

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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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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2014 WINTER ISSUE

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: On the last two pages of this issue is a list that presents all the current members of IHSBHS. Please find your name on it, and if your member expiration date, shown in parentheses, is (13) or (14) it means that as of Nov. 15, 2014 we are awaiting your \$8 membership dues for 2015. Remittance should be mailed to our Treasurer, Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN, 46118.

Beginning in 2015, a \$2 dues increase must be initiated, from the present \$8 per year to \$10. Sorry about that, but it is necessary, owing to recent postal rate changes. The \$8 rate stays in effect until January though, so get your dues in

quickly to save a couple of bucks. Small donations are always appreciated of course, to help keep our tiny treasury balance in the black.

Some good news is that we've hit an all-time high for total membership! Last December we had 123 in tow, and now we have 144. More new members are anticipated to join us before the end of this year too, and some former members who allowed their dues to lapse may also be thinking about re-joining us. This membership growth might mean that you are all enjoying our newsletters as much as we enjoy delivering them to you. We still welcome personal anecdotes from any of you, so please don't hesitate to talk about yourself and/or your experiences. We all relish

hearing about them.

New members (several out-of-state, we've noticed) since our last edition of *Boxscore* was released, are as follows: Bill Butcher, Chandler; Jeff Curtis, Plainfield; Patrick Dunigan, Bloomington; Michael Dunigan, South Carolina; Dr. G.E. Dunigan, Mount Vernon; Margaret Fleming, Texas; John Knote, West Lafayette; Travis Maxey, Kentucky; Jim McKinney, Carmel; Benjamin Tomak, Delaware; Garrett Tomak, Westfield; Jeffery Robertson, New Palestine; Terry Schoenherr, Goshen; and Eric Starks, Bloomington. Welcome to IHSBHS! If we've missed anyone, please be sure to let us know.

Editor

THE 1950 INDIANA ALL-STARS



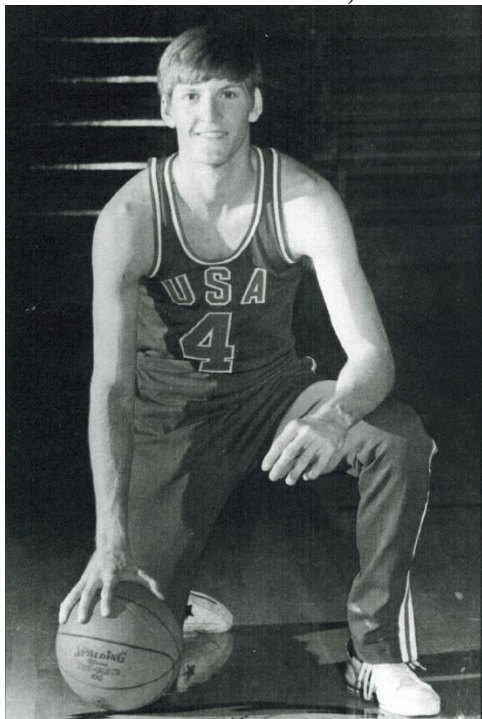
★ 1950 ★

FRONT ROW Left to Right: Ted Server, Madison; Pat Klein, Marion; Entee Shine, South Bend Central; Bob Clayton, New Albany; Spence Schnaitter, Madison. BACK ROW Left to Right: Trainer Jim Morris, Harry Hobbs, Sheridan; Gene Wilson, Anderson; Dick Farley, Winslow; Keith Stackhouse, Bourbon; Jerry Ellis, New Castle; Coach Wilbur Allen.

(continued from page 1)

Our photo is of the graduated seniors who comprised the 1950 Indiana All-Stars, selected by the media sportswriters as the best high school players in the state during the 1949-50 basketball season. This team conquered the Kentucky All-Stars 70-57 in the annual June classic. The Madison Cubs, state champions that year under Coach Ray Eddy, had two boys on this team, Spence Schnaitter and Ted Server. Pat Klein of the runners-up Marion Giants, also pictured here, was named "Mr. Basketball." Conspicuously omitted from the sportswriters' 10-player selection, however, as pointed out recently by board member John Ockomon, was College All-American Bob Leonard of the national championship Indiana Hoosiers. Bob was a stellar performer for the Terre Haute Gerstmeyer Black Cats for three years, 1948-50. He was named as one of the two "alternates" for this All-Star team.

BILL BUTCHER INDIANA ALL-STAR, 1975



Bill Butcher is recognized as one of the best of the all-time greats who have played ball for Loogootee High School's storied basketball program. He was coached by his father, Hall of Fame member Jack Butcher. This tandem was one of the more successful father-son

duos in the long history of Indiana basketball. Jack remains to this day atop the list of coaches who have won the most high school basketball games in Indiana (806), while 56-year-old son Bill still holds many statistical records and tops the all-time list of Loogootee players in games won during his high school career (84).

In four seasons of varsity participation, the younger Butcher could do it all: scoring, rebounding, ball-handling, providing assists, serving as the team leader, and inspiring his team at critical moments during tight ballgames. He was also noted for blocking opponents' shot attempts and playing stout defense. The list of local and statewide scholastic & athletic awards and honors bestowed upon him during his four years of high school is too lengthy to detail within a short article like this one. Suffice it to say that he was generally recognized as one of the best high school basketball players in Indiana during the time frame of 1971-75. In fact, one widely-circulated magazine rated him as one of the top TWO players in Indiana during his senior year.

He was a prolific scorer, ringing up a total of 1,349 points from a guard position--without having the extra advantage of the three-point FG rule that was initiated a decade later. His total point output might well have vaulted toward the 2,000 mark if that rule had been in effect at the time.

In stature, Bill sprouted from about 5 feet 9 his freshman year to 6 feet 1 by the time he graduated. His rebounding ability at the guard position became extraordinary, enabling him to capture more than 300 rebounds in four seasons, most of those during his junior and senior years. His acute passing skills were responsible for a record career assists total that matched his rebounds total of more than 300. He was a scrapper on the court, too, and set a Lions' career record for ball steals that exceeded 230.

Loogootee, under Bill's floor leadership, won its sectional championship in each of his four varsity years. These were Loogootee's most dominant seasons in its long basketball

history, although the Lions were consistent winners under the 45 years of Jack Butcher's tutelage and his vaunted three-out, two-under patterned offense.

Loogootee's record from 1972 through 1975 was 84-16, praiseworthy by any standard, but especially so for the tough competition that was always prevalent around the southeastern part of the state. Teams there included Washington, Jasper, Bedford, Mitchell, Bloomington, and the Larry Bird-led Springs Valley teams, to mention only a few. In 1974, Bill was actually pitted against Larry in what turned out to be a wild shoot-out for the conference championship. Loogootee won, with junior Bill tossing in 36 points and senior Larry accounting for 28. Springs Valley was never able to best Loogootee during Bill Butcher's four years on the team.

The 1974-75 season at Loogootee, Bill's final year on the team, was a memorable one. The Lions went through their regularly-scheduled season undefeated, then powered their way through the next eight games of the state tournament.

