

# BOXSCORE

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**Summer 2002**  
Volume 7 - Issue 2

Boxscore is the quarterly publication of The Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society, which 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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### Upcoming Meetings

- Summer: Kokomo - June 29, 2002 - 1:30 P.M.
- Fall: Crawfordsville - September 28, 2002

The Kokomo meeting will be held at the Kokomo High School Memorial Gymnasium on the southeast corner of Superior and Apperson Way.

Those who have agreed to speak on the happenstances of their association with Indiana high school basketball are: Jim Callane, Jack Colescott, Ken Craig, Cliff Johnson, Basil Mawbey, Carl McNulty and Brian Williams. See page 4 for brief profiles. Then attend to find out more.

#### Directions to the Memorial Gymnasium.

**From the north:** From the U.S. 31 By Pass turn right (west) on to Sycamore Street-go to Apperson Way, then left (south) one block.

**From the south:** turn left (west) from the By Pass onto Sycamore - go to Apperson Way, then left (south) one block.

**From the east:** Take State Rd. 22 (Markland Ave.) west to Apperson Way-turn right (north) and go about 10 blocks.

**From the west:** Take State Rd. 22 east to Washington St. - go south one block to Superior St.- then about 4 blocks east.

All IHSBHS meetings are free and open to the public. We encourage members and others to attend and bring friends.

If anyone would like to attend that doesn't drive or would like to form a car pool feel free to contact Roger Robison (Phone:812-331-8018 or Email: hotdog@compuserve.com), who will do the coordinating.

Member, Gene Parks has worked hard at putting this program together. He has arranged to have some of Indiana high school's best to speak to us. Let's show our support for all of Gene's diligence by making every effort to attend. When there is good attendance, it also encourages the officers to continue arranging these get togethers.

### THE FOUNDING OF THE Y.M.C.A.

Since the YMCA (Y) is in no small way involved in the evolution of basketball and is referred to numerous times in this edition of Boxscore, it seemed appropo to give a small history of its inception.

The first YMCA established in the U.S. took place in Boston. The first in Canada was in Montreal, both in 1851. However, the Y's birth took place in England.

On June 6, 1844 twelve young working men in London organized a club, the purpose was for improving the spiritual condition of not only themselves but others who had come to the world's largest city to find work. Their leader, George Williams (1821-1905) had come from a rural area to work in a London dry-goods house.

It should not be surprising to anyone who knows the history of England that such an organization would evolve. At this period of time, in London, there were two worlds. To the west of the Tower of London were the filthy rich. To its east and north of the Thames River spread the slums of Whitechapel where Jack the Ripper once reaped havoc. Adjacent to Whitechapel was the equally notorious docks area of Limehouse. It was here and about that the literally filthy poor existed.

This section is more than likely where most of the young workers initially resided and would until they found their nitch. The 1960 Compton's Encyclopedia states, that the Whitechapel area of today is the center of the clothing industry and a crowded foreign quarter where in the noisy street market, everything new and second hand is sold.

Over a period of a hundred and sixty years, things to some degree have improved. But back in the mid-19th Century, in what was, hypocritically, referred to as "merry old England", conditions for the common man were in most cases, deplorable. Thus, the YMCA emerged.

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### MEMORIAL ROOM

The C. V. Haworth Gymnasium, home of the Kokomo Wildcats, burned to the ground in 1944. Due to World War II, construction of a new gym would not begin until 1947. Two years later, in 1949, the Kokomo Memorial Gymnasium was completed, and dedicated to the servicemen who were killed in the war. One Kokomo booster, Earl Turner, donated \$50,000 in memory of his son, Jack, a Kokomo player and 1942 Indiana All-Star, who lost his life in the war.

Sometime during the Kokomo meeting we will take a tour of this shrine.

**The Human Frog**

by Harley Sheets

**An Enigma**

By the late 1800s many advances in the field of medicine had been made, but several unknowns still remained.

For a teen growing up near the Wabash-Erie Canal, in this era, there was a critical problem. He in all probability had polio(myelitis), also known as infantile paralysis. This remained an enigma to doctors until Dr. Jonas Salk came up with a vaccine in 1954 (Salk, in 1955, received the Congressional Award for this outstanding contribution).

