

B O X S C O R E

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REGIONAL DROUGHTS

(4A Boys Schools)

by

John Ockomon, IHSBHS

Editor's Note: This research predates regionals of March 2022.

No Regional Titles:

(School, first BB team)

Westfield 1918

Avon 1917

Lowell 1915

New Haven 1922
Hobart 1922
Greenwood 1920
Chesterton 1924
Decatur Central 1932
Hammond Morton 1953
Highland 1959
Hamilton SE 1967
Northridge 1970
East Central 1974

Other long Droughts—Last win

Fishers 1922
Greenfield Central 1943
Whiteland 1944
Zionsville 1953
Mishawaka 1955
Goshen 1969
Logansport 1974
Seymour 1975
Mooresville 1977
Columbus East 1978

DON SCHLUNDT, THE BLOND BOMBER by Cliff Johnson

Donald Duane Schlundt, Indiana's All-State and All-American basketball player of the 1950s, was born March 15, 1933, in Clay Township, St. Joseph County, near South Bend, Indiana. He was the son of Martin and Anna Schlundt

who resided in that somewhat rural setting on the outskirts of the big city. He attended Washington-Clay High School from the fall of 1947 through his graduation in the spring of 1951. During that time, he became recognized as one of the premier center-post players in the state's high school ranks. Standing 6-5 his freshman year and growing to 6-9 by the time he was a senior, Schlundt led his team to noteworthy seasons during his three years on the varsity, culminating in a sectional crown his senior year and a march to the final 32 teams in the 1951 IHSAA state tournament.

Herschel Eaton, Schlundt's coach, had been at Washington-Clay since the end of WW II and would ultimately continue on as the Colonials' coach through the 1954-55 season, winning 147 games while losing 82, a 64% win margin. In 1947-48, when Schlundt became a freshman, Eaton was eagerly awaiting the talent that was about to fall into his lap. He was not disappointed. The Colonials opened the 1948-49 season with twelve straight wins against mainly county competition but including major "upset" wins over big city schools

S.B. Adams, S.B. Riley, and Gary Roosevelt. S.B. Washington ended the Colonials' win streak at game #13 with a one-point win 35-34, but by now the Washington-Clay team had become recognized as a small-school juggernaut in northern Indiana. Schlundt was the tall blond center leading the attack in scoring and rebounding, but he was ably assisted by teammates Gary Borkowski, Jim Brown, and Dick Johnson. The team was to lose only one more game during the regular season, that to county champ Lakeville 50-41 in a defensive gem that kept Schlundt from executing at his best in the pivot. Before the county tournament, the Colonials had trounced Lakeville's Trojans 46-32 and then repeated their dominance over that team with a 56-33 punishing just prior to the sectional. Washington-Clay finished its regular season at 19-2, and Schlundt led the scoring with 337 "recorded" points. The scorebook from the Lakeville away game was lost and the box score never recorded in the newspapers, so Schlundt's total for the season is understated. South Bend Central, one of the Associated Press's highest-ranked teams, closed out the season for the Colonials in the sectional with a 45-27 spanking. Central made it all the way to the final four that year, finally succumbing to state runner-up Madison, 53-40. Madison, the tourney favorite, was torpedoed by underdog Cabby O'Neill's Jasper Wildcats in a thrilling final game, 62-61 (62-21 was shown in error by the "Tourney Time" book).

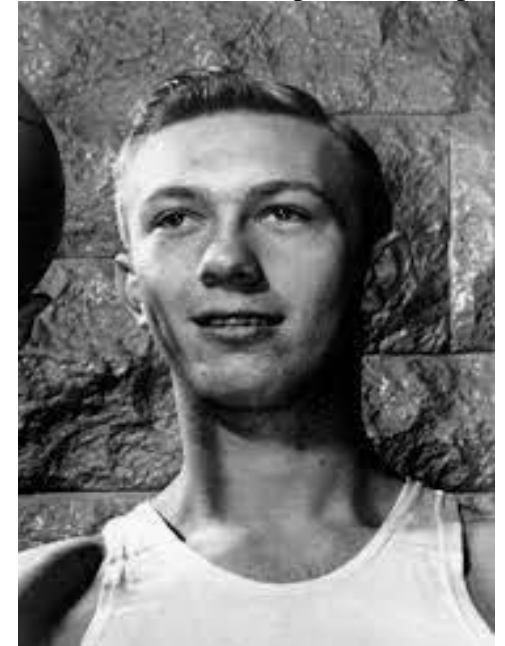
By the start of Schlundt's junior year of 1949-50, the Colonials were brimming with confidence toward another great season, despite the loss of Borkowski and Brown. The Purple and Gold again answered the opening call with a flourish, winning its first seven games before bowing

