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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IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail:

All proposed articles & stories should be directed to

Cliff Johnson: cliffjohns36@hotmail.com or 16828 Fairburn St., Hesperia, CA 92345.

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The Hoosier Hardwood Project

Architects, Engineers, urban planners, and visionary developers who recognized an aspirational desire for recreation centers and playgrounds during the post-war expansion of America didn't have a thing on a navy veteran and farmer from Gentryville, IN. With four

kids, three of them boys, Dick Walker gathered his saws, nails, hammers, and ample amounts of milled lumber to build a basketball this idyllic Spencer County space.

Dick was a husband to Virginia, father to daughter Ramona and three sons, Charles "Dick" Jr., Steve, and



Steve Walker on the court in the hayloft

court in the hayloft of the family's barn. Walker, now 91, knew that hayloft basketball court, accessible year-round, would suit his kids just fine. That court and the baseball field just down the road would provide all the playground area his kids would need while growing up in

David. He was the epitome of a tough as nails family man. He was also a sports-minded man who played, managed, coached, and cajoled his way through life while never meeting an obstacle he wouldn't tackle. Author Tom Brokaw called Walker and others of

his time "The Greatest Generation." The fact that Dick Walker found time to build a basketball court with two regulation goals in the upper loft of the family's farm barn and keep up with the many duties of running a farm in the late 1950s also puts him in "World's Greatest Dad" territory.

"Dad was a World War II vet," says son Steve, now 71. "Those guys were tough, and being able to come back home after the war and live here as a farmer was pretty easy, compared to the military, for a tough nut like him. 'These days, dad is in Washington, IN at a nursing home near where I live. 'It's rough for him now."

Our Hoosier Hardwood crew saw Dick and son Steve, a 1965 Dale High School grad, early last fall. We had heard from Dick's grandson Adam Greulich (Ramona's son) that the family farm in Gentryville had a basketball court in the hayloft. The Walker homestead, at the end of a long lane, is like so many of those picturesque farm houses adjoining fields of corn or soybeans that are scattered here and there in valleys and clearings throughout southern Indiana's gently rolling landscape. The house is positioned perfectly at the end of the lane and surrounded by shade trees.

We found Steve and his father inside the house talking at the dining room table. The elder Walker's hearing was touch and go, but if you talked loudly he seemed to hear you just fine. We shared some of our photographs from our Project with the duo and Dick scanned over them using a magnifier. He recognized a few places like Jasper, Washington Catholic, Loogootee, and Cannelton. He was excited about our crew seeing the barn, but his mobility was limited and Steve showed us around the barn. "When we put up the hay from the fields it nearly filled the barn in the summer. 'We were playing baseball then, but we made sure to use the hay from the center of the loft first when we fed the cows. 'Before long there was enough exposed floor to shoot some baskets," said Steve. "It could get rough up there and that hay on the sides gave us some cushion." "By January, hay was stacked only on the sides and by sectional time there was plenty of room to sharpen our skills," Steve continued. "There was a time when open gym wasn't allowed outside of practice. 'You'd sneak in an open window now and then, but having the barn really gave us a regular place to get together."

The Walker boys with their teammates and friends not only from Dale and Gentryville played there, but others from Holland, Mariah Hill, Tennyson, and many other communities also came there to play. "I graduated in 1965 and went on to DePauw, in Greencastle, for college and played baseball and intramural basketball," said Steve. "But even after graduating from there and getting married in 1969 we could come back home on a weekend and couldn't find a place to park because the long lane from the highway up to the house would be filled with cars belonging to the kids playing basketball in the barn."

Dick Walker was a true character who enjoyed a good laugh as much as anybody. His son Steve tells a story that a policeman once passed the farm and asked a man at the end of the lane what was going on that brought so many cars to the farmhouse? "That man at the end of the lane was my dad." 'So he played along and explained that he had heard they were fightin' chickens up in the barn," said Steve. "The cop asked if the man knew the owner and dad nodded yes. 'The cop asked if the man would take him up to the 'When they got inside dad barn. started laughing and the cop who

saw the kids playing basketball shouted 'chicken fightin' my rear end'."

The Walker brothers played their high school basketball at nearby Dale High School. The Golden Aces won 11 sectional titles in their time. Dale merged with Chrisney High School in 1972 and formed Heritage Hills High School. Dale is home to two Indiana Basketball Hall of Famers. Bob Reinhart and Roger Kaiser were both on a sectional winning team at Dale. Reinhart was a two-sport athlete at Indiana University, playing basketball for Branch McCracken and was captain of the IU record-setting baseball team of 1961. He went on to a legendary high school and college coaching career in Georgia and was an NBA coach and scout. Kaiser scored 1549 career points at Dale in the pre-three-point era and was a three-year starter at Georgia Tech where he garnered All-America He played professional honors. basketball for Washington Philadelphia.

The Dale High School building that contained the school's first gymnasium is long gone (razed in 1975), but the gymnasium added in 1951 now serves as a community center with some recreational and league basketball played there. The seating areas are gone now, but the stage remains at one end of the court. A collection of Aces memorabilia is displayed, with plans for more in the The public library, just future. across the parking lot from the gymnasium, has a small collection of Dale High School memorabilia as There is a lot of great basketball heritage in the old Dale gymnasium. It's where Reinhart and Kaiser established themselves as The gymnasium is HOF-worthy. where Kaiser poured in 41 points, then a single game record. Painter would tie that record in 1965.

