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2023 FALL ISSUE																															

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IHSBHS MEMBERSHIP DUES

If the year 2022 appears on the mailing cover of this issue, it means you are delinquent, and this will be your final issue until your dues are paid for 2023. As IHSBHS members all know, annual dues are the lifeblood of this organization. Without them, *Boxscore* can't be printed and IHSBHS couldn't exist. We've

managed to keep the dues stable at \$10 per annum for many years. Although our Treasury funds are currently adequate, it needs to be recognized that printing and mailing rates continue to rise. To help counter those costs, it is essential that your membership dues be kept current. Please do that for us.

Rossville Hornets, 1970-71 Season by Scott Spires, IHSBHS Member and Sports Columnist

This column is one person's recollection about the legendary 1970-71 Rossville Hornets basketball team. The time was 1971. Richard Nixon was President. Gas was 40 cents a gallon, bread 25 cents a loaf, a first-class stamp 8 cents. Eighteen-year-olds had just received the right to vote through the 26th Amendment. The selective service draft was still in effect and the United States had over 150,000 troops in Vietnam. There was no cable TV, no internet or cell phones. It was a different time in America. But one constant throughout the years has been Indiana high school basketball. In Indiana, the place to be on a Friday or Saturday night is

the local high school gym. This is even more so at Rossville High School, located in the rural town of Rossville, Indiana. From 1969 thru 1971 this small community, with only 277 high school students (at that time) produced three consecutive semistate (one-class) basketball appearances. In the two seasons prior to 1970-71, Rossville fell to Gary Tolleston 96-79 in the semistate final of the 1969 state tournament. In the 1969-70 semistate, the Hornets fell to Michigan City 87-80 in the opening round.

The 1970-71 Hornets finished the regular season at 18-2, with losses to 6th-ranked Lafayette Jefferson 87-73 and to a talented Knox team 82-79 in overtime. Rossville was coached by Mike Jones, in his seventh season at the helm. The starters were John Kamstra, Tom Bonebrake, Bob Knapp, Darrell Skiles and Garry Kamstra. Sixth man was Bob Dyer. The rest of the team included Steve Morris, Dick Knapp, Rodger Meador, Carl Chezem, Greg Carter, and Craig Meador. Starting with the 1971 state tourney, Rossville won five tournament games to reach the semistate at Mackey Arena in West

Lafayette. Rossville would face off against the sixth-ranked Lafayette Jefferson Broncos in the opening semifinal game. But Rossville first had to walk through a gauntlet of unruly Lafayette Jeff fans who had surrounded the Rossville team (school) bus. It was during this encounter that Rossville players were being screamed at, slapped, and spat upon. Rossville coach Jones even collared one individual for this behavior towards his team. The Coach Jones-led Rossville Hornets would dish out their payback on the basketball court.

Before a capacity crowd of more than 14,000, Rossville opened the first quarter leading Lafayette Jeff 22-16 and then was ahead 43-39 at halftime. The Hornets had the game sealed at the end of three, leading 69-55. Rossville went on to win, 94-77. At game's end, Hornet Bob Dyer did a victory run past the stunned Lafayette crowd, holding the basketball high above his head. That afternoon Lafayette Jeff received a lesson in Civics 101 and payback. Brothers John and Garry Kamstra poured in a combined 54 points in this game as Rossville avenged an early season loss to the Broncos and moved onto the semistate championship final.

Rossville would now face the undefeated and No. 1 ranked East Chicago Washington Senators in the semistate championship game. To get an idea of just how talented the Senators were, here are some indications: Its starters included Pete Trgovich, who played on the UCLA Bruins 1973 and 1975 NCAA championship teams. Much later, Trgovich coached East Chicago Central to the 2007 state championship. There was also Junior Bridgeman, who was a key player on Louisville's 1975 Final Four team and went on to play 12 seasons in the NBA. Then there was

Tim Stoddard, who played on North Carolina State's 1974 NCAA championship team. Stoddard went on to pitch 13 seasons in the major leagues, including the 1984 Chicago Cubs divisional champs. Stoddard is the only person ever to play on (1) a World Series championship team (Baltimore), (2) an NCAA national championship basketball team (N.C. State), and (3) a high school state championship basketball team (ECW). Finally, there were the fast-as-the-speed-of-sound guards Darnell Adell and Ruben Bailey, both also Division 1 college standouts.

Going into the ECW battle, the

vs-Goliath schools squaring off head-to-head. Despite the player injuries, Rossville's determination, experience, and talent showed immediately. The first quarter was almost even with Rossville trailing 14-12. Entering the second quarter, Rossville was neither intimidated nor rattled. The team continued to run plays calmly and smoothly. At halftime Rossville trailed by four, 31-27. Then disaster struck in the third quarter. ECW managed to slip into its fast-breaking style of play, outscoring Rossville 11-1 in the first four minutes to gain a 42-28 lead. The Hornets managed to stay nearly even from there and the third quarter



Rossville Back In Semistate

1970-71 Rossville Hornets; Front row: Bob Knapp, Tom Bonebroke, Jeff Miller, Bob Dyer, Steve Morris, Garry Kamstra. Back Row: Dick Knapp, Ken Miller, Greg Carter, John Kamstra, Coach Mike Jones, Darrell Skiles, Craig Meador, Rodger Meador, Mike Reynolds

Hornets had unforeseen problems. First, starter John Kamstra somehow sprained his neck in the Lafayette Jeff game. Another starter, Bob Knapp, had not recovered from a week-old ankle sprain. Many fans worried about whether the less than healthy Rossville squad could match up against the Senators. ECW was, after all, the same team that gave the 14th-ranked Kokomo Wildkats a 112-60 thumping during the regular season. This evening in Mackey Arena, the Rossville Hornets would have a lot on their plate.

