

# B O X S C O R E

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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2012 Spring Issue

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## Important Reminder!!!

If you are reading this and the number next to your name on the envelope label is (11), then you haven't paid your \$7 dues for 2012 yet. Send a check to Rocky Kenworthy at the address shown in the above right Publication & Membership Notes.

## Note on this Issue

This issue is long, compared with other issues, due to the subject matter. To avoid a postage jump of 17 cents per copy, this issue has been kept to 16 pages. This means that all regularly scheduled quarterly features like Statistical Corner, the membership form, and advertisements have been left out. In the summer issue, they will most likely reappear.

**Editor's note:** In this newsletter Harold Salyer, (Muncie Burris), will be referred to as "Bus," and "Buzz." The nickname has been seen in several publications both ways, so take your choice.

## PREZ SEZ (ROGER ROBISON)

### The Meeting

The annual summer meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 23, in Vincennes. Our theme this year will be the Bloomington semistates of 1948-51, the golden age of southern Indiana high school basketball. We tentatively plan to have representatives of prime contenders Evansville Central, Jasper, Bloomington, Madison, Loogootee, Winslow, Monroe City, and Vincennes. I recommend eating at Good Samaritan Hospital's cafeteria (6<sup>th</sup> and Willow) at noon (good food), prior to our meeting (1:30 p.m.) at Adams Coliseum (on Seventh Street between Buntin and Perry streets.) There is adequate parking at 7<sup>th</sup> and Perry and 7<sup>th</sup> and Buntin next to the coliseum. You will enter the coliseum at either gate C or D. Watch for signs. When entering Vincennes, pay no attention to "Vincennes High School" signs. These indicate the way to the current high school far out on the east side. The old school and coliseum are downtown. Possible attendees, but not confirmed at press time, are Jack Butcher, Lee Hamilton, Eddie Ertell, Bill Sutton, Don Berry, Bob Hammel, and Gus Stevens (the Voice of V.U. ) among others.

### Some Sad Notes

Editor Tom White has suffered serious medical problems and will require a lengthy convalescence. Cards and comments may be sent to his mother, Marilyn White, at 766

S. Main St., Crown Point IN 46307. Emails to wife Norah at (norahnell@gmail.com). Member and Boxscore contributor Dr. Gregory Gates is at Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale, Ariz., for a transplant procedure. Cards may be sent to him at 9444 E. Rising Sun Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85262. Member, former coach and Hall of Famer Les Ray (Sullivan '43) suffered the loss of his wife, Sandy, in February after 56 years of marriage. Longtime member Dean Kendall, author of "The History of the Wabash Valley Basketball Tournament," passed away on March 30. Dean and his wife, Lorraine, were longtime volunteers for the Cheer Guild at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Dean also made toys for disadvantaged children, to be distributed by the Perry Township Fire Department at Christmastime, and volunteered at numerous other organizations that served the homeless, abused, and needy. He will be sorely missed by many, especially by our cofounder Harley Sheets.

### In Appreciation

The IHSBHS would like to thank life member Clifford Johnson for his continuous literary and generous monetary contributions to our organization.

**Editor's note:** It is with a huge amount of relief and appreciation that I want to thank Miss Emily Cline for her efficient computer expertise. Without her valuable assistance, it's doubtful you would be reading this edition of Boxscore.

## PRELUDE TO THE 1942 STATE TOURNAMENT

by Clifford Johnson

Not long after Pearl Harbor was attacked by the empire of Japan on Dec. 7, 1941, and war was declared against all Axis nations, heated and hurried discussions were taking place among officials of the IHSAA, the State Department of Education, high school trustees, local draft boards, and the U. S. Selective Service System as to whether high school sports in Indiana (as well as in other states) should be discontinued for the duration of the war. Many reasons were put forth to advance the case for such a "hopefully temporary" moratorium. Most pointedly, it was recognized that the military services were quickly going to be in need of emergency manpower. High schools seemed, quite naturally, to be fertile grounds for helping to serve that end. Not only male upperclassmen, but many coaches and school teachers were of prime draft age. There were many other arguments that would be put forth to end all competitive sports for the duration. Food items and material resources were bound to be in short supply for civilians over the long haul. Travel restrictions would be expected to have a significant impact on sports schedules - no gas, no tires, no new cars. The availability of athletic equipment made from raw materials in short supply for domestic purposes could present another problem. Not surprisingly, even major league baseball became targeted as a candidate for wartime interruption. The threat of eliminating competitive sports lingered into 1943 before finally becoming a dead issue. This subject could serve as the topic for a rather hefty book, so I won't bother to belabor it further. Suffice it to say that cooler heads eventually prevailed and competitive sports continued on, and even thrived, during the war years of 1941-45.

During the course of the 1941-42 Indiana basketball season, as with every season, there were about a dozen Associated Press polls conducted, each about a week apart, that displayed the results of sports writers' votes for the top 20 high school teams in the state. The first poll, early into any season, never meant much, since it always appeared in newspapers before most teams had played enough games to yield a convincing

impression upon the voters. Sports writers' first votes were always predicated, by and large, upon a team's previous season results, and then gently massaged to a degree of the talent that a team had carried over from the previous year. Washington, a southern school that had won the previous year's tournament, became the natural selection for the top spot in the first poll, since most of the Hatchets' first-team players were returning as seniors. Another article will cover the details of the team's roster and strengths. Briefly, though, with the presence of Jim Riffey, its 6-foot-4 all-state center, Charles Harmon, a sharp shooting 6-1 forward, along with John DeJernett, Arthur Grove, Bob Donaldson, and Gordon Raney, it formed an extremely smooth operating, experienced, and formidable squad. The team looked primed to repeat its 1941 championship. Its bench strength was deep as well, and that Marion Crawley remained as the Hatchets' coach into the new season couldn't hurt its chances of repeating.

The Hatchets dominated first place in the polls for the period of Dec. 17 until Jan. 2<sup>d</sup> of the new year as they continued to crush all opposition. Then, during the last week of January, a long awaited matchup between Washington and the No. 3-ranked Evansville Central Bears took place. In this do-or-die battle, the Bears managed to squeak out a 32-31 win. Coupled with Central's win over No. 2 Gary Horace Mann three days later, the sports scribes had no problem at all in catapulting the Bears into first place while dropping the Hatchets to No. 2. Interestingly, earlier in January the IHSAA had declared that a first-line substitute for Evansville Central had played in eight games while being overage. The Bears were forced to forfeit all the eight games, thereby ruining a perfect string of recorded victories for the season. Well, "official" was one thing, but "practical" was quite another when it came to ranking teams for their chances of capturing the state crown. Sports writers universally ignored the eight losses imposed by the IHSAA and proceeded to award the Bears with the top spot in the Jan. 28 and Feb. 2 polls. It was virtually tantamount to everyone thumbing their noses at the IHSAA ruling, since most media win-loss columns subsequently restored those eight "official" losses to "wins," just to keep things in perspective.

By Feb. 10, however, the Bears had suffered their first real loss to "Cabby" O'Neill's Jasper Wildcats. The Wildcats had been unranked in the early part of the season, but coincidentally with this win and the fact that they had been enjoying a relatively respectable season all along, "Cabby" found his team rocketed into 10th place in the poll. Incidentally, Paul "Bear" Hoffman, a future three-time All-American at Purdue and all-pro at the highest level of play, was in his junior year at Jasper. The Central Bears subsequently dropped to No. 3 on Feb. 10 and finished the season at No. 4, behind the Horsemen of Gary Mann and Ray Eddy's Madison Cubs. Washington regained first place by having marked time with wide winning margins over unranked opponents. The Hatchets would continue to hold sway for the remainder of the 1941-42 campaign.

Two other strong finishers were George Boots' Columbus Bulldogs and Frank Barnes' Shelbyville Golden Bears, additional southern teams. In the north, the powerful Fort Wayne Central Tigers and the Lafayette Jefferson Bronchos (Crawley's future school), the season's kingpin in the always rough and tough North Central Conference, were serious contenders for high ranking most of the season. Right on their heels at various times were Richmond, Anderson, Warsaw, and Johnny Wooden's South Bend Central Bears. Some smaller school favorites by season's end were Winslow (19-2), Lapel (20-2), undefeated Greentown (23-0) from Howard County, and Wolf Lake (20-1), with its sole loss being to its own alumni team! The path to the Final Four would prove to be a minefield for all participants once this tournament began. Truly, though, these year-after-year repetitions of big vs. little, the mounting tension, and a smattering of upsets were exactly what Hoosier Hysteria always gave us until 1998, when it died a painful and inglorious death from acute "manipulation."

In the 1942 sectionals, Winslow was knocked off by its archrival Jasper 51-43 on Saturday afternoon, while Lapel, another people's choice, was edged by Anderson that night 39-35. Greentown was trounced by Tipton in the Marion regional 29-13. Shelbyville and Columbus slugged it out in the final of their sectional, with Columbus prevailing 39-34. The Bulldogs didn't make it

much further, though, being the victim of Franklin on the afternoon of its regional, 31-29. Madison eventually received its comeuppance from Crawfordsville in the first game of the Anderson semifinals, 30-29. After whipping Warsaw in the afternoon of its regional, 47-33, Fort Wayne Central was pummeled in its night encounter by a true people's choice, little Wolf Lake, 39-24. Sadly, though, the little mighty mite met its Waterloo the following week in the semifinals, being buried by the very tall Muncie Burris Owls 49-21. South Bend Central survived the longest of any of these teams but was finally put away by the Frankfort Hot Dogs, 28-24, in the final game of the semis. After surviving a tough sectional and regional, Gary Mann was stopped by the same Frankfort team that had eliminated South Bend Central. Prior to this, the Hot Dogs had narrowly escaped North Central Conference contemporary Lafayette Jeff 26-24. Jasper, always tournament tough in these days, gave Washington nearly everything it could handle, but lost in the regional final, 27-24. The Richmond Red Devils were stopped by Muncie's Burris Owls in the regional final at Muncie, and Anderson couldn't get by the Lawrence Central Bears in the Indianapolis regional, losing 32-29. But in what could have been touted as the REAL contest for the state crown, the Evansville Central Bears finally succumbed in a return bout with Washington in the first game of the Vincennes semifinal, 22-20. That was undoubtedly the showcase game of the tournament, and it couldn't have been a more fiercely contested battle between those two southern Indiana giants of the 1942 basketball world.