Painter's teammate, Steve Walker-yes, the afore-mentioned Steve Walker-would drop in 42 points against the Owensville Kickapoos that same season. The record still stands.

Reflecting on what the old barn and basketball court meant to Steve Walker then and now, he said "It was a gathering spot for us kids. 'It was a place where we practiced and got better. 'A place where we learned not to whine and just play the game." Well played, Mr. Walker...both of you.

TIDBITS by Harley Sheets

When one harbors negative and adverse thoughts over a period of time, it's been said that what's best is to let it all hang out, get it out in the open, put it behind you, and get on with your life. Hence, this narrative represents my somewhat negative view of a few things that have happened in the world of Indiana high school basketball. distressing, because playing high school basketball was one of the true iovs in my life. I graduated from Lebanon High School in 1954. But here is a statement I made in my Tidbits article in this year's summer issue of Boxscore: The Lebanon high school basketball program has been on a downhill slide since the firing of Dan Warkentien after the 1992-93 season. All Mr. Warkentien did was win four sectionals and a regional in five years. So, in the next paragraph we'll begin at Lebanon with my critique.

Some Good and Some Not So Good

When it comes to famous residents from the Lebanon community, here are some names that may or may not ring a bell-Herman B. Wells, James B. Garner, Ward "Piggy" Lambert, Samuel Ralston, Paul "Butch" Neuman, and

Henry Ulen. Only two of these men were affiliated with basketball. Let's critique each one. Herman Wells, a Lebanon grad, is a name familiar to most Hoosiers--he served for many years as the president of Indiana University. James Garner (not the actor), an 1893 Lebanon grad, invented the gas mask. Ward Lambert, a long-time coach at Purdue and inductee of the National Basketball Hall of Fame, began his coaching career at Lebanon High. Samuel Ralston, prior to becoming governor of Indiana, practiced law in Lebanon and later was seriously considered as a candidate for the presidency of the U.S., before illness sidetracked him. Paul Neuman (but again, not the actor Newman) coached LHS for 13 years, won 13 sectionals, and took LHS to the championship game in 1943. Henry Ulen grew up five miles south of Lebanon in New Brunswick, chose not to attend high school, but still became a builder of aqueducts, bridges, and tunnels all over the world. The prominent community of Ulen, named after Henry, sits on the north side of Lebanon. After donating money to finance the 18hole golf course and its club house, Mr. Ulen then donated the project to the city. Herman Wells has been the only one of these named icons honored, and rightly so, by having his name placed on one of the Lebanon High School buildings. Interestingly and perplexing to me is a name not listed above that has been placed upon another of the school's edifices. The name of Rosenstihl is displayed on the façade of the basketball arena and resides on the court inside. I have asked myself why it isn't called the "Butch" Neuman complex. Let's make a comparison of these two men: Rosenstihl coached at LHS for 24 years, won 15 sectionals, and took the 1975 team to the final 4.

Neuman. besides convincing Rosenstihl to come to Lebanon, coached 13 years, won 13 sectionals, took his Tigers to championship game in 1943. After their coaching careers ended, Mr. Neuman continued to contribute to the school for 21 years as its principal. while Rosenstihl contributed nothing more that I've found. Also adding to my annoyance is that Rosenstihl claims to have won 547 games when his actual verified total is 506. The Hall of Fame originally listed the 547 in his over-embellished credentials, but to its credit no longer lists the number of wins in his resume. Also, Rosenstihl had claimed to have scored 1,000 points in his high school career. Refutation of this can be found in early issues of The Indiana High School Coaches Basketball Record Book. researched his varsity years, game by game, and was able to verify all but two games. I found that he would have had to have scored 104 points in each of the two unverified games to reach the 1,000-point mark. Much to the credit of Gene Milner. publisher of the Coaches Record Book, he removed Rosenstihl's name after I presented him with my research. Thus, based on my own observations I feel the basketball venue at my alma mater honors the wrong person.

Some Frustration

Next, let's transition to the IHSAA. My first complaint, of course, was the imposition of class basketball. Later, as I was reading a National High School Federation publication, I observed a listing of the winningest high schools in the nation. Guess what? No Indiana high school appeared. The cause was that many states allowed schools to play 30-40 games during the regular season while Indiana had been restricted to a much smaller

number in recent years. However, I came up with the fact that Muncie Central qualified. The Federation told me that in order to get info into its publication it had to be submitted and verified by the appropriate state's athletic organization. I submitted my claim to the IHSAA. Again, guess what? It was rejected with this statement: "We can't do it because there may be other schools that qualify." I told the person, whom I will not name, that the claim was ridiculous for this reason: If another school is found that's eligible then that school's name should be submitted as well.

Now back to the multi-class debacle. We all know that Blake Ress was one of the many and possibly the main supporter of class basketball. Henceforth, I must say shame on you Blake, for your hypocrisy. It belies your column in the Shelbyville News (March 27, 1979, page 9) where you stated the following: "With the exception of football and its unique problems, I am opposed to class sports in Indiana. I feel class sports would dilute the significance of a state championship and I do not feel that there is any way the IHSAA could have class basketball without developing classes in all sports. Finally, and maybe most important, I do not believe that financially, schools can afford to go to class sports. When you consider the extra travel that could be involved, the fewer natural rivalries that would exist and the added expense of extra tournaments, it is hard to believe that schools would realize as much remuneration for their efforts. In Indiana, where athletic programs are dependent upon gate receipts rather than tax revenue, finances are pertinent considerations." verv Another problem that bothers me is the fact that the IHSAA is responsible for naming the Mental

Attitude Award in honor of its former Commissioner, Trester. Although Trester was quite instrumental in leading the IHSAA to its place of prominence in the annals of high school sports, he was always under great duress. It was not until just prior to his death that **IHSAA** overcame the commissioners' racist tendencies and admitted negro and catholic schools into the fold. I would not object to his being honored by having his name on a most valuable award, but for Mental Attitude really?