Came the tipoff, with the David-

closed with ECW leading 56-41. In the fourth, the Rossville players gave it all they had, but ECW's speed and talent would be too much for them to be able to close a 15-point gap. Rossville topped the scoring in the fourth, 26-23, for a final score of ECW 79, Rossville 67. Surprisingly, Rossville outrebounded the much taller Senators 42-36, won from the free throw line 17-5, and even put up more shots than ECW 74-69. But the Hornets weren't connecting from the field. Normally shooting at 50% or so, this night saw Rossville at just 33% accuracy. Garry Kamstra tried

to pick up the slack for injured brother John by scoring 28 points, and Tom Bonebrake kept hitting from the outside and finished with 16. Darrell Skiles, Rossville's only big man, grabbed 14 rebounds and had 10 points.

In the state finals at Hinkle Fieldhouse, ECW went on to stop Floyd Central 102-88 and in the state championship game defeated Elkhart 70-60. But one week earlier Rossville had gone four solid quarters with the state champions. ECW was what many suggest as one of the best Indiana high school basketball teams in state history. But what if Rossville had been able to connect on more shots that night? ECW coach John Molodet was quoted as saying "If Rossville is hitting, they could beat anyone." And what if John Kamstra and Bob Knapp had been 100 percent healthy? Who knows what the outcome might have been. On those thoughts, 52 years later, we still speculate about what might have been, that late winter evening at Mackey Arena in 1971.

Montgomery County's Greatest Teams

by Bill Boone, IHSBHS Board Member & Historian

From the beginning of the Crawfordsville sectional in 1915 to its end in 1971, it was always David against Goliath for bragging rights in basketball. I'm sure it was that way in most of the 64 sectional sites where the tourney was played at the biggest gym in the county which was usually at the county seat where the courthouse was. It would be interesting to see how many times the small school slipped in and beat Lafayette Jeff at Lafayette, Lebanon at Lebanon, Muncie Central at Muncie and so on. The little schools always faced an uphill battle to win the sectional and for them, the

sectional was their state championship. In the case of Montgomery County, there were four schools that had periods when they competed very successfully with the Goliath, Crawfordsville. Here are some accounts of all four.

Darlington Indians, 1969-70

Dave Nicholson followed Galen Smith and put together back-to-back undefeated seasons in 1968-69 and 1969-70. Nicholson's Indians won 46 games and lost only 2 during his tenure. They won the county tourney both years and defeated Speedway 56-54 to win the Lebanon Sectional in 1969. The Indians won 41 regular season games without a loss under Coach Nicholson. In a four-year span beginning at the end of the 1968 season continuing through Nicholson's two years and concluding after three games of the 1970-71 season, the Indians won 49 consecutive regular season games. During the last seven years of their existence, they won 113 games while losing only 41 under Galen Smith, Dave Nicholson, and Gene Morrison.



L R Mark Maxwell, Gary Dale, Mike Mutterspaugh, Paul Runnels, Les Wright, Dan Nichols, Tom Lehe, Bill Douglas, Fred Warren, Don Threlkeld, Rich Douglas, Stan Weliever and Jim Gable. Kneeling L R John Evans, Bob Shelton and Coach Galen Smith

It was under Hall of Fame coach, Nicholson that the Indians really terrorized the County. In two years, Nicholson led the Indians to two undefeated regular seasons going 24-1 in 1968-69 and 22-1 in 1969-70. After winning only one county

tourney in school history (1954), DHS won its second county crown in 1968 under Galen Smith. The Indians exploded in 1968 as coach Nicholson led them to two straight county championships, making them only the second county school to win three straight titles. New Market's Purple Flyers did it in 1939, 1940, and 1941. The Indians captured their only sectional in 1969, winning the Lebanon sectional that year.

Waveland Hornets, 1950-51

The name "Greve" is associated most frequently with Hornets basketball. Raymond and Verna Greve raised four basketball playing sons and four daughters on their little farm outside of Waveland in the area which is now the north end of Lake Waveland. The daughters were Virginia, Edna Mae, Joan and Phyllis. Every time the Hornets won a tournament, county or sectional, there was a Greve in the lineup. It all started with Leonard in 1935 when the Hornets won their first sectional. Leonard was joined by his brother Ray, Jr. on the 1936-37 team, but had to watch Crawfordsville win the sectional. Leonard graduated that year and went back to his dad's farm to help out before settling down on a farm near Russellville where he joined his father-in-law Paul Hester in an International Harvester Implement business. Ray went on to play on the sectional championship team of 1939, then traveled up highway 47 to attend Wabash College where he embarked on a Hall of Fame career there. Ray spent five years of service in WWII and then returned home to operate a Ford Tractor implement business in Greencastle. It would be ten years before another Waveland team would win a county or sectional championship. In 1949, brother Keith appeared on the scene and the Hornets won the sectional. In 1950,

they won the county tourney and in 1951, Keith's senior year, they won both the county and the sectional tournaments. That was a rare feat in Montgomery County basketball and had not been done since Ralph Capehart's Waynetown Gladiators turned the trick two years in a row, 1943-44 and 44-45. It was always

runners-up five times (1958, 1963, 1964, 1967, and 1968). The Hornets won the county tourney four times (1950, 1951, 1953, and 1955) and were runners-up six times (1933, 1938, 1945, 1954, 1958, and 1971).