The four teams that remained standing were the AP's season-long favorite (Washington), plus 20<sup>th</sup>-ranked Muncie Burris and two teams that went virtually unnoticed during the regular season (Crawfordsville and Frankfort). History's mysteries can be fun. Are you able to pick the winner before reading the other four articles about these Final Four teams?

### 1942 Frankfort Hot Dogs

by Roger Robison

*(The following was excerpted from Roger's book "Everett Case and the Frankfort Hot Dogs.")*

In his final year at Frankfort, coach Everett Case's team had no real height. He had three starters returning from the 1941 squad. Stine returned in the pivot and had grown to six feet. Ted "Tarzan" Hazelwood was starting for the third year at guard. Junior Bill Nunnally returned at the other guard spot, which was keenly contested by senior Bill Zobrist. Johnny "Runt" Clossin was now the world's shortest starting forward. "Smokey" Bill Lewis was at the other forward position.

Frankfort opened up with wins over Rossville (with new coach Larry Hobbs), Tipton and Flora (Ralph Kifer) before losing a close contest to last year's final four entry Kokomo, 27-26. The Hot Dogs then won five in a row and entered the Muncie Holiday Tournament at 8-1. Muncie Central entered its tournament at 0-9 but beat Frankfort in the first game. Now playing in the losers bracket, Frankfort murdered Alexandria and held off Tipton. Case said his charges were "a little too small" to take this tournament.

On Jan. 9, the Hot Dogs were 11-2 and entertaining Lafayette, which was 8-0. To the visitors' dismay, they were whistled for 21 fouls while the Dogs had only 10 and escaped with a 29-25 victory.

On Jan. 12, the AP issued its fifth

1. Washington
2. Gary Mann
3. Lafayette Jeff
4. Evansville Central
5. Frankfort
6. Shelbyville
7. Madison
8. Hammond Tech
9. Marion
10. South Bend Central

weekly Top 10 poll.

The Dogs' next opponent was the "Pete" Mount-led Lebanon Tigers.

After crushing the Tigers early in the season 41-25 and leading in the rematch, going into the fourth quarter, Frankfort collapsed and lost 30-24. The Dogs went 8-17 at the free throw line and Case put them through three nights of free throw practice before their next game with New Castle. Frankfort was 10-12 in free throws and took New Castle easily, 30-21. The Dogs then beat Bob Primmer's South Bend Adams Eagles and avenged an early season loss to Kokomo 19-16.

After starting the season at 15-3, Frankfort lost its next four games to Anderson, Richmond, Lafayette, and Shelbyville before defeating Logansport in the last game of the season.

The final weekly AP poll was as follows.

1. Washington
2. Gary Mann
3. Madison
4. Evansville Central
5. Richmond
6. Ft. Wayne Central
7. Lafayette Jeff
8. South Bend Central
9. Jasper
10. Bedford
11. Shelbyville
12. Warsaw
13. Anderson
14. Winslow
15. Ft. Wayne South Side
16. Terre Haute Wiley
17. Lapel
18. Boonville
19. Michigan City
20. Muncie Burris

In addition to the weekly poll of the 20 best teams, the AP had its eighth annual poll (first in 1935) to select the tournament winner (on next page). The surprise here was that the 26 scribes voting in the Winner Poll failed to select Washington, the obvious choice. However, the Frankfort Morning Times picked Washington to repeat and to be joined in the Final Four by Gary Froebel, Madison, and Burris.

Madison	7.5 votes
Richmond	5 votes
Washington	4 votes
Gary Mann	2.5 votes
Lapel	2 votes
Frankfort	1 vote
Shelbyville	1 vote
Evansville Central	1 vote
Anderson	1 vote
Lafayette	1 vote

### State Tournament

The Frankfort sectional had a couple of excellent Clinton County teams: the Jackson Twp. Cardinals and Colfax Hickories. Jackson was 18-2 in 1940, 15-4 in 1941 when it won the Frankfort sectional, and 20-1 this year. They had three-year starters -- Pollard (a future Hall of Famer), K. Smith, and Carter, who were averaging 13.25, 9.4, and 9.4 points per game respectively. Colfax was 23-1 last year and 18-4 this year.

Frankfort drew Jackson as its first opponent and Case was ready this year as the Dogs got off to a 13-point halftime lead, 20-7, with a stifling defense. In the third quarter, coach Ray Hause got his Cardinals untracked. Kenny Smith and Morris Pollard scored 10 points as Jackson outscored the Dogs 13-7 and trailed 27-20 after three quarters.

As usual, Case went into a delay in the fourth quarter. In the closing minutes, three Cardinals fouled out trying to break up the Frankfort stall. Case waved the foul shots and took the ball out-of-bounds. Jackson shot 9-45 field goals (20%) and made 8-16 free throws. Frankfort made 11-50 field goals (22%), hit 8-17 free throws and won the game 30-26.

Frankfort got Colfax next with coach John Crick. The Dogs held a 7-5 lead after the first quarter and 16-10 at halftime. When Clossin scored a three-point play to put Frankfort ahead 32-22, it was goodnight, Cinderella. There was still a limit on substitutions, and coach Crick got a technical for reinserting Davis for a fourth time. Frankfort won going away, 37-25.

The championship game was against Rossville. The Hornets had a terrible season (5-16) but got the luck of the

draw by having a first round bye followed by games against Circleville and weak Michigantown (8-11). The latter victory being a nail biter Saturday afternoon, 29-28. Frankfort, meanwhile, had run out of steam after tackling both Clinton County powerhouses, but it was their floor.

Rossville opened up with a 10-9 first-quarter lead. In the second quarter, Case slowed it down because Lewis already had three fouls, and Frankfort went into halftime down 12-10. The Hornets entered the fourth quarter with a 19-15 lead.

Clossin made one from outside and Stine hit two free throws to knot the score at 19. Beisel, Rossville center, hit his only goal and Cripe made a free throw to give the Hornets a 22-19 lead with two minutes to go. Clossin put in his sixth field goal. Smock was reinserted for the fourth time, resulting in a technical, but Clossin registered a rare miss. Rossville got possession of the jump ball. Frankfort fouled twice and Rossville missed them both. With less than a minute left, Stine broke loose and scored his first, 23-22, as Frankfort took the lead. A Rossville miss, the Frankfort stall, a Hornet press, with Stine unguarded under the basket. He scored and the Hot Dogs won 25-22.

The rest of the North Central Conference didn't fair as well. Kokomo lost to Greentown (its second of three crowns). Muncie Central lost to Burriss (its fourth of seven). New Castle lost to Straughn (its only sectional crown), and Marion lost to Fairmount (its second of five). Suburban Lawrence Central won its first by taking the Marion County Sectional. Undefeated Greentown, now 23-0, was coached by Earl Ervin, who had once coached Riley grade school in Frankfort.

### Lafayette Regional

*Lafayette (18-3) vs. Lebanon (16-7)*

*Frankfort (19-7) vs. Otterbein (18-1)*

In the initial game, Lafayette easily defeated Lebanon 38-18. For the second game, Otterbein was coached by Charles Franklin, who captured sectionals there in '37 and '42, then won sectionals at Rensselaer in '46 and '47 and at Rossville in '48. In this game, it was 23-

19 at the half. The Red Devils rallied in the third after "Smokey" Lewis fouled out and led 28-27. The 6-foot-1 Oster, in for Lewis, canned one at the buzzer to make it 29-28 after three. In the fourth, Stine and Clossin hit free throws to push the lead to 31-28. Oster got hot and blew the game open by hitting three field goals in a row. It was midnight again for Cinderella. Clossin and Stine finished the scoring to make it 42-34.

In the title game, Frankfort took the first quarter lead, but by halftime Lafayette was ahead 11-9. The nip-and-tuck game continued with the third quarter tied at 18 all. In the fourth, Frankfort got a two-point lead and began its stall. With four minutes to go, A.B. Masters, the Bronchos' coach, called a timeout. The lead went up to four, then back to two when Cors hit a shot. And the stall continued. With two minutes left, the defense went after the ball. Frankfort scored underneath and Cors scored his sixth field goal. The Frankfort Freeze continued. With seconds left, Lafayette got the ball out of bounds. Cors threw up a shot from half court that missed, and Frankfort won 26-24.

### Hammond Semifinal

*SB Central (25-3) vs. Logansport (18-10)*

*Frankfort (21-7) vs. Gary Horace Mann (26-1)*

Coach Cliff Wells' Logan Berries and young Johnny Wooden's Central Bears started the proceedings at the Hammond Civic Center. At the end of three, Logansport led by eight, 19-11, and went to a delay game, only taking two shots in the last quarter. Fansler, the high point man for Logansport with eight points, fouled out to start the fourth quarter. Frankiewicz, Smith, and Howell scored for Central making the score 19-18. Babcock hit a free throw for a 20-18 Logansport lead. Then Smith threw one in from midcourt for Central to force overtime. In the overtime, Babcock and Bauch scored free throws to put Logansport up 22-20. With 20 seconds to go, Taylor hit for Central, tying it up again 22-22. On the in-bounds, Central stole the ball and Taylor scored on a follow-in, and Central won 24-22.

