

B O X S C O R E

A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

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EDITORIAL POLICY

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MEMBERSHIP NOTES

The total IHSBHS membership number continues to rise, in spite of the grim reaper's toll on many of its members this past year. New arrivals to the Society since the first of the year are hereby welcomed. They are as follows: Bruce Babcock, Bloomington, IL; Roy Thomas, Gary; Mikel Ropp, Elkhart; Elmer Reynolds, Martinsville; Jay McGill, Martinsville; Eron Smith, Cincinnati, OH; Coach Pete Smith, Noblesville; Kyle Good, Lynn; Phil Owens, Knox; Dr. Robert Cantrell, Schererville; Jay Cunningham, Colorado Springs, CO; Jack Peckinpugh, Muncie. We look forward to hearing

from any of you who might have a story to submit or would simply like to talk with us.

THE 1952 INDIANA HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STARS

by

Cliff Johnson, *Boxscore* Editor

The late 1940s and early '50s are generally considered to be the dawn of Indiana Basketball's "Golden Age." The 1951-52 season was wholly representative of that period. It was one of the most exciting seasons that Hoosier high school basketball fans had yet enjoyed. That newly-created living

room appliance called the "television set" was being purchased and installed in the homes of hundreds of thousands of Indiana families. One of the main motivators to buy one was the opportunity to view at home the IHSAA tournament games being televised up and down the state in the early spring of 1952. Indianapolis' Channel 6 WIRE, with Tom Carnegie handling the play-by-play accounts all the way into the state finals, broadcasted most tournament games played in Indianapolis, including the final three contests at Butler Fieldhouse. The finals drew an on-site capacity crowd (as



★ 1952 ★

Front Row: Maurice Lorenz, Madison; Jim Barley, Marion; Joe Sexson, Indianapolis Tech; Cal Grosscup, Auburn; Jim McLaughlin, New Albany.
Back Row: Coach Angus Nicoson; Dean Rainbolt, Bloomington; Vic Molodet, East Chicago Washington, Danny Thornburg, Muncie Central; Junior Phipps, Kokomo; Fritz Franz, Lafayette; and Trainer Jim Morris.

usual) that exceeded 15,000. Muncie was ultimately crowned as the state champion, but it had to battle its way earlier through some tight games, including a home court 62-60 semi-finals squeaker against NCC champ and the #1 ranked team in the state, the Kokomo Wildkats. Then in the finals, the Bearcats narrowly edged out the New Albany Bulldogs, 68-67, in a hotly contested afternoon thriller. The Golden Age of Indiana Basketball was in full swing.

At the conclusion of the season, a ten-player All-Star team was again selected by the Indiana sportswriters as had been the on-going practice since 1939 except for the WW II years 1943 and 1944. Joe Sexson from Indianapolis Tech was chosen as Mr. Basketball for 1952. This team of ten seniors, as always, was expected to play against a similar contingent of All-Stars from Kentucky in June, once all high school graduation ceremonies had been concluded in both states. The Indiana boys this year had their hands full disposing of a highly talented and tall Kentucky squad led by 6-5 Jerry Bird, 6-4 Charley Harrison, 6-8 Phil Grawmeyer, 6-4 Bill Bibb, 6-0 backcourt ace Phil Rollins, and sharpshooter 5-11 Linville Puckett. The Hoosiers prevailed in an overtime game, 86-82, on a brace of last-minute field goals by Morrie Lorenz from the Madison Cubs. He paced the Indiana team, with 25 points. Sexson finished next with 12. Rollins and Puckett led the Kentucky squad in scoring with 28 and 17 points, respectively. The team coaches were Ed Diddle for Kentucky and Angus Nicoson for Indiana. Attendance at the game was 9,372.

The result might have been much different had two top Kentucky All-Star players not been absent for this contest. One was a 6-3 hardwood magician and hook shot artist named Charles "Doodle" Floyd, the other was 6-0 high school All-American selection Howie Crittenden. Both had played just a few days earlier in a North vs. South All-Star game. Nevertheless, this was the 7th consecutive win for the Indiana All-Stars against their Kentucky counterparts.

DR. ROBERT WYLIE OBITUARY

Oct. 24, 1939 – Feb. 27, 2015



Dr. Robert Reed Wylie

Dr. Robert Reed Wylie, 75, longtime IHSBHS member and resident of Bloomington, Indiana, died Friday, February 27, 2015. He was born October, 24, 1939 in Bloomington, Indiana to the late Dr. Charles & Mary Frances Wylie. He graduated from University High School in 1957, Indiana University in 1961, and the IU Medical Center in 1965. He served his country as a Captain in the Medical Corp of the US Army from 1966-68 in Viet Nam at the 93rd evacuation hospital and also as a battalion surgeon with the 1st Infantry Division, during his military career he earned the Bronze Star. Dr. Wylie had his own Family Practice and was the Director of the Health & Wellness Rehabilitation Facility in Hobart, IN. Later, he maintained a Family Practice in Bloomington, IN and then served as Medical Director of GM Power Train Division in Bedford, IN. In addition to his extensive medical career he reviewed medical malpractice cases for various law firms and instructed IU medical students Bloomington campus.

Dr. Wylie was a member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity (FIJI), Rotary Club International, belonged to the American Legion Post #18 in Bloomington, IN, a member of the Indiana University Hoosier Hundred,

and served as the High School Athletic Team Physician for Hobart high school and other schools in Northwest Indiana. He was the recipient of numerous civic and community awards including, the Indiana I.A.A.A. Distinguished Service Award, the State Medical Association Commission on Sports Medicine Team Physician of the Year award, and was inaugurated into the Hobart High School Athletic Hall of Fame in 2013.

PRE-CLASS SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT ATTENDANCE

by

Doug Bradley

As General Motors goes, so goes the nation. That was never more true anywhere than in Anderson at 13th and Lincoln streets—where the basketball arena known as the Wigwam is located.

Good GM shop wages paid for hundreds of thousands of Anderson Sectional tickets from 1962 until a group of small school principals pushed for Indiana to have a third-rate tournament – behind Illinois and Kentucky – after 1997. Now that GM is gone, it's no surprise that only a little salt, pepper, and plastic surgery is keeping the wrecking ball away from the Wigwam. *(Editor's note: The current owners of the Wigwam are Black & White Investments LLC and Pinebrook Properties, owned by an Indianapolis plastic surgeon.)*

In its infancy, a sold-out Wigwam couldn't sell more sectional tickets than a nearly full Butler Fieldhouse. But by the time Butler Fieldhouse was re-named Hinkle Fieldhouse and the IHSAA limited sectionals to no more than eight schools, interest and ticket sales began to wane in Indianapolis.

The Wigwam replaced Hinkle as the top sectional ticket seller by the mid-1970s. Anderson was No. 1 in sectional attendance until the third year after the IHSAA had limited sectionals to no more than six schools, in 1992. When sectionals were no longer sold out at Anderson or at perennial No.2 North Side Gym in Elkhart, Memorial Gym in Huntingburg became the attendance leader in 1994, 1995, and 1997.

A modified form of the old AP and UPI polls can show the areas where

interest and support for the IHSAA tournament were at their highest during the final sixteen years (1982-1997) of the single-class era. The following attendance ranking is based upon actual numbers recorded at the sectional tournaments, but presented in a different format. First place in highest sectional attendance for each year was given 15 points, second place given 14 points, etc., etc., down to a single point for 15th place in the poll. (First-place finishes are shown in parentheses):

1. Anderson (13)	237
2. Elkhart	211
3. Southridge (3)	178
4. Washington	163
5. Marion	142
6. Evansville	137
7. Seymour	97
8. New Castle	88
9. Kokomo	76
10. Terre Haute	65

Others in the top rankings were: Muncie 53; Frankfort 49; Lafayette 47; Richmond 37; Carmel/Noblesville 36; Warsaw 35; Boonville, South Bend 33; New Albany 26; Goshen 23; Greensburg 21; Huntington North 18; Indpls Tech/Lawrence North 17; Bedford-NL 14; Gary West 13; South Adams 10; East Noble, Greenwood 9; Madison, Vincennes 8; Martinsville 6; Michigan City 5; Connersville, Shelbyville 4; North Montgomery 3; Lebanon, Paoli 2; and Logansport 1.