A Little More Frustration

Now to the Hall of Fame. When founded **IHSBHS** was approached the then executive director Ron Newlin about affiliating ourselves with the organization. Ron very receptive and soon thereafter a friendly relationship took root. Soon, however, a problem arose. It became evident that some errors in inductees' resumes needed adjustments and corrections. That suggestion was not well received. illustrate the non-receptive attitude at that time, here's a circumstance that took place shortly after the beginning of our newly formed relationship: While Tom Carnegie was still alive, the HOF annually held a meeting at the Speedway Motel on 16th Street in Indy. I was invited to the gettogether at about the time current IHSBHS member Roger Dickinson had been selected as its new executive director. HOF board member Bob Straight introduced me to Mr. Dickinson as either the instigator (or possibly the perpetrator?) of IHSBHS. Roger, to his credit, was somewhat able to bridge the gap that seemed to be developing between our organizations, but he had a severe problem to deal with. HOF inductee Howard Sharpe, who was retired but still involved with HOF activities,

getting nervous because was Loogootee's Jack Butcher approaching his record of being the all-time winningest coach in Indiana high school basketball. happened was that Sharpe's selfproclaimed total kept going up in small increments while Coach Butcher's actual total kept creeping The HOF did nothing to closer. resolve the issue while at the same time all hell was breaking loose down Loogootee way. My take on the reason for the lack of action by the HOF is that Sharpe had committed part of his estate to the Hall and its Board didn't want that ieopardized.

Another example of a correction that needed to be made was Everett Case's record. I had, at the time, been to the National Basketball HOF in Springfield, MA. It had Case's record correct, while in New Castle it was wrong. To the Indiana HOF's credit, that has now been corrected, and so has Marion Crawley's record--down from 700 plus to 644. However, Hall of Fame coach Chet Hill's resume remains inaccurate. Hill, who after winning the 1915 state basketball title at Thorntown and coaching two years at Lebanon, mentored three years of basketball at Kokomo and guided the Wildkat's track & field team to seven state But the HOF championships. presently shows Hill accomplishing those track feats at guess where(?)--Lebanon!

Our Goal Has Always Been to Get It Right

I'm sure that most of our readers know that one of IHSBHS's main missions is to correct, through validation, errors that have been made in various basketball records. Since this, in all probability, will be my final commentary in Boxscore, there are a couple of things I'd like to close with: First of all, it was not so long ago when it came to my

attention that the first high school basketball game(s) were not played in the downtown Crawfordsville venue. That had always been accepted as gospel by everyone (including IHSBHS). Recently, a researcher raised some doubt about it. I hope that, sometime soon, an IHSBHS member or someone else will delve into this unresolved issue with some vigor, or at least validate the claim by the individual making it.

Lastly, back in the spring 2008 issue of Boxscore (a.k.a. 2008 Issue McGrady One), Gary and I collaborated on a story entitled "Three of Hollywood's Hoosier Heroes." It was about the different men who had portrayed Tarzan, the Lord of the Jungle. Three of them were native-born Hoosiers. Their Elmo Linkenhelt names were (Rochester), James "Babe" Pierce (Freedom), and Denny Miller (Bloomington). In the narrative Gary and I surmised that since "Babe" had been born in Freedom that he had also attended Freedom High School. In another publication it was stated that he was from Franklin. I don't know if IHSBHS has ever made a correction of the errors that were present in our Tarzan expose. If not, here we go: Antoine Neff, a retired I.U. professor, fellow member of the Indianapolis Postcard Club, current resident of Spencer and a member of the Owen County Historical Society, relayed to me some valuable info. Babe's parents didn't think the small Freedom school had an adequate enough curriculum to prepare their son for college, so he rode either the train or interurban to Spencer for his high school years. Also, somewhere it was noted that he was from Franklin, IN, but this incorrect info. more than likely, was misconstrued because Freedom is in Franklin Twp. in Owen County. For the newer members or anyone else who may not have a copy of the Spring 2008 Boxscore issue that contains the Tarzan story, I've asked our computer guru Kermit Paddack to feature it on our website (indianabasketballhistory.com). Toodles...

An Unforgivable Omission by Leigh Evans

Stinesville, Ind., 1946--It has happened twice in our tourney's great history. A high school basketball team and all the community support and trappings that go with it were busy preparing for the climax of the Indiana sports calendar--the IHSAA state basketball tournament. However, something went terribly wrong. The principal forgot to mail in the school's sectional entry form.

It was such a simple omission, but one that would hit an Indiana community like a neutron bomb. Principal Archie Breeden felt all the wrath that one Hoosier town could muster after finding the entry form under a stack of papers on his desk-after the entry deadline. One can almost feel the wave of panic the Stinesville administrator must have felt as the weight of his mistake fell across his mind and body. Accounts at the time point to harried phone calls placed to the IHSAA office and specifically to L.V. Phillips--which would prove fruitless.

make matters Stinesville's prospects for sectional success were better than decent that year. The Stinesville Quarry Lads had finished 12-6 and were ranked second in Monroe County. Principal Breedon, to his credit, took the blame like a champ. He even went so far as to call a convocation on a Friday afternoon to announce and attempt to explain all that his mistake would mean to the school. He had simply forgotten. Α rabid

community would call for the principal's job and, in some cases, his head.



