

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 \$8 per year. They run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 and include four newsletters. Lifetime memberships are no longer offered, but those currently in effect continue to be honored. Send dues, address changes, and membership inquiries to

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EDITORIAL POLICY

The opinions expressed in *Boxscore* by individual authors do not necessarily reflect the views of IHSBHS as an organization.

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES A cordial welcome goes out to new members Michael Davidson of Seymour, John Dyson of Crawfordsville, and Carl McNulty of Kokomo. Carl, a former All-American selection at Purdue in the early 1950s and later a career high school coach in Indiana, will be the subject of an article that's planned to appear in our next issue.

The paid-up IHSBHS membership list now stands at 123, according to a recent count. We haven't advertised or promoted our organization by any substantive measure since its inception 18 years ago, so a short-term membership drive will probably be

conducted sometime within the near future. Current members can help by getting the word out to friends about subscribing to *Boxscore*. Right now, a target of 75 new memberships seems a reasonable goal to shoot for--*Editor*.

PREZ SEZ

by

Roger Robison

(A) Book Reviews for your Christmas list:

1. Baseloe, Frank J. "I grew up with basketball: 20 years of barnstorming with cage greats of yesteryear". University of Nebraska Press, 2012, pp 256, \$16.95.

2. Walker, J. Samuel. "ACC Basketball: the story of the rivalries, traditions, and scandals of the first two decades of the ACC". University of North Carolina Press, 2011, pp 416, \$30.00. Used \$6.95 + s & h.

3. Mac's Boys, 1953 Hurryin' Hoosiers, used, \$1.95 + \$4.00 s & h.

Comments: The Baseloe book is a classic from 1952 and is available in many libraries or for sale on e-Bay and other book vendor websites. It is about the years 1900 to 1925 and written by a guy who played then. This ACC book recounts how Hoosier Everett Case brought basketball to Tobacco Road,

using many Hoosier players from the Calumet Region and the NCC. And when was the last time I.U. started four native-born Hoosiers? You can read about the 1953 NCAA champs of Schlundt (Washington-Clay), Farley (Winslow), Leonard (T.H. Gerstmeyer), and Scott (Tell City), along with others on that team. This book is available used from Amazon.com.

(B) Indianapolis Yearbook collections are now available online for your research at <http://archive.org>.

The following can be found (with a lot of diligence): 1. Arsenal Tech, 1914-2011; 2. Manual 1896-2010; 3. Broad Ripple 1937-1989; 4. Washington 1932-1988; 5. Howe 1941-1975; 6. Shortridge 1898-1968. The latter is also found at <http://digitallibrary.imepl.org/cdm>. I got to the site but had a hard time getting the specific years I wanted.

(C) Changes in Indiana's h.s. Conference alignments will begin next year, effective for the 2014/15 school year. The venerable North Central, the state's first conference, established in 1926, will look like this: Muncie Central*, Anderson*, Logansport*, Richmond*, Kokomo*, Marion, W. L. Harrison, McCutcheon, & Lafayette Jefferson (* means charter members). The charter members were connected by

an inter-urban light rail system back in the twenties and thirties, but now our interstate highway system connects them all. The Metropolitan (Indianapolis Super Enrollments League) has added Pike and Lawrence Central while ejecting T.H. North and T.H. South. The latter two now replace the former two in Conference Indiana.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF IHSBHS & BOXSCORE

by Harley Sheets

After a four-year stream of correspondence with Joe Quigley who, before his death was residing in Georgia, I was paid a visit during his trip back to South Bend (Joe's native home) to see his parents. It was at this juncture that he and I decided to arrange a get-together with other like-minded high school basketball researchers with whom we had earlier come in contact. Arrangements were made to congregate at the Hall of Fame, thanks to then HOF executive director Ron Newlin. At this first gathering on June 24, 1994 were Don and Ruth White, Chuck and Evelyn Wolford, Earl Mishler, Ken Johnson, John Ockomon, Jack Poore, and Steve Brockman, along with Ron, Joe and myself. Soon thereafter, IHSBHS became a viable entity and then quickly a reality.

Within a couple of years our membership had grown to about 80--scattered to the near and far reaches of Indiana, along with a few out-of-staters. It seemed imperative also that an all-inclusive method of communication and information-sharing be established. The vehicle proposed to accomplish this was Boxscore. Next, we wondered who might be capable of organizing and editing the publication. At the time I did not own a computer and as far as I can remember there was no one with enough expertise to handle that chore. I don't recall now exactly how he handled the task, but Joe volunteered. He published the first four Boxscores starting with the Fall issue of 1996, but suddenly his health began to deteriorate and he was unable to continue. Bob Adams stepped into the breach for ten more issues before leaving the organization. At that point, I wondered whom we could call

upon now?!

Well, the Colts' war cry --"NEXT MAN UP" -- had to be applied. Even though I definitely didn't want that task and was still computer-less, I nevertheless decided to take it on. I had been schooled in a few complexities of these electronic devices by Rex Wilson, the proprietor of a print shop in my present home in Danville (IN), so I thought that as a pseudo-apprentice I might be able to handle the task at Rex's shop. So with a great deal of apprehension, I commenced and was ultimately able to organize and publish the next 18 issues, with the exception of one issue that was handled by our current president Roger Robison.

After that long personal grind, a competent computer tech named Gary McGrady came onto the scene, but after three issues he also had to bail out due to family and work obligations. Back to the grind I went for six more issues, but this time with very capable assistance from IHSBHS officers Tim Puet and Rocky Kenworthy. Finally, an IHSBHS member who had been trained in computer operations and news media compositions appeared. His name was Tom White. He volunteered to come to the rescue of Boxscore. As it turned out, his computer and composing skills were even exceeded by his abilities to organize and plan ahead. Tom handled the editorship of Boxscore skillfully and diligently for nineteen issues until ill health took its toll for the second time in the history of Boxscore. To our utter dismay, Tom passed away after languishing for a year from the effects of a stroke. It was thought, at the time, that IHSBHS's historical and informative newsletter might possibly be experiencing its final days, but once again it was salvaged without the loss of a single issue. I managed to do five more issues myself (with lots of help) before coming to the brink of throwing in the towel. Then, as we have all observed, long-time life member and contributor Cliff Johnson, with some valuable assistance from wife Juanita, took over and continues to exude ongoing optimism about Boxscore's future. As for your tired old former editor (me), it seems nearly miraculous

that our newsletter keeps on surviving all the perils that it has experienced. It could be some sort of heavenly intervention, but whatever it is works.