Comments: Anderson, as noted, was first in attendance for 13 of the 16 years and second each of the other 3 years. The school in 38th place with a single point, Logansport, finished 15th in attendance just one time during the 16-year period. Anderson, Elkhart, Southridge and Washington were the only sites in the top 15 of attendance for each of these final 16 years that the single-class state tournament was conducted.

JOHN WOODEN'S EARLIER YEARS: SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

by

Curtis H. Tomak
Introduction

This article is about John Wooden, the famous basketball coach who was

born and raised in Indiana. I have been researching his Indiana years, and this article is based upon that research.

My research has focused upon John Wooden's Indiana years and his family history because I felt that those topics could and should be addressed more completely and more accurately than they had been. The research emphasized the examination of a wide variety of records which revealed much new information, produced interesting discoveries, and identified significant differences between what was found in the records and what is contained in previous accounts of John Wooden's earlier years, including his own books.

One particularly significant discovery is that the Wooden family lived in Martinsville, Indiana, from 1907 to 1914, prior to their later move to Martinsville in 1925. In addition, although John claimed he had been born at the little village of Hall, Indiana, the research produced strong evidence that John, his brother Maurice, and their two sisters were born in Martinsville during that initial period of residence, and the research also located the house in which the Wooden family lived during that time and in which I believe those children were born. Although John states that his parents lost their farm at Centerton, Indiana, to the bank and moved to Martinsville in 1925, real estate records show that they sold the farm to a relative in 1930, five years after they had moved back to Martinsville. Two Martinsville houses in which John Wooden lived during high school have been identified, and it was found that aspects of his high school basketball career have been exaggerated. The research also found that John's claim that he majored in English at Purdue and his assertion that he and his wife, Nellie, spent their first week of marriage apart are incorrect.

The above mentioned inaccuracies in the long-held standard account of Wooden's life plus other ones that are known raise the following question: Why are there numerous inaccuracies (and certain omissions) in John Wooden's accounts of his earlier years and significant differences between his accounts and what was found in the

records? Enough inaccuracies have been identified to make one wonder how many more exist. Different inaccuracies could be for different reasons, and we may never know the reason for each of them. However, a noticeable result of the inaccuracies is that they do make the long-held standard account of John Wooden's earlier years a more interesting and more attention-getting story than the accurate story.

Setting the Record Straight

An appropriate way to begin is by briefly introducing John Wooden. John Robert Wooden was born in Morgan County, Indiana, in 1910. He was an All-State basketball player at Martinsville High School, graduating in 1928, and was an All-American basketball player at Purdue University, graduating in 1932. He coached at high schools in Kentucky and Indiana from 1932 to 1946, at Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University) in Terre Haute from 1946 to 1948, and at UCLA from 1948 until retiring in 1975. While at UCLA, Wooden's teams won ten NCAA national basketball championships in a twelve-year period from 1964 to 1975. He is a member of various halls of fame, both as a player and as a coach, and is widely regarded as the greatest basketball coach of all time. He has received a multitude of honors and awards; for example, in 2009 *Sporting News Magazine* voted him the greatest coach of all time, regardless of the sport, and in 2003 he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, our nation's highest civilian award. He has also been widely recognized for his character, principles, philosophy of life, and teaching. John Wooden passed away in 2010 at the age of ninety-nine.

Many books and articles have been written about John Wooden, and he has authored a number of books about his life, beliefs, and approach to life. His two main autobiographical books are *They Call Me Coach* (written with Jack Tobin), published in 1972 and again in 1988, and *My Personal Best* (with Steve Jamison), published in 2004.

The present article provides a new account of John Wooden's earlier years and family history, basically from the

time of his parents' marriage to the beginning of his coaching career. This is not the usual account of John Wooden's life that has been around for many years because this new account includes a lot of recently discovered information and differs in significant ways from the long-held standard account of Wooden's earlier years. Before presenting the new account, it is important to talk about the research that provided the evidence.

I have been seriously researching John Wooden and his family history since 2010. Why would I research John Wooden, especially since he has been written about so much? To start with, he is a famous, accomplished, and interesting person who is from Morgan County, and I and my two co-workers on this project, Joanne Stuttgen and Norma Tomak, are also Morgan County people. In addition, however, I had read and heard numerous accounts of his life and observed that they frequently contain a noticeable amount of unsubstantiated, inconsistent, and inaccurate information. Also, they generally seemed to be the same stories over and over, and we wondered if there was something new and interesting that could be found to add to the John Wooden story.

Those kinds of things prompted more research to try to find out the "real story," especially in regard to his life in Indiana. Researching his Indiana years is something that we were in a position to do since we live in Martinsville; have access to pertinent records, information, and individuals; and have a background in historical research.

Research methodology is always important, but, especially when dealing with someone of the status of John Wooden, the researcher needs to be sure that people know that the research is sound and that the results are accurate and based upon good evidence. This is even more the case since in a number of instances the results of my research differ with what John Wooden said about his life.

Goals of the research were to determine what was correct and what was incorrect, to discover new information, to provide an accurate

chronological account of Wooden's earlier years (regardless of what the story turned out to be), to base that account upon documented evidence, and to reference our sources of information so that anybody could go to those sources and check it out for themselves. Refer to the closing paragraphs of this article for information pertaining to where specific sources documenting the research can be found.

Two general sources of information were available to me: people and documents. In regard to people, who could I interview? I could not interview Wooden. He passed away in 2010 not long after I started my research. The kind of information I wanted could not be obtained from people such as coaches and players. At the late date of 2010 there were not many people left who could provide relevant information or leads pertaining to the teens, 1920s, or 1930s. Nevertheless, personal interviews were included in the research, and fortunately I was able to locate some people who provided relevant information.

But, regardless of the amount of information that I received through interviews, I wanted to use document research as a primary source of information and to do it in a way that, to our knowledge, nobody else had done in regard to John Wooden. My plan was to conduct the research by emphasizing the use of a wide variety of written records and, hopefully, to be able to base each of my statements and conclusions upon more than one source. I would make extensive use of the records to find new information, to check what had previously been written about Wooden, and to check information obtained by personal interview.

By researching many kinds of written records pertaining to John Wooden and his family, I discovered much new information and a surprising number of significant differences between what is in the records and what is in previous accounts of his earlier years, including his own books. Among the records that I used are birth, death, marriage, school, church, fraternal organization, real estate, court, tax, census, military, and Social Security records. Other sources

include family histories, obituaries, wills, city and county directories, telephone directories, books, articles, postcards, photographs, and newspapers.

The old newspapers are very interesting and extremely useful. They contain a lot of local information and social items that are not found in today's newspapers. This information often occurs as little items or blurbs which are scattered throughout the paper or are found in columns devoted to particular towns or communities besides Martinsville; for example, Monrovia, Centerton, and Hall, and even very small communities such as High Rock, Lippitt, and many others.

Those little items tell such things as where people lived, moved, and worked; who they visited; who was sick, had a party, took a vacation, or bought a new car; who got a new puppy; and many other things. Examples will be provided as we go through the story.

