


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																															
IHSBHS Officers													Publication & Membership Notes																		
President			Roger Robison			Frankfort			1954				<i>Boxscore</i> is published by the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society (IHSBHS). This publication is not copyrighted and may be reproduced in part or in full for circulation anywhere Indiana high school basketball is enjoyed. Credit given for any information taken from <i>Boxscore</i> would be appreciated.																		
Vice Pres			Cliff Johnson			Western			1954				IHSBHS is a non-profit organization. No salaries are paid to anyone. All time spent on behalf of IHSBHS or in producing <i>Boxscore</i> is freely donated by individual members.																		
Webmaster			Kermit Paddack			Sheridan			2002				Dues are \$10 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																		
Treasurer			Rocky Kenworthy			Cascade			1974				IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail: rock2@tds.net																		
Editorial Staff													All proposed articles & stories should be directed to																		
Editor			Cliff Johnson			Western			1954				Cliff Johnson: cliffjohns36@hotmail.com or P.O. Box 401335, Hesperia, CA 92340.																		
Syntax Edits			Tim Puet			Valley, PA			1969																						
Content Edits			Harley Sheets			Lebanon			1954																						
			Rocky Kenworthy			Cascade			1974																						
Tech Advisor			Juanita Johnson			Fillmore, CA			1966																						
Board Members																															
John Ockomon, Harley Sheets, Leigh Evans, Cliff Johnson, Tim Puet, Roger Robison, Jeff Luzadder, Rocky Kenworthy, Doug Bradley, Curtis Tomak, Kermit Paddack, Hugh Schaefer.																															
2019 WINTER ISSUE																															

EDITORIAL POLICY

The opinions expressed in *Boxscore* by individual authors do not necessarily reflect the views of IHSBHS as an organization. Our IHSBHS website address is Indianabasketballhistory.com. You can also enter IHSBHS or "Boxscore" on any search engine.

CONTENTS

The Morocco Beavers.....	1
New Castle's Fieldhouse.....	3
History of Indiana's Largest BB Gyms, Courtesy of DJIA..	7
Lowell High School's 62-Game Losing Streak.....	9
IHSBHS Membership Form....	12
IHSBHS Member Profile Form..	13
Hall of Fame Membership.....	14

THE MOROCCO BEAVERS

First Varsity Basketball Game in
More Than Fifty Years Stirs
Nostalgia in Indiana Gym
by

Kyle Neddenriep, *IndyStar*
Sportswriter, (published Dec. 19,
2018 in the *Indianapolis Star*)

Morocco, Ind.--On one Saturday night in this quiet community of 1,100, an individual could grab a

winter coat, open the front door and walk down College Avenue or Lincoln Street, make their way past the parked cars lining the streets, and pause at the intersection. Once there, a person might be inclined to look up through the windows and catch a glimpse of the scoreboard and fans finding their seats in the bleachers. Step inside, grab a bag of popcorn, and stay awhile. "It's like a time capsule," said Bob Gonczy, who lives two blocks from the school. "You walk in here, and it is like it's 1952 again."

For one night in this Newton County community in northwest Indiana, it felt like the yesteryear of Hoosier Hysteria. For the first time since 1967, a varsity basketball game was played in the Morocco gym, a relic of another era. It was built in 1936, allowing the Morocco Beavers to move out of the basement gym known as "The Pit" and into something more modern. With a seating capacity of more than 1,200, it was the largest in Newton County. In the decade after it was built, Morocco hosted the sectional six times.

Stewart Hammel does not go back quite that far. But he proudly wore

his 1960 black and gold Morocco letter jacket on that Saturday night to the Kankakee Valley-North Newton game. On the right side was a patch with "1959-60 KVT champs" stitched onto a basketball, signifying Morocco's Kankakee Valley tournament championship. As he stood in the corner of the gym at the start of the game, Hammel, 76, could easily step back in time. Almost everything, from the baskets, to the brick interior, to the scorer's table, was the same as he remembered. "It is hard to believe that was 58 years ago," said Hammel, who went on to coach at South Central, North Newton, and Hobart. "I can remember this gym being packed for the county tournament. I lived about four blocks away so I would walk here and walk home. There was lots of pride in this place and great crowds. There was probably a little more pride back then. In the 1950s and '60s probably three-fourths of the students went to the games."

It felt that way again that Saturday night. Dubbed the "Throwback Basketball Experience," the game started as an idea from Gonczy, a Social Studies teacher at North Newton and former boys (2004-08)

and girls (2011-15) coach at the school. Gonczy is a Morocco native who grew up playing games at the old gym when he was an elementary pupil. The elementary school sits next to the old gym. "When I got into coaching, I'd walk into this gym and it would just feel like "Hoosiers," said Gonczy, referring to the 1986 movie on Indiana high school basketball in the 1950s." "I always wanted to play here, but it was hard to get another coach to agree. 'It is a shorter court, which can be kind of an equalizer."

Paul Norwine, a social studies teacher at Kankakee Valley, e-mailed Gonczy in June last year to inquire about the possibility of playing a varsity game in the Morocco gym. Norwine coordinated the side for Kankakee Valley, a 1970 consolidation of DeMotte and Wheatfield. Players from the 1950, '65, and '67 Wheatfield Red Devil sectional champions were in attendance, along with the 1964 and '70 DeMotte Indians sectional title teams. Graduates from the Fair Oaks Cherokees and Tefft Tigers were also invited to join the "red out" on the Kankakee Valley side. Two players from Wheatfield's 1950 sectional title team, Hank Ganzeveld and Firman Walker, watched the junior varsity game from a corner of the gym that Saturday night. Walker, a junior on its team in 1950, reached into his letterman jacket pocket and pulled out a pack of Juicy Fruit with two sticks of gum. "That's been hanging in there for 50-something years," Walker said with a laugh as the North Newton band played on the stage at the other end of the court.