Nov. 15 Barr-Reeve	73-55
Nov. 19 Dubois	49-38
Nov. 27 Shoals	70-21
Nov. 30 Southridge	69-50
Dec. 3 Pike Central	76-61
Dec. 13 North Knox	85-23
Dec. 20 South Knox	84-48
Dec. 21 North Daviess	54-40
Jan. 3 South Knox	62-47
Jan. 7 Barr-Reeve	55-44
Jan. 10 North Daviess	51-45
Jan. 18 Bedford-No. Lawrence	55-45
Jan. 24 Bloomfield	45-41
Jan. 28 Springs Valley	82-50
Feb. 4 Mitchell	53-46
Feb. 7 Switz City	77-53
Feb. 11 Forest Park	46-44
Feb. 14 Orleans	68-51
Feb. 21 Bloomington North	54-52

Sectional	
Feb. 26 Barr-Reeve	62-44
Feb. 28 Pike Central	79-55
Mar. 1 Washington	55-39

Regional	
Mar. 8 Springs Valley	60-46

Mar. 8 Jasper	56-48
Semistate	
Mar.15 Terre Haute North	58-53
Mar.15 Seymour	62-47
Finals (afternoon)	
Mar.22 Columbus North	50-27

After 27 consecutive wins, the Lions wound up competing for the state title in the tournament's final game. It was against that always lethal North Central Conference championship dynamo, the Marion Giants, who had lost only one game during the regular season (to F.W. Snider, 75-66). The smaller Lions put up a stubborn battle, using a slowed-down protective version of the motion offense--engineered by coach Butcher and floor-managed by player Butcher. However, the Lions ultimately succumbed to the aptly-named Giants, 58-46. Adrenaline flowing, Bill Butcher had done his best to keep the Lions' chances alive during the game, with his quick drives, artistic passing, and accurate shooting. He led the team's efforts, and its scoring in that game as well, with 14 points, despite the fact that the Giants tried to bottle him up by double-teaming and at times even triple-teaming him, according to coach Butcher. The front line players for Loogootee all fouled out too, in a failed attempt to prevent the taller and heftier Giants from dominating the boards. In the final analysis though, the season had been a glowing success for the small-town Lions.

Just before his graduation, Bill was selected for the Indiana All-Star team that was to play Kentucky's All-Star team in two games during June. Indiana won both games, with Bill participating well in both.

After graduation, he enrolled in the fall of 1975 at his dad's alma mater, Memphis State University (now known as the University of Memphis). He quickly became the floor leader for its basketball team (the Tigers) and helped lead it to a selection slot in the 1976 NCAA tournament. Transferring to Hanover College, back in Indiana, Bill helped propel the Panthers to three straight conference championships in 1977, 1978, and 1979, culminating in an NAIA District 21 championship in 1979 with a 24-6 record. He then received his B.A. degree in business from Hanover, later that spring. By 1984, he had also pursued and attained an M.B.A. degree from Butler University.

In his first professional career, Bill Butcher quickly rose through the ranks to become vice president and senior regional credit officer for the third largest bank in Indiana. In 2006 he established his own financial services business, specializing in small business income tax preparation and providing retirement planning services.

At the time this article is being prepared for Boxscore, Loogootee's Bill Butcher has become a nominee for induction into the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Whether or not he becomes inducted via the voting procedure used by the HOF's screening

and selection committees cannot alter the fact that he remains one of Indiana's greatest court performers of all time, a consistent winner during his time period, and a small school hero of prominent proportions. FINIS

TIGER BASKETBALL, A LEBANON PASSION

by Kermit Paddack

As the saying goes, "in 49 states it is just basketball, but this is Indiana." In a state where basketball history is held in high regard, Lebanon can easily be called one of the most historically significant basketball towns in the state. Three of the first eight state champions, six Hall of Fame players, and a Mr. Basketball winner are just tokens of the record. Keeping that history alive is the primary purpose of the book *Tiger Basketball, A Lebanon Passion* (see *Order Blank on page 15*).

But before I proceed on the topic of *Tiger Basketball*, let me first explain how I got here. First, I am not from Lebanon and I did not even play basketball. I'm actually a football guy who graduated from Sheridan High School and have four generations of roots in that tradition. Despite attending a Hamilton County school I was a lifelong resident of Boone County until age 27. I always knew of Lebanon and spent a little time there but that was it. It was not until my days as a Purdue student that I learned about Rick Mount and some of the "old days" of Lebanon basketball (please keep in mind that "old days" is a relative term as I graduated high school in 2002). It was also at Purdue that I began to involve myself in researching local sports history, more specifically the long and storied tradition of football in my hometown of Sheridan which, incidentally, has captured nine state championships.

Eventually graduation came, and my wife-to-be and I found that Lebanon offered a good location for us to start our life together. When I decided to pursue a master's degree in library science, I managed to find a part-time job in the Heritage Center at the Lebanon's Carnegie Library. During downtime on the job, I needed something to work on and what could be

Marion (58)

Player	FG	FT	PF
Lester	2	2	4
Acord	6	0	3
Pearson	6	6	4
Colescott	4	2	0
Harris	2	6	4
Alumbaugh	0	0	0
Baumbaugh	0	0	0
Oatess	0	0	0
Peak	0	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0
Flynn	0	0	0
Neal	1	0	0
Totals	21	16	15

Loogootee (46)

Player	FG	FT	PF
Mattingly	4	1	5
Riggins	1	1	5
Walls	2	1	5
Nigg	3	2	0
Butcher	7	0	2
Strange	0	3	0
Bell	0	0	0
Taylor	0	0	0
Wagoner	0	0	1
Hilderbrand	0	4	1
Burch	0	0	1
Bledsoe	0	0	0
Totals	17	12	20

Game Officials: Gene Marks, Joe Smelcer

better than basketball? It was Indiana, and this was a community that boasted the first high school athlete to be on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. I discovered that this was just the tip of the iceberg. Lebanon also had its three state champions, Hall of Fame coaches and players, legendary seasons, and what seemed to be an interesting number of connections back to my alma mater, Purdue. Simply put, it was a treasure trove of history. I also discovered a book entitled *Tiger Basketball, A Lebanon Passion* that was authored in 1991 by Harley Sheets. Every season was documented with schedules, scores, rosters, and individual point totals for 80 years. The information seemed too good for it to sit tucked away on a shelf, so I managed to track down Harley with intentions of getting some of it on the Heritage Center's website. To my surprise, a few days later Harley brought me 100 years worth of game-by-game individual point totals that he had gathered from LHS coaches and a lot of painstaking research. After a few months of data-entry and verification, a record of all seasons and the game-by-game point totals for every individual from 1911 to 2010 were made available on the Lebanon Carnegie Library's website, specifically in the Heritage Center's space. It can be viewed there.