The Associated Press at the time cited "irate patrons, citizens, and demanding taxpayers" One school patron resignation. pointed to wasted money spent on new uniforms as salt in the wound. "In good old Bean Blossom Township citizens intend to rise up when the interest is so low in school sports that the principal fails to enter the team to play in the sectional tourney after a successful season and spending \$250 on new suits." Quarry Lad senior forward William Swafford very well might have saved Breedon's hide when he publicly stated, "My teammates and I are heartsick and disappointed about missing the sectional...but we have no hard feelings toward principal."

If Breeden was ever looking for sympathy, he very well might have found it in his brother-in-errors, Royerton High School Principal Maurice O'Bannon. In 1918, first year Principal O'Bannon made the same mistake with the same results.

No tourney. What made Royerton's omission especially painful was the fact that many fans felt the Redbirds were the best team in eastern Indiana that season. The early-century team

the Indiana State Teachers Association and later become a professor at Ball State. Principal Breeden resigned from Stinesville that May after eight years of service



Stinesville Players, 1946. Names not available

of Shafer, Whitehead, Gump, Lambert, and Riggins had bested all comers, under coach J.S. Shepherd. (Also worth noting: every senior on team joined the military following graduation and served during WW I.) A newspaper account reported at the time that Royerton "had beaten just about everybody in their neck of the woods and were top favorites to capture the sectional at New Castle." The same column went on to state "Muncie High School wasn't too bad, but they admitted they were scared Royerton." An account O'Bannon's obituary many years later stated that the town "wanted his scalp."

Epilogue: Principal O'Bannon survived his gaffe and would continue in his role as administrator at Royerton for three more years. He would go on to serve as president of there. The Indianapolis Star reported at the time that school trustees were allegedly willing to overlook his oversight and were in fact going to renew his contract. But anonymous death threats spurred his actions. He was not out of work long, however, as he was hired as principal at New Washington (Clark Co.) that June. Reportedly he never missed another sectional entry deadline the remainder of his career.

ADAMS COLISEUM AT VINCENNES

by Roger F. Robison, IHSBHS President

After coach John L. Adams set a record of 38 wins in a row during the 1921-22 season, he won the state title at Vincennes in 1923. That was followed by a Final Four appearance in 1925. The good citizens of

Vincennes decided they needed a gym that reflected their basketball excellence. The Coliseum was erected between March and November of 1926 and dedicated on Nov. 11. There is an entrance at each of the four corners as well as a main entryway on Buntin Street (Fig. 1). From 1926 until late 1928, it was the largest high school gym in the United States, seating 6200 fans. Other unique features were (a) a large pipe organ and (b) 414 plush loge or chair seats for the chief boosters. For other civic events it could seat 7500.

The most unique feature is the collection of commemorative bricks on display in the foyer of the Buntin Street main entrance. Vincennes had requested that sports writers send in a brick with the name of their city or town inscribed on a copper plate. Requests were mailed to newspapers, and 57 sets of these items were received (Fig. 2). They represented 47Indiana towns and one statewide newspaper, the Basketball World. Also arriving were nine historic bricks or stones (Fig. 3).

The historic bricks are numbered 26-28, 31-33, and 36-38 (Fig. 4). A Hoosier living in Virginia sent in four historic items that included #26 from Jefferson's home in Monticello, #27 from Yorktown, #31 from Williamsburg, and #36 from the University of Virginia. The Father Gibault School sent in #28 and #32, which were from the home of William Henry Harrison. Number 33 came in from old Fort Knox, and #38 from the New Harmony site. The largest commemorative is #37, which is a window ledge from the first Indiana State House at Corydon! The second largest is the three-stone set from somewhere in Yorktown. It seems certain that the proper permission was obtained in 1926 to acquire these commemoratives.

The Coliseum is still in use and a

visit is worthwhile when visiting other historic sites in old Vincennes. One should also look to see if their own home town is represented among the 47 towns whose residents loved basketball in 1926.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

MONTGOMERY COUNTY TOURNAMENTS, 1932-1971 by

Bill Boone

Whenever January rolls around and the papers start writing of North Montgomery playing Southmont or Crawfordsville needing to beat one of the other two county schools to the county championship win outright, I am reminded of the time before consolidation when all ten together schools got the Crawfordsville gym to determine bragging rights for basketball for that year in the county. Today there are some years when there is no clearcut winner. If none of the three county schools beat the other two, then there is no county champ. From 1932 to 1971, the Montgomery County tourney was as hotly contested as any tourney in the state. The Crawfordsville gym was full no matter which session was on and no matter who was playing. session tickets were not sold unless one of the schools had tickets to return and that was rare. bought the whole book and passed single session tickets around if they could not go to a specific game.

