

# B O X S C O R E

A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

IHSBHS was founded in 1994 by A. J. Quigley Jr. (1943-1997) and Harley Sheets for the purpose of documenting and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball

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2014 FALL ISSUE

## POLICY

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## OPEN MEETING IS SCHEDULED AT MARTINSVILLE

A presentation/lecture on the "corrected" early life and career of Indiana legend John Wooden will be delivered on Saturday, Nov. 14 by Martinsville resident Curtis Tomak, a current board member of IHSBHS, retired state archaeologist, and renowned scholar on the early life and long career of John Wooden. The presentation, entitled "Setting the Record Straight," focuses mainly on information heretofore undisclosed to the general public. It begins at 1:30 p.m. in the Morgan County Public Library in Martinsville, following an IHSBHS

board meeting at 11:30 a.m. The library is located at 110 South Jefferson Street, one block east and one block south of the county court house. If needed, the telephone number there is 765-342-3451. Wall and floor exhibits will be available to view, and IHSBHS new-member applications may be obtained upon request. A self-guided tour to see places connected with Wooden's youth may also be arranged following the lecture. A healthy turnout for this program is anticipated.

## THE 1949 INDIANA ALL-STARS

Here is a photo of the players who were selected by the state's sportswriters as the best of the graduated seniors during the 1948-49 basketball season.

This team defeated the Kentucky All-Stars in the annual classic by a score of 66-61 in a hard-fought court battle that could have gone either way. Indiana's scoring was led by state tournament runner-up Madison's Dee Monroe, with 19 points. He was also selected as "Mr. Basketball," an award given routinely for the season's most outstanding player in Indiana high school basketball. During the state tournament finals, the 5' 9" Monroe had scored 22 points in a 53-40 key win over S.B. Central in the afternoon, and then followed with 36 points that night in a one-point 62-61 losing effort against the Jasper Wildcats. A long heave by Wildcat guard Bob White dashed Madison's hopes of becoming state champions in 1949.



BACK ROW: Dick Reinking, Monroeville; Andy Toth, South Bend Central; Jim Schooley, Auburn; Bob Dobson, Bloomington; John Toeppe, Frankfort.  
FRONT ROW: John Bright, Portland; Dee Monroe, Madison; Bob Rousey, Anderson; John Moeller, Greensburg; Bob White, Jasper.

The following list of former Clark County players and their career point totals was submitted to Boxscore by Pat Hennegan, SID at Jeffersonville high school. Pat points out also that four members of the Flynn family at Jeff combined to score 2,948 points for the Red Devils, over the years. Patriarch Jim ('45-47) scored 164, Steve ('68-70) 344, Mr. Basketball Mike ('67-71) 1,545, and state champ member B.J. ('90-93) 895. All played college ball.

### CLARK COUNTY 1,000 POINT CLUB

Rank	Points	Player	School	Sr Year
1	1938	Shannon Arthur	New Washington	1990
2	1764	Shane Meadows	Henryville	2004
3	1545	Mike Flynn	Jeffersonville	1971
4	1497	Jerry Johnson	Charlestown	1977
5	1458	Michael Frazier	Charlestown	2000
6	1443	Jamie Matthews	New Washington	1989
7	1424	Matthew Arthur	New Washington	1995
8	1413	Andrew Jones	Henryville/Clarksville	2014
9	1409	Dennis Coutee	Jeffersonville	2001
10	1404	Steve Green	Silver Creek	1971
11	1401	Steve Hatton	Clarksville	1990
12	1392	Chad Gilbert	Charlestown	1991
13	1377	Brien Hanley	Jeffersonville	1994
14	1376	Scott Matthews	New Washington	1989
15	1337	Bob Watkins	Jeffersonville	1970
16	1328	Devin Freels	New Washington	2011
17	1322	Mike Bottorff	Charlestown	1972
18	1311	Brandon Cook	Borden	2002
19	1283	Charles Stewart	New Washington	1966
20	1273	Paris Bryant	Jeffersonville	1988
21	1227	Aidan McEwen	Clarksville	2013
22	1215	Brent Weatherford	Borden	1993
23	1214	Keevan Miller	Providence	2006
24	1194	Greg Robertson	Henryville	1994
25	1191	Alex Ooley	Borden	2008
26	1189	Darryl Baker	Jeffersonville	2013
27	1183	Vincent Minton	New Washington	2009
28	1163	Calvin McEwen	Clarksville	2014
29	1155	David Lewis	Silver Creek	1967
30	1153	Kenny Chesser	New Washington	1956
31	1150	Matt Renn	Silver Creek	1997
32	1149	Cory Norman	Jeffersonville	1994
33	1148	Cory Munk	Henryville	2009
34	1140	Sherron Wilkerson	Jeffersonville	1993
35	1135	Mark Christman	Charlestown	1987
36	1133	Dennis Jones	New Washington	1967
	1133	Alex Hall	Charlestown	2005
37	1109	Chuck Franz	Clarksville	1979
38	1108	Matt Pait	Jeffersonville	2003
39	1105	Reid Bailey	Silver Creek	1966
40	1100	Jeff Frey	Jeffersonville	1973
41	1095	Mark Harbin	New Washington	1971
42	1087	Tommy Baker	Jeffersonville	1977
43	1078	Bobby Murphy	Providence	1970
44	1076	Phil Caldwell	Jeffersonville	1981
45	1068	Donnie Kahl	New Washington	1960
46	1064	Wayne Walls	Jeffersonville	1974
	1064	Wally Napier	Charlestown	1984
48	1061	Charles Mannix	Silver Creek	1977
49	1056	Tom Gohmann	Providence	1991
50	1051	John Prichard	Silver Creek	1959
51	1035	Tres Sowder	Jeffersonville	1978
52	1020	Billy Johnson	Jeffersonville	1958
	1020	Keenan Knight	Silver Creek	1993
54	1011	Luke Fitzgerald	Providence	2007
55	1008	Jerry Stephenson	Jeffersonville	1968
56	1003	Jamie Jones	New Washington	1991
	1003	David Ernstberger	Providence	1980