Keith was followed by his little (6-4) brother Bill. As a freshman, Bill assisted the Hornets to a sectional

in 2001. Kid brother Bill was recruited by Purdue, played three years on a varsity team that consistently challenged all Big Ten teams for the conference title. In 2018, he also, like his brother, was inducted into the HOF.

New Ross Blue Jays, 1955-56

New Ross became a launching pad for great coaches in the era of the middle 50s to the late 60s. From 1953 to 1965, The Blue Jays won four county tourneys, four sectionals, and two regionals, posting a record of 229-51 for a winning percentage of .817. John Ward, who would later become the Superintendent of



Waveland High School - 1950-51

County-Sectional-Regional Runner up - 26-1
(Champs)

Front Row - L-R Don Whitecotton, Bill Wheeler, Keith Greve, Dave Grimes, Duane Kelly, and Bob Harbison

Second Row - L-R Wayne Seybold, Ray Spencer, Mgr. Larry Servies, Burnam Tolliver, Coach Cliff Davis, Gene Handley, & Daryle Newell

difficult for a county team to win the county and the sectional tournaments in the same year because "big, bad Crawfordsville" hosted the sectional. Besides, every county school was gunning for the winner of the county tournament that year in addition to having the prospect of upsetting the Athenians and gaining eternal glory for the school. As a matter of fact, only three county schools won the county tournament and the sectional crown in the same year. The aforementioned Waynetown Gladiators and the Waveland Hornets were joined by the New Ross Blue Jays of 1955-56 and 1960-61. In its illustrious basketball history, Waveland won six sectional championships (1935, 1939, 1949, 1951, 1952, and 1953) and were

championship in 1952 and then helped win the rare double of county and sectional championships in 1952-53. Bill played for four different coaches in his career including the legendary Cliff Davis and then Jim Hannah, William "Doc" Bolton, and Jerry Huntsman. He finished his career at Waveland by leading the Hornets to their fourth and final county crown in 1955. The county schools ran into the Athenian buzz-saw in 1955 as Jerry DeWitt led the Athenians to the semi-state that year.

Keith took his basketball talents to Butler after graduation and had a sparkling career; he was a four-year starter for the legendary coach Tony Hinkle. Keith Greve was elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame



NEW ROSS
1956 COUNTY AND SECTIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

L-R Tom Harmon, Larry Myers, David Anderson, Benny McAnulty, Richard Haffner, Coach Glen Harper, Larry Nichols, Richard Feltner, David Fruits, Bob Morgan, David Harris. Mgrs. L-R Dick Golladay, Jim Claycomb, and Jerry Callis.

Schools for Montgomery County, was the first New Ross principal and coach. Ward would remain in that position for six years. From 1916 to the closing of the school in 1971, no coach remained longer than four years. Glen Harper had the longest tenure after John Ward. Harper, a Darlington HS and Butler University graduate, came to New Ross in the fall of 1952 and immediately changed the climate for the Blue Jays. The school had suffered through seven straight losing seasons when Harper arrived. He posted a 10-11 record his first year, starting two freshmen, a sophomore and a junior. The next year, 1953-54, New Ross was 20-4 and won the

sectional, the school's first basketball tournament of any type in the school's history. They were led by Melvin Routh, Bernie Burk, Richard Haffner, and Fred Harris. Harper's 54-55 team was also 20-4, but lost to the Crawfordsville team that went to the semifinals that year. In Harper's last year the Jays reeled off 26 straight wins before losing to Gary Froebel in the Lafayette semistate. They won the county, sectional, and regional that year. The mainstays of that 1956 team were Richard Haffner, Larry Nichols, Larry Myers, Tom Harmon, and Benny McNulty.

Waynetown Gladiators, 1943-44

The glory days of Waynetown basketball were in the early 1940's. Ralph Capehart had taken over the reins of the athletic program in the 1930-31 season and quietly began developing a powerhouse on the hardwood. It all came together for Capehart and his Gladiators early in the 1942-43 season. After losing to



Waynetown Gladiators 1943-44

Top Row: Coach Ralph Capehart, Donald Bray, Tom Franklin, Jim Bounnell, Donald Proctor.

Middle Row: Oscar West, George Barker, Eunis McCracken, Bob Rosen, Manager Forest Richardson.

Front Row: Gail Farchild, Harvey Luse, Mascot James Capehart, Harold (Pete) Moore, Bob Powell.

New Market in the second game of the season on November 13, the Gladiators reeled off fifteen straight victories (They lost a game to Ladoga in December, but the Cannons had to forfeit that game

because it was revealed that they had used an over-age player.) In 1943-44, WHS was 16-0 in the regular season and won the county, sectional, and regional. In the regional, they beat Bridgeton 54-33 in the afternoon game and then Bainbridge 46-45 in two overtimes in the night game. They went on to the semi-state where they finally lost to a strong Whiteland squad, 46-37. They were undefeated during the regular season of 1944-45 and were ranked as high as 16th in the state. They won both the county and sectional championships before losing in the regional at Attica to a very tough Covington team 32-28. From 1942 to 1945, during the course of three seasons, the Gladiators won 51 straight regular season games. It was generally accepted that the best player in the county in those years was Howard Williams of New Ross (later of Purdue fame), but Howie had the misfortune to arrive on the scene at the same time as the best team in the county did, the Waynetown Gladiators.