Time moved on, and I kept in touch with Harley, but had little connection with LHS basketball. My wife and I moved north and found ourselves living in Charlotte, Michigan. In the Spring of 2012 I decided it was time to publish the research I had done for five years on the subject of Sheridan football, and so *Sheridan High School Football, History and Tradition* came to be. With that project "complete" I found myself in need of a new task to fill my free-time. When considering possibilities, *Tiger Basketball* seemed to keep coming back to me—it was a story that had not been told in more than twenty years, which meant a whole generation had probably never heard of "Pug" Dale, "Cat" Adam, or "Butch" Neuman. Also, there had been 500 games played in that period and four members of LHS's top 10 all-time scorers had climbed to their present rankings within that timeframe (these

boys had not even been born when the first book was written). Once again, I found myself contacting Harley to see what he thought and he was onboard with the idea of a new edition. So, one year later I found myself putting the final touches on the updated book and moving back to Lebanon once again.

Tiger Basketball, A Lebanon Passion documents the entire history of the Lebanon High School basketball program from its humble beginnings as one of the pioneers in the state to the present day. Every player is included from the Indiana All-Stars and the All-Americans all the way to those at the end of the bench. The index of players lists everyone who played, along with each one's point total and games played. Every season is summarized with schedules, results, and roster, as well as a synopsis of the season and local connections. Other features throughout the book list notable individual and team performances such as record-setting games, and players who moved on to become coaches. More information about the book and Lebanon basketball can be found at www.tigerbasketballbook.com and on Facebook by searching "Tiger Basketball, A Lebanon Passion." Copies can be ordered online but they are also available at a discount to IHSBHS members by using the order form located in this issue of *Boxscore*.

Now that the updated edition of *Tiger Basketball* is "in the books" I am also working with IHSBHS to create and maintain one of its two existing websites. The webpage I've created is up and running at www.indianabasketballhistory.com. You can also check out the organization on Facebook by searching "Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society."

"MEDORA"

by

**Mike Leonard, columnist,
Bloomington Herald-Times
and**

Cliff Johnson, Boxscore editor

Editor's note: "Medora" is a Hollywood documentary film about a tiny Indiana town and its basketball

team. Unlike the well-known 1986 film "Hoosiers," it is not a story of success on the hardwood. Economic and social travails had visited the town and its school by the year 2011, and the team had great difficulty winning a single game. But the boys kept trying. Part One was written by Mike Leonard during the film's final development, about one year before its release. Part Two is my attempt to make a commentary, after recently viewing the film and driving through Medora a few years ago. Cliff Johnson

Part One

There are so many charming and memorable components to the movie "Hoosiers" that it could merit a symposium, but one of the most important things is that it was based on a real-life story that had a real-life Hollywood ending. The underdogs prevailed against long odds.

A documentary film now in post-production is drawing comparisons to "Hoosiers" and "Hoop Dreams," but with one important distinction: there is no Hollywood ending, and in some ways, it's "Hoosiers" turned on its head. And yet..."I found it an incredibly inspiring experience," says Ellyn Church, a recent I.U. graduate who worked on the film as a production assistant while still in school. "I know I'm still young, but it was one of the most profound and eye-opening experiences of my life."

The film is called "Medora" and it begins with filmmakers homing in on the tiny southern Indiana town of the same name, whose high school basketball team is on a miserable two-year, 44-game losing streak. As the cameras follow the team, the school and the town, it becomes a greater tale of small-town struggles and perseverance in the wake of rural decay and the loss of jobs and dignity.

"It follows the boys' basketball team pretty closely, but their story acts as a metaphor of the larger story of dying small-town America," Church declared recently. "This is a generation of kids that doesn't even remember when there was work in Medora. They're sort of stuck in limbo, not knowing where they

belong. They have no interest in leaving Medora, but they also know there's nothing for them there."

The inspirational part is seeing how the players and the town refuse to give up or give in. "Despite the fact they lose all the time, the town comes out to support them no matter what. They have parades for the team if they even do mildly well," Church said.

The idea for the film came from a *New York Times* story from November 2009 that also merged the basketball team's struggles, in a state where basketball binds communities together, and the loss of manufacturing and jobs in rural America. Director Davy Rothbart (creator of FOUND magazine,

projects at I.U., the Elkhart native jumped at the chance, even though production assistants often are little more than go-fers on film sets.

"I did do some grocery shopping for the crew," Church said with a chuckle. "But they really welcomed me and recognized what I could contribute, so I was shooting film, doing interviews and doing things beyond what a normal PA does. It was such a small crew, the opportunities were there."

The good news is that what Rothbart, Cohn and head producer Rachel Dengiz were able to put together was so impressive that actors Steve Buscemi and Stanley Tucci saw enough footage to sign on as executive producers. The

producer. "I majored in religious studies, but really. I've been passionate about film all my life," Church said. "It's fairly amazing that taking an unpaid PA job has opened the door for me to do what I've always wanted to do. But first things first---we have to find the money to get "Medora" out there. It deserves to be seen."

Part Two

Ordering a film to view via an Internet website should be child's play. In fact, almost any child ten or eleven years old these days can easily handle it, since they are all exposed to computers soon after birth. For me, though, it's a far different story. I tried to order "Medora" on-line myself, there being no ten or eleven-year old children handy to call upon. After struggling for nearly four hours, e-mailing and chatting with an Amazon associate for another half hour, and then calling upon a second associate by telephone, I was finally able to accomplish the mission and view the film. But my advice to you older readers out there with no kids nearby is "Don't try this at home."

Included in our Fall, 2013 issue of Boxscore was an article I entitled "A Tribute to Indiana's Past Small-School Basketball Teams." Its theme was not about small school hardwood successes, but more about their willingness to compete and persevere in the face of long odds against finishing with anything close to a winning season. One of the examples I cited was a small town in White County named Round Grove, with a 1943 wartime high school enrollment of only 24, half of them females. But the school nevertheless put uniforms on eight boys and played a full schedule that season, using the coach and student manager as added players during practice sessions. You have to admire a little school like that for its spunk, temerity, and spirit.

Medora, a Jackson County community of about 700 residents today and 75 enrolled high school students, is a modern-day Round Grove. It can't compete very evenly with most modern school systems that are consolidations having much larger enrollments---yes, even in Class 1-A. The Hornets lose



contributor to "This American Life") read the story, grabbed directing partner Andrew Cohn and traveled to the Jackson County town, thinking the story might play well in film. "I remember standing there on the town's main drag that first day and telling Andrew, "We were born to make this movie," the film's promotional material says.

Rothbart, Cohn and their small production team were a couple of months into filming the documentary when Church heard from an I.U. professor that they were looking for a production assistant. With experience in filmmaking and the arts from Michigan's famous Arts Academy High School, Interlochen, and independent

bad news is that they're currently tied up in other projects and Rothbart and company have had to resort to trolling for finances through Kickstarter (a "crowd funding" website) to finish post-production work and get the movie entered in film festivals.

The Sundance Film Festival has chosen "Medora" as one of its featured Kickstarter projects, and---should it be completed in time---it stands a good chance of getting into the prestigious film festival. "Stanley's on the board at Sundance, so we're hoping that might help," Church said.

Meanwhile, the December I.U. graduate is preparing to move to Los Angeles to join Olive Productions as a

often, yet continue to play ball season after season. The town doesn't seem to give a second thought about its school ever joining an existing consolidation. The town prefers to identify with its team, even though the team is a chronic loser of basketball games these days.