### WENDELL TROGDON 1929-2014



Wendell Trogdon, past IHSBHS member and prolific author of books and articles on Indiana and high school basketball, passed away on May 29, at age 84. He was born July 23, 1929, in Heltonville, Indiana, to Wesley and Edith Trogdon who had five children, three boys and two girls, all now deceased. Wendell graduated from Heltonville High School in 1947, and four years later earned a B.A. degree from Franklin College. During the Korean War he served in the Army working as a counter-intelligence aide for three years. Upon his discharge, he returned to Indiana and began a 38-year career in newspaper work, first with the Logansport Pharos-Tribune in 1954, and two years later with Purdue University's Agricultural Information Bureau. In 1957, he was hired by The Indianapolis News as a reporter and stayed with that newspaper for the rest of his career, retiring in 1992 after advancing to the posts of news editor and managing editor. During that period, his profound writing skills won him widespread recognition and numerous state awards for journalistic excellence.

Wendell continued writing books freelance after retirement, focusing mainly on his favorite subject, the state of Indiana. He and his wife Fabian traveled up and down the state many times to gather material for the 27 books he is credited with writing, along with a great number of short articles. Many of his books and articles were about high

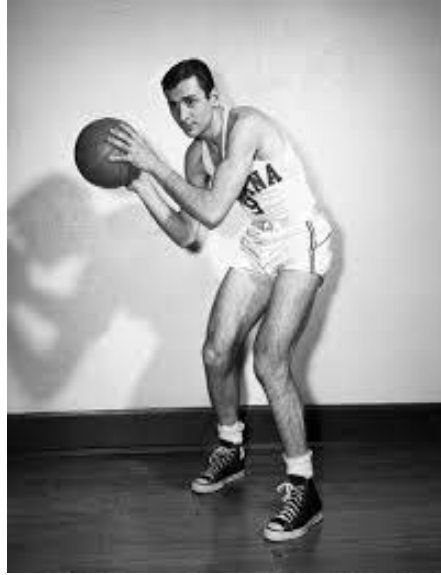
school basketball. He and his brothers had been heavily into sports at the high school level and played a lot of basketball during and after World War II.

Some of his more noteworthy publications concerning basketball are the following:

*No Harm No Foul/Referees Are People Too; Basket Cases; Gym Rats; Shooting Stars; Whistle Blowers; Damon-Living a Dream; Damon-Beyond the Glory; and Who Killed Hoosier Hysteria?*

## Bill Tosheff, A Man For All Seasons

by  
Cliff Johnson



Several years ago I was fortunate to have experienced an on-going e-mail dialog with former sports hero Bill Tosheff that lasted almost until the time of his death on October 1, 2011. He died during surgery at a medical facility in Hawaii. I was both stunned and perplexed when notified of his demise, because for nearly all the time that we had been joking, kidding around, and teasing each other over the ether waves, he was apparently fighting a losing battle against colorectal cancer. He had never mentioned it to me. In retrospect I can say that it took some intestinal fortitude (no pun intended) to remain perfectly mum about it as he did.

But Bill was a gutsy guy. He left high school in 1944 before he was 17 years old, and without advising his parents, to join the war effort as a pilot. He had clandestinely practiced some flying skills at a local airport near his home in Gary, Indiana, and figured he was more than ready for the big-time military aircraft. His first attempt to join was thwarted, though, when the FBI showed up at his parents' doorstep, advising them that what Bill had tried to do was illegal. He had to return to high school where he graduated later that spring. Then, after turning 17, he enlisted legally. He was accepted by the Army Air Force and, after a few months of training, got assigned to Hap Arnold's 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Group in

England. He flew a few dangerous missions in a B-17 over occupied Europe before being re-located to the Aleutian Islands just south of the Bering Strait. He remained in Alaska, doing reconnaissance missions and other tasks in the Pacific Theater for the duration of his three-year commitment. While there, he also was able to hone his skills in baseball and basketball by playing for service teams. Upon discharge, and returning home, he enrolled at I.U. and continued his academic and athletic pursuits there for the next four years, graduating with a B.S. degree in 1951.

One thing about Bill (he preferred "Tosh") that was so entertaining was that he could play the game of one-upmanship so well with you. We both had been active in a variety of sports during our younger days, so we had that, as well as other things, in common. I might offer up something to him like "my longest broad jump in high school was 21' 7" and he would counter with "mine was 22' 6". Or I would brag about being on three straight baseball championships and he'd respond by saying he pitched two no-hitters and six shut-outs in one season. Basketball was another natural choice of subjects since he played world-class ball for the Hoosiers and I sat the bench at Purdue. You already know, without my saying, how that debate came out. We both enjoyed female company during our teenage and college days and if I'd say there was a certain beauty pageant queen I spent some time with, you could bet he'd best me by saying "I knew her, but I dated her older sister, who was much prettier and more mature." Tosh also played football and I didn't, so there was no jousting there. I finally gave up, since he excelled at nearly everything from tennis to bowling. He was truly a man for all seasons. Also a jokester! While on the road one summer, I checked into a hotel in Plainfield, Indiana, for awhile and decided to e-mail him where I was staying. He replied back, acknowledging that he knew I was sort of wild, but asking if I weren't too old to be a juvenile delinquent (Plainfield was once widely known for its huge boys school facility).

### THE WEAPON OF CHOICE FOR THE OCCASION

As February 1944 was ending, our Decker Aces found themselves facing the Vincennes Alices in the final game of the Knox County sectional tournament. It was the second straight year the two foes had met to determine the championship. Decker won the 1943 match-up by a score of 28-20. I was attending Decker elementary school at the time and don't recall seeing that game, although I might have. But the 1944 final game definitely made an impression on me, albeit for an unusual reason.