In his book, The Golden Era of Montgomery County Basketball, 1947-1971, John "Butch" Dale wrote, "In 1931, the principals and coaches of the county schools resumed the Montgomery County tourney which had not been played since 1923 when New Richmond defeated Waveland 21-19 in the final game; for the next 40 years that the tournament was conducted (1932-1971) it assumed a level of popularity and competitiveness that could not be matched anyplace else in the state." He went on to report that the Crawfordsville varsity was excluded from the event and that they were represented by their "B" squad for the first five years. That made a total of 12 teams during

those years. During the years when there were 12 teams, a Saturday morning session was played thus causing the two finalists to play 3 games in one day. From 1937 to 1942, there were 11 teams. New Richmond did not field a team in 1943-44-45 and Bowers bowed out for a year in 1945. All the schools returned in 1946 and once again there were 11 teams through the 1953 tourney. In 1954 New Richmond and Wingate consolidated into Coal Creek Central making a 10-team tourney and in 1956, Bowers students went to Darlington making it a 9-team affair. For the next 10 years, there were 9 teams in the tourney and then in 1968, Alamo moved to Waynetown and there were only 8 which is the way it remained until consolidation in 1971.

The first four tourneys were played in the Wabash College gymnasium; however, in 1936, the heating plant failed at Wabash and the tourney was moved to the National Guard Armory on North Green Street where the Journal-Review is now. The tourney remained at the armory until the Crawfordsville High School gym was completed in 1940. Montgomery County tourney was then played at the CHS gym until consolidation in 1971. It was only during the first few years that the tourney did not receive the full support of county fans. It almost died in 1937 when the coaches decided to do away with the affair. However, the principals were still in favor of the tourney and it continued. From that time on the tourney steadily increased in popularity until the time came that it was a sellout every year.

Every county school won at least one Montgomery County tourney with New Market winning the most at seven as the Flyers won in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943, 1958, 1962 and

New Market was the only 1966. school to win three straight tourneys until Darlington did it at the very end of the era as they won in 1939, 1940, and 1941. Three players who played on all three winning teams were Bill Etter, Bud Marts, and Earl "Red" Gardner, Jr. Waynetown won two county championships in a row in 1944 and 1945 during the midst of a 51-game regular season winning streak. Linden won six county crowns, winning in 1937, 1948, 1952, 1960, 1964, and the final county tourney in 1971.

The most successful coaches were Jack Hester who won six county tourneys and Cliff Davis who won three. Hester won five times with New Market in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1943, and 1966 and once with Ladoga in 1949. Davis won with Linden in 1937 and Waveland in 1950 and 1951. No other coach won more than two.



Coach Jack Hester Reminiscences of a County Boy

"There's our team, best in the land, come on kids, let's give them a hand." That's the first thing I remember about the 1953 county



Coach Cliff Davis

tourney my freshman year. That was the yell that the Canner cheering section yelled as the Ladoga Canner tourney team walked across the east end of the Crawfordsville gym each with satchel in hand and I felt like the most important player in the gym. That was pretty heady stuff for a 14-year-old kid. Unfortunately, the feeling didn't last long as the Waveland Hornets bounced us out in the second game of the evening session, by a score of 55-50. The Hornets were 19-2 that year and were led by Dick "Red" Smith, Bob Harbison and Bill Greve. It had only been a year since I had been in the 8th grade and was playing in a junior high game at Waveland that was refereed by Red Smith and Bob I remember watching Harbison. them shoot baskets at half-time while we were getting ready to start the second half. They never missed. The next year, they were seniors and I was a freshman. They still never missed. We gave them the closest game of the tourney as they beat New Ross 58-46 in the semi-final and Darlington 66-48 in the championship game. There were eleven teams in the county at that

time so there were some afternoon games during the week and of course the afternoon and evening games on Saturday for the championship. Between sessions, it seemed like everybody in the county, went to the Strand Theater to see a movie and sit with their best friend. Before the movie started the cheerleaders would lead yells so that everybody would know where the different schools were sitting. The yells at the Strand and in the stands before the games would be something like this: "One, two, three, four, three, two, one, four, who for what for who ya gonna yell for, Ladoga, Ladoga, Ladoga." After the game, win or lose the cheerleaders would start another yell and everyone would join in: "Two, six, eight, who do we appreciate? The team, the team, the whole darn team."

I know it sounds pretty corny, looking back at it, but as I said, it was pretty heady stuff to a fifteenvear-old kid. Kids today would never be guilty of chants that were that corny, but then kids today never experienced the thrill of eleven schools vying for the bragging rights of the whole county. The Canners were 13-5 my freshman year under Coach Jack Hester, who would win a record six Montgomery County tourneys, five at New Market, but only one at Ladoga. In his career, Jack won 263 games while losing only 157. We were more successful in the sectional that year beating Waynetown 52-41 and Wingate 81-43 before losing to Crawfordsville in the semifinal game 46-43. Waveland won it all that year defeating the big school Crawfordsville in the final game 63-60. Waveland beat us again my sophomore year as the Hornets were led by Bill Greve and Jim Mitchell. They were 15-6 that year and beat us in the opening round 44-43. Darlington won the tourney that year for the first time since the beginning in 1932. The Indians defeated Waveland 63-51. The Indians had waited 22 years to win their first tourney; Waveland waited 18 years and New Ross

year, a good season record, but no hardware. New Ross, led by Richard Haffner and Bernie Burk won their first sectional ever by beating the hated Athenians 59-54.

