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| A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society  |                                  |  |  |   |                    |  |  |   |              |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |  |
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| 2024 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.

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### Hinkle Fieldhouse and Me By Jim Brandyberry

My earliest recollection of the venerable Hinkle Fieldhouse goes back to just before my fifth birthday. That was when my parents took me to see in action the basketball player for whom I was named. That player was the late

Jim Buchanan. My father had coached him at Huntertown High School near Fort Wayne and he went on to be an All-American at the University of Nebraska before being drafted in the sixth round by the Boston Celtics in 1952. Instead of going pro, he went to the U.S. Army and then played for the Phillips 66ers. The 66ers were a perennial amateur basketball power sponsored by the Phillips Petroleum Company. They had come to town to give the 1956 Olympic Team a tuneup before Olympic competition began in Australia. Bill Russell was the Olympians' star. Sadly, I confess that I don't remember seeing him.

On December 3, 1965, I went with my father to see Butler defeat Southern California 77-75. I remember it a little. On the roster for USC that season was actor Tom Selleck! For reasons unknown, he didn't make the trip to play Butler that night.

Selleck first played at Los Angeles Valley Community College. He then went on to USC, where he scored four points in

seven games in the 1965-66 season and was scoreless in three games in the 1966-67 season. It seems like he broke his foot that year and then transferred to the University of Washington to focus on acting.

Here is an excerpt biographical sketch about him from an old USC basketball guide:

*"Agile and quick performer who adds depth on front line. Business administration major is good jumper with fine mobility. Rapidly improving shooter has impressed coaches with his hustle in practice. Needs to work on defense."*

Clearly, basketball's loss was Hollywood's gain!

My first attendance at a state high school championship was in 1964, with Lafayette Jeff the winner. Thankfully, I do remember Mr. Basketball Denny Brady. A few months later, I got Kentucky Mr. Basketball Wes Unseld's autograph there in June. I was back again in 1965, watching Mr. Basketball Billy Keller and Indianapolis Washington take it all. It doesn't get better than beholding the purest of shooters, Rick Mount, in the 1966 Indiana-Kentucky High

School All-Star Game. Seeing the great Washington team in the 1969 semistate with the late George McGinnis was a real plus. However, there's nothing quite like seeing your own *alma mater*, Muncie Central, get to the Final Four in 1970.

I could go on and on telling what I've witnessed at Hinkle. While I was a graduate student at Butler in 1981, Number #1 ranked DePaul with future NBA stars Mark Aguirre and Terry Cummings filled the Fieldhouse. Speed triumphed over size in 1990 when Brebeuf's Alan Henderson bested Lawrence North and Eric Montross. Butler Bulldog sharpshooter Pete Campbell's jumper was a thing to behold in 2008. Is it no wonder that our youngest son frequented the summer basketball camps there during that same era?

Back before my time, the Fieldhouse held bicycle races, roller derbies and track meets. In those days, the floor beneath the basketball court was dirt. Multiple renovations have now obscured the indoor track that hosted Jesse Owens, who tied the world record of 6.1 in the 60-yard dash there in 1935. The track was still visible in the 1980s.

These days, I live just four miles from Hinkle Fieldhouse. Whether literally or figuratively, I'm never far from the place!

### Complete the Riddle:

Q: Why did the chicken cross the basketball court??

A: Send your best answers to Dan at BCHSTennis@aol.com

Replies will be published in June!

### Boys Sectional Tidbits

#### From John Ockomon

Q: What was the largest number of teams ever in the same sectional?

A: Twenty One, which happened five times –

1920 at Rushville

1922 at Angola

1922 at Huntington

1922 at New Castle

1922 at Logansport

Q: What was the largest number of games a sectional champ had to win?

A: Five, which happened six times –

Milroy 1920

Terre Haute State Normal 1920

Vincennes 1921

Anderson 1922

Atwood 1922

Pine Village 1922

### PRES SEZ – Roger Robison

(1) We need a Secretary to keep the membership roster current with accurate phone #s and e-mail addresses. Anyone who volunteers will automatically be given a place on the Board of Directors and free membership.

(2) If you wish to receive the Boxscore electronically (by e-mail) with or without the “hard copy” please e-mail me at (hotdog@compuserve.com).

Please be specific about what you want.

(3) Our current bank balance is stable at \$2200.00. We have 115 members and ten honorary Boxscore recipients. The Boxscore costs us \$1.60 per issue mailed. Members who are over 12 months delinquent in dues must be dropped. This is our 31<sup>st</sup> year of

publication. Our continued existence depends on your support. Please keep on soliciting new members. Send a gift membership (\$10.00) to a friend and brighten their day.

(4) Many members have good stories, but they are embarrassed to try writing because they feel inadequate. Not everyone is a Hemingway or a Hammel. Please do not be shy or self-conscious. We have a cadre of editors to help you. We even have an editor from the five-year high school in Lebanon! Submit your stories and don't worry about the colons and semi-colons (no one knows the difference) and let our editors do the work. Our mission is to publish your interests.