Jerry Hoover, 85 years old and still coaching at Blackford High School, was inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame last March. Hoover, coach of the 1964 DeMotte sectional championship

team, was in attendance that night with many of his former players. "With all due respect, they were probably going to fire me that year," Hoover said. "Then we won the first sectional championship in the school's history and it probably delayed that." Hoover said he coached only one game at Morocco, but he enjoyed the throwback atmosphere present that night. He also enjoyed the chance to visit with some of the first players he coached, who are now in their early 70s. "I think of them every day," Hoover said. "They've all done very well in their lives." "In Indiana at that time in coaching, if you didn't have some success in your first or second time around, you didn't get hired again. 'Winning that first sectional kept me going for a long time."

coach Steve Brunes who went on to a long career in coaching. North Newton has struggled mightily in recent years, winning just 33 games total since the 2006-07 season. A home game at North Newton, located 7 miles north of Morocco on U.S. Route 41, might normally draw 250 or 300 people. "We are not a strong basketball school, but we are a strong community," Gonczy said. "That's why we wanted to give the kids a taste of what this is like."

Casey Ehlinger, a 1995 North Newton graduate, was coaching the Spartans on an interim basis in 2018-19. North Newton, a class 2A school, lost its fifth straight game of the season (86-39) to class 4A Kankakee Valley just before this article appeared in the Star. Like Ehlinger, most of the North Newton



Gymnasium holds first varsity game in over fifty years.

(Photo: Clark Wade /IndyStar)

Morocco won only one sectional {in the 1940s, 50s, and 60s-Ed.}, taking the 1956 title at Rensselaer with a win over the host in the championship game. Morocco consolidated with Mount Ayr to form North Newton in 1967. North Newton has struggled in basketball over the years, winning only a single sectional title in 1978. Those Spartans were in attendance also that Saturday night, along with then-

players grew up playing elementary ball games in the old Morocco gym. It was saved in 2009 when the school board voted to build a new elementary school at the site of the old school in Morocco instead of next to the high school. "This is where they cut their teeth playing basketball," Ehlinger explained. "The atmosphere was awesome. 'If your blood isn't pumping on a night like that, you don't have a heartbeat."

Kankakee Valley coach Bill Shepherd stood in the visitors' locker room underneath the bleachers after the game and marveled at the scene. Kankakee Valley had practiced in the gym the day after Thanksgiving, but to see it with a full crowd was yet another experience. Shepherd had to explain the double 10-second



Stewart Hammel and his 1960 Morocco letter jacket. (Photo: Kyle Neddenriep)

line that was common in the days of smaller gyms. "It felt like sectionals, almost," Kankakee Valley senior Malik Hemphill mused. "To feel everybody come together and support us was really fun."

Before the game, Gonczy talked to a woman who told him that she was sitting in the same spot where her parents once sat at games. Gonczy received several pats on the back that Saturday night, even after the home team left with a loss. On that night, nostalgia was the big winner. "A lot of people have said, 'I'm so proud of you for putting this together'--but what they really mean is 'It's so awesome that I can sit here and think back to a different time.'"

NEW CASTLE'S FIELDHOUSE CAPACITY

by

Researchers Richard Tekulve, Jim Brandyberry, and Doug Bradley

Tekulve assessments: Nearly a quarter of a century ago when I first started my journey to visit every single Indiana high school gym and count every single seat in every gym,

my destination took me to the much-touted Walter P. Chrysler Fieldhouse--or as it is better known, the New Castle Fieldhouse. I had heard the capacity numbers repeated in articles and books for decades but had personally never visited the facility. Upon arriving, I stopped by the office of the A.D. (Vance Meier) and told him what my purpose for the visit was. I also advised him that I collected seating charts of basketball gyms and arenas and asked if I could obtain one of theirs. He politely gave me a large (2 ft. x 3 ft.) detailed engineer's seating chart.

I proceeded to walk over to the arena, and it was at that time I got my first look at the famous facility. I can vividly remember as if it were yesterday as my eyes scanned slowly to the left and right. The first thought that came to me was "Ain't no way (of being 9,325 seats here), maybe eight thousand at most." By then I had been in perhaps a hundred or more gyms, so I could walk into nearly any one of them and within a minute or so could guess (usually within about 90%) of what it seated. Nevertheless, I began a meticulous count to ascertain the accountability of a sign there that proudly proclaimed, "The World's Largest Gymnasium."

Using the seating chart as a guideline (and it appeared quite accurate), I walked around the entire gym and through every section, then totaled up my count. The total was 7,831, a figure very near (within 97.9%) the 8,000 seats I had casually estimated. I decided to return to the A.D.'s office to ask Mr. Meier where the other 1,400 seats were that brought its total to the 9,325 as shown in nearly all the basketball-related literature. His answer was "temporary seats." I was already aware of extra counts sometimes being given for temporary seats during my travels throughout the

state, but never as many as 1,400(!) of them. In this case, I was told that they were scattered (if that's the correct word to use) in various places on the high school grounds. I spent over an hour pursuing these seats which were situated in softball & baseball stadiums, and soccer & football fields. These seats were of the 3-to-4-row aluminum-constructed kind that could possibly hold 10 to 15 spectators per row. This is the most common type of temporary seating. It can be easily transported because of the lightweight metal involved. But even applying those seats, it was impossible for me to account for the 1,400 number.

I've been fully aware of the "underground bowl" design of gyms pioneered by Ralph Legeman of Evansville. I also recall a detailed article written about him that was published a half-century ago that I once read. The New Castle Fieldhouse employs that design. If the top two rows were to be removed, say rows 23 and 24, the result would be a loss of 876 seats. The overall seating capacity would therefore be reduced from 7,831 to 6,955.

I last visited the New Castle Fieldhouse in December 2018 for the Hall of Fame Classic tourney. I counted the fixed seats once again and came up with 7,830 rather than my earlier count of 7,831; almost the same but not quite. One seat, as it turned out, was missing. For some unknown reason, in row 6, Section B, the numbered seats there skipped from seat #17 to seat #19, with no seat #18. Why? Your guess is as good as mine. Anyway, while addressing the hidden temporary seats question, I determined that perhaps the final time they were used was in 1997 when Batesville brought three to four thousand fans with them to New Castle, along with a one-loss

team. After that, temporary seats were never again needed. This fact mostly concluded my research on the fieldhouse's seating history.

