

# 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 \$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

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2021 SPRING 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](http://Indianabasketballhistory.com).

You can also enter IHSBHS or "Boxscore" on any search engine.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Boone County Basketball HOF... 1**  
**IHSBHS Seeks New Blood..... 2**  
**Jumpin' Johnny Wilson..... 2**  
**From the Cradle to the Hotbed,**  
**Part 1..... 6**  
**Seat Counts & Other Musings....10**  
**IHSBSH Membership Form.....11**  
**HOF Membership Form.....12**

### Boone County is in the Cradle of Indiana Basketball

An Announcement from  
The Boone County Basketball  
HOF

Basketball is KING...and QUEEN  
in Boone County!!

As an inspiration by the actions and beliefs of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, several Boone County Basketball 'fanatics' started the

Boone County Basketball Hall of Fame in early spring of 2019, working to complement efforts to honor, preserve and promote Boone County basketball history (previously 12 active schools) and to award scholarships to graduating senior basketball players in the currently active four Boone County high schools. In our short 1½ years of existence, we've awarded SIX scholarships to Boone County graduating basketball players...both boys and girls...striving to keep basketball a ruling sport in our county!! And we'll be awarding more scholarships in April 2021.

### It's Easy to Help

Simply join our scholarship donor group (whether you are from Boone County or not) by mailing a personal check in the amount of your choice to Treasurer Dick Threlkeld, 9050 West 550 North, Thorntown, IN 46071. You may include it, if you prefer, along with your \$20 annual membership (new or renewal) check made payable to Boone County Basketball Hall of Fame. Any additional scholarship donations you might wish to make are also encouraged (*Mail checks only, not*

*cash. Cash may be submitted in person to the Treasurer*).

### So Close...Just Days Away!

We have inducted our 2019 Inaugural Class. Some of those who were inducted being John Robbins, Rick Mount and his father Pete, the Beesley Sisters from Western Boone (Cindy and Cathy), Kris Veatch Nolan, Myron Dickerson, and Coach Jim Rosenstihl. We were literally eight days away from inducting our 2020 Class at Lebanon's Ulen County Club when COVID-19 shut it all down. It was so disappointing to this class, some designees of which are Marvin Starkey, John Randel, Brandy Woody Nirider and Al Rosenstihl. But fear not...our group will still be holding the inductions ceremony as soon as it's safe to do so... as well as the 2021 Inductee Class which is still being determined.

### Since Basketball Grows "Here" - We Keep it Growing by Supporting High School Basketball Players with Scholarships!

Awarding scholarships for 2021 is well under way. Funds to fulfill this mission are raised via memberships

and donations. And on Friday, July 23rd, the group's first Golf Outing at Cool Lake Golf Course, north of Lebanon, will be held to raise additional funds for the scholarships. The fee is only \$50 per golfer (or \$200 per team.) Hole sponsorships for \$100 are also available. Food, give-a-ways, and prizes are to be awarded. If you'd like to join in this Golf Outing to help basketball youth and/or just to give a donation to the Scholarship Fund, please call D. L. White, President, at 765-376-8801, or email Larry and Martha Randel, Vice President & Secretary, at [SiSRandel@gmail.com](mailto:SiSRandel@gmail.com) to ask for details. We're planning to have a fun day with golf, good friends, and fellowship...and some good 'treats' too!!

### **IHSBSH Seeks New Blood**

Because several of the IHSBHS officers are in the throes of advancing age, we believe it's prudent to seek out capable volunteers to serve as backup personnel in the event any existing officer would need to be replaced. Please advise us if you or anyone you know might be interested to serve in such a capacity. A viable candidate might include anyone presently associated with IHSBHS or the HOF, a coach, a former player, a writer, or any other individual with some knowledge or interest in Indiana high school basketball and its history. The only other requirement is possession of a personal computer and basic computer skills.

### **JUMPIN' JOHNNY WILSON**

by

**Cliff Johnson, Sports Historian & Boxscore Editor**

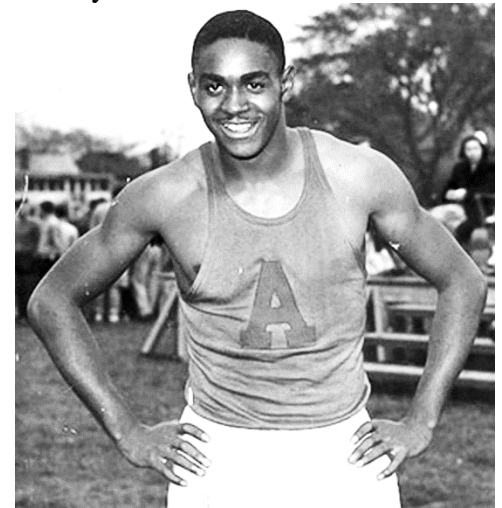
It was sometime during the 1945-46 season that I, as a nine-year old basketball enthusiast, was tuned in on our family radio one Friday night

to a regular-season game between the Kokomo Wildkats and the Anderson Indians. Both teams were contenders for the North Central Conference crown that year, so it was a significant game. It was being played at the modest-sized Kokomo National Guard Armory. The Larger Haworth Gym had burned down on March 22, 1944 from an overheated furnace. "Tiny Joe" Jordan, WKMO's excitable 350-pound game announcer, was at the mike.