### POETRY CORNER

Submitted by Jim Brandyberry

"Round my Indiana Homestead"  
(as they sang in years gone by)  
Now the basketballs are flying and  
they almost hide the sky;  
For each gym is full of players and  
each town is full of gyms  
As a hundred thousand snipers  
shoot their goals with deadly  
glims

Old New York may have its  
subway with its famous Rum Row  
trust

And old Finland with its Nurmi  
runs our runners into dust  
But where candlelights are  
gleaming through the sycamores  
afar  
Every son of Indiana shoots his  
basket like a star.

- Grantland Rice  
"Back in 1925"

## How I Became An Indiana High School Basketball Player

Submitted by Co-Founder  
Harley Sheets

### It Took Awhile

The motivation for me to expound on this very long ago self-experience is the emergence of the Detroit Lions as a team to be reckoned with in the NFL. At the beginning of the word processing of this narrative (1-23-24), the Lions are within one win of going to the Super Bowl and their two wins in this year's NFL playoffs are the first since 1957 – 66 years. Now I'm sure you are asking, "What on earth has this to do with basketball?" Let me explain.

I was born in Lebanon, Indiana in 1935 – the depression era. Soon, thereafter, my parents divorced with my mother gaining custody. Not too long after our country declared war on Japan (December 7, 1941) due to their almost complete destruction of our naval fleet in Hawaii. I was six years old. Almost immediately my mother journeyed to Detroit and became a "Rosie Riveter". Having left me with my grandparents, after getting settled in she sent for me. In hindsight, at the time, there wasn't anything great happening in basketball in Michigan, at least not to my preteen recollection. One thing I'm sure of is that the Zollner-Pistons had not at this time left Ft. Wayne for the Motor City. It was baseball, football and the exceptional Detroit Red Wings with the Production Line featuring Alex Delvecchio and the great Gordy Howe. The Tigers even won the World Series in 1945 with such stalwarts as "Hammering" Hank Greenburg, "Prince" Hal Newhouser and Paul "Dizzy" Trout" from Sandcut, Indiana.

Eventually the war ended and with the veterans returning most of the women were replaced, my mom included. Now with only a limited high school education and a single mother living in the big city my mother made a difficult decision. Since my father had remarried and still resided in my hometown she decided to turn over custody of me to him.



1954 Lebanon Tigers, Sectional Champs – Harley is #45, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right, back row

### The Beginning of My Transition

The following circumstances are somewhat hilarious but did become helpful in getting me interested in basketball. Lebanon had 3 city grade schools and one just outside the city limits for students residing in the country. This is the school I attended. Our old principal was told to form a fourth team. I didn't go out, didn't give a hoot about basketball. However, I was eventually persuaded. In all probability it was because I was one of the taller boys. After a while I started to adapt and enjoy this unfamiliar sport! My recollection of these two years of grade school basketball is very limited other than I do remember one of my teammates making a basket for one of the opposing teams. I'm also quite sure that I would be

stretching it by stating that we won 50 percent of our games.

Now on to junior high. Back in the now distant past, the fifties, it wasn't like today with 7th A&B and 8th A&B teams. There was just one team consisting of the supposed best 10 or 12 boys from both the 7th & 8th grades. At the time, as an immature young lad, I had no idea that the coach (Fred "Cat" Adam) had been one of the

stars of our back-to-back state championship teams in 1917 & 18. He had returned to his home town after an extended career as a fairly successful varsity basketball coach in Illinois and Indiana.



### The Call Out

Next, after all preliminaries had been taken care of in junior high, getting familiar with new surroundings and getting my study schedule arranged, I looked forward to continuing my basketball journey. Eventually the call out came. I made the first cut but was eliminated on the final one. Don't actually remember if I was totally depressed or at that young age just accepting disappointment as a normal occurrence in life. One thing I do know is that out of the 12 boys selected only one ever played varsity basketball and that was my cousin Marshall "Otto" Sheets who scored 254 points as a varsity freshman starter and never played another game for the Lebanon Tigers! Occasionally a positive can/will succeed a negative. During that following summer Mr. Adam passed away and a typing teacher took over his coaching responsibilities. Guess what! Harley Sheets became a starter as an 8th grader and then a starter on the freshman team, a one year starter on the junior varsity and a 2 year starter on the LHS varsity.

### Something Happened On The Way To The Forum

In conclusion the following might be considered somewhat ironic, somewhat unusual or even hilarious. A couple of years ago I was inducted into the Boone County High School Basketball Hall of Fame as a player, but primarily as a historian. As a member I have put forth individuals for induction and succeeded. This year I have put forth an individual named "Cat" Adam and I'm ninety-nine percent sure of success. And in my opinion Mr. Adam should have been

inducted long before 90 % of those already in.

### "Cat's" Resume

While viewing this resume, keep in mind that Wabash and Franklin Colleges were the upper Indiana educational institutions that were the basketball powerhouses in this time period, not Purdue and I.U.