to S.B. Adams in an away game, 66-52. The team then proceeded to win 14 of its next 16 contests, capturing the St. Joseph County tournament championship along the way. For the season, Schlundt was recorded as having scored 554 points, but as was the case in the preceding year, the box score of one game was lost. This one was against North Liberty with the Colonials putting 85 points on the scoreboard for an easy win. Many of those points would have undoubtedly been scored by Schlundt, so again his point total for the season was under-recorded. The team finished its season once more in the sectional, losing to powerful S.B. Central 53-24 in the championship match. Central was eventually defeated in the final game of the Lafayette semifinal by the host team in a close contest, 55-53. Madison, the 1949 state runner-up, was declared state champ after pounding the Lafayette team by 23 points in the final, 67-44.

Don Schlundt's senior year at Washington-Clay Twp. produced memorable results after a slow start of winning two and losing two. The rest of the regular season was outstanding, with only a 4-point loss to S.B. Washington and a 2-point loss to S.B. Riley causing any more blemishes. St. Joseph's county championship was again awarded to the Colonials after a masterful series of routs in three games. This time also the Colonials got through the tough South Bend sectional, with the only close game being against Mishawaka, 58-55, on Saturday afternoon. The team pushed on to the final game of the regional, bowing out to Elkhart (19-4 at the time), 50-39. The state crown went to Muncie Central that year with the Bearcats squeezing by Evansville Reitz in the final, 60-58. Schlundt finished the 1950-51 season with 684 "recorded" points, but as previously

stated, the points in one high-scoring game were omitted in that total. His three-season high school career shows 1,596 total points, with two games missing from that total. His high point mark for a single game was 52 points, and he had also set a record by scoring 34 points in a single sectional game. Rebounds were not recorded during Don's era, but newspaper accounts regularly proclaimed his unparalleled abilities at clearing the boards, both defensively and offensively. His Washington-Clay years were spectacular, but it was only the beginning for him.

Branch McCracken, Indiana University's head coach at the time, spared no time or effort in recruiting the young 6-9 blond bomber from up north. McCracken's plan was to put



Don Schlundt, I.U. freshman, 1950-51

the finishing touches on an already celebrated 1950-51 frosh combination that included 6-3 Bob Leonard from Terre Haute Gerstmeyer, 6-4 Dick Farley from Winslow, 6-5 Charlie Kraak from Collinsville, Illinois, 5-9 Sam Esposito from Chicago, 6-3 Jim Deakyne from Fortville, and 6-10 Lou Scott from Chicago. The best news was that, owing to a player

shortage created by the Korean War, freshmen were being permitted to play varsity in the Big Ten for the first time since WW II. It meant that the Hurryin' Hoosiers might use Lou Scott just to back up an equally tall and high-scoring wheelhorse like Don Schlundt around whom they could build their team for the next few years. And Schlundt seemed more than ready to fill the bill.

As the fall of 1951 arrived, anxiety set in at Bloomington. Would the young and inexperienced players be able to cope well in Big Ten competition? There were a few veterans left over from the '50-'51 varsity, fortunately, like 5-10 Sam Miranda, 6-3 Bob Masters, and 6-5 Jim Schooley, all of whom could help guide the youngsters through their initial trials. A nice surprise came early on when the team tore through its first eight games without a single loss against some quality non-conference teams such as Wyoming, Kansas State, Notre Dame, and Butler. The AP polls put them as high as 4th in the nation by Jan. 8. Freshman Schlundt, sometimes called "Ox," was leading the way in scoring and rebounding, but the stats were pretty evenly distributed--the sign of great teamwork. After a decisive 58-46 win over Michigan in their first Big Ten meeting of the new year, the first loss came at the hands of Ohio State, 73-72, on a last second desperation shot by a Buckeye player. From that point on, it became an up-and-down yo-yo season for them in the Big Ten. However, they never fell below 20th in the AP poll until mid-February. The team finished its season at 16-6 and at 4th place in the Big Ten at 9-5. Not bad for a bunch of rookies. Schlundt led the scoring with 376 points for a 17.1 average per game, and in rebounds with 158, for a per game average of 7.2.