I don't recall what part of the game it was, but during one of the more spirited moments, Tiny Joe was heard to say something like "John Wilson just jumped way above the rim, grabbed a rebound with legs spread out, causing his pants to split wide open at the mid-seam! The pants were hanging in two pieces from his waistline. The game is on hold while Johnny goes to the locker room for a quick change of apparel." According to the Wildkat archives, the Kats won that game, 31-29, to avenge a two-point loss to the Indians earlier that season at the Wigwam. But rumors quickly spread in our area that Jumpin' Johnny had jumped completely out of his uniform. That was a slight exaggeration, of course, since jock straps count for something. But it was almost believable since Wilson had captured the state's high jump title in track & field the previous spring. It is not known what style he used, but it was not likely the pants-splitting technique. More likely it was the "western roll," a jump I also favored at Western High School (coincidentally named) during the early '50s.

The competitive running high jump event has an interesting evolutionary history, by the way. Well before Dick Fosbury introduced the backward "Fosbury Flop" in 1968, it was reported that the Watusi tribesmen in Africa, who often stood

more than 7 feet tall, were proficient at it through the ages. They could leap to heights that amazed British military forces of the 1800s who were encamped nearby. It became a modern Olympic event at the turn of the 20th century, but its interest was shared with the equally popular "standing" high jump in 1900. In that year, Purdue graduate Ray Ewry won that event with a "towering" leap of 5 feet 4 inches. Ewry, nicknamed "the human frog," won gold medals in ten various standing jump events during the next eight years at the Olympics, a record that stood intact for 100 years until 2008 when Michael Phelps surpassed it in swimming events, with eleven. The standing jump events were discontinued in the Olympics after 1910, but if Johnny Wilson had participated in them back then he might have given the 6'-1" Ewry a serious challenge. Topping 5'-4" in a vertical leap might be a tall order, but if anyone could do it I'd bet on Johnny.



**Johnny Wilson, Track & Field, 1945**

Best known for his 1946 state finals performance of scoring 47 points in the final two games with a record-setting 30 points in the final while leading Anderson to the championship, Wilson was a superior athlete at multiple sports--not just basketball and track. When queried, he would confide that

baseball was his favorite sport. No more fierce or talented competitor existed in Indiana high school athletics during the mid-1940s. His was a name familiar to all basketball fans at schools, households, and barber shops up and down the state.

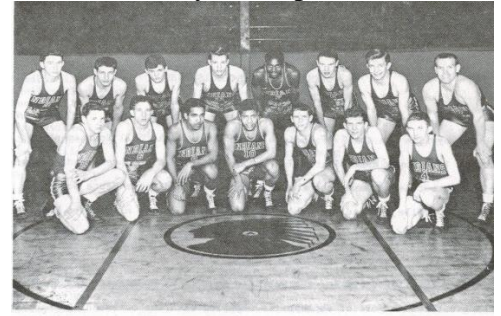
Wilson was born on July 7, 1927 in Anderson and excelled in sports at an early age. In fifth grade, he led his elementary school to the city basketball championship. One of his teammates, who turned out to be a lifelong friend, was Carl Erskine. Carl, as most sports fans know, became a legendary pitcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers after graduating from Anderson High one year ahead of Johnny. Jack Rector, another talented Anderson athlete, was a member of that grade school team as well. In his freshman year, Johnny was pursuing action in basketball, baseball, football, and track for Anderson's Papooses.

By his sophomore year, Wilson was not only moved up to the varsity, but Charlie Cummings, the second-year coach for the Indians, saw fit to insert him into the starting five. Anderson had a combined 28-20 record the previous two seasons. Ordinarily that might be considered a positive accomplishment, especially against tough NCC competition. However, the Indians didn't survive regional play in 1942, bowing out to Lawrence Central 32-29. The following year was even worse in tournament play, with the red & green succumbing to a tough Markleville team (20-2) in the second round of the sectional, 38-36. But now, with Wilson joining his older brother Ray on the team, Anderson's fortunes began to turn. The team skyrocketed to a 25-4 record by the end of the 1943-44 season, taking first place in the NCC and making it all the way to the final four before being knocked off by Kokomo's famous L-S-M-F-T five in

the afternoon, 30-26.

Wilson's junior year of 1944-45 was even better than his sophomore season. He captured scoring honors in the NCC and led the team to an 18-6 record without the help of brother Ray, who had joined the U.S. Army. The Indians had to take a back seat to upstart Danville (21-5) at their own regional, however, in a close 33-32 thriller. In the meantime, Wilson was going great guns in his other athletic endeavors, especially the jumping and sprint events in track & field and on the baseball diamond at third base. He could run and punt on the gridiron and even competed in the shot put. The 1945-46 season, Wilson's senior year, was the crowning glory of his high school basketball years. His scoring efforts and floor play reached new heights. And although the Indians had a successful, though not spectacular, season of NCC play, they were outscored by several of the state's powerhouse teams during the regular season and finished 13-7 overall. It's not known for sure, but coach Cummings and the school's athletic director might have deliberately arranged a very tough schedule for the Indians in that season to promote ticket sales for returning World War II veterans and to give the players a good dose of topnotch competition in preparation for the state tournament. If that was their strategy, it worked! The Indians stormed through the sectional, regional, and semifinals, then pummeled their way through the final two games to become undisputed state champions. The final game was a measure of how much the team had improved. They avenged a 49-22 midseason shellacking by Fort Wayne Central to tame the Tigers in the state championship game 67-53, going away. Wilson set a number of scoring records during the state

tournament and regular season. He was lauded by the sportswriters as



ANDERSON, 1946 CHAMPION  
Front Row - Bevelhimer, Voss, Cochran, Weatherly, Vanderbur, Ritter, Stage. Back Row - Hamilton, Stodtlemeyer, Green, Spearman, Wilson, Roberts, Armstrong, Farmer.