The following narrative is a new account of John Wooden's earlier years, and it is important to emphasize that practically all of the information presented is new information. The focus is on instances where the results of my research differ from the accepted standard stories about John Wooden, including stories given in his own books. All of those instances deserve examination because they involve meaningful episodes or parts of Wooden's life. They are stories that he places emphasis or importance on, and they have a prominent place in accounts of his life. However, they are stories that evidently did not happen the way he and others said they did.

An appropriate place to begin the present account is with John Wooden's parents, Joshua Hugh Wooden (1882-1950) and Roxie Anna Wooden (1887-1959). Hugh, as he was usually called, grew up on a farm near the little village of Hall in Morgan County. His father, Robert, was a farmer and is reported to have taught school for a number of years.

Roxie grew up on a farm just outside the little town of Centerton in Morgan County. Her father, John Rothrock, was a farmer and a businessman and became well-off.

According to marriage records and newspaper accounts, Hugh and Roxie were married at her parents' home at Centerton on April 19, 1905. During their forty-five-year marriage, they had four sons (Maurice, John, Daniel, and William) and two daughters (Harriett Cordelia and an unnamed daughter who died at birth).

After their marriage in 1905, Hugh and Roxie lived at or near Hall until they moved to Martinsville in 1907. This is documented by the following set of informative little items from Martinsville newspapers, items which also specify where the Woodens lived in Martinsville. As we will see, their move to Martinsville in 1907 and remaining there until 1914 is significant to the John Wooden story, in particular to the question of where John Wooden was born.

The first newspaper item of the set is dated November 13, 1905, and reports that Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden of Hall, who have been living at the home of his parents since their marriage several months ago, were in Martinsville today buying furniture for their own home "in which they are expecting to go to housekeeping this week."

An item for December 7, 1906, states that Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden, east of Hall, were in Martinsville today "assisting Santa Claus in Christmas purchases."

A newspaper for June 20, 1907, states that Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden have moved to Martinsville from Hall and that they will live in the cottage at 204 North Wayne Street.

And lastly, an item for October 28, 1907, informs us that "Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden are improving their residence property on North Jefferson street by the addition of a front porch."

So, by October 1907, the Woodens were living in a house on North Jefferson Street in Martinsville. The following month Hugh and Roxie's firstborn child, Maurice, arrived, and a birth announcement for him in a Martinsville newspaper pinpoints the Woodens' address as 460 North Jefferson Street. According to real estate records, the house was owned by Roxie's father.

After the Woodens moved to Martinsville in 1907, they lived there until 1914, as documented by many records. For example, Hugh was a member of the Knights of Pythias, and their records give his address in 1909 as Martinsville. The 1910 directory of the First Christian Church of Martinsville gives Hugh and Roxie's address as 460 North Jefferson Street, as does the 1910 federal census. Numerous newspaper items also document that the Woodens lived in Martinsville from 1907 to 1914. For example, an obituary for Hugh's father in September 1913 mentions that Hugh lives on North Jefferson Street, and an August 1914 item states that Hugh Wooden and family of Martinsville visited his stepmother near Hall.

The standard story has been that the Woodens did not live in Martinsville until 1925 when they moved there from their farm at Centerton. However, as documented above and further documented below, we now know that they had previously lived in Martinsville from 1907 to 1914. This is an important discovery, and, as far as I know, it has not been mentioned in any of John Wooden's books and had not been reported by anyone else.

Records show that John Wooden was born on Friday, October 14, 1910, and that the family was living on North Jefferson Street in Martinsville at that time. The discovery that the Woodens were living in Martinsville when John was born is significant because the standard story has been that John was born at the village of Hall. However, despite a diligent search, no item has been found in any newspaper or other record that stated or even suggested that John or any of the Wooden children were born at Hall. In the early 1900s, Morgan County births were not always officially recorded, and no birth certificate or other official record of John's birth has been located. However, there are other relevant documents relating to his birth that are available.

In his book *They Call Me Coach*, John states: "I was born in a little place called Hall where my father worked as a tenant farmer. . . ." By this, John is not only saying that he was born at Hall but

is also indicating that the family was living at Hall when he was born. Interestingly, however, the information on a birth announcement postcard shown in the preface of John's book *My Personal Best* provides contrary information. It states that the family was living at Martinsville when John was born and, therefore, suggests the possibility that his birthplace is actually Martinsville. (See Fig. 1)

Two other birth announcement postcards are known. Those cards support a Martinsville birthplace since they were postmarked at Martinsville at 8:30 a.m. on the day after John was born, were written by his father, and one of the cards was sent to Hugh's parents at Hall. On the card sent to Hall, Hugh asks his parents to come down soon and says that all are doing fine so far, which implies that Hugh and his family are in Martinsville.

Additional evidence for a Martinsville birthplace is furnished by a birth announcement in a 1910 Martinsville newspaper on the day of John's birth: "Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden, North Jefferson street, a son - John Robert." That newspaper item tells us that the Woodens were living in Martinsville in 1910 when John was born, and it does not mention anything about Hall.

If John had been born at Hall, considering all of the miscellaneous tidbits of information that appeared in Martinsville newspapers of the time, it would probably have been mentioned, especially since Martinsville newspapers regularly contained news from other towns and communities, including Hall. Moreover, since those little news items routinely reported ordinary visits and trips that people made, one would think that, if John had been born at Hall, the newspaper would have mentioned that his mother was away from her home at Martinsville and was at Hall when he was born.

In addition to the foregoing evidence for a Martinsville birthplace, significant documents exist that actually state that John Wooden's birthplace is Martinsville. Among them are early school enumeration records, John's 1932 marriage application, his 1941

Social Security application, and his World War II military records. Martinsville is listed as his birthplace on all of those documents.

birthplace and the lack of evidence for Hall, I am not sure why John Wooden said in his books that he was born in Hall. (See Fig. 2)

old Harriett Cordelia passed away. She was buried at Centerton Cemetery, but her parents could not attend her burial because they were quarantined at her grandparents' house. Just three months later, in April, Hugh and Roxie's newborn daughter died at birth. She was never given a name and within a day was buried alongside Harriett Cordelia at Centerton.

For whatever their reasons, the Woodens left Martinsville and moved to Hall in September 1914, as documented in newspapers. John has stated that his father worked there as a tenant farmer.

A year later, in September 1915, the Woodens moved about five miles to the small town of Monrovia in Morgan County to a location whose current address is 15 East Main Street, according to newspaper items and real estate records. An obituary for Hugh Wooden states that he had been a mail carrier at Monrovia, and John writes that at Monrovia his dad also worked a small farm.

Roxie's father passed away in January 1917. My research of real estate records, her father's will, and court documents, shows that Roxie inherited three properties: the house at 460 North Jefferson Street in Martinsville where she and Hugh had lived from 1907 to 1914, a town lot in Centerton in Morgan County, and a fifty-eight-acre farm with house at Centerton. According to newspapers, the Woodens moved from Monrovia to the farm at Centerton in early March 1917. (See Fig. 3)

They lived on the farm from 1917 until 1925, and during that time, when John was nine years old, something almost happened that could have radically changed John Wooden's life and basketball history. (See Fig. 4)

While I was researching old Martinsville newspapers, I discovered the following interesting advertisement dated September 5, 1919, stating that Hugh Wooden was having an auction that month: "As we have decided to quit farming and move to Florida, this fall, we will offer for Sale at Public Auction, on the Hugh Wooden Farm... SEPT. 18, 1919...All Our Personal Property." Listed property included farm animals, farm equipment, crops,

