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## EDITORIAL POLICY

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## New Editor of *Boxscore* & Increase in Dues: \$12.00

By Roger Robison,  
IHS/BHS President

(1) Significant medical problems have disabled our superb long-time editor, Cliff Johnson. His wife and technical advisor, Juanita, will now be occupied with aiding his recovery and future good health.

Former President John Ockomon has recommended lifetime member Dan McNally, Noblesville-1970, I.U.

1974, for editor. Dan is a retired chemistry teacher but still the tennis coach at Bishop Chatard since 1985. He played intramural basketball in HS and at I.U. He is an inductee of the IN Tennis Hall of Fame with 562 wins. Dan is willing to give it a try and we all need to furnish him assistance for whatever he requires. Proposed articles and stories may be sent to Dan at [bchstennis@aol.com](mailto:bchstennis@aol.com) Or by snail mail at 11311 Manitou Court, Indianapolis, 46236. Phone is 317-946-7477 if you need help.

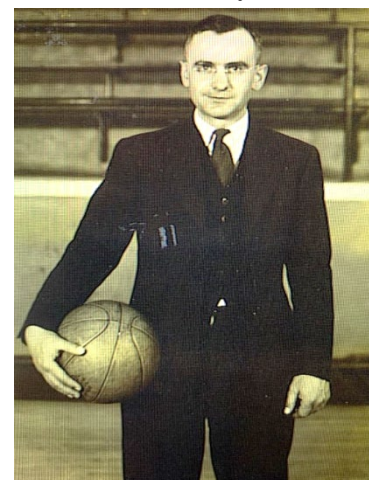
(2) The Board agrees that we need a dues increase. Postage rates and printing fees have gone up. Our capable long-time Treasurer, Rocky Kenworthy, is retiring from the job. I am filling in and looking to simplify dues collection. We will offer a two - year membership for \$20.00 and gift memberships..at..\$10..each...The annual dues will become \$12.00 on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024. *Renew Now.*

## Prominent Basketball Families of Montgomery County by Bill Boone, Montgomery Co. Historian and IHSBHS Board Member

One of the most interesting stories centers on the Williamson family

who saw three generations play basketball in the County. Eva (Boots) **Williamson**, whose brothers played basketball at Bowers in the early days, remembers her husband Frank talking about playing for Mace High School in 1915. Frank and his team-mates caught the interurban in Linnsburg one day and rode to the Ben-Hur Terminal where the Elston Bank was situated later The boys got off at the terminal, walked through town to the Vandalia Station (where the Dari-licious shop exists now) and then rode to Bowers where they played a basketball game on an outside court against Bowers High School.

**Coach..Floyd..Neff**



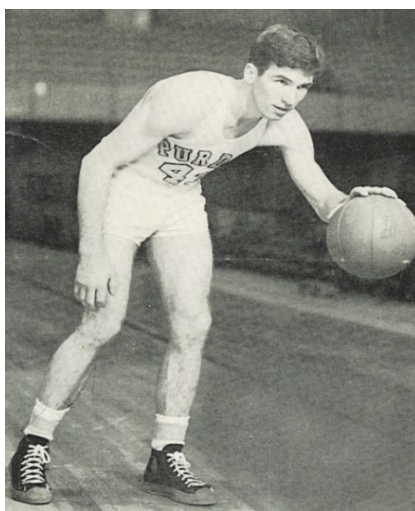
Frank, the young Mace star, and Eva later married and had two sons who played for the legendary Floyd "Doc" Neff who coached the Ladoga Cannons.

**Harold Williams, circa 1939**



**Bob** played in the early 40's and **Dick** played on the first Canner team to win a County Tourney in 1947. He was also on the last Canner team to win a County tourney under Jack Hester, in 1949. Bob married a New Ross graduate, Helen **Williams**, who had 3 brothers; Harold, Homer and Howard; who played for the Blue Jays. Helen also had a sister named Nina who married New Ross athletic star Tom Evans. Tom and Nina Evans had two sons, Bill and Pat, who starred on the Blue Jay basketball and baseball teams of the early 60s and added to the Williams-Williamson legend. You may remember from an earlier Boxscore article that Howie became a star in the late 40s for the Purdue Boilermakers. Purdue fans might know about the famous "sit-down" shot that defeated I.U. 51-49. Howie was knocked to the floor in a mad scramble for the ball. The ball

bounced to him as he was sitting



Howie Williams

on the floor and the rest is legend; Howie fired it in from the seat of his pants and it went in as time expired. That prompted Howie to say that Purdue could beat I.U. while sitting on their butts. Howie later played for the Peoria Caterpillars in the Industrial League and won a gold medal in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics.

Bob and Helen had two sons who became stars for the Cannons. Steve played basketball, baseball, football, and golf at Ladoga and ended up at Purdue on a "Chick" Evans golf scholarship. He later coached an undefeated football team at Southmont and watched his son Robbie play football and golf for the Mounties.

Dave also played football, basketball, baseball, and golf for the Cannons, becoming the all-time single season basketball scoring leader with 438 points in 1969. Dave took his considerable basketball talent to ISU-Evansville before joining the coaching ranks and coaching basketball and several championship golf teams at Southmont.

Dave had two sons, Ryan and Lee, who played football, basketball and golf for the Mounties. Ryan went to

ball State and continued a stellar golf career. Lee went to Purdue where he lettered in golf all four years and spent some time on the pro tour. Yes, it all began with an interurban ride in 1915.

**Greve Family 1945**



**Standing L-R: Edna Mae, Ray, Leonard, and Virginia. Seated L-R: Phyllis, Raymond, Bill, Verna, Keith and Joanne.**

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 began with **Leonard** in 1935 when the Hornets won their first sectional.