Another gym that will drop in the rankings of high school basketball seating capacities is Marion's Bill Green Athletic Arena. I have been to this arena only one time, October 20, 1992. At that time, I counted 7,692 seats which closely matched the Capacity sign that read 7,690. I remember talking to coach Green while he was testing tryouts for the upcoming season. He had an awful lot of good potentials on the floor at the time. He said to me "You pick 'em, I don't know who to cut." Bill and I also talked about the arena for a short time and he remarked "they're tight seats, ain't they?" The seats were only 16 inches wide at the time and are still that width on the upper concourse which holds a total of 4,658 seats. The lower seats on both the ends and the sides have been replaced with what looks like 18-inch molded plastic and that would eliminate enough ordinary seats to cut the total to about 7,000. Columbus, as well, eliminated its lower level seats and probably lost between 300 to 400 of them in the process. Kokomo, years ago, lost well over a thousand seats when its Memorial Gymnasium was renovated.

From many of the clear, bright and sharp photos of Indiana gyms shown on the internet these days, I would make a conservative estimate that somewhere in the range of 30 to 40 percent of them have had replacement bleachers installed sometime after the turn of the twenty-first century. Along with that, many have added an extra aisle or two while sometimes eliminating one or more rows. There is also now an A.D.A. (American Disabilities Act) requirement that requires removal of seats previously situated

on the front row. Overall, seating capacity in older gyms has diminished. This is mainly because of the high costs to repair or maintain large sections of bleachers, much of which could be 50 years old or older and are often lightly used these days. Whole new replacement bleachers are often put in place today with the seats being wider now at 18 inches, compliant with existing rules and regulations on spectator facilities. When I conducted my visits to gyms (mostly between 1992 and 1994), I noticed that the width of seats ranged from 14 to 19 inches. Very few newer "large" arenas have been built in the last 25 years (possibly reflecting the reduction in ticket sales over that timespan).

Before Anderson's Wigwam fell into disuse, I counted 9,108 there, and in March 2015 I counted 8,228 at Seymour while at the regional. If Seymour were to put up temporary seats in the gym's upper corners, I estimate its capacity would be 9,400 to 9,700. I'm curious exactly what East Chicago's arena holds, as I have not been there in 25 years. Not much has been mentioned publicly about its facility--it seems almost under the radar. I do know that Marion has installed all new lower section 18-inch molded plastic seats, which will reduce the seating capacity down to about 7,000 to 7,100. Columbus has lost perhaps 300-400 seats. A recent count I made at Southport came to only 6,847, and Greencastle has lost 600-700 seats. It's a trend that will continue as more and more schools are installing the new 18-inch molded plastic type of seats, with all of the new A.D.A. compliance rules and the local government-mandated fire marshal restrictions.

A new "big" facility is now considered to be in the 4,000 to 5,000-seat range. It is now highly unlikely that we will see schools

building any 6-to-8-thousand-seat gyms costing 10 to 20 million dollars or more. I've read a few articles about schools wanting to repair their outdated and overused bleachers, but even those costs often run into a half-million dollars or more. As odd as it sounds, money is often saved just by installing new ones. Regardless, I'm thinking that over the years we possibly became overly proud that we could travel the country and brag about the humongous sizes of our high school basketball gyms back home in the Hoosier state. But, like our two decades of class basketball experience to date, perhaps the bragging has tailed off a bit.

Brandyberry assessments: I was born in New Castle, graduated from Muncie Central, and for years have questioned New Castle's claim to having the largest high school fieldhouse. In fact, here are my calculations, based on the seating chart (see page 6). The temporary bleachers are shown on the configuration, but I did not include those in my seat count.

<u>Section</u>	<u>Seating</u>
A	330
B	550
C	612
D	1056
E	612
F	550
G	384
H	550
I	612
J	1056
K	612
L	<u>550</u>
Total	7474

This total is even smaller than other recent calculations I've seen. Here is a letter I received in 2013 from the New Castle High principal, responding to my inquiry about the temporary bleachers:

"Mr. Brandyberry,

The bleachers that you are referring to are no longer in existence. There are other bleachers that we would pull out if ever needed, but basketball games do not draw the crowds like they did 30 plus years ago. We do sell close to 5,000 (tickets) for the Hall of Fame Classic (in 2011), but that is as close as I have witnessed to a full crowd in the last five years. Codes are different today and I am not sure many of the gyms that were assigned seating specs 50 plus years ago are accurate with modern requirements. Best of luck in your research."

Chris Walker, Principal
New Castle High School

Brandyberry recalls that in early September 2019 an article appeared in the New Castle Courier-Times, written by sports reporter Darrel Radford, declaring that word had spread that the old temporary bleachers no longer existed, but that replacements would be forthcoming soon. Those would restore the seat count to its former level of 9,325. At that point, New Castle could once again lay claim to having the world's largest and finest high school gymnasium. According to Radford, the Fieldhouse's seating capacity today has shrunk to 7,829 (without the temporaries), leaving the title of world's largest high school gym to Seymour, where 8,228 seats are available. Brandyberry asserts that on Sept. 13, 2019 some extra bleachers appeared in the Fieldhouse but had not yet been set up. New Castle seems determined to regain #1.

Bradley assessments: Doug Bradley is an IHSBHS Board member and an avid researcher. He is an acknowledged expert at Indiana gym capacities and counts, in

general. As such, he's well-versed on the history and seating capacity of the New Castle Fieldhouse. His past efforts serve to dispel some of the commonly accepted and long-standing myths surrounding its seating capacity. He states: "I counted the seats in late September 2010. There were 7,829 seats. When the Anderson School Board voted to close the Wigwam, I flew back (from Florida) and counted 9,122 seats there. I immediately went to New Castle to beg for an original seating chart. Cheryl Betten, the ticket manager, gave me a copy. A few days later in Florida I counted 9,249 seats on the chart. That count included the original temporary bleachers. But that's all there are. The originally publicized larger figures of 9,325 and 9,314 are lies, no controversy, no question about it." Bradley's preserved numbers are as follows:

The first "charted" seat count (including temporaries) was 9,249 (in 1959).