Back in the '40s and '50s and even earlier, Medora was a larger and more thriving industrial community. It also had very competitive basketball teams. Most of its opponents in those days were small schools like itself, before the mass consolidations of the '60s and '70s. Winning seasons were fairly common and continued on to the end of the 20th century, even though most of the schools it scheduled were larger by that time.

But then, things collapsed. Two of the major industrial employers left town soon after the 21st century kicked in. Then a severe recession hit the whole country beginning in 2008. Unemployment reared its ugly head at Medora. The town's population plummeted as family bread-winners were forced to exit the area and seek employment with industries in larger cities. A snowballing effect of bad fortune quickly followed as families disintegrated, often leaving one parent to provide for the needs of the remaining family. Funding for town repairs and maintenance became scarce while homes, buildings, and streets fell into a state of widespread disrepair. School budgets began drowning in a sea of red ink. The good days were over.

Medora seems typical of the condition experienced by many small communities across the U.S. these days. Local stores and shops can't compete financially with corporations and market chains that are able to export their profits to other parts of the country instead of spending or reinvesting them locally. Small-acreage farmers no longer have the means of effectively bringing their products at reasonable prices to the large-scale supermarkets that contract with big farming interests. Blight is also the inevitable consequence of an adverse economy. Medora, according to the film, is a perfect illustration of all these things. Yet, just like its basketball team, it perseveres

and hopes for better days. The film "Medora" portrays the stark reality of life today in many of our small communities. It's unquestionably depressing, but educational and well worth watching—if you can figure out how to order it.

OHIO'S VERSION OF THE SUCCESS FACTOR; STATE TOURNAMENT REVIEW

by

Tim Puet

Like their counterparts in Indiana, Ohio high school athletic officials for years have seen Catholic schools, private schools, and public schools with open enrollment winning a statistically inordinate number of state and regional (Ohio's equivalent of a semistate) championships.

Referendums among Ohio High School Athletic Association members to have separate state tournaments for public and private schools were defeated in 1978 and 1993 by significant margins. But there were fears that a similar vote might be taken for a third time and that the results would be different. The OHSAA didn't want this to happen, so for the last five years, it's been trying to come up with a "competitive balance" proposal that would be seen as helping level the playing field. Two such proposals were defeated by narrow margins, but the third was approved in mid-May by a 411-323 vote. Eighty-three schools – substantially fewer than in the earlier vote – didn't return a ballot. I'm not going to reprint the full proposal here. It's way too complicated. Here's how Bob Hunter of The Columbus Dispatch describes it in a nutshell: "It classifies every athlete as a 0, 1, or 2, depending on whether they live in the school's regular attendance zone (0), have been part of the larger district or diocese since the seventh grade (1), or are neither (2)."

A pilot program using this concept will start in the 2015-16 school year, and it will be in full operation the following year. Initially, the plan will apply to football, basketball, baseball, softball, soccer, and volleyball. It won't address "individual" sports such as track, cross country, tennis, golf,

swimming, etc. In simple terms, it sounds like if you're a student from outside what's accepted as a school's attendance area, you count double. Again quoting Hunter, "Every athlete in the third category will significantly add to enrollment figures, so a school with a lot of those could be made to move up a division."

It's a lot more complicated than the IHSAA "success factor," or as I prefer to think of it, "the Bowman rule," but it serves the same purpose of making it more likely that schools whose enrollment is not limited by community boundaries will take part in state tournaments at what are perceived to be their proper competitive levels. It doesn't solve all problems dealing with competitive balance, any more than the "Bowman rule" does. In the highest classification in both Indiana and Ohio, there's still a big gap in numbers between the biggest and smallest schools in the big-school division. Ohio found an answer to that in football by going from six classes to seven last year, with the seventh class consisting of the top 10 percent of schools in enrollment. I know Indiana has done something similar with its big schools.

Though it has flaws, the Ohio competitive balance plan seems to be satisfying all sides. Catholic schools aren't thrilled with it, but they voted for it. It was the same way with some of the public schools that were persistent in trying for split tournaments. Catholic schools were the most obvious beneficiaries of the old rules that governed school classification strictly by numbers. But we in Columbus have a public school very similar to Bowman in that it's a small school which quickly has become a basketball powerhouse, to the consternation of its public school brethren.

Our "Bowman" is Columbus Afri-centric Early College. From its name, it's obviously a minority school, and, like Bowman, it's dedicated to producing kids who will go on to college and have strong values, besides being a great athletic school. Afri-centric's motto, "Success Is the Only Option," says it all. Afri-centric has been particularly successful in girls

basketball, with six Final Four appearances, including three state titles and two runner-up finishes, in the past eight years. The boys team hasn't reached quite that level of success, but has made two Final Fours in that span. Like Bowman, Africentric probably will compete at higher levels because of the state high school association's new rules, as will several small Catholic schools which have been basketball powers in their divisions.

The best-known Catholic basketball school in Ohio, Akron St. Vincent-St. Mary, where LeBron James played, has been a Division II (Ohio equivalent of Indiana's 3A) school and may have to move up to Division I, but I'm not sure. Since 2000, SVSM has won five state titles, finished second twice, and been in the Final Four a total of nine times.

Say what you will about either the Ohio or Indiana approach, they're both ways the respective high school associations are trying to create what at least appears to be a more even playing field – something that's a laudable goal, even if impossible to attain. *(Personal disclosure: I'm a lifelong Catholic, employed by the Catholic Diocese of Columbus, so I'm naturally sympathetic toward Catholic schools. Having said that, I think this is a worthwhile plan. Now we'll see how it works.)*

Harley Sheets wanted me to write a few words on the state tournament, as I used to do with former editor Tom White while he was still alive. I'll never be as astute an observer as Tom was, but here are some perspectives on the 2014 tournament from a non-Hoosier:

First, the results themselves. Michigan City Marquette Catholic edged Barr-Reeve 70-66 in overtime in 1A; Park Tudor rolled to the 2A title, 84-57 over Westview; Greensburg won its second straight 3A title by downing Bowman 89-76; and Indianapolis Tech finally won a state title by defeating Lake Central 63-59 in 4A. Tech's victory and Barr-Reeve's defeat give the Vikings a dubious distinction previously held by the Titans – most state championship game appearances without winning a title. Barr-Reeve is now the only team to be 0-4 in championship games, all since 2002

under the class system, while Tech is now 1-4. Anderson and Muncie Central (each with seven), Lafayette Jefferson (six), Kokomo (five), and Fort Wayne Harding (four) all have lost four or more times in championship games, but all have won titles. If Tech would have rejoined the North Central Conference this season rather than next, its championship victory would have meant an end to a basketball title drought for NCC members that has persisted since 2006, when New Castle (no longer a member) took the 3A crown.