Near the end of the tightly-contested overtime game, I sneaked down to floor level just behind the Ace's bench, after our team had taken a commanding 6-point lead over the Alices with just a few seconds of OT left to play. My junior-sized brain was taking in all the excitement when suddenly I saw a player near the bench open up a knife and display it. Oh-oh, I thought, there's going to be big trouble! The gun went off to end the game (which also startled me), but I kept my eyes well focused on the guy with the big knife. As he and the other Decker players rushed onto the court, they hoisted him up on their shoulders and he began cutting down the net. A big knife, as I suddenly realized that evening, has more than a single application.

*Submitted by IHSBHS member Harlan Hinkle.*

Bill Tosheff grew up in Gary, which he always referred to as “da region.” Gary was a melting pot for nearly every nationality and race. The basketball rosters were invariably sprinkled with names like Nickovich, Frankovic, Badylak, Zeheralis and Badanish. Mladen Sekulovich, incidentally, was the birth name of Karl Malden, the famous movie actor, who played basketball at Gary Emerson a decade earlier. The open-hearth steel mills at Gary always belched out huge amounts of soot and pollutants from their tall smokestacks which made some out-of-town visitors feel like taking a shower with a fire hose after walking a few blocks in the downtown area. Tosh attended Froebel high school, graduating in the spring of 1944. As mentioned earlier, his first attempt to enlist in the service interrupted his senior year, and he wasn’t able to play much ball that season. The team finished 2-19 under long-time and usually successful coach Hank Mantz. Tosh nevertheless was an all-around athlete and earned major letters over three years in basketball, baseball, track & field, and football. I first came across his name several years ago while doing research about the basketball days of WW II. Soon I realized that he was a fellow member of IHSBHS, so I contacted him and our continuing dialogs started from there. In 1998, I was not surprised to discover that he had been inducted into the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2010, he wrote a couple of stories for Boxscore about Gary and the 1941 Froebel final four team in his spare time.

At I.U., Tosheff became a close friend and teammate of Bill Garrett who some say was the first black man allowed to play in Big Ten basketball competition. Garrett had been leader of the 1947 Shelbyville High School state champions. Together, under coach Branch McCracken, these two formed one of the best scoring duos in the conference during the early 50s. Both players were slim and trim. Tosheff was about 6’ 1” and 180 while Garrett was about 6’ 3” and 185. Both were acclaimed by the press during their sophomore and junior years. In their senior year, during an era of relative low

scoring, Tosh rang up 210 points while Garrett topped the squad with 289. The Hoosiers finished second in the conference behind Illinois that year (1951), with a 12-2 record and 19-3 overall. Both players were unanimous selections for the all-conference team, and Garrett was placed on nearly every All-America list. Tosheff, meanwhile, engaged himself in the varsity baseball and football programs, as a pitcher and quarterback, respectively, and rose to prominence in those sports too.

After college, Tosh was recruited to play NBA basketball for the Indianapolis Olympians, a team that had been organized in 1949 and consisted mainly of former All-Americans from the University of Kentucky. They included Ralph Beard, Alex Groza, Wallace (Wah-Wah) Jones, Cliff Barker, and Joe Holland, among other well-known Wildcats. It had been a highly successful franchise. Tosh was offered a contract for the then-munificent sum of \$4,500. He accepted. By the end of the 1952 season, he had been voted co-rookie of the year along with Mel Hutchins of the Tri-Cities (Iowa) Blackhawks. Quite an accomplishment! But then the bottom fell out of the franchise, as some of the stalwarts were accused of having shaved points while in college a few years earlier. There were several indictments and two convictions (should have been more). As a result, lifetime bans were leveled against some of the players. The franchise stayed alive for another year or so, via some continuing great court play by Tosh and the other team survivors, but the glory years were over, and so was the team by 1953.

During that first of his pro years, Tosh split his 12 months between basketball and baseball--six months at each. He pitched for the Triple-A Indianapolis Indians during the summer. Actually, right after high school graduation he had been offered a bonus of \$1500 to sign and play for one of the Chicago Cubs’ farm clubs but instead he turned it down to enlist in the military. His minor league pitching career, beginning with 1952, lasted for seven seasons—four more than his pro career in basketball did. As a 20-game winner for several seasons, his salary in

baseball was more than five times as much as that for playing basketball.

After the 1953 season ended, his contract was transferred to the Milwaukee Hawks (the former Tri-Cities franchise) who, to his chagrin, offered no augmentation to his \$4,500 salary in spite of the good stats he had posted with the Olympians the previous year. The Hawks owner, Ben Kerner, was noted for the tight hold he kept on his wallet. He had also gone through 19(!) coaches in the span of three previous seasons. To add insult to injury, Kerner offered Tosheff only \$3,500 to renew his contract for 1954. That was the last straw for Tosh so he quit pro basketball after only three good seasons. This sad experience stuck in his mind and would later in life influence him to spend years helping early NBA players rectify some of the financial injustices they suffered through at the time.

The stats Tosh posted during his three pro basketball seasons were better than average for that period. He played as a regular in 203 games and scored 634 field goals and 591 free throws for 1,859 points, a per-game average of 9.2. That was quite respectable for those days. His floor game was also admirable, averaging 3.3 assists and 3.0 rebounds per game. His free throw percentage was right at 80%.

After his playing days had ended, and after moving to Colombia, South America and living there for a year, he returned to the U.S. and eventually started making a living as a general contractor. As a sideline, he also did some radio network sports interviews and announcing, thereby supplementing his income and maintaining his ties with the sports world. One of the more important contributions he made to professional sports during his later years living in San Diego and Hawaii was his decision to help former NBA players secure pensions. Many of those who played ball prior to 1955 were left out of the 1988 players’ union collective bargaining agreement and so received nothing in return for having served as low-paid pioneers (like Tosh) of early NBA basketball. He remained 23 years as the tireless president of an organization aptly referred to as the “Non-Profit Pre-1955 (later on, ‘1965’)

NBA Players Association.” Owing to his efforts, along with those earlier on by guys like Wally Osterkorn, Don Barksdale, Kevin O’Shea, Frank Kudelka, Bob Lavoy, and Bill Bradley, some degree of financial recognition through moderate pensions was finally achieved by 2005. Money for it was at last budgeted by the NBA, so it was a happy ending—at least for those players who were still alive.