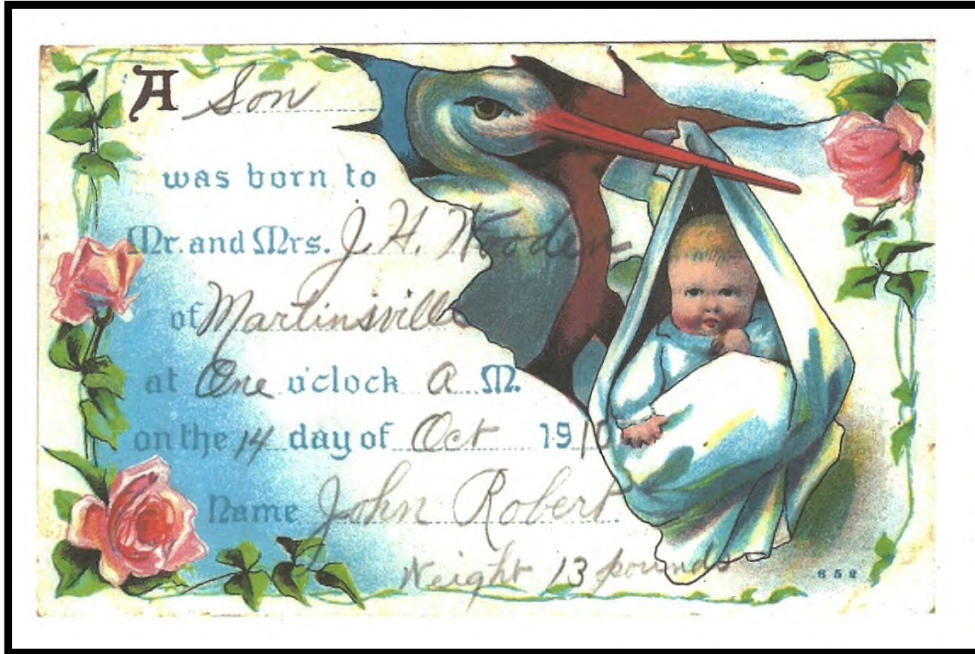


Fig. 1 Birth Announcement: Postcard announcing John Wooden's birth, mailed October 15, 1910. (Courtesy of Fred Hawkins)

The above mentioned school enumeration records deserve some discussion. Each year in each township of the county, an enumerator, similar to a census taker, interviewed the parents of school-aged children in order to obtain information about those children. The requested information included place of birth. Birthplace is variously given in the enumeration records as county, township, town, or community. The Morgan County enumeration records that list John Wooden are for the years 1916-1924, and in no case do those records give Hall, the township in which Hall is located, or the adjacent township where Hugh's parents lived near Hall as the birthplace for John. If John had been born at Hall, one would think that his parents would have mentioned it to the enumerators.

In conclusion, since there was no hospital at Martinsville at the time of John's birth and it was customary for children to be born at home in 1910, the evidence indicates that John was born in the house at 460 North Jefferson Street in Martinsville. In view of all of the documentation supporting a Martinsville

Researching records for the period 1907-1914 also provided information about the kinds of work John's father was doing during that time. Records of the Knights of Pythias for 1909 state that Hugh was a laborer. The federal census for 1910 reports that he was a butter-maker at a creamery. An October 1910 newspaper item states that Hugh had just become a clerk at Martinsville's Hill-Sadler grocery; another item in February 1911 relates that he was taking orders for manure spreaders; and newspapers for May and July 1912 indicate that he was installing lightning rods.

1913 was a bad year for Hugh and Roxie Wooden. Among the unfortunate things that happened was the tragic loss of both of their daughters. John mentions their deaths in his books, but, by researching newspapers, I was able to add to the story, as follows.

In early January 1913, the Woodens made a holiday visit to the home of Hugh's father and stepmother near Hall. While there, the children came down with diphtheria. Maurice and John recovered, but, on January 5, three-year-

and “Other articles too numerous to mention.” However, two months later, the newspaper for November 7, 1919, states: “Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Wooden and family have given up their trip to Florida on account of recent ill health of Mrs. Wooden.” So, they did not go.



Fig. 2 460 N. Jefferson St. Photo, 2010: Photograph taken in 2010 of the house at 460 North Jefferson Street in Martinsville where the Woodens lived from 1907 to 1914. The evidence indicates that this is where John Wooden was born. (Photo by Curtis Tomak, with permission)

But, what if they had gone to Florida and stayed? John’s career most likely would not have been in basketball, and it is unlikely that John would have become acquainted with Nellie Riley, his future Martinsville girlfriend who became his wife and who was so instrumental in his life and career.



Fig. 3 Centerton House: Recent photograph of the Centerton farmhouse where the Woodens lived from 1917 to 1925. (Courtesy of Elmer Reynolds)

The Woodens not only stayed on the farm but real estate records show that the Woodens increased the size of their farm to about eighty-three acres by purchasing nearly twenty-five acres

from Roxie’s brother in 1922. Their farmhouse was essentially a four-room structure without a front porch and differed from the remodeled house that is pictured in books about John Wooden. This is the farm that is prominent in narratives about John’s boyhood. His strong affection for it is well expressed in his book *My Personal Best*: “For my brothers and me, growing up on that little farm in Centerton was almost perfect.”

Centerton in 1924 or 1925. In his book *They Call Me Coach*, John says that things were not going well, there was a mortgage on the farm, his dad could not repay a loan, and that they lost the farm and moved into Martinsville in 1925. In his book *My Personal Best*, John states: “The end came suddenly . . . and the bank took the farm.”

However, the farm does not appear to have been lost or taken by the bank. Although the Woodens left the farm in



Fig. 4 Hugh Wooden Family: The Wooden family, ca. 1918. Left to Right: Hugh, Daniel, Maurice, John, and Roxie. (Courtesy of Mildred Swisher)

Maurice and John graduated from the eighth grade at Centerton, Maurice in 1921 and John in 1924. In those days, graduating from the eighth grade was a formal event and involved passing examinations in about ten subjects. By researching township trustee records, I found that both Maurice and John did well on those examinations. Maurice’s overall average was 90. John’s overall average was 93, with a high score of 96 in music and low scores of 91 in writing and in U.S. history.

After graduating from the eighth grade and while living at Centerton, Maurice and John commuted by interurban train to Martinsville High School. However, it would not be long before the commutes and Centerton farm life ended. John’s books indicate that the family stopped farming at

1925 and moved back to Martinsville, real estate records show that they still owned the farm five years after they had moved back to Martinsville and then, in November 1930, sold the farm to Roxie’s nephew Roy Rothrock and his wife for \$7,500. In addition, the Rothrocks assumed the Woodens’ mortgage on the property. Also, it seems likely that the Woodens received some income from the farm by renting it out during the period 1925 to 1930 because newspaper items identify families who were occupying the Woodens’ farmhouse in 1925, 1926, and 1928.

John Wooden’s story about his dad losing the farm is a good place to pause and say something about his feelings for his father and about the purpose of some of John’s stories.

John Wooden idolized his father and includes much about his dad in his books. John thought that his father was incredibly wise, the best man he ever knew, and that his father was essentially responsible for the kind of person John became. John was a kid who listened to his dad and internalized what his dad said and did. His father pervaded his life, and the way the relationship is portrayed brings to mind that of master and disciple.

Not all of John Wooden's stories are stories merely to relate things that happened during his life. He thought of himself foremost as a teacher, and he used stories that are based upon his life to make a point or to teach a lesson. The farm story is used that way, and his books provide the following example. When John was a senior in high school, Martinsville lost the state championship game on a very odd play at the end of the game. His teammates were upset, crying, and taking it hard. But John approached it differently, practicing what his father taught, which is to be prepared and do your best and derive satisfaction from having done that. John felt that he had prepared, done his best, and that no one could ask for more, and he responded to the painful and disappointing experience by following the example set by his father. John says that he could not cry or complain about losing the basketball game since his dad had not cried or complained when he lost the farm to the bank. However, as we have just seen, the farm story did not happen the way John said it did. His dad did not lose the farm.