At the very inception of Boxscore, I had stated at a Board meeting that I had about 5 or 6 stories in mind that I could share with readers and that would be the extent of my writing contributions. However, in retrospect I was certainly way off base there, having surprised myself by writing more stories for Boxscore in the past 18 years than I can comfortably estimate. It is truly amazing what one might happen upon, either intentionally or by accident when delving into reels of newspaper microfilm, old periodicals, and other pubs. Give it a try, members. Contributions of great basketball tales is what will keep Boxscore moving forward.

INDIANA VS PURDUE BB RIVALRY: OVER THE YEARS, WHO'S AHEAD? by Cliff Johnson

The main campuses of Indiana University and Purdue University, located in Bloomington and West Lafayette, respectively, have a long history of general rivalry among the students, graduates, and supporters of each university. For lack of a well-defined term, I'd just call it "institutional rivalry." When that state of mind spills over into the competitive fields and courts of intercollegiate sports, it becomes an "intercollegiate athletics rivalry." After roughly a century, the "institutional rivalry" was abated somewhat and transformed into a cooperative academic enterprise in 1969 when the trustees of both schools agreed to establish a jointly administered regional campus in downtown Indianapolis. That campus, originally in existence as an extension of Indiana University, was christened IUUI. When this administrative partnership was first initiated, it introduced some degree of puzzlement and probable disillusionment into the minds of many patriotic sports followers from both institutions. However, as additional I.U. and Purdue campuses and satellites

throughout the state sprang up and each developed its own teams and athletic programs, the basic I.U./Purdue athletics rivalry at these newer schools quickly became extinct. For the athletic programs, it was almost as if no connection to the original two I.U. and P.U. campuses ever existed. Each school's athletic program became independent, having its own colors, nickname, mascot, and fight song. No apparent sports allegiance to the two mother campuses has remained evident.

However, the competitive rivalry in athletics between the two original campuses persists to this day and is just as fierce as ever. That sensation is felt by all team participants and spectators at every scheduled athletic event between the schools. It seems especially true of football, baseball, and basketball contests. I was an undergrad at Purdue, participating in athletics during the mid-1950s, and can recall the year the "Old Oaken Bucket" disappeared from Purdue's trophy case. This was a prize I.U./P.U. football trophy that was kept on display for the public by the school that managed to win the latest annual gridiron grudge match. In the eyes of the Purdue officials (and the local police), it was a clear-cut case of theft by persons associated with the I.U. campus who may have resented that Purdue had retained possession of the trophy for several consecutive seasons. That turned out to be the case (it was a prank) and the trophy was anonymously returned to the Purdue campus after a short while. The perpetrators were never publicly identified, but later in life and purely by coincidence I became acquainted with one of the culprits who swore me to secrecy before sharing the full story. I may be one of the privileged few who know how they pulled it off and caused so much angst among the Purdue faithful for several days. He remains a close friend to this day, and I have no plans to divulge his secret, but our intercollegiate rivalry, like that between the schools themselves, lives on.

Early Games

The very first basketball game played between these two schools was on

March 1, 1901 on the Purdue campus. The Boilermakers prevailed 20-15, but the odds might have been a little long for the Hoosiers since Purdue had been practicing and competing in a few scattered games ever since 1897, while it was the first season of play for Indiana. A return match on March 15, again at Purdue's home court, resulted in nearly the same margin of victory for the Boilers, 23-19. Purdue played an active schedule that season, finishing undefeated at 12-0 against a variety of colleges, high schools, and independent teams, while Indiana played in only five games, losing four of them—albeit each by slender margins.

The following season, 1901-02, was somewhat the same, with Purdue winning both contests against I.U. late in the season but this time by much wider margins, 32-8 and 71-25. The first game was played on the Indiana Men's Gymnasium court, the second on Purdue's phys ed home floor. Purdue was continuing its winning ways overall at 10-3, while I.U. improved its record to 4-4. Harry Reimann, a senior, led the Boilers' attack for the second straight season, while the Hoosiers relied on players like William Stone, Guy Cantwell, Charlie Carr, Darby Phelps, Edmund Elfers, and Alvah Rucker. Purdue had two more great seasons through 1903-04, finishing 8-0, and 11-2, despite competing without a coach in that latter season. But the Hoosiers too kept improving on their record, finishing 8-4 and 5-4.

Purdue continued its dominance over Indiana until Feb. 18, 1905 when the Hoosiers finally ended the drought with a resounding 29-14 win. Strangely, that was a wholesale reversal of an earlier 38-20 loss to the Boilers that same season. By this time the rivalry record stood at Purdue 9, Indiana 1. However, that breakthrough Feb. 18 victory prompted the hope for a change in fortune for the Hoosiers. Their supporters began to anticipate much better times, especially against the Boilermakers.

Indeed, that anticipation became reality, as Purdue began to suffer through some difficult seasons soon after the Western (later the Big Ten)

Conference was established. Its team had experienced four consecutive losing seasons by the time it began to recover early into the 1908-09 schedule. Meanwhile, Indiana picked up a little steam, with two consecutive 9-5 records during the 1906-07 and 1907-08 seasons. But the Hoosiers' were not able to gain much in their performances against the Boilers during that period. By the end of the 1908-09 season the tally between the teams still greatly favored Purdue 13-3.

Furthermore, beginning with the 1909-10 season, Purdue got red hot. Its new coach, Ralph Jones, with the advantage of playing in the brand-new Memorial Gymnasium on campus, initiated a firehouse brand of basketball that encompassed the relatively new concept of fast-break offense, adopted in later years to dizzying heights by the notorious "Hurryin'" Hoosiers. Jones remained at the Purdue helm for three seasons, completing 8-5, 12-4, and 12-0 records. By some accounts, the 1912 five was recognized as one of the best in the nation. One of its players, a center named Dave Charters, was selected as an All-American in 1910 and 1911, and two others, guard Karp Stockton and center Ed McVaughn, made all-conference selection two years in a row. Jones also recruited two other future All-Americans: Elmer Oliphant and Larry Teeple. Indiana's overall season records slipped during this period, as did its rivalry record against Purdue, and by the end of the 1915-16 season, the count was 25-5 favoring Purdue.