1. First four year starter at LHS
2. Scored 778 points
3. A three year starter at Wabash along with LHS team mate Clyde Grater who is already in the state Hall of Fame.
4. "Cat" and Clyde Grater were starters as juniors on Wabash's 3rd so called "Wonder 5" (21-3). Grater was captain of this 1922 intercollegiate championship team.
5. "Cat" was selected as captain of the 1923 team
6. "Cat" started his coaching career at Rantoul H. S. where he took them to the Final-8 in the one-class Illinois state tournament in 1931 and 32. The town population of Rantoul at the time was only 1,600.
7. Mr. Adam in his later years returned to his hometown as junior high basketball coach and industrial arts instructor at the high school.



A reminder that IHSBHS wishes to support the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame as often as possible. If you're considering joining, please visit their website, [www.hoopshall.com](http://www.hoopshall.com), and click on the appropriate links.

### J.R. Holmes Achieves 900<sup>th</sup> Victory

Submitted by Jim Gordillo of the Bloomington Herald-Times

When Zach Sims came down the floor and swished a 3-pointer with 2:43 left, he was just getting started.

The party was starting to go flat after a 14-0 Terre Haute North run threatened to put the 900th win for Bloomington South boys' head coach J.R. Holmes on hold. Sims had other plans. Starting with that 3, the senior guard had 18 of the Panthers' last 21 points.

His off-balance 3 with 42 seconds left and two free throws with 22.2 left sent the game into overtime. Then his layup and two free throws in the final 40 seconds rallied South again to a 60-56 win, certainly among the more thrilling of Holmes' 900 wins.

"We were in good shape, bad shape, good shape, bad shape and then finally fortunate enough to win," Holmes said. "We stuck in there. They didn't quit."

And neither has Holmes, closing in on 76 years of age after 54 years as a coach, the last 42 at South, many of them also in the role of athletic director. At 370 losses heading into the season finale, only 25 active coaches have more wins. He leads his closest pursuer, Gene Miiller of Washington, by 148 wins.

After the post-game handshakes, the game ball was presented to Holmes, and it will join several others in his office marking memorable wins. As a bonus, JR's

son Jon was on hand as a member of the 1998-99 final four squad that was recognized at halftime, and they shared a big hug surrounded by the current Panthers.

"I appreciate the people who came out," said Holmes, who keeps breaking the state record with each win. "I didn't know when I got to 810 and set the record, I didn't know how many more years I was going to go. Don't know how many more I'm going to go after (this year).

"It's nice to be the first one to get (to 900). The stability of the program over the years was important. We had a run of really good high school players, plus the stability of my assistant coaches."

There's a sign outside his hometown of Avoca that was unveiled in 2019 after he broke the state record for career wins, held previously by Loogootee's Jack Butcher at 806.

"The good Lord has taken care of us," Holmes said. "The family moved up here from Mitchell. Didn't know what they were getting into, and it ended up being a really good situation for my family. It's been a very good run for us."

The usual after-game dinner with his wife and assistant coaches would follow later that night following his 1,262nd game, another absurd number that keeps growing. And they'll have a big milestone to toast.



"It was a very emotional moment for coach Holmes," Sims said. "He's been doing it for 54 years. He means a lot to us. We have his back. He has our back. And for his son's team to come, we had to win. There was no losing. So we did everything in our power to come back and get the W."

South, once playing not to lose, had to get back in attack mode again and pulled it out as the Panthers went 7-of-14 from distance to make sure Holmes left with a nice, round number.

When will he finally shut the door to his office for the last time? He made it through knee replacement surgery in the off-season, and his passion for the game isn't dying in the least. By the time sectionals roll around, he will have put together a game-plan and followed his team on to the floor for a game 1,290 times.

Holmes' goal was to reach 50, then take it year-by-year, he once said. At least one underclassman is ready to see him make it to 55.

"It was awesome," South junior guard TJ Spears said. "I hope he's got one more year in him. I want to see him one more year."