The seat count with the upper corner temporary bleachers in place was 8,321.

The fixed seat count (excluding all temporary seats) was 7,841.

A later fixed seat count after the removal of twelve floor-level seats was 7,829.

The total seat count (including only the corner temporaries) was 8,309.

The total seat count (including all temporaries) was 9,237.

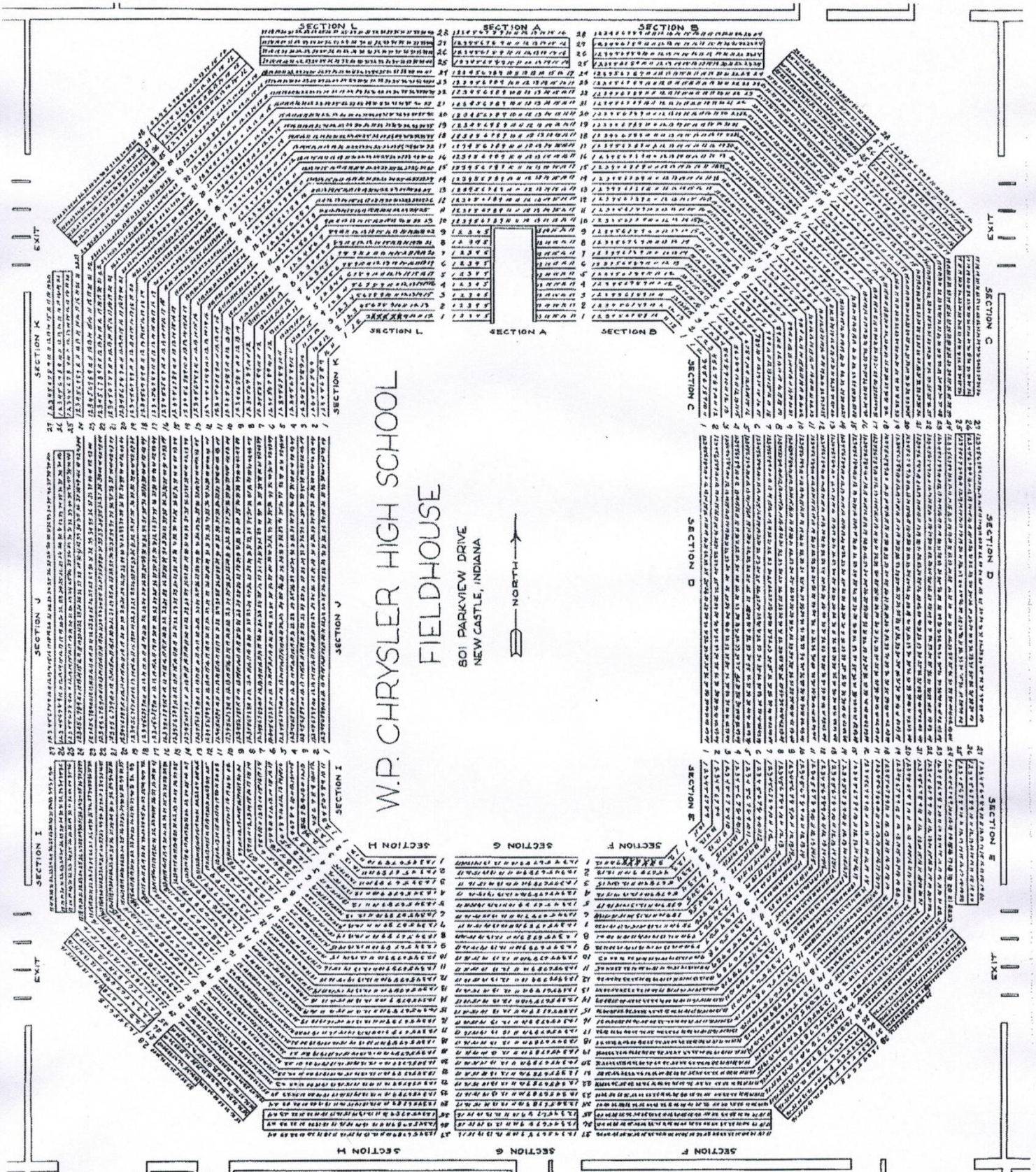
The present remaining seat count at present (no temporaries in place) is 7,829.

That first publicized seat count, somehow altered to 9,325 at times and 9,314 at others, became the basis for the contention that New Castle had the "world's largest high school gymnasium." It undoubtedly was, but the publicized counts were wrong. They were also inclusive of

the temporary seats that could be squeezed into the facility whenever needed. That fact triggered a question that has ever since lingered in the minds of some basketball researchers seeking the truth. Should temporary seats be counted as part of the total? Bradley suggests they could be, depending upon whether the temporaries are routinely used or left in place most of the time.

Doug believes that the Fieldhouse is one of Indiana's simplest arenas in which to count seats, because the highest numbered seat in each row is easily visible and there have never been any major changes. He says it's not quite as simple to count as is "the World's Biggest Box Gym" at Gary West, but simple, nevertheless.

The New Castle Fieldhouse is circular, symmetrical, and semi-underground, typical of the Ralph Legeman design. But it isn't clear whether temporary seats were included as a part of his original layout for such gyms. Doug believes they weren't, but Legeman did include them in his prints for New Castle as well as for the L.C. Walker Arena in Muskegon, Michigan. The temporary seats in Muskegon stayed on the concourse until a major remodeling ultimately did away with the concourse itself. At New Castle, the temporary seats were seldom used. Most of the time, the arena had only 7,841 seats available for spectators. With the temporary bleachers in place at the upper corners, its capacity climbed to 8,321. With all the temporary seats in place, the capacity rose to 9,249. Doug points out that after the 1980 regional and before the start of the 1980-81 season, two floor-level scoreboards took the place of twelve fixed seats. They were seat numbers 3-8 at one end of the court and seat numbers 4-9 at the other end. That left 7,829 by count most of the time, 8,309 whenever the temporary



bleachers went up in the corners, and 9,237 when all the temporaries were set up.