Piggy Brings Home the Bacon

At the beginning of the 1916-17 season and America's participation in WW I, both schools hired new coaches. At Bloomington, G.S. Lowman served only one season but inspired the team to an all-time best record of 13-6. At Purdue, Ward "Piggy" Lambert was hired from Lebanon H.S. for one season before he volunteered for military service in 1918. He compiled an 11-3 record his first year and the team captured third place in the conference with a 7-2 mark. Returning to that post after the 1917-18 season, Lambert continued a 29-year career as head

coach at Purdue. During that time expanse he compiled a record of 371 wins against only 152 losses for a superlative .709 winning percentage, the best of any coach in Purdue's long history. A total of 228 of the wins were against conference foes. In addition, he captured 11 conference championships with the help of 200 or more star players who were recruited from high schools all over Indiana. During the decade of the '20s, some of those names included All-Americans or Hall of Famers such as Don White from Lebanon, Ray Miller from Rochester, Charles "Stretch" Murphy from Marion, Blair Gullion from New Castle, Glen Harmeson from Indianapolis Manual, George Spradling and Wilbur Cummins from Frankfort, and Harold "Babe" Wheeler from T.H. Garfield.

Understandably, I.U. was still not able to begin equalizing the series with Purdue throughout the decade, even though its season records were generally respectable and several star players materialized. Some of the best ones were Everett Dean from Salem, Jim Strickland from Owensville (see accompanying story "My Dad the Shooter" this issue), Branch McCracken from Monrovia, Mike Nyikos from S.B. Central, Julius Krueger and Bob Correll from Bloomington, and Dale Wells from LaPorte. Everett Dean, a few years after his graduation, returned to I.U. as a coach, staying on through the 1937-38 season, coaching Stanford to an NCAA championship in 1942, and becoming a coaching legend. In 1926, the Hoosiers finished in a tie with Michigan for the conference championship. Two years later, the team finished with a 15-2 record, its best up to that time, and shared the conference crown with the Boilers. But by the end of the 1929-30 season, the series with Purdue still stood at a dismal 9-38 and presented a sizeable yet not impossible gap to try and close. Things seemed bound to eventually even out because, ever since the beginning, both schools were harvesting their crops from the same field, so to speak. Each looked primarily to the state's home-grown boys to form their teams. The state of Indiana, as most folks fully know, is renowned for the amount and

degree of talent consistently developed at the high school level. Indiana, in fact, has always been recognized as the state where high school basketball originated.

Starting in the 1930s, I.U.'s teams gradually began to hit unprecedented heights. Between 1933 and 1939, the Hoosiers never suffered a losing season and the 1935-36 year was a particular cause for celebration, with that squad winning 18 games overall and losing only two, the best season record in the conference. The conference championship belonged jointly to the Hoosiers and Boilermakers that year, with each team having identical 11-1 records. The two programs together were beginning to dominate the Midwest and were drawing media attention on a national scale as well. I.U. had another great season in 1938-39 at 17-3 and was recognized as one of the half-dozen most powerful teams in the nation. A few nationally-recognized I.U. players during the decade were Vernon Huffman from New Castle, Woody Weir from Scottsburg, Willard Kehrt and Ken Gunning from Shelbyville, Ernie Andres and Bill Johnson from Jeffersonville, and Fred Fechtman from Ind. Manual.

Meanwhile, at Purdue, coach Lambert continued piling up victories from 1930 through 1939, winning 148 games against only 39 losses in conference and non-conference play. The Boilers won the conference crown outright four times and finished near the top of the standings every one of the other years. They were ranked well within the top twenty teams in the nation in every season but two—1933 and 1939—and even those were winning seasons. It was certainly a banner decade for the Gold and Black. Some of the players receiving national acclaim were John Wooden from Martinsville, Ray Eddy and William "Dutch" Fehring from Columbus, Norm Cottom from T.H. Wiley, Emmett Lowery from Ind. Tech, Harry Kellar from Illinois, Ralph Parmenter from Speedway, Bob Kessler from Anderson, Jewell Young from Lafayette, and Gene Anderson from Franklin. By 1939, I.U. had lost still more ground to Purdue in the series and the count was now 50-11.

Here Come the Hoosiers

I.U. ushered in the decade of the '40s by winning the national championship at Kansas City in March, 1940. It was only the second season for NCAA year-end tournament play. Branch McCracken's squad was led by Paul "Curly" Armstrong and Herman Schaefer from F.W. South Side, Bill Menke from Huntingburg, Marvin Huffman (younger brother of Vernon) from New Castle, Bob Dro from Berne, and Jay McCreary from Frankfort. The Hurryin' Hoosiers also came in a close second to the Boilermakers in the chase for the conference title. The team lost only three games all season, but all were to Western Conference foes. The irony was that the Boilers' only two conference losses were to the Hoosiers. Regardless, it was the 13th conference crown for the Boilers. I.U. finished with a record of 20-3 that year, while Purdue was 16-4. Purdue's defense was the stoutest in the conference, holding its opponents to the fewest points, and Lambert's offense was exceptionally balanced that year, with no single standout scorer. The team leaders were Fred Beretta from Bedford, Don Blanken and Forrest Sprowl from Illinois, Dan Fisher from Ohio, and Bob Igney from Rossville.

For the rest of the 1940s, I.U. produced six winning campaigns against three losing ones. McCracken's teams from 1941 to 1943 piled up 50 wins against only 11 losses. Harry Good, a veteran coach from Indiana Central, stepped in as interim coach while McCracken was in service, and his 1945-46 team went 18-3. That team was ranked fourth in the nation via a retroactive "Power Poll", devised by basketball statistician Pat Premo (St. Bonaventure, NY) years later. All-Americans and team stalwarts during this period included Andy Zimmer from Goodland, Lou Watson from Jeffersonville, Jack Wallace from Richmond, Ralph Hamilton from F.W. South Side, Bill Garrett from Shelbyville (also early 50s), and Bill Tosheff from Gary Froebel (also early 50s). Purdue began to struggle a bit during this time frame, but still came

away with 115 wins vs. 90 losses with talented men like Allen Menke from Huntingburg, Eddie Ehlers from S.B. Central, Paul Hoffman from Jasper, and Howie Williams from New Ross.

The end of Purdue's absolute dominance of the Western Conference was punctuated on Feb. 25, 1947, when a section of its fieldhouse bleachers collapsed during a game with Wisconsin, killing a few and injuring more than 100. By March 1949, the I.U. series gap had closed slightly, with Indiana winning 12 of 19 match-ups during that ten year period. The tally in the series now stood at 57-23 Purdue, at the start of the 1949-50 season.