#### **Coach Holmes' Career, 911-372** **TUNNELTON, 30-13**

1971, 18-5

1972, 12-9

#### **MITCHELL, 113-105**

1973, 14-8

1974, 13-9

1975, 13-9

1976, 6-15

1977, 7-15

1978, 8-15

1979, 10-11

1980, 15-7

1981, 18-4

1982, 9-12

#### **BLOOMINGTON SOUTH,** **753-228**

1983, 8-13

1984, 14-8

1985, 23-3, Regional

1986, 19-6, Sectional

1987, 23-5, Sectional

1988, 18-7, Regional

1989, 16-5

1990, 16-6

1991, 14-8

1992, 20-5, Sectional

1993, 8-13

1994, 14-7

1995, 8-13

1996, 16-9, Sectional

1997, 13-9

1998, 17-5

1999, 25-2, Regional

2000, 19-4

2001, 19-3

2002, 12-9

2003, 15-9, Sectional

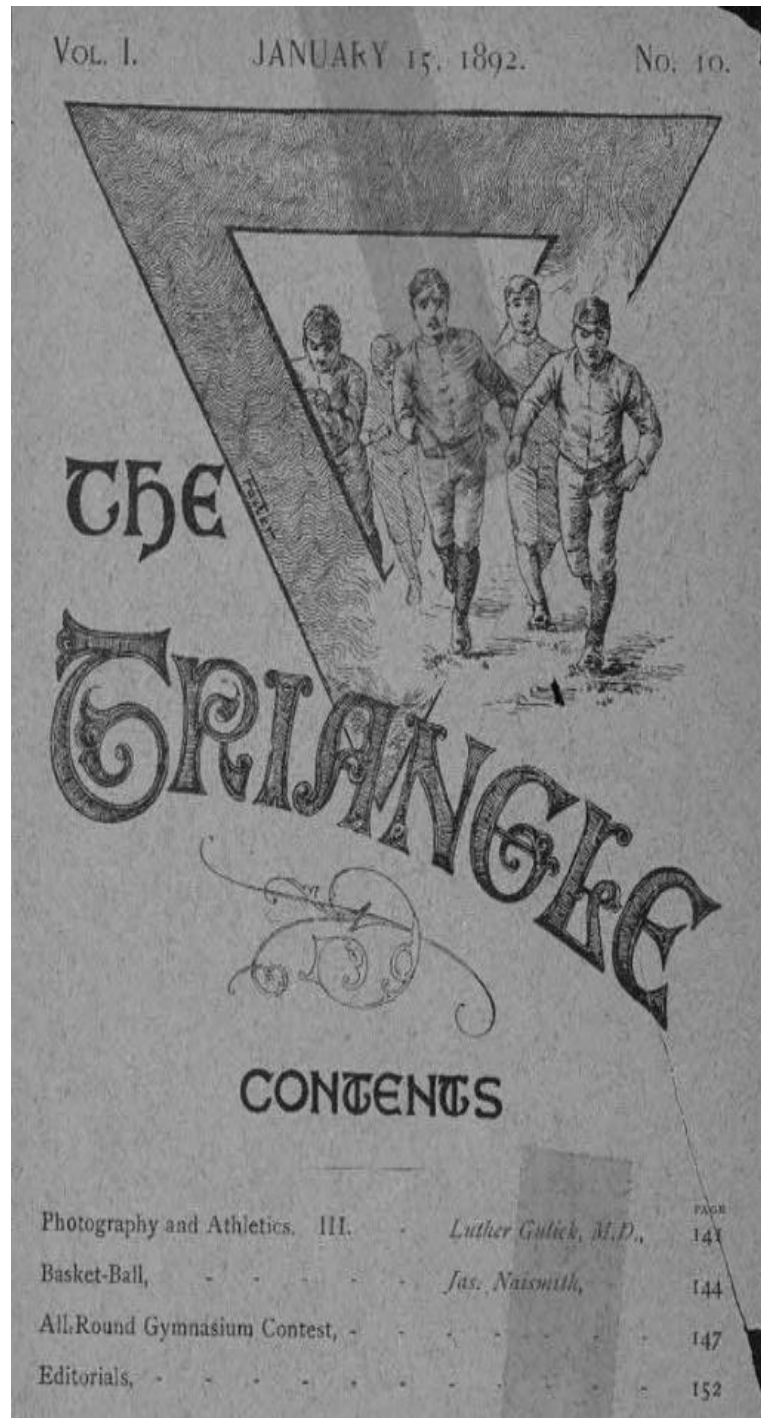
2004, 17-4

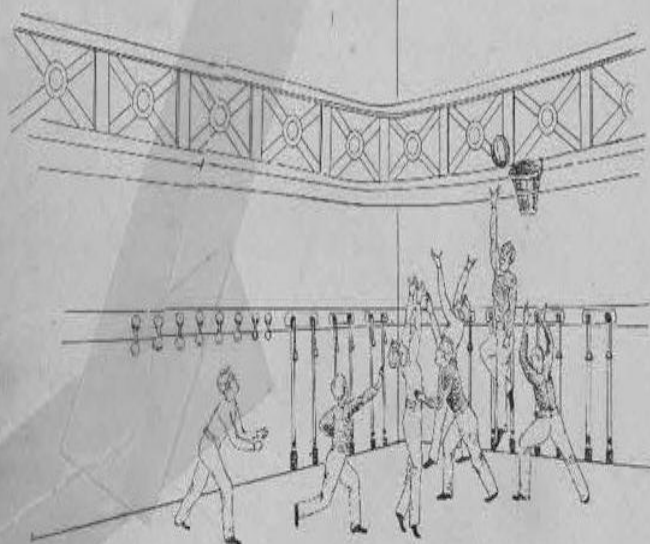
2005, 22-3, Sectional

2006, 21-6, Regional  
 2007, 21-5, Regional  
 2008, 19-2  
 2009, 26-0, State  
 2010, 23-1, Sectional  
 2011, 26-2, State  
 2012, 14-10, Sectional  
 2013, 12-11  
 2014, 15-8  
 2015, 21-3, Sectional  
 2016, 21-5, Sectional  
 2017, 22-5, Sectional  
 2018, 26-3, Sectional  
 2019, 24-4, Sectional  
 2020, 26-0, Sectional  
 2021, 25-5, Regional  
 2022, 19-8  
 2023, 16-9  
 2024, 15-11

### The Triangle – A New Game!

Roger Robison came across the January 1892 edition of The Triangle which had an article by James Naismith on a new game he invented.





