion. I remember seeing this game as a youngster of age 13. Johnny was playing in front of his mother for the first time in a Globetrotter uniform. As the "Globies" were clowning around, Wilson dropkicked the ball 60 feet straight through the net!

The next night in Cleveland, Jumping Johnny did it again! Globetrotter owner Abe Saperstein, ever proud of this feat, gave Johnny a \$100 bonus. However, the next night in Sandusky, Ohio, Johnny missed the kick and, according to the book, "Abe Saperstein, embarrassed after the bragging he had done about Johnny Wilson's amazing drop-kicking ability, was livid." He didn't even let Johnny play in the next game!! Gee, Abe, even Hoosiers miss sometimes!!

If famous sporting events are kept alive by Hollywood reporting on them years after they happen, then the movie *Hoosiers* is in that category. As every breathing Hoosier knows by now, the film was inspired by the little town of Milan upsetting heavily favored Muncie Central for the Indiana high school basketball championship in 1954. I was at the game and can never forget the legendary Bobby Plump calmly making a jump shot to the right of what was then known as "the key." My friend Jimmy Barnes was guarding Plump. Some say it was "the shot heard around the world." It was certainly heard around Indiana and is still being heard, for that matter.

What some people may not remember is that after being named Mr. Basketball in Indiana, Bobby also hit the game winning shot against the Kentucky All-Stars in the 1954 game of the Indiana-Kentucky All-Star series that began in 1940. According to a great recapitulation in the book titled *All-Star Memories: A History of the Indiana-Kentucky High School All-Star Basketball Series-1939-1989*, the game was played before 12,205 in Butler Fieldhouse. Indiana trailed 74-73 when a teammate missed a shot with less than a minute to play. The rebound came right to Plump, and he knew what to do with it as he made the final score 75-74 (Note: In the first All-Star game in 1939, the Indiana stars played and beat the Indiana state champions, the Frankfort Hot Dogs).

I have enjoyed keeping in touch with Bobby Plump and it was a thrill for

me to play against him in the late 1950s on the now-famous and majestic Butler floor (Bill Tosheff, in the book *Vintage NBA: The Pioneer Era-1946-1956*, states that, "Probably one of the best playing floors in NBA history was at the Butler Fieldhouse in Indianapolis." Tosh played for the Indianapolis Olympians). My fraternity brother and Muncie Bearcat play-by-play radio announcer, Morry Mannies, also a Hall of Famer, had this to say about Mr. Plump: "Most people in Muncie would like to forget that year, but I respect Bobby Plump for what he did and what he has done. He's a great guy. He has held the championship well."

Bobby Plump, after all these years and great teams and players at Butler, still holds the school record for most free throws made in a career at 475! He also holds the record for the best free throw percentage in one game, when he canned 17 of 17 against Evansville 51 years ago! He has a great sense of humor. Someone recently sent me a video of Plump's last shot and I forwarded it to Bobby. He wrote me and simply said, "The damn thing went in again." He owns a restaurant called *Plump's Last Shot* on Cornell Street on the north side of Indianapolis. He too has many stories about Hoosier Hysteria. For example, he recently pointed out to me that in the aforementioned 1954 All-Star game, a Lincoln Collinsworth played for the Kentucky stars. He is the father of Chris Collinsworth, who is the well-known football announcer seen on the NFL's *Sunday Night Football*.

I want to call attention to a new member of the IHSBHS who I am proud to say I was able to entice to join. Ed Butler deserves more accolades than he may have received during his playing days at Ball State in the early 1960s. ESPN and media coverage wasn't so abundant then, and I have often felt, after seeing Ed play a few times, that his accomplishments on the hardwood have gone somewhat unnoticed. Ed led Ball State in scoring for two years and in rebounding for three. He still holds the school records for field goals in one game with 19 and rebounds in one game with 25. Ed is one of only three Ball State players to be voted team MVP three times. My pal of more than 40 years, Marc Denny from Bedford, was named to the Indiana All-Stars in 1960 and later played for Indiana State against Ed.

Marc told me, "Ed could jump out of the gym." Kudos to Ed, a great player who played high school ball in South Bend and loves getting caught up on Hoosier Hysteria that came before him.