Tosh was generous enough to share many details of his all-encompassing sports life with me, before he passed on. Always the colorful character, a prankster of unparalleled dimension, and a great story teller, he could recount hundreds of his playing-day stunts and experiences in multiple sports that could leave you in stitches. I was also the grateful recipient of quite a few of his personal materials and literature that he chose to mail to me from time to time. To this day, I’m not really sure why a highly regarded and widely acclaimed sports figure like he would want to share his stuff with a virtual unknown like me, but I’m sure glad he did. I think he just appreciated my eagerness to absorb all the amazing life experiences he had, especially in sports. Anyway, in my book, he was definitely “a man for all seasons.” FINIS

## RECOLLECTIONS OF EARLY MONROVIA BASKETBALL

by

**former player/coach Ira Hinshaw  
(now deceased)**

*Editor’s note: A few of the events and historical recollections in this article had to be revised or re-stated for purposes of accuracy and clarity.*

Monrovia's first Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) team joined that organization in the fall of 1913. Our team consisted of Don Rushton, Clair Shields, Raymond Bray, Paul Allen, Willis Richardson, Ira Hinshaw (myself), and Roy Dillon. Roy Dillon was not in our team picture nor did he play very much, due to illness. Wallace and Ben Bain, cousins, shared the early coaching duties, although Wallace was generally recognized as the head coach. We also had a "helper" coach named. William Schrader Sr., a

farmer. He was classmate Bill Schrader Jr.’s father. Earlier, William Sr. had played on a college team that was state champion. He came to every practice and to every game. He knew we had a good team and wanted to help us out. He assisted us without pay and taught us a lot of court maneuvers and trick plays.

In the 1913-14 season, Monrovia and Martinsville were the only Morgan County teams in the IHSAA. They played each other several times during that season. That first year, Monrovia’s Bulldogs practiced and played its games in the gym located at the basement of the old schoolhouse. There were no lights and it had a dirt floor. To help us with illumination, there were two movable oil street lamps in town at the time. One belonged to Wallace Bain and was usually placed about where the Marathon service station later stood. Sam Phillips owned the other lamp which usually was situated at the west edge of town. Both men allowed us the use of these lamps, which were each about three feet high. To use them in the gym, a rope was first tied onto the lamps and then threaded through pulleys anchored to the ceiling. The lamps were then pulled up and locked into place. One was positioned at each end of the court. The dirt floor had to be sprinkled three times a week to contain the dust, and there was a deep well in the schoolhouse for the water but no pump to bring it up. There was also another well with no pump at the northeast corner of the school grounds. We hauled up the water by some buckets from each well, carried them by hand to the basement gym, and then transferred the water to a sprinkler bucket for application to the dirt floor.

In the spring of 1914, Monrovia entered the state tournament at Bloomington. All of the entered teams had to play there. There were four courts, all used simultaneously. Monrovia was beaten early in the tournament on the morning of Friday, March the 13<sup>th</sup>, by a team from Pendleton, 21-19. Wingate High, having no home court of its own, ultimately won the tournament championship that year. Homer Stonebraker, now a senior, was its star player. The year before (1913), with

Stonebraker a junior, Wingate had also won the state tournament.

There were no automobiles available to us in 1914, so our tournament team first had to travel to Mooresville on Thursday, using a two-horse surrey and a one-horse buggy. There, we boarded a train for Bloomington. Joe Hinshaw, my older brother, handled the surrey and Raymond Bray, a local team supporter, drove the buggy. After delivering us to Mooresville, both returned back home but Joe had to set out again for Mooresville on Sunday with Ray aboard in order to pick us up again at Mooresville after the tournament was over. Ray had left his horse and buggy at the livery stable in Mooresville to reduce the amount of travel. The round-trip train ride between Mooresville and Bloomington was crowded with teams and spectators, mostly from northern Indiana. Basketball was starting to be very popular in the state. As we got off the train at Bloomington, there were Indiana University students waiting to direct us to our lodgings. A nice friendly community, by any measure.

During that first year, one referee for a game was supposed to be provided by the visiting team. Once that winter our team had traveled to Westfield and took along Mr. Harry Brown, a local, as its referee. Time to play approached but Mr. Brown could not be located. Westfield offered to provide a “good” referee until Mr. Brown appeared. And they did, but “good” turned out to be a relative term. As it happened, Mr. Brown had been arrested and held earlier in the evening for allegedly spitting on Westfield’s gym floor. He was returned to us later by two Westfield policemen, but only after the game had been concluded and we had lost by a narrow margin. That game and the two-point loss to Pendleton in the state tournament were our only two defeats of the whole season.

A few days before we were scheduled to leave for the state tourney, Mr. Bain, our coach and the school’s Latin teacher, advised me that since I had failed my last Latin test I would need to take it over and pass it if I planned to travel with the team to the state tournament. I “crammed” hard the next day and night. On exam day, Coach



Bain administered the test but instructed Ruth Kenworthy, a fellow teacher well-versed in Latin, to sit next to me presumably to insure I would not copy anything ("cheat" is the proper word) from the textbook. As soon as Coach Bain left the room, however, Ruth surprised me by offering any assistance I might need. She did help some, but it was not needed much since I had studied hard and was steadfastly determined to pass. Anyway, when Coach Bain returned, he took my completed test, never once looked at it, marked it at 75% (just passing), and handed it back to me with a hearty laugh.

One interesting aspect of this first Monrovia team was Don Rushton's ability to run up the side of an end wall to shoot a goal (the end wall was not considered out-of-bounds in those days, and the backboard was attached directly against it). He could make that shot routinely. Don was a star player for us. He also shot all the free throws for the team. After that successful season had ended, our team was invited as special guests to the Alumni Banquet in the late spring of 1914. This was our last Alumni Association Banquet, because of World War I, until much later. But at this 1914 gathering, our school colors and uniforms were officially changed from blue & white to green & white.