In the second game, the Hot Dogs took on the Horsemen of coach Keith

Crown, who had recently been dropped off the Frankfort schedule. Unlike the Gary teams of old, which had rugged football players like Don Elser ('30-'32,) this squad was all finesse with slick ball handling. None had played football, and they were one of the first teams in the Calumet Region to dress in all-while shoes, which was suspect in Lake County. Case was quoted as saying that his short but rugged team would "mix it up" with the Horsemen.

Frankfort led 5-0 after three free throws by Nunnally and a midcourt field goal by Hazelwood. Nunnally added two field goals. Mathews and Partee scored four points each for Mann to make it 12-8 after one quarter. In the second, both Hazelwood and Mathews, the Mann captain, fouled out in the rough defensive struggle.

There were 19 fouls called in the first half as the Hot Dogs led 20-16. There would be another 18 fouls called in the second half. In the third quarter, the Horsemen led 23-22 when Zobrist, in for Hazelwood, got hot. He hit three straight field goals and the Hot Dogs led by 10, 33-23, after three periods. Zobrist finished with 18 points in the rout. The Dogs hit an amazing 21 of 25 free throws in the rough game, while Mann hit only 14 of 26. The Dogs shot 26.7% from the field, while Mann managed only 16.7%.

In the night game it was Wooden's fast break style against the Case controlled offense. Frankfort took a lead into halftime, 10-7, with Central missing all seven of its free throw attempts. In the third quarter, he pace picked up. Clossin got hot again and hit four field goals in five attempts as Frankfort held a 21-19 lead going into the fourth. With less than four minutes left, the score was tied at 22 all. The Hot Dogs missed several tip-ins, but Stine finally got one at the two-minute mark, 24-22. Stine got open and scored again, 26-22. Clossin fouled Powers, who missed. Smith hit again from the center circle, 26-24. Stall again. The defense gambled and Stine scored at the buzzer, 28-24. The Dogs shot 21.8% from the field and made four of eight free throws. Central shot 22.7% but only made four of 15 free throws.

### State Finals

*Washington (29-1) vs. Frankfort (23-7)*  
*Muncie Burris (25-5) vs. Crawfordsville (17-9)*

The state tourney in '41 had been a tossup, which the fourth-ranked Hatchets had captured to the amazement of many. This year, they were the clear-cut favorite. Burris was ranked No.20 and Frankfort had fallen from No.19 to unranked in the last week of the season. Coach Charles Cummins had taken Crawfordsville beyond anyone's expectations by edging favorite Madison 30-29 and holding off Lawrence Central 42-38.

Washington took a 7-6 deficit to a 16-13 halftime lead. Washington expanded its lead to 10, 24-14, before Frankfort rallied to close the gap at 30-24 by the start of the fourth quarter. Washington slowly pulled away to a final of 42-32.

J. Clossin made the Indianapolis Star All-Tournament team and the UP All-Tournament team. Nunnally made second team UP.

### 1942 Washington Hatchets by Rocky Kenworthy

The December 1941 bombing of Pearl Harbor placed America in turmoil. High school basketball in Indiana rightly abdicated a fair amount of newspaper print to matters abroad, but the game was a welcome diversion in an uncertain time. While Washington, D.C., had its hands full, Washington, Ind., was sure of one thing—its beloved Hatchets were going to be a state force again. Although star forward Leroy "Hook" Mangin had matriculated to I.U., four major contributors and seven lettermen overall were returning from the Hatchets' 1941 state championship squad. Six-foot-four, 195-pound senior Jim Riffey was one of the state's best, as was third-year starting guard Art Grove. A future Cincinnati Red, 6-1 Charles Harmon, supplied the athleticism, while 6-foot John DeJernett brought the muscle on one of Indiana's most feared frontlines. Speedy Bob Donaldson manned the other guard slot, while Garland Raney was the super-sub for coach Marion Crawley's fourth (and final) Hatchet contingent.

Sometimes complacency sets in with a team loaded with previously successful veterans, but Washington stormed out of the

gate with a 46-31 win over Petersburg and was challenged sparingly in a 21-1 regular season. The only loss was to Evansville Central, in front of the largest crowd (4,000) ever to witness a high school game in Evansville. Central, after leading 31-24, had to withstand two Hatchet misses in the final five seconds to prevail, 32-31. A 30-26 win over Bedford and a 42-37 victory at Martinsville were the only other Hatchet close calls.

Washington topped the AP poll virtually the entire season, but whether it was via wishful thinking or just backing the wrong horse, a statewide survey of sportswriters gave the favorite's nod to 1941 runner-up Madison to win the '42 state tournament. 21-1 Madison (only loss to Jeffersonville) was led by 16 point per game scorer Bill Lodge, who later starred at Purdue. Other southern Indiana state contenders included 19-2 Winslow, behind sophomore sensation Red Robert Smith; a 20-2 Boonville quintet, sporting a massive-for-the-era 6-5 front line; Bedford (17-4), Evansville Central (16-2), and Jasper (14-6).

The Washington Sectional wasn't expected to create much competition for the Hatchets, even though Plainville (19-4), Shoals (18-5), and Montgomery (18-2) all had stellar small-school clubs. Hot-shooting Montgomery (nine for 19) kept it close for a half, but Washington's size prevailed in the quarterfinals, 50-30. Surprise finalist Elnora was no match as Washington breezed to the sectional title, 55-17, behind Riffey's 19 points.

A couple of 1942 sectional tidbits that today make you scratch your head: Loogootee's big man Kenny Clifton fouled out in the FIRST QUARTER trying to defend Washington's Riffey. Also, Shoals players switched to their red jerseys between halves of their game with Elnora. The reason they gave was that they couldn't distinguish each other in their yellow-and-rainbow colored uniforms. Yellow...and rainbow?!?! Who'da thunk there would have been basketball playing hippies in 1942? In Shoals, no less.

At any rate, Washington's dirty work would begin in the regional. In the opening round at Washington, Jasper took out first-time sectional winner Bicknell 36-31, while Sullivan provided no resistance to the Washington steamroller as the Hatchets won 53-29. The regional final would be

Washington's toughest battle since the Evansville Central loss. A woeful Hatchet 12-for-70 shooting display kept Jasper in it the entire way. Washington led 26-24, with inside a minute left, when Washington's Art Grove and Jasper's Paul Hoffman (who later played at Purdue, and the NBA for six seasons) were charged with a double foul. Hoffman missed his free throw, Grove made his, and Washington ran out the clock for a 27-24 victory.

The Vincennes semifinal was loaded. Evansville Central survived a three-overtime affair with Boonville's giants to win the Evansville Regional 38-36. 24-4 Wabash Valley champ Terre Haute Wiley, behind 6-3 center George Tipton, held off a late Linton fury to win at Martinsville 48-47. Bedford avenged a regular season defeat in taking out Jeffersonville, 32-26, in the Bedford Regional final. Collectively, the four teams lost only 11 regular season games, and four of those were against each other (Central over Washington; Washington over Bedford twice; Bedford over Central). All four clubs matched up well; all had good size.

The Evansville Central-Washington opener apparently was one for the ages. Washington jumped out to a 6-0 lead, but three first-quarter fouls on point guard Art Grove, and a third foul early in the second period on Charlie Harmon, leveled the playing field. Washington led at the half 14-12, and from there the contest seesawed. Harmon's only fielder of the game, at the 1:20 mark, was the difference, as Central star Fred Althaus' attempt off an in-bounds play fell off the rim at the buzzer, and Washington prevailed 22-20.

Bedford, via a 37-26 drubbing of Wiley, would be the nighttime competition. Bedford had weathered battles on and off the court during the tournament, as accusations from Mitchell High School administrators claimed Stonecutter big man James Padgett was over-age, and should be ineligible. It took a Lawrence County judge's ruling during sectional week, and a subsequent approval from the IHSAA, to validate Padgett. But Saturday evening's verdict was decisive. Beating good teams a third time has always been a difficult task in Indiana high school basketball, but the Hatchets ran Bedford ragged, leading by 23 at one point and winning 37-20.

Returning to the scene of its '41 glory, Washington drew unranked Frankfort in 1942's Final Four opener at Butler Fieldhouse. The undersized Hot Dogs were a bad matchup against the powerful Hatchet frontline, but hung close for a half, trailing 16-13. Washington, behind John DeJernett's work, pushed the spread to 24-14 midway through the third period. Frankfort's Everett Case called for full-court pressure, which rattled Washington briefly, but the Hatchets controlled the final eight minutes, winning 42-32. DeJernett led all scorers with 14. His brother Dave had been the leading scorer on Washington's first state champion in 1930.

The battle for all the marbles pitted Washington against 20<sup>th</sup>-ranked Muncie Burris. The Owls had talented size, with 6-4 soon-to-be Mr. Basketball Kenneth "Bud" Brown in the middle, and a good guard in Harold Salyer, but had been run off the Washington home court in a 41-30 December regular-season contest. The rematch would be much closer.

The first quarter action was back-and-forth and fast-paced, with Burris leading 10-9 at the break. At that point, Burris coach Scott Fisher, to conserve energy, slowed the pace and pulled the ball out, content to pass around the perimeter, looking for a cutter breaking loose underneath. Coach Crawley countered by packing the Hatchet defense in, without chasing, to clog the middle. The reduced-possession plan kept the game close. With three minutes remaining, Washington sub Garland Raney broke an 18-18 tie with his only fielder of the contest. Inside a minute, Art Grove drove through the Burris defense for a layup, and after an Owl miss, big Jim Riffey clinched it with a hoop just before the gun, 24-18. Washington had become the first back-to-back state champ since Franklin's Wonder Five's hat trick in 1920-22.