The 1950s brought about separate winning streaks for I.U. and Purdue. The first half of the decade belonged to I.U., and the second half mostly to Purdue. The Hoosiers won thirteen straight games from the Boilers between 1949 and 1955 before finally being crushed at West Lafayette on Feb. 26, 1955, by a score of 92-67. In the five seasons before that shellacking, however, coach McCracken had constructed a dynamo at Bloomington. From 1950 through 1954, the Hoosiers had seasons of 17-5, 19-3, 16-6, 23-3, and 20-4. Not only did they capture two Big Ten titles during those years, but in 1953 they won the NCAA tournament with a squad composed of nearly all sophomores and juniors. In both 1952-53 and '53-54 they wound up atop the national AP/UPI rankings. Bill Garrett and Bill Tosheff led the team from 1949 to 1951, while Don Schlundt (Washington-Clay Twp.), Dick Farley (Winslow), Charlie Kraak (Illinois), Bob Leonard (T.H. Gerstmeyer), and Burke Scott (Tell City) were the major performers during the latter three seasons. Purdue, under new coach Ray Eddy, was still dealing with some disappointing seasons from 1950 through 1954. Eddy wasn't able to turn things around until 1955. One of his star performers though was Carl McNulty from Washington Twp. of Cass County. His rebounding strength, for a relatively small center (6'-3"), was sometimes beyond belief. McNulty gathered in a record 27 rebounds in a single Big Ten game during the '51-52

season. The slender strongman was also a high scorer, and was selected to several All-American lists during his junior and senior years.

The last half of the '50s decade saw Purdue again emerge as a conference power, with standouts like Joe Sexson (Ind. Tech), Lamar Lundy (Richmond), Jake Eison (Gary Roosevelt), and Willie Merriweather (Ind. Crispus Attucks), leading the way. Indiana coasted through these five years with pretty good records as well, somehow capturing Big Ten titles in '57 and '58 with mediocre season records (for them) of 14-8 and 13-11. The Hoosiers were led by Archie Dees (Illinois), Wally Choice (New Jersey), Frank Radovich (Hammond High), and Hallie Bryant (Ind. Crispus Attucks). During this five year period, Purdue won five of eight games from I.U., and by the end of the '58-59 school year Purdue's lead in the series was narrowed slightly to 62-36.

Maintaining Prominence

Entering the 1960s, it was widely recognized that both schools were recruiting high school talent good enough to routinely land either one in a national championship game. However, no such game materialized during the decade for either school. Nevertheless, the talent kept coming, and both teams continued with much success and several winning seasons. Purdue's total wins were 136, against 106 losses. I.U.'s record was similar, winning 134 games, while losing 108. In 1960, the Hoosiers were ranked sixth in the polls, and Purdue received the same ranking in 1969. The Hoosiers tied with Michigan State for the Big Ten title in 1967, while Purdue won it outright in 1969 and then went all the way to the final game in the NCAA tournament before bowing to John Wooden's UCLA powerhouse, 92-72. Exceptional performers for the Hoosiers during the decade included Walter Bellamy (North Carolina), Jimmy Rayl (Kokomo), Tom and Dick Van Arsdale (Ind. Manual), Tom Bolyard (F.W. South Side), and Butch Joyner (New Castle). Purdue's notables included Terry Dischinger (T.H. Garfield), Mel Garland (Ind. Tech), Dave Schellhase (Evansville North),

Bob Purkhiser (Bluffton), and Rick Mount (Lebanon). In the series, Purdue won ten, while I.U. took six, leaving the 60-year total at 72-42, still favoring Purdue by a wide margin.

Throughout the '70s, both teams achieved national prominence during one season or another. For Purdue, its best campaigns were in '69-70 (18-6), '73-74 (22-8) and '78-79 (27-8), but nearly every season between 1965 and 1978 they had come up winners under coaches George King and Fred Schaus, both former NBA stars. King was appointed coach in 1965 and served until the '70-71 season, while Schaus arrived in 1970 and continued on until 1978. Lee Rose finished out the decade with two great seasons in '78-79 (27-8, a tie for first place in the Big Ten, and an NIT championship) and again in 79-80 (23-10, with a trip to the NCAA Final Four). King's overall coaching record at Purdue was 109-64, Schaus finished at 105-59, and Rose was 50-18 in his more abbreviated stay.

Knighttime in Bloomington

Indiana's successes were even greater than Purdue's during the '70s. In the fall of 1971, coach Robert Knight arrived on the I.U. campus and immediately set about building a basketball program that in some minds rivaled Wooden's at UCLA. Knight was a hardened and experienced mentor, having served as head coach at the U.S. Military Academy and attaining five winning seasons out of six while there. By the end of his third season at I.U., Knight had compiled a 62-19 record while capturing two Big Ten titles. After that, his teams really got down to business. The 1974-75 season witnessed I.U. at the top of the polls with an undefeated powerhouse (31-0) going into a regional game of the NCAA tournament against the Kentucky Wildcats. However, Scott May, the Hoosiers' 6-7 All-American forward, had earlier broken his arm, so the Hoosiers were critically handicapped against the dangerous Lexington-based team. The Cats had finished fourth in the national polls with a 23-4 record. They squeaked by I.U. in the final seconds of play, 92-90. The following

year, with most of Knight's team returning, the Hoosiers pulled out all stops and again went undefeated at 32-0, this time capturing the national championship in the process. Knight continued with very strong teams the following three years too, winning the NIT championship in '79 by squeezing by Purdue in the final game 53-52. All-American players were abundant for Purdue and I.U. during the 1970s. For Purdue, some of the standouts were Bob Ford (Evansville North), Larry Weatherford (Evansville Bosse), Bruce Parkinson (Yorktown), Walter Jordan (F.W. Northrop), John Garrett (Peru), Frank Kendrick (Ind. Tech), and Eugene Parker (F.W. Concordia). Indiana's top players included George McGinnis and Steve Downing (Ind. Washington), Joby Wright (Georgia), Steve Green (Silver Creek), Scott May (Ohio), Kent Benson (New Castle), Quinn Buckner (Illinois), and Mike Woodson (Ind. Broad Ripple). In the I.U. vs Purdue series for the decade, the Hoosiers won ten games while the Boilers won eight. The tally just before the 1979-80 season began stood at Purdue 80, I.U. 52.

The 1980s became another bonanza era for both schools. Indiana captured two more national championships during this period (1981, 1987), and copped the Big Ten crown five times. Their teams also ranked in the nation's top ten via the AP poll five times. Purdue broke into the AP's top ten only twice, but got to the NCAA tournament's Final Four under coach Rose in 1980 and arrived once at the "Sweet 16" in 1988 under new coach Gene Keady. In addition, the Boilermakers were conference champs three times, although a pair of those had to be shared with other Big Ten teams because of first-place ties.