During the war, the teams of 1915-16 and 1916-17 consisted of Worth McCracken, Bob Newlin, Clair Wilson, Morris Tudor, Clifford Clark, Maurice Horton, Ernest Warmouth and myself. Our coach in 1915-16 was supposed to be James Bourne. During the first week of practice, however, he decided to ask me to take over the coaching duties since he couldn't continue, and I was the only one with varsity playing experience. I asked William Schrader Sr. for help but he didn't have enough free time. We didn't do much that season, winning only about a third of our games, but I found out what I had available for the next year or two if I wished to continue on as player/coach, and the picture looked pretty good.

In the fall of 1916, I missed the first four weeks of school so that I could help fill farm silos. World War I was still going on and everyone had to work. When we did begin practice, we ran a

circular route by foot for five evenings a week to get into shape. We started at the school, ran to the Christian Church, then north to West Union Street, west on State Road 42, and finally back to the school. I told the boys that if they couldn't keep up with me they would not get to play. Every evening I ran a little faster. One boy could not keep up since he was a heavy smoker. A rule was then established and enforced against smoking and everyone obeyed the rule after that. Some little grade schoolers joined us on our evening runs. Some of them always attended our practices, too. They included Robert McCloud, Burchard Horton, Branch McCracken, Wayne Kinsey, and Hugh Curtis. Using these younger fellows gave us enough manpower to conduct ten-man scrimmages. I used all the plays and tricks that William Schrader Sr. had taught me a few years earlier. I feel sure that some of these plays eventually found their way to Indiana University where several Monrovia ballplayers later enrolled. That year (1916-17) we won all home games and most of the away games.

At sectional tournament time, thirteen teams went to Martinsville (four from Morgan County and nine from Marion County). We won our first two games by wide margins. Our third game was to be against Martinsville the following Saturday afternoon. While walking to our rooms on Friday night, Morris Tudor was hit in the back of the head by a brick. It knocked him to the ground, but he recovered. I found out the next day that the brick was actually meant for me.

West Newton, winner over Ben Davis, was to play the winner of Monrovia vs. Martinsville for the championship on Saturday night. On Saturday afternoon the gym was jam-packed, with two bands playing very loudly. Every school cheering section seemed to be rooting for Monrovia except for the Martinsville section. By halftime our team was four points behind. We were playing a defensive game and not getting off enough shots. But we came back running after halftime with some offense. With several minutes to go yet, I jumped way up for a loose ball, came down hard and

bruised my right heel while tearing the shoe wide open. At that juncture, we had made ten straight points which put us ahead by six. Martinsville had not even scored yet in the second half, but now I had only one good shoe. An Indianapolis Tech High School coach, seeing what had happened, ambled over to say he had a spare size-12 shoe (way too large for me) that I could use. He thought that if it could be stuffed with cotton it might enable me to continue playing. But that did not work very well. I continued on as best I could until Martinsville eventually got even with us. I knew I had to leave the game and so I put Maurice Horton in my place. As I sat down on the bench, both bands began playing and everyone in the building stood up to applaud my effort, even the Martinsville crowd. After the bands fell quiet, all the schools gave a cheer for me and a second one for Monrovia High. I can never forget that. Martinsville beat us by fourteen points, and then went on to the state finals without any further trouble. They were finally stopped in the final four by state champion Lebanon by a lop-sided score of 36-12. Nevertheless, Martinsville's Claude Curtis won the Gimbel Medal, the first year it was ever awarded. After the 1916-17 season, I had a chance to enroll at any of three different colleges but could not, since the army seemed to have first call and doughboys were in demand to help end World War I.

Monrovia, in its early years, saw a lot of good basketball--the teams of 1914, 1915, and 1917, and later players Branch McCracken and Hugh Brown, were prime examples. Even John Wooden attended Monrovia during his grade school years but moved to Martinsville afterwards. Between 1914 and 1917, Monrovia was difficult to defeat even though we were still practicing with two Sunday school teams. One evening in the early 1914-15 season we went to Clayton (in Hendricks County) to practice. Three or four people paid to get in. We did not know about that. A week later, the IHSAA informed us that we had violated the rules by playing in a game where admission was charged. We were expelled from the Association for the rest of the season. By that time though

we had already played Thorntown and won by a score of 21 to 19. Thorntown went on to become state champion that year. After our expulsion we played every team that wished to play us, and charged admission to boot. There also was a lot of betting going on around Monrovia before an IHSAA rule against that activity was enforced, but once we were denied Association membership the betting on games around town got even heavier. Monrovia became known that year as the area's premier "gambling town." Some of the farmers claimed they could make more money betting than by farming. We were re-admitted to the IHSAA a little later though, and the gambling all came to a halt.

A quarter century later, after many, many great W-L seasons had been recorded by the Bulldogs, and long after my short coaching career there had concluded, the 1942 team coached by Henry Potter became the last Monrovia team, I think, to win a sectional tourney. Its season record that year was 23-6. The boys on that squad included 5-11 Henry Judson, 5-10 Mitchel Shields, 6-3 Paul Shields, 5-10 Mabern Jones, 5-11 Wayne Rushton, and 6-3 Dwight Hinshaw.

## THE LONG PARADE OF RULE CHANGES

by

Cliff Johnson

With contributing materials and information from grandson James Naismith (*I'll Never Forget you...Papa Jimmy, 1992*) and input from IHSBHS board members Leigh Evans, Rocky Kenworthy, and Roger Robison (*Rules of the Game, 2001*-a superb chronology).