Needless to say, the doctors who had examined the lad, not knowing the source of the problem in these earlier years, realized that if something wasn't done that the boy would most likely become immobile and thus an invalid. Mystified and probably feeling helpless, one the physicians suggested that the boy, in his meandering, try jumping over anything and everything that he might encounter - a log, a hedge row, a fence, a barrel..... The young fellow did just that. And before he stopped jumping he had collected 10 Olympic Gold Medals, a world record that to this day has never been elapsed.

Who was this phenomenon, this super athlete who valiantly overcame his childhood malady to reach such astounding heights in the sports world? *Who also participated in the first known competitive basketball game in Indiana. See page 3, column 1.*

Let John Wakefield, a senior in the Purdue School of Liberal Arts tell you. Following are some of his thoughts which appeared in the Purdue Exponent of March 1, 2002.

**John's Comments**

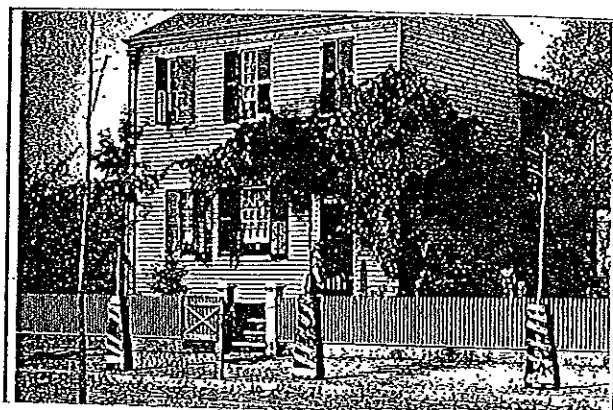
One of the greatest athletes in Purdue's history is virtually unknown. Ray [Clarence "Deke" ] Ewry won 10 gold medals over the course of four Olympic games between 1900 and 1910, thus the first Purdue and Big 10 athlete to participate in the Olympic Games.

Very few know that because nowhere around Purdue's campus is there a monument or plaque honoring him. This is a tragedy!

Currently it is stated that Carl Lewis had won more Olympic gold medals than any other man when he retired with 10 in 1996. This is not true!

He merely duplicated Ewry's feat.

Ray Ewry was born on October 14, 1874 to George and Elizabeth Ewry in Lafayette, Indiana. In 1890 he enrolled in Purdue's electrical engineering program. He later joined the track team and had a fairly impressive career. As a senior was elected captain and led the Boilers to their first championship at the Indiana State Track and Field Meet.



The Ewry residence - southwest corner of 2nd and Alabama

Ewry stood 6-foot-3 and weighed 180 pounds. Not unusual by today's standards, but in the early 1900s Ray was a giant.

After graduating in 1894, he eventually found employment in New York City and soon thereafter became a member of the New York Athletic Club.

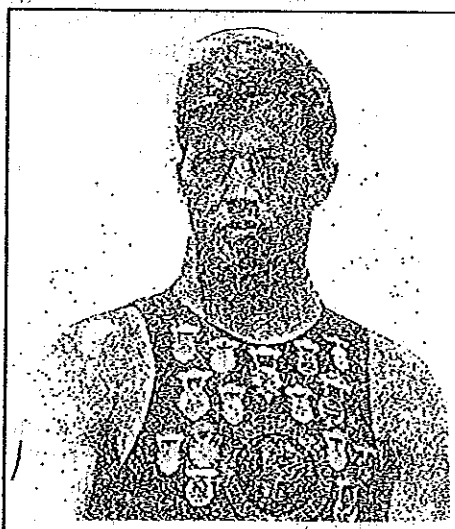
The first modern Olympics was appropriately at Athens, Greece (1896), the second in Paris (1900). It was at the Paris games that Ewry took his first leap into history. Termed the "rubber man" he truly delighted the spectators with his spectacular feats.

Ewry represented the United States at four Olympic events - Paris (1900), the games at the St. Louis World's Fair (1904), Athens again in 1906 and London (1908). Over the course of those four Olympic games he won his medals in the standing long jump, the standing high jump and the triple jump. Some know it better as the hop, skip and jump.