John was just starting his sophomore year in high school when the Woodens moved back to Martinsville in 1925, and it is of interest to know where they lived during John's remaining high school years.

Some people have proposed that John lived at 159 South Jefferson Street during high school. However, that is not the correct location because records show that the Woodens did not move there until at least seven years after John had graduated from high school. However, by utilizing several kinds of records, I was able to determine where he did live in Martinsville during high

school.

Based upon Maurice Wooden's records at Franklin College, real estate records, and newspaper accounts, the Woodens moved during the first week of September 1925 from the Centerton farm to a house in Martinsville whose address at the time was 410 East Pike Street. The large, two-story, brick house at that address was the first of two Martinsville houses in which John Wooden lived during high school, and it was quite a change from the Woodens' small and quite modest Centerton farmhouse. (See Fig. 5)



Fig. 5 410 East Pike St. Photo, 2010: Photograph taken in 2010 of the house at 410 East Pike Street in Martinsville to which the Woodens moved from their Centerton farm in 1925. They lived at the Pike Street house until 1927. (Photo by Curtis Tomak, with permission)

The Woodens lived at the Pike Street house until March 1927 when they moved to 165 West Washington Street, living there from 1927 to 1930, as evidenced by a newspaper item, real estate records, church documents, the 1929 city directory, and the 1930 federal census. Since John Wooden graduated from high school in 1928, the Washington Street house was the second of two Martinsville houses in which he lived during high school.

The Wooden family's move to West Washington Street in March 1927 occurred right around the time that John and his teammates were playing in the

state high school basketball tournament. John was a junior that year, and he was one of the stars of the team. Martinsville won the 1927 state championship by defeating Muncie. Martinsville had been runner-up in 1926 and would be runner-up again in 1928. (See Fig. 6)

John Wooden was a great high school basketball player, but often his achievements and status have been overstated. The standard story has been that he led the team to the state finals his sophomore (1926), junior (1927), and senior (1928) years and that he was an

All-State basketball player those three years. That is another incorrect John Wooden story that is often repeated. Based on game accounts, All-State lists, related basketball items in newspapers, and high school yearbooks, Wooden was not the team leader for three years, nor was he All-State in each of those three years. He was not a star or the best player on the team every year he was on the team.

John was on the reserve team his freshman year. He was a varsity substitute his sophomore year, and I have found no evidence that he was a team leader, star, or an All-State player

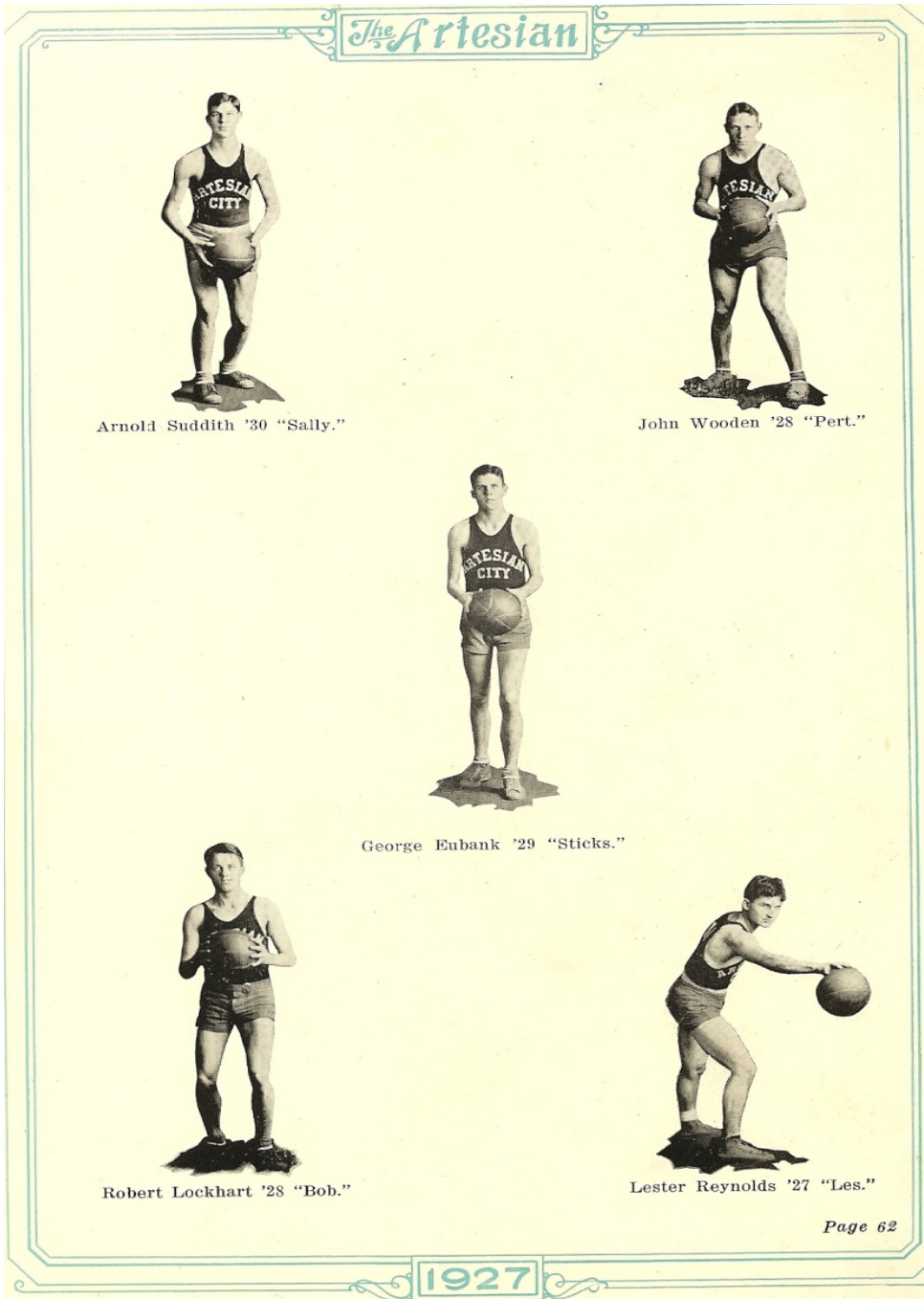


Fig. 6 1927 Starting Members: The starting members of Martinsville's 1927 state championship team. (From the 1927 Martinsville High School yearbook)

as a sophomore. In fact, he did not play in about thirteen of the games that year. John blossomed as a junior, became a starter, All-State, and one of the stars of Martinsville's team along with Lester Reynolds who was the captain of the team and a senior that year. Lester Reynolds was the established star, a two-year team captain, and a three-year All-State pick. John became team captain and was the team leader and All-State his senior year. (See Fig. 7)

Both John and his teammate Lester Reynolds were great players in high school, and they both are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. It is interesting that Lester Reynold's Hall of Fame biography states that Reynolds is "called by many veteran observers the greatest basketball player in Martinsville's history." Lester went on to have a fine basketball career at Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University), graduating in

1931. It is too bad that Lester has largely been forgotten.

John Wooden's high school girlfriend and future wife was Nellie Riley (1911-1985). According to Greene County, Indiana, birth records, Nellie was born at Bloomfield on June 26, 1911, and was the daughter of John and Christine Riley. Based upon newspaper items and other records, the Rileys moved to Martinsville from Bloomfield in September 1919. (See Fig. 8)

In 1921, according to real estate records, the Rileys purchased a house at 90 South Wayne Street. Their house was just east of the home of Glenn Curtis, John's high school basketball coach, and that is where the Rileys lived when John and Nellie were in high school. Nellie was a junior at Martinsville High School when John was a senior, and she graduated in 1929.