When we go to a basketball game today or watch one on television, we sort of take for granted that the game has always been played essentially the same way we see it now. We recognize that there are subtle or minor differences among the current rules established at the professional, amateur, Olympic, college, and high school levels, but for the most part the game pretty much looks the same at all levels and we don't perceive it being much different from

what it was ten or twenty years ago either. But if you were to compare the essentials of today's game with those in practice during the early years, you'd hardly recognize ANY similarities. Even seventy-six years ago the game was substantively different. Like the process of evolution, the changes take place incrementally, a few at a time, and go largely unnoticed year-by-year. Yet by looking with a retrospective eye, we must conclude that basketball has undergone a radical transformation since its original inception. The moderate pace of the changes over the decades has simply caused that transformation to escape our collective detection. We've become essentially blind to the fact that we're not watching the same game that was once played.

About the only things contained in the original rules that remain the same are the employment of a firm but resilient ball, and a hoop into which the ball can be tossed. Nearly everything else about the game today is different. In December 1891, Dr. James Naismith, physical education director at the Springfield, Massachusetts YMCA, was looking for something indoors that the boys could do in the winter months to substitute for soccer or football, outdoor games that required playing fields with no snow cover. So Naismith made suggestions for a new indoor gym game he devised and eventually introduced to the world as "basket-ball." It was conceived somewhat upon his memory of a game he played as a youth in Ontario called "Duck on a Rock." In that game, a stuffed duck, tin can, or some other inanimate object was first placed upon a large boulder. Then two competing teams would try to knock the object off the boulder by throwing a small spheroid (a ball, wadded rag, or stone) at it. A point was scored each time the duck was knocked off the boulder, and the team scoring the most points was declared the winner. It was mostly a contest of throwing accuracy. Now, in Naismith's proposed new game, he suggested that two competing teams be comprised of nine on-court players each, that two officials (a referee and an umpire) be present, that a soccer ball be used, and that a small square box be installed at each end of the gym to serve

as goals for the soccer ball. He was planning to call his new game "box ball," but since two sturdy boxes the right size could not be readily appropriated, peach baskets with intact and closed bottoms were found to serve the purpose. The game's name was immediately reconsidered because of this, and thus "basket-ball" was born. Naismith also concocted 13 simple rules for the format used in the first few contests played. You readers might find this list of rules fairly amusing if not outright laughable when contrasted with the operating principles behind our modern day game. Those original rules can be paraphrased (re-stated in comprehensible fashion) as follows:

1. One or both hands may be used to throw the ball in any direction.
2. The ball may be batted, but never with the fist.
3. Running with the ball is prohibited, and a player must pass it from the same spot on which he caught it. Running catches are permitted.
4. Hands only may be used to hold the ball; other parts of the body may not be used to hold it.
5. The penalty for a foul is a goal awarded to the opponent. If a second foul is committed by the same player, that player is disqualified until the next goal is made. If any foul is considered deliberate with intent to injure, the player is disqualified for the rest of the game and no substitute may replace him.
6. A "foul" is defined as any violation as described in rules 2 through 5.
7. Three consecutive fouls by one of the teams results in one additional goal for the opponent (each goal counted for one point).
8. A "goal" is defined as any ball thrown or batted into the basket without it coming back out. The defensive team may not jostle the ball back out nor interfere with it dropping into the basket.
9. A ball going out of bounds is considered "recovered" by the first player who can reach it. That player is then responsible for tossing the ball back into play. If more than five seconds are taken to do that,

possession of the ball is awarded to the opposing team which then becomes subject to this same rule. Additionally, any deliberate delay of the game results in a foul against the team causing it (and a goal for the other team, of course).

10. The umpire is responsible for keeping track of fouls committed and has the authority to execute disqualifications.
11. The referee is responsible for making decisions regarding all of the court action, including rule infractions, appropriate penalties, and the general course of the game, including the function of time-keeping.
12. Two fifteen minute halves constitute a game, with a five-minute break in between.
13. The team making the most goals in a game shall be declared the winner. If the game is tied at expiration of the allotted time, the game may continue on, via mutual agreement of the team captains, until another goal is made.

The very next year (1892), after watching several contests, Naismith decided to compile a new set of 21 rules. They revised, replaced, and enhanced the original 13. One of those new rules, incidentally, prohibited kicking the ball. He had noticed that some of the players who were especially adept at soccer exercised that advantage by using the legs and feet to bat or intercept the ball. Kicking seemed like a practical idea, since a well-executed kick of the ball could serve as a suitable defensive measure against a careless or poorly aimed pass. Besides, ball-kicking was not prohibited within the original 13 rules (except for those associated with other parts of a player's body, curiously). The ball-kicking violation is one of the few early rules surviving today even though there seems to be no good contemporary reason for it being a violation. Nevertheless, there were other changes initiated just before the second year of the new sport that made slightly better sense. Included were (1) clarifications on both the hand-batted and the two-handed "dribble," (2) the initiation of the held (or jump) ball, (3) a

reduction to five for the required number of on-court playing participants per team (this was dependent, however, upon the size of a court's playing area), and (4) permitting the duration of the game to extend to twenty minutes per half, assuming mutual acceptance between the two teams.

Even though several new rules introduced over the next few years seemed silly and thus became short-lived (such as the "air dribble," and three points for every "field" goal), the rules in general were slowly expanded and improved by Naismith and Dr. Luther Gulick, his rulebook collaborator at Springfield. The idea was to inject better logic into the game and to promote more widespread participant and spectator interest. It seemed to work. By 1900, a number of sensible improvements had been made and the rapidly developing popularity of the game had opened its geographic wings into areas of the Midwest (including Indiana) and other points west. Still, the game was light years away from resembling anything we would recognize at present. During the period 1894-1900, several significant changes and clarifications were adopted, including the following:

1. The point value of a goal eventually settled at two, after many annual vacillations among one, two, and three points.
2. The soccer ball was replaced by a larger stitched leather ball.
3. Only the team captain could shoot free throws.
4. One point free throw attempts at fifteen feet distance replaced the former one point for each foul rule and also the peculiar 20-foot free throw range.
5. Wooden backboards and closed-bottom goal nets were introduced.
6. The center jump was established.
7. Free substitution was permitted.
8. Cages were introduced for games, replacing the need for most boundary lines. It's why the term "cagers" is still in use today.
9. A formal AAU Rules Committee was established.