#### Crawfordsville: A 1942 Finalist by Cliff Johnson

Any native of Indiana is probably aware that Crawfordsville was the first U.S. community to import basketball from Springfield, Mass., its birthplace, and to watch its local YMCA and high school play the game competitively. We know that Rev. Nicholas McKay, an administrator at the downtown YMCA, had been one of Dr.

James Naismith's students in Springfield, and had eventually come to Crawfordsville full of excitement about teaching the new winter game to his own young gym enthusiasts. The YMCA immediately adopted the game, and the local high school wasted no time in following suit. For those who wish to read a more detailed account of basketball history in Crawfordsville, I'll recommend the website of Bill Boone, a Montgomery County historian, at [athenianathlete.blogspot.com](http://athenianathlete.blogspot.com).

The high school's basketball teams, later known as the Athenians, have the longest history of basketball of all the schools in Indiana. They were acclaimed as having the best team in Indiana, and even the entire Midwest, nearly every year before the first "officially recognized" Indiana state tournament took place in 1911. The school's team ratified its perceived status that year by capturing Indiana's first championship. The Athenians, strangely, did not exist back then though. Instead, nicknames such as "the Midgets" (but why?) and "the Old Blue and Gold" were used. I wondered about that. Why was "Athenians" ultimately established as the nickname? It's quite unusual, perhaps even unique. I'd never heard of it being adopted by any other school or competitive team. Thucydides wrote about the long Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta that was fought in 431-404 BCE, but in the end, Athens was the loser and fell into submission to the Spartans. Why would any school want a loser for its nickname? Well, I found the apparent answer after some painstaking research scanning turn-of-the-century newspaper issues of the Crawfordsville Journal. The pertinent headlined article was reported in the Dec. 9, 1903, issue. It turns out that the nickname had nothing to do with basketball, or even with sports in general. The citizens of Crawfordsville over 100 years ago perceived their city as being a progressive, educational, commercial, and industrial center akin to the earlier Athens city-state of 2,500 years ago, prior to its war with Sparta. The school yearbook shortly became known as the "Athenian" and 20 years later, according to Bill Boone's website, "Athenians" became the nickname for the school's athletic teams.

With that historical sidebar out of the way, we'll jump to 1942, a season in which

Crawfordsville returned to the state tournament finals for the fifth time since 1911. There had been a dry spell of nearly 20 years since the last trip, and this was actually the first time for the "Athenians" per se. Their arrival at Butler Fieldhouse for the state championship in March was totally unanticipated. They had completed an unexceptional regular season, realizing a pre-sectional record of nine wins and nine losses against mild-to-stiff competition. Coach Charlie Cummings undoubtedly realized that the sectional should pose very few problems for his team, but working its way into a regional or semi-final might be a trip into the unknown.

Montgomery County's best small school teams appeared to be Alamo, Ladoga, and New Ross, each with fairly impressive W-L records, but against opponents that probably wouldn't measure up to the level of play Crawfordsville had to face during the season. As luck would have it, the Athenians did not even need to play any of those three teams in the sectional. Each was upset in earlier rounds, and Coach Cummings found that Darlington, with a 12-9 record, was all that stood in the way of a sectional championship. The outcome was predictable, and in short order, his team was preparing to play in the regional.

Attica, its first regional opponent, had brought in a good team. It was led by 6-foot-3 Ed Stuteville, who was accompanied by 6-4 rebounder, Lewis Bruce plus a gaggle of 6-foot sharpshooters. The Ramblers had compiled a 22-3 record coming in. But to most spectators' amazement, the Athenians turned on the steam and routed the Ramblers 39-27. The finale against Greencastle that night proved to be another runaway, 42-29.

The competition level at the Anderson semifinal, however, was several orders tougher. Madison, whom the Athenians were scheduled to play in the afternoon, had rung up a 27-1 record to date and was ranked No.3 in the state by the AP sports writers at the conclusion of the regular season. But the scrappy Athenians again surprised everyone by nicking Ray Eddy's finely tuned squad by the close count of 30-29 in the waning moments of the game. In this very tight contest, the lead changed hands a remarkable 16 times. The other afternoon game saw underdog Lawrence

Central (21-5) edging out the Aurora Red Devils (22-4) by a count of 38-36. Would Crawfordsville be able to do it again in the night game? The Athenian boosters were beginning to expect miracles from their team. And right on cue, the Bears were dropped out of the tournament in another tight game, 42-38, with Athenian players Swarat, Clement, and Wright coming to the rescue after the score had been knotted at 34 with a couple of minutes left on the game clock. Now it was on to the Final Four for Cummings' team.

Crawfordsville, obviously a vastly improved team in everyone's eyes, usually had a starting five comprised of 5-10 Keith Martin and 5-11 Bob Hybarger at the forward posts, 6-4 Don Swarat at center, and 5-8 Bill Wright and 5-6 Bob Clements at the guard spots. Hybarger, Swarat, and Clements were well-seasoned veterans, having been regulars on the prior season's team. Swarat and the first substitute, 6-1 Bob Pickel, had another year of eligibility left on the team. A very tall Muncie Burris team, with deadeye "Bus" Salyer normally doing most of the outside shooting, was the next Athenian opponent scheduled for the second afternoon game of the finals, to follow Washington's matchup with the Frankfort Hot Dogs.

The Athenians came up short in their final game—literally. The Burris Owls grabbed most of the rebounds on both boards because of their height advantage. Salyer was at his best, too, knocking down nine fielders and two free throws for 20 of Burris' 42 total points. Help from the Oracle at Delphi couldn't have helped the Athenians in this situation. The final score was 42-27. But Crawfordsville High School could count 1941-42 as a success, since its team outplayed a string of strong opponents in the tournament and made it to the final championship round.

#### 1942 Muncie Burris Owls

by Rocky Kenworthy & Thomas White

Today, the thought of Muncie Burris basketball doesn't exactly ring fear in the hearts of opponents across the state. Girls' volleyball—a different story—but basketball, not so much. But in its infancy, Muncie Burris had one of the more unheralded runs in Indiana basketball history.

Burris High School opened in 1929 as a division of Ball State University, designed for "exceptional high school students in a unique and progressive setting." However, unlike today, Burris began as a public school, with an actual district bordering the Ball State campus. Its first year of IHSAA competition was in 1933. Hall of Famer-to-be Scott Fisher, the big man from tiny Clearspring in Jackson County, initiated the basketball program at Burris. Fisher, a football star at Indiana, quickly built a competitive program and shocked the socks off Muncie Central's storied Bearcats in the 1939 Muncie Sectional final, 33-31. Behind shooter deluxe Roy Kilby, Burris' Owls made it all the way to the Final Four in '39, finally succumbing to Franklin at Butler Fieldhouse. In the span of 1939 to 1947, the Owls would win an incredible six straight Muncie Sectionals (seven overall), five Muncie Regionals, and trips to the State Finals in '39 and '42.

Burris' 1942 edition had four of its top seven returning from the 23-5 1941 regional champs. Rebounding and inside scoring were strengths, with 6-foot-4, 190-pound Kenneth "Bud" Brown and 6-3 Clay Moody, while 6-foot Harold "Buzz" Salyers was the deadeye shooter. Six-footers Gene Lillie and Lowell Black rounded out the starting five. Ballhandling was a question mark due to graduation losses. A schedule mix of state contenders plus some have-nots produced a 17-5 Owl regular-season mark, with losses to defending state champ Washington, Richmond, Fort Wayne South, Huntington, and Warsaw.

The Muncie Sectional was composed of a hodgepodge of talents which may have been some fodder for an early "Twilight Zone" episode. The smaller Muncie school, Burris, even with only 285 enrolled, was certainly the favorite. Its chief competition was expected to come from the county schools. 14-6 Yorktown, with Delaware County's leading scorer and future Kentucky Wildcat star Jack Parkinson, was a threat. But the two clubs that matched up best with Burris sizewise were hamlets Gaston (20-3), Delaware County champs with 6-3 star Dick Johnson, and an even bigger 20-2 Center quintet. The accustomed state power, Muncie Central, was mired in the throes of a 6-16 season, spurred by the de-emphasis of basketball by a "wayward" administrator.

From the Muncie Press, bemoaning that belief: "A few seasons back, some guy got the bright idea that between-season practice shouldn't be allowed and actually removed the Field House baskets so the kids couldn't take trial flings during the spring and summer. All of this, you know, is conducive to making basketball players."

Burris probably didn't need any sectional help, but got it anyway. The Friday afternoon opener with Muncie Central's Bearcats drew 6,500 to the Fieldhouse, many probably reveling in the cooking of Bearcat stew. Burris led at the half, 30-11, and cruised to a 47-29 win behind "Bud" Brown's 21 points. Jack Parkinson's knee injury weakened Yorktown as Burris rolled to a 47-32 quarterfinal win. DeSoto's Panthers emerged from a .500 regular season to knock off Center and Gaston, paving the road for easy Burris wins over themselves, 38-24, and Selma, 49-30, in the sectional championship.

The Muncie Regional participants were an eclectic crew. 20-5 Winchester had won its own sectional from a small-school field and was slated against Burris in the opener. Fifth-ranked Richmond, 19-4, with visions of a state title, had breezed through its sectional and possessed a nine-point regular season win over Burris in December. But first the Red Devils would have to get past tiny Straughn (20-1), whose fancy-for-the-era 17-of-24 foul shooting kayoed New Castle en route to its lone sectional title. Burris took down Winchester 48-36 after losing most of

a commanding lead. Coach Fisher tried to rest his starters for the night game, but Winchester clawed back within 38-34, with inside five minutes remaining, before Burris reinserted its starters and won going away. Richmond knocked off Straughn in a 55-46 battle that was closer than the score indicated. The loss of 6-3 leading scorer Harry Davidson, who Richmond coach Elder Eberhart booted off after the sectional for "lack of cooperation," was going to be a fatal blow to the Red Devils' title hopes. Burris dominated Richmond early in the regional championship and survived the gamble of playing Bud Brown with three early fouls (four meant disqualification in '42) to win decisively 37-28. Coach Fisher's strategy appeared genius, as when Brown eventually fouled out with four minutes left, Burris led 36-19 and was outscored 9-1 without Brown.