Leonard Greve

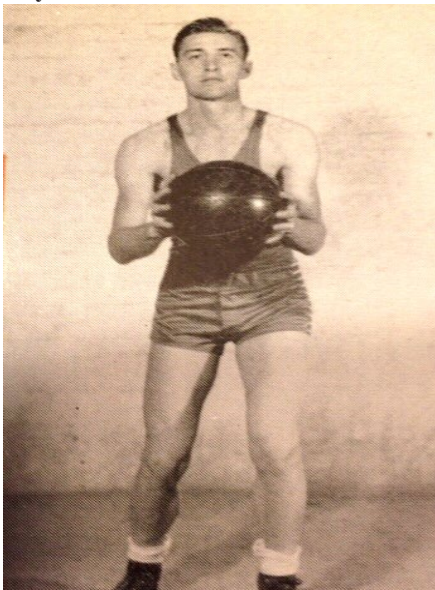
Leonard was joined by his brother **Ray, Jr.** on the 1936-37 team, but had to watch Crawfordsville win the Sectional. Leonard graduated that



year and went back to his dad's farm to help out before settling down on a farm near Russellville. There he joined his father-in-law Paul Hester in an International Harvester Implement business.

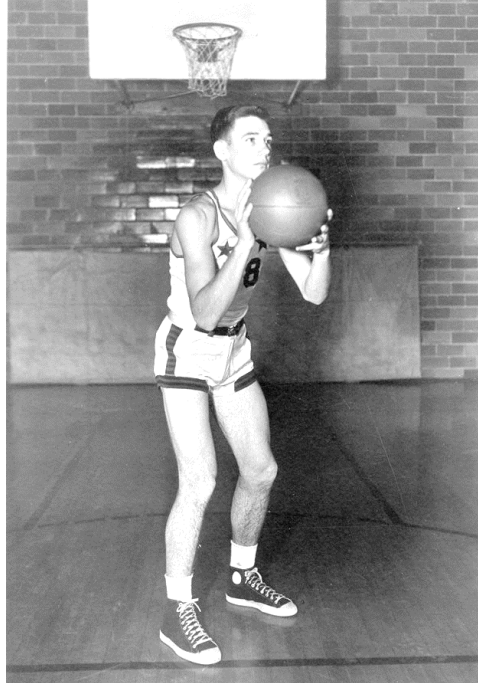
**Ray** went on to play on the Sectional championship team of 1939, then traveled up highway 47 to attend Wabash College where he embarked on a Hall of Fame career there. **Ray** spent five years in the service during WWII and then returned home to operate a Ford Tractor Implement business in Greencastle. It would be ten years before another Waveland team would win a county or Sectional title.

#### Ray Greve



In 1949, Brother **Keith** appeared on the scene and the Hornets won the sectional. In 1950, they captured the county crown and in 1951, Keith's senior year, they won both the county and 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. The Glads won it in 1943-44 and 1944-45. It was always difficult for a county team to win both because "big bad Crawfordsville" hosted the Sectional, and every county school

was gunning for the winner of the county tournament that year.

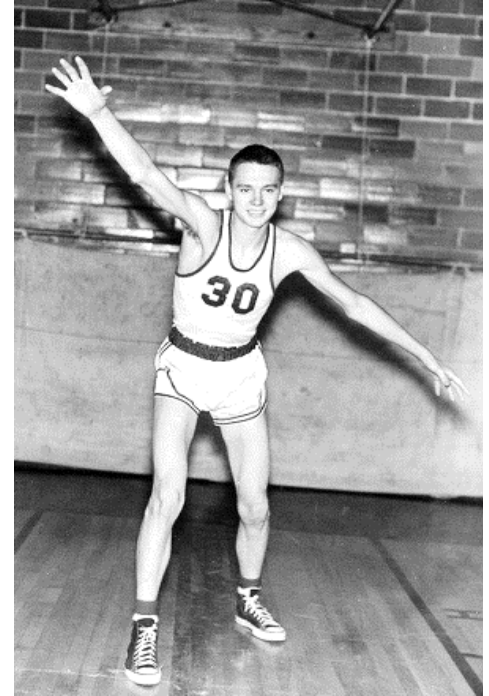


#### • Keith Greve

Furthermore, there was the added pressure of trying to upset the Athenians to gain eternal glory for their school. As a matter of fact, only three county schools won the county tournament and the sectional tourney in the same year. The aforementioned Waynetown Gladiators and the Waveland Hornets were joined by the New Ross Bluejays 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 runners-up 5 times (1958, 1963, 1864, 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 little (6-4) brother Bill. Bill led the Hornets to a sectional championship in 1952 and helped win the rare double of county and sectional tournaments in 1952-53. Bill played for four different coaches in his four years, including the legendary Cliff Davis, then Jim

Hannah, William "Doc" Bolton, and Jerry Huntsman, in that order.



#### Bill Greve

He finished up 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.

Big brother 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 in 2001. His bio is summarized as follows:

**"Keith** Greve...Three-year starter for Waveland...leading scorer and MVP junior and senior years... four-year starter for Hall of Famer Tony Hinkle...leading scorer.sophomore.and.junior.years...MVP. 1953...all Indiana Collegiate Conference First Team three times...received Hilton U. Brown Mental Attitude award senior year...All Decade team 1950's...inducted into Butler Athletic.Hall.of.Fame.1999...

Head coach for 15 years at New Ross, Danville and Greensburg, then Athletic Director at Greensburg for 27 years.”

Of special note to South Montgomery basketball fans was Keith's coaching record at New Ross. In four years, the Blue Jays won the county, sectional and regional in 1960-61 and the sectional in 1961-62. His teams at New Ross had a three-year record of 67-6.