(Norm Jones played basketball at Marion High School, Manchester College, and Ball State University, and coached at Salem and North Vernon high schools. He writes for the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame magazine and his book titled *Growing Up in Indiana: The Culture & Hoosier Hysteria Revisited* is available at bookstores and on Amazon.com)

The Amazing Story of Professor Blood By Chic Hess

As a new subscriber to *BOXSCORE*, I was surprised to learn that an article written by Dr. Roger Robison on Professor Ernest A. Blood appeared in your special 15-year anniversary issue. Shortly after Dr. Robison wrote the article, he and I had the opportunity to meet while he visited family in Hawaii.

Knowing a little bit about how you Hoosiers enjoy your basketball and desire to get the straight scoop, I feel a need to write a follow up to his well-researched piece on Coach Blood. I sincerely commend Dr. Robison for the volume of information he gathered for this article. He is truly a basketball historian who has that insatiable curiosity for finding interesting basketball facts that have been lost in the annals of time.

Because of the nature of the information that I found while researching *Prof Blood and the Wonder Teams: The True Story of Basketball's First Great Coach*, I felt compelled to share the story with our basketball community (coaches, fans, and historians). Newark Abbey Press agreed to publish the story in late 2003, which was soon after Dr. Robison's article was first published.

For an outsider (I'm a Philadelphia native), I know an unusual amount about the proud tradition of your basketball teams and players. With great interest, I read your *Indiana Basketball History Magazine* and every book, article, and publication addressing your illustrious basketball heritage. And with each new bit of information I learn, my fascination with the history of Hoosier basketball grows.

I'm writing this update because I sense that most Hoosiers are also

interested in knowing as much as possible about the history of basketball, regardless of where it took place. I want you to know the full hard-to-believe story of this extraordinary coach and the difficulties he faced. In my opinion, there is no basketball hall-of-fame-caliber personality more worthy of our attention than Professor Blood. Dr. Robison first whetted your appetite for Blood, and now, please allow me to provide more.

The information that Dr. Robison presented was only a VERY small portion of Prof Blood's story. As I read through his work, I found my head shaking back and forth, thinking, "Well, yes, but it didn't happen that way," or "but that isn't entirely true," etc. Having conducted enough research of my own, I understand how this can happen. Before I begin to describe Professor Blood to you, let me offer one tiny example. Dr. Robison refers to Arnold as one of Blood's assistants when, in fact, Arthur D. Arnold is the high school principal who happened to be one of the coach's main antagonists. I would like for Dr. Robison's article to serve as an excellent starting point for all of Hoosierland to become acquainted with the story of basketball's first great coach.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Greg Guffey's *The Greatest Basketball Story Ever Told*, all 205 pages of it. Guffey's account of the Milan miracle deserves its place in not only Indiana's sports history, but also American sports history. The embellishment that Hollywood gave the story has only added to the aura of the Milan Miracle. If Greg Guffey had read Prof Blood's biography, I would challenge him or any diehard Hoosier to say that *Prof Blood and the Wonder Teams: The True Story of Basketball's First Great Coach* isn't a story in a class of its own, all 455 pages of it, plus hundreds of pictures, box scores, and newspaper headlines.

There is not a basketball enthusiast (coach, fan, basketball historian) alive who would not be educated, fascinated, and entertained by reading the full account of this amazing pioneer of the game. The biography contains frequent references to Indiana basketball. Frankly, how could any great book on basketball not? For example, here is such an excerpt.

"In what was to be Prof's final season coaching at Passaic High School, The Indianapolis News dispatched sports editor William E. Fox to Passaic to get the real lowdown of this East Coast version of a Wonder Team. Hoosier basketball followers had a yardstick of their own to measure what a wonder team looked like. The exploits of their Franklin High School Wonder Five from Franklin, Indiana, were still fresh. During the four seasons between 1918-1919 and 1921-1922, the Franklin boys won three state championships and amassed a 104-10 record. In the dog-eat-dog competition of Indiana, that was truly a wonderful tribute to their great coach Ernest 'Griz' Wagner.