The Muncie semifinal field sported 19-6 Tipton vs. 18-6 Huntington in the opener, while Burris, 23-5, drew the people's choice, as well as Rand McNally's, 25-1 Wolf Lake (see Harley's Wolf Lake article). Burris had beaten Tipton twice in the regular season, but 6-4, 220-pound man-mountain Jim Ertel and crafty 5-10 Kenneth Cage, both Indiana All-Stars, formed a formidable 1-2 punch. Huntington had beaten Burris in January, 34-30, on the old Ball State floor, behind the hard driving of Rex Grossman, grandfather of the current Washington Redskins quarterback of the same name. It wouldn't get a chance to repeat. Burris handily dispatched the Noble County crew behind

Brown's 15 points, 49-21, while Tipton's precision passing game knocked off Huntington 45-38. The Owls were in for a battle at night, as Tipton led most of the first half and trailed only 28-26 after three quarters. It was at that point that Coach Fisher pulled the ball out and made Tipton chase, which left Tipton vulnerable at the high post and to the slashing wings. Moody and Brown scored all the fourth period points as Burris prevailed 42-30.

Burris would then face Crawfordsville, surprise winner of the Anderson Semifinal, in the Final Four's second game at Butler Fieldhouse. The smaller Athenians were no match on the boards and couldn't slow Owl guard "Buzz" Salyer's 20-point onslaught as Burris won 42-27. Washington defeated Frankfort 42-32 in the opener. The championship game with Washington was a rematch of a December regular-season 41-30 Hatchet victory. Washington's front line dominated in that one, with John DeJernett scoring 15 and Charlie Harmon 10, while holding Owl ace "Bud" Brown to a single fielder. The championship game (see Washington story for more detail) was much closer, but Washington pulled away in the final minutes, 24-18. "Bud" Brown was named Gimbel Award winner, and Mr. Basketball, while Moody was also named to the Indiana All-Star squad. After service, Brown went on to star at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C..

FIRST AFTERNOON GAME

Washington (42)					Frankfort (32)				
Player	FG	FT	TP	PF	Player	FG	FT	TP	PF
C. Harmon	3	3	9	3	Lewis	0	2	2	4
Dejernett	7	0	14	1	Clossin	5	1	11	4
Raney	1	0	2	2	Oster	0	1	1	0
Harner	0	0	0	0	Ricker	0	0	0	0
Riffey	2	1	5	3	Stine	1	1	3	1
Horrall	0	0	0	1	Hazelwood	2	1	5	2
Donaldson	1	3	5	1	Nunally	3	2	8	2
Grove	2	3	7	3	Zobrist	0	2	2	2
Crane	0	0	0	2					
	16	10	42	16		11	10	32	15

SECOND AFTERNOON GAME

Muncie Burris (42)					Crawfordsville (27)				
Player	FG	FT	TP	PF	Player	FG	FT	TP	PF
Black	1	0	2	1	Martin	1	0	2	0
Moody	2	0	4	1	Hybarger	1	3	5	1
Abbott	3	2	8	1	Hall	1	2	4	3
Wolters	0	0	0	0	Freeman	0	0	0	0
Brown	1	0	2	3	Pickel	0	0	0	0
Boyd	0	0	0	0	Swarat	1	1	3	1
Stassen	0	0	0	0	Wright	3	2	8	0
Lillie	3	0	6	2	Clements	2	1	5	1
Salyer	9	2	20	1	Sosbe	0	0	0	0
Smith	0	0	0	0	Curtin	0	0	0	0
	19	4	42	9		9	9	27	6

CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Washington (24)					Muncie Burris (18)				
Player	FG	FT	TP	PF	Player	FG	FT	TP	PF
Harmon	0	1	1	0	Black	1	0	2	0
Dejernett	3	1	7	0	Moody	2	0	4	2
Raney	1	0	2	0	Abbott	1	0	2	1
Riffey	5	0	10	2	Brown	2	0	4	1
Grove	2	0	4	0	Lillie	1	0	2	1
Donaldson	0	0	0	1	Salyer	2	0	4	0
	11	2	24	3		9	0	18	5

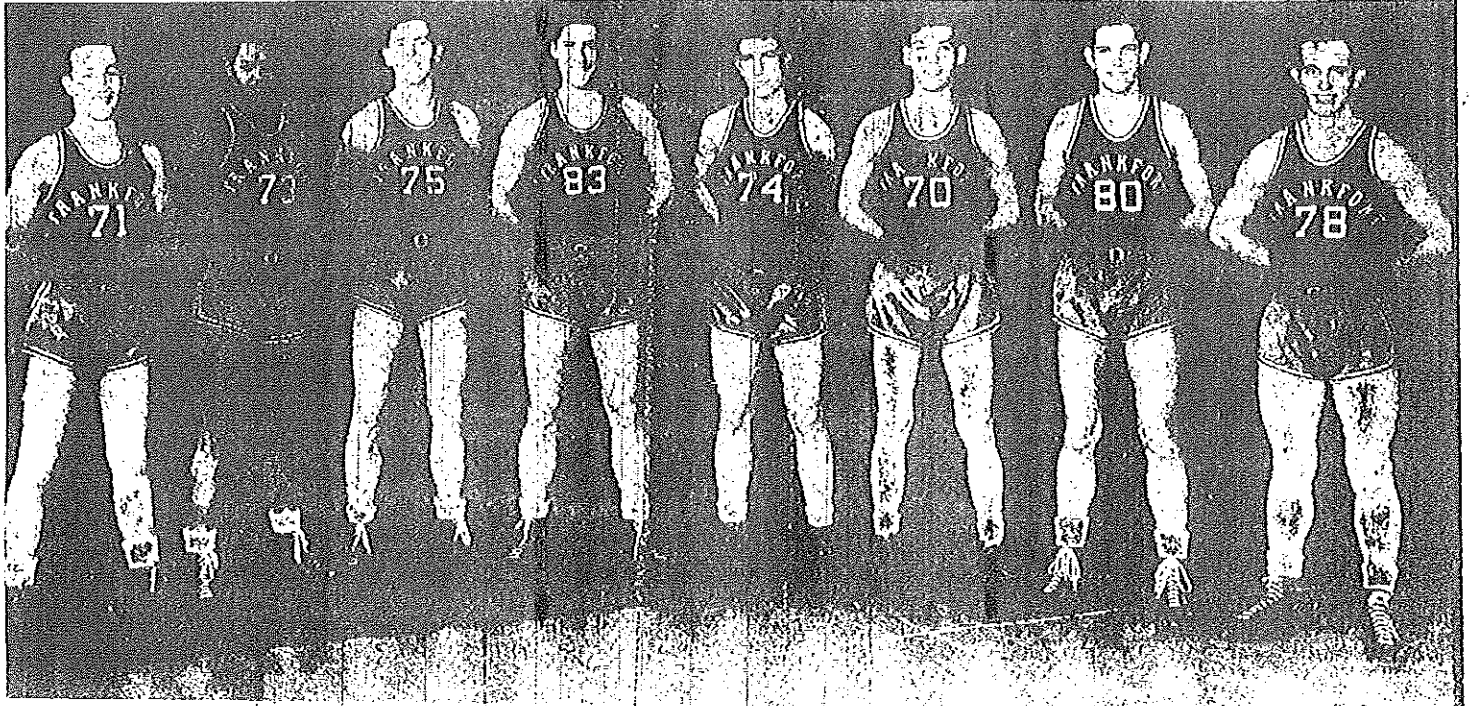
OFFICIALS: Thomas Baker; L.E. Fink

Final Four  
Box Scores





Team Pictures (1)