Bill went to Purdue after graduation and had a great career in the Big Ten. During his three years on the varsity, the Boilermakers under Ray Eddy had a record of 44-22 and twice finished in a tie for second place in the conference. Bill played with fellow standouts Lamar Lundy, Wilson (Jake) Eison, Willie Merriweather, Bob Fehrman, and Harvey Austin. After graduating from Purdue, Bill worked for Central Soya, Standard Oil of Indiana, and Upjohn before starting a string of Jimmy-John restaurants in the Midwest. He now lives at Indianapolis on Lockerbie Square. Bill was voted the Outstanding Senior Athlete for Montgomery County in 1955. All four Greve brothers were inducted into the Montgomery County Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004, providing a fitting ending to the Greve legacy in the Southern part of the county.

Even today, Greve descendants are bringing notice to Waveland and Montgomery County as Edna Mae's grandson, Garrett Jones, who was born in Harvey, IL, made a big hit with the Pittsburgh Pirates last season by coming up to the parent team from Indianapolis of the International League. Brought up in July, Jones hit 21 home runs, drove in 44, and had a batting average of .293. His dad Jeff was a placekicker for Purdue. Garrett also spent some time with the New

York Yankees and the Yamuri Giants in Japan. The names may change, but the apple never falls very far from the tree.

### **A Curmudgeon's Concession, and Counterpoints**

**by Bob Hammel**

*Editor's Note: Bob Hammel is a celebrated sportswriter for several Indiana newspapers – in his native Huntington, then Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Peru, Indianapolis, and Bloomington during a lengthy career that included authoring several books. He received the highest honor given to a basketball writer in 1995: the Curt Gowdy Award from the Naismith Hall of Fame at Springfield, Massachusetts. Among his many bestowed honors in covering a diversity of major events (including five Olympics, 23 NCAA championships and 29 state high school finals) was being named Indiana Sportswriter of the Year an unprecedented 17 times. Bob retired in 1996 at the end of a 30-year service period as Sports Editor of the Bloomington Herald-Telephone and Herald-Times.*

I want to address the two-part Werner/Penlesky article that concluded in the last issue of Boxscore. If they could put aside their sneers for a moment, perhaps a case could be agreed upon that class basketball fits 21<sup>st</sup>-century demands for Indiana high schools better than the one-champion brand that served Indiana so very well for so very long.

That's quite a concession from me, a 1950s sportswriter whom Werner/Penlesky, in their two-part "Boxscore" piece, would certainly include among their labeled "curmudgeons" who considered Indiana's one-champion tournament classic almost sacred. Now 87, but already retired when class basketball was adopted in Indiana, I toured the

state and wrote the book *Hoosiers Classified* on the eve of the 1997 change, admittedly hoping to stave it off but talking to people on both sides of the issue while covering 1996-97 ballgames at historic sites around the state.

Werner/Penlesky point out the undeniable: after Milan in 1954 no genuinely small school ever won the single-class state championship. In my 1997 book I conceded that in the early pages: "a small school has little, almost no, chance to get to the Final Four, let alone win the championship."

My contention was that though the glory, the history, and the magic say it wasn't a finals-week tournament, all but a handful of schools entered the tournament with a goal of winning the sectional, not the state. For big and small, the target or dream was "ruling the neighborhood" – the little guy every now and then rising up against the neighborhood big guy, with the hoarse backing of all that sectional's other little guys. It was about scoring a victory that put that team's picture on its high school's walls forever.

Most sectionals still had a neighborhood touch in the 1990s, had since the '20s. But beginning with the Space Age in the '60s, the education part of that high school picture had drastically changed. Sputnik put the Soviets into space ahead of the U.S., and President Kennedy in 1961 spurred his nation into catch-up mode with his vow to put an American on the moon first – fulfilled before the decade was out. You may have read about that, Werner/Penlesky. Some of us lived it, chillingly.

Basketball, a five-man sport, fit early 1900s Indiana and its network of township schools perfectly. The tiniest towns found the game a route to statewide notability. Wingate, without a gym, was the first back-to-

back champion and Thorntown was the next winner in the tournament's first five years. Towns like Mitchell, Lapel, Flora, Loogootee and Argos later gained renown just by getting to the Final Four. In contrast, it was the 45<sup>th</sup> year before Indianapolis – Indiana's one metropolis with its bastion of big high schools – had its first state champion.

The notability dreams of every high school and hamlet lived on even as an aristocracy formed among county-seat high schools that usually dominated state championships and, for the most part, sectionals as well. They normally hosted the sectionals, had the most fans in attendance, and won most, but never all. In the mid-1900s, the North Central Conference consisted of ten schools: Muncie Central, Anderson, Kokomo, Lafayette Jefferson, Marion, Richmond, Frankfort, New Castle, Logansport, and Indianapolis Tech. It was probably the best high school basketball league in the nation. In 1952, no NCC team lost in the tournament to any team other than another NCC member. Three wound up in the Final Four, and Muncie defeated Tech in one of an eventual eight all-NCC championship games played. In its peak years, the combined gym capacities of the ten NCC schools probably exceeded all but a few of the biggest college basketball conferences. Those schools and other county-seat one-school cities (e.g., Vincennes, Washington, Huntington, Columbus) dominated their sectionals, except for those little-guy breakthroughs that happened somewhere every year, as many as four or five in some years.

That's the beauty that we purists, we curmudgeons, were trying to preserve ... the era when from 7 to 8 a.m. on the Wednesday before sectional week, every newswire in Indiana shut down to pass along the

high school basketball tournament pairings announced out of Indianapolis, and from New Albany-Jeffersonville and Evansville to Gary-Hammond and South Bend, ears were listening. One-by-one, reading down an alphabetized list, the match-ups, dates, and game times for the 64 sectionals, the 16 regionals, the 4 semi-states, and the three games at the state finals. From border to border, people marked those down, and by the thousands filled out their own predicted winners. Virtually every Indiana newspaper carried the scores from all 64 sectionals. An out-of-state newsman working in the Indianapolis Associated Press office told me in his first year there he was told how locked-in that hour was. "I couldn't believe it – I said, 'What if the President dies?'" he told me. "They said, 'Indiana will hear about it at 8:01.'"