### BASKET BALL.

WE present to our readers a new game of ball, which seems to have those elements in it which ought to make it popular among the Associations. It fills the same place in the gymnasium that foot ball does in the athletic field. Any number of men may play at it, and each one get plenty of exercise; at the same time it calls for physical judgment, and co-ordination of every muscle, and gives all-around development. It can be played by teams from different Associations, and combines skill with courage and agility so that the better team wins.

The ground is the gymnasium floor cleared of apparatus (it may be shoved behind the side lines), though it could be played in the open air, at a picnic, etc. When there is a running track around the gymnasium,

### BASKET BALL.

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the ground might be marked out just under the track, and the baskets hung up, one at each end on the railing. All outside of this line is then out of bounds. When there is no running track, the ends may be cleared of apparatus, and the goals fixed on the wall, then a line may be drawn along the sides of the gymnasium about six feet from the walls, or enough to clear the apparatus. Across these lines would be out of bounds.

The goals are a couple of baskets or boxes about fifteen inches in diameter across the opening, and about fifteen inches deep. These are to be suspended, one at each end of the grounds, about ten feet from the floor. The object of the game is to put the ball into your opponents' goal. This may be done by throwing the ball from any part of the grounds, with one or both hands, under the following conditions and rules:—

The ball to be an ordinary *Association* foot ball.

1. The ball may be thrown in any direction with one or both hands.
2. The ball may be batted in any direction with one or both hands (never with the fist).
3. A player cannot run with the ball. The player must throw it from the spot on which he catches it, allowance to be made for a man who catches the ball when running at a good speed if he tries to stop.
4. The ball must be held in or between the hands, the arms or body must not be used for holding it.
5. No shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping, or striking in any way the person of an opponent shall be allowed; the first infringement of this rule by any player shall count as a foul, the second shall disqualify him until the next goal is made, or, if there was evident intent to injure the person, for the whole of the game, no substitute allowed.
6. A foul is striking at the ball with the fist, violation of rules 3, 4, and such as described in rule 5.
7. If either side makes three consecutive fouls, it shall count a goal for the opponents (consecutive means without the opponents in the mean time making a foul).
8. A goal shall be made when the ball is thrown or batted from the grounds into the basket and stays there, providing those defending the goal do not touch or disturb the goal. If the ball rests on the edges, and the opponent moves the basket, it shall count as a goal.
9. When the ball goes out of bounds, it shall be thrown into the field of play by the person first touching it. In case of a dispute, the umpire shall throw it straight into the field. The thrower in is allowed five seconds, if he holds it longer, it shall go to the opponent. If any side persists in delaying the game, the umpire shall call a foul on that side.
10. The umpire shall be judge of the men and shall note the fouls and notify the referee when three consecutive fouls have been made. He shall have power to disqualify men according to Rule 5.

### THE TRIANGLE.

11. The referee shall be judge of the ball and shall decide when the ball is in play, in bounds, to which side it belongs, and shall keep the time. He shall decide when a goal has been made, and keep account of the goals with any other duties that are usually performed by a referee.

12. The time shall be two fifteen minutes, halves, with five minutes' rest between.

13. The side making the most goals in that time shall be declared the winner. In case of a draw, the game may, by agreement of the captains, be continued until another goal is made.

This game is interesting to spectators as well as to the players, and may be made quite scientific by good judgment combined with good co-ordination. Several good points have been scored by two or three players working together. The number composing a team depends largely on the size of the floor space, but it may range from three on a side to forty. The fewer players down to three, the more scientific it may be made, but the more players the more fun, and the more exercise for quick judgment.

The men may be arranged according to the idea of the captain, but it has been found advantageous to have a goal keeper, two guards, three center men, two wings, and a home man stationed in the above order from the goal.

It shall be the duty of the goal keeper and the two guards to prevent the opponents from scoring. The duty of the wing man and the home man is to put the ball into the opponents' goal, and the center men shall feed the ball forward to the man who has the best opportunity, thus nine men make the best number for a team.

It is well suited for boys. Director Finch has introduced it in his boys' classes with apparent success. We wish that the physical directors would try the game, and report any points that might be amended.

It is intended that this game should be free from much of the reputed roughness of Rugby, and in the framing of rules this has been kept strictly in view. If some of the rules seem unnecessarily severe, it will be remembered that the time to stop roughness is before it begins.

A gymnasium is bounded by hard walls, and has a pretty solid floor, and for that reason, any shoving that would injure a person must be stopped, *e.g.*, when a man raises his arms to throw the ball, another might give him the shoulder, and disable him, but if this is stopped there will be an understanding that it is not allowed. It is for the benefit of a physical director that no man be hurt in his gymnasium, so that any director who tries it should make every man conform to the rules strictly at first, and then he would soon get accustomed to playing ball instead of trying to injure his neighbor, when it is nothing but a friendly tussle in which they are taking part.