Sports writer Fox, who observed the Rutherford/Union Hill vs. Passaic games, was astute at making comparisons. He agreed that Passaic had a mighty-fine basketball team, but if they were to invade Indiana for a period of five weeks and play the five best teams in the state, he would pick the home teams in three of the five. Man for man, several Indiana teams bested the New Jersey boys.

The Union Hill game that Fox observed with all the noise and excitement reminded him of a Bedford-Anderson game. The game had been sold out a week in advance, and the scalpers were getting ten dollars a ticket. The crowd was very noisy (cheerleaders, megaphones, cowbells, and hats and coats flying in the air), but they were not as well organized as the Kokomo fans. The Hoosier reporter thought that the Passaic players physically resembled those at Anderson High School, but they responded like the Franklin players—they didn't get excited, and they didn't worry about what the other team was doing.

Fox did have one wary thought for the basketball worshipers in Indiana—Passaic was not what Passaic had been. It was well understood that the previous year's Passaic team was thirty points better, and the team two years before was better than last year's team. This edition of the Wonder Team survived almost solely on teamwork. In the past, when the talent level was noticeably better, Passaic was a formidable opponent for any team. In Fox's humble opinion, there had never been an Indiana team thirty points better than the Passaic team he observed."

Finally - The Story of Basketball's First Great Coach

Since the birth of basketball at the International YMCA Training School in Springfield, Mass., at the dawn of the 20th century, the game has known many great coaches. Each makes his own contributions to the sport; others learn from his successes and build on what they've learned to make their own mark on the game. However, there was a time when there was no one to learn from, no successes to emulate. Someone had to be first.

When basketball was in its infancy, many men saw the sport's potential for building physical fitness and character in young men. But one man possessed the rare combination of skill, passion, and charisma that came together in unique circumstances to produce basketball's first great coach. Ernest Blood developed a system of training boys that dominated basketball in a way like none before or since. Affectionately called Professor Blood, or "Prof" for short, the game's first coaching phenom amassed a mind-boggling legacy spanning a 50-plus year career. It was no wonder his Passaic High School basketball teams were dubbed the "Wonder Teams."

Like many transcendent success stories, this one is rife with controversy and adversity, jealousy, and battles of wills. At the heart of it all, you will find

a coach whose greatness is not merely measured by his extraordinary record, but also by his deep love of the game, unquestionable values, and a desire to help boys become men of integrity and honor.

This is a story that has to be told. Here are some comments and reviews to ready you for the entire Professor Blood story.

"Everyone who is a hoops fan certainly is aware of the Wizard of Westwood, John Wooden, and his many achievements at UCLA. But not many are familiar with a New Jersey wizard and his Wonder Teams in Passaic, N.J., namely, Professor Ernest Blood. This text by Chic Hess is fascinating as it details Blood's brilliant accomplishments, plus his passion for the game. The research by Hess is mind-boggling as he takes you on a journey with the Wonder Team and its taskmaster, Professor Ernest Blood. A brilliant story documented by many specific incidents which provides you a complete understanding about how dominant this Passaic, N.J., high school team was."

Dick Vitale,
basketball analyst for ESPN and ABC

"The Professor Blood bio is a great read. Dr. Chic Hess, a basketball historian, has done an excellent job of bringing to us the remarkable life of this great coach."

Coach Bob Hurley,
St. Anthony High School, Jersey City, NJ

"No history of basketball is complete without a major piece on Prof Ernest Blood and this book provides it."

Sid Dorfman,
The Star-Ledger, Newark, N.J

To obtain a copy of Prof's biography, contact the gift shop at your Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in New Castle, or order it at any bookstore. You can also get a copy from this Web site, www.profblood.com, call 1-800-247-6553, or email order@bookmasters.com. The book comes in hardcover and paperback.

About the Authors

Dr. G. Gregory Gates

I was born September 20, 1941, in South Bend, and attended South Bend Central High School, where I was captain of the tennis team and sports editor of the yearbook, The Interlude, in my senior year. I graduated in 1958.

I graduated from Dartmouth College in 1963 and Washington University (St. Louis) School of Medicine in 1966.