To explain the function of the temporary seats, Bradley uses a "Kitchen Table" analogy: He says "For 363 days a year, my parents have a kitchen table that has two chairs. They have had no kids at home for over ten years. One sister comes back for Thanksgiving dinner with her husband and my parents put a leaf in the table so that four chairs can be placed around it. The leaf is taken out of the table the day following Thanksgiving so that the table again needs only two seats, On Christmas day, both my sisters and their husbands are at my parents' house, so two table leaves are installed so that six chairs can be used at the table. The next day, it's back to no leaves and only two chairs. That's the way the Fieldhouse seating worked over the years. Almost every game needed no extra seats. Now and then though, seats were set up in the corners (the rarest configuration), but also now and then, especially for the regionals, ALL the temporary seats were set up.

The fixed seats at the Fieldhouse were refinished this past summer. As of September 19, new seat numbers had not yet been stenciled on them, but the Community School Board Corporation states that they should be given the same numbers as before which add up to the presently accepted figure of 7,829. The seat numbering issue hasn't been fully settled yet since there could be justification to alter some of the seat number designations. Bradley says that the Henry County Community Foundation is raising money for new temporary bleachers that New Castle wants in order to restore the total capacity to at least the same historical figure as is now accepted,

9,237. But whether that is possible remains to be seen. Once they arrive, the Foundation intends to donate the temporaries to the school. Some of them are apparently already on site, but no timetable for installation, to Bradley's knowledge, has yet been agreed upon.

HISTORY OF INDIANA'S LARGEST BB GYMS,-- "COURTESY" OF DOW JONES by

Roger F. Robison

Purdue and Indiana built new gymnasiums (gyms) in 1912 and 1917 respectively. They both seated 2500 fans, with standing room for another 1000-1500. These were the largest gyms in Indiana until 1922 when Frankfort, with a student body of 600, dedicated Howard Hall which accommodated 3500 fans; See Table 1. Martinsville and Anderson followed in 1924 with over 5000 seats. At the time of their dedications, none of these three schools had won a state title. Vincennes won the title in 1923 and made the final four in 1925, prompting the locals to construct the Coliseum with its magnificent pipe organ and 414 loge-chair seats. After winning the title in 1928, Muncie Central built its 7500-seat Fieldhouse which served as the largest gym in the state, if not the country, for 30 years. It is still one of the largest high school gyms in the USA. At the tail end of this construction era, Indianapolis Arsenal Technical dedicated its gym in October and November of 1929. This coincided with the stock market crash and the beginning of the Great Depression. All of these gyms, and more, are beautifully illustrated in Donald Hamilton's Pictorial History of Indiana High School Basketball Gyms, entitled "Hoosier Temples, published in 1993"; See Fig. 1.

Hamilton's book is available at Amazon.com for \$17-\$18 or you can ask your local library to obtain a copy. Perhaps our readers can give us up-to-date information on the status of these monuments to a bygone age. Frankfort tore down its 1922 gym after building a new one in 1963. The 1924 Anderson Wigwam burned down in 1958. At Martinsville and Vincennes, the original gyms are now used by middle school and junior high students.

Table 1: Largest Indiana Gyms 1922-29

1.	1922	Frankfort	3,500
2.	1924	Martinsville	5,200
3.	1924	Anderson	5,001
4.	1926	Vincennes	6,200
5.	1928	Lafayette	5,000
6.	1928	Muncie	7,500
7.	1928	I.U.	8,000
8.	1928	Butler	15,000
9.	1929	Indpls.Tech	6,000

All these old gyms, and more, were built when the school corporations were flush with cash due to the prosperity of the "Roaring Twenties" and the booming stock market which was reflected by the Dow Jones Industrials Average (DJIA). The bull market of the 1920s reached its zenith on September 3, 1929, when the DJIA reached a level of 381. It then fell slowly to 298 by October 26. On Black Monday, October 28, it fell to 260 and then on Black Tuesday the 29th it fell another 30.57 points to 230. By November 13th, the DJIA seemed to stabilize at 198--down 48%! It rallied in April of 1930 to 294 and then began a relentless slide to its nadir of 41 in July of 1932--down 89% from its previous zenith. A slow recovery from then until 1937 brought it back up to 190, but it fell back to 100 in 1938. This was the Great Depression of 1929-39. The stock market & DJIA oscillated back and forth between 100 and 150 until the end of World War II in

1945. See Table 2.

During the Great Depression large

brought the DJIA back to 381 by November of 1954. It had taken 20

II, new construction was limited to war-related projects only. This limitation affected Kokomo where the Wildkats lost the 1944 state title game on 18 March after which their gym burned down on 21 March. Due to the war-time restrictions the city had to wait until 1947-49 to build its new gym, which today remains an architectural gem. The small town of Huntingburg, population 5376, then built a 6214-seat gym in 1951. The continuing post-war prosperity brought on construction of 14 more of the nation's largest high school gyms, as tabulated by Hamilton in 1992/3--see Table 3. Attendance at the IHSAA tournament peaked in the 1960s, but the construction of large gyms with over 7000 seats continued during the stable economy of 1965-71. Building then ceased in 1971 as attendance continued to dwindle below pre-1950 levels, as noted by Hamilton.

