

BOXSCORE

A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

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IHSBHS, c/o Rocky Kenworthy,
710 E. 800 S., Clayton, IN 46118. E-mail: rock2@tds.net
All proposed articles & stories should be directed to
Cliff Johnson: cliffjohns36@hotmail.com or 16828 Fairburn St., Hesperia, CA 92345.

2015 FALL ISSUE

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The opinions expressed in Boxscore by individual authors do not necessarily reflect the views of IHSBHS as an organization.

IHSBHS WEBSITE

Our IHSBHS website address is Indianabasketballhistory.com. You can also enter IHSBHS on your favorite search engine.

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THE 1953 INDIANA ALL-STARS

by

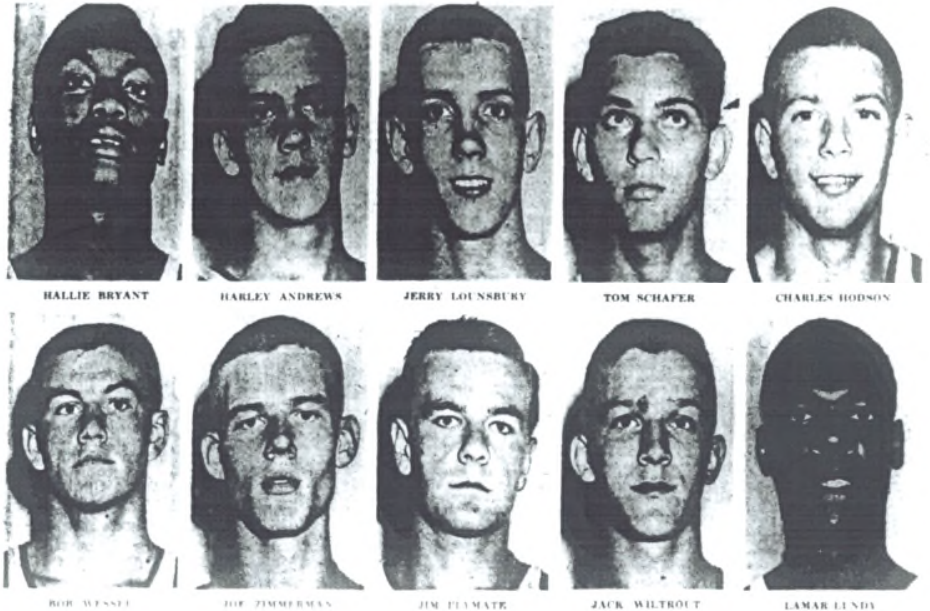
Cliff Johnson, Boxscore Editor

After seven consecutive wins over the Kentucky All-Stars, it began to seem to fans and sportswriters that Indiana's squad might never lose

again in the annual classic match-up. The Hoosier All-Stars seemed to be monopolizing the results, winning 12 of the 13 games since the first one was played in 1939. Odds became short this year. Thus, the June, 1953 result surprised hardly anyone. That summer's win made eight in a row

for the Hoosiers. Although the game was a hard fought 71-66 win, that victory, by force of habit, was readily anticipated. Instead, it was the intrigue concerning a racially-laced threat to one of the Indiana All-Stars, Hallie Bryant, that captured most of the pre-game

13TH INDIANA ALL-STAR BASKETBALL TEAM



Top row: Hallie Bryant, Ind. Crispus Attucks; Harley Andrews, T.H. Gerstmeyer; Jerry Lounsbury, Muncie Central; Tom Schafer, S.B. Central; Charlie Hodson, Muncie Central;
Bottom row: Bob Wessel, Evansv. Central; Joe Zimmerman, Gary Wallace; Jim Plymate, Shelbyville; Jack Wiltrott, S.B. Central; Lamar Lundy, Richmond.

attention. Bryant, who had been named "Mr. Basketball" by the news media, received an anonymous note advising him that great bodily harm would be inflicted upon him if he were to play in the game. It was thought that this threat might also have had something to do with the long odds against a Kentucky win. But Bryant not only played, he led the Indiana team to its victory, netting 21 points and capturing the "star of stars" award.

This game was conducted in 93-degree summer heat and in a non-air-conditioned Butler Fieldhouse attended by 10,214 spectators. The coaches were Angus Nicoson for Indiana and Ed Diddle for Kentucky. Kentucky led all the way until the 4th quarter was underway when the Hoosiers suddenly sprang to life, gained the lead, and never looked back.