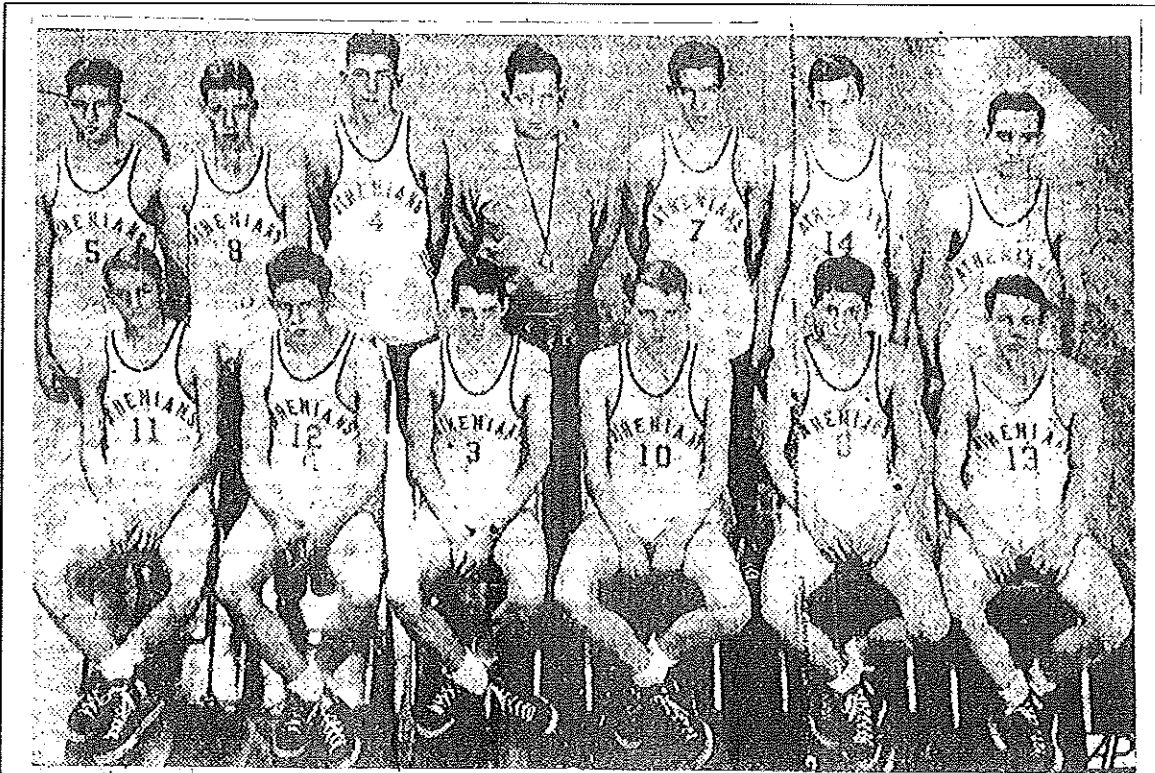


height but Hot Dogs of Frankfort are rugged enough and allegedly on the rough and ready side when the going gets as tough as it is expected to be when the Hot Dogs Mann in the second game of the Hammond semi-final tournament next Saturday afternoon. Nine of the Hot Dogs who'll see action against the Horsemen are picture above. U Nunnally, Forward John Clossin, Forward Bill Lewis, Center Charles Silne, Guard Ted Hazelwood, Guard Tom Davison, Forward John Oster, Guard Dick Oyster and Guard r was absent when this picture was obtained.



**WASHINGTON, 1942 CHAMPION**  
 Coach Crawley, Crane, C. Harmon, Harner, Horrall, Sum, Riffey, Raney, J. Dejernett, Grove, Donaldson, Principal Wampler.

## Team Pictures (2)



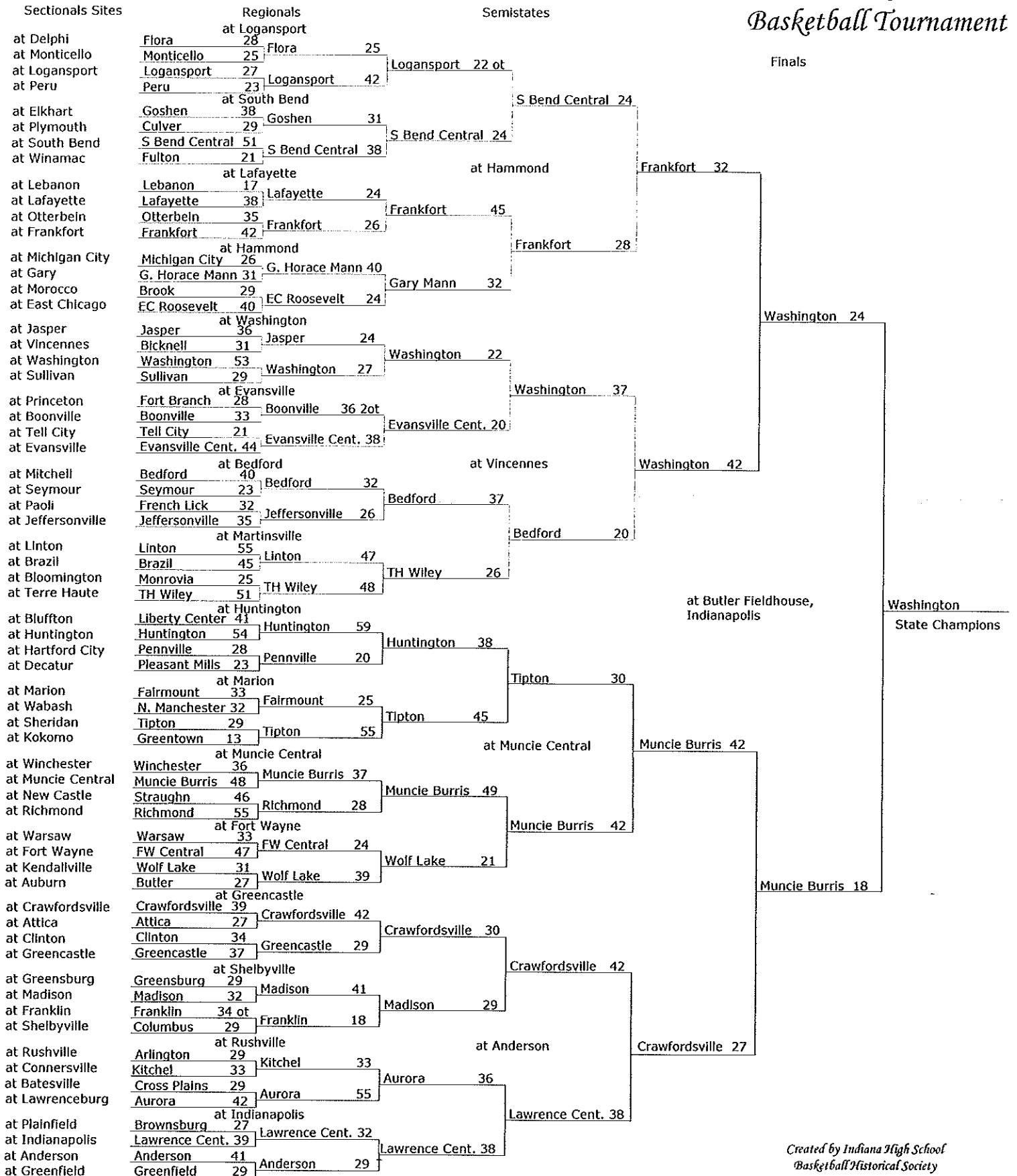
This unheralded Crawfordsville team will meet Burris of Muncie, Saturday in the finals of the Indiana state basketball tournament at Indianapolis. Front row (left to right): Bill Wright, Bob Hybarger, Don Swarat, Bill Freeman, Keith Martin and Bob Clements. Back row (left to right): Guy Woods, Bob Sosbe, Phill Hall, Coach Charles Cummings, Bob Pickel, Morris Davis and Charles Curtin.



This is the Golden Owl squad from Burris Training school of Muncie, opponents of the Crawfordsville Athenians in the finals of the Indiana state basketball tournament at Indianapolis Saturday. In the front (left to right) are Coach Scott Fisher, Jim Abbot, Lowell Black, Billy Hickman Smith and Assistant Coach Dick Stealy. At rear (left to right) are Harold Salyer, Clay Moody, Joe Don Boyd, Kenneth "Bud" Brown, Robert Stassen and Gene Lillie. A reserve, Bob Wolfers, was absent.

1942 Tournament Bracket

# 1942 Indiana High School Basketball Tournament



## 1942 Wolf Lake Wolves

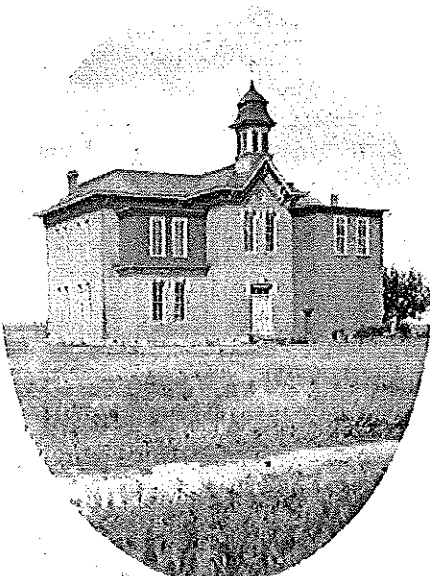
by Harley Sheets

### A Little History

A while back on my way from Fort Wayne to Ligonier, I passed through the hamlet of Wolf Lake. It was your typical small community that once had a high school. My thought process; Just another little county school with a scanty high-school basketball history. Boy, was I wrong!

Four years stood out in this school's basketball legacy. In 1912, the school was selected as the top team from its district to play in the state tournament, which was by invitation only. In 1941, the Wolf Lake Wolves ended the regular season as the only undefeated team in Indiana. However, disappointment soon followed, as the Wolves were beaten in the sectional by Lagrange by a measly two points. In 1967, a year prior to consolidating with Albion to form Central Noble, the Wolves won their second sectional. These accomplishments were nice honors for such a small school when one takes into account the numerous little schools that never won a single sectional before consolidation and the class basketball eras. But the aforementioned achievements pale in comparison to what occurred in 1942, following the Wolves' disappointment in the previous season.

It has been stated that the 1941 team was the best. Some reasons: Two Keisters were stars of the '42 team, but two other Keisters were instrumental on the '41 team, along with Tom Hively, a 6-foot-6 center, before the flu helped derail it. Thus, as we go on, it will be up to the reader to make a judgment.



Wolf Lake School Circa 1910

In 1942, the population of Wolf Lake was 249 and the school enrollment was 128. The coach of the Wolves was John Reed, who had played his high school basketball at Lagrange and Topeka. After graduating from Western State Teachers College (now Western Michigan University) in Kalamazoo, Mich., he coached two years at Mongo before coming to Wolf Lake. The little school was undefeated in 1941, but you could rationalize that it was undefeated in 1942 also, with the only loss coming at the hands of the alumni team in overtime, with the two graduated Keisters and the 6-foot-6 Hively participating. So at the end of 1941-42, the Wolves were 19-1.

### 1942 Sectional

In the sectional, as so often happens, the Wolves had their hands full with an excellent Wolcottville Bulldog team, winning 34-31. They breezed through the rest of the round, beating Shipshewana (33-24), Kendallville (28-13), and Albion (39-23).