The bull market of 1982-87 persuaded two schools to build gyms

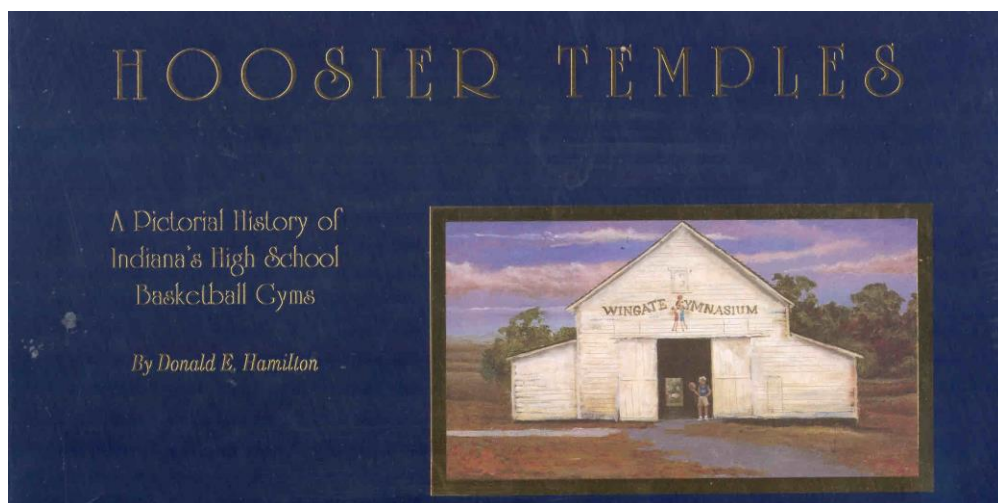


Figure 1

TABLE 2: DJIA LEVELS DURING SPECIFIC PERIODS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Yrs.</u>	<u>Gain</u>	<u>Low to High</u>
8/1921—9/1929	8.0	317	64 to 381
7/1932—3/1937	4.8	149	41 to 190
World War II		stable	150-190
6/1949—2/1956	7.1	369	161 to 530
8/1982—8/1987	5.0	1923	777 to 2,700
1990—2000	9.5	9020	2,700 to 11,720.

and expensive new gyms were no longer an option, and during World War II new buildings were restricted to war projects. However, throughout 1933-41 small gyms usually seating anywhere between 1000 to 2000 spectators were built by the WPA [Works Progress Administration] and the PWA [Public Works Administration]. These were government make-work projects involving construction and jobs for the unemployed or underemployed. Donald Hamilton found at least 25 such gyms at small schools from the shores of Lake Michigan at Porter County [Kouts High] to the Ohio River at Jefferson County [Madison High]. Larger schools like Peru, Jeffersonville and Richmond built larger gyms by camouflaging them as Community Centers or Civic Auditoriums. In 1937, Jeffersonville's new structure seated 6000 spectators. The post-war bull market of 1949-56 finally

years for the stock market and the economy to improve enough to



Figure 2

resume building large gyms. See Fig. 2.

In 1941, unemployment had dropped below 10% and many considered the Depression to be over. However, during World War

in excess of 8000 seats despite the continued drop in attendance. By then (1987), Indiana had 15 of the nation's 16 largest high school gyms. The only out-of-state "intruder" on Hamilton's chart was the 7500-seat

gym in Dallas Texas, listed #7 nationally. The only pre-war gym was the 1928 Muncie Fieldhouse, which seats 6576, ranked at #16 (not shown in Table 3). Hamilton's complete chart in his book shows that only seven of the 36 largest gyms in the U.S. were located out-of-state.

Today, the marvelous structures in

gymnasium seats and have some new totals as noted in Table 3. The big news is that New Castle's vast arena has lost over 1500 in seating capacity over the past several years!

References: (1) Hoosier Temples, by Donald Hamilton, 1993, (2) Doug Bradley, IHSBHS researcher, 2019.

TABLE 3

POST-WW II LARGE HIGH SCHOOL GYMS

<u>In Order</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>1993 Seats*</u>	<u>1993 Rank*</u>	<u>2019 Seats**</u>
<u>BULL MARKET (1949-66)</u>					
1	1949	Kokomo	6604	#15	
2	1951	Huntingburg	6214	#19	
3	1954	Elkhart	7373	#8	
4	1954	Columbus North	7071	#14	6066
5	1957	Southport	7124	#12	
6	1959	New Castle	9325	#1	7809
7	1961	Anderson	8996	#2	Vacant
8	1965	Dallas, Texas	7500	#7	
<u>STABLE MARKET (1966-82)</u>					
9	1967	Washington	7090	#13	
10	1968	Gary West	7217	#10	
11	1969	Marion	7560	#6	
12	1969	Lafayette Jeff.	7200	#11	
13	1970	Seymour	8110	#3	8228
14	1971	Michigan City	7304	#9	
15	1975	Bedford N Lawr.	6347	#18	
<u>BULL MARKET (1982-87)</u>					
16	1984	Richmond	8100	#4	7786
17	1986	East Chicago	8050	#5	

*Hamilton numbers

**Bradley numbers

Indiana are less than half-full on Friday nights and have been compared to the northbound Amtrak from Florida which carries more coffins than live customers. And since 1993, some of the gym seats have disappeared owing to reconfigurations, new fire marshal regulations, budgets, and deterioration. IHSBHS's Doug Bradley and Richard Tekulve have been studiously counting various

**LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL'S
62-GAME LOSING STREAK
Jan. 23, 1951 Thru Jan. 19, 1954
by Sean Bell**

Sources: Lowell Tribune, Lowell Library, The Lowellian Y'book

Lowell High School has the dubious honor of having a 62-game losing streak recorded in its history annals. The streak started on Jan. 23, 1951 and continued through Jan. 19, 1954, just four days short of three

full years. Lowell's first loss during that period was to East Gary 45-65 and its final one also to East Gary by the nearly identical score of 45-69. After that loss, a tight home-game win the following week, on Jan. 24, 1954, against Michigan City St. Mary's High, ended the record-setting loss streak which eclipsed three years by a single day.

Coach Cy Bowman's 1950-51 Red Devils squad began its season by winning three of its first four starts. But then a six-game losing streak quickly followed to leave the Red Devils at 3-7 midway through the season. A 63-60 home upset win against Hobart on Jan. 19 would be the team's final victory for almost three long and disheartening years. After the loss to East Gary to start the streak, Lowell would lose another eight games to finish the 1950-51 season at 4-16. Without that upset win over Hobart, the three-year losing streak would have totaled 69 rather than 62.