As to the sectionals themselves, to get a 700-team field down to 64 in one week requires 636 eliminations, *i.e.*, 636 games. The maximum size for any sectional was 16 teams, which meant 15 games from Wednesday through Friday, before two semifinal and one championship game on Saturday at all 64 sites. How they cut to the Saturday four was left up to sectional planners to decide. In my town, Huntington, we always did it with three games Wednesday and Thursday nights (listed starting times 6, 7:15 and 8:30, although 6, 7:45 and 9:15 was more realistic. That still left ten teams and one day to squeeze in six games to get down to the Saturday four.

Part of what we who lived it can't possibly pass along to you who didn't is the magic of hearing basketballs bounce, gym shoes screech, bands play, ref whistles blow, and crowds scream at 8 o'clock in the morning when the kids among us should have been in school. But this was Indiana

and sectional week, so we didn't get Fall or Spring breaks. We did know, however, that we'd have sectional Friday off. They could have pretty much taken attendance at the gym because that's where most of us would be, whether our school was playing or not.

We can't in words tell you what it was like during sectional week, when downtown stores and restaurants at the sectional site were all decked out, when cavalcades of horn-blaring, decorated cars announced the arrival of fan groups from surrounding villages and townships, when on Saturday night it usually worked down to the county seat-host school – by far the biggest in the field – playing for the championship against the survivor of the little guys. The noise in the gym was half and half, the host school filling half the seats in its own gym. All the other schools united behind their one representative to match every cheer and every boo from the hated hosts, who usually won but not by any means always. And those exceptions – and the oh-so-close near wins – were the classics, the ones best remembered, the ones that stoked the fires for next year. That's the passion we grew up with and fought to preserve – much, much more prevalent than pursuit of a state championship.

But, already by Milan's days, the push had begun to consolidate the small township schools into larger regional high schools with expanded curriculums. Indiana passed its School Consolidation Act in 1959, with Sputnik, and Kennedy, spurring it along. As Werner/Penlesky noted, school districts rather quickly shrank from 966 to 402. It meant that those schools with under 100 students that stayed alive on sectional basketball hopes gradually disappeared, their communities no longer came to the sectional site in colorful convoys, and

the tiny-school once-in-a-lifetime sectional breakthroughs no longer were common. Now, we have “sectionals” involving schools spaced a two-hour drive apart and involving kids who no longer mix freely summers at the County Fair. It’s a totally different world, stripped of those big against-all-the-rest-of-us rivalries and their occasional little-guy rewards.

We lost that to get much greater high school academics. That’s an incontestable improvement. It’s also true that in those storied 1950s and before, even most of the community schools on winter Friday nights had just one place to go, one team to follow wholeheartedly: the basketball team, which meant boys. No girls teams. Relatively few wrestling or swimming or volleyball or gymnastics teams existed – no division of parents to back their kids in some other sport. Overall, that’s another change for the better, without question. And without the vigor of those community sectionals, class basketball is a long step toward tolerable. But, please, Werner-Penlesky, don’t fumble your way through history with comments like:

\* *“Over time the game progressed. Two significant changes were the elimination of a center jump after each made basket (but that was in 1937, 60 years before class basketball began) and adoption of the jump shot.”* You omit expanding the foul line rule from four to five, a wider three-second area, the three-point shot, a shot clock, and other things like that--an evolution of rules over time that are common to all sports. They had nothing to do with attendance.

\* *“Basketball got faster and athleticism gave players and teams a greater advantage than before.”* You

might check to see what Jumpin’ Johnny Wilson did in 1946 and Bill Garrett in 1947, not to mention Oscar Robertson in 1956 and George McGinnis in 1969 (15 years after Plump but 28 years before the switch). Each of them was phenomenally athletic and none seemingly impeded by the old format. Meanwhile, today’s game – despite “3-point shots, one-and-one free throws, clock stoppages on scored baskets, etc. – hasn’t produced higher-scoring games. I hope the 32-30 Milan win doesn’t distort your image of that team. That final game was an injury-influenced slowdown decision. Go back and look: Milan and Plump had reached the finals by beating Indianapolis sectional and regional champion Crispus Attucks, 65-52, in the Elite 8 and another perennial power, Terre Haute Gerstmeyer, 60-48, in the afternoon semifinals.

\* *“When Bob Plump made his famous jump shot in 1954, most Hoosier high schoolers had never taken a jump shot – set shots, hook shots and push shots were the norm.”* First, most Hoosier high schoolers were not playing in a state championship game. But I question your point: the one-hand “push” shot that came into the game in the 1930s was the big break-through, and Hoosiers in general led the way.

\* *“Unbeknown to most people, Hoosiers called for a multiple class state basketball tournament in the 1940s and 50s.”* You make that claim, so cite some Hoosier who said it. I could cite a multitude of Hoosiers who lived in that time and considered the “open” tournament our state’s crown jewel.

The most immediate change I noticed in the switch, from one state champion to four in the number of

classes, was unchartable: the simple degree of interest – *statewide, genuine public interest* – in all levels of the old tournament, so prevailing that driving anyplace in Indiana on sectional Saturday night the radio dial would be clogged with local broadcasts from area sectionals. It was pretty much the same on regional Saturdays, too. Certainly, TV – which was airing to its regions all four tournament Saturdays by the 1950s – had an attendance effect that your chart numbers don’t take into account. But it magnified the tournament’s attention.

Since each year’s spotlight almost inevitably falls on the 4A finals, it’s arguable that class championships have denied deserved esteem to some 3A and 2A, maybe even 1A champions – *e.g.*, at least one or two of the Washington 3A teams in the three Zellers’ run; the 2010 Fort Wayne Luers 2A team with Deshaun Thomas, a list open to arguments for more.