The "rubber man" could jump 11 feet - 5 inches from a standstill. That is unbelievable. Although the event was discontinued in the 1920s, Ewry still holds the world record for the standing long jump. It is doubtful that many people could break that record today.

Most references don't portray Ewry as collecting 10 gold medals because two of his were won at the "phantom games" of 1906 in Athens. Since the 1906 games were not held at the traditional four-year interval, they were not counted. But the 1906 games were Olympic Games, and they hosted more athletes from more countries than any previous one. It is a shame that the International Olympic Committee doesn't count it.

After competing in the 1908 Olympics in London and now referred to as the "Human Frog", Ewry had amassed his 10 medals.



**Ray Ewry's Ledger**

Paris (1900)	
Standing high jump	05' - 4 15/16"
Standing long jump	10' - 6 3/8"
Standing triple jump	34' - 8 1/4"
St. Louis (1904)	
Standing high jump	04' - 10 1/16"
Standing long jump	11' - 04 7/8"
Standing triple jump	34' - 07 3/16"
Athens - unofficial (1906)	
Standing high jump	05' - 1 5/8"
Standing long jump	10' - 10 1/8"
London (1908)	
Standing high jump	05' - 1-13/16"
Standing long Jump	10' - 11-1/16"

Continued on page 6 - see Ewry

## The Evolution of Indiana High School Basketball

by Harley Sheets

Part II: From Springfield to Indiana

### Some Insight And Condemnation

After the Civil War, the "Industrial Revolution" began to modernize our country. Industrial innovators and entrepreneurs abounded with ideas and inventions. In this same era, an innovator in another field came up with a game that used a peach basket and a soccer ball. Later a primitive type basketball and an iron ring. We all know the gentleman's name - Dr. James Naismith.

Let us imagine that someone in 1891 had been endowed with a mystic perception or a connection with an astute fortune-teller. That the individual approached the good doctor with this future prediction; "Men will earn millions of dollars per year playing your game!"

Professor Naismith would probably have scratched behind his ear and with a whimsically incredulous glance, have walked away shaking his head, thinking the person to be the crackpot of all crackpots. After all, this concept that he had strung together was just to give his young proteges a means of toning muscles indoors in the winter; to replace boring calisthenics and the medicine ball.

To illustrate the fact that basketball was not necessarily something that enthralled the populace and was accepted with open arms, I give you an excerpt from one of Indiana University's Yearbooks, the 1911 Arbutus. This was twenty years after the games inception.

Basket-ball is a systematic rough house, played by two teams of five invalids each. Now and then a normal person is permitted to enter a basket-ball battle, but it is always because he is possessed of unusual agility or because there is a scarcity of invalids.

The aim is to get a round spherical mass of leather-encased air into a butterfly net. The unreasonableness of the whole thing is that the butterfly net is without any kind of bottom, and the sphere falls out as soon as it is put in.

Basket-ball, however, has many redeeming features. When a performer slips, there are only nine men and an umpire to step on his face instead of twenty-one men and a referee as in football.

In my hometown the local paper on the front page of the October 22, 1908 edition, published this indictment of the game, which didn't necessarily endure the townfolk to the sport.

During basket ball practice at the Lebanon High School gymnasium, Monday afternoon, Edward Honan, captain of this year's team, had his skull fractured in a collision with another player. It was seen at once that Honan's injury was serious and he was taken to the office of Dr. H. N. Coons.

There an examination revealed the fact that the outer plate of the frontal bone over the arch of the eyes had been fractured, and that pieces of the bone about the size of a quarter had been crowded downward. It is not known whether or not the inner plate is disturbed to any great extent.

The son of Henry P. Sicks also had his nose broken at the high school on Monday in a game [supposedly] less strenuous than football.

With these incidents in mind and with the use of some diligent research by Roger Robison, let's go back to 1891 and survey the twists and turns, circumstances and events that brought the game to Indiana and led to our states version of March Madness - Hoosier Hysteria.

### The Meager Beginning

As previously noted, basketball had a very inauspicious inception. It was something conceived to encourage exercise by making it more enjoyable.