Was board-certified in anatomic and clinical pathology and practicing pathologist at Porter Memorial Hospital in Valparaiso for 24 years.

Married with four sons, two of whom graduated from Indiana University and IU Law School.

I am retired and living in Arizona and Montana.

Hobbies: Golf, gardening, model train. Model train is themed after Indiana high school basketball. It includes scratch-built replicas of Howard Hall gym in Frankfort and the Wingate gym.

Charles "Chic" Hess, EdD

Chic was born and raised in southwest Philadelphia, where he played his high school basketball at Bishop Egan High School, a member of the Philadelphia Catholic League. He played for legendary coach Howie Landa at Mercer County Community College before moving on to East Stroudsburg University to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees in health and physical education. Later, Hess received his doctorate in education from Brigham Young University.

While teaching and coaching in Pennsylvania, Hess's teams accumulated a 230-81 record and he was honored with three coach-of-the-year awards. At Lebanon (Pa.) High School, his teams had a 158-57 record. Hess, along with his 1978 state finalist team, was recently inducted into the school's Sports Hall of Fame.

In the 1988 and 1989 seasons at Brigham Young University-Hawaii, Hess was recognized as NAIA District 29 Basketball Coach of the Year. At Arizona Western College, he was chosen as NABC-Kodak National Junior College Basketball Coach of the Year.

Hess has served as president of the Hawaii Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance; and vice president for the division of sport



Professor Ernest A. Blood dressed for practice (circa 1923)

and vice president for the division of physical education in the Southwest District of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD). Hess has also served as president-elect, president and past president in the Southwest District of AAHPERD. He is chair-elect of the National Association for Sport, Physical Education's (NASPE) Academy for History of Sport, Philosophy, and Sociology.

Hess is coaching the Academy of the Pacific basketball team in Honolulu on the island of Oahu, where he conducts basketball camps for youth and coaching clinics for Hawaii's coaches.

Norm Jones

Norm Jones played basketball and was awarded the Kiwanis Achievement Award for basketball at Marion High School, from which he graduated in 1954.

He earned a varsity letter as a freshman at Manchester College and received a scholarship as a walk-on at Ball State, earning two letters there. He obtained a BA and an MA degree in education from Ball State and a doctorate in counseling and educational Psychology from the University of Mississippi. While teaching, he went on to become a head coach in basketball, baseball and golf at Salem and North Vernon high schools and at Palatine (Ill.) High School.

Norm founded Communications Unlimited, Inc. and began making presentations on motivation, communication, teaching and parenting, and management to schools and organizations in the Chicago area. His first two books (*Keep in Touch* and *Performance Management in the 21st Century*) focused on leadership, motivation, and communications. He has taught graduate courses at Roosevelt University in Chicago and at Northeastern Illinois University.

His most recent book is his memoir *Growing Up in Indiana: The Culture & Hoosier Hysteria Revisited*. It is a nostalgic book that looks at Indiana high school basketball in a bygone era. It is filled with interesting stories about Hoosier Hysteria, as well as stories about Norm growing up in basketball-crazy Marion. You can obtain the book for \$17.50 plus postage at Amazon.com or for \$17 by contacting Norm at njnpi5@juno.com.

Tidbits from Here and There

By Harley Sheets

In a previous Boxscore, I called attention to the fact that many people had made the mistake of referring to Princeton, Indiana as Gil Hodges' hometown when it was actually Petersburg. I now know the facts and can see why all the confusion existed. Gilbert Ray Hodges was born in Princeton, but grew up and attended school in Petersburg.

Also mentioned was the Doug Bradley/Harley Sheets tour of the Gary area. An omission was our exploration of the partially burned-out but once stately Gary Civic Memorial Auditorium. This was a venue where many exciting, memorable games and events occurred. The 1940 Hammond Tech Tigers would concur. It was where they won the regional on their way to the state title, surviving in two hair-raising wins against little Brook High School by three points and Region adversary Gary Froebel by one. I was able to confiscate a brick from that building. I now have three bricks -- that one, one from Jackson Township (Clinton County) and one from Helt Township, Ernie Pyle's school.