Both the Woodens and the Rileys were members of the First Christian Church of Martinsville. Church records state that Hugh and Roxie became members in January 1910 and that Nellie's parents joined in March 1920. John states in one or two of his books that he and Nellie were baptized together in 1927. However, church records state that Nellie was baptized in December 1923 and that John Wooden and his brother Maurice were baptized together in April 1927.

After John graduated from high school in 1928, he enrolled that fall at Purdue where he was very successful in both academics and athletics. However, his stellar, All-American, basketball career was not without difficulty. According to his book *They Call Me Coach*, he was hospitalized around Christmas every year he was at Purdue: scarlet fever his freshman year; leg injury his sophomore year; injury in practice his junior year; and tonsil operation his senior year.

The leg injury that hospitalized him during his sophomore year is of particular interest. According to newspapers, it resulted from being hit by a Minardo Brothers' fruit truck in West Lafayette and caused John to miss the Butler game (which Purdue lost). The incident was serious enough for John and his father to file a lawsuit against

Minardo Brothers for \$1,500 in damages, as reported in a Lafayette newspaper in April 1930. So far, I have found no record of the outcome of the case. As far as I know, this lawsuit has not been mentioned in any of John Wooden's books and has not been reported by anyone else.

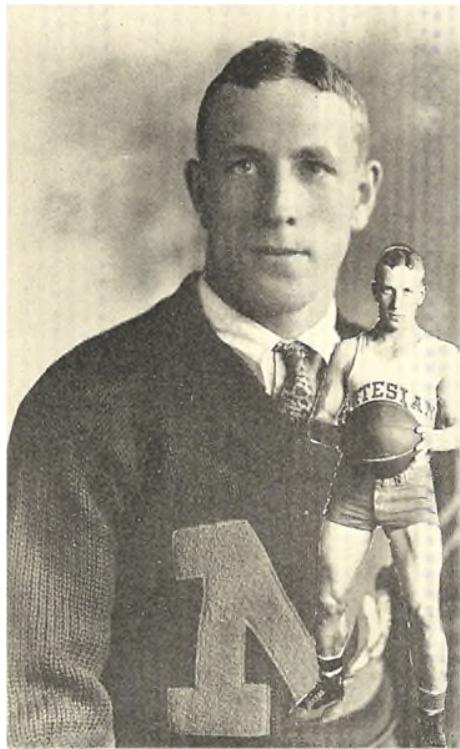


Fig. 7 John Wooden 1928: John Wooden as a high school senior. (From the 1928 Martinsville High School yearbook)

John Wooden graduated from Purdue in June 1932. He has stated many times in his books and elsewhere that he majored in English at Purdue, and that has become the standard story. However, I noticed an item in a June 1932 Martinsville newspaper that listed people from Morgan County who had just graduated from Purdue. John Wooden was listed with a bachelor's degree in physical education. I checked the 1932 Purdue yearbook, and he is shown there as a senior in the physical education section of the yearbook. I was not sure what the situation was, so I wrote to the Registrar's Office at Purdue. They wrote back saying that, according to their records, John's only major was physical education and that he had graduated with a bachelor's

degree in physical education.

Soon after John's graduation, he and Nellie were married. Marriage records and newspapers show that they were married in a small ceremony on Monday, August 8, 1932, by Reverend J. Ambrose Dunkel, pastor of the Indianapolis Tabernacle Presbyterian Church, at Dunkel's Indianapolis home, and not in a church on a Sunday as reported in books about John Wooden.

Accounts given in John's books *They Call Me Coach* and *My Personal Best* state that he and Nellie spent their wedding night in Indianapolis and that they had to get up early the very next morning to return to Martinsville where John's basketball coach at Purdue, Ward Lambert, was meeting John to take him to Vincennes to participate in a week-long basketball clinic which started that morning. According to those accounts, this resulted in John and Nellie having to spend their first week of marriage apart. In his book *They Call Me Coach*, John goes on to add: "We were probably one of very few couples to have spent their first week of marriage apart."

It seemed odd that John and Nellie would get married the day before John was going to be away from Nellie for a week at a basketball clinic. However, newspapers clarify the situation by documenting that their first week of marriage did not happen the way John said it did. It appears that John's account of their first week of marriage is an instance in which the actual story has been embellished to make a more interesting story.

John did participate in the basketball clinic at Vincennes, but John was not at the clinic during their first week of marriage because the clinic did not take place that week (August 8-14). The clinic was conducted the following week (August 15-20), as documented in Vincennes newspapers. In addition, a trail of little items in Martinsville newspapers provides information about John and Nellie's activities during their first week of marriage and shows that they were not apart that week.

On Monday, August 8, 1932, John and Nellie obtained their marriage license in Martinsville and were married

in Indianapolis.

Two days later on Wednesday, August 10, they returned to Martinsville after visiting Nellie's brother in Indianapolis, and then on the following day, Thursday, August 11, John and Nellie went to Bloomfield to visit.

On Sunday, August 14, the last day of the first week of their marriage, John played in an afternoon baseball game at Martinsville.

The following week, August 15 to August 20, is when John was away at Vincennes participating in the basketball clinic, according to Vincennes newspapers. Later that month John and Nellie went to Dayton, Kentucky, where John began his coaching career.

After moving back to Martinsville in 1925, John's parents remained there the rest of their lives. During that time, Hugh Wooden worked as a bath attendant at Home Lawn, a mineral water sanitarium, and that may have been his only employment after returning to Martinsville. Roxie reportedly worked at two of Martinsville's mineral water sanitariums and at Petro's dress shop in Martinsville. Hugh passed away in 1950 from cancer, and Roxie passed away from heart problems in 1959. They are buried alongside their daughters at Centerton Cemetery.

John Wooden spent most of his life in California. After graduating from Purdue, his career as a teacher and coach began at Dayton High School in Dayton, Kentucky, in 1932. He then went to South Bend Central High School in Indiana in 1934 and was there until 1946, which includes serving in the Navy from 1943 to 1945. He coached basketball at Indiana State Teachers College (now Indiana State University) in Terre Haute from 1946 to 1948. While at Indiana State, according to school records, he earned a master's degree in education. His master's thesis is interestingly titled "A Study of the Effect of the Abolition of the Center Jump on the Height of Outstanding College Basketball Players." Wooden then went to UCLA in 1948 and coached there until he retired in 1975. He won ten NCAA national basketball championships at UCLA, and that is

what underlies the fame he has been accorded.

with Part 1 in the 2012 spring/summer issue and Part 2 in the 2012 fall/winter

Would Barr-Reeve erase the stigma of being a four-time championship game loser? Would Park Tudor be able to stake a claim as Indiana's greatest high-school basketball dynasty? Would Evansville Reitz, averaging 92.2 points per game, score 90 or more? And perhaps most intriguing, would Griffith be able to "stick it" to the IHSAA?

The answer to all those questions except the last one was "Yes." In the case of Reitz, it was "Yes" with an asterisk – the Panthers did score 90, but it took overtime to do it, and their opponent, Homestead, wound up with 91.

Barr-Reeve beat Michigan City Marquette 65-50 in a rematch of the 2014 1A championship game, taking a 16-9 lead after one period and never being seriously threatened the rest of the way, holding Marquette to 20 points under its season average. The result mirrored a meeting of the same two teams in December, with Barr-Reeve winning that one 70-58.

The key to the game was Marquette's being able to limit Providence recruit Ryan Fazekas to 18 points. Fazekas had burned the Vikings in the 2014 championship game with 34 points, including a class record seven 3-pointers, and 10 rebounds. Barr-Reeve also made its free throws this time, going 26-for-36 from the line for class records in both categories.