And for heaven’s sake, Werner/Penlesky, don’t bring out attendance numbers to make your case. Don’t think a graph that shows state championship attendance “shrinking” from 41,000 in 1990 to 21,000 in 1996 indicates the single champion tournament was dying. Don’t say *“It turns out multi-class basketball may have saved Indiana basketball”* alongside another chart that shows attendance continuing to slide right up to now. It’s unconvincing until you can find a different chart.

....also, not until you find a multi-class state that to this day has come close to matching even the sneered-at 21,000 for the 1996 state championship game--including post-1997 final rounds in Indiana. Or, find a state that could match the five or six decades of consecutive championship-day Butler Fieldhouse-

and-beyond sellouts leading to the decision to move to an inexhaustible football dome.

....and not until you grasp that the 41,000 in 1990 --1990, not the center-jump days--was a one-time, one=player thing: a gutsy months-ahead administrative gamble that was the IHSAA's testimonial to the unique four-year and notional enchantment with Damon Bailey. Oh, ours was a tournament dotted with icons: Homer Stonebraker, Fuzzy Vandivier, Johnny Wooden before Johnny Wilson, Bill Garrett, Oscar Robertson, Rick Mount, forgive a dozen similar omissions. Sometimes they went into history as pairs: McGinnis and Downing, Jones and Edwards, sometimes as coaches: Glenn Curtis, Griz Wagner, Everett Case, Cliff Wells, Marion Crawley, Ray Crowe.

Even in that company, Damon Bailey was unique--and, in the modern consolidated era, as small-town representative as Plump: born and raised in Heltonville (unincorporated, population 1,151, and Shawswick (not even a town now) Junior High. His first high school practice as a freshman was covered by two TV stations. He was a spotlighted national phenomenon in *Sports Illustrated* as an eighth grader because Bob Knight went to see him play. And as a senior, he scored his team's final 11 points to bring it from six points behind and win that 1990 championship game against over unbeaten, No. 1 ranked Concord in a game carried *live nationally* on ESPN. Nearly two generations later the name is still magic: the state's highest-scoring male basketball player ever, whose better-than-fiction four-year path led to an epic state championship.

Try to find another high school athlete who rarely played before anything but a packed house, home or

road, in a four-year career that included his school's only three Final Trips in its continuing history--who played before an estimated 600,000 spectators before moving on to college. That's where high school basketball was before the decision to change. Yes, things did cool down a bit from that, but "*multi-class basketball may have saved basketball in Indiana?*" Really? Curmudgeonry usually beats absurdity. And this curmudgeon says flatly and firmly that multi-class basketball reduced--drastically and almost instantly--border-to-border statewide interest in the crowning of a single Indiana state champion.

One suggestion for testing that claim is to check the files for Sunday morning issues of the *Indianapolis Star* from 1997 back as far as you want to go and see how often the championship-game outcome was the page one headline story. Then check from 1998 on to see, on the Sunday morning after Finals Saturday, how deep you need to go into the paper to find a reference to either the girls' or the boys' new champions. That's an absolute reflection of *public interest*.

It's just not the same, and we who were there feel a little bit sorry for you who -- granted, are products of a much better educational system --but can't begin to imagine those bygone days of basketball thrills. Interest. *Genuine, border-to-border, public awareness and interest* -- that's what's no longer there. And we can't show you that on a chart. We just were there. Sorry you weren't.

## 1936-37, A Time of Transition by Cliff Johnson, Boxscore Editor & Sports Historian

The year 1936 was when I and your current IHSBHS president, Roger Robison, each took our first life-giving breath of Hoosier air. Harley Sheets, one of our organization's two co-founders, took his first breath just one year earlier. All three of us were privileged to have been born in a basketball-crazy state, although we obviously weren't aware of it at the time. The years of 1936-38 were also the calendar years that basketball became recognizable as the game that started looking more like the one we enjoy today.

The transition was largely a result of some major rule changes that were adopted in 1935 and 1937. First, a little background. Way back in 1908, the IHSAA Board of Control specified that the high school game of basketball be played under the same rules as were stated in a widely distributed paperback publication known as "Spaulding's Official Basket Ball Rule Book."

Prior to that year and since its establishment in **1903/04**, the IHSAA had focused its governing directives almost entirely on football and track & field. But basketball was rapidly gaining in popularity by 1908, so more attention was being devoted to it by the IHSAA.

Incidentally, the added attention given to basketball by the IHSAA in 1908 coincided with a surge in IHSAA membership. From 1907 to 1910 the ranks swelled from 120 members to 219. The IHSAA even began presenting regular season game results for many of the teams. By 1942, a zenith of 820 schools had registered as members of the IHSAA. A reduction in IHSAA membership ensued due to school



consolidations and we now have only 400 high schools.

Spalding's Official Basketball Guide (established 1897) published the Official Rules that had been adopted by the 'National Basketball Committee of the U.S. & Canada': Fig.1. The Rules were formulated by the Joint Rules Committee of the NCAA, the National Federation of State HS Athletic Associations, the Canadian Intercollegiate Athletic Union and the Canadian Amateur Basketball Association; Fig. 2.

The Center Jump had been under criticism for years. The original rules in 1891/92 had neglected a means to start the game or how to restart after a successful field goal. For 1892/93 Naismith had come up with a center jump (CJ) to resolve these issues. In 1893/94 he included the center jump (CJ) after the successful foul goal (free throw), after a time-out and at the spot of a "held ball". The mad scramble for the ball had required the institution of a restraining circle (4' in diameter) for 1897/98.