	Montgo	mery Co	ounty Tourney Cha	ampior	IS 1932-19/1		
	Champion		Runner-up		Coach	Teams	
1932	Wingate	16	New Richmond	14	Herbert Jeffries	12	
1933	New Richmond	31	Waveland	23	Lester Olin	12	
1934	Alamo	27	New Market	22	Lincoln Lankford	12	
1935	Wingate	25	New Market	18	Luis French	12	
1936	Wingate	25	Darlington	23	Luis French	12	
1937	Linden	37	Bowers	20	Cliff Davis	11	
1938	Alamo	41	Waveland	26	Loyal Marker	11	
1939	New Market	29	Ladoga	28	Jack Hester	11	
1940	New Market	22	New Ross	21	Jack Hester	11	
1941	New Market	35	Darlington	19	Jack Hester	11	
1942	Bowers	29	Alamo	21	Alex Cox	11	
1943	New Market	35	Bowers	25	Jack Hester	10	
1944	Waynetown	26	New Market	25	Ralph Capehart	9	
	Waynetown	37	Waveland	31	Ralph Capehart	10	
	Alamo	31	Waynetown	15	Tom Bowerman	11	
1947	Ladoga	35	New Market	15	Floyd Neff	11	
1948		47	Waynetown	42	Alex Cox	11	
1949	Ladoga	44	Linden	31	Jack Hester	11	
1950		40	New Market	33	Cliff Davis	11	
1951	Waveland	56	Linden	38	Cliff Davis	11	
1952	Linden	47	Ladoga	45	Ralph Bunton	11	
1953	Waveland	66	Darlington	48	Jim Hannah	11	
1954	Darlington	63	Waveland	51	Pete Irvin	10	
1955		53	Linden	28	Jerry Huntsman	10	
1956		62	Waynetown	54	Glen Harper	9	
1957	Alamo	65	New Market	48	Tom Bowerman	9	
1958		63	Waveland	55	Larry Robison	9	
1959		61	Alamo	43	Tom Spear	9	
1960		52	New Ross	49	Bill Springer	9	
1961		65	Alamo	43	Keith Greve	9	
1962		62	New Ross	59	Bob Tandy	9	
1963		61	Darlington	44	Jim Clack	9	
1964		68	Ladoga	67	Marvin Arnold	9	
1965		47	Darlington	45	Pat McDowell	9	
1966		74	Coal Creek	72	Jack Hester	9	
1967		86	Linden	78	Phil Miller	9	
1968		100	Coal Creek	78	Galen Smith	8	
1969	Darlington	89	Linden	49	Dave Nicholson	8	
1970	Darlington	89	Coal Creek	51	Dave Nicholson	8	
1971	Linden	67	Waveland	59	Tom Speaker	8	

waited the longest 25 years before winning in 1956. Once again, we were more successful in the sectional as we beat Waynetown 66-47 and Alamo 55-43 before losing to Crawfordsville in the afternoon game on Saturday 59-49. We had beaten the Athenians 52-42 in the regular season but couldn't beat them when it counted. We ended up 15-4 that

My junior year was awful. We were 13-6 for the season but lost to New Ross 57-34 in the opening game of the tourney, which was again won by Waveland as they beat up on Linden 53-28. We also lost in the opening game of the sectional as Crawfordsville beat us 79-50. Crawfordsville won the sectional that year by beating Linden 56-37. It was

the first sectional win for the Athenians since 1948. The Athenians were 19-1 that year winning the regional also before losing in the Semi-state.

I just knew we were going to win the county and the sectional my senior year. In fact, Coach Hester told us that we should win the county in baseball, basketball and track. Unfortunately, the New Ross Blue jays had other ideas. They hit the trifecta that year. Led by Richard Haffner, who was the outstanding athlete in the county for 1955-56, they won the county baseball as he was their leading (and only) pitcher and leading hitter. He was the leading scorer and rebounder in basketball and he won the ½ mile in the spring in track. The Blue Jays beat us 51-42 in the semi-final game of the county and 38-23 in the final game of the sectional. The Jays were 21-0 that year and went to the Semistate. New Ross had the longest wait of any county school for its first county basketball championship as they waited 24 years to be crowned King of the County. We ended up with a 16-4 record, but didn't win either tourney, so it was a bad year. All of the guys on the team had grown up worshipping the Canners who won the county Tourney in 1947 and again in 1949. dreamed of winning a tourney of our own, but it never happened. I ended my tourney career at the old Crawfordsville gym right where it The first tourney I ever started. played in was in junior high when Crawfordsville beat us in the championship game. The last tourney I ever played in was in the same gym. New Ross beat us in the championship game of the sectional. I can close my eyes and see myself sitting on the end of the bench at the west end of the gym with a towel over my head crying like a baby. I had fouled out, we had lost the

sectional and my high school basketball career was over. Where did it go?

Led by Charlie Bowerman, Alamo won their last of four county crowns in 1957. The Warriors also won in 1934, 1938, and 1946. After waiting 22 years to win a county tourney (1954), Darlington became the only school besides New Market to win three in a row as they won in 1968, 1969, and 1970. Linden won the last Montgomery County tourney in 1971 as the 40-year classic came to an end with consolidation. This was the 6th county crown for the Bulldogs as they had also won in 1937, 1948, 1952, 1960, and 1964. The Bulldogs were coached by Tom Speaker and led by Daryl Warren who ended up as the leading scorer ever in the county with 2083 points. Daryl led the county in scoring in his junior and senior years averaging 29.7 his junior year and 29.0 his senior year. He scored 592 points as a junior and 644 as a senior. Warren had a high game of 45 points his junior year against Waynetown. By 1972, with Montgomery County having been trimmed down to just three schools consolidations. the county tournament became relegated to history.

The 1919 IHSAA Ruling Disaster in Montgomery County by Bill Boone

It was just a short note in the 1919 IHSAA Annual, but it had a significant impact on the fortunes of three basketball powerhouses in the state of Indiana. The report reads:

Crawfordsville versus Wingate; Wingate versus Crawfordsville;

1. Fletcher Kerr of the Wingate High School is declared ineligible for his entire High School course. The evidence showed that he played base ball on the Melott (Mellott) team while he was a member of the Newton (Newtown) High School.