### The Regional

The next round was in Fort Wayne, where the small schools who fed into that regional usually hit a brick wall, having to contest with one of Fort Wayne's big three - Central, North, or South. Wolf Lake caught a break as it drew the Butler Windmills in the first game, with Fort Wayne Central going up against Warsaw. The Wolves struggled with the Windmills, but pulled it out in the end, 31-27. The Central Tigers demolished the Warsaw Tigers 47-33. These results didn't seem to bode well for the Wolves, but the games have to be played, and play the Wolves did.

I'm sure Coach Reed had some sage instructions and comments for his Wolves. Could he have brought up the shellacking that the Ossian Bears laid on the defending state champion Fort Wayne Southside Archers in 1939? Whatever took place prior to the game worked, because after the first half, the game was practically a rout. In the second half, Central made but one of 33 field goal attempts. The Wolves also held Central's Kenny Anderson to nine points after he had put in 21 in the Warsaw game. The final score was Wolf Lake 39, Central 24, with the two Keisters (Art and Paul) doing most of the damage with 11 points each. Both were selected to the all-regional team. The other starters were Roger Stangland, Delbert Hartman, and little sparkplug Tommy Targgart. All three made honorable mention. The thing that

registers most poignantly with me is that this team that the Wolves more or less demolished would go on to claim the state championship the following year.

### The Semistate

Naturally, the excitement was unbelievable in the little hamlet when the giant-killers returned, but the Wolves' run ended abruptly in the semistate as they were soundly beaten by the Muncie Burris Owls 49-21. The Owls eventually lost to the Washington Hatchets 24-18 in the championship game. The sad part to me as a researcher and historian is that there will never be a chance for little mighty mites like the Wolf Lake Wolves to perform their miracles again.

### Wolf Lake Wolves

Coach: John Reed

	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.
Paul Keister	6	- 3	Sr.
Arthur Keister	6	- 2	Sr.
Roger Stangland	5	- 10	Sr.
Delbert Hartman	5	- 11	Sr.
Tommy Targgart	5	- 8	Jr.
Paul Wysong	5	- 11	Jr.
Bill Hill	5	- 8	So.
Roy Stangland	5	- 8	Sr.
Russell Paulus	5	- 8	Jr.
Dallas Shiveley	5	- 8	Fr.

Topeka	49	- 23	
Waterloo	44	- 39	
Pierceton	32	- 27	
North Webster	34	- 22	
Cromwell	38	- 23	
Ligonier	22	- 20	
Churubusco	31	- 24	
Albion	23	- 19	
Rome City	38	- 22	
Avilla	40	- 39	
Alumni	27	- 29	ot
Larwill	38	- 24	
Avilla	35	- 32	
Albion	31	- 22	
Wawaka	31	- 23	
Cromwell	38	- 10	
Coesse	38	- 28	
V. S outh Reserves	31	- 23	
Wawaka	47	- 24	
Albion	39	- 31	
Huntertown	36	- 21	
<b>Kendallville Sectional</b>			
Wolcottville	34	- 31	
Shipshewana	35	- 24	
Kendallville	28	- 13	
Albion	39	- 23	
<b>Fort Wayne Regional</b>			
Butler	31	- 27	
F. W. Central	39	- 24	
<b>Muncie Semifinal</b>			
Muncie Burris	21	- 49	

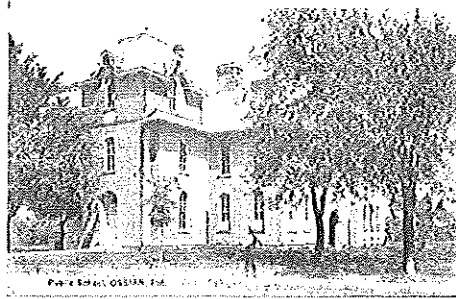
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### Tidbits by Harley Sheets

OSSIAN! OSSIAN! OSSIAN! As an Indiana high school basketball historian and researcher, this former little school's basketball tradition keeps coming to mind. The latest "noggin jogger" has been caused by the Norwell Knights' march to this year's state finals. Norwell's progeny is composed of Lancaster Central (not to be confused with Lancaster Center in Huntington County), Rockcreek Center (not to be confused with Rock Creek in Huntington County), Union Center (not to be confused with all the other Unions that used to be scattered throughout our state), and OSSIAN. In the single-class format prior to the consolidation era, these little antecedents claimed a combined total of 12 sectionals, with the OSSIAN Bears grabbing six and being the only school to add a regional to its resume. This highlight came in 1939. Let's set the table.

This is what I know about OSSIAN'S coach, Clare Holley. Don't know, but would assume he played basketball in high school. In his four years (1922-25) at Huntington, the Vikings won four sectionals and a regional. After graduating from Huntington College in 1929, he became coach at nearby Banquo ('30-'34), then to Syracuse for a year before turning some heads at, guess where, OSSIAN! He later went on to win Peru's first regional in 1943 before finishing his career at South Bend Washington (1944-58).

Starting in the Great Depression era, the Fort Wayne Regional was fed by sectional winners from five counties just to the south – Adams, Blackford, Huntington, Jay, and Wells, where OSSIAN was assigned. At this period of time and especially in the '30s, the three big city goliaths – Fort Wayne Central, Northside and Southside - were dominant. Examples: Central ('36 runners-up, '37 Final 4), North ('33 Final 4) and South ('38 state champs). These do not include their earlier-round tournament wins. Thus, the schools advancing from the smaller sectional sites were, in most cases, vanquished by these big city gargantuans. "Hoosier Hysterics" have always been aware of monumental upsets that can happen at any time, and one of them took place in 1939, when OSSIAN pulled the rug out from under Southside's defending state champs. Monumental, one



might say, is a little strong, but here's why it can be viewed as such. The 1939 Southside Archers were, by Fort Wayne scribes and others, considered to quite possibly be a better team than the '38 champs and ready to repeat their '38 performance. They returned Bob Bolyard, the school's leading scorer, 6-foot-8 Jim Glass, a dominating rebounder and second-leading scorer, Carl Hall, an excellent outside shooter, Don Berry a defensive whiz, and a deep bench. With all this talent and losing but two regular season games of a brutal schedule, the Archers couldn't fend off Clare Holley's upstart and feisty OSSIAN Bears.

The history of this small school from Wells County is fodder for a later story, but for now let us return to the present. Although the Norwell Knights lost the 2012 championship game, they mimicked their feisty little relative OSSIAN when they took out the prohibitive 3A favorite, the Muncie Central Bearcats, in this year's Blackford Regional.

I'm sure the Muncie fans were in disbelief after the excruciating defeat, and so was I after my high school alma mater (Lebanon) was beaten in the Frankfort Sectional by a single point. Lebanon, like Muncie Central, has a great basketball tradition. It is one of 12 high schools to have won 50 sectionals or more and one of 13 schools to win three state titles or more, but this tradition has been on the decline since 2002, when the Tigers won their last sectional. This year was to be "the year" we were coming out of our doldrums and marching down the tournament trail, but, as stated, it ended abruptly, and you'd have thought that Western Boone had won the state by the way its fans rushed the floor after eliminating the Tigers. This type of emotion is usually saved for the sectional winner and later-round championships. But this wouldn't have happened had the Tigers not missed five of their last seven free throws in the last 2 ½ minutes while leading by two or three

points. This might sound like sour grapes and it can be viewed as such, but I bring it up as a way of showing that in the tournament, the best team doesn't always win -- teams like North Central, Hamilton Southeastern, and Muncie Central. Although I was thoroughly disappointed, I could understand the WeBo fandom's ecstasy, for I have been at and read about past ventures when my Lebanon Tigers had pulled off some upsets of their own. My one solace in all this is that I had the privilege of watching a young man who is one of the best all-around players to come down the pike at L.H.S. In Trey Hendrix's four years, he has received very little notoriety but will end as the 4th leading scorer in Lebanon history and second or third on the all-time state assist leader board. Another reason for bringing this scenario up is that WeBo's defeat of Lebanon reminded me of the good old days of the single-class tournament, when local teams - WeBo is eight miles west of Lebanon - got together as friendly but heated rivals. When this was taking place, occasionally the little school would upset the big county seat team. Phillip Hoose, in his book *Hoosiers, The Fabulous Basketball Life Of Indiana*, gets it right. He states, "The sectionals were organized basically at the county level, and in Indiana counties typically amounted to several hamlets connected by pure rancor to the local Kremlin, the county seat. The litany of complaints against the county seat became a part of Indiana's special script, as even and soothing as a chorus of locusts on a summer night. It was common knowledge in the provinces that the school in the county seat typically had the following advantages:

1. The home court in the sectional
2. An amoral coach.
3. A county all-star team, full of players who should have been going to other schools.
4. A pair of forwards who had voted in the last election.
5. A center in his third year as a junior.
6. A network of grade school teams, controlled by the varsity coach that would shame the Yankees' farm system."

Doubtless, this is pretty much hyperbole, but it expresses in a sardonic way something that has been missing since class basketball was imposed upon us.

## 1942 Gary Horace Mann Horsemen by Gregory Gates

The future looked bright for Gary Horace Mann basketball after the Horsemen reached the round of four in the 1929 Indiana state high school basketball tournament, but the decade of the '30s brought only frustration. The '29-'30 squad returned all five starters, but didn't make it out of the tough Gary Sectional. The '30-'31 team, featuring the legendary Don Elser at center, made it to the 16-team State Finals, but lost in the first round. Chet Aubuchon, a ballhandling wizard acknowledged by Coach Crown as the greatest Horace Mann player ever, couldn't get the Horsemen through the 1934 Gary Sectional. Tom Harmon, soon to become one of college football's all-time greats, led Mann to a 19-4 record in '36-'37, to no avail. Finally, in the fall of 1941, Horace Mann basketball was back.