Sam Berry of USC had been arguing for the elimination of the CJ since 1928 when he was at Iowa. In 1929 the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) had asked for experimentation and study of eliminating the CJ. On the East coast coach Nat Holman, CCNY, played experimental games where after each score, the ball was returned to play from **mid-court**.

In the Pacific Coast Conference (PCC) they had done an organized study on abolishing the CJ, with detailed records for three years from 1932/33 to 1934/35. In the PCC they

returned the ball into play from the endline.

Coaches John Bunn (Stanford) and Sam Barry (USC) then listed ten reasons for the elimination of the CJ. These included the following. (a) There was the inevitable pushing and shoving around the tip-off circle to obtain a more favorable position to capture the ball on every tip-off. This often led to fouls and free throws, further prolonging the delays in active play. (b) The officials were overwhelmed by trying to control the mayhem. The frequent center jumps were taking significant time away from game action while perpetuating the unbalanced aspect of favoring the team having the taller of the two center jumpers. Bunn and Barry estimated that six to eight minutes would be added to the game.

The NABC met in Chicago on Wednesday 3 April 1935 through Friday 5 April. The vote by the

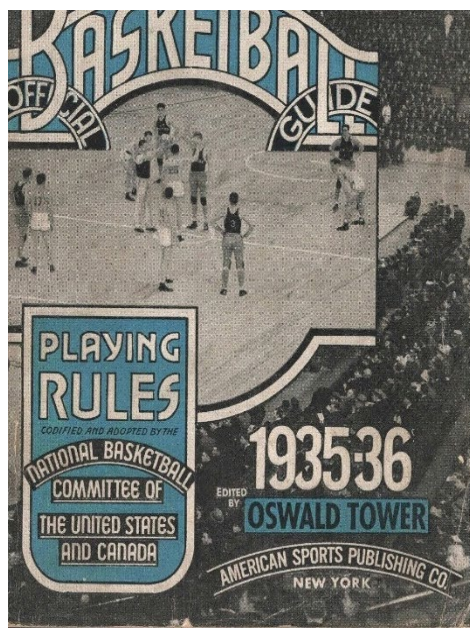


Fig. 1. 1936 Compromise Rule

coaches to eliminate the CJ was narrowly defeated 32-27. On the following Monday 8 April, the Joint Rules Committee of the NCAA was dead-locked on the issue. H.Y. Porter, from the Illinois High School Association, offered a compromise which was accepted. The CJ would be eliminated after the successful free throw but would remain after a successful field goal; Fig.1.

Twenty-four months later, April 1937, the NABC and NCAA would agree to abolish the CJ after any score. Modern basketball began with the 1938 season. Promoters at Madison Square Garden in NYC conceived the post-season N.I.T. in 1938 to capitalize on the new faster game. The NCAA followed in 1939 with their post-season version. The professional game was stimulated to create the mid-western National Basketball League in 1938.

Many basketball historians consider the 1935 and 1937 rule changes the ones that completely transformed the game of basketball. I agree with that assessment. Besides the elimination of the center jump after every field goal or free throw, there were other rule changes that were very important, such as the enforcement of a three-second rule in the keyhole, the goal-tending violation and penalty, and an expansion in allowable team timeouts.

Notably as well, the laced ball became almost obsolete with the development of a molded ball and a new rule permitting its use. Before then, the lacing that kept the bladder



of the ball sealed up as tight as possible often interfered markedly with dribbling, making bounce passes, and sometimes with attempting shots at the basket. Often the lacing would lose its tension and a prominent bladder lump would develop over the seal. The new molded ball remedied that problem and was therefore an important element in the equipment rule changes.

The tournament structure was also changed for the 1936 Indiana state finals. The IHSAA feared the new rules made it too strenuous to continue the two-day Sweet 16 State Finals. The 1936 Tourney "final 16" was divided into (a) a one-day semi-state elimination round followed a week later by (b) a new one-day final four round that consisted of only the four semi-state winners and held on the fourth Saturday of the Tourney.

This new format made Anderson, the 1935 winner, the last champion of the old center jump era; **Fig. 3.** The 1936 and 1937 state champions, Frankfort and Anderson again became the state's only teams to ever capture the championship while playing under the abbreviated changes to the center jump rule; **the compromise era champions; Fig. 4.**

In 1938, all IHSAA teams were playing by the fully-amended center jump elimination rule, and the first state champion to do that was Fort Wayne's South Side Archers.

Some senior IHSBHS members might also recall an independent article I wrote for Boxscore in the Fall 2014 issue entitled "The Long Parade of Rule Changes." That article remains available to readers, if interested, on the IHSBHS website.

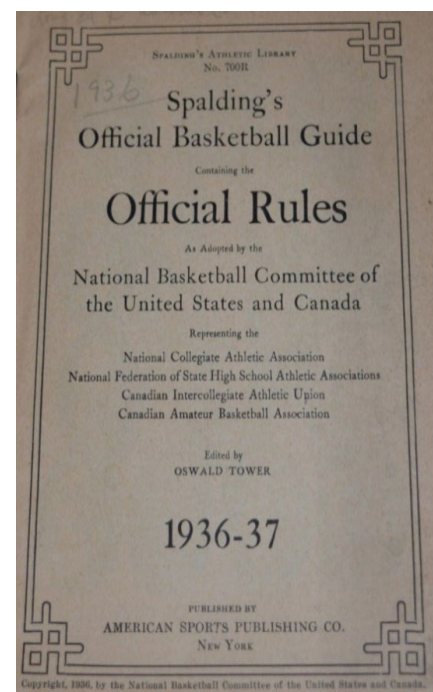
In it are recapped and critiqued the many major rule changes that have accompanied the game of basketball since its original introduction by Dr. James Naismith.

There were originally only thirteen basic rules in 1891 that he posted onto a YMCA gym room door. Now, 132 years later, we find several hundred official rules, policies, guidelines, and bylaws scattered in a variety of places. Most of the "official rules" followed by the IHSAA today are logical and necessary for maintaining the integrity of the game.