Not long after nosing around Gary, I was nostalgically depressed. My oldest son resides in Fort Wayne, and my mother and sister live in the Ann Arbor-Detroit area, so I quite often travel the I-69 corridor. Hence, I frequently stop in Auburn, 20 miles north of the Summit City. On several occasions, I have passed by the old gym and McIntosh High School. When doing so, I tried to visualize events that had taken place there in the past, especially in the gymnasium. I had also intended to explore the place, but was never able to find anyone at home. I know I'll never be able to do that again because, for some coincidental reason, I happened by the old structures on the day they were being demolished. Dust was flying as huge pieces of machinery were doing their thing. As I sat in my car watching, I mentally offered my condolences to the two crumbling structures that I knew, from a researcher's perspective, and had hosted a number of memorable basketball games and events. Fortunately for towns like Crawfordsville, Lebanon, and Shelbyville, their old schools and gyms have been saved by making them into apartments. Speaking of old high schools and this being the 100th year of

Hoosier Hysteria, some games are being played in the old gyms. I know that Peru has done this in the old Tige Arena. My alma mater (Lebanon) followed suit in a game against Beech Grove, so I went and was pleasantly surprised. Not only did the Tigers win the game, but the place was nearly packed. The capacity when I played there was 2,200, but the roll-away bleachers on the stage had been removed, eliminating 200 seats. I would say that there were around 1,800 in Memorial Gymnasium for the affair -- more than usually show up for regularly scheduled games in the newer gym, which has a capacity of close to 5,000. Many of you know that I'm a fanatical postcard collector. At a recent show, I found my latest Indiana high schools. They were Grass Creek and Raub, two that I thought I would probably never find. Since I'm too old to hunt Easter eggs, I hunt postcards, and it is just as exhilarating to find a high school I don't have as it was to find an Easter egg as a child.

Jeff Luzadder recently was approached by the IHSAA about the IHSBHS selecting the top 10 players from each decade. Rocky Kenworthy and I were involved in the selection process. When Bob Plump was not in the top ten for the '50s, we were asked to make it a top 20. We put Plump in to satisfy their wish, but he was still near the bottom of the list. The choosing of lists such as these is no easy chore, and Rocky and I know we are bound to catch some flak. What happens is that you will have four or five locks and then, at the end, maybe 10 to 20 qualified players to fill the final three or four spots.

Hopefully, in the near future, there will be articles on some small-school mighty mites that made a splash on the state tournament trail in our one-class spectacle. Some that come to mind are Ossian (1939), Flora (1946), and Brook (1940).

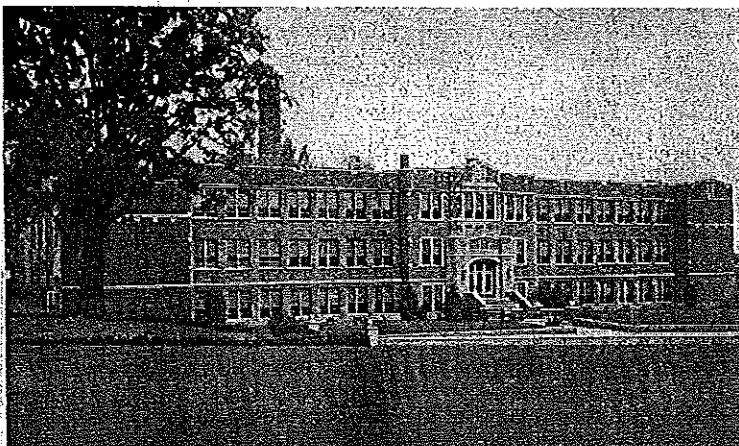
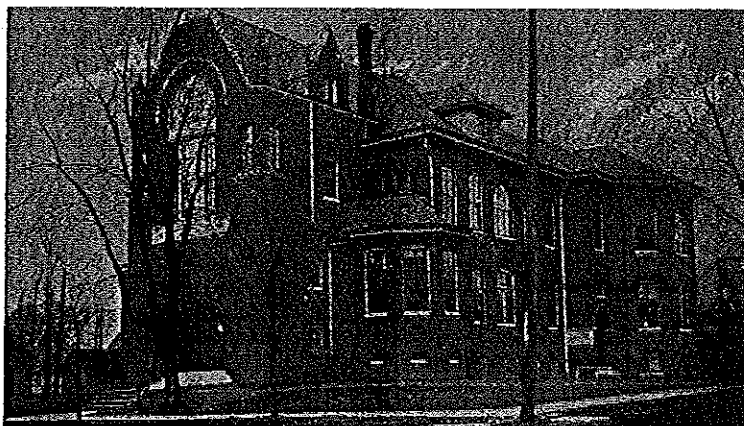
A trivia question: The first black players to play on a state championship team were Dave Dejernet (Washington-'30), Jack Mann (Muncie Central-'31), Frank Clemons (Anderson-'37), and John Thomas (Hammond Tech-'40). Name the first championship team with more than one black player. Answer-Page 10.