The Bluegrassers' early charge was led by 6-3 Earl Adkins, 6-7 Charlie Tyra, 6-2 Lowell Gipe, and 6-3 John Brewer. The team's average height of nearly 6-4 exceeded that of the Hoosiers by about two inches, and paid out some initial dividends from the backboards. Bryant's 21-point effort for the Hoosiers was abetted by 14 from Charley Hodson, 11 from Harley Andrews, and 9 from Joe Zimmerman. Lamar Lundy was instrumental with 2 key field goals near the end of the game while contesting much of Kentucky's dominance on the boards.

TRY A VISIT DOWNTOWN TO THE INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE STATE LIBRARY

Two complete hard-copy collections of Boxscore back issues reside in downtown Indianapolis and are available for IHSBHS members to view on site. One is located at the 2nd floor library of the Indiana

Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St. The other one is housed almost directly across Ohio Street at the Indiana State Library, 140 N. Senate Ave. Spending a full day on site at these two facilities can be a rewarding and mind-expanding experience. There are many things to do and see at both places. You can enjoy an exquisite yet inexpensive breakfast and lunch at the downstairs IHS sidewalk café, if you like. There is usually adequate parking space in the IHS lot (its entrance is on New York St.) for visitors who intend to pay a dual visit to both facilities or to visit only the IHS. Gate entrance permits can be validated inside the IHS building, at no charge. If the intent is to visit solely the state library, quarters for parking must be fed to the meters standing alongside Ohio Street.

Both facilities have huge holdings of books, magazines, and other printed matter regarding Indiana basketball lore. Included are items donated in previous years by IHSBHS. There are in-house computers available to examine all cataloged items or collections you might like to read. Or, a librarian can do that for you. To request the open hours for each facility, call (317) 234-2512 (for IHS) or (317) 232-0023 (for state library).

Don't limit yourself to just basketball materials, though. Both libraries have a variety of fascinating historical collections. One book that I found at the IHS library, for example, was an historical account (actually, a personal diary) about a visit to Indianapolis in the mid-1800s by the famous German historian and treasure-hunter, Heinrich Schliemann. Schliemann had previously dug up the ruins and treasures of Troy, a city that was once thought to be purely mythological, as recorded in Homer's great epic poem about the

Trojan War, circa 1000 B.C.E. Also, during Schliemann's 3-month stay in Indianapolis, a tornado struck. Being unfamiliar with winds of such amplitude, he mistakenly recorded it as a severe hurricane.

The state library has assimilated a vast (dare I say, a "complete") collection of historical newspapers on microfilm from every city and hamlet that ever published one in Indiana. You'll find it to be a pretty amazing collection. Don't be reluctant to insert a few old reels onto a digital or electrically-driven reader and enjoy some nostalgic moments, while you're in the newspaper room. There is also a bookstore downstairs that sells more recent publications authored mainly by Indiana writers on subjects unique to the state.

Visit our two IHSBHS Internet websites occasionally too, to see what's going on in Indiana's present basketball world or in its historical past. A short story or anecdote will usually be found in each of them, along with a hyperlink to every back issue of Boxscore that is more than five years old. Just use Google or any other search engine to key in "IHSBHS" and "Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society." Those are our two websites. You might also consider "Hickory Husker," another good website, operated by Leigh Evans who is an IHSBHS board member.

AUGUST 15 BOARD MEETING

An IHSBHS Board meeting was held on August 15 at the State Library in downtown Indianapolis. In attendance were Roger Robison, Cliff Johnson, Harley Sheets, Rocky Kenworthy, Curtis Tomak, Kermit Paddock, John Ockomon, and guest Les Ray. Dr. Robison presided over the meeting's agenda that included a discussion on the new website address (now appearing on page 1),

total membership (now about 138 including those not yet caught up on dues), treasury holdings (about \$1200), backup prospects for volunteer officer posts, Boxscore advertising for members, potential electronic membership form submittals, use of PayPal for membership applications, the need for more personal profiles in Boxscore, a revision of Everett Case's W-L records at the HOF, and a presentation of editor Johnson's new 960-page book on WW II high school basketball in Indiana, to be released soon.