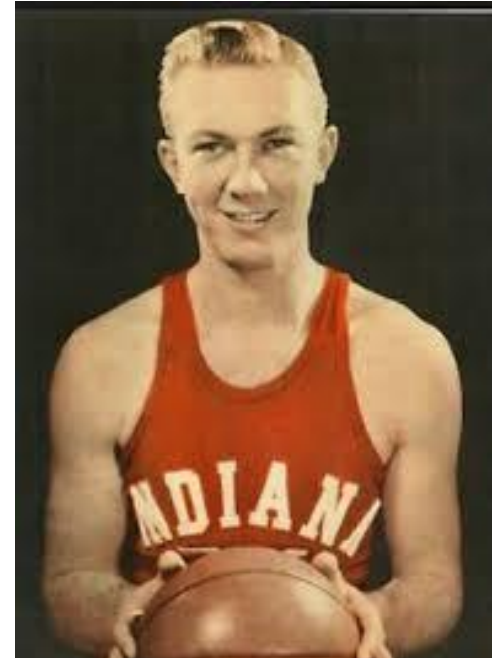
The 1952-53 season for the Hoosiers was one for the books. After a remarkable regular season



Schlundt and Leonard

record of 20 wins against only 3 losses (two by two points and one by a single point), they captured both the Big Ten crown and the NCAA tournament championship. Indiana University was on the move and these guys were mostly just sophomores and juniors! As a 16-year-old high schooler, I got to watch I.U. in action one game at Bloomington that season. I can't recall whom they were playing, but the way they played the game left an everlasting impression on me. Schlundt would snare a defensive rebound, make an outlet pass to Leonard or Burke Scott, and the Hoosiers were downcourt in a flash, racking up two more points. The fast break was indeed a thing of beauty. After high school, I opted for the Boilermakers but never forgot about the Hurryin' Hoosiers' amazing style of play in '52-'53. Schlundt led in scoring and rebounds once again, but it took the entire team to bring the glory, with Leonard, Farley, Kraak, Burke Scott, and Lou Scott, as well as Schlundt, leading the drive to lasting recognition in the world of college basketball. The blond bomber scored 661 points for a 25.4

ppg average and took down 220 rebounds (an 8.5 rpg average) enroute to All-America prominence and other honors. Bob Leonard also attained Big Ten and All-America status, and there are those who argue that Dick Farley and Charlie Kraak were also viable All-America candidates during their final two seasons at I.U.



Don Schlundt, I.U. senior 1953-54

The 1953-54 regular season at I.U. was nearly as successful as the prior year. Schlundt had grown another inch, measuring now at 6-10. The team's final AP ranking was #4 in the nation although it had been ranked #1 earlier in the season. The team dropped its first NCAA tournament game to another nationally ranked squad, Notre Dame, by a single point, 65-64. I.U. lost only three other games all season long and again ended atop the Big Ten standings at 12-2. Its overall record was 21-4. Schlundt scored a total of 583 points (24.3 ppg) and yanked down 267 rebounds (a career best of 11.1 rpg). Schlundt and Leonard were again selected as All-Americans.

The core of the team, its seniors, was lost to graduation at the end of the 1953-54 season, but Schlundt,

Burke Scott, Wally Choice, and Paul Poff remained for 1954-55. It was not a successful season, ending with an 8-14 losing record, but once again Schlundt took scoring and rebounding honors with 572 points (26.0 ppg) and 215 rebounds (9.8 rpg). For a third straight season he was selected as an All-American player. His total four-year stats at I.U. showed 2,192 total points (an I.U. record) and 860 rebounds (another record).