Indiana's Mr. Basketball. On June 21, 1946, he scored 27 points for the Hoosier team that defeated Kentucky 62-55 in the annual interstate All-Star game. Most spectators thought he deserved the game's "Star of Stars" award, but 6-2 Sonny Allen of the Bluegrass team received that honor after scoring an even 20 in defeat.

After graduation, Jumpin' Johnny wanted to take his talents on to Indiana University. Although never a dedicated scholar in high school, he had taken the right preparatory classes to prepare for college-level work, including English and American literature, social studies, civics, algebra, and world history. However, racial bias was still an active factor in 1946, one year before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball. The Indiana head coach turned down Mr. Basketball's scholarship application, with the admonition that "I don't think he could make my team." Indiana State Teachers College in Terre Haute was also explored by Wilson, but he discovered that Negroes were excluded from living on campus. Wilson's mother persuaded him to try enrolling at Anderson's small integrated private college at the northeast corner of town that had an enrollment of only 350 at that time. The college administration was only too happy to welcome John to its grounds, with the expectation that he would do OK

academically while starring for its athletic teams.

Almost immediately during his first year on campus, Anderson College became a small college basketball sensation. Joining John on the Ravens were three of his former teammates at Anderson High who were stars in their own right: his older brother Ray, Joe Anderson, and Bill Howard, with a few other top-notch recruits. Anderson College suddenly found itself on the map of college competition. In his freshman year, Johnny scored 515 points for the Ravens, putting him in eighth place nationally. Joe Anderson also ranked high nationally in scoring. The team's record in 1946-47 was 16-8. Two of the school's newly scheduled big-time opponents, Dayton and North Carolina State, were able to beat Anderson College by only thin margins, 45-39 and 68-65 respectively. A third major school, Xavier (Ohio), was beaten by the Ravens, 54-42.

Wilson's second season at Anderson College was more spectacular, with the team going 16-5 and Wilson scoring 565 points at a 24.6 ppg clip. In his final year at Anderson College as a junior in 1948-49, Wilson scored 46 points in a single game against Adrian College. Later, against Assumption College, in a game in which he had already scored 49 points, Johnny broke his arm in rough play during the latter stages of the game. He missed the following four games. But his season's point total in the 18 games in which he played that season was 458, producing a mark of 25.4 ppg. That was good for third place nationwide. The team didn't fare so well though and finished its season at 11-11. During track season that spring, an argument arose between him and the coach, resulting in his quitting athletics and ultimately leaving the school.

Nevertheless, his 3-year college basketball career point total was 1,538 which corresponds to a 23.3 ppg average. During his time at Anderson College, Johnny honed his skills at baseball and was the place kicker for the football team, a skill that ultimately made him famous on the basketball floor with the Harlem Globetrotters--drop kicking the ball into the hoop from midcourt.

After leaving Anderson College, Wilson considered professional baseball as a career. His experience at the high school and college levels and the fact that he batted and fielded well, along with his unusual speed, should have been sufficient to interest big league teams. The New York Yankees and the relatively nearby St. Louis Cardinals and Chicago White Sox all extended an invitation to him for a spring tryout, but in 1949 the MLB color issue had not yet been resolved for all the teams. Despite his putting on a hitting clinic during the tryouts, the top management of all three clubs determined that their fans were not ready for integration, so Johnny was rejected. He was, however, accepted by the Chicago American Giants of the Negro League and played on that club for one year before deciding to switch sports. He accepted a short-term contract from Abe Saperstein of the Harlem Globetrotters in hopes of settling into a profession that could earn him a living wage. Here was the chance of teaming up with such stars as Reece Tatum, Marques Haynes, Clarence Wilson, Frank Gates, Nat Clifton, and Babe Pressley. Entertainment, as well as a world-class winning reputation, was part of the package and that especially appealed to Wilson, so he signed.

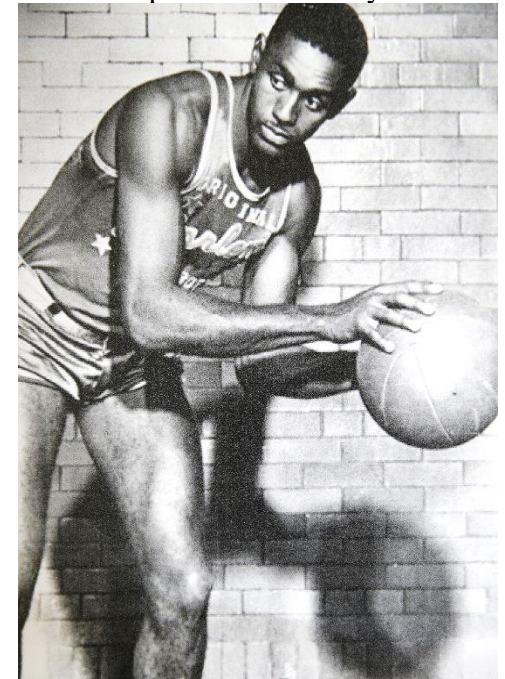
John became a regular member of the Globetrotters and excelled at his established shooting ability. But he also participated in the clowning

routine, as he was already well-honed at fancy ball-handling. He called upon his place-kicking skill in football that added a personal touch to the clowning routines. With his teammates hiking the ball to him in the backcourt, he would drop kick it into his team's hoop anywhere from