### ALL-ROUND GYMNASIUM CONTEST.

The very men who are rough in playing will be the very first ones to oppose the game on this account, for there is that in man's nature which will retaliate, and the rough player generally gets the worst of the roughness. If there is need for such a game, let it be played as any other game of science and skill, then men will value it. But there is neither science nor skill in taking a man unawares, and shoving him, or catching his arm and pulling him away, when he is about to catch the ball. A dog could do as much as that.

There seemed to be no way of compensating the opponents for a foul made. A free throw was thought of, but, after a little practice, a good thrower could convert it into a goal almost every time, because of the limits of the ordinary gymnasium. Then the idea was that three fouls would count as a goal, and would be a deterrent to the making of them. This is true, for when a team finds that another foul would count a goal against them, the extra foul is hardly ever made, showing that it is possible to play the game without making fouls.

If men will not be gentlemanly in their play, it is our place to encourage games that may be played by gentlemen in a manly way, and show them that science is superior to brute force with a disregard for the feelings of others. The umpire will thus be responsible for much of the roughness if he lets it go unchecked, but if he is firm and impartial in his ruling he will gain the respect even of those who suffer at the time.

We would advise the director to keep a good firm grasp on the ruling for a while at first.

JAS. NAISMITH.

## Book Review – Their Times in Indiana, by Ed Snyder

*Editor's note: I became aware of this book through a mutual friend, Steve Gretencord, who assisted on many of the interviews. Ed was able to interview well over a hundred athletes, and selected 44 of the best, who tell their stories of growing up in Indiana and falling in love with the game.*

In Ed's words, "Basketball in Indiana has a heritage and history unlike anywhere else. The game was a part of the fabric of the state far before it became a national and international phenomenon. This book celebrates stories that make that history come back to life. The players, coaches, schools and towns of Indiana grew the game of basketball in its state's communities from the ground up. With that in mind, "Their Times In Indiana" and the players featured in it embarked on this project with the goal of giving back the proceeds generated by the book to programs that support today's Indiana youth." All proceeds from this book are donated to YMCA's across Indiana.

The book is only available through [www.authorhouse.com](http://www.authorhouse.com). If you'll go there and search for Ed Snyder, you'll find the book. In 654 pages, "Their Times In Indiana" allows the reader to once again feel the passion that gripped the state every winter as thousands of Hoosiers packed high school gymnasiums to watch the games that made Indiana the place where basketball became great.

An excerpt follows:

### **#30 Dick Van Arsdale and #22 Tom Van Arsdale Indianapolis Manual High School (1961)** (As told by Tom Van Arsdale)

We had reached the last stop of the tournament: the State Finals at Butler Fieldhouse. My brother, Dick, and I stepped on the gleaming wooden floor, looked out at the 15,000 seats and all I could think was: *What am I doing here? Had we really made it to our basketball court of dreams?*

There was no such self-doubt on the part of Dick.

Let me fill you in on a secret about identical twins: They're not always identical! That Saturday at the fieldhouse, and again on other occasions later in our basketball careers, I would draw confidence from Dick that we were where we were supposed to be, that we had earned our place at the top through all the hard work we had put in. I did know that the excitement we both felt was immense.

The setting for the championship game exceeded our every expectation. The lights were hot, the baskets gleamed, and the floor hadn't so much as a

scuff. With the sell-out crowd in place, the arena had a vastness that made it seem easy to lose yourself, and easy for others to lose you. If we didn't rise to the occasion, all the glare and noise would wash us right out. They say the best players "shine" in big games, and we knew that if we didn't stand out on a stage like the Butler Fieldhouse, we might as well be invisible.

At tipoff of the final versus Kokomo, I felt the world shrink as soon as I stepped on the court with my brother and the other Indianapolis Manual starters. Kokomo's 1961 players had lost just four games during the last two years. These guys were the Goliath of Indiana high school basketball at the time.

As the sell-out crowd's roar began to fade, the Kokomo starters came out to meet us, the bright lights around the arena dimmed, and there was nothing except the 10 players on the court, the ball and the two hoops. None of us could have known it, but we were about to play one of the most famous games in the history of Indiana basketball, the epic 1961 final between Manual and Kokomo.

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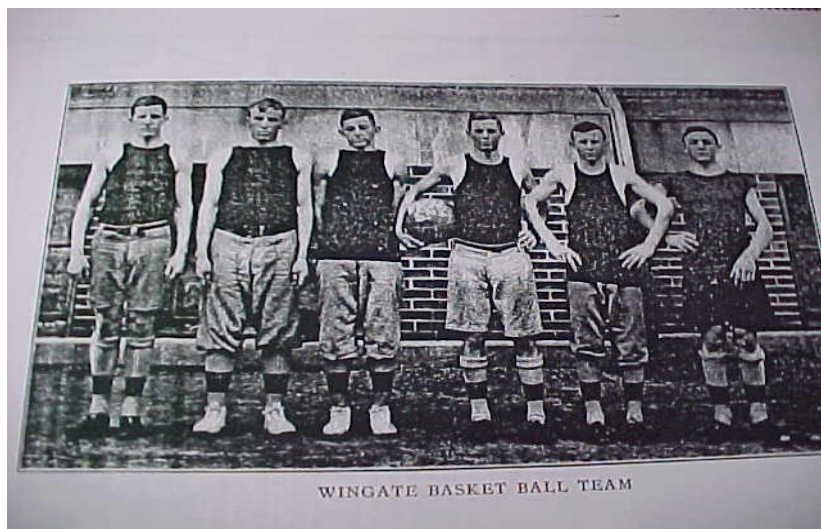
## Evolution of Basketball Uniforms, submitted by Bill Boone