- 2. The case of Alonzo Goldsberry is continued.
- 3. Marion Blacker, now enrolled in the Crawfordsville High School but who was enrolled in the Wingate High School last semester, was ineligible last semester and is ineligible this semester.
- 4. The Wingate High School is suspended from the I.H.S.A.A. until June 1, 1920, for having played Marion Blacker on its basketball team last semester.
- 5. The Crawfordsville High School is suspended from the I.H.S.A.A. until June 1, 1920, for having used undue influence in trying to induce Alonzo Goldsberry to enter the Crawfordsville High School and also for having played Marion Blacker on their team this semester.
- 6. The case of Melott (Mellott) High School for having played Fletcher Kerr while he was a member of the Newton (Newtown) High School is continued.

The action of the IHSAA affected both Crawfordsville High School and Wingate High School who were both strong favorites to claim the 1920 basketball crown and Franklin High School which did become the champions starting a string of three straight championships. The major players in our little drama once again show how important basketball was in the early days and the lengths schools would go to in order to win championships.

Crawfordsville had to be considered the odds-on favorite to win in 1920 by virtue of the power of the team coming back off a splendid season in 1919 when they went to the Final Four and had a record of 30-4. They were coached by John Blacker who had been a member of the Wingate championship teams of 1913 and 1914. Blacker had teamed with the immortal Homer Stonebraker, called by many the best

basketball player in the nation in those days. Both Blacker and Stonebraker would go on to Wabash College and become part of the best Little Giant teams ever. Stonebraker would later be elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Athenians were poised to claim yet another state crown when An intra-county disaster struck. squabble erupted into a full-fledged incident which brought the IHSAA into the picture. The previous summer, the Athenians had played the Newtown baseball team which had a young man from Mellott named Fletcher Kerr playing for them. Kerr ended up on the Wingate basketball team when the fateful season started and the Athenians cried "foul." However, Coach Blacker, the hometown hero from Wingate, angered the Wingate folks by trying to recruit one of their best players, Alonzo Goldsberry. Blacker had already stolen a Wingate player, Marion "Jack" Blacker (no relation to the coach), and the Wingate Spartans weren't about to let this one Both Wingate Crawfordsville took their cases to the IHSAA which promptly suspended both teams for the whole year.

After the suspension, both teams played an ambitious independent schedule against the best competition they could find. Crawfordsville ended the season with a 28-2 record, its only losses coming at the hands of the always tough Em-Roe team which was the **Indianapolis** Independent Champ and its county neighbor, the Wingate Spartans. The county rivals met in the final game separate tournaments. two Crawfordsville defeated Wingate in Tri-State Tournament the Cincinnati and Wingate won the Mid-west Tournament at Chicago. After the Mid-West tourney, the Spartans were proclaimed National Champions for the year of 1920. An

interesting note about the Mid-West tourney was reported by Fountain County neighbors of Fletcher Kerr, who later coached at Covington High School. Kerr told his neighbors that a young man who was coaching at the University of Chicago took a liking to the Wingate team and scouted for them and helped them prepare for the hated Crawfordsville Wingate Athenians. defeated Crawfordsville in the final game of the tourney, 22-16, and gained the designation as National Champs. That young coach's name, by the way, was Paul D. "Tony" Hinkle, later the legendary coach of the Butler University Bulldogs. wonder if he ever thought about that when he coached against the Wabash College Little Giants.

Crawfordsville even lost its sectional site that year with the county schools being sent in two different directions. Waynetown, New Market, Alamo, Mace, Ladoga, New Ross, Bowers, Darlington, and Waveland all went to Greencastle where Greencastle defeated 8-time sectional runner-up Ladoga 18-13, and New Richmond and Linden went north to the Lafayette sectional.

Things returned to normal after the 1920 season and Crawfordsville didn't run afoul of the IHSAA again until 1927 when the IHSAA handbook recorded the following item:

Thorntown-Crawfordsville--These two schools participated in a partly played game of football Thorntown on November 5. Profuse swearing was done on the field of play and in the dressing rooms by the Crawfordsville players. The officials ejected two or three of these boys from the game, after a warning had been given. Coach Max Kidd of Crawfordsville took his team from the field of play a few minutes before time was up in the fourth quarter. It was stated that the officials made some mistakes in their decisions and that the Thorntown management was somewhat lax in that some spectators rushed onto the field during the arguments.

Decision—Crawfordsville High School placed on probation in the I.H.S.A.A. until November 20, 1927 with instructions to the school authorities of Crawfordsville to declare ineligible for all athletics all boys guilty of swearing until the end of football season in 1927, and to take such other steps as may seem necessary to reach the source of the trouble. At least The Athenians didn't get the whole athletic program suspended with this incident.

TIE GAMES: A COMMENTARY by Cliff Johnson

Some readers might conclude, after reading the following "tie game" comments, that at age 82 perhaps I've finally jumped off the rails of reality. Nevertheless, it's time to express my personal thoughts about why multiple overtimes, tiebreaker events, extra innings, or long, drawn-out ways to end athletic contests are not usually in the best interests of either the contestants or the spectators. Game results, I believe, should not be based on which contestant is the first to run out of energy. There must be a more rational way to determine which opponent has played the better game in its normally accepted timeframe. That contestant should be declared the winner.