In December of 1891 Dr. Naismith posted a set of 13 game rules on two typed sheets of paper and tacked them to bulletin boards at Springfield College and at the YMCA, nearby.

Although the date is uncertain (before Christmas break at Springfield College, possibly on December 21), the first game - intramural - of basketball was played. There were nine men to a side, because Naismith's class was composed of eighteen students.

Using a soccer ball, the contest was played in the Armory Hill YMCA across the street from the college on the northeast corner of State and Sherman. This site is now occupied by a McDonalds and has a historical marker there.

With no spectators present, one team won 1-0 with W. R. Chase making the only goal, which in this initial contest counted for only one point. Other practices or intramural games

possibly / probably were played from December 24, 1891 - January 2, 1892 as the 18 students in the class dispersed to their different environs for the Christmas holidays.

On January 15, 1892 the rules were printed in the TRIANGLE, the international publication for YMCAs.

The first known public competitive game (not intramural) was between the two Springfield YMCAs - Armory Hill and Central. It ended in a 2-2 tie with 100 fans present. In a rematch on March 15, Armory Hill prevailed 1-0 as 250 spectators watched. Prior to the rematch, a 7 man per team game had been played on March 11. It was an encounter between Naismith's Springfield College secretarial class and the college's P. E. instructors. The students won 5-1. Naismith and Amos Alonzo Stagg played for the instructors.

Naismith also began teaching local Springfield girls the game. Hence, it wasn't long before the ladies were playing club basketball competitively.

Soon thereafter, a YMCA team of gymnasts known as the "Flying Circus" began a tour of exhibitions. Along with them went Naismith's traveling basketball squad. Exhibitions were given in Newport and Providence, Rhode Island and New York's tri-city area of Albany, Troy and Schenectady. Soon thereafter, Herkimer and Troy, New York fielded two of the earlier elite independent teams.

In late March and early April, Geneva College in Pennsylvania begins practicing and the New York Times announces that New York City Ys are participating in basketball, with the first game played on an outdoor court (60' x 150') on Mott Street, near the Bowery in lower Manhattan.

By the school year of 1892-93 other Ys were participating. In addition to those in New York City, basketball was being played in Philadelphia, PA; Rochester, NY; Pine Bluff, AK and Camden, NJ.

### In Indiana

At the Crawfordsville, Indiana YMCA, practice began using baskets composed of iron rings and coffee sacks. Colleges such as Hamline (Minn.), Vanderbilt (Tenn.), Springfield (Mass.) and the University of Toronto in Canada begin playing mostly against YMCA teams.

Continued on page 5 - see Basketball

## PROFILES

**Basil Mawbey** was inducted into the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame (2002). Coached Connersville to its 2nd state championship in 1983 and was coach of Kokomo's runners-up in 1989. He was born in Peru, Indiana and attended high school at Deedsville in the same county. He graduated from Ball State in 1964. Has coached at the following high schools: West Washington (16-26), Delta (26-19), Angola (64-48), Connersville (144-31) Kokomo (262-86) and is currently at Lewis Cass (42-3). Has won 20 sectionals and 10 regionals and due to such an illustrious career his other credentials are just too numerous to mention. If you've never gotten to see him on his weekly TV show during his coaching stint at Kokomo, come see him in person.

**Jim Callane** is the current A.D. at Kokomo High School and will take us on a tour of the memorial room in the Kokomo gym dedicated to a Kokomo basketball player who gave his life in defense of his country. Jim was a member of three Rushville teams coached by Les Ray, that advanced to the "Sweet 16" for three consecutive years (1958-60). He then graduated from Depauw in 1964. He was head coach at Danville, Linton and Kokomo Haworth becoming one of only two coaches to win three consecutive

sectionals (1974-76) at Linton. Jim was born in Indianapolis. He and his wife Jackie have three sons.

**Ken Craig** attended Ball State and Butler with B.S. in 1951 and M.A. in 1956. Has been an assistant A.D. & principal, counselor and Dean of Boys. Some of his favorite basketball players are Ron Hughes, Jim Rayl, "Goose" Ligon and Oscar Robertson. Some of his biggest thrills were becoming acquainted and establishing friendships with Everett Case, Cliff Wells, Bob Collins and Tom Carnegie. Ken will give a short synopsis on the founding of the North Central Conference.