THE INDIANA STATE ALL STUDENT TEAM 1914; L TO R, WORLEY(LEBANON)  
Sayger (Culver), Stonebraker(Wingate), Graves (Wingate), DeVol(Lebanon)



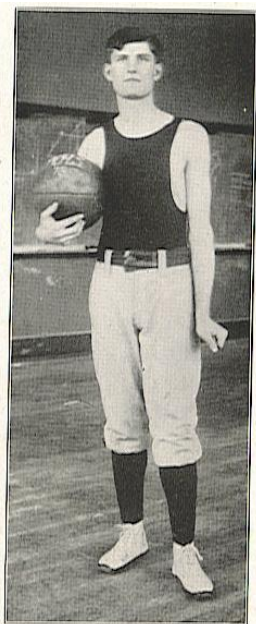
### From knee-guards to shorts to knee length pants, the uniforms were different

This article has been percolating in my mind for several weeks and the titles have been thoughts like “What Goes Around Comes Around,” or “The More Things Change, The More They Stay the Same,” but I settled on the *Evolution of Basketball Uniforms*. As you look at basketball uniforms from the early 1900’s when the game really took off to the present, the uniforms for the most part reflected the places where the teams played. For example, look at the uniforms worn by the early Wingate teams and the other early Montgomery County teams. The guys look like they are dressed to play football and there was good reason for that type of protection. At first they needed extra padding because they played outdoors or if they were fortunate enough to have an indoor court, the walls were the out of bounds lines and the bleachers were two feet from the playing floor. There were posts in the corners or the court and sometimes along the sidelines. There were also pot-bellied stoves in the corners to provide the only heat on the cold winter days and nights.

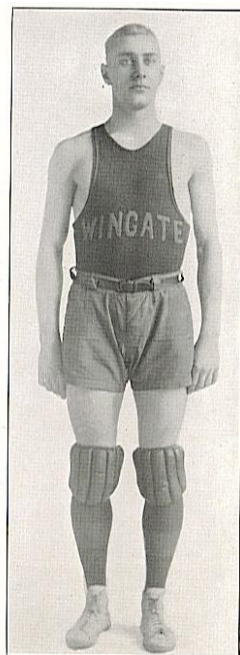


## The Wingate players of 1910 wore a variety of uniforms

The game was rough in the early days and players got knocked into walls, stages, and the ever-present wooden seats that were right on the floor. Homer Stonebraker once recalled that he couldn't even get dressed after one game as he suffered three broken fingers and two broken ribs in one especially rough game. Leland Olin, in an interview with "Butch" Dale in *The Golden Era of Montgomery County Basketball*, recalled, "Fouls were not called as close as they are now, and a player would take a chance of getting back at a player—if he wasn't in too much foul trouble—by giving him a good elbow or kick when the referee wasn't looking. You had to let the fellow know that you were still in the game," he chuckled.



HOMER STONEBRAKER  
Captain Basket Ball



LEE THORN (Center).

**Homer Stonebraker from high school to pro, and Lee Thorn is ready for anything**



**In 1913, Alamo players made their own uniforms**



### **Alamo had better uniforms in 1919-20**

The uniforms reflected the place where they games were played. Teams started out playing outside on the dirt or on cinders as the early Linden teams did and the uniforms had to give the players some protection. Again, “Butch” Dale reported that the uniforms of those days consisted of the more-or-less standard athletic shorts and a sleeveless shirt which was much like a man’s undershirt, gym shoes, wool stockings, some ankle length and sometime knee length as you can see in the early pictures of the Wingate and New Richmond teams. The pants were below-the-knee baseball or football pants. Once again Leland Olin recalled with a chuckle that his team of the early 1900’s wanted to switch to the standard basketball shorts, but was talked out of it by Jack Blacker, a fellow member of the team, because he didn’t want all the girls making fun of his bare legs.