Windfall's Incredible 1956-57 Dragons

by Scott Spires, IHSBHS Member
and Sports Columnist

In the fall of 1956, the Windfall Dragons and their community were dreaming big. It was well known throughout Tipton County that coach Wilford Drake had one of the best teams to come along in years. As the season progressed, those outside of Tipton County began to notice the basketball skills of these Dragons too. The starters were Toby Burkhardt 6'4, Charley Jones 6'3, Cliff King 6'2, Dave Osborn 6'1, and Jim Bunnell 5'9. The rest of the supporting cast was Kent Plummer, Richard Cardwell, Darcel Tolle, Larry Nance and Paul Cunningham. Burkhardt and Jones were the

leading scorers.

During the 1956-57 season, Windfall, with a high school enrollment of around 140 students, racked up victories against much larger schools, including Westfield, Carmel (twice), Western, Whitestown, Northwestern and Sheridan. The Dragons opened with wins over Walnut Grove and Jefferson Township, then defeated Westfield in overtime 64-62. Rival Sharpsville's Bulldogs were next, falling 72-47, then Fishers 74-59. Windfall stood at 5-0. After five more games including victories over Carmel 62-58 and Western 76-39 at the schedule's halfway mark Windfall stood at 10-0.

The Dragons survived a scare from Summitville's Goblins 66-64 and, with college scouts from Purdue in the crowd, they stopped Jackson Central 84-75. They next won the Tipton County tourney as they continued on with an unblemished record. The team stood at 18-0 toward the end of the season when it faced the Northwestern Tigers. That matchup was played at Memorial Gym in Kokomo in front of a packed house, estimated at 6,000, with practically the entire town of Windfall in attendance. The now deserted hometown was being secured by the always reliable town marshal Tom Simmons and the Tipton County Sheriff's Department. Windfall prevailed in the game 57-37, proving the team could play in front of big crowds.

Windfall closed out its 1956-57 regular season against Bunker Hill at Northwestern's gym. In this game Bunker Hill went into a deep stall, hoping to upend the Dragons. But the Dragons won the deep freeze game 25-17, closing out their regular season at 20-0. Their season's average of 72 points per game stunted their opponents' average of 49.

The Noblesville sectional began with Windfall stopping Prairie Township 61-26. In the next round, the team played Sheridan (18-4) which had a 15-game win streak going, including wins over Hammond Noll, South Bend Adams, and previously unbeaten Greencastle. Sheridan had won that sectional every year from 1949 to 1955. In those years it had been played in Sheridan's 2200 seat gym, (a seat for every Sheridan resident), but beginning in 1956 Noblesville began hosting the tourney. In the second round of the 1957 sectional, Windfall defeated the Blackhawks 64-55. The Dragons then stopped cold-shooting Carmel 79-53 to advance to the sectional championship game (this was well before Carmel became the state's largest high school).

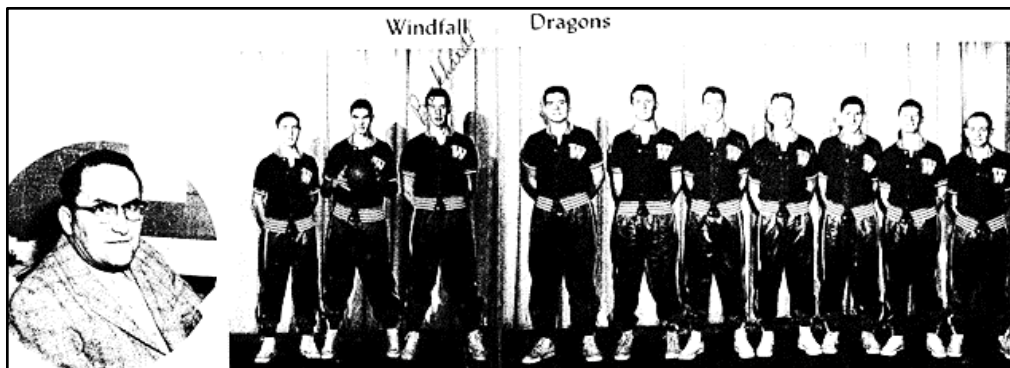
For the sectional championship, Windfall, now 23-0, would face Noblesville (14-8). The Millers' first-year coach Glen "Harp" Harper had a much better team than its record might indicate, evidenced by the fact that all five Noblesville starters ultimately went on to play college ball. The first quarter closed with the two teams tied at 9-9. At the half, and with poor play from both teams, Windfall led 23-19. In the third quarter, Burkhardt was on the bench most of the time with four fouls, and Plummer filled in, Windfall picked up the pace and began to play composed and patient, closing the third with a seemingly insurmountable 45-29 lead. A trip to the Kokomo regional seemed almost assured for this Windfall team.

During the fourth quarter, Noblesville went into a full-court press and slowly began closing the gap with hot shooting from the field and near perfection from the foul line. Windfall was just one for nine from the field in the fourth. With 2:30 left, and with Burkhardt only briefly being back in the game, he

was charged with his fifth foul. It was a charging foul from a pick set by Noblesville's Jan Robinson, whom Windfall fans thought should have received an academy award for his theatrics as he flew across the gym floor after the slight bump from Burkhardt. From there on, Noblesville's steals and torrid shooting, coupled with Windfall's turnovers and missed shots, seemed to make a difference. With the score tied at 54-54, Noblesville's Jack Clark hit a jumper for a 56-54 Millers lead. Windfall worked for the final shot, hoping to send the game into overtime, but with 14 seconds left the Windfall attempt missed and Noblesville rebounded, connecting for two more as time ran out. The final score was Noblesville 58 Windfall 54.

the history of the Indiana high school boys' basketball tournament. Now, some 66 years later, one can only speculate that if Windfall could have held its composure and Burkhardt not fouled out in the fourth quarter, Windfall could have very possibly been in the semistate championship game against South Bend Central.