**Wilson vs Mikan, All-Star Game 1949**

40 to 60 feet away. He succeeded at this stunt many times and was nearly always no more than a few inches off, which produced gasps or groans from the spectators. Johnny was still



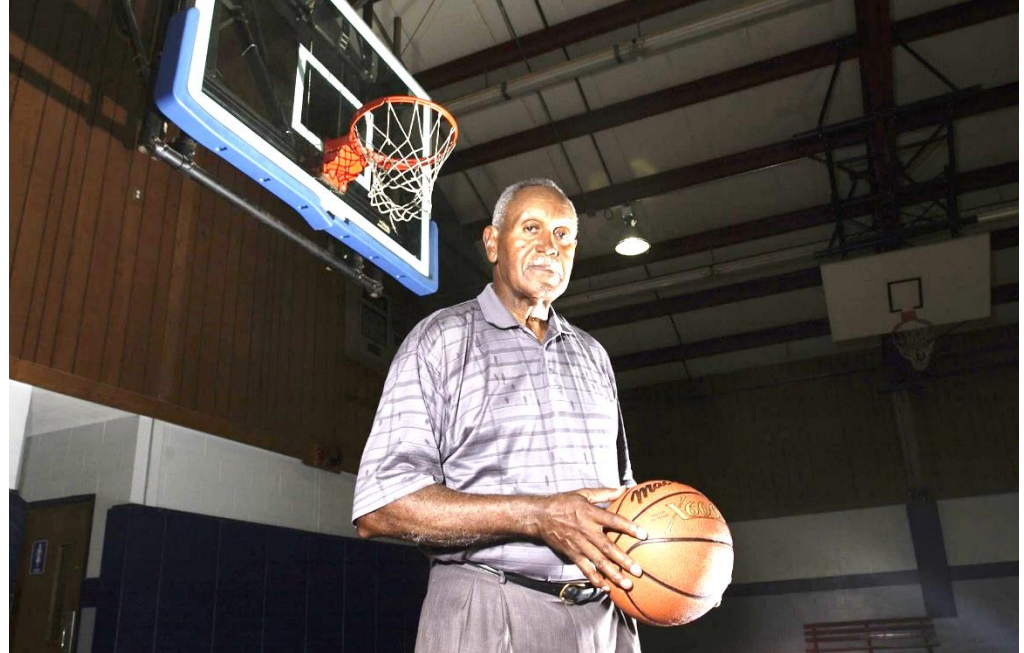
**Wilson as a Globetrotter, 1953**

of military draft age while he was with the Trotters, so he spent two years in the army during the Korean War, although mostly on the basketball court, not on the battlefield. He returned to the Trotters in 1952 with another short-term contract in hand. He continued to perform through 1954 before ultimately retiring from professional court activity.

After leaving basketball as a player, Wilson returned to the academic world and completed his studies, leading to a teaching credential. He was hired by an elementary school and served two years there before newly-established Wood High School (formerly Manual) in Indianapolis hired him as a teacher and an assistant coach. By 1959, he had taken the reins as head coach. He was reportedly the first African American head coach of an integrated school in Indiana. In eight years at Wood, Wilson achieved a W-L record of 139-59. In 1967, after leaving Wood, he was hired as athletic director, baseball coach, and basketball coach at Herzl Junior College in Chicago, soon re-named Malcolm X City College. It was a two-year institution with a modest enrollment of only a few thousand students at the time. He remained there for sixteen years, winning 378 games and losing only 135 for an exceptional .737 winning percentage. During his tenure, his son John Jr. helped with both the baseball and basketball coaching duties.

In 1970, during his stint at Malcolm X, the head coaching position at Anderson H.S. opened up. Wilson resolved to apply for the position which he had coveted since receiving his teaching credential. An all-white school board conducted the interview and at its conclusion posed the rhetorical question "Do you think you could coach white boys?" To Wilson, the question's message

seemed clear. He knew he was rooted in a separate world governed by the dictates of racial prejudice.



**Johnny Wilson, age 79, in 2007**

As expected, the board turned him down, adjudging him as "too militant"--possibly in reflection of his post at Malcolm X and his afro-style haircut. John was anything but militant; that was never in his character or lifestyle. He twice more tried to land the Anderson head coaching job but was denied the post both times. In 1976, however, he was informed that he had been inducted into the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Wilson retired from Malcolm X in 1989, after which he returned to his hometown where Barrett Bates, the head coach at Anderson University, talked John into assisting him with scouting and recruiting duties for the next four years. The salary was minimal. Soon though, at age 66, John finally got his chance to return to Anderson High, albeit only as an unpaid volunteer assistant to head coach Ron Hecklinski for three years. At last recognizing that he could still coach competently at age 69, Anderson High appointed him as head coach for the girls team, a post he held for six years. In 2002, at age

75, John pulled up roots again and began serving as an assistant coach to his son, John Jr., at Lock Haven

State College in Pennsylvania. Although John Sr. had always been an exemplary role model to John Jr., this coaching role reversal late in life suited him to a T. John Sr. stayed around in that capacity with his son for about ten years.