Unlike the Horace Mann basketball teams of yore, none of the players on the '41-'42 squad had played football. A series of basketball rules changes in the 1930's had placed more emphasis on finesse and less on muscle. The center jump after each score was eliminated, the three- and 10-second rules were instituted, and the basketball was made smaller. As a result, the Horsemen of '41-'42 were about speed and ball handling. Let's take a look at their starting lineup:

- F Bob Mathews, 5-foot-9, Sr., Captain
- F Ray Partee, 5-9, Sr.
- C Dan Mellinger, 6-3, Sr.
- G Dick Olson, 6-foot, Sr.
- G Benny Sierra, 5-11, Jr.

This was a veteran squad of average size for the times. There were no weak links on offense or defense. Everybody took turns leading the team in scoring. "Bouncing" Benny Sierra was fast, quick, a great ballhandler, and a scoring machine. According to former Horace Mann player Tom Dakich (GHM '51), Coach Crown considered him the second-best player ever to wear the Horace Mann uniform. He and Ray Partee were described as "jitterbugs." Dan Mellinger was one of the best centers in the state. Dick Dolato, 5-9 senior forward,

provided scoring punch off the bench. Perhaps to highlight his flashy team, Coach Crown outfitted them with white, high-top Converse Chuck Taylor Autograph shoes that had just hit the market. Thus, the '41-'42 Gary Horace Mann Horsemen have the distinction of being the first team in Indiana high school basketball history to wear white shoes.

The Horsemen's first real test in December 1941 was against Coach Burl Friddle's Fort Wayne South Side squad at Gary Memorial Auditorium. In what was described as a "rough game," Horace Mann prevailed 34-31. A week later, the Horsemen passed their second big test, beating undefeated archrival Gary Froebel 37-27 in the finals of the Gary Holiday Tournament. At 8-0, they were one of five major undefeated teams in the state. By Jan. 20, 1942, they were 13-0. The AP and UP polls had them ranked No.2 in the state. Five-thousand fans filled Gary Memorial Auditorium on the night of Jan. 22 for the battle between the No.2 and No.4 ranked teams in the state, Horace Mann and Hammond Tech (9-0). With balanced scoring and superior defense, the Horsemen won 35-26. Their 14 straight wins set a Horace Mann record that would never be broken. Four days later, they made the long journey downstate to face Evansville Central. Again, it was a marquee match-up between two undefeated powerhouses. By virtue of a Washington Hatchet loss, the latest UP poll had Horace Mann ranked No.1 and Evansville Central No.2. The 5,000 fans who jammed Evansville's Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Coliseum saw a real barnburner. The Horsemen led 25-18 with four minutes to play, but let the game slip away. One can only imagine the pandemonium as the Bears tied it up with a minute to go, then won 27-25. The Horsemen would bounce back with six more wins. Thus, Mann ended the 1941-42 regular season with a 20-1 record and a No.2 state ranking. They began their quest for the 1942 IHSAA state basketball championship at the Gary Sectional, where their only real competition was the Gary Froebel Blue Devils. The Horsemen had taken the

measure of Froebel (15-7) three times during the '41-'42 regular season. To beat a quality team four times in one season is a tall order, but the Horsemen did it. Leading by four with three minutes remaining, they stalled, and won 35-31. The following week they won the Hammond Regional, routing the East Chicago Roosevelt Roughriders 40-24 in the championship game.

There was general agreement among Indiana sportswriters that Hammond was the toughest of the 1942 semistates, based primarily on the quality of the coaches. Everett Case (Frankfort), Cliff Wells (Logansport), and John Wooden (South Bend Central) would eventually be enshrined in the Naismith Memorial Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass. Keith Crown would make it into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Coach Crown's immediate task was to find a way to beat Coach Case's Frankfort Hot Dogs in the second afternoon game of the Hammond Semistate on Saturday, March 14. He and Gary Horace Mann's fervent fan base had been waiting 13 years to avenge their loss to Frankfort in the 1929 IHSAA state championship. Here was their chance.

On paper, the teams looked very similar. Both had veteran leadership, balanced scoring, played tight man-to-man defense, and were adept at the delayed offense. The Horsemen had a height advantage at center, where Dan Mellinger had three inches on the Hot Dogs' Charles Stine. Frankfort had been ranked No.7 in the UP poll in late January, but had fallen out of the top 20 after four consecutive losses late in the regular season. Nonetheless the sports writers were mindful of Everett Case's four state championships in his previous 16 seasons, and the Hot Dogs' tough North Central Conference schedule. In a new AP poll prior to the start of the sectionals, they judged the Horsemen (26-1) as their fourth choice to win the tournament, with the Hot Dogs (21-7) rated No.6.

In his Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame biography, Everett Case is listed as, "Dynamic and passionate...a brilliant combination of coach, promoter,

and motivator and a master at both inspiring his players and exciting the crowds. An animated bench coach, the silver-haired 'Old Gray Fox' would constantly chew gum and urge his players on with motivational speeches." Keith Crown, by all accounts, was the polar opposite. Though well respected by his players, he confined most of his coaching strategy to practices. During games, including halftime, he said little. Dan Mellinger (GHM '42) recalled that Crown rarely spoke or made halftime adjustments. As Tom Dakich (GHM '47) tells it, "Coach didn't rant and rave at halftime. Mostly he would rub us all down with some liniment. He talked a little about strategy, but mostly let the captains tell us what we weren't doing correctly."

Coach Case's stated strategy was to "mix it up" with the taller Horsemen. He knew Horace Mann didn't have its usual "muscle." The game evolved into a pushing and shoving match, with 37 fouls called - 19 against the Hot Dogs and 18 against the Horsemen. In the second quarter, captain Bob Mathews of Horace Mann fouled out, as did Ted Hazelwood of Frankfort. Coach Case inserted reserve forward John Oster into the game as a hatchet man. At some point, Coach Crown made what many observers considered a grave tactical error. He countered with his own hatchet man, little-used reserve forward Don Morfee, instead of scorer Dick Dolato. The Horsemen led 23-22 in the third quarter when the Hot Dogs' reserve guard, Bill Zobrist, averaging 2.9 points per game, hit three straight field goals. The Hot Dogs never looked back, winning 45-32. Zobrist had a career game, scoring 17 points. In an era when shooting 20% from the field and 50% from the free throw line was considered good, the Hot Dogs shot 26.7% from the field and hit 21 of 25 free throws. By contrast the Horsemen shot 16.7% from the field and hit 14 of 26 free throws. Norman Wherry, Gary Post-Tribune sports editor, attributed the Frankfort win to aggressiveness: "Rock 'em and sock 'em! ... Horace Mann was beaten because it failed to match the all-out aggressiveness of the Hot Dogs. Coach Everett Case had the Hot Dogs steaming hot. They

were out there to beat the Horsemen if they died in the attempt." The Horace Mann fans were less charitable. Until their dying days, many of them blamed Keith Crown for costing Horace Mann's finest team a chance at the Indiana state high school basketball championship. One thing's for sure - not many coaches beat Everett Case in tournament play. Later that same day, Case sent young John Wooden's South Bend Central Bears packing, 28-24.

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**Final Editor pro tem's note:** The Saturday I stopped in Wolf Lake to check things out, I was referred to the local VFW, the only place open at 6 pm. The people were friendly and helpful in answering my questions as best they could. Names I jotted down were Mike and Connie Jasper, Ken and Doris Ott, and Scott and Tammy Crance. I promised to send them a copy of this newsletter. Hopefully, whoever receives it will make copies for the Keister brothers, who I was told were still living just outside of Wolf Lake. I was given directions to their homes but took a wrong road. As much as I would have enjoyed talking to the brothers, it was getting dark and I didn't want to have the brothers answering their door to a total stranger, so in a disappointed way I headed back to Fort Wayne. Another unbelievable coincidence happened at last year's

#### Gary Mann Horsemen

Coach: Keith Crown

	Pos.	Ht.	Cl.
Don Morfee	F	6 - 0	Sr.
Ray Partee	F	5 - 9	Sr.
Bob Mathews	F	6 - 0	Sr.
Dan Mellinger	C	6 - 3	Sr.
Harvey Hayden	G	5 - 11	Sr.
Bob Sierra	G	5 - 11	Jr.
Dick Olson	G	6 - 0	Sr.
Dick Groberg	C	6 - 4	Sr.
Ralph Weiger	G	6 - 4	Jr.
Dick Dolato	F	5 - 9	Sr.

Rensselaer	49 - 23
EC Roosevelt	37 - 18
Gary Tolleston	45 - 26
Gary Emerson	20 - 11
Valparaiso	31 - 16
FW South Side	34 - 31
Whiting	40 - 18
Gary Froebel	38 - 27
Crawfordsville	36 - 17

#### \* Gary Holiday Tourney

* Gary Lew Wallace	55 - 22
* Gary Froebel	37 - 27
Gary Lew Wallace	40 - 21
Gary Emerson	35 - 22
Hammond Tech	35 - 26
Evansville Central	25 - 27
EC Washington	34 - 30
Valparaiso	43 - 20
Hammond Clark	40 - 25
Gary Froebel	36 - 35
Gary Lew Wallace	37 - 34 ot
Gary Emerson	35 - 20

#### Gary Sectional

Portage	57 - 40
Gary Froebel	35 - 31
Gary Lew Wallace	31 - 24
Hammond	46 - 40

#### Hammond Regional

Michigan City	31 - 26
EC Washington	40 - 24

#### Hammond Semi-Final

Frankfort	32 - 45
	26 - 2

Rivers Festival in Fort Wayne. I met John Reed's granddaughter and promised to send her a copy of this newsletter. I've misplaced her address. Hopefully I'll find it or see her again at this year's festival. If anybody knows her whereabouts or address, please contact me by email at [harleysheets@yahoo.com](mailto:harleysheets@yahoo.com) or by phone (317) 745-6788.