On Feb. 23, 1985, at the conclusion of a comparative "off" season for both teams, coach Knight sailed a fiberglass first-row chair into the air which fell to the playing floor's surface at an oblique angle and skidded twenty feet into the end-court. The apparent reason was a questionable call by the officials, but Knight had also been upset by the performance of his team. In a later interview about the incident, he recalled

that he had spotted an elderly lady standing in the end-court without a chair, so he decided to offer her one (via airborne delivery, of course, to speed things up). A plausible explanation, and perhaps one that would augment his other rebuttals regarding such things as raucous arguments and scuffles with opponents, boosters, and spectators; battles with cops; verbal abuse of school officials; chokeholds and butt-kicks delivered to players; and retaliatory threats toward a few sports writers and interviewers here and there. Of course, there are those who haven't bought into his manifold explanations. Certainly, I would want to believe Coach Knight's revised versions of all those reported incidents. Besides, to my knowledge he's never shot anyone yet, in spite of being an accomplished hunter. Staying on guard in a duck blind, however, could never hurt. No one has ever accused Bob Knight of being short on character.

The 1980s produced some fine ballplayers at both schools, many of them being recruited by the NBA once their college days had ended. Among these at I.U. were Isiah Thomas (Illinois), Ted Kitchel (Lewis-Cass), Landon Turner (Indianapolis Tech), Randy Wittman (Ben Davis), Steve Alford (New Castle), Ewe Blab (Illinois), and Jay Edwards (Marion). Purdue countered with Joe Barry Carroll (Colorado), Troy Lewis (Anderson), Keith Edmonson (Texas), Todd Mitchell (Ohio), and Russell Cross (Illinois). I.U. won 11 rivalry games and Purdue 10 during the ten-year period. The running count by the end of the '80s stood at Purdue 90, I.U. 63.

Throughout the 1990s, neither I.U. nor Purdue experienced a losing season. Coach Knight continued with success at Bloomington, and Gene Keady's players also did well, but mainly just during regular-season play. Tournament play for both teams seemed somewhat disappointing, although I.U. did reach the Final Four in 1992, losing to runner-up Duke by three points. The Hoosiers also drove to the final eight the very next year before bowing to Kansas 83-77. I.U. tied with Ohio State for the Big Ten title in 1991, then won it outright in

1993. During the full decade, the Hoosiers, under coach Knight, won 229 games while losing only 94, a winning percentage of .709, highest in the Big Ten. Purdue came in second, winning 222 games and losing 96, for a .698 mark. The Boilers' best season during the decade was 1993-94, when their record was 29-5 and they advanced to the final eight before losing to Duke 69-60. Sweet 16 appearances were also made in 1998 and '99, although the team's competition in the early rounds seemed less than stellar. More significantly, they captured the Big Ten crown three straight years (1994, '95, and '96), the first time in conference history that this had been accomplished.

Stalwart players of the 1990s for Purdue included Steve Scheffler (Michigan), Cuonzo Martin (Illinois), Glenn Robinson (Gary Roosevelt), Brad Miller (East Noble), Woody Austin (Richmond), Brian Cardinal (Illinois), and Chad Austin (Richmond). For Indiana, the top players included Calbert Cheaney (Evansville Harrison), Brian Evans (T.H. South), Damon Bailey (Bedford North Lawrence), Greg Graham (Warren Central), Alan Henderson (Ind. Brebeuf), and A.J. Guyton (Illinois). In the rivalry series during the 1990s, 21 games were played with Purdue winning twelve and Indiana nine. The one hundred-year series stood at Purdue 102, Indiana 72, a thirty game lead for the Boilers.

Winning Traditions into the New Century

For the past 14 seasons (2000-2013), both teams have continued their winning traditions, albeit each has experienced several losing seasons--more than either has seen in quite some time. Each period of downturns, however, has been followed by great recoveries. Coach Knight left the employ of I.U. after the 1999-2000 season, amid controversy associated with abusive behavior. The Hoosiers immediately began to slip, and didn't fully recover as a Big Ten power until 2007. Coach Knight rang up 902 victories during his coaching career, more than any other Division I coach in history at the time of his retirement in 2008. Since then his total wins has been

eclipsed by only two coaches, Mike Krzyzewski of Duke and Jim Boeheim of Syracuse. However, the .709 mark for overall winning percentage matches that of Purdue's Ward Lambert, and today stands as one of the best in the history of college basketball coaching. Coach Keady retired after Purdue's 2004-05 season, leaving a W-L mark of 512-270 for a winning percentage of .655. He also left an overall record of 550-289 within the college ranks, for a mark of .702. During the 2012-13 season, Keady was still serving in retirement as assistant coach for St. John's University. One of the curious aspects of Keady's career is that, while he was known as a well-rounded athlete in his younger years, there seems to be no written evidence that he participated in competitive basketball.

For Indiana, the past fourteen years have yielded 265 wins against 189 losses, a winning mark of .583. The Hoosiers made two significant runs in NCAA tournament play—one in 2002 when they got to the Final Four, the other in 2012 when they made it to the Sweet 16. Conference championships have been sparse, but they finished in a tie with Ohio State in 2002 and won it outright in 2013. Over the same period, the Boilermakers have won 275 and lost 186 for a mark of .597. They advanced to the Sweet 16 three times, in 2000, 2009, and 2010, and also won the conference championship in 2010.

Notable players for Indiana since 1999 have been Bracey Wright (Texas), D.J. White (Alabama), Kirk Haston (Tennessee), Jared Jeffries (Bloomington North), Jeff Newton (Georgia), Tom Coverdale (Noblesville), Eric Gordon (North Central), Victor Oladipo (Maryland), and Cody Zeller (Washington). Those from Purdue have included E'Twaun Moore (E. Chicago Central), Carl Landry (Wisconsin), JaJuan Johnson (Franklin Central), Robbie Hummel (Valparaiso), Willie Deane (New York), Chris Kramer (Huntington North), and D.J. Byrd (North Montgomery). It might be noted that the proportion of Indiana high school recruits for both I.U. and Purdue has dropped in the past several years. Some believe that this

phenomenon might be attributable in part to a major change made in the structure of competitive play at the high school level, back in 1997. That notion is not conclusive by any means, but the fact is that a diminishing percentage of home-grown boys make the major in-state squads these days when compared with earlier years.