Right after the turn of the century, proposed rules diminished in number each year. Some were tested and failed in actual practice and were quickly discarded. Others were adopted by the AAU (and later the Joint Basketball Rules Committee and finally the NCAA) and were considered significant. Although the exact year of a rule change might vary, depending upon the region, league or conference, or the hierarchy of play, here are a few in rough chronology that were adopted between 1901 and 1920:

- 1901-double dribbling became a violation.
- 1901-substitutes, once put into a game, could not re-enter a second time.
- 1906-a 12-foot keyhole area was established between the basket and the free throw line.
- 1909-five personal fouls resulted in ejection from a game.
- 1910-age restrictions were implemented at various levels of play.
- 1911-the two handed dribble was prohibited.
- 1911-four personal fouls, instead of five, resulted in ejection from a game.
- 1911-two free throws were awarded for flagrant fouls.
- 1913-open-bottomed goal nets were introduced.
- 1914-the out of bounds ball possession rule was reversed from awarding the possession to first player touching the ball after it goes out of bounds to awarding it to the team not touching the ball before it goes out of bounds.
- 1918-coaches were prohibited from coaching during play action.

For the next 20 years, further rule changes were made, some eventually being discarded while others began to substantially improve the quality of the game. Here are some key rule changes established during that period:

- 1921-any player may re-enter the game just once.
- 1922-fouled players may shoot their own free throws, if preferred.
- 1922-time outs may be called only by the team in possession of the ball.
- 1923-time outs during a dead ball may be called by either team.



1924-a fouled player MUST shoot his own free throws.

1924-two free throws are awarded for a foul committed during a shot attempt.

1926-the three-minute overtime was introduced to replace the sudden-death field goal that ended an overtime.

1926-the game clock was stopped at the referee's call of a foul.

1930-a 12-foot-diameter restricted area surrounded the four-foot center circle.

1930-after a center jump, the centers were prohibited from touching the ball again until it first touched the floor or another player.

1930-the umpire was replaced by a second referee having equal authority with the first referee.

1932-the free throw lane was marked off on each side for four alternating players on the two teams.

1932-the size of the game ball was slightly reduced.

1932-player numbers had to be shown on both the front and back of jerseys.

1933-wire cages formerly used as court boundaries were declared impractical.

1933-a 10-second backcourt rule was adopted, and painted lines were drawn 40 feet from each end line. For undersized courts, the lines could overlap into the opponents' front courts. Once over the backcourt line, a team could not retreat back again during the same ball possession. The idea was to eliminate backcourt stalling—which it did—but not all forms of stalling.

1933-the 3-second ball possession rule was established inside the 6-foot free throw lanes.

1934-the center jump was eliminated to begin the second and fourth quarters, with play resuming wherever it had ended the previous quarter.

1934-substitutes could re-enter the game a second time.

1936-the 3-second keyhole rule became applicable to any offensive player, with or without the ball.

1936-jump balls were confined to the keyhole circles or the center circle.

1937-the goal tending violation was initiated.

1938-the rule of a mandatory center jump after every made field goal was discontinued. Instead, after each successful field goal or free throw (or the second made FT of two chances) the

opposing team was to take possession of the ball behind its end line. Five seconds were then allotted to inbound the ball.

That 1938 rule change was the one that probably did the most to transform basketball into something resembling today's game. It not only sped up the action, but finally eased the on-going problem of the team having the tallest (or most agile) center continuously gaining control of the ball after each center jump. Although several other rule fixes still were needed to help the game, the most recent changes seemed to be going in the right direction. Throughout the 1940s and '50s, more new rules were adopted that continued having a positive effect on the game. They included:

1940-home teams to wear light-colored uniforms, away teams dark.

1940-a free throw could be waived in favor of ball possession.

1944-five fouls instead of four resulted in ejection from game.

1945-the goal tending rule was partially extended to the offense by prohibiting the touching of a ball while it was on the rim. But it was OK to touch it above the rim.

1945-the goal tending rule was expanded for the defense by prohibiting the touching of a ball on its downward flight toward the rim.

1945-all restrictions on re-entry of substitutions were eliminated.

1946-transparent backboards were introduced.

1947-a small target square on the backboard around the goal became required.

1949-coaches were permitted to talk to players during time outs and game breaks.

1949-a player committing a foul was required to raise one hand for all officials to see.

1949-ball possession in lieu of a free throw (called "free throw waiver") became disallowed during the final two minutes of a game.

1950-the retracted two-minute free throw waiver rule was replaced by a rule giving the fouled team a free throw PLUS possession of ball within the final two minutes. (*This was almost a*

*landmark rule that should have been applied strictly to "deliberate fouls" and survived to today. But it was rescinded in 1951.*)

1950-molded balls began replacing the stitched leather ones.

1951-the previous rule for free throws and ball possession during the final two minutes of play was rescinded (unfortunately).

1953-two free throws were awarded for any non-shooting foul committed during the final three minutes of a game.

1954-a "one plus one" rule for free throws was adopted whereupon if the first attempt was missed, a second attempt followed. This rule was to be in effect for the entire game.

1955-the "one plus one" rule was modified so that a bonus free throw was awarded only if the first free throw was made.

1956-the offensive and defensive goal tending violations became identical, and hanging onto the rim was an added prohibition.

1957-free throw lanes were widened to 12 feet.

1957-the three-minute rule on fouls and free throws was scrapped (*again, unfortunately*).

The game was now beginning to be recognizable by today's standards. The 1960s and '70s witnessed a few refinements that were needed, but also a few that were not. That mixture included:

1961-sudden-death overtimes eliminated in favor of 3-minute overtime periods.

1962-offensive fouls resulted in a ball possession turnover.

1967-dunking the ball was deemed illegal.

1967-a midcourt line was established to serve as the 10-second line.

1969-three on-court officials were authorized for games.

1971-the five-second rule for close guarding resulted in a jump ball.

1973-free throws for personal fouls were not taken until after the seventh foul was committed in each halftime period.