Many of us are aware of the 18inning playoff game recently between the Dodgers and Brewers that lasted nearly six hours. But honestly, how many of us stayed awake past midnight to watch the conclusion? It's questionable whether either the viewers or the

enjoyed players really that experience. On May 8, 1984, the Brewers and White Sox went 25 innings and in excess of eight hours before the game finally concluded in a 7-6 White Sox victory (on the following day). A recent ITF tournament tennis match kept the combatants on the court for nearly six hours after four long sets had ended in parity. Football games have dragged on an extra hour or more after the game clock expired with the score tied. At that point, are the opposing linemen still at their optimal performance levels, or are they just automatically going through the motions of blocking and tackling simply to outlast their foes? Endurance, while important, must still be thought of as a factor secondary to playing skills.

Basketball games, at present, can also become endurance tests rather than contests of skill and will, whenever overtime play ensues. Sometimes, a game never seems to Most fans knowing Hoosier Hysteria history can recall the nineovertime contest between Swayzee and Liberty Center during the 1964 Marion regional. The point is, once many of the top players on either or both teams have fouled out after a few overtime periods, will the final score truly reflect which team has proven itself superior to the other? If you're a purist regarding talent, your answer will be a resounding "NO!"

Furthermore, how is all that extra effort and drainage of physical strength going to affect the players in their next contest? That's significant, especially in tournament play when the next contest might be only a few hours away. Tournament titles in the past have been lost solely as the result of fatigue from an earlier contest that lasted too long.

So, what are some ways in which contests could terminate in the allotted timeframes (or segments of play) without requiring extra time to conclude them?

Well, for basketball, tied scores could still be denoted as (TS) or (TG), just as overtimes currently are--with the added (OT) in print. But in such cases, the official winner would be the team in possession of the ball when time runs out. The best aspect of winning by having ball possession at the end of a tied game is that coaches would be forced to develop game-ending strategies in the final few minutes that would require careful consideration for gaining or maintaining possession of the ball as either the shot clock or the game clock runs down. Spectator tension and excitement during close games would also continue, owing to the added importance of ball possession while the tied game draws to a close.

This idea would of course require a revised rule to eliminate the tendency to commit deliberate fouls toward the end of games, but such a revision is long overdue anyway. We're all weary of watching the constant parade to the foul line in the last minute or two of tight games. The way to rectify that is to award ball possession back to the fouled team, whether the penalty free throw is made or not. Then, good defensive tactics such as doubleteaming, trapping, applying pressure, five-second calls, forcing intercepting passes, would once again prevail and replace the present obscene practice of deliberate fouling.

The same "ball possession" ending might be applied to football games, in the event of tie scores. "Taking a knee" would need to be purged from the rules, but that would be an improvement to the game, in the minds of many (to give the team on defense some chance).

Many of us are old enough to remember when football games could end in ties. That was before today's College Bowl Series, divisional playoff games, and the Super Bowl arrived. Nowadays, because of the tournament-like nature of the sport during the final days of a season, one team and one team only must be declared the victor in any game.

That being the case, there are many ways to determine the winner of a tied football game following the full 60 minutes of play, without resorting to a sometimes-marathon ending where matched field goals or touchdowns can continue on and on, leading to players becoming exhausted.

A second idea is to use game statistics, routinely compiled as the game proceeds, to determine the That could be done by winner. comparing total yards gained by each team, or perhaps the total number of ball possessions. Maybe even the most clock time having possession. All those statistics are routinely kept and recorded by off-field officials, so they could be used to announce the winner if the score is tied after the allotted 60 minutes has expired. In the far-fetched event that all those numbers come out even as well. more could be considered such as total first downs or even punting yardage. There are enough football game statistics to eliminate any possibility of needing added playing time to determine the winner.

The winner of a tennis match at the end of tied sets could be determined by acknowledging the player with the most games won during all the previously completed sets. If those numbers also result in a tie, then one final game (but not a set) could be played, with whichever opponent whose legitimate turn it is serving the ball. In some cases, that would make the pre-match coin toss to determine who serves first a bit more significant. Yet eliminating the sometimes-torturous added play

brought on by the current tiebreaker rule overshadows the extra but small advantage gained by the player who is awarded first service in a match. On this same theme, some tennis organizations have begun to realize how much of a toll it takes on male players to require a best-of-five match, so their recent conversions to a best-of-three is helping to alleviate the fatigue and injury factors.

Settlements of baseball game ties could be a bit more complicated owing to the nine innings of the "first and last at-bats" requirement for each team. But here's an idea: runs, hits, and errors are always displayed on baseball scoreboards in full view of spectators, perhaps the team with the most hits combined with the fewest errors could be declared the winner of a tied game. Displaying the number of on-base occurrences or possibly a running "total bases" figure might be preferable to showing the total hits. But let's face it--these proposed improvements to conclude games are not likely to be adopted during my lifetime or yours.

Continuing the fantasy though, if all numbers still turned out to be even after nine innings, then going to extra innings might be unavoidable. It shouldn't happen often. But even then, such an extra-innings game should never continue on very long if the following simple rule were applied: When any subsequent inning ends with one team reaching base more times or getting farther around the bases than the other team does, it then must be declared the victor. Excitement to the very end!

Extended play ordinarily doesn't prove which contestant is better than the other. Such extensions can be needlessly exhausting to both participants and spectators when they drag on indefinitely. In my view, there are better and quicker ways to deal with ties in athletic contests.

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