SCHOOLS WITH THE LONGEST SECTIONAL DROUGHTS

by

**John Ockomon, past President of
IHSBHS**

In 2014, Northeastern won its first ever sectional. It had been trying since 1968. Crispus Attucks hadn't won since 1973, Indianapolis Tech since 1978, and North White since 1984. Each finally ended a long drought. This year (2015), none of the teams with the longest droughts won. When favored Churubusco (Class 2A) went down last spring in its sectional, it ended a bad year for all schools without a sectional title for the past 10 years or more. Churubusco has not won a sectional title since its registration with IHSAA in 1910-11. Not only did none of the top ten with the longest droughts win, but none of the schools in the top 25 with the longest droughts won either. Indianapolis Tindley was the sole first-time winner in 2015 and it has been trying only since 2009. West Vigo actually won the prize for the longest wait. It hadn't won since 1990.

Here is a list of the top twenty-five schools (within all four classes) that show either the year of their last title

OR if they have never won (NW), the first year they tried:

1. Shoals NW 1913
2. Crothersville NW 1915
3. Churubusco NW 1918
4. Westfield NW 1918
5. Fishers 1922
6. Westville NW 1923
7. Washington Twp NW 1925
8. Indiana Deaf NW 1943
9. Lake Station (Edison) 1941
10. Medora 49
11. Mississinewa 1954
12. Vincennes Rivet NW 1950
13. Eastern(Greentown) 1951
14. Elwood 1960
15. Cambridge City 61
16. Hagerstown 65
17. North Posey 66
18. Wabash 67
19. West Noble NW 68
20. Cowan 76
21. Hammond Morton 76
22. Seeger 78
23. North Newton 78
24. Whiting 81
25. Clinton Prairie 82

In the girls' competition which began in 1976, the following schools have never won a title in 40 years:

None in 4A.

In 3A, Mishawaka Marian, Indianapolis Marshall, Mount Vernon, Whitko.

In 2A, River Forest, Lake Station (Edison), Central Noble, Churubusco, Indianapolis Broad Ripple, Cloverdale, Milan.

In 1A, Michigan City Marquette Catholic, Westville, LaCrosse, Cowan, Daleville, Indianapolis Deaf School, Shawe Memorial, Orleans, Crothersville, Medora, Lanesville, Shoals, Cannelton.

Schools that managed to end the longest sectional droughts for their

girls' teams in 2015 are the following:

1. Providence (2A). First title since program began in 1976.
2. Sheridan (2A). First title in 40 yrs.
3. Northview (3A). First title since program began in 1985.
4. Danville (3A). First title since 1987.
5. Evansville Central (4A). First title since 1989.
6. Blackhawk. First title since program began in 1992.
7. North White. First title since 1993.
8. Noblesville. First title since 1996.
9. Princeton. First title since 1997.
10. Union—Modoc. First title since 1998.

ROME CITY'S ROMANS, THE 1960-61 SEASON

by

Gene Racht, IHSBHS member

I was the coach at Rome City during its eventful 1960-61 season, but I want to give due credit to George Grosskopf and Phil Linville who preceded my tenure there. They certainly had as much to do with developing the players I inherited as my coaching did. Not much seems to ever have been written about basketball in northeastern Indiana, and I wish more historians would take an interest in that corner of the state.

Noble County had an above average slate of teams that particular season, Albion, Avilla, Cromwell, Ligonier, Rome City, Wawaka, and Wolf Lake were the schools involved. In the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel area ratings, Rome City (#4) and Albion (#8) were ranked high, just prior to the arrival of the state tournament. Ligonier and Avilla were also rated as "Well-Regarded" in the January 17, 1961 issue of that newspaper. Both Rome City and Albion had 11-2 records at the time.

Rome City had played Albion at the Rome City gymnasium on January 6, with a packed, standing-room-only crowd. Albion won that game 74-58 in easy fashion.

The very next week was the county tournament at Avilla. Rome City drew Cromwell and won 59-56. We next played Wawaka and won 56-51. The final and championship game matched Albion with Rome City. Rome City had not won a boys' county tournament in its history. Our roster consisted of starters Larry Dixon (Sr.), Jim Brinkman (Sr.) or Bill Imes (Jr.), Bruce Potee (Sr.), George Sedgwick (Jr.), and Dick Summers (Sr.). Subs were Chris Beeson (Jr.), Roy Frick (Sr.), Larry Franks (Sr.), Sheldon Smith (Sr.), and Dan Tatman (Sr.). Bob Ackerman (Jr.) was absent from the roster at this time.

The Romans were a big underdog to Albion's Trojans because of the 16-point loss to them eleven days earlier. This time the Romans jumped out to an early lead 20-14 by the end of the first quarter, and then 30-26 at halftime. We retained a one point lead at the end of the 3rd quarter and, by using a little endurance and strategy, pushed ahead 62-59 with 31 seconds remaining. We held on to win 63-60. By the end of this game, Albion had led only twice but the score was tied six times. Quite a battle had taken place!