One of the more remarkable things about the class system for me has been what's happened to this once-dominant conference since the switch occurred in 1998. In that span, the only NCC teams to win state titles have been Marion in 4A in 2000 and the New Castle team mentioned above. The only other title game appearances by NCC teams have been by Marion in 4A in 1998, Muncie Central in 4A in 2005 and 2006, Marion in 4A in 2008, and Kokomo in 4A in 2011. It was inevitable that class basketball would have a big negative impact on the NCC, given that most of the top dozen teams in terms of sectionals won are NCC members, and now most of those face each other in two 4A sectionals and Muncie Central has dropped to 3A. But still, it's remarkable that a conference which once was virtually guaranteed to provide at least one, and many times two, State Finals participants isn't nearly what it was. Perhaps the conference's "new look" and added members will change things.

Barr-Reeve's appearance continued a remarkable run by teams in the adjacent counties of Daviess and Martin. Since 2002, the Vikings, Washington, and Loogootee have combined for five state championships and 10 State Finals appearances. Loogootee and Washington in 2005, and Barr-Reeve and Washington in 2010 both made it to Indy in the same year, which of course wouldn't have been possible in the one-class system. Class basketball definitely benefited Loogootee and Barr-Reeve during this span, but it probably wouldn't have made a difference for Washington, which most likely would

have been at the Fieldhouse all four times under the one-class system were it still in effect during the Zeller years.

Park Tudor, Greensburg, and Bowman all continued strong runs. Park Tudor's title was its third in four years, Greensburg's was its second straight and ended an outstanding three-year stretch for most of its starters, and Bowman lost a bid to become the first team to win titles in three different classifications. I expect the success factor one day will make the Eagles the first to be champions in all four classes. Greensburg impressed me during the last two years as a remarkably well-balanced team, one of the few where all five starters truly had an important role, and where the best player, Bryant McIntosh, wasn't the leading scorer. He had 11 assists against Bowman, tying the class championship game record. Teammates Sean Sellers, Collin Rigney, and Ryan Welage scored 27 (with 16 rebounds), 23, and 21 respectively. The rise of the Pirates has come at a time when the town has been transformed by the Honda plant, and it made me think of all the stories I've heard about jobs becoming remarkably available at auto plants in the NCC cities "back in the day" whenever a family from an outlying area or from out of town had a son who was an outstanding player. I don't know how much the Honda plant had to do with Greensburg's recent achievements, but I know those achievements will require the Pirates to move to 4A next year, which probably will cause their record to plummet, given that they're losing all their starters but Welage. That's one thing I see as a negative about the success factor: It seems it will penalize the players who follow in the footsteps of a good team which had most of its members graduate.

Speaking of graduation losses, I won't be surprised to see Marquette and Barr-Reeve in a rematch next year, as Barr-Reeve loses only one starter and Marquette two, with its best player, Ryan Fazekas, returning. Fazekas set a 1A record with seven 3-pointers in his championship game and scored 34, with 10 rebounds, and his steal late in overtime led to the game-clinching

basket. In 2A, Park-Tudor's Trevon Blueitt set a class record with 38 – slightly better than his season average of 35.6 – and had 12 rebounds. Those were the outstanding individual performances in the state finals. The 1A game was the best, with the next two being pretty one-sided, the 3A game surprisingly so.

The Tech-Lake Central game looked like it also was going to be no contest, with Tech leading by 16 with less than five minutes left. But in a repeat of the late stages of their semistate victory the previous week against Bloomington North, the Titans looked like they were celebrating before the final buzzer and almost managed to “snatch defeat from the jaws of victory,” but hung on for the first championship by an Indianapolis public school since Broad Ripple in 1980.

Altogether, 26 class-era records were broken or tied in the four games. Most were team records, the most notable being Marquette's 11 threes in 1A, Park Tudor's 14 from outside the arc in 2A (the two teams combined for an all-class record 20), and Greensburg's 89 points in 3A (Bowman's 32 field goals tied the existing mark).

Tech's Trey Lyles was only 3-for-11 from the floor, was in foul trouble, and had far from his best game. Jeremie Tyler (8-for-10 from the floor, 19 points) was the Titans' best player against Lake Central. Based on what I saw on one day, I would have voted for Blueitt over Lyles as Mr. Basketball. But Lyles did win that honor and the Trester award, giving him the triple crown of state champion, Trester honoree and Mr. Basketball held by Bobby Plump, Dave Colescott, Damon Bailey, two (I think) of the Zellers, and I'm not sure who else, if anybody.

THE OTHER SIDE OF HOOSIER HYSTERIA: SEGREGATION, SPORTS, AND THE IHSAA by

Dr. Stanley Warren

Editor's note: Our feature story is a re-printed article taken from the November 1993 edition of "Black History News & Notes," with permission provided by Dr. Warren, a 1951 graduate of Crispus

Attucks and a member of its state finals basketball team. His article contains an historical account of the painful struggle between the black, special purpose, and Catholic schools and the IHSAA, to gain equal recognition for athletics competition. Endnotes and references from the original printing have been omitted.

At the dawn of the 20th century, most school officials realized that interest in team sports had grown to a point that they were a fixture in the lives of school-age boys and girls. The beginning of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) in 1903 was a natural evolution as schools attempted to create teams, schedule games, and plan tournaments.

When the association was formed, the racial climate in Indiana was similar to the climate in many other states, both North and South. Segregation was prevalent, regardless of the geographical context. Around the country, there had been thousands of lynchings in the years prior to 1903 with more than 100 in 1900. During 1900 and 1901, blacks in Indiana were lynched in Rockport, Boonville, and Terre Haute.

There had been no intent to have an integrated association since white schools in the state generally did not engage in athletic contests or other activities with black or Catholic schools. South Bend Catholic and Indianapolis Cathedral, with limited options, regularly scheduled athletic contests with black high schools throughout the state. In large urban settings, such as Indianapolis and Gary, where black and white students attended the same high schools until provision was made to segregate them, black students were usually only allowed to participate in non-contact sports such as track and field. They were rarely included in club activities.

In small communities with almost totally white populations, an occasional black player did not seem to warrant a challenge. The northern part of the state appeared to be more tolerant than Indianapolis in its interpretation of who could play on its high school teams. However, just as many elementary

schools in the state were not totally segregated, the same held true for sports teams during even the harshest periods of segregation and discrimination. Sometimes team spirit overruled prejudice, intimidation, and external regulations.

In Indianapolis, the team sports void for black boys and young black men was filled in several ways. Local church, Sunday school, and industrial basketball leagues made the basketball court at the Senate Avenue Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) a very busy place. In 1927, the Mid-West States Basketball Conference was formed. There were teams from Detroit, Columbus, Cincinnati, Dayton, Fort Wayne, Muncie, and Indianapolis. Leagues at the Senate Avenue YMCA catered to boys and young men in a program that produced vigorous competition among the players and rabid support from fans. League play culminated with a city tournament played before YMCA members and other interested fans. It had all the flavor of a high school tournament except that many of the players were older than traditional students. The winner and runner-up represented Indianapolis in an invitational tournament that drew teams from around the state. Similarities to the tourney structure of the IHSAA were undoubtedly intentional.