But some are (or were) not. Several rules were rescinded shortly after they were adopted, several more became outmoded, and more still reside in the rule book but have no practical purpose. Others should never have even been considered. One of the prime examples I like to cite is the ancient rule that prohibits kicking the ball. It seems to me that there is no good reason today for that rule. It dates to the time of Naismith when a soccer ball was employed for game use instead of the larger, heavier basketball that was introduced a few years later. It's been suggested that Naismith may have had concern back then that a good soccer player might find an advantage to kicking the ball if he was creative enough.

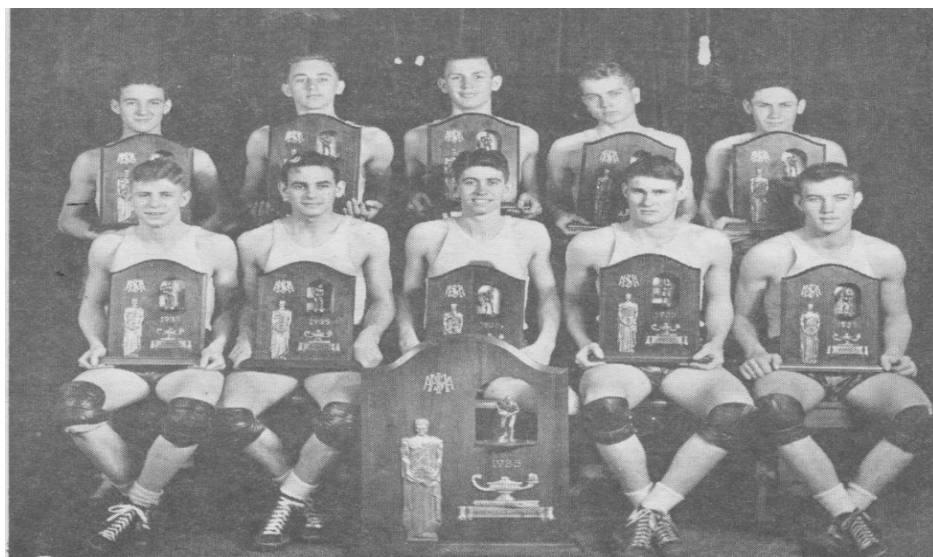
That was a false premise though, and it never gained any real credibility, even among good kickers. It did not need the violation rule that went into effect a year or two later. There were no Globetrotters in those days who might try kicking the ball into the goal instead of just using their hands to toss it in. Today, an inadvertent kick of a loose ball still results in a game interruption called by the floor officials. One argument

we hear for retaining this violation rule is that a kicked ball might pose a



**Fig. 2. Compromise Rule – year 2**

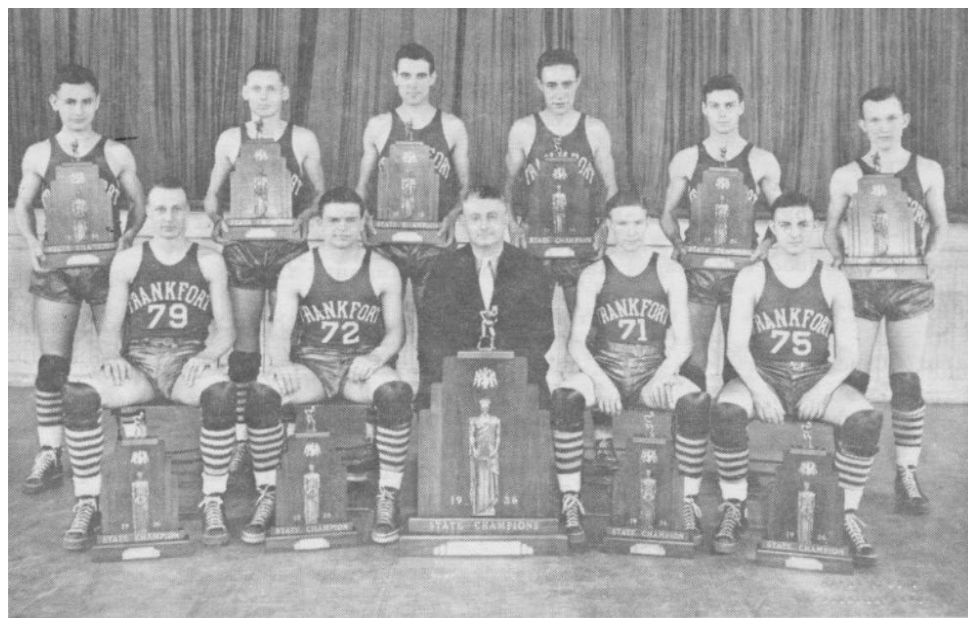
danger to players. However, deliberate fouls that I've witnessed in the waning moments of a tightly contested game seem much more likely to cause injury than any kicked ball would. Indeed, so might standing under a goal during a slam dunk, banging one's head on the bottom of a backboard during a vertical leap/save slamming one's body into the scorer's bench. All these constitute real and natural hazards. But a kicked ball seems innocuous enough. Why not keep it in play if it doesn't go out of bounds? Why stop the action or prohibit a body part from re-directing the ball, whether accidental or deliberate?



ANDERSON, 1935 CHAMPION

Front Row - Baker, Ruh, Clutch, Morgan, Jackson. Back Row - Lambert, Goss, P'Simer, Hartley, Southworth.

Fig.3. 1935: Last Center Jump rule title.



FRANKFORT, 1936 CHAMPION

Front Row - Joseph, Vaughn, Coach Case, McCreary, Miner. Back Row - Goodnight, Witsman, Montgomery, Slaven, Livezey, Street.