Our Rome City team that year had one of the best pair of guards in northeastern Indiana in Bruce Potee and Larry Dixon, and this game indicated such. Potee (5'8") scored 33 points by hitting 14 of 19 shots, mostly from what is now the 3-point arc. The total would have exceeded 40 had the 3-point arc existed in 1961. Larry Dixon had 16 points. Sedgwick was a defensive and rebounding specialist and was the most versatile player on the squad.

The all-tournament selections that year consisted of Potee, Dixon, and Sedgwick from Rome City; Ronnie Pyle, Jerry Burton, and Dan Workman from Albion; Bill Leiter and Ron Hart from Avilla; Ken Gaerte from Ligonier; and Gary Franks from Wawaka.



Kneeling are cheerleaders Marilyn Mossman, Susan Woods, and Sheryl Shepley. First row standing: Larry Dixon, Sheldon Smith, Roy Frick, Bruce Potee, and Dan Tatman. Back row: Coach Gene Racht, Jim Brinkman, Bill Imes, Larry Franks, Dick Summers, George Sedgwick, Chris Beeson, Student Manager Paul Strator, and Assistant Coach Dwight Shaw.

Rome City's regular season scores that year are shown as follows:

Salem Center (W) 64-51
 Avilla (L) 46-61
 Shippshewana-Scott (W) 66-59
 Huntertown (W) 60-53
 Lima (W) 70-67
 Arcola (W) 83-65
 Wolf Lake (W) 70-45
 Wawaka (W) 74-64
 LaGrange (W) 74-51
 Wolcottville (W) 69-52
 Cromwell (W) 71-61
 Butler (W) 73-66
 Albion (L) 58-74
 Howe M.A. (W) 52-51
 Ligonier (L) 59-72
 Waterloo (L) 46-61
 Millersburg (L) 62-79
 Hamilton (W) 59-51

In the Kendallville sectional, there were 14 teams participating. The

season records of all teams, going into the tournament, were as follows:

Rome City Romans 16-5
 Albion Trojans 17-4
 Kendallville Comets 8-12
 Avilla Panthers 15-5
 Cromwell Spartans 6-13
 Mongo Dragons 0-17

Ligonier Red Raiders 11-8
 Brighton Wildcats 9-9
 Wawaka Warriors 6-13
 Lima Tigers 7-12
 LaGrange Lions 4-16
 Howe M.A. Cadets 7-12
 Wolf Lake Wolves 5-14
 Wolcottville Bulldogs 7-14

The Romans once again drew Albion, this time as their first-round opponent. The Romans won going away, 63-53. Albion attempted a full-court press from the beginning, but Potee, Dixon, and Sedgwick never missed a beat in penetrating the press. Rome City then lost its second-round sectional game to Avilla 59-44. Avilla went on to thrash Wawaka in the semis 79-46, while Kendallville was downing Ligonier 55-44. Surprisingly,

Kendallville, with a losing record up to that point, had little trouble putting away Avilla in the final game 63-46.

The next season, Rome City's last in interscholastic basketball, it finished with a mark of 14-8 after a 63-51 triumph over Albion in the sectional, followed by a 58-44 loss to Avilla in its final game as a separate school. In the fall of 1962, Rome City became a part of East Noble High School, while Albion was integrated into the Central Noble system.

Gene Racht was born and grew up in northeastern Indiana. He graduated from Kendallville High School in 1954, then attended Butler University on a basketball scholarship under coach Tony Hinkle from 1954-56. Transferred to Montana State University (MSU) and played basketball under Keith "Dobbie" Lambert, former coach at Anderson High School. Graduated from MSU with a B.S. degree in 1958 and an M.E. degree in 1964. Assistant coach at Lancaster Central (Wells Co.) from 1958-1960 under head coach Lee Perry. Head coach at Rome City High School 1960-62. Assistant coach at Kendallville High (KHS) 1962-64 under head coach John Lebo. Head coach at KHS 1965-66. Head coach at East Noble High School (consolidated high school of Avilla, Kendallville and Rome City) 1966-69. Entered FBI as special agent 1970 and retired 1990. Thereafter worked as contract investigator for the U.S. State Department for 6 years and the National Football League (NFL) conducting drug and steroid tests for 11 years. He has lived in Dallas, Texas since 1971.