During the 1927-28 season, the Senate Avenue YMCA team, participating in the Mid-West States Conference, played a schedule that included 24 games with trips to Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Fort Wayne, Louisville, Muncie, St. Louis, and Toledo. The leagues were so competitive that a few of the players, such as Howard University's "Doggie" Clark, went on to play for black college teams after "graduating" from the YMCA gymnasium. League play was so popular that a Christmas tournament was held in Indianapolis at Tomlinson Hall. An All-Star squad and three other teams from around the state were invited to participate.

Tournament play in minor sports was also very popular with the YMCA crowd. Competing in checkers, ping pong, volley ball, and billiards, players

from the YMCA held spirited individual and team competitions and sent teams to compete against opponents in cities throughout the Midwest. Young men from all corners of the city came to the YMCA to use the available facilities and to challenge for the top spot in any one of these activities. The number one player commanded much respect and was constantly challenged for his position.

IHSAA records show that in 1932, black participation outside of Indianapolis in sanctioned major sports events, other than basketball, was significant. In 1932, the track team from Gary Froebel High School, which enrolled a large number of black students, had 29 athletes, of whom 15 were black. The half-mile relay team, which was all black, set a blistering pace as it cruised to a new state record time of 1:31.9. Robert Scott, a member of the half-mile relay team, also set a new state standard of 23 feet, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in the long jump competition. From another part of the state, Allen Dillingham of Connersville High School, tied for first place in the high jump at 6 feet, $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

While track and field seemed to be the sport in which blacks were most likely to participate, a few schools had black athletes on their football teams as well. In 1932, there was one black player on the Elkhart team and four on the East Chicago Washington team.

In 1927, black students at Arsenal Technical (Tech), Howe, Manual, and Shortridge high schools were mandated to attend the newly opened Crispus Attucks High School to complete their studies. Therefore, in most Indianapolis secondary schools, from 1927 until the early 1950s, the use of black players in team sports was a moot issue. The contrast between black student participation at Shortridge and Tech high schools before and after 1928 is staggering. The opening of Crispus Attucks High School literally changed the complexion of those schools overnight. At Tech, in the spring of 1927, there were 12 black graduating seniors; at Shortridge, there were 24. One of the students at Shortridge, Virgie Dunville, was on the "A" honor roll.

The change in student assignments insured that, in 1928, Crispus Attucks was the only public high school in Indianapolis to have black students in its graduating class.

Prior to the change, participation in athletic activities continued to be skewed toward track and field. There were two blacks on the track team at Tech. At Shortridge, there were six blacks on the track team, six in the student senate, and Chester Offutt was a member of the debate team. Two of the six black student senators were females. The difference in participation rates at the schools may have resulted from the much larger number of black students enrolled at Shortridge. Although blacks were late participants in Indianapolis high school basketball, as early as 1902, there were two black players on the football team at Manual High School and one on the baseball team.

In spite of the difficulties involved in starting a new school that was molded from an unhealthy philosophical climate, by 1930 Crispus Attucks was a stable part of the black community. The athletic teams, not allowed to compete in IHSAA tournaments, developed a cadre of competitors by broadening their schedules to include "colored" teams from some distance away (*several of them out-of-state. The 28-game schedule of Attucks in 1930 is omitted here in consideration of space availability—editor's note*). When one realizes that there were 18 road games in a 28-game schedule with as many as four consecutive games away from home, the sacrifice made by the players becomes obvious. The limited facilities at Attucks, with only the auditorium stage available for basketball, forced the team to play its home games at Pennsy Park. Until the 1950s, financial difficulties were a constant in the lives of those connected with the Attucks athletic program. The fund-raising abilities of both the football and basketball teams were nullified by the lack of facilities where they could build a home-crowd base. The reputation of football coach, Lon Watford, from his days as a running back at Butler University, and the fact that black and Catholic schools were viewed in a negative light, led Notre

Dame, one of the preeminent Catholic universities in the country, and Butler University to come to the aid of Attucks. Both Butler and Notre Dame helped the school tremendously by passing on used equipment to the athletic department. The football team, which was known to travel as far as Oklahoma for a game, claimed the National Negro Championship in 1930 by defeating Central High School of Louisville. During the season, it was undefeated, winning eight games while allowing only one opponent to score.

In 1940, Attucks and Gary Roosevelt played for the state colored school basketball championship. Later in the season, a much larger prize was at stake. After winning a tournament in Tuskegee, Alabama, Evansville Lincoln High School laid claim to the National Negro Championship. Lincoln defeated teams from Florida, Alabama, Kentucky, and Oklahoma. James Keel of Lincoln was named most valuable player in the tournament. Within weeks, a dispute arose when Gary Roosevelt High School, seeking its sixth national crown, also staked a claim to the title, as the result of its schedule and a recent national tournament victory. The *Indianapolis Recorder* joined the dispute by giving the history of the National Interscholastic Tournament and what the newspaper saw as the reasonableness of Roosevelt's claim. Unfortunately, there were no commissions nor certifying agents involved, which led to claims for the national title from black high schools in several cities throughout the country.

The growing popularity of basketball was the catalyst that shaped the IHSAA. Once eligible schools were enrolled as members, the few black players that dotted their lineups seemed to present only minor problems. But black schools, even though most were located in small communities, continued to be discouraged from competing against IHSAA teams, and they were constantly reminded that they were not allowed to participate in IHSAA-sanctioned tournaments. With the creation of Crispus Attucks, Gary Roosevelt, and Evansville Lincoln high schools in the late 1920s and early 1930s, segregation

of pupils beyond the elementary grades in the major cities of the state occurred. However, these changes had little effect on small towns and medium-size cities when black populations were too sparse to warrant creation of segregated schools.

In 1930, Dave DeJernett starred for the state champion Washington Hatchets as did Jack Mann for the Muncie Bearcats in 1930 and 1931. Both were selected as all-state players; DeJernett in 1930 and Mann in 1931. Black players on IHSAA championship teams became relatively commonplace. In 1937, Anderson High School's Frank Clemons was a forward on the team that defeated Huntingburg in the state championship game. In 1939, Franklin's George Crowe, following in the footsteps of his brother, Ray, who had played at Whiteland High School, staged a brilliant performance as he scored more than half of his team's points in a losing effort to Frankfort. He was chosen as the number one player for participation in the first Indiana vs. Kentucky All-Star game. Also on the team was Howard Mitchell of Attucks, in spite of the fact that Attucks played a segregated schedule that included many out-of-state

Mitchell became a stellar three-sport college athlete, leading his teams in baseball, basketball, and football at Boston University. The anomaly of individual black stars pacing their predominantly white teams to state tournament victories while black schools were barred from tournament play seemed to slip by unnoticed by the media and IHSAA officials.

The talent pool for black players seemed particularly ripe during the decade of the 1930s. On a given Friday night, one could travel to any part of the state to watch the performance of an integrated team attempting to climb to the IHSAA championship throne. Black players were integral parts of those teams. To the west of Indianapolis were Leroy Johnson and Ewan Cartwright of Greencastle, Buttons Bradshaw of Brazil, and Captain Kirk of Crawfordsville. To the east were Francis Daniels and Tom Lundy of Richmond, Allen Dillingham and Wayne Sleet of Connersville, and William Cruse of Rushville. In the north were Virgil Riddle, Dick Warfield, and Horace Talley of Fort Wayne Central, Bill Hampton of Culver, and Jerry Mason and Art Hurd of South Bend Central.