Someone once said, "Time is memory's enemy." However, the memory of Windfall's 1956-57 season lives on. There are still many Tipton County residents and others who can tell you, with a sparkle in their eyes, their own stories about Windfall's amazing Dragons that memorable and undefeated season, plus the exciting sectional play. We also remember and thank coach Wilford Drake, Toby Burkhardt and Cliff King for those memories.



Windfall Dragons, 1956-57

L-R Coach Wilford Drake, Russell, Jones, Burkhardt, Cardwell, King, Osborn, Nance, Tolle, Plummer, Cunningham.

Thus, the '57 dream run ended for the Windfall team and the community. Noblesville had captured its first sectional championship since 1929 and went on to stop Delphi in the Kokomo regional championship game 59-47. It was Noblesville's first regional championship. At Fort Wayne, in the semistate championship game, Noblesville fell to No. #1 and undefeated 1957 state champion South Bend Central 75-62.

In the victory over Windfall, Noblesville accomplished one of the greatest fourth quarter comebacks in

INDIANA BASKETBALL LIVES ON

A Deep Dive into the History, Facts & Fiction of Class Basketball Part 2, continued from Part 1 of Summer Boxscore issue

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A Deeper Dive into the Data

To start, we analyzed total tournament attendance by year under the single-class format (1962 to 1997). This data is represented by the solid blue line in the graph in Figure 2. The graph demonstrates that tournament attendance declined

dramatically during this 35-year period. The dotted red line in the graph represents a trend line (least

What Did Cause Attendance to Drop?

So, if multi-class basketball isn't

sports—10 for boys and 10 for girls. The relationship between total boys basketball tournament attendance and number of IHSAA sports over the period from 1962 to 1995 is shown in the scatter graph in Figure 4.

There are 34 points on the graph—one for each combination of total basketball tournament attendance and the number of IHSAA sponsored sports that year (1962 to 1995). The correlation between the two data sets is strong ($r = -0.923$). The graph shows that total basketball tournament attendance declined as the total number of sports increased. More sports meant more student-athletes playing more games in a greater variety of sports. This is a good thing. An unintended consequence is that it may have contributed to the attendance decline at the boys high school basketball tournament. As mentioned earlier,

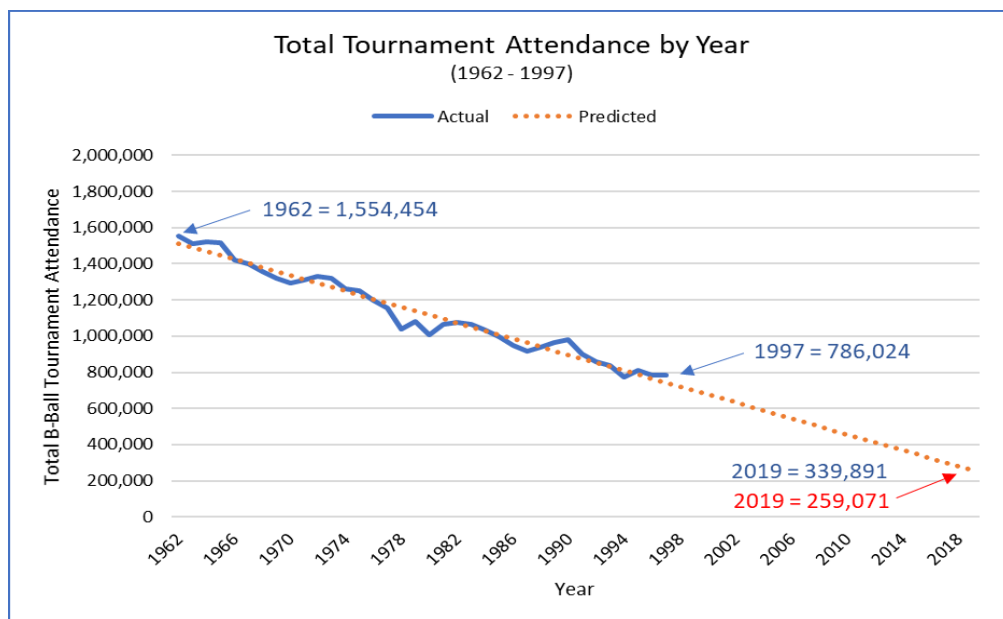


Figure 2 IHSAA data.

squares regression) that irons out the random fluctuations during the 35 years of single-class tournaments and projects future attendance (*ceteris paribus*) if the tournament format remained unchanged. The projected single-class attendance in 2019 was 259,071. The actual attendance—under the multi-class format—was 339,891. Total attendance at the 2019 tournament was 31% higher under the multi-class format than it likely would have been under the single-class format.