**Wilson Statue, Anderson HS**

In 2012, now fully and indisputably retired at age 83, John Sr. returned again to the city of Anderson, where he was exuberantly welcomed upon his re-arrival and ultimately bestowed with various honors during the next few years. A nine-foot bronze statue of him wearing his Globetrotters uniform was created and placed at the northeast front corner of the high school, where it stands today. He also was named a "Sagamore of the

Wabash," one of the most prestigious awards presented in Indiana. Aside from his accomplishments in athletics and coaching, nearly everyone viewed him as the consummate gentleman. Perhaps even more, he is remembered for his goodness of character, his enduring humility, and his positive influence on young athletes. John E. Wilson died of pneumonia in Chester, Virginia (his son's residence) on Jan. 11, 2019 at age 91.

**From the Cradle to the Hotbed -  
Part 1 of 2**

by

**Bill Boone, IHSBHS Board  
Member**

From the "Cradle," Crawfordsville--to the "Hotbed," Lebanon. All roads led to Wabash and eventually to the Hall of Fame. Harley Sheets, IHSBHS founder and the resident basketball historian of Lebanon, spent hundreds of hours looking at old newspapers and microfilm. He has compiled a list of all the coaches who have won sectionals, regionals, semi-states, and state championships in Indiana from the first state tournament in 1911 and the first sectionals in 1915 to the onset of class basketball in 1997-98. Harley provided me with a copy of his list (in a green booklet) and I began to devour it, looking for names that I knew. The deeper I got into the booklet, the more I recognized names with Montgomery County connections. That was not surprising since natives of Crawfordsville and Montgomery County, as well as Lebanon, all reside in the Cradle of Indiana Basketball. I also began to recognize names with Wabash College connections. These were men who either played or coached at Wabash College. As I began to review them I also realized that many had been honored with induction into the

Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. This Part 1 of my article recounts the early years of basketball in the Cradle, while Part 2 (scheduled for the next issue of Boxscore) contains a compilation of short bios on notable Cradle personalities and their accomplishments and contributions to Montgomery County and Indiana basketball.

Since Crawfordsville High School (CHS) basketball was such a dominant force in the early history of Indiana basketball, the town of Crawfordsville can truly be called the "Cradle of Indiana basketball." The story begins in the old YMCA upstairs at the Interurban Terminal Building at the corner of Washington and Main. Dr. James Naismith of Springfield, Massachusetts, had introduced the new sport in December of 1891 so that football players could stay active during the winter months. The game was loosely modeled after lacrosse, with the names of the positions on the court taken from that game. The goal (a wooden peach basket) was placed above the court at one end. The earliest mention of basketball in Crawfordsville was when a game was played on March 16, 1894, between the Crawfordsville YMCA and the Lafayette YMCA. Crawfordsville won the game 45-21. Later, on Feb. 19, 1897, Wabash College played Purdue University at the old YMCA, making that the first intercollegiate basketball game in Indiana.

The CHS players had been playing basketball on their YMCA teams almost from the beginning, so these young men were well-trained when they began to compete against other high school teams by 1900-01. This helps explain the dominance of CHS and Montgomery County in the early years. CHS basketball teams began the 20th century by winning the unofficial state championship six

times in the first ten years. That was before the IHSAA began to sanction and sponsor basketball tournaments, and the CHS teams were usually acclaimed or declared state champs, having annually defeated every other high school opponent that played basketball. CHS either won or claimed the championships of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa in 1900-01 and were unbeaten within the high school ranks. The school won the championship of Illinois outright by defeating Danville, the Illinois state champ. They then claimed the championship of Iowa as well because Danville had defeated the Iowa state champ.

The CHS team of 1901-02, according to the 1902 Utopian (an early CHS yearbook) "was as successful as its predecessors, having never been beaten by a high school team." Actually, the only high school game CHS played that year outside its own area was against Shortridge of Indianapolis who earlier had beaten Manual of Indianapolis. CHS claimed the state championship that year by the fact that all other high school teams refused to play them. The first high school team included Harter Walter, (who later wrote the CHS Alma Mater fight song, *The Gold and Blue*); Will Sprow, later a star of early Wabash College championship teams; Ralph Wicks (also a star on early Wabash teams); Robert Irons; Rome Williams; Glenn Henry; and Heber Banks. The CHS girls also played basketball in 1901-02 losing their only game to the more experienced Shortridge girls 12- 11.

The 1903-04 team had a record of 13-2, losing only to the University of Minnesota and the Crawfordsville Business College. Along the way, the team defeated Wabash College twice even though Wabash lost only three games at the collegiate level. Little wonder that when Ralph

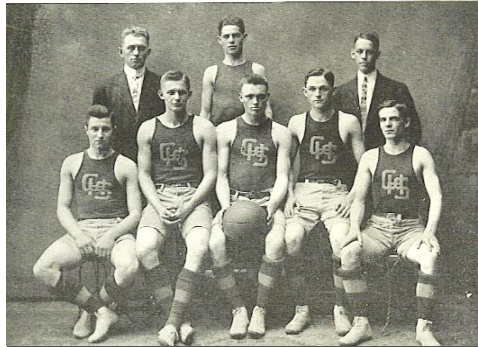
Wicks, Will Sprow, and Harter Walter went to Wabash College after graduation they led the Little Giant basketball teams to a record of 66-3 during the next four years. In 1907-08, their senior college year, Wicks, Sprow, and Walter led the team to a 24-0 record. This first Wabash College "Wonder Five" was proclaimed "World Basketball Champions." One of the only teams to beat the Little Giants during those four years was the 1907-08 Crawfordsville High School team, and they did it twice. Starters on that team were Robert "Pete" Vaughan, Paul Stump, Justin "Jud" Molony, and Emmett Poston. The Wabash College team was considered number one in the country when CHS defeated it on the old YMCA court.