After completing his business degree and playing career at I.U., Don was drafted by the NBA's Syracuse team in the 2nd round, 14th pick overall. It was decision time for Don as to whether he would continue playing ball as a profession or put his degree to use in business. After playing in a few exhibition games, he opted for the latter and remained in business for 30 years until his 1985 death from cancer at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis. His age was 52.

GETTING IT RIGHT

by

Doug Bradley

Recently, newspapers.com added the Evansville Courier and Evansville Press. If I had had access to these papers ten years ago I could have saved myself many miles and many hours of travel. This should probably be Lesson One in the study of the history of Indiana high school basketball.

There was a time when we knew what was best for Indiana high school basketball and we agreed to do it. The last 40 years have not been that time. A few years ago on John Harrell's basketball website, someone referred to the opening of the Boonville gym as the time Boonville stole the sectional back from Lynnville. That writer could not have been more wrong. While it is true that Boonville built its

Legeman gym to bring the sectional back to the county seat from Legeman's Lynnville gym, Boonville was happier than any place other than Lynnville when the sectional left Clarke Junior High School (across the street from Boonville High School).

Two new gyms, at Lynnville and Winchester, were set to sponsor sectionals in 1952, but neither was complete by the end of January. IHSAA policy had always been that sectional sites would be determined by the end of that month. The Boonville principal contacted the other county principals, asking for backing in proposing to the IHSAA that the sectional be played at Lynnville (if at all possible). Boonville promised to sponsor the sectional (but only if absolutely necessary). When the IHSAA agreed to the proposal, Farmland also promised to sponsor the sectional that needed to be moved to Winchester (again, only if necessary).

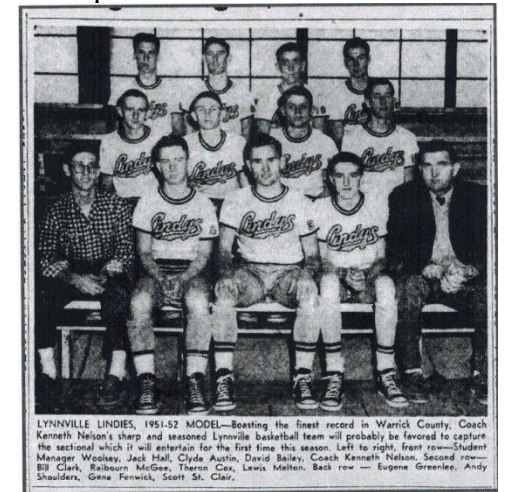
Neither Lynnville nor Winchester stole a thing. Many more seats (and many more tickets sold) meant much more money for all schools participating. While Boonville DID have to travel to Lynnville, as the largest school in the tournament, Pioneer fans got more tickets in Lynnville than they had been getting for the past fifteen years at Clarke.

While Boonville had the sectional, selling the school board on building a new gym was going nowhere. With the sectional gone to Lynnville, businesses supported the building of a new gym to bring the sectional-week patronage back to the county seat. It didn't hurt that the new gym in Boonville would be more than four times the capacity of the Clarke gym.

This story is reminiscent of recent reports that John Wooden's career could have been derailed in its early

years if Arthur Trester had penalized him for his run-in with Shelby Shake. Wooden, though, bore absolutely no responsibility for Trester's reprimand of Shake. What we should take from that story today is that Trester far exceeded his authority in condemning Shelby Shake, but getting the story right doesn't seem to be a goal of many Indiana writers.

And speaking of getting it right, look at the caption to the team picture that's attached. The shirts are correct as "Lindys", but "Lindies" in the caption is not.



LYNNVILLE LINDIES, 1951-52 MODEL—Beating the finest record in Warrick County, Coach Kenneth Nelson's sharp and seasoned Lynnville basketball team will probably be favored to capture the sectional which it will entertain for the first time this season. Left to right, front row—Student Manager Woolsey, Jack Hall, Clyde Austin, David Bailey, Coach Kenneth Nelson. Second row—Bill Clark, Ralston McGee, Theron Cox, Lewis Melton. Back row—Eugene Greenlee, Andy Shaulders, Gene Fenwick, Scott St. Clair.