I had predicted in my 2014 tournament review that this game might be a rematch because the two teams had most of their starters back, and it was one of my rare correct predictions. It also was only the fourth title-game rematch in tournament history. The others were Muncie Central-Martinsville at the first title game at Hinkle Fieldhouse in 1928, and Muncie Central-Lawrence North (4A) and Forest Park-Harding (2A) in 2006.

This was Barr-Reeve's third title-game appearance in six years. With the Vikings finally winning the crown, the dubious distinction of being the school with the most championship game appearances without winning a title passes to Winchester, which is 0-3 in the 2A final (2000, 2007, and 2008). Brownstown, Concord, Elkhart Central,

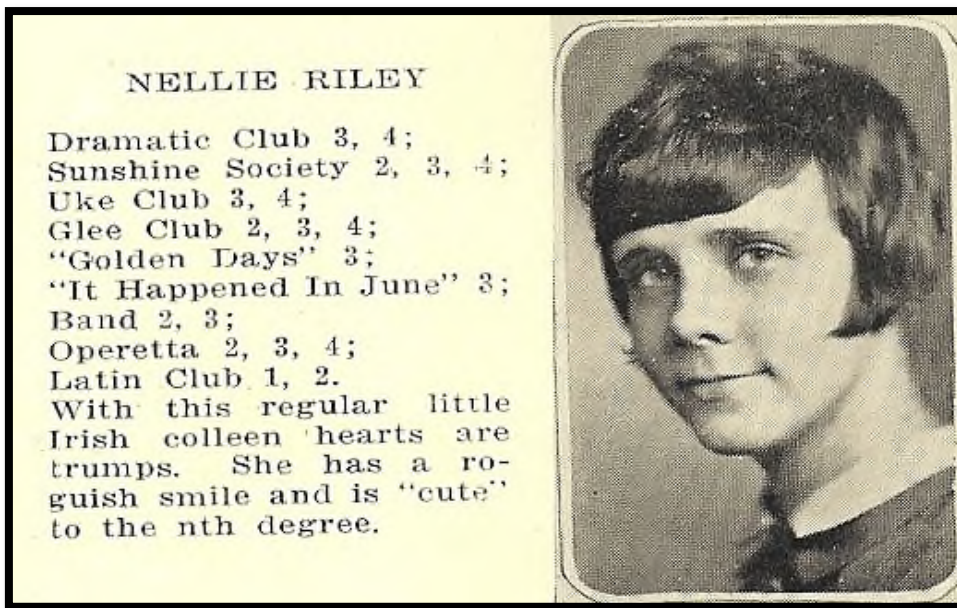


Fig. 8 Nellie 1929: Nellie Riley as a high school senior. (From the 1929 Martinsville High School yearbook)

Obviously, John Wooden has a great coaching record, but in regard to his record, it is appropriate to correct another common John Wooden story. The standard story has been that Wooden had only one losing season as a basketball coach which happened at Dayton High School in his very first season of coaching during the 1932-1933 school year. However, my research of his high school coaching career shows that he also had a losing record at South Bend Central High School in the 1936-1937 season, which was his first year as head coach at South Bend. John Wooden had a fabulous finish but a mediocre start to his coaching career. Two of the first three seasons that he coached were losing seasons.

For The Rest Of The Story--

The research findings that have been presented in this article and a lot of other new information are published in an article titled "John Wooden: A Revised Beginning." I am the principal author and researcher for that article. My co-authors are Joanne Raetz Stuttgen and Norma J. Tomak. The article was published in two parts by the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis in 2012. It is in two issues of their journal named *Connections*,

the article is an account of John Wooden's earlier years and family history. It not only contains much new information, but it is estimated that about 65% of what is in the article had not been published by anyone else.

Copies of that article can be purchased at the Indiana Historical Society in Indianapolis. The article is also available on the Society's website with Part 1 and Part 2 appearing as separate entries. A modified version of the article is on the Martinsville Chamber of Commerce website as one entry, and it includes some illustrations that are not in the original article. Go to Google and search by entering **Tomak, John Wooden**. Both versions should appear at the top of the page.

This *Boxscore* article is based upon our 2012 published article, but by necessity I had to leave out a great many things, including a lot of the new information, from the present account. The complete account, documentation, and references can be found by reading the 2012 article.

2015 STATE TOURNAMENT IN REVIEW

by
Tim Puet

This year's State Finals had an interesting storyline for every game:

Greencastle, and Terre Haute Garfield are 0-2.

As I mentioned last year, schools in Daviess and Martin counties have been on a remarkable run in the tournament since 2002, and Barr-Reeve added to that. The Vikings, Washington, and Loogootee have now combined for six state championships and 11 State Finals appearances since in 13 years.

Barr-Reeve's Ethan Duncheon won the Trester Award, making him the fourth member of his family – and the third consecutive – to receive the honor for Class 1A basketball. His cousin Hannah Bullock won the same award in the girls tournament one month earlier, in which Barr-Reeve lost the championship game. Another cousin, Micah Bullock, was the 2014 boys recipient, and Duncheon's brother, Christian, was the honoree in 2010.

Park Tudor beat Frankton 73-46 in 2A, with its 27-point margin of victory matching the class record it set the previous year in routing Westview 84-57. Park Tudor's Bryce Moore, who's heading for Western Michigan, finished with 31 points and was nearly as dominant as the Panthers' Trevon Bluiett had been when scoring 38 points in the 2014 title game.

Moore was scoreless in the first quarter, but had 16 in the second as Park Tudor put the game away by halftime. He was 10-14 from the field and 9-for-11 from the line. Park Tudor's 26-for-45 performance from the field for 57.8 percent bested the class record of 56.3 percent the Panthers had set the previous year, while Frankton was just 12-for-49 for 24.5 percent.

Thanks mainly to Yogi Ferrell and Blueitt, both of whom were on hand for the game, Park Tudor has won four 2A titles in five years, a string unmatched by any Indiana school in either the one-class or multiclass era, and one which certainly puts Park Tudor in the same "dynasty" conversation as the Franklin, Marion, and Lawrence North teams that won three straight championships. I'm no fan of the Panthers because of the advantages they possess, but one can't help but admire any team that continues to be that strong year after year as it wears the bull's-eye of success on its

back.

Park Tudor moves up to 3A next year because of the success factor, which was instituted in large part to prevent the kind of dominance shown in recent years by the Vikings and Bowman Academy. The success factor also will move Barr-Reeve, Marquette, and Guerin up one class next year. I thought Bowman was going to wind up in 4A before long, but I see the Eagles had a down year this season and Marvin Rea lost his job as coach for what seem like pretty murky reasons – meaning he probably offended the wrong people – so they'll be back in 2A next year.

As in 1A, the Trester scenario was a "family affair." In this case, twins Cameron and Connor Bates of Frankton were joint winners, duplicating the feat of Tom and Dick VanArsdale of Indy Manual in 1961 and Jon and Don McGlocklin of Franklin in 1974. Incidentally, three of this year's four Trester winners were from the winning finalist. Remember when it was practically a given that the Trester was seen as a consolation prize for the losing school in the finals?

The 3A game between Guerin and Griffith was the most anticipated of the night, mainly because of the IHSAA's hard-nosed attitude toward Griffith in the wake of a fight at a Hammond-Griffith game in February. The association kicked both schools out of the state tournament – a punishment that seemed unduly harsh compared to the sanctions it issued in similar incidents in the past.

I saw the fight on video and agree that the punishment was too harsh. The whole thing took less than a minute, and cooler heads quickly prevailed. I saw a lot worse on more than one occasion in the late 1960s and early '70s at my own high school in Pennsylvania, where I was the basketball student manager and then the broadcaster for its games in the early days of local cable TV. A one-game suspension, or at the worst, a forfeit of the rest of the regular season, allowing Hammond and Griffith to return for the playoffs, would have been quite sufficient punishment for them.