IHSAA's NEW ERA, THE 1942-43 SEASON

**by
Cliff Johnson**

On Nov. 14, 1942, the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) issued a list showing exactly 800 schools having full membership status to participate in interscholastic basketball during the 1942-43 regular season. Of this number, 775 registered to compete in the postseason state tournament that began on Thursday, Feb. 25, 1943. A few schools decided not to register while others were declared ineligible for one reason or another. It was a difficult season, full of anxiety for most of Indiana's population and for the United States as a whole, since the nation was at war on two world fronts. Many team members were leaving their studies to enlist, and many coaches either were called to duty or volunteered their services to the military.

These departures made the season a complicated one, since the roster for any given team might undergo a number of changes before the season ended. The ability of a school to arrange a schedule became particularly hampered because of gasoline rationing, tire shortages, and travel restrictions. Because of the sudden and widespread departures of the youngest coaches to serve in the military, some schools had no coach at all at the beginning of the school year. That caused delays in initiating regular schedules and frequently resulted in game cancellations. Other schools that were lucky enough to quickly find a substitute coach discovered that before the season ended they needed to recruit three or four people consecutively to keep the post filled during the course of the season. It was routinely a challenge to maintain a basketball program and to honor scheduled game commitments. At smaller

schools, the principal often was called upon or volunteered to do the coaching while continuing on with his regular duties.

Aside from complications brought about by the war, a new era was dawning in Indiana high school basketball with the removal of IHSAA restrictions against membership and state tournament participation for schools having religious, racial, or special enrollment qualifications. Such schools had earlier been prohibited from joining the ranks of fully sanctioned schools for nearly half a century. The barrier was finally lifted in the fall of 1942, after numerous and heated arguments among school administrators, coaches, and community leaders up and down the state. The IHSAA Commissioners, somewhat to their credit, finally acknowledged that the rationale used for the exclusionary policies over the years had been weak in their application of common sense.

Before the beginning of the season there was a real threat of interscholastic basketball being cancelled for the year and of being discontinued for the duration of the war, because of overseas manpower and resource demands. For the most part, school board officials and the IHSAA were reluctant to wholly abandon Indiana's favorite sport even though they commonly agreed on several wartime restrictions. They vowed that the season would proceed even if bicycles, horses and wagons, or even foot power had to be employed to get players to games. In the final analysis, none of those measures was necessary, which probably disappointed bicycle companies such as Schwinn, Raleigh, and American Flyer, but saved the farm horses for real farm work and preserved the soles on countless shoes. The season

officially began on Nov. 2 with the usual enthusiasm.

As illustrations of the wholesale shakeup in the coaching ranks that year, Marion Crawley, coach of the Washington Hatchets, who had won the state championship two years running, resigned to coach Lafayette Jefferson; Everett Case, coach at perennial favorite and four-time champion Frankfort, resigned to join the U.S. Navy; and Archie Chadd, who had been an outstanding coach at Anderson, resigned to become superintendent of the Anderson schools. Coaches who were shy of their 30th birthday left the coaching ranks in droves to join the fight against the Axis. Some coaches and hundreds of players would never return.

In late October 1942, the Nazis had encroached upon Stalingrad and had visions of overtaking the Russian capital of Moscow.

In the U.S., consumer products were rarely overpriced in spite of widespread shortages. This was largely due to controls exercised by the newly formed Office of Price Administration (OPA). Sample prices of grocery products at the time could include a dozen oranges for 23 cents, a pound of red grapes for 13 cents, 10 pounds of potatoes for 29 cents, a 16 ounce loaf of bread for 12 cents, large grade A eggs about 43 cents a dozen, a quart of milk for 15 cents, and a 16-ounce jar of peanut butter for a quarter. A hamburger with all the trimmings at the local lunch counter would usually require a dime from one's pocket and a burger with cheese added forced a hungry customer to dig for a nickel more. Most candy bars cost 5 cents.

Radio programs, especially weekly evening shows, were extremely popular during the early 40s. This cheap form of entertainment provided an escape from the worries of war. Depending

upon the night one chose to relax on the living room sofa or in the easy chair next to the family console radio, the array of programs after supper might feature Jack Benny, Horace Heidt, Fred Allen, Gang Busters, Fibber McGee & Molly, Amos & Andy, Fred Waring, Duffy's Tavern, or, perhaps a bit earlier in the evening, Lum & Abner. Beginning at 5 p.m., the kids could turn on their favorite serials including Jack Armstrong, Captain Midnight, The Shadow, Terry & the Pirates, Yukon King, Don Winslow, and The Green Lantern. Gabriel Heatter, Lowell Thomas, Walter Winchell, and H.V. Kaltenborn handled the newscasts.