THE MAN WHO COACHED TWO BASKETBALL TEAMS

by

Matt Werner, book publisher and IHSBHS member

The Saint Mary's High School basketball team in Michigan City, Indiana, prepared to play its first game of the season, just three days away; however, the team did not have a head coach. It was November 28, 1942, and Coach Tony Juska had joined the armed forces. Furthermore, World War II created a dearth of capable men available to coach athletics. Saint Mary's had its eye on a candidate: Louis Sass. One problem—Sass already had a job coaching varsity basketball.

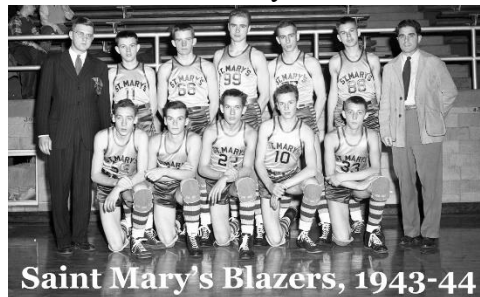
Sass was well-known in Michigan City. The 32-year-old grew up there and had had a prolific high school

athletic career at the local public school, Elston High School. He participated extensively in sports—4 years in football, 4 in basketball, 4 in baseball and 2 in track. The high school yearbook described him succinctly: “Small but speedy.” Sass had coaching experience too. He had coached boys basketball, as well as girls basketball and girls baseball, for 7 years (see footnote 1). Sass already had started his eighth year of coaching at Springfield High School where he taught when Saint Mary’s fell in need of a head coach.

Springfield Township School sat in the countryside 9 miles east of Saint Mary’s High School. It was one of 12 township-run schools in LaPorte County at the time. Sass lived in Springfield Township with his wife and 2½ year old son. How the deal was struck is unknown at the time of this writing, but on November 30, 1942, Saint Mary’s made the announcement public: Louis Sass was its new head coach. He would remain head coach of the Springfield team as well. Sass would be a busy man. The local newspaper wrote, “Securing Mr. Sass . . . has been a lucky break for Saint Mary’s as many other Indiana schools are having to cancel schedules because they have been unable to secure coaches.”

In their first game of the season, Saint Mary’s Blue Blazers defeated Chesterton, 34–29. Both Louis Sass-coached teams finished the regular season with winning records: Saint Mary’s, 10–7; Springfield, 9–6. When the Sectional draws came out, it revealed that Sass’s Springfield team would play in the tournament’s first game Thursday night at 7:00 pm and his Saint Mary’s team would play the second game of the tournament at 8:00 pm the same night. If both teams won, they would face each other in the second round, Friday afternoon.

Virginia Ferrier (see footnote 2), the Michigan City News-Dispatch sports editor, pointed out the twists to Sass’s drama: “If all of these things come true [both Saint Mary’s & Springfield win], then the fans will see the two Sass teams in action. 'What will happen we don’t know. 'With all of the practice that Sass has had this season handling four teams (see footnote 3), perhaps he will be able to handle both teams at the same time. 'One thing about it, he is sure to have one team in the semi-finals to meet his alma mater, Michigan City high school.” Ferrier suggested that Sass might sit in the bleachers and let his two teams battle it out themselves if they met in the Sectional. The following day, Sass set the record straight—sort of. Ferrier wrote: (Louis Sass) “said today that if his two teams come together in the second round of the tournament, he will probably stick to his Springfield five. 'Sass, who has been coaching and teaching at Springfield for the past eight years, said he didn’t like to leave the Blazers in the lurch, but he never thought of such a thing coming up when he accepted the job to fill in for the Saint Mary’s coach, Tony Juska, who went to the army last fall.”



Coach Louis Sass, back row far right.

The 1943 basketball Sectional marked the first time in history that segregated all-black high schools such as Gary Roosevelt and parochial schools such as Saint Mary’s were allowed to play in the Indiana statewide basketball tournament. On Thursday, February 25, 1943, Louis Sass coached his

Springfield team at 7:00 pm. Springfield led, 17–8, at halftime, but in the third quarter, the team’s star guard and rebounder, Rathnow, fouled out. Their opponent, Wanatah, rallied to victory, 37–28. Immediately after the game, Sass met his Saint Mary’s team and took his seat on the coach’s bench again at 8:00 pm. Saint Mary’s defeated Clinton Township handily, 52–32, to win its first Sectional game in school history. At four o’clock the following day, Saint Mary’s beat Wanatah, 32–20, to advance to the semifinal. Saturday, coaching against his alma mater, Michigan City Elston High School, Sass and his Saint Mary’s team lost, 46–29. Elston went on to win the Sectional tournament that night.