Next, we analyzed total tournament attendance by year under the multi-class format (1998 to 2019). It is represented by a solid black line in the graph in Figure 3. When the trend line is added to this data (dotted green line), it becomes clear that the declining slope of the multi-class trend line is not as steep as that of the single-class trend line. Although the multi-class tournament did not cause attendance to increase, it significantly slowed the rate of attendance decline. As a result, multi-class basketball may have saved Indiana basketball.

responsible for attendance decline, what is? Three factors stood out: the number of IHSAA sanctioned sports,

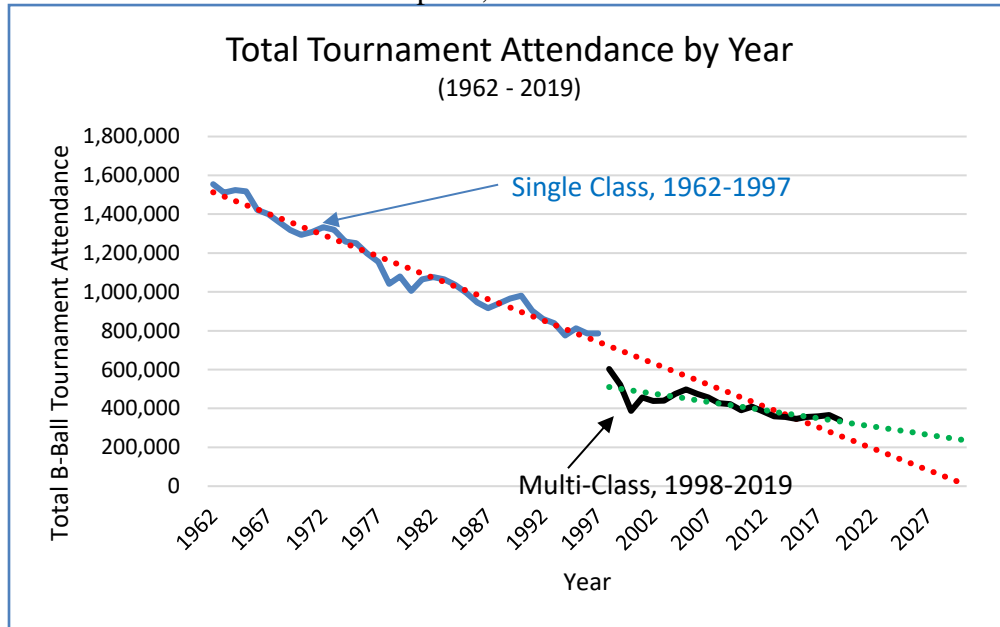


Figure 3. IHSAA data.

the number of high school boys basketball players, and the number of girls participating in high school sports. In 1962, the IHSAA sponsored seven sports—all for boys. There were no sports for high school girls to play in Indiana. Since 1995, the IHSAA has sanctioned 20

the School Consolidation Act reduced the number of high schools participating in the statewide boys basketball tournament from 710 teams in 1959 to 382 teams in 1997. Fewer high schools meant fewer boys basketball teams, fewer boys basketball players and, most likely,

fewer boys basketball fans. Whereas there were 21,983 male high school tournament fans per male basketball player declined for the next 18 years;

total number of female athletes increased 34% from 1982 to 2000 (see Figure 7 and Reference 6).

The year 1984 marked an important point in Indiana high school athletics—it was the first year that the IHSAA offered an equal number of sports for boys and girls. Before that, boys always had more sports to play than girls. This equality was a result of the Title IX Education Amendment in 1972 that prohibited sex-based discrimination in schools. In 1972, the IHSAA offered zero sports for girls and 10 sports for boys. It took 4 years for the IHSAA to recognize girls basketball and 12 years to have an equal number of sports for girls as boys. Subsequently, the number of girls participating in high school sports increased. This also is a good thing. While the number of boys basketball tournament attendees declined, the total number of people who attended all IHSAA tournament events, boys and girls, rose steadily (see Figure 8).

These three factors—more sports, fewer male basketball players, and more female athletes—have strong statistical relationships to declining boys basketball tournament attendance. It is likely that, in addition to these factors, various changes in Hoosiers' lives over the last 60 years contributed in small ways as well. There are more dual-income families. People work more hours and travel further to get to work. Families have more cars per household. There are more entertainment outlets and creative outlets for kids and adults on which to spend dwindling free time. There are more televisions per household, more TV channels, more broadcast sports, and high-definition TV. Travel sports teams and video games have proliferated. Internet access has climbed from 18% of households in 1997 to 78% in 2018. 84% of