On Nov. 11, 1942, a female circus elephant named Modoc escaped her handlers who had been camped out near the city of Wabash. Modoc then enjoyed a five-day romp through the thick, forested area around the Wabash River before finally being coaxed back to recaptivity by the aroma of 30 loaves of fresh bread. Hundreds of people had joined in the pachydermal hunt earlier, and it might logically seem difficult for a whole community to lose sight of a mid-sized elephant. But Modoc came back to town only when she was good and ready, and perhaps a little hungry.

IHSAA Commissioner Arthur L. Trester was called on the carpet by the Indiana Legislature to explain why administrative control over high school sports should continue being vested with his organization. Allegations had been made that Trester and the IHSAA had abused their authority over the years by establishing policies that were not in the best interests of high school athletics. Trester and the IHSAA survived the hearings, but not without admonishment. Senator William Kinder of Tipton, in a direct rebuke hinting at future events that

would lead to multi-class basketball and eventually to the widely perceived "death of Hoosier Hysteria" fifty-four years later, addressed Trester with these words (in part):

"You (Trester) should see the handwriting on the wall...the people, who build gymnasiums and support athletics must have (their) say and they must be shown the proper respect. It seems to me it (the IHSAA) is too much of a principals' organization."

Kinder's mid-century criticism that the IHSAA was simply a sounding board for principals and was not acting in the best interests of taxpayers, ballplayers, coaches, athletic directors, and the public in general, has been made periodically and brought to the attention of the Legislature ever since.

At state tournament time in March, the Russian army, plus a severe winter, had turned back the Nazi war machine on all eastern fronts and had saved Stalingrad and Moscow from German occupation. Also, allied forces had gained the upper hand from the Nazis in northern Africa and had made some headway against the forces of the Japanese Empire who sixteen months earlier on Dec. 7, 1941 had sprung a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. With these advances, the winter of 42-43 ended with a somewhat positive perspective.

The Fort Wayne Central Tigers became basketball champions on March 20 by winning their first state tournament crown. In what could only be described as an outright "cat-fight," the Tigers of Fort Wayne out-clawed the Tigers of Lebanon in the final game, 45-40. That game closed the 1942-43 basketball season and, along with all the other newsworthy reports, became history. FINIS

BECOME AN IHSBHS MEMBER

(Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society)

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

Membership Application

Name: _____

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E-Mail (optional for receiving Boxscore) _____

Telephone No. (optional) _____

High School and graduation year _____

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

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

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IHSBHS MEMBER PROFILE FORM
(Tell us about yourself)

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

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Occupation/Profession _____ **Retired?** _____

Major Interests/Hobbies _____

Past Sports Activities _____

Where Born? _____ **Year Born** _____

High School _____ **H.S. graduation year** _____

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Area of Study _____ **Degree(s)/Year** _____

Additional Comments You'd Like To Share: _____



Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Annual Membership Program

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

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

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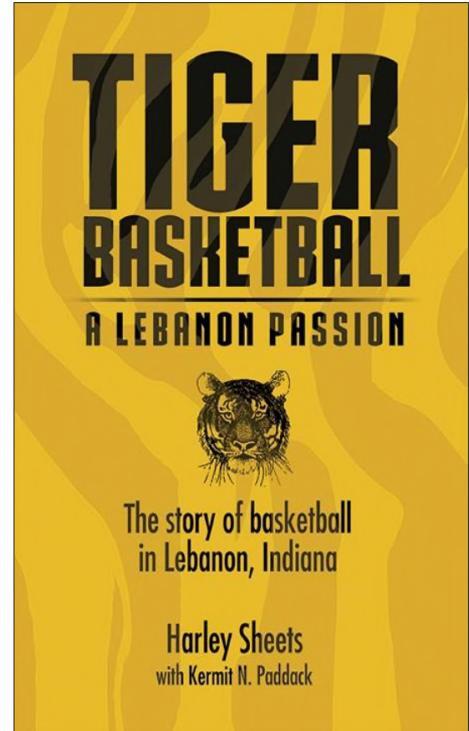
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Contact Kermit Paddack with any questions at kn paddac@yahoo.com

Tiger Basketball, A Lebanon Passion

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