Returning to 1903-04, for the next two school seasons--1904-05 and 1905-06--CHS was reloading. Coach Ralph Jones was developing new talent. Older players like "Pete" Vaughan, Ward "Piggy" Lambert, Justin Molony, Paul Stump, and Sherman Yount, were polishing their skills. They laid claim to the state championship again in 1904-05. By 1906-07, the team was again ready and reloaded. Led by Molony, Poston, Stump, and Vaughan, CHS won every game and finished 12-0. The team won the city league championship and with it the Wicks Cup by twice defeating the Wabash College "Little Giants," the All-Western Champions of the year before. The scores were 23 - 21 and 24 - 21. CHS also defeated the local YMCA twice and an Army Company "B" team twice. CHS also claimed the state championship title by defeating both the Indianapolis contenders, Manual and Shortridge. "Throughout the whole school year, the team did not lose a single game: to college, YMCA, or high school teams and as winners of the Wicks Cup and the state championship, we

should be proud of the team and grateful to Mr. Jones, whose hard work and faithfulness, much of our success was due." So wrote the editor of the 1907 Athenian. Three CHS players--Sherman Poston, Justin Molony, and Paul Stump--made the Indiana All-State team.

The season of 1908-09 saw the demise of the city league, but not the dominance of CHS basketball. Led by former players Perry Stump and "Piggy" Lambert as coaches, CHS raced to a 17 - 1 record. It defeated the YMCA two out of three games for the city championship and defeated Lebanon twice to "gain a better title than any for first place" according to the 1909 school yearbook. At the conclusion of the season, Ernest "Rosie" Herron was unanimously chosen by all newspaper critics as the best forward in the state. The Indiana Sportsman proclaimed that, "Crawfordsville had the best team but the Crawfordsville team was not one of stars, but was an evenly balanced outfit."

In 1909-10, CHS again defeated every team and won the unsanctioned state championship by



**Proclaimed Championship Team of 1910**  
 First Row: Fernando Schlemmer, Ralph Wilson, Ernie Herron, Clio Shaw, Walt Breckenridge, Back Row: Coach Dave Glascock, Newt Hill, Team Manager.

defeating Lafayette 30-15. The team was undefeated in the state and lost only to New Ulm, Wisconsin just a few hours after a long and tiring train trip to the All-Western Basketball Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin.

As representatives of the state of Indiana, CHS bounced back from that early defeat to finish in second place in the tourney. The 1910 Athenian yearbook reported that "Their floor work...was little short of spectacular." They finished 4 -1 in the tourney and 17 - 2 overall.

After being proclaimed Indiana State Champions for several years, the 1910-11 team, under coach David Glascock, got a chance to take on all comers, winning 12 games and losing only to Marion 34-32 and Lebanon (the sleeping giant to the east) 20-16. It then journeyed to Bloomington to compete for the state crown. The CHS team won the championship despite having to play five games in one week, including four in twenty-six hours and three games in nine hours. The five iron men who played most of the time for Coach "Davey" Glascock were "Newt" Hill, "Chine" Taylor, "Stevie" Stevenson, "Buddie" Miller, and "Cassie" Chadwick. This was Crawfordsville's early version of the "Fab Five". The two subs were "Ick" Shaw and "Chicken" Myers.



**CHS State Champions, 1911.**

First Row, Hugh Miller; Middle Row, Carroll Stevenson, Orville Taylor, Cleo Shaw, Ben Myers, Newton Hill. Back Row, Coach Dave Glascock, Grady Chadwick.

After that, the team was moderately successful for the next few years. Many players tried out each year. Glascock divided them into ten teams, seven men each. The teams then played a series of games at the old YMCA, and finished with an intramural tourney at the end.

Since football had been abolished due to the death of former basketball and football star Ralph Wilson, the round-ballers were able to get an early start for the 1911-12 season. The varsity team finished its regular season 11-3 but then lost to New Richmond 22-14 in the first game of the sectional. In 1913 and 1914, Montgomery County basketball fortunes were carried by Wingate. That team was led by its star center, Homer Stonebraker. It won the state title both years. CHS was 16-8 in 1912-13 but conquered state champ Wingate twice by narrow margins during the regular season. CHS then slipped to 9-6 in 1913-14, losing in the state tournament to Wingate by an eyebrow-raising score of 24-1.

That is a brief summary of CHS and the Cradle, during the first few years of Indiana high school basketball. Additional detail on some players of that era will be forthcoming in Part 2 of this article in Boxscore's next issue. The initial eight Indiana high school champions all came from within a 30-mile radius of the Cradle—Crawfordsville 1911, Lebanon 1912, Wingate 1913 and 1914, Thorntown 1915, Lafayette 1916, and Lebanon again in 1917 and 1918.



#### Lebanon, 1912 State Champion

Front Row: Richard Porter, Okla Sicks, Lowell Dale, Ralph Goodwin, Murl Purdue.  
Back Row: Robert Waterbury, Trainer Hostetter, Ralph Worley, Coach Claude Whitney, Rex Dale, Manager McClintock.