**Jack Colescott** graduated from Gas City in 1948 and Indiana Central in 1952. He and his wife, Marge have three daughters and a son (what a son - Dave, Mr. Basketball, 1976). Jack seems to put baseball right up there with basketball. His favorite sports figures are Lou Gehrig, Willie Mays, Lou Boudreau, Larry Bird, "Magic" Johnson and Oscar Robertson. What about Dave Colescott? Jack's list of accomplishments, foremost of which was his run with Marion to the state runner-up in 1969, are to long for this short resume, but here is a quote from him that pretty much sums up his career. "I have been so fortunate to have worked with young people in the classroom and on the playing field and for forty years have loved every minute of it and have enjoyed many thrills along the way." Come to the meeting and find out about these thrills!

**Carl McNulty** was born in Cass County, graduated from Washington Twp. in 1948 and Purdue in 1952. Carl and wife Fran are the parents of 3 boys and a daughter. Carl was head varsity coach at Rochester, Elwood, LaPorte and Warren Central before ending his career at Kokomo. Although he had a very successful career at Kokomo, in this editor's opinion his biggest accomplishment, was winning a sectional at Elwood, not once but twice - the only sectionals ever won by that school! How did he do it? Lets all come to the meeting and find out. Carl's favorite pastimes are softball and hunting golf balls. His biggest thrills were winning his first sectional and getting the Kokomo Job.

**Brian Williams**, although the youngest of our panel, he has 19 years of coaching experience, and 15 in the classroom. He has only recently become a head coach (Winamac) starting in the 1999-2000 school year. In this short time he has won two consecutive sectionals (2001-02). The last time this was accomplished at Winamac was way back in 1951-52 under Clarence Day. Brian was born in Crawfordsville.

Graduated from there in 1983. Has a Bachelor of Arts from Goshen and a Masters from I.U. Come and let Brian tell you the hard work he put in, to get a head coaching job.

**Cliff Johnson** was born in Kokomo, graduated from Western High School in 1954 and Purdue in 1960. He and his wife Juanita live in sunny California. Being a Purdue grad, it isn't too surprising that he has become good friends with John Wooden. Let's all come to the meeting to hear Cliff expound on his association with this true "Indiana Icon". Cliff after 42 years in higher education, as an administrator, teacher and consultant is now serving as a consultant in developing a college basketball reference book in concert with the NCAA statistics department. He has also E-mailed, to me, many of his thoughts on the improving of the game of basketball. Very insightful and intriguing. Come and let Cliff intrigue you.

====The End====

#### National High School Federation

At the spring meeting in the Indianapolis Athletic Club, Bill Ervin volunteered to contact the National Federation State High School Association (NFSHSA).

In doing so, he and Director John Gillis had a nice conversation and Mr. Gillis presented Bill with a current (2002), 432 page, complementary copy of the organizations National High School Sports Record Book.

Bill then contacted me and suggested that I send some of our newsletters as a thank you. I phoned Mr. Gillis to see if he had received them and to find out how to order the book.

In our conversation I asked John where he was from. His answer was Mitchell, South Dakota. I then exclaimed, "The Corn Palace!" His reply, "Right." I went on to say that it should be the Wheat Palace, that a corn palace should be in Iowa, Illinois or Indiana. I then told him that one of Indiana's true basketball icons, "Piggy" Lambert, was born in Deadwood, SD. This he was not aware of. He then told me that Mitchell High School had won 15 state high school basketball championships in South Dakota's largest classification and that Mike Miller who played for Florida and is now in the NBA is an alumnus, which I was not aware of. Neither of us knew the answer to the corn palace issue, but we both learned something.

For anyone interested in ordering the Record Book, the Federation's toll free number is 1-800-776-3462. The 2002 edition includes statistics only through 2001. The 2003 only through 2002 and so on. Therefore, Jack Butcher will not be included in the Elite 800 Club until the 2003 edition is published.

The NFSHSA is next to the NCAA Hall of Champions in the White River Complex.