And so it went, the story of the man who coached two Indiana varsity boys basketball teams in the same season. Louis Sass moved to Saint Mary’s High School the following school year and coached five seasons of basketball there. In 1955, he and his wife, Jean, moved the family to California and left behind a unique bit of Indiana basketball history.

Footnotes:

1. Sass likely coached varsity baseball, junior high basketball, and any track teams Springfield fielded as well. Common practice in area township-run schools stipulated in the teacher/coach contract that he coached all sports (it always was a "him" and never a "her"). Girls basketball got eradicated from Indiana high schools sometime during World War II.
2. Virginia Ferrier was the only female sports editor in the history of the Michigan City News-Dispatch. She worked there during WW II.
3. Sass coached Springfield varsity boys, Saint Mary’s varsity boys, and a combination of junior high boys

and/or a girls basketball team at Springfield Twp.

INDIANA'S GAME: THE RISE AND DECLINE OF HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL IN INDIANA (PART 2)

by

Michael Wohlford

Editor's Note: This is the second of a three-part sequence on Wohlford's 2007 Ball State thesis. The first part appeared in the previous issue of Boxscore. That article can be found on pages 6-10 of our winter 2021 issue, for those interested.

The Glory Days

Following its strong beginnings in the early 1900s, Indiana high school basketball grew to full-fledged passion by the middle part of the 20th century. The 1950s and 1960s remain the heyday of the sport when the population began to grow following World War II. The entire state seemed focused on the winter months and the state's one true love, high school basketball. Lacking a professional sports team like Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio (the Cubs, White Sox, Tigers, and Reds), Indiana was able to focus all its attention on the local high school basketball team. The 1950s and 1960s were also a time in which there were very few sanctioned IHSAA sports (there were none for girls at this time). This allowed for the entire focus of the state to be on boys' basketball. In Indiana, high school basketball reigns supreme as the winter entertainment attraction, perhaps because there has been little else from which to choose. We mustn't discount the fact that Indiana is (and was, especially during the heyday of high school basketball) a state primarily made up of secluded rural communities. Basketball was simply the #1, 2, and 3 options on the list of things to do during the winter. The number of high schools

participating in the IHSAA state basketball tournament ballooned to 805 in 1936 and steadied at between 700 and 800 for the duration of the 1950s. School and community pride swelled during the winter months, and the restructuring of the tournament in 1935, which called for sixty-four sectionals, sixteen regionals (four teams each), four semi-states (four teams each), and a state finals conclusion (consisting of four teams) allowed for a community to follow their team from the local area, onto the regional area, and finally onto the state. Improvements in the automobile allowed caravans of fans to travel the state cheering on their boys, decorating their cars with their favorite player's name and number. Towns and communities soon became recognized by their school and mascot, and their identity was quickly being determined by their basketball team.

The phenomenon of community identity is crucial in understanding Indiana basketball. For many decades in the 20th century, small towns and cities in Indiana identified themselves solely with their high school basketball team. It was in these locations that "basketball appears to thrive best ... where incomes and education levels are relatively low, and where the sport may very well be viewed as a social necessity. In such places excellent teams and players create more interest and excitement and produce local heroes with whom the town can identify. This identity goes on year-round, as the local barbershop and other public facilities double as places where discussions concerning the fortunes of the team can take place. In these communities, the variability of winter weather is bad enough to have driven most people indoors, causing basketball to take center stage throughout the cold season. As time went by, small

towns and communities developed more and more of a collective past, one chock full of well-known teams and players. It was through this shared history that a growing community identity blossomed.