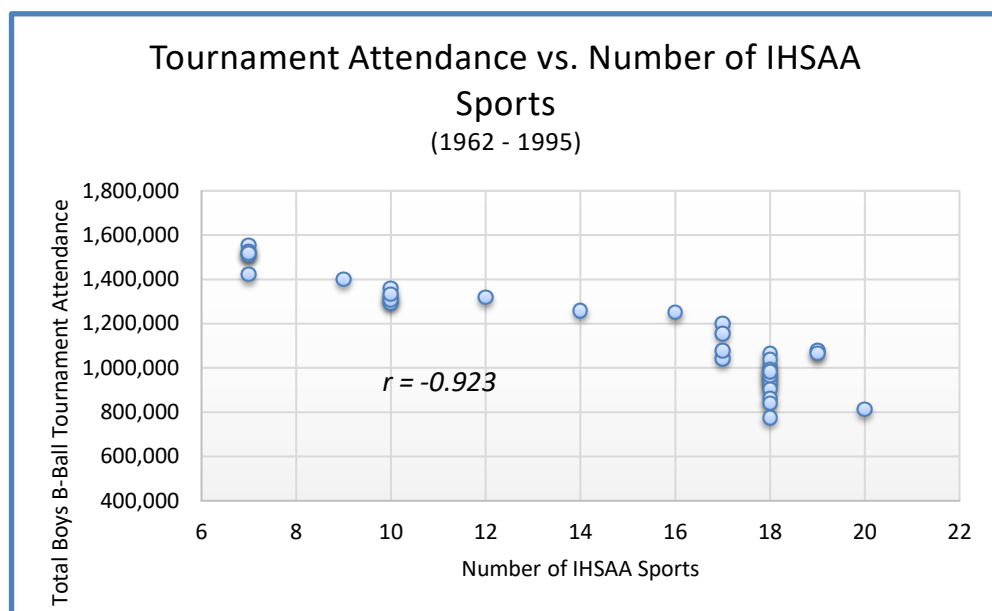


Figure 4. IHSAA Data.

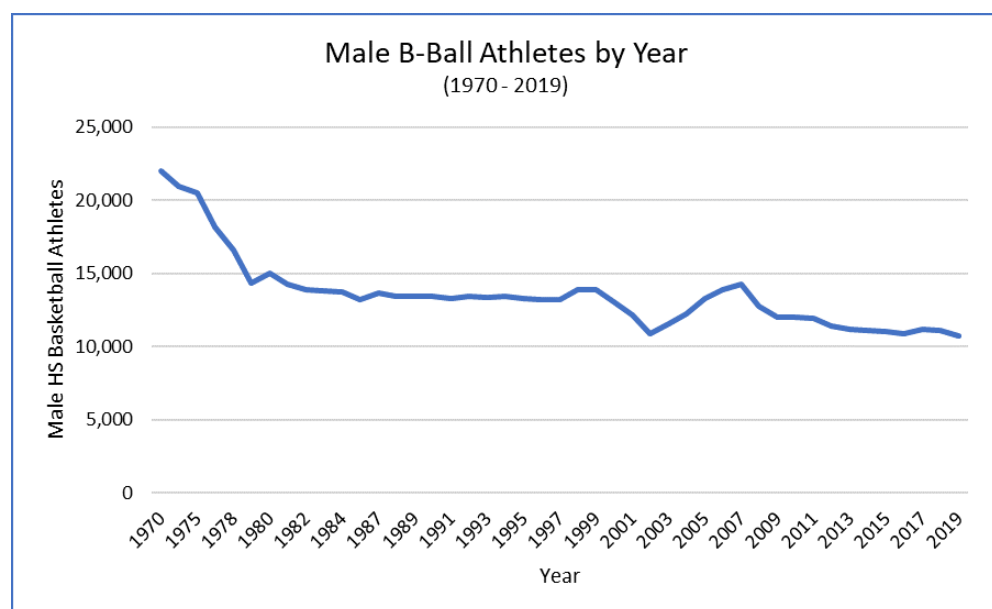


Figure 5. National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) data.

basketball players in 1970 (the earliest year for which data was available), there were 13,722 male basketball players in 1984 (see Figure 5).

In the early years of school consolidation, fans of boys basketball seemed to hang around, as indicated by the number of basketball tournament attendees per male basketball player. This ratio peaked in 1982. Afterward, the number of boys basketball

the ratio hit bottom in 2000 (see Figure 6).

This relationship leads us to the third factor that affected attendance: number of girls participating in sports. The precipitous decrease in the number of tournament attendees per male basketball athlete corresponded with a dramatic increase in the number of female athletes. Whereas the number of tournament attendees per male basketball athlete decreased 62%, the

households have a smart phone. Social media has opened new avenues for people to interact.

A return to single-class basketball would not bring back the tournament people remember from the past. For

that to happen, we would need to reverse all of the things that have changed in our lives between then and now. The switch to multi-class basketball did not significantly change Indiana high school basketball. Instead, it amplified our awareness of how much the world around us has changed. It shocked our systems and led some people to swear off Indiana high school basketball and the statewide tournament. Meanwhile, Indiana basketball continued to be played at a high level.

Tournament Attendees per Male B-Ball Athlete
(1978 - 2019)



Figure 6. IHSAA and NFHS data.

% Change by Year
(1982 - 2019; base year = 1982)

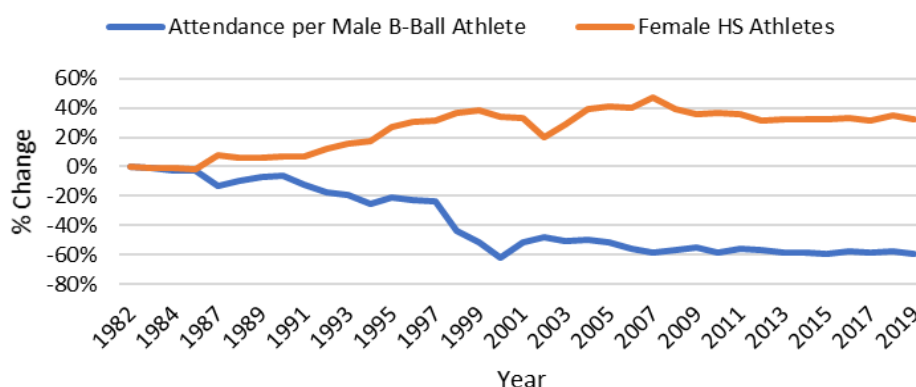


Figure 7. IHSAA and NFHS data.