In 1940, John Thomas helped lead Hammond Tech to an IHSAA championship. The following year, the Washington Hatchets were back in the finals with three black players in the lineup: Charles Harmon, John DeJernett, and William Harmon. They defeated a much heralded Madison team for their second state championship. In April 1941, the Rotary Club of Rising Sun presented the Most Valuable Player award to Herschel Thomas of the Rising Sun team, just as another star was developing in the northern part of the state. Davage Minor played at Gary Froebel before going on to stardom at Toledo University and then finishing his college years on the west coast with UCLA. Thomas's brother, Robert, also played on the Rising Sun team.

French Lick, made famous in the 1970s by the stardom of Larry Bird who played for Springs Valley High School, featured a black player named Francis Juniper on its 1943 sectional

championship team. At the Catholic high schools, which held their own state tourney, there was an occasional black player in the lineup. In 1938 John Cox was a member of the Catholic state champion, St. Mary's of Anderson.

Prior to 1927, black high schools in the state were relatively small, and, in some instances, combined with elementary schools. Crispus Attucks, which opened in 1927 with a student body of approximately 1300 students and a faculty of 36 (with 15 additional teachers in the spring semester because of the unexpected size of the enrollment), presented the IHSAA with a set of issues that did not exist in 1903. Immediately after the first semester began, forces from within the black community began to agitate for admission of the school into the IHSAA. Key figures in the push for integration into the statewide organization were: Faburn DeFrantz, executive secretary of the Senate Avenue YMCA; Freeman B. Ransom, attorney and manager of the Walker Company; Reverend H.L. Herod, pastor of Second Christian Church; Robert L. Brokenburr, attorney and later state senator, Cary D. Jacobs of Jacobs Brothers Funeral Home; and W. Chester Hibbitt, managing editor of the *Indianapolis Recorder*.

Immediately after the dedication ceremonies at Attucks, DeFrantz, Ransom, and Herod began lobbying Arthur L. Trester, Commissioner of the IHSAA, in a futile attempt to convince him that Crispus Attucks should be a member of the IHSAA. Working from the pulpit and in the political arena over the next several years, the three men, joined by Brokenburr, Jacobs, and Hibbitt, were relentless in their pursuit of full-fledged membership. Lee A. Johnson, sports editor of the *Recorder*, also contributed to the growing pattern of pressure against IHSAA segregation policies.

The work of these men did not go unnoticed as others took up the cause. In 1941, a bill creating a board of athletic control was introduced in the Indiana legislature by Senator Brokenburr and was supported by a letter to the legislature from the Monday Luncheon Club, composed of an



**LEGENDARY COACH RAY
CROWE**

opponents. Crowe went on to a successful career in professional basketball and baseball. Howie "Red"

impressive group of local black politicians and businessmen. There was also an open letter printed in the *Indianapolis Star* by its sports editor, W. Blaine Patton. The luncheon club letter and the Patton letter (which follows) were in marked contrast to the official position from within the IHSAA.

“Under the leadership of Arthur L. Trester and his ‘controlled board of control,’ this national movement of unity has meant nothing, so far as the IHSAA is concerned. (A) narrow viewpoint is taken by that body, barring Catholic and Negro high schools from all tournaments. Individual members may play such teams, but not in tournaments. And still this is the great state of Indiana, pledged to support the high ideals of America! To you members of the state legislature, it is not a difficult thing to correct this glaring unfairness to many of the boys of our state. Simply pass a measure which would make it unlawful for the continuance or formation of any combination of public schools which (bar) other schools of similar grade on the grounds of race or creed,” Patton wrote.

The passage in the Senate of S.B. 181 to banish segregation in IHSAA tournaments seemed to have a considerable amount of support from the community. However, in March 1941, the bill died in the House of Representatives before it reached the floor. A letter to the editor of the *Recorder* from Cary Jacobs severely criticized Representative H.H. Evans of New Castle for aiding in the defeat of the bill. He also accused the House and the Senate of collusion on Negro bills. As the year passed and the nation’s attention was drawn to war, the energy of those who seemed most adamant about the exclusion (practices) began to dissipate. In many ways, Indiana mimicked the nation as the external threat to the country forced Hoosiers to view internal matters through a new prism.

The story of how the decision to open the state tournament to black and Catholic schools was made is complicated. It was a difficult battle, fought on at least two fronts over a

period of more than 35 years. The Indiana Catholic High School Athletic Association (ICHSAA), which ran its own state tournament and participated in the national Catholic tournament, was very heavily involved in the push to broaden IHSAA membership policies. In 1933, when it was determined that Gibault High School of Vincennes was operated by the Vincennes school board rather than the church, its application for membership in the IHSAA was approved. Immediately, the ICHSAA turned up the pressure by applying for blanket membership for the group, which was denied. In 1941, Evansville Memorial applied for admission. Within weeks, without commenting on the application, the pressure on the IHSAA from both blacks and Catholics finally produced the desired result. The IHSAA Board of Control voted to suspend the race and religious prohibitions. Effective August 15, 1942, without much fanfare, membership in the IHSAA was (finally) opened to public, private, parochial, institutional, and colored schools in the state that offered three or four years of high school work. Newly eligible schools (in or near Indianapolis) included Crispus Attucks, Cathedral, Sacred Heart, Indiana Deaf School, Park School, and the Indiana Boys’ School.

In addition to the eight black high schools in the state, there were approximately 14 Catholic schools. In 1943, following the removal of the ban, Crispus Attucks and Shortridge high schools, two sports rivals throughout the 1950s and 1960s, competed at the Arsenal Tech gymnasium in Attucks’ first sectional tournament. After playing the sectional at Butler University for many years, the switch to Tech’s gymnasium was made necessary because of the role that the Butler Fieldhouse played in the war effort. The military used the facility for a training site from 1943 to 1945. Approximately 800 naval cadets were housed and trained at Butler. During this time, the state finals were played at the Indianapolis Coliseum, located at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. John Dejernett and William Harmon, who had been members of the state champion

Washington Hatchets only months earlier, joined the U.S. Navy in 1943. Many college and professional teams were decimated by the call to arms during World War II, as both famous and ordinary athletes stepped forward as volunteers to defend the honor of the United States.

In 1943, black high schools at Madison, New Albany, and Jeffersonville did not enter the state tournament, and only Lincoln of Evansville survived the first round of the sectionals. Crispus Attucks, Princeton Lincoln, Gary Roosevelt, and Booker T. Washington in Mount Vernon were first-round losers. According to Lowell M. Trice, columnist for the *Indianapolis Recorder*, the mostly white crowd at Arsenal Tech’s high school was well aware of the significance of the Attucks vs. Shortridge contest. “The most impressive part of the entire evening was displayed when the more than 6,000 basketball enthusiasts stood up as one and for ten or fifteen minutes lustily cheered the Tigers in their history-making debut in the sectional tournament,” Trice wrote.