In 1954, the identity of one small Indiana town was created when Milan High School, with an enrollment of 162 (less than half was male), put the state on its ear by playing Muncie Central for the state's most coveted prize. Forged through the classic David versus Goliath story, Milan defeated those mighty Bearcats and created an identity that has lasted ever since. The monumental 32-30 victory was the result of a last second shot by one of Indiana high school basketball's most famous names, Bobby Plump. Plump's shot gave Milan the title and gave Indiana its first - and really only - true underdog state champion by defeating the much larger and supposedly powerful Bearcats that season. In a true display of Hoosier Hysteria, a caravan of cars followed the Indians back from Indianapolis to their home in southeastern Indiana after the championship tilt. It is estimated that "anywhere from 20,000 to 40,000 people" jammed into tiny Milan, but others say that probably 100,000 said they attended the celebration. Numbers like these only exist in places where hysteria reigns. Based on Hoosier Hysteria's most famous event, the Hollywood film *Hoosiers* was created to depict the Milan Miracle and display the true nature of Indiana's passion for basketball. One of the movie's characters, Myra Fleener, accurately describes the positive sentiments given to a basketball star in Indiana during this time period. Talking of the fictional team's star, Jimmy Chitwood, Fleener says, "You know, a basketball hero around here is treated like a god ... you become one by putting a leather ball through an

iron hoop. According to Fleener, Milan produced many gods in the eyes of Hoosiers during that run to the state title in '54. The state became frenzied that year, and the story of Milan has since survived history and is now one of the state's most well-known historical events.

With the creation of the interstate highway system during the Eisenhower era, cities and towns in Indiana became more connected than ever. Improvements in the automobile enabled more fans to travel to basketball games, where the gymnasiums of the past were becoming too small. What started with the creation of a new high school gym at Franklin in 1921 became a full-fledged battle among schools to create the largest and finest gymnasium in the state. What was at stake with these projects? Schools boasting the largest gyms were given the right to host the sectional tournament, an enviable position given the number and strength of rivalries in each county. If the gym was large enough, a school might even be privileged to host the regional tournament. This honor not only led to a sense of pride for the community, but it gave the home team a better chance for advancement through the state tournament.

The size of Indiana gymnasiums is fabled throughout the country. Boasting fifteen of the top sixteen largest high school gyms in the country (and the top 6 spots), Indiana is known for its "Hoosier shrines." Following World War II, according to *Hoosier Hysteria!* by Bob Williams, "the town of Huntingburg with a population of 5,000 built a gym with a seating capacity of 6,214 in order to gain home-court advantage in the sectionals that were being played at nearby Jasper." Another school, tired of competing in the Muncie regional, New Castle,

began construction in the late 1950s on a gym that would put the whole state to shame. What is now known as the "Largest and Finest High School Fieldhouse in the World" was finished in November 1959. Built into the ground with an astonishing capacity of 9,314, the New Castle Chrysler Fieldhouse is the largest high school gym in the nation. Soon thereafter, in 1961, Anderson (a conference rival of both Muncie Central and New Castle) completed what is known as "the Wigwam" with a capacity of 8,996, making it the second largest high school gym in the country. Many states marvel at the size of these Indiana high school "monuments," but the fact remains that during Indiana high school basketball's heyday, these gyms were filled to capacity. Revenues were substantial for most schools, as the number of season ticket holders became outlandish. Even after the glory days were supposedly over, Anderson had 5,875 season ticket holders for the 1984 season. Bob Williams best explains the reason for such large gyms: "In a state where basketball is looked at with such ardor and passion, it's only natural that the arenas where the games are played would follow suit."

The heyday of Indiana high school basketball was clearly the 1950s and 1960s. With the population boom and advancements in the road system and the automobile, more and more fans came out to the games. Schools all around the state glistened with school pride every basketball season, culminating in the month-long state tournament that brought the entire state to its knees. Schools were cancelled in Indianapolis during its sixteen-team sectional tournament, allowing for all the participants (players and fans alike) to make it to the Butler Fieldhouse (re-named Hinkle Fieldhouse in 1966) to cheer

on their team.