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Dues - \$12 for 2 years, \$17 for 3 years. Dues include newsletters, a yearly membership roster and full membership with voting rights when in attendance at regular meetings. All meetings are published within (place-time-date) and prior to each meeting.

Send dues to IHSBHS (c/o Roger Robison), 304 South Ninth Street, Vincennes, IN 47591. Include name, address, telephone number, school and year of graduation. E-mail if you so desire.

Inquiries: All inquiries or notification of error should be directed to Editor, Harley Sheets, 635 South State Road 39, Danville, IN 46122. E-mail: harleysheets@yahoo.com. Phone: 317-745-6788.

## Basketball - Cont. from page 3

A.A. Stagg after six years at Yale and two at Springfield College was hired as the athletic director at the, newly completed, University of Chicago. He staged his first demonstration of basketball on March 5, 1893. Girls began playing at Vassar, Wellesley, Smith and Mount Holly, seventeen days later.

On Friday evening of March 16, 1894 a game using the nine-man format took place with the home team, the Crawfordsville Y, besting the Lafayette Y, 45-21. In this game Ray Ewry (recognize the name) played center for Lafayette. The IHSBHS at this time is assuming that this contest was the first competitive basketball game ever played in Indiana. We say this because, as of yet, no other reference or boxscore of an earlier game has been found. See page 1 of the 1894 Crawfordsville Daily Argus where this game is confirmed.

In Crawfordsville the following school year (1894-95), Wabash College took up intramural basketball, as had Yale. Concurrently, other institutions were playing intercollegiately - the State Aggies & Hamline in Minnesota, Haverford and Temple in Pennsylvania.

In this fifth year of basketball (1895-96), Yale took the game seriously and began play on December 7 (nine-man format). Then on January 25, with the seven man version, dethroned the Brooklyn YMCA before 1200 fans. Brooklyn had claimed the New York State Y titles the previous three years. In April the Harvard, Yale and Stanford girls began intercollegiate play.

Because of the growing interest, and the rowdy game which was overwhelming their gyms, it was in this time frame that the YMCA asked the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) to take charge. By now Dr. Naismith had moved on to Denver, Colorado where he began organizing high school league play.

In year six (1896-97), Wabash college began continuous play and in the process defeated Purdue, 23-16.

In year seven (1897-98), the five-man format becomes mandatory for colleges. Wabash beat the Crawfordsville Y, twice. More colleges began play, including Notre Dame.

Year eight (1898-99) sees the first Indiana high school in action, as Indianapolis High School (later known as Shortridge) losses to the Indianapolis YMCA. Yale (8-1) is #1 in the East. The Fond du Lac National Guard, upon its return from the Spanish-American War is #1 in the West. The first pro league was formed.

Year nine (1899-00) finds Yale taking a western tour, going 4-3. Among their wins was a 33-13 drubbing of the Indy Y, after losing three games at Fond du Lac. This game took place in Tomlinson Hall, located on the northeast corner of Market and Delaware Streets, with the old city market building just to the east. Shortridge goes 5-0 against club teams, Chicago. Englewood defeats Elgin High School in the first known Illinois interscholastic game and Holyoke, Massachusetts High School has their 82 game win streak snapped.

Finally in the tenth year (1900-01), Indiana high schools played their first

interscholastic games. On January 4, 1901 Crawfordsville High routed Danville, Illinois High School, 31-6, then 10 days later beat Shortridge, 29-5. On February 2, Manual High School edged Shortridge, 12-9. Purdue University goes 12-0, with four wins coming at the expense of Lafayette High School. Indiana University starts continuous play at 1-4. At the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, New York in June of 1901. The first national interscholastic tournament was held. Holyoke (MA) High took home the honors. The Buffalo Germans YMCA annexed the AAU crown. On September 6, in the Music Hall of the Exposition, President McKinley was assassinated. He was shot during a reception and died eight days later.

Jumping to year thirteen (1903-04), the third official Olympic games were held in conjunction with the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis. It was here that Ray Ewry won 3 gold medals. The basketball gold was won by, guess who, the Buffalo Germans YMCA. A national collegiate tournament was staged outdoors and won by Hiram College from Ohio. A high school basketball exhibition was also featured.