The losing streak stood at 9 games to open the 1951-52 season. After bowing to Kouts on opening night, coach Bowman's team nearly ended the streak on Nov. 30 when visiting Calumet Twp. narrowly defeated the Red Devils 37-36. Lowell had an opportunity to end the streak at its 11th game of the season, too, when the winless Eagles of East Gary came to town hoping to end its own losing streak. The Eagles' hopes were realized while the Red Devils' aspirations for a turn-around at mid-season were dashed in a 51-37 East Gary victory. Lowell finished the season with a 0-20 record while extending its losing streak to 29 games.

With further losses to Rensselaer and Calumet Twp. to begin the 1952-53 season, Lowell and coach Bowman were now eager to end its 31-game losing streak with a home victory over the Kouts Mustangs, a

team lightly regarded within the local surroundings. But it was not to be. The Mustangs squeaked by, with a 55-53 win against the now disconsolate Red Devils. That two-point game loss, incidentally, proved to be one of the two closest losses in Lowell's 62-game streak. After a Dec. 12, 1952 loss to Morocco, the Lowell Tribune mentioned the Red

Devils' ongoing losing streak for the first time. The article described the streak as 37 games while it really was only 36 games, counting the Morocco loss. Another interesting, and possibly more accurate, piece in a later Tribune edition headlined the following: "Red Devils Try Stall against Portage (Twp.) Indians--It Didn't Work!" The attendant article

Lowell Red Devils Rosters

1950-51

Cy Bowman, Coach
Stan McGehee, Soph
Carl Nelson, Jr
Don Frederick, Sr
John Doolittle, Sr
Pat Sharkey, Jr
Dean Ruley, Sr
Ricard Koslowski, Jr
Duane Ashton, Jr
Wally Webb, Sr
Russell Tuttle, Sr
Kenneth Johnson, Manager, Soph
Dean Childress, Manager, Sr

1951-52

Cy Bowman, Coach
Bill Elliot, Jr
Pat Sharkey, Sr
Richard Koslowski, Sr
Dick Norlin, Jr
Bob Feddeler, Fr
Reggie Brown, Soph
Jim Rust, Sr
Charles Larson, Soph
George Schutz, Soph
Leon Sirois, Soph
Stan McGehee, Jr
Tom Burgess, Soph
Carl Nelson, Sr
George Sharp, Soph
Leon Clinton, Jr
Paul Hutton, Manager, Fr
Kenneth Johnson, Manager, Jr
Roger Parks, Manager, Fr

1952-53

Cy Bowman, Coach
Tom Burgess, Jr
Dick Norlin, Sr
Marvin Miller, Jr
Jack Hawkins, Soph
Bill Elliot, Jr
George Sharp, Jr
Norbert Jung, Sr
Leon Sirois, Jr
Leon Clinton, Sr
Charles Larson, Jr
Kenneth Johnson, Manager, Sr
James Allison, Manager, Fr

Lowell's 62-game Losing Streak

1950-51

1. Jan. 23, 1951 @East Gary 45-65
2. Jan. 26, 1951 @Gary Wirt 59-85
3. Jan. 30, 1951 Dyer @home 51-63
4. Feb. 2, 1951 @ Crown Point 47-57
5. Feb. 6, 1951 @ Gary Edison 51-57
6. Feb. 9, 1951 Portage Twp. @home 32-36
7. Feb. 13, 1951 Hammond Noll @ Civic Center 41-71
8. Feb. 16, 1951 @ Merrillville 34-43
9. Feb. 20, 1951 Griffith (sectional) @ Civic Center 23-59

1951-52

10. Nov. 23, 1951 @ Kouts 36-44
11. Nov. 30, 1951 Calumet Twp. @home 36-37
12. Dec. 4, 1951 Hebron @home 36-55
13. Dec. 7, 1951 @ Crown Point 32-60
14. Dec. 11, 1951 @ DeMotte 40-67
15. Dec. 14, 1951 Morocco @home 44-50
16. Dec. 20, 1951 Merrillville @Crown Pt. tourney 50-78
17. Jan. 11, 1952 @ Griffith 29-80
18. Jan. 16, 1952 @ Merrillville 31-63
19. Jan. 18, 1952 @ Hobart 46-61
20. Jan. 22, 1952 East Gary @home 37-51
21. Jan. 25, 1952 Gary Roosevelt @ Gary Memorial 14-55
22. Jan. 29, 1952 @ Dyer 37-75
23. Feb. 1, 1952 Crown Point @home 29-38
24. Feb. 6, 1952 Gary Edison @ Gary Memorial 35-85
25. Feb. 8, 1952 @ Portage Twp. 23-42
26. Feb. 12, 1952 Hammond Noll @ Civic Center 28-70
27. Feb. 15, 1952 Merrillville @home 35-75
28. Feb. 19, 1952 Gary Wirt @home 31-36
29. Feb. 28, 1952 Hamm. Noll (sect.) @ Civic Cent. 44-59

1952-53

30. Nov. 14, 1952 @ Rensselaer 30-82
31. Nov. 21, 1952 @ Calumet Twp. 38-58
32. Nov. 25, 1952 Kouts @home 53-55
33. Dec. 2, 1952 @ Hebron 36-65
34. Dec. 5, 1952 Hammond Morton @home 45-61
35. Dec. 9, 1952 DeMotte @home 55-81

(Continued on next page)

stated that the first quarter score was 2-0 and that Lowell actually held a 10-9 lead late in the second quarter.

their first win of the season, defeating the hapless Red Devils 48-41. Lowell suffered its second

36.	Dec. 12, 1952 @ Morocco	35-51
37.	Dec. 18, 1952 Hobart @ Crown Pt. tourney	47-69
38.	Jan. 9, 1953 Griffith @home	56-67
39.	Jan. 16, 1953 Hobart @home	47-69
40.	Jan. 20, 1953 @ East Gary	46-65
41.	Jan. 24, 1953 Griffith @ Hamm. Morton tourn.	37-62
42.	Jan. 24, 1953 Hamm. Morton at same tourney	58-64
43.	Jan. 27, 1953 Dyer @home	42-56
44.	Jan. 30, 1953 @ Crown Point	38-83
45.	Feb. 3, 1953 Gary Edison @home	41-64
46.	Feb. 6, 1953 Portage Twp. @home	28-51
47.	Feb. 13, 1953 @ Merrillville	43-61
48.	Feb. 17, 1953 Gary Wirt @ Gary Memorial	41-48
49.	Feb. 25, 1953 Hamm. Noll (sect.) @ Civic Cent.	29-54