1976-the violation for dunking the ball was overturned.

Throughout the 1980s, '90s, and the first 14 years of the new century, several rule changes were adopted but a few of those that came into existence changed the tempo and nature of the game markedly, some for better and some for worse. Here are the key revisions made during the last 34 years:

1982-jump ball situations were replaced by alternating ball possessions.

1983-the five-second rule for close guarding resulted in a turnover rather than a jump ball.

1984-fouls committed in the final two minutes of each half or in overtime resulted in two free throws being awarded.

1986-the shot clock was introduced and the time allotted for getting off a shot was initially set at 45 seconds, for NCAA teams.

1986-an intentional foul committed against a shooter who missed his shot resulted in two free throws and continuing possession for the shooter's team.

1987-an arc extending about 20 feet from the goal became the shot range for the new three-point goal rule.

1988-an intentional foul resulted in two free throws plus ball possession for the opposing team. *I wonder why this isn't enforced anymore?*

1991-three free throws are awarded to a player who was fouled while shooting behind the three-point arc.

1994-allotted time on the shot clock for a shot to be taken was reduced from 45 seconds to 35 seconds. *Hurry up and shoot, man!*

1994-with one minute or less to play in a half or in overtime, the game clock was stopped after each made field goal.

1994-the five-second rule for close guarding was eliminated. *Bad decision!*

1998-the five-second rule for close guarding was re-instated. *I told you so!*

1999-held balls initiated by the defense resulted in an offensive turnover, with the ball awarded to the defense regardless of the alternate possession rule.

2000-the 1999 rule on ball possession was rescinded. *That was quick!*

2006-the shot clock was not reset after a kicked ball, unless the kick occurred with fewer than 15 seconds left for the

offensive team to shoot--in which case it was reset to 15 seconds. *Oh, oh! Another headache for the timekeeper!*

2007-a player falling out of bounds can no longer call for a time out. *Why did that take so long to be abolished?*

2009-the three-point shot range was extended outwardly by about one foot.

2009-the space on either side of the foul lane and nearest the goal during a free throw attempt was to be left vacant, and only six men could stand at the lane rather than eight.

2009-officials were permitted to view camera replays to determine the cause and source of a flagrant foul.

2010-a player who was fouled and became unable to shoot his free throw had to be replaced at the line by a player selected by the opposing coach. *Weird, huh?*

2012-an intentional foul is called whenever a defensive player touches a player who is trying to put the ball into play from out of bounds.

2013-most types of hand or arm contact by a defensive player (touch fouls) result in the call of a personal foul. *Thus promoting more free throws!*

2013-a foul is called whenever a defending player has not assumed a legal (stationary) guarding position prior to the START of an upward motion (lift-off) from the floor by the player he is guarding. *A subtle change from the earlier "lift-off" interpretation, but it markedly promotes an offensive advantage while weakening the defensive capability.*

In this writer's opinion, the majority of rules passed within the last 34 years hasn't improved either the quality or the integrity of the game. While the shot clock was an added feature that was indeed needed to prevent stall games that could put spectators to sleep, the time limit of 25 to 35 seconds to get off a shot has been too short. It promotes an atmosphere of unnecessary haste, poor shot selection, and player fatigue that invariably leads to excessive substitution. Spectators usually come to watch the best players perform, not to watch them sit on the bench gasping for breath. A full minute allotted for the shot clock would have permitted coaches to set up and execute pre-

planned plays--the real beauty behind the game, I've always believed. The three-point goal introduction was another feature that has not helped the game's integrity, in my view. It forced a factor of added individualism into the game that had not been seen within the previous 90 years of team-oriented play. We see players now who are more interested in making sure their feet are behind the arc before launching a prayer, than with looking for a teammate breaking open for a nice close-in attempt.

The overall rules seemed to be taking shape in a pretty logical and sound manner until about 1987. From that time on, many rule changes became puzzling at best. The latest two for instance, adopted in 2013, have stirred up great controversy among coaches and spectators alike. Those two new rules were created to bring more offense to the game while reducing the effectiveness of team defenses. Some coaches are beginning to wonder what measures they can take now to create a semblance of defense, while spectators are forced to watch a steady parade of shooters go to the free throw line.

Tinkering around with new rule ideas will undoubtedly continue well into the future and, to be sure, some changes are still badly needed. But creating more rules that lead to faster and faster-paced action, or that cause an increase in whistle-blowing, or that promote hoopla and individual exhibitionism at the expense of teamwork and well-considered coaching tactics, or that put more markings on court floors that are already too cluttered with paint, will probably lead to further losses in the integrity and comprehension of the game. It might be wiser at this stage to begin considering a reduction in both the number and complexity of the rules rather than initiating more of them. FINIS

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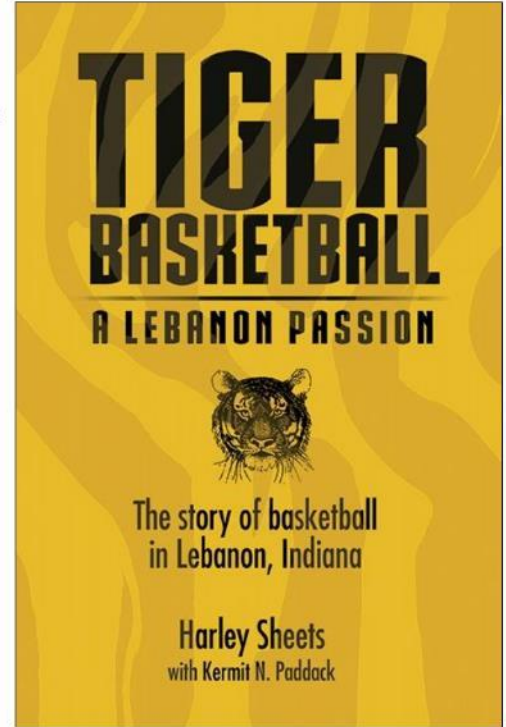
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