Year fourteen (1904-05) saw the first sanctioned state high school basketball tournament organized. It took place in Appleton, Wisconsin with Fond du Lac High School the victors. Illinois and Utah followed in 1908.

Then in the 20th year of basketball (1910-11), Montana, Nebraska and Indiana followed suit. Yes Indiana finally had its own state tournament thanks to some enterprising Indiana University students.

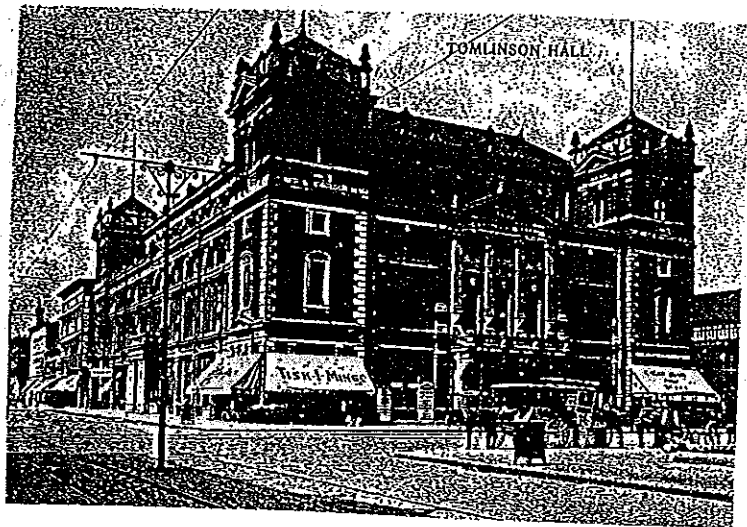
*Editor's note: Due to his dedicated research and documentation of the facts, most of the credit for the preceding article goes to Roger Robison. HBS.*

—The End—

## Correction

In the previous Boxscore, Seth Colclasure from Belmont who set the national record for free throw percentage in 2000-01, was referred to as Scott. This was brought to my attention by a member and very much appreciated. This is what this editor has been preaching. If its not right lets not hesitate in getting it right!

*Editor's note: Next issue we will continue with the year-by-year records of Indiana's winningest high school coaches and the latest list of these coaches according to the IHSBHS.*





## Ewry - Continued from page 2

This man is truly a legend and certainly one of the foremost in a long line of distinguished Purdue graduates. It is time that Purdue hails him for what he was - one of the greatest athletes in American history. In all probability few have ever heard of him. That is not right! Although it's a century overdue, it's time that we show our appreciation and reverence by naming a building after him, erecting a statue of him or at least, putting a lousy plaque somewhere.

**The End Of A Fabulous Career**

This outstanding and unique Adonis continued on winning events at National AAU meets in 1911 and 1912. Then at the age of 40 he began training for the 1914 Olympics to be held in Stockholm, Sweden. Everything had been going well, until a supposed old football injury started causing a shoulder problem (Ewry had played end, one year, on the Purdue football team). When Matt Sheridan, a good friend and former Olympic teammate, heard of it, he approached Ewry with a smile and said, "Ray you're getting to be an old man. Maybe you ought to quit."

Ewry looked at Sheridan and said three words. "Matt, you're right."

This supreme athlete then walked off the field and never competed again.

Ray Ewry passed away on September 29, 1937. He and his monumental achievements have, more or less, died with him. Let's hope that someone heeds John Wakefield's admonitions!

**The End**

Editor's Note: Although I put the above article together, most of the credit goes to three people. I had casually skim by Ewry when I obtained the book entitled "The Big 10" by Kenneth "Tug" Wilson & Jerry Brondfield. Roger Robison later piqued my interest by speaking of the "Human Frog" when he obtained the same book. He then sent information.

Roger and I wanted additional facts so I contacted Arnold Sweet, a professor at Purdue and a postcard buddy of mine. Arnold got what we needed, plus the expose by John Wakefield in the Exponent.

**Honor Roll**

Dale White, a 1978 graduate of Covington High School and son of IHS-BHS members Don and Ruth White has been nominated for consideration to the 2003 Hall of Fame Silver Anniversary Team. More in subsequent newsletters.