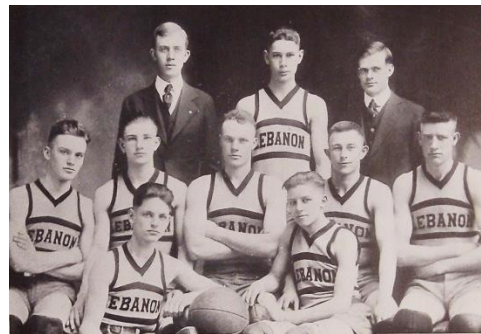
Apart from CHS the school that, less quietly, was becoming the "Hotbed" of Indiana basketball

seemed to be Lebanon. It was runner-up to champion Crawfordsville in the first tournament of 1911. It then won the second tournament in 1912. In 1914, under the direction of "Piggy" Lambert, it lost to eventual champ



#### Ward (Piggy) Lambert, 1909

Wingate in an afternoon game of the finals 14-8. In 1915 the eventual state champ, Thorntown, slipped up on the Tigers and beat them 23-15. In 1916, under the leadership of CHS and Wabash College grad Ward Lambert, who was soon to be a



#### Lebanon State Champs, 1917

Front Row: Clyde Grater, Gerald Gardner.  
Center Row: Robert Ball, Don White, Frank Little, Harry DeVol, Fred Adam. Back Row: Manager Demaree, Charles Frank, Coach Alva Staggs.

coaching legend at Purdue University, it powered its way through the state tournament again, losing narrowly to Martinsville in the finals 16-13. In 1917 and 1918

Lebanon enjoyed its best season performances to date by winning the state championship both years. In



#### Lebanon State Champs, 1918

Front Row: Gerald Gardner, Fred Adam, Merrill Gardner. Middle Row: Frank Martin, Clyde Grater, Donald White, Henry Stevens, Basil Smith. Back Row: Coach Glenn Curtis, Manager Demaree.

the 87 state tournament years up to and including the end of single class basketball in 1997, Lebanon went to the sweet sixteen 19 times, the elite eight 15 times, the final four 7 times, was runner-up twice, and won three state championships. During that period, the Tigers won 46 sectionals including 13 in a row from 1930-31 to 1942-43 and seven in a row from 1972-73 to 1978-79. They are 7<sup>th</sup> in the number of appearances in the state championships, from sweet sixteen to state championships, right behind such NCC powerhouses as Muncie Central, Marion, Frankfort, Anderson, and Lafayette Jefferson.

Now to Wabash College, another component of the Cradle's noteworthy history. In the early days, from 1900 through the 1930s, all basketball roads led to Wabash College. Wabash had many outstanding teams during that time with four of them being designated as "Wonder Fives," because of their outstanding seasons and heralded on-court performances. The teams were heavily populated with players from both the Cradle and Lebanon's Hotbed. The first "Wonder Five" at Wabash was the team of 1907-08. It had a 24-0 record and was



proclaimed "World Champs." Of the eight players on the team, four were from Crawfordsville High School--Ralph Wicks, Will Sprow (who later



**Wabash College undefeated 24-0, 1907-08**  
Front row: Ralph Wicks, Will Sprow, L.J.C. "Brandy" Freeman, William H. "Abe" Diddel.  
Back Row: Charley Ball, Harter "Deac" Walter, Paul "Perry" Stump, Walter "Gypper" Gipe and Coach Ralph Jones.

practiced law in Crawfordsville), Harter Walter, and Paul Stump (later the mayor of Crawfordsville). L.J.C. Freeman was from Waynetown and Bill Diddel was from Indianapolis. Charley Ball from Rockville served as manager. The Little Giants had a four-year record of 66-3 between 1905 to 1908 and lost only to Wisconsin and twice to Crawfordsville High School.

The next "Wonder Five," at Wabash was the 1916-17 team which played a difficult schedule of 21 games and lost only twice, while beating such schools as Purdue, Illinois, Notre Dame (twice), Earlham, Georgetown, DePauw (twice), Indiana and Miami of Ohio. They lost only to the Illinois Athletic Club and the Michigan Aggies. They were led that year by Homer Stonebraker (Wingate), Knute Cauldwell (Rockville), Abe DeVol (Lebanon), Lester Hunt (Crawfordsville), Francis "Bake" Bacon (South Bend), and Del Clements (Crawfordsville). Cauldwell later played football in the fledgling NFL.

The third "Wonder Five," of 1921-

22, also included players from both the Cradle and the Hotbed. Wabash finished the season with a record of 21-3 and won the National



**William (Abe) Diddel**

Intercollegiate Basketball Tournament. They were coached by the legendary "Pete" Vaughan who was a CHS graduate of 1908. His players were Fred (Cat) Adam and Clyde Grater, both members of the 1917 Lebanon team that won the IHSAA state championship. Vaughan's team also included Maurice "Shang" Chadwick, a CHS grad and Lon Goldsberry, Pete Thorn, and Forest Crane, who played for Wingate when they won the National Interscholastic Basketball Championship in 1920.