The rivalries that developed between Tech, Shortridge, and Crispus Attucks were carved in stone after two important victories. In its third sectional tournament, the Tigers, behind the stellar play of James Buchanan and Edgar Sams, defeated Shortridge in the second round of the 1945 sectionals, before losing to Broad Ripple, the team from Indianapolis destined to go all the way to the final round of the state tournament. In another significant turning point, six years after admission of Attucks to the tournament, Thomas “Blue” Overton of the Tigers sank a fielder with one second to go to put the highly favored Tech team onto the sidelines. In these early years Attucks had been victorious in games with other less regarded teams, but the victories over Shortridge and Tech helped the team garner the respect of basketball fans in every corner of the state. It also provided Attucks the opportunity to schedule games with teams that now saw it as a worthy opponent. In 1946 and 1947, black players participated in the final round of the tournament as

never before. In 1946, Anderson won the tournament with John Cochran, Isaac Weatherly, and "Jumping" Johnny Wilson. Wilson, who set a Final Four scoring record, went on to become the #1 selection on the All-Star team. His scoring record was quickly eclipsed in 1947 by Bill Garrett of Shelbyville High School. Garrett, aided by Emerson Johnson and Marshall Murray, broke Wilson's scoring mark as Shelbyville swept to the state title in 1947. Bobby Milton of state runner-up Fort Wayne Central was another notable black player in 1946 and was selected along with Wilson to the All-Star team. Later, Milton spent many years with Wilson as a player and a coach for the Harlem Globetrotters. Garrett and Johnson were selected as Indiana All-Stars in 1947.

Bill Garrett's skills and his demeanor both on and off the court, caught the attention of basketball fans around the state. A group of black businessmen from Indianapolis, led by Faburn E. DeFrantz, visited the Indiana University campus and solicited a promise from Branch McCracken, I.U.'s basketball coach, that Garrett would become a member of the I.U. team if he was admitted to the university and if he could make the team. This was not an easy resolution since only one black player (Iowa, 1937) had ever donned a uniform for a Western Conference (now Big Ten) basketball team.

Not only did Garrett make the I.U. team, he became a star. By 1951, he was the team's leading rebounder and scorer. He was also voted most valuable player and named to the consensus All-America team. The combination of Garrett's selection to the All-America team and the ascent of Crispus Attucks to the final round of the state tournament in March 1951 were turning points in Indiana high school basketball history. The unspoken, unwritten decision, by coaches in Indianapolis that the use of black players on their teams would take their programs to a new level and prevent the growth of an unheralded dynasty at Crispus Attucks was the beginning of a new era and may have been a political wedge that helped to break the school integration logjam.

After Johnny Wilson and Bill Garrett,

black players appeared on the Indiana basketball horizon with increasing regularity. However, experiences in Indianapolis were vastly different from those in the many single high school cities and towns around the state. Refusal by the city administration and school officials to proceed with the 1949 legislative mandate to integrate the city schools allowed a black, segregated school to become the dominant force in high school basketball by winning three state championships during the 1950s.

The most coveted individual prize by Indiana high school basketball players is the Gimbel Prize/IHSAA Medal/Trester Award. Regardless of the name changes, it is bestowed upon the player in the Final Four who best exemplifies a life of good scholarship, high moral character, and athletic excellence. In 1951, after only eight years of competing under the banner of the IHSAA, the Tigers produced a player, Robert Lee Jewell, who became the first black athlete to capture the award. In 1955, the Tigers also became the first Indianapolis team to win the state basketball crown.

stars of an earlier era alongside the modern day, jump shooting phenoms of later years. Black players from the period before 1950 selected to the Hall of Fame are: George Crowe, Charles Harmon, Dave DeJernett, Jack Mann, Bob Milton, Johnny Wilson, and Bill Garrett. All of these players were also named to one of the Silver Anniversary teams. Two others who have not been named to the Hall of Fame, but are on a Silver Anniversary team are Davage Minor from Gary Froebel and Russell Freeland from Lawrenceburg.

As the decade of the 1950s came into view, the stage had been set for the rise to prominence of several schools with relatively few black students in their student bodies, but with basketball teams dominated by black players. In 1940, John Thomas was the lone black player on the Hammond Tech team that captured the state title. As one of the team stars, he was cheered mightily when the team returned to Hammond to be greeted by 50,000 rabid fans, as nearly 75 percent of the city's population. Today, when the home crowds rise to cheer their teams, the



Former Crispus Attucks players Bailey Robertson, Willie Gardner, Hallie Bryant, and Oscar Robertson. Photo circa 1970.

The development of an Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and a series of Silver Anniversary teams in 1962 presented the state a wonderful opportunity to showcase the basketball

waves of positive feelings that fill the gymnasiums have little to do with race or ethnicity and a great deal to do with economics, integration as a social fact, school pride, and the spirit of

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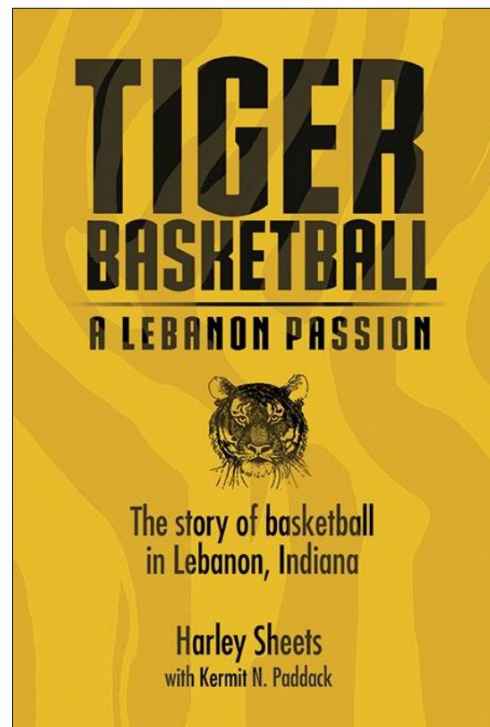
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Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Annual Membership Program

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame is committed to recognizing Indiana's Basketball Legends and inspiring Indiana's basketball future.

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. The operation of the Hall of Fame is dependent upon attendance, gift shop sales, funds generated through activities and events, gifts and donations. The Annual Membership Program was established to allow all basketball enthusiasts to participate in the support of preserving and sharing Indiana's basketball history.

As an Annual Member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame you will receive the following recognition and benefits during the next year.

- name recognition on the Annual Membership display in the lobby of the museum
- name recognition in the Indiana Basketball History Magazine, & Induction Banquet Programs
- free museum admission for the member and 3 guests, 20% discount in the gift shop
- Hall of Fame lapel pin and auto window decal
- subscription to Indiana Basketball History Magazine
- invitations to Inductee's Reception and other special events

Please complete the membership form and keep the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in the GAME!

2015 Membership Form

Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Active Coach	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$3000 (Cumulative)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, One Hall of Fame Court, New Castle, IN 47362. The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Check method of payment:

☐ Check or Money Order enclosed

☐ Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover)

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