Fig.4. Compromise Rule Champion

Another present-day NCAA rule that seems regrettable to me is the limitation of 25 to 35 seconds to get off a shot after a team gains possession of the ball. This is usually too short of an interval for coaches to set up and execute well-conceived or fixed plays. And now there is an effort to extend the 'shot clock' to the high school game that many of us

would prefer to watch. It seems to me that a full minute should elapse before the team in possession of the ball must shoot or relinquish it to the opponents. Unless the shot clock gets extended someday, we will continue to witness poor shot selections attempted, rushed long-range prayers from 30 feet out, interruptions in play to determine where a player's feet were planted before a successful 3-point FG, and excessive turnovers

caused by the necessity of fast-paced, hurried ball-handling being forced into such a short timeframe. No, not all of the rules appear to have helped the game and several have even been detrimental, according to some scholars and old fogies like me.

All in all though, it's easy to see why the major basketball rule changes of 1936-37 were so resoundingly significant. Not only did they vastly change the nature of the game, but after all these years each one is still in force. In my opinion, no other set of rule changes has matched, or ever will match, the importance of those initiated during that time.

### ***A Short History of the IHS/BHS***

By R. Robison, T. White, R. Whalen.  
The Initial 6 Years: 1994-2000.

When H. Sheets wrote his book, "Where In The World Is ???", in 1983 he had no idea it would lead to Joe Quigley and the formation of the IHS/BHS in 1994. Joe was a transplanted Hoosier living in Atlanta, GA, and contacted Harley about the book. Over 3 years they exchanged some 150 letters about Indiana High School basketball history and the creation of the IHS/BHS. They were both chagrin over the lack of verified statistics as it related to basketball in the Hoosier state.

At that time the only records were kept by assistants, personal friends, the coach and his family. Records relied on family scrapbooks, unreliable high school annuals and fond memories. Newspaper microfilm, made available by genealogy organizations, was not being utilized by independent unbiased researchers.

Coaching records, amassed by well-wishers and admirers of the coach and submitted to various Halls of Fame, would have made even Baron Von Munchhausen blush.

One of the most egregious Indiana Hall of Fame records was that of Everett Case who coached from 1920-42 in Indiana before leaving for the Navy and Tobacco Road. Case was credited with 726 wins and only 75 losses in 21.5 years. That works out to 33.8 wins and 3.5 losses a year. Someone was not doing the math. However, 726 was the “gold standard” in Indiana until M. Crawley claimed 734 and H. Sharpe claimed 759 in 1990s.

Harley and Joe finally got face to face in 1993 and called Ron Newlin, the Director of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame and arranged to meet 10 October to discuss verifying coaching records.

After meeting with the Director, Joe and Harley recruited other Indiana HS basketball historians to meetings at New Castle on 25 June and 28 October 1994. Among those attending were Don and Ruth White, John Ockomon, Ken Johnson, Jack Poore, Bob and Margaret Whalen, Bob Adams, Mike McCormick, and the host, Director Ron Newlin,

They established the non-profit IHS/BHS and its mission to gather year-by-year coaching records and identify all the coaches that have participated in the annual tournament. The goal was to furnish the results to the Hall of Fame (HOF).

On 3 March 1995 a group of 15 met at IHSAA headquarters in Indianapolis, where a computer program was demonstrated. They met again on 29 July at

Crawfordsville HS, where Bill Boone was the speaker. Meeting in Lebanon on 8 September, 1995, it was decided to charge a \$5.00 dues fee to finance an upcoming newsletter in 1996. By October there were 22 members.

In 1996 officers were selected: Pres. Harley Sheets; VP Bob Adams; Secr. Ruth White; and Treasurer Bob Whalen. Board Members were Doug Bradley, John Ockomon, Bob Pearson, Roger Robison and Don White.

The 1<sup>st</sup> issue of the newsletter came out in the fall of 1996 and was named the Box Score by the summer 1997 issue. Joe Quigley was the editor and membership was now 53. The IHS/BHS mission was to supply the HOF with research to be placed in their new computer system which would be available to visitors. A second mission was to help the HOF correct, with valid verification, errors that existed in HOF biographies.

Sadly, co-founder Joe Quigley died in July 1997 at age 54 of cancer. By 1999 the membership was over 100. In late 1999 a disagreement surfaced between the Board and Bob Adams, then con-current president and editor, over the rotation of those 2 positions. Unfortunately, esteemed members were lost in the dispute. In 2000 Bill Ervin became president and Harley became editor.

The HOF had a new Director in young Jason Crowe who was then caught up in a dispute between legendary Terre Haute coach Howard Sharpe and the IHS/BHS. Research by several members had indicated that the Sharpe record was 723 wins not 759. At the same time, long-time Loogootee coach Jack Butcher was working toward 760 wins.

Sharpe was a popular legend and had donated money for the HOF. He had never won a state championship and many thought he deserved the award for most victories as a compensation for a long and illustrious career. It was not popular to oppose this legend. However, other coaching legends like Everett Case (Frankfort) and Marion Crawley (LaFayette) were also being questioned by IHS/BHS researchers. If the Sharpe record was wrong and overlooked for sentiment what about the other erroneous records? What about Jack Butcher?

In the midst of all this Jason Crowe took his own life and we considered disbanding. However, it turned out the suicide was not related to the Sharpe debate. We decided: “It’s never too late to do the right thing”. We persisted.

In March of 2000 Jack Butcher was acknowledged as the leader with 760 wins on his way to 806. The HOF Director Roger Dickinson and a special Bob Hammel committee corrected Sharpe to 724 and Marion Crawley to 644 (from 734). The old Everett Case “gold standard” of 726-75 was finally corrected by the HOF in 2002 to 465-144-1.

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The Boxscore staff wishes you all a

Merry Christmas for 2023

&

Happy New Year 2024

&

Please pay your dues John





## **IHS-BHS**

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