During the most recent 14 seasons, 25 games have been played in the I.U. vs Purdue rivalry. Indiana has won 16 of them, Purdue nine. That makes the running count Purdue 111, Indiana 88. I.U. seems to be gradually closing the gap. Purdue's big lead in the series was built up mainly during the forty-year period of 1901-1939. If the series were limited to only the past 73 years, the running count would be reversed to favor Indiana, 77-68. However, we set about in this long narrative to determine which school is in fact leading the 112 years of competitive play. So at the start of the 2013-14 season, Purdue has a 23-game overall win margin.

Regardless of the results for this ongoing series, there is little doubt that both programs together have dominated the Big Ten (a.k.a. Western) Conference's standings ever since its beginning in 1906. They are, inarguably, its topmost leaders. At the time of this writing, Purdue has won the most conference championships, while Indiana is tied with Ohio State for second place. Additionally, Indiana has the highest conference winning percentage, while Purdue is a close second in that category. Purdue has won the most total games in the conference, and Indiana is second. Purdue alone has an overall winning record against every other conference member. On top of all this, I.U. and Purdue have made indelible marks in NCAA competition, as well as in the overall history of college basketball. The state of Indiana can be very proud of its two big-time rivals.

MY DAD, THE SHOOTER

by

James Strickland, M.D.

Editor's Note: James Strickland Sr. (the dad, in this personal account) was a college All-American basketball player

who graduated from Indiana University in 1929. His son's story was recently submitted to Boxscore by IHSBHS member Gordon Mehaffey of Cambridge City. Thanks, Gordon. And thanks, James Jr.

Basketball is my game. I come by that naturally, being from Indiana and being my father's child. You see, my dad could really shoot a basketball. He developed this skill in the 1920's, in Owensville, a small southern Indiana town with a population of about 650 at that time. My granddad was a good old-time country doctor who was often called away to tend to the sick, make horse and buggy house calls, and deliver babies. So as dad was growing up, he had a lot of time to himself. He spent it shooting baskets in his back yard.

Everybody knew my granddad simply as "Doc." Doc had built dad a basketball goal in their back yard. It had a wooden backboard with a black metal rim, a ragged grey net, and a stout, rusted metal pipe holding it all up. Dad's practice routine started by monotonously dribbling a worn leather ball out to a variety of positions well away from the basket, where he would shoot a stationary shot from waist level. He would follow the ball to the basket, retrieve it and shoot again. He'd repeat that sequence time after time until my grandmother would call him in or it became too dark for him to continue. Dad's private shooting practices were a year-round ritual. Occasionally other boys would join him, but for the most part, it was a repetitive, monotonous, lonely self-discipline. Dad honed his skills into an absolutely textbook shooting ability. Some years later one national sports publication would describe that well-honed shot as "the classic two-handed set shot."

Dad was a big guy, especially big for that time (*ed. note: he was 6-4*). Yet though his hands were fairly large, he could barely palm the large laced leather basketballs they used back then. The key to his shooting was the way he positioned his hands on the ball. They would be placed on each side of the ball with the thumbs straight up, and the fingers extended forward and slightly

down. To shoot, he would drop his arms until the ball was at his waist and then add a little downward cock to his wrists until his fingers pointed almost straight down. He would then bring his arms up and un-cock the wrists until the combination of motions would bring his hands forward and up, as he released the ball.

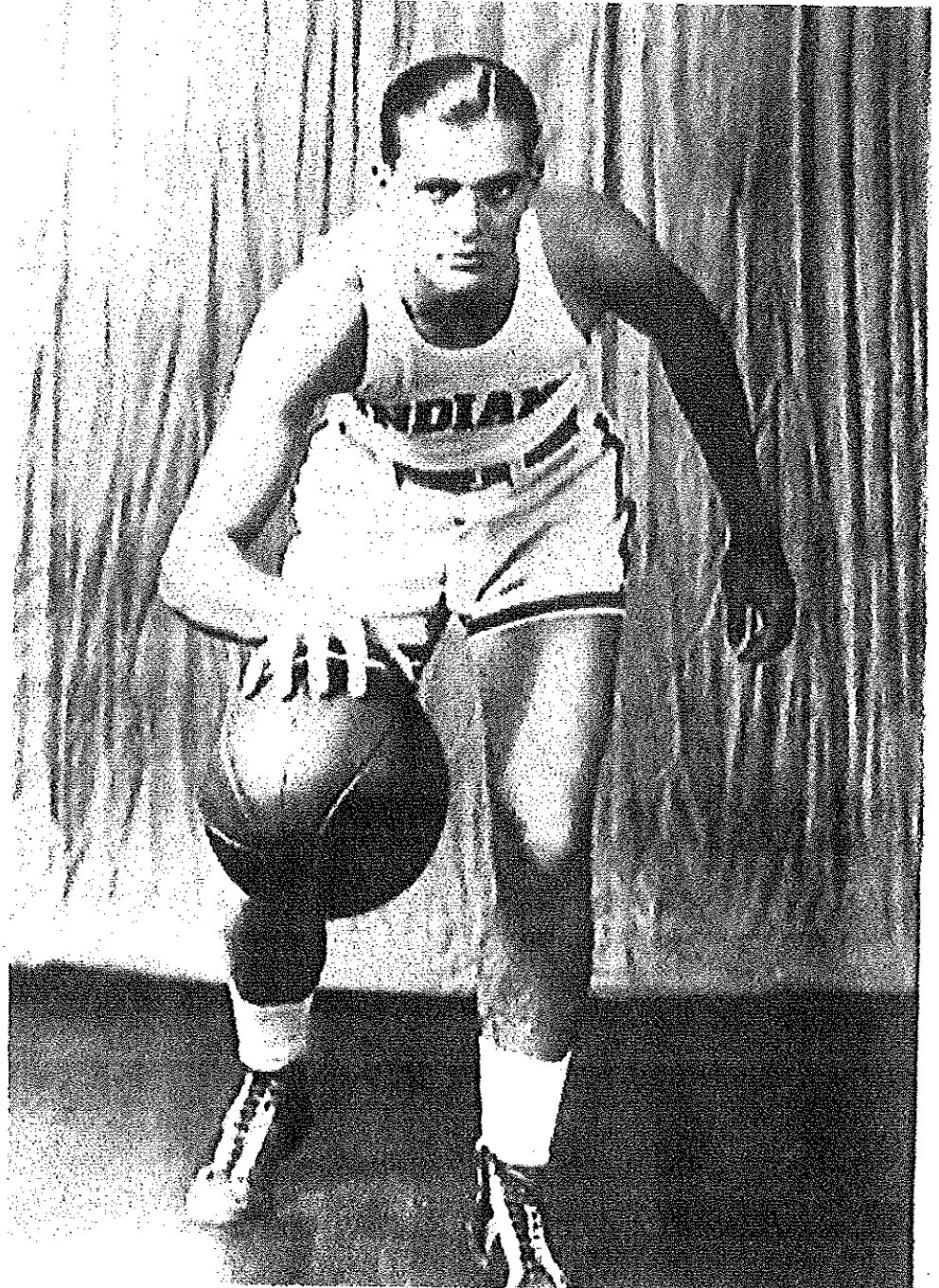
This rolling movement resulted in a tremendous amount of backspin and a trajectory and direction that rarely missed. Dad could hit that shot with deadly accuracy whether he was five or thirty-five feet from the basket. He made his free throws almost automatically, and even well after retiring from active competition he could stand at any free-throw line, anywhere, and hit shot after shot.