**Maurice (Shang) Chadwick**

The fourth "Wonder Five" was the 1924-25 team, winners of the Indiana Intercollegiate Championship. Once again, the coach was CHS grad Pete Vaughan, and several of his neighborhood high school players came from both the Cradle and the Hotbed, including sophomore starter "Benny" DeVol who had been Lebanon's first 1000-point career scorer. He was then to become a 13-



**Benny DeVol, Wabash College 1925 Team**

letter award winner at Wabash. "Shang" Chadwick, a CHS grad was again the center. They were joined by Lloyd Etter of New Market. This team sported a record of 18-1, losing only to Wisconsin by one point. It defeated Franklin College with junior and later Hall of Famer Robert "Fuzzy" Vandivier twice, 50-24 and 31-24. The Little Giants also defeated the Kentucky Wildcats, later coached by the legendary Adolph Rupp, spanking them by a score of 57-10. That would forever be the largest losing margin for the boys from the Bluegrass. The Wildcats, under Rupp, avenged that loss by beating the Little Giants 96-24 at their last meeting in 1946. Another member of the 1925 Wabash unit was Maurice Guy "Red" Robinson from Anderson High, a three-time All-Star, a national sportswriters' all-western selection, and a Little All-American. In high school, Robinson was twice

selected to the all-state team and received the first Gimble Award for Mental Attitude his senior year. In 1965 he was inducted into the Indiana High School Basketball H.O.F.

The last Wabash "Wonder Five" was Mac Petty's 1982 aggregation that won the NCAA Division III Championship. They were led by All-American Pete Metzelaars who would go on to a 16-year career in the NFL, and CHS graduate Kerry Seward.

## SEAT COUNTS & OTHER MUSINGS

by  
**Doug Bradley**

1) From 1911 until the single tournament ended in 1997, there were 4958 sectionals. Forty-nine of those were conducted at multiple sites. That's a total of 5007 individual sectional sites. I guessed that I could find the date for the first game ever played at each site, for about 85 percent. I've just finished the first round of searching and have all but 666 (no pun intended, but this will be a theme), for 86.7 percent. If I could have found the date for present gyms at Batesville, East Central and South Dearborn, I would have hit seven-eighths of the 5007.

2) Original seating construction for Indiana's Sweet 15 (count 'em) gyms:

8422 Seymour  
8284 Elkhart  
8240 Anderson  
8100 East Chicago Central  
7886 Richmond  
7841 New Castle  
7630 Marion  
7472 Muncie  
7360 Kokomo  
7304 Michigan City Rogers  
7290 Southport  
7216 Gary West  
7103 Washington

7046 Columbus  
6690 Lafayette

### Related notes:

Seymour's total is unconfirmed but likely true.

Elkhart count of 8248 doesn't include the two team benches.

New Castle had 1408 seats in portable bleachers atop the concourse for 9249 in total.

Marion (total seats unconfirmed) sometimes listed as 7690 (but 7630 was first). Richard Tekulve (of IHSBHS) said he counted 7692 seats before remodeling took place.

Kokomo (7360 is an unconfirmed estimate) had an unfinished area on one balcony, so its number changed each year with difference bleachers constructed.

MC Rogers has a plaque at each corner of the gym that reads: Capacity 7172 (7304 has always been the correct number), and Elkhart has plaques identical to Michigan City's that read: Capacity 8284.

Columbus cut 24 seats from its top row in mid-January 1955 to extend the aisle one row higher that enabled 244 seats to become a new top row for 7266 total seats, in time for its first sectional (read that all in one breath).

Lafayette had 18-inch seats on the balcony marked with black numbers. The balcony also had 16-inch seats marked with red numbers to be used for sectionals and regionals. Today, the 18-inch numbers are etched into the bleachers. Signs above the top row of both balconies are marked Seats 1-15/Seats 1-35/Seats 1-35/Seats 1-15. The seats themselves

are etched 1-13/1-31/1-31/1-13. With 16-inch balcony seats, Lafayette seats 7170.

### 3) Other Musings

When ESPN radio first started to align with morons who don't know the purpose of a nickname, I suggested the Redskins keep the source of their name and call themselves the Washington Tea Party. Very soon thereafter came the Republican Tea Party movement to Washington.

Recently, I decided that Washington Freedom is the only appropriate nickname. That's a problem, though, because it's hard to explain how freedom can be highjacked (like the Boston tea) and the team in the city built to house freedom is being forced to change its name.

Last weekend, I solved the problem yet again. I looked in the online dictionary and saw that "Redskins" is a derogatory term for native Americans. However, the same dictionary says "Palefaces" is perfectly acceptable in all uses. Of course, I've seen enough cowboy-and-Indian movies to know that you can't have one without the other. Is it racist to point out that the 95 percent (or whatever the number is) black Washington football team can be called the Palefaces and still be politically correct? On my way to the bank this evening, I decided they should be called the Washington Wind. That way, the nickname wouldn't have to change with the wind every time it blows a hair up the ass of some moron who doesn't know the purpose of a nickname.

The one thing I know for certain is that there can never be a nickname more appropriate for a Boston football team than Redskins. And you can take that to the bank as I did.

## 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), Jeff Luzadder (Dunkirk '74), Curtis Tomak (Linton '59), Kermit Paddack (Sheridan '02), Hugh Schaefer (Freelandville '61), Bill Boone (Ladoga '56).



## 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 complimentary gift
- subscription to Indiana Basketball History Magazine
- invitations to annual receptions for inductees and honorees along with other special events

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

## 2021 Membership Form

### Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Active H.S. Coach	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Active H.S. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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.

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