Mystery School Photo

From the 2009 Winter issue mystery school contest, we have a winner. It was Curtis Tomak and he guessed correctly that the schools were TL (top left) - Hammond Tech, TR (top right) - Lapel, BL (bottom left) - Fort Wayne Southside, and BR (bottom right) - Mitchell.

In many issues of *Boxscore*, there has been a high school photo (usually from Harley Sheets' postcard collection) for members to attempt to identify. The first person that 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.

Send guesses to
whitelitning@gmail.com or
 IHSBHS Mystery Photo
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Statistical Corner -Most 3 Pointers Made in a Season

by Leigh Evans - Editor/Publisher, www.HickoryHusker.com

- (B) 147 Andrew Graves - White River Valley 1994-95
- (B) 127 Shane Meadows - Henryville 2003-04
- (B) 107 Travis Largent - Southmont 2003-04
- (B) 104 Grayson Flittner - Tri-Central 2005-06
- (B) 95 Jeff Stratman - South Dearborn 1988-89
- (B) 94 Logan Whitman - Northview 2002-03
- (B) 86 Scott Wood - Marion 2007-08
- (B) 85 Jim Maples - West Vigo 1989-90
- (B) 82 David Wayrie - Portage 1987-88
- (B) 81 Anthony Candlish - Greenwood 1989-90
- (B) 81 Brett Spratley - Morgan Twp. 1990-91
- (G) 137 Katie Boone - Center Grove 2000-01
- (G) 137 Chasity Zellers - Glenn 1999-00
- (G) 101 Courtney Swain - Zionsville 2001-04
- (G) 88 Kalli Ely - Southport 1996-97
- (G) 85 Ashley Hummer - Mishawaka Marian 2005-06
- (G) 83 Kylie York - Hamilton SE 2005-06
- (G) 79 Mandy McDivitt - Connersville 2008-09
- (G) 77 Chelsea Jones - Austin 2008-09
- (G) 75 Jodi Howell - Alexandria 2004-05
- (G) 74 Chelsea Jones - Austin 2007-08

Notes and Quotes

Hey Harley,

I graduated from Shelbyville High School in 1962 and Butler University in 1966. I sure enjoy reading the IHSBHS newsletter. Keep up the good work. I officiated from 1964-1982 and did five sectionals and one regional before we decided to move to Arizona. Warm weather was more important than officiating. I sure miss the fraternity of Indiana basketball. I was on a cruise recently to the Panama Canal. I was wearing a Butler shirt and a fellow stopped me. He had grown up in northern Indiana and played at Taylor. We talked basketball and then it became unbelievable how many people we knew. Basketball is a real link between Hoosiers. I told Rocky that I have officiated more games in Hinkle Fieldhouse than any other official. Of course, officiating intramural games was part of my tuition job. I always scheduled my games for "The floor".

Don Thompson

Answer to Page 9 question:

The 1941 Washington Hatchets (John Dejernet and the Harmon brothers).

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This is our first attempt at an advertising page. It only shows books, but we would like to include ads for places to see, such as the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, the '54 Milan Museum, and the Knightstown "Hoosier" Gym. The cost is nothing to include your ad. Your only cost is in the time spent creating the ad. If any representatives of the aforementioned establishments or other basketball-related sites or activities would like to include their ad, contact Tom White at whitelitning@gmail.com.