You all know what happened. Griffith went to court and won, embarrassing the

IHSAA greatly, and the association appealed the decision. As the Anderson Herald Bulletin (which had no rooting interest for either team) put it in an editorial on the day of the State Finals, "A dark cloud will be shadowing one program throughout its finals appearance, win or lose. And that cloud's name is the Indiana High School Athletic Association."

I'm sure the higher-ups in the IHSAA were privately cheering for Guerin. It would have been quite a moment if Bobby Cox or someone else from the association had ended up giving the 3A championship trophy to officials of a school that's suing the organization. Ironically, the association may have ended up doing Griffith a favor by giving that school's set of Panthers (Park Tudor and Reitz, plus many others, share the nickname) a month's rest from playing games.

As for the game itself, to everyone's credit, there didn't appear to be any problems. Harley Sheets and I were seated next to the Guerin sections and didn't sense any animosity, and that held true throughout the fieldhouse. Fans concentrated on the game at hand, which was a good one as Guerin, trailing most of the way, went on a 9-3 run in the final 2:30 for a 62-56 victory and its second state title in four years. Guerin's Lehigh-bound Matt Holba, a transfer from Chesterton (a lot closer to Griffith than Guerin is), had 29 points, including Guerin's last five, plus 14 rebounds and four blocked shots.

I first saw the State Finals in person in 1978 because of the delay which resulted from the energy crisis of that year, and have been on hand at the Hoosier/RCA Dome and the fieldhouse for the final day of play in most years since 1990, taking off a few years for economic or family reasons. I'd rank this year's 4A final as one of the best championship games I've seen, the others being Muncie Central-Terre Haute in 1978, South Bend Clay-Valpo in 1994 (both also overtime affairs), and Bedford-North Lawrence-Concord in 1990.

It was apparent early on that Reitz wouldn't be the scoring machine it was throughout the season, but the Panthers

were in control most of the way and appeared to be on the way to their first title, leading 71-63 with 1:56 left. Harley and I might have left earlier if they had gotten the lead to 10, but that never happened, Homestead went on a 10-2 run the rest of the way, scoring the last six points to tie the game at 73, with Tahj Curry scored the last two Homestead baskets of regulation time off steals.

The overtime was as high-scoring as the regulation game had been expected to be, with the teams combining for 35 points in four minutes. Homestead led by four with 9.2 seconds left, but Jaelan Sanford of Reitz hit a 3-pointer to cut the final margin to one.

Caleb Swanigan, one of two 6-9 starters for Homestead, was named Mr. Basketball after the tournament. He started out slow, but got better as the game went on and ended up with 20 points and 14 rebounds. The 181 points tied the record for any championship game, set in that Clay-Valpo game in 1994. Reitz lost despite going 20-for-22 from the line, a class record 82.6 percent. Homestead at 18-for-24 also wasn't too shabby from the stripe.

Now for some general observations: Last year, I wrote about Ohio's adoption of a "competitive balance" plan whose goal is similar to the IHSAA success factor, but is a lot more complicated. There has been almost no talk about it this year, at least not in the publications I read, so there's nothing for me to add on that subject. That could change once the plan goes into effect in 2015-16.

Attendance for the two State Finals sessions was a record low, totaling 22,595, with 12,862 at the evening session and less than 10,000 in the morning. It's become common that the earlier session has plenty of empty seats, and this year's big-school games didn't feature a big enough attraction to lure enough people to the fieldhouse from their armchairs, where they could see plenty of NCAA action, including Kentucky's quest for an unbeaten season, plus the high-school games.

For what it's worth, the numbers are worse in Ohio. Attendance for our state tournament was 112,070 in 12 sessions at Ohio State – an average of 9,339, and

a drop of 17,000 just from the previous year. The biggest crowd was 10,664 for the big-school title game. Why the decline? See the end of the previous paragraph for at least some reasons.

Speaking of the NCAAs, the scene at Bankers Life Fieldhouse at the end of the 4A game was most interesting. Some folks left, but it seemed like most stayed to watch the end of the Kentucky-Notre Dame game on the concourse TVs. Notre Dame was up by five late, but, like Reitz, couldn't get that one more basket it needed, and lost in overtime. Kentucky then lost to Wisconsin the following week in the Final Four as Duke, almost forgotten because of Kentucky's being unbeaten, ended up winning Coach K's fifth NCAA title.

Former Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette columnist Ben Smith wrote an excellent column concerning the decline in high-school attendance in a column in that paper's March 25 issue. The headline read "Hoosier Hysteria dead, but game is bone-deep." To quote part of it:

"Hoosier Hysteria is as dead as disco. Let's get that out there straightaway. "What that means, what it's always meant, is that Hoosier Hysteria was a certain specific brand, carrying with it certain legacies that could not be transferred. ... Whatever came after would be something else. On the other hand, Indiana is still Indiana. And what that means, and what it always will mean, is that if you put up a basket in March in Indiana and let kids shoot at it, people will show up to watch."

Smith went on to write about the full house at Huntington North for its 3A and 4A semi-states. Thanks to the marvel of YouTube, I was able to "see" those games (mostly I just heard the audio at work, writing for the Catholic Times in Columbus), as well as the Southport semi-states, which filled that arena. Crowds also looked good at the semi-states in Lafayette and Seymour. Then there was the regular-season Reitz-Southport matchup at Southport's big gym, which drew a full house for a 1-vs.-2 late-season matchup.

So the interest is still there. It is a different format, but put on the right matchup and people will come. I'm sure even Harley will admit we're not going

back to the old days, but what Indiana has now is still unmatched anywhere else, at least from what I can see.

Speaking of Harley, I would be remiss if I didn't publicly express my thanks to him for putting up with me as a house guest for the tournament these last four years. It's always a pleasure and a learning experience to see him every year on the fourth weekend in March. We've known each other for 24 years, since being introduced by a former IHSBHS member at the Dome in 1991 after I expressed admiration for Harley's "Where in the World" epic. How can it be that long ago already?

And one more thing. If you haven't already, go to www.indystar.com, or just Google "indy metro high school basketball champions" for a great three-part series on the underdog Metro team that won the 1A title in 2011. As you might expect, being part of that team lifted up some of its members, but wasn't enough to keep others from going back to old ways, with one of them dying less than six months after cutting down the championship net. It's a story that's uplifting and sobering at the same time.

TIDBITS

by Harley Sheets

My alma mater, Lebanon, is one of only 13 Indiana high schools to have won 50 plus sectionals. Until recently, its sectional futility had spanned 6 years. But in 2015 the Tigers (7-16) finally broke a frustrating 12-year drought by claiming their 51st crown in a fairly weak sectional at Frankfort. Only North Montgomery of the 5 teams entered had a winning record. The total won-lost tab for all teams was 46-66. Something registered with me that the 5 entrants when combined brought prestige to the tournament some years back. Why not?! After all, all five teams reside in the "Cradle of Indiana high school basketball." Eleven titles were won as follows: Frankfort (1925-29-35-39); Lebanon (1912-17-18); N. Montgomery (Wingate 1913-14); Western Boone (Thorntown 1915); and Crawfordsville (1911). Has there ever been another sectional where ALL entrants held state championships? If so, I'd like to know.

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- free museum admission for the member and 3 guests, 20% discount in the gift shop
- Hall of Fame lapel pin and auto window decal
- subscription to Indiana Basketball History Magazine
- invitations to Inductee's Reception and other special events

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

2015 Membership Form

Membership Categories

<input type="checkbox"/> Active Coach	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Regular Member	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime	\$3000 (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 _____