**Wingate State Champs 1913—Jack Blacker is kneeling second from right.**



BASKET BALL TEAM--1904

**The Crawfordsville team of 1904 was still wearing baseball pants**

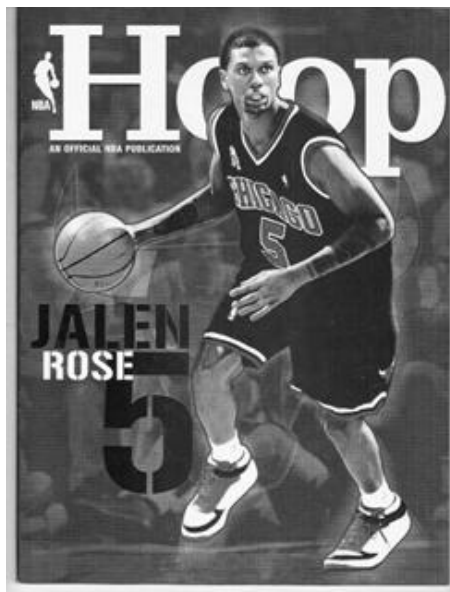


**James Alexander of New Richmond 1915**

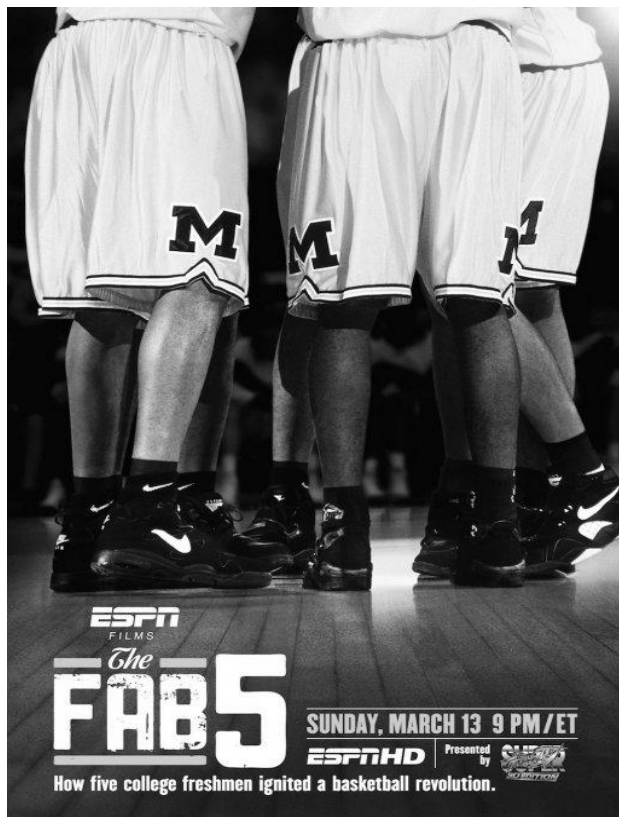


**Les Remley wore sissy sox in 1921**

Kobe Bryant must have felt the same way about short shorts. Last year the Lakers wore retro uniforms in honor of Jerry West when they played the Celtics. Bryant said the shorts made him feel “naked,” and he felt “violated.” He commented, “I don’t know how it feels to wear a thong, but I imagine it feels something like what we had on the first half.” Proving that you are what you wear and that clothes make the man, the Celtics beat the Lakers 110-91 with Bryant shooting 6-25 from the field.



**Kobe Bryant felt violated and Jalen Rose shows off the new style**



The short shorts era changed drastically when the Fab Five came on the scene. The Fab Five was a nickname given to the 1991 University of Michigan men’s basketball team. They were considered to be the greatest recruiting class ever. The class consisted of Jalen Rose, Chris Webber, Juwan Howard, Jimmy King and Ray Jackson. Rose, Webber, and Howard all had distinguished NBA careers.

King played for a couple of years and Jackson never made it to the “Big Show.” None of the five was ever on a team that won an NCAA or NBA championship. However the Fab Five changed the face and the appearance of basketball forever when they brought a popular “Hip Hop” style to the game complete with trash talk, shaved heads and most importantly, longer, baggier pants. It was the longer, baggier pants that set the style for the present basketball uniform. Oddly enough, without the shaved heads, they looked like the Wingate Spartans of 1913 and 1914. I guess it's true that “whatever goes around comes around.”



### **Tennessee made the Fab Five look short in the mid 90s**

The last item of the uniform obviously was the shoes. The first athletic shoes were manufactured in the 1890's and had rubber soles. They were referred to as plimsolls and had no right or left shoe. They were the same. Converse began making basketball shoes in 1908. Chuck Taylor was the first one to have his name on a shoe but Clyde "The Glide" Frazier was the first NBA player to have his own shoe. It was made by Puma and called the Puma Clyde. But, back to Chuck Taylor. (Remember the Chuck Taylor All-Stars made of canvas?) My first pair of Chuck Taylor All-Stars was black and cost \$7.50. When the coach said that were going to wear white Converse basketball shoes my senior year; I was appalled. Why would any self-respecting basketball player wear anything but black Chuck Taylor All-Stars? I also wore a pair of U.S. Keds that year. (white of course) Converse dominated the basketball shoe market until the 1960's. Nike came along in 1972 and the race was on. Reebok and Adidas also got into the shoe business about that time, but everyone wanted Nike after Michael Jordan put his stamp on the Air Jordan line in 1985. The first Air Jordan cost the princely sum of \$79.98 which is a real bargain compared to this year's model at \$230.00 if you are fortunate enough to get a pair in time for basketball season.

Well, that concludes the evolution of the basketball uniform from shirt to shoes. Of course I have left out head bands and sweat bands for the wrists and barely mentioned the shooting sleeve so popular today. I guess the modern players have a lot more "swag" than the players of yesterday did. Also the game of today bears little resemblance to the game of yesterday, but that is another story.