State Tournament Attendance - All IHSAA Sports
(1976 - 1997)

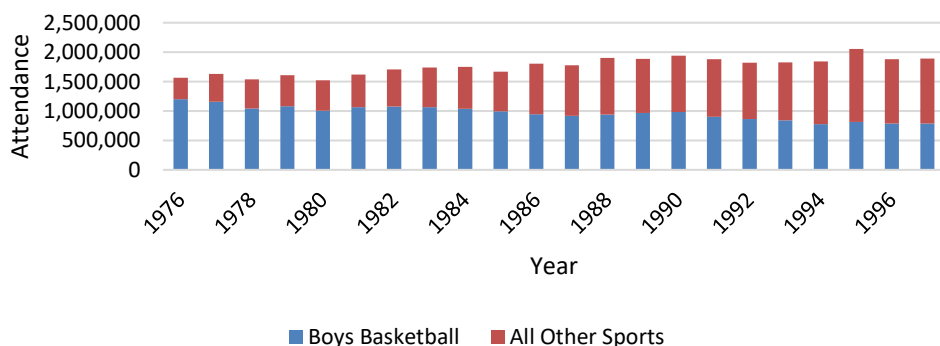


Figure 8. IHSAA data.

Indiana Basketball Remains at High Level

In the 2016-17 season, there were 17 Hoosiers playing NBA basketball. That put Indiana number 4 on the list of states with the most NBA players behind California, Texas, and New York—three of the largest states in the country. Indiana is 17th in population. In 2018, basketball fans filled every gym in which Romeo Langford and his New Albany High School teammates played in the tournament, eager to see if the boys could repeat their 2016 title run. From 2007 to 2021, Indiana averaged 3.53 high school basketball recruits on ESPN's top 100 list. This is 3.53% of recruits over that time period while Indiana makes up only 2% of the U.S. population.

If Indiana's status as a premium basketball hub had faltered, the Indiana – Kentucky All Star game series would provide an indication. They have played 145 times since 1940. From 1940 to 1997, Indiana All Stars won 61 games and Kentucky All Stars won 38; that's a 62% Hoosier winning percentage. Under the era of multi-class basketball in Indiana, 1998 to 2021, Indiana won 40 games while Kentucky won 6. That's 87%. Ironically, Kentucky maintains a

single-class state basketball tournament today.

The men and women who played Indiana high school basketball over the last 25 years in the multi-class tournament fought and clawed and played to win. They sweated, and bled, and cried, and cheered. They hoisted trophies and suffered defeat just like everybody before them. Today's tournament is not better, or worse—it's just different. If you preferred single-class basketball, so be it. Nobody can begrudge you. But don't say multi-class basketball ruined Indiana basketball—we know that's a myth. Indiana basketball lives on.

REFERENCES:

1. Davage Minor of Gary Froebel H.S. is credited as the first Hoosier to take a jump shot. He led his team to the state final four in 1941. The jump shot did not garner widespread use until the second half of the 1950s.
2. LaPorte Herald-Argus, February 18, 1950.
3. Krider, Dave. Indiana High School Basketball's 20 Most Dominant Players, p 215. 2007. Plymouth High School won State in 1982 and had total enrollment of 894 students. That placed the school among the largest 30% of all high schools in Indiana.
4. School Reorganization Commission Collection, Indiana State Library.
https://www.in.gov/library/files/L591School_Reorganization_Commission_Collection.pdf
5. Percent of Capacity = Attendance ÷ (Gym's Seating Capacity x Number of Sessions). Each location held three sessions that year except Southport, which held two sessions.
6. Over the time interval from 1982 to 2000, these two variables are strongly and inversely correlated ($r = -0.894$). This correlation coefficient yields a coefficient of determination (r^2) which suggests that 80% of the variation in attendance per athlete can be explained by variation in the number of female athletes. Therefore, from 1982 to 2000,

the number of female athletes was a very good predictor of tournament attendance per male HS basketball athlete.

THE LARGEST H.S. GYMS IN THE U.S.

by Doug Bradley

I wanted to point out that Wikipedia's "List of largest high school gyms in the United States" is worthless. So, to advise and enlighten any readers who care, I've done my own research and created what I believe to be an accurate list. Wikipedia shows only two correct seating numbers, one that may or may not be right someday--but not today, and ten others that are completely wrong.

My corrected list for the present time (May, 2022) is as follows:

8228 Seymour IN
8054 East Chicago Central IN
7864 Loos Field House TX
7829 New Castle IN*
7425 Davis Field House TX
7345 Elkhart IN
7154 Lafayette IN****
6974 Marion IN
6907 Washington IN
6744 Southport IN

Other gyms that originally seated 7000 or more:

8240 Anderson IN
6579 Muncie IN
6402 Gary West IN
6066 Columbus North IN
59?? Michigan City IN**
5203 Kokomo IN
5067 Richmond IN***
*New Castle claims 8424, but 260 telescoping bleacher seats and 335 portable bleacher seats have never been used (and likely never will be).
**Michigan City's new seats are to be counted in late 2022.
***Richmond has 5610 seats, with removable bleachers in place that seat 543.

****Lafayette actually seats 6690, same as the day it first opened. The 7154 capacity seating happens when the balcony seats are changed from 18-inch width to 16-inch. Wikipedia has listed the Chinle, AZ gym at 7500 seats for several years now, but it has only 5734.

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), Bill Boone (Ladoga '56).