Now, to put my dad's ability in perspective, you need to know that one-handed shooting was a later development. In fact, it wasn't used much until I played high school ball back in the early 1950s. And to put that in perspective, I later played against Oscar Robertson, who had a great one-handed shot. Incidentally, Robertson played college basketball for the University of Cincinnati, where he led the nation in scoring three times and was twice college Player of the Year. He went on to become one of the all-time great players and has been inducted into the high school, the college, and the professional Halls of Fame. That two-handed set shot of dad's, though, ultimately gave way to the two handed push shot from chest level, then to the one-handed push shot, then to the one-handed jump shot, and finally to the many creative techniques for achieving a spectacular slam dunk. But back when they shot two-handed, my dad--the shooter, was the best. He perfected that shot with tremendous backspin--more than most players today can achieve with their one-handed shots. That great shooting ability carried him a long way. In 1929, he was selected as Indiana University's second All-American player. And I know that my whole life has been influenced by the intensity, the devotion, and the character he put into developing his skills.

After college, dad went to New York City. He played for five years at what was then called the "Mecca" of U.S. amateur sports--The New York Athletic Club. He also taught and coached underprivileged boys. To supplement his meager income during those depression times, he played professional basketball in upstate New York under the name Strickelvitich. That was so he wouldn't lose his amateur standing. He'd married by then, and in 1935, when mother announced that I was on the

way, he decided they should return home to Indianapolis to settle down and raise a family. Dad would not play organized basketball again, but that shot--that glorious shot of his--became famous in every neighborhood where we lived.

It came in mighty handy at the 1948 Indiana State Fair, too. I was 12 years old then and convinced that my dad was the best basketball shooter in the world. A friend's family had taken me to the fair, where we saw several basketball



My Dad. James DeMotte Strickland 1929

shooting concessions on the midway. One in particular caught my eye. It had four rows of prizes ranging from cheap trinkets on the lowest row to stuffed toys on the second and third rows. And there, all alone on the top row, was a brand new Hutch leather basketball--lace strings and all! For twenty five cents, you would get three shots, and if you hit them all you could either quit and take a prize from the lowest shelf or you'd get three more free shots so you could move up to the second shelf of prizes, and then on to a higher shelf, etc. It would take twelve straight baskets to win the Hutch basketball. I deeply coveted that ball, so I couldn't wait to get my dad to the fair. I'd seen him make more than twelve shots in a row many, many times, so I never questioned that he could do it. That night at dinner, I described the situation to him, and we struck a deal. I had a little change so, naturally, I would back him, and "when" he won (but never "if"), the Hutch ball would be mine.

The next day, we warmed up for awhile, using our goal in the back yard, and then we headed for the fair. I brought along a grand total of fifty cents to finance dad's efforts, realizing there was an outside possibility he might miss a shot during his first series of tries. Of course, it was unthinkable that he might miss twice. At the fair, I grabbed dad's hand and pulled him directly to the concession. Dad looked the game over and immediately recognized several problems that I had overlooked. For one, the shot was not a routine free-throw. There were two goals, at least twelve feet high, with rims much smaller than regulation. The rims also were tilted asymmetrically with the ball return extending via a rail right to the front of the shooting platform. That rail was high enough that the shot had to be taken from at least eighteen feet away from the basket. Furthermore, there was a choice of only two balls, and both were rubber, not leather. They were worn smooth and lop-sided. As I recall, they also were dissimilar in weight and configuration, and the proprietor running the game alternately interchanged them to keep a shooter from becoming too familiar with a given

ball. As my dad looked over the situation, he could see that the game was very heavily stacked against the shooter. Before he stepped up to shoot, we watched many other hapless contestants pay their money, take and miss their shots, complain about the unfair conditions, and leave.

At last, it was dad's turn. I proudly reached out and paid the entry fee of twenty-five cents. Then dad stepped up on the platform. For a short time, he moved the ball around between his large hands, feeling for the best way to hold the warped orb. Then he began several practice motions, without releasing the ball. This convinced him that he would need to stand back a little farther to shoot his spinning, low-release, shot. He lifted the ball above his head first and hitched his shoulders to remove the tension. Finally, he was ready. I watched confidently as the familiar rolling motion sent the first shot toward the high, tilted basket. It rattled around the rim and dropped through, aided by the strong backspin. The next two shots were perfect though, and when he was asked if he wanted to accept a prize from the lowest row or go on, he never hesitated. Three more shots went through without touching the rim. Then he made the same decision to continue. Shot number seven was perfect. But then, much to my disbelief and horror, he missed shot number eight! Dad turned and looked at me with disappointment, and he murmured, "Sorry, Chum." "Hey, Pop," I said. "Don't worry about it." I've got another twenty-five cents." With that, I gave the proprietor my last quarter, patted my dad on the back, and cheerfully returned to my spot behind the platform. By then, a crowd had gathered and the proprietor appeared delighted. He must have also been quite certain that his expensive top prize was safe. In retrospect, the crowd's cheering must have added considerably to the formidable pressure on my dad, but, once again, he began his mechanized shooting motion. Three, six, then nine in a row!

As dad reached each new level, I simply nodded to the man that dad wanted to keep on shooting. Ten, then

eleven--each shot was perfect. The eleventh basket actually brought a huge cheer from the gallery, which now had become enormous. Then, there was a hush. The concession man dropped the most lop-sided ball at dad's feet in an obvious effort to break his concentration. Dad picked it up without changing expression, rolled the ball a few times in his hands, took a deep breath and sent the rubber sphere on its way. The only sound was the swish of the ball going through the center of the nets. Then there was a tumultuous cheer. I leaped to the platform to hug my dad. The concession man conceded that it was the only Hutch ball he'd relinquished all year. Happily, but graciously, my dad and I accepted the basketball from the top row.