The Indianapolis sectional was attended by thousands of fans each year, but no team out of the state's capital had claimed the state championship trophy until the Crispus Attucks Tigers won it in 1955. In doing so, Attucks also became the first all-black school to win a state championship in the entire nation. Led by future professional star and Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson, Attucks also won the title in 1956, becoming the first team in Indiana history to win the title after going undefeated for the entire season. When discussing this feat, Robertson plays it up by saying, "Remember that Indiana is the basketball-craziest state in the nation, and there is a major college basketball prospect on just about every high school team." Robertson and the Attucks Tigers combined to win forty-five straight games over his junior and senior years, a record that stood until Lawrence North recently won fifty straight games from early 2005 to late 2006. The 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s witnessed Indiana high school basketball at its peak. Fans came out in droves to fill up the largest high school gymnasiums in the world, and communities gathered around their team during March in quest of the coveted state championship. These decades saw the rise of television as well. Folks around the state (see Oscar Robertson, *The Big O* (Emmaus, Pennsylvania: Rodale, 2003) who couldn't make it to Indy for the finals, or who simply couldn't get a ticket because they were in such high demand, began to watch the finals on television. High school basketball had now made it into people's homes. The game was truly on an upswing.

Next issue: Part 3 "What Went Wrong? The Decline of Indiana High School Basketball."

BECOME AN IHSBHS MEMBER

(Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society)

Join a statewide group of sports-minded individuals who have a common interest in the history of high school basketball, Indiana's favorite sport. Membership dues are currently just \$10 per year. Established in 1994, and loosely associated with the Hall of Fame in New Castle, IHSBHS (pronounced "ish-bish") publishes four seasonal newsletters for its members, each issue usually 12 to 16 pages in content, known as Boxscore. This newsletter contains diverse items, including short stories that recount tales of former Hoosier ballplayers and their schools' teams. Members are invited, but not required, to submit their own personal stories for inclusion in Boxscore.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-Mail (optional for receiving Boxscore) _____

Telephone No. (optional) _____

High School and graduation year _____

Check or money order to IHSBHS for \$10 enclosed? _____

Mail to: IHSBHS Treasurer Rocky Kenworthy, 710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118

Board of Directors: Roger Robison (Frankfort '54), Harley Sheets (Lebanon '54), Cliff Johnson (Western '54), Rocky Kenworthy (Cascade '74), Tim Puet (Valley, PA '69), Leigh Evans (Castle '86), John Ockomon (Pendleton '60), Jeff Luzadder (Dunkirk '74), Curtis Tomak (Linton '59), Kermit Paddack (Sheridan '02), Hugh Schaefer (Freelandville '61), Bill Boone (Ladoga '56).

IHSBHS MEMBER PROFILE FORM

(Tell us about yourself)

Complete this form and mail to: Rocky Kenworthy, IHSBHS, 710 E, 800 S, Clayton, IN 46118. Profiles may appear in Boxscore from time to time.

Today's Date _____

Member's Name _____ Phone No. _____

Email _____ Address _____

Occupation/Profession _____ Retired? _____

Major Interests/Hobbies _____

Past Sports Activities _____

Where Born? _____ Year Born _____

High School _____ H.S. graduation year _____

College or Univ. _____

Area of Study _____ Degree(s)/Year _____

Additional Comments You'd Like To Share: _____



Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Annual Membership Program

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame is committed to recognizing Indiana's Basketball Legends and inspiring Indiana's basketball future.

The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. The operation of the Hall of Fame is dependent upon attendance, gift shop sales, funds generated through activities and events, gifts and donations. The Annual Membership Program was established to allow all basketball enthusiasts to participate in the support of preserving and sharing Indiana's basketball history.

As an Annual Member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame you will receive the following recognition and benefits during the next year.

- name recognition on the Annual Membership display in the lobby of the museum
- name recognition in the Indiana Basketball History Magazine, & Induction Banquet Programs
- free museum admission for the member and 3 guests, 20% discount in the gift shop
- Hall of Fame complimentary gift
- subscription to Indiana Basketball History Magazine
- invitations to annual receptions for inductees and honorees along with other special events

Please complete the membership form, and keep the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in the GAME!

2022 Membership Form

Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Active H.S. Coach	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Active H.S. Referee	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$3,000 (Cumulative)

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email: _____

Please make check payable to Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, One Hall of Fame Court, New Castle, IN 47362. The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Check method of payment:

Check or Money Order enclosed Credit Card (VISA, MC, Discover)

Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ Vcode _____

Signature _____