1953-54

50.	Nov. 13, 1953 Rensselaer @home	30-78
51.	Nov. 20, 1953 Calumet Twp. @home	38-77
52.	Nov. 24, 1953 @ Kouts	38-81
53.	Dec. 1, 1953 Hebron @home	48-87
54.	Dec. 4, 1953 @ Hammond Morton	57-75
55.	Dec. 8, 1953 @ DeMotte	44-66
56.	Dec. 11, 1953 Morocco @home	33-52
57.	Dec. 17, 1953 Griffith @ Calumet tourney	37-65
58.	Dec. 18, 1953 Dyer @ same tourney	53-63
59.	Jan. 8, 1954 @ Griffith	48-71
60.	Jan. 12, 1954 Chesterton @home	58-72
61.	Jan. 15, 1954 @ Hobart	40-91
62.	Jan. 19, 1954 East Gary @home	45-69

It went on to say that Portage then started pushing the pace and ended the third quarter with a 32-16 lead. It continued, "the five starting (Portage) players were sent to the showers early when the coach decided he had a safe lead, but he hadn't planned on one of his remaining five boys being tossed out by the officials." Despite Portage having to play the final three minutes with only four players, it managed to further widen the game score margin and won going away, 51-28.

On Feb. 17, 1953, the Lowell team traveled to Gary's Memorial Gym to take on the winless Gary Wirt Troopers in the final game of the regular season. The Troopers got

consecutive 0-20 season. The streak now stood at 49 games.

Paul Schuyler took over the coaching duties to start the '53-'54 season. The losses continued unabated through Jan. 19, 1954 with a loss to East Gary. It came almost exactly three years after the first loss of the streak. On Jan. 22, Lowell eked by St. Mary's of Michigan City 38-37 to end the streak. The weekly Lowell Tribune exclaimed in a headline on its front page (no, not just the sports page) "L.H.S. Red Devils Break Record Losing Streak With 38-37 Win." The win didn't come without controversy, though. The Tribune gave this account: "Lowell wasn't particular how it won

1953-54

Paul Schuyler, Coach
Tom Burgess, Sr
Charles Larson, Sr
Bob Hall, Fr
Don Holth, Fr
Jack Hawkins, Jr
Jerry Sund, Jr
Dave Adam, Soph
Donnie Wietbrock, Soph
Bob Greathouse, Soph
Jim Bevins, Soph
Bob Feddeler, Jr
Dick Morrison, Soph
Marvin Trueblood, Soph
James Allison, Manager, Soph
Ted Coons, Manager, Soph

and didn't mind at all when the contest was decided on a technicality in the final seconds. 'Trailing 37-36 with only time enough left for a couple of shots, Tom Burgess fired one from the side. 'Jim Kintzele, 6-6 Michigan City center, leaped into the air to block the ball, but in doing so his hand struck the netting, and Lowell was awarded the two points they needed for the most important victory ever won at L.H.S. 'Burgess shot, although it didn't go through the hoop, touched off the biggest display of enthusiasm ever witnessed here, and will probably never be equaled again--even if the Devils were to win a state championship." The five starters for Lowell played the entire game. They were sophomores Dave Adam and Ronnie Wietbrock, junior Jerry Sund, and seniors Tom Burgess and Charles Larson. Despite ending the streak, the Red Devils would lose their next four games. A win over Gary Wirt just before the sectional would leave the '53-'54 season record at 2-19. At last, perhaps the worst was over.

Loyal L.H.S. basketball fans were destined to experience somewhat better years in the future, once that long and historic losing streak ended.

The End

BECOME AN IHSBHS MEMBER

(Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society)

Join a statewide group of sports-minded individuals who have a common interest in the history of high school basketball, Indiana's favorite sport. Membership dues are currently just \$10 per year. Established in 1994, and loosely associated with the Hall of Fame in New Castle, IHSBHS (pronounced "ish-bish") publishes four seasonal newsletters for its members, each issue usually 12 to 16 pages in content, known as Boxscore. This newsletter contains diverse items, including short stories that recount tales of former Hoosier ballplayers and their schools' teams. Members are invited, but not required, to submit their own personal stories for inclusion in Boxscore.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail (optional for receiving Boxscore) _____

Telephone No. (optional) _____

High School and graduation year _____

Check or money order to IHSBHS for \$10 enclosed? _____

Mail to: IHSBHS Treasurer Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118

Board of Directors: Roger Robison (Frankfort '54), Harley Sheets (Lebanon '54), Cliff Johnson (Western '54), Rocky Kenworthy (Cascade '74), Tim Puet (Valley, PA '69), Leigh Evans (Castle '86), John Ockomon (Pendleton '60), Doug Bradley (Columbus East '77), Jeff Luzadder (Dunkirk '74), Curtis Tomak (Linton '59), Kermit Paddack (Sheridan '02), Hugh Schaefer (Freelandville '61).

IHSBHS MEMBER PROFILE FORM

(Tell us about yourself)

Complete this form and mail to: Rocky Kenworthy, IHSBHS, 710 E, 800 S, Clayton, IN 46118. Profiles may appear in Boxscore from time to time.

Today's Date _____

Member's Name _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____ Address _____

Occupation/Profession _____ Retired? _____

Major Interests/Hobbies _____

Past Sports Activities _____

Where Born? _____ Year Born _____

High School _____ H.S. graduation year _____

College or Univ. _____

Area of Study _____ Degree(s)/Year _____

Additional Comments You'd Like To Share: _____



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 stationary kit
- 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!

2019 Membership Form

Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Active Coach	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Active Referee	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$3,000 (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)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Vcode _____

Signature _____