I was beaming with pride as we strolled down the midway, hand in hand, with that new leather ball tucked under the other arm. I'll never forget that experience because beyond being one of those magical moments where your parent is your hero, it was a tribute to the skill and patience he had developed in those lonely backyard practices so many years before.

I practiced and played with that Hutch ball until it completely wore out. And dad's midway feat eventually just became family lore. Life had to go on. In fact, it wasn't until dad was in his 80s and in failing health that I fully reflected upon that magical day at the state fair. It was then that I truly realized the magnitude of that odds-defying performance. Fortunately, I had the chance to share those moments with him and thank him for the memory before he died. From time to time now, when I have occasion to re-think past moments of my life, I re-live that wonderful day at the fair with My Dad, The Shooter.

IHSAA COULD LEARN A THING ABOUT BASKETBALL FROM KENTUCKY

**by Andy Graham, Columnist
Bloomington Herald-Times**

The truth hurts, Hoosiers: Kentucky is smarter. Not in general, of course. And not just about implementation of Common Core curriculum in K-12 education (although that happens to be

true, too).

But Kentucky is smarter about the sport that Hoosiers historically and traditionally claim as their own — high school basketball. Because Kentucky figured out a great answer to multi-class basketball issues a long time ago, and Indiana still hasn't come up with one.

Now the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association, full of smart folks who care deeply about Hoosier Hysteria, has forwarded a plan to alter the current four-class format. I had always assumed it virtually impossible for anybody to come up with a hybrid plan for a new Indiana tournament format I couldn't fully support. Unfortunately, such a plan is the one currently circulating among IBCA membership in preparation for a vote next month. Goodness knows, the tournament needs fixing, and the IBCA is well-intended. Many of its members are long-serving enough to know that the current misbegotten four-class format was largely a disaster when implemented by the Indiana High School Athletic Association for the 1997-98 season.

The IHSAA tournament lost 44 percent of its attendance and over half its revenue over the three years immediately after the current format was shoved down Hoosiers' throats. And those numbers haven't really improved in the interim. Only 22,820 fans attended the 2012 boys' basketball state finals (all four games), the lowest number in history, and that year's total tournament attendance of 385,024 was the lowest of the multi-class era.

But rather than offer a simple fix that might rekindle more of the strengths inherent in the old tournament, that might galvanize fans again, the proposed IBCA plan seems overly complicated. It reads like something proposed by an 18-member committee. Which it was. The gist of the plan is: a shift from four classes to three, but with two divisions at the sectional level for each of the three classes, all based upon enrollment.

The largest class, 3A, would have 64 teams, split evenly into two divisions (the bigger division featuring an enrollment differential between 4,687 and 1,935 and the smaller from 1,929 to

1,504, utilizing current figures).

For 2A, the larger division would feature 64 schools (from 1,496 to 819 enrollment) and the smaller division 96 schools (from 810 to 469.) For 1A, there would be 96 schools in the 482-282 enrollment division and 85 in the 281-59 division.

Sectional winners from the smaller division from each class would play winners from the larger division in that class at the regional level, providing at least a slight nod to the David-Goliath matchups the old tournament featured. Then the tournament would proceed, finishing with three state champions. The larger classes would see four-team rather than six-team sectionals, in an effort to localize the tournaments and cut down on travel issues, given the shortage of large schools in some areas of the state.

Not every element of this plan is unwise or undesirable, by any means. But I fear it falls well shy both in terms of rendering meaningful change or engendering enthusiasm. IBCA stalwart Tom Beach, who had a great run coaching at Forest Park and is now an assistant at Anderson College, said he and other committee members know the plan isn't necessarily optimal. But they consider it a step in the right direction, and once the change is potentially made, it can be incrementally improved. Beach said they tried to come up with a workable format that would be politically viable, in terms of the IBCA vote, and could serve the germane constituencies well. He acknowledged, like legislation, it was a bit like sausage-making.

"We faced a choice between trying either a total change or trying to come up with something that might pass, with some immediate change and possibly further improvements down the road," Beach stated recently. "It's a start. Lots of people want a single state champion again. Lots of people like the four classes we have right now. And there are a lot of people in between. It's a compromise. Like legislation in D.C., to get something, you have to give something, if anything is going to get done. Did I get everything I wanted? No. Did you? No. But we can work

together for the common good."

Kentucky already did. It came up with a grand solution several years back. It runs its small-school tournament play at the tail end of winter break and into January, essentially conducting county-level tournaments and then extending things for a couple of weeks. Then everybody gets together in March for the big, all-inclusive tournament along the lines of what Hoosiers used to know and (mostly) love. South of the Ohio River, it's the best of both basketball worlds, so to speak. Multi-class and single-class. Just at different times in the season. This whole issue requires that sort of solution. A go-big-or-go-home approach. If you have bad soup, stirring doesn't help. You throw it out. You start over.

Herald-Times sports writer Andy Graham can be reached at 812-331-4215 or by email at: agraham@heraldt.com. Follow him on Twitter@htograham.



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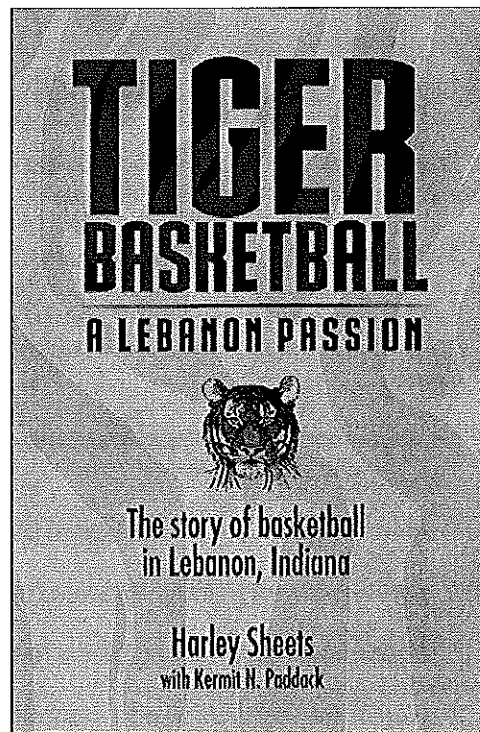
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