**Amos Alonzo Stagg  
(Father Of Big Ten Basketball)**

By

Roger Robison

In 1959 the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts selected fifteen individuals and two teams to honor in their first class of inductees. The two teams were (a) the first team of young men from Springfield College who played the first game for James Naismith at the Springfield YMCA in December of 1891 and (b) the original New York Celtics professional team. One of the 15 individuals was Amos Alonzo Stagg.

Stagg (1862-1965) graduated from Exeter (MA) Academy in 1884, Yale 1890 and Springfield (MA) College in 1892. Was a star pitcher and All-American end for the Eli. Played in the first public basketball game on 3/11/1892.

After graduation from Springfield, Stagg became the first athletic director of the newly constructed University of Chicago.

Excerpts from a letter by Stagg to the Naismith Hall of Fame on June 3, 1959 pretty much sums up his career.

Dr. Gulick [one of the first 15 inductees] had sent me on a lecture tour with stereopticon slides, entitled 'The Modern Athlete', among the YMCAs of the country, going as far as Cornell College in Iowa. As a result I was away when Jim [Naismith] invented basketball. It was on my return, in the winter of 1892, noticing that the balls bounced out of the basket that I suggested to Jim that he use \*peach baskets.

When I went to the University of Chicago I naturally was interested in building up the playing of basketball. I had both men and women at once learning to play the game. We gave instruction in basketball to all men and women in our gym classes and teams were organized from the halls of the campus for intramural competition. It was at this time that I was fortunate to find my future wife, Stella Robertson, captain of the Kelly team. We were married in September of 1894. The university varsity team was organized that same year and several games with local teams were played, mainly with YMCA and club teams. In 1896 Chicago played its first intercollegiate game[s], a home and home series, with the University of Iowa.

Chicago won the conference in 1907, 1908, 1909 and 1910. In 1908 Chicago won the national title after a home and home series with Penn. Chicago [then] made basketball a major sport and members received a C [letter] on the same level as football, baseball, track, etc. To the best of my knowledge, Chicago was the first to rank basketball as a major sport and award a major letter.

Another promotion for basketball came in 1917 when I organized the University of Chicago National Interscholastic Basketball Tournament which, with exception of the war years of 1918 and 1919, continued through 1930. In 1931 Dr. Hutchins asked me to discontinue it at the request of the newly formed National High School Association. This tournament did much to improve and standardize the rules and their interpretation.

\*Staggs stating that it was he who suggested that Naismith use peach baskets does not align with what has always been written about how peach baskets initially came to be used. It's always been stated that two peach baskets were all that the custodian could find at the time. More research should be done to clarify this issue.

**The End****New Members**

William Frohlinger

Gary Johnson-Frankfort '61

Dale Lawrence-So. Central (LaPorte Co.) '74

Elton Ridley-University of Chicago H. S. '45

Gary McGrady-Hillsboro

Jerry Memmering-Vincennes '69

Les Ray-Sullivan '43

Michael Stanton-Ft. Wayne Wayne '80

**New Book and Astute Insights**

New member Dale Lawrence has published a book entitled "Hoosier Hysteria Road Book". It is highly recommended by John Ockomon.

Also, on HickoryHusker.com, under Hoosier Hysteria Author Proposes New Tournament Ideas, one can find some very interesting proposals by Dale on changing our state tournament format.

Dale can be reached at 317-356-3994. Email: dburrl@email.com.

**"Once There Were Giants"**

Scott Johnson, Assistant Executive Director of the Illinois High School Association, and his wife Julie, sent to this editor a complimentary copy of their latest literary endeavor. The above titled book chronicles the small high school of Hebron (enrollment: 99). Hebron is the Illinois version of Indiana's Milan. Boxscore partially told the story of Hebron in the Spring 2001 edition (page 4, column 2).

This long overdue book about the 1952 Hebron Green Giants is an outstanding tome about basketball in the "Golden Years" of high school basketball in the years before consolidation in Illinois and Indiana.

This is a book that deserves a better review than space permits at this time. Look for more next issue.

In the meantime if you would like to reach Scott, here's how:

Fax 309-663-7479

Phone: 309-663-6377

www.ihsa.org/hebron