

B O X S C O R E

A Publication of the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society

IHSBHS was founded in 1994 by A. J. Quigley Jr. (1943-1997) and Harley Sheets for the purpose of documenting and preserving the history of Indiana High School Basketball

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Dues are \$10 per year. They run from Jan. 1 - Dec. 31 and include four newsletters. Lifetime memberships are no longer offered, but those currently in effect continue to be honored. Send dues, address changes, and membership inquiries to

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2017 SUMMER ISSUE

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THE 1939 INDIANA ALL-STARS by Cliff Johnson, Editor

The very first selection of the Indiana high school All-Stars was made by Hoosier basketball fans who submitted their votes at the conclusion of the 1938-39 season. Frankfort had been crowned state

champion in March of 1939, and it was agreed among its high school administration, the news media, and state athletic officials that the Hotdogs could be pitted in a special summer event against the best graduating players that the rest of the state had to offer, if a sponsor could be found. *The Indianapolis Star*

decided it could fill that role, and so set about making the detailed arrangements in early spring. It was presumed that this sort of contest would appeal to fans, generate some gate revenue, and become an ongoing annual "classic" for years to come. As it turned out, that presumption was proven correct, but



1939 INDIANA ALL-STARS. Front row, left to right: Coach Tom Downey (Rossville), Don Frazier (Greencastle), George Crowe (Franklin), George Fields (Mooresville), Bud Goodwin (Bloomington), Fred Krampe (Shortridge). Back row, Asst. coach Doyle Plunkitt (Southport), Johnny Williams (Southport), George Taylor (Greencastle), Roger Bundy (Salem), Howard Mitchell (Ind. Crispus Attucks), Wayne Payton (Spencer). Opponents were the state champion Frankfort Hot Dogs. The series with the Kentucky All-Stars began the following year, 1940.

only by using a completely different format.

After the initial 1939 event, the organizers realized that something seemed inappropriate about the state's championship team having no player being recognized as an All-Star in his own right. Besides, the arranged match-up in talent and athleticism was obviously tilted toward the All-Stars since they were considered the best performers in the state, apart from what one small city had in stock. There were other issues that materialized as well. For instance, the IHSAA ruled that high school coaches were ineligible to coach post-season games, and that players still enrolled in school could not play even if they were an integral part of the championship team. Furthermore, the late date (August 17) that had been set by *The Star* to stage the contest was problematic. Some of the players had already moved out of state by that time, to take up living quarters on various college campuses. The higher mid-summer temperatures in July and August were also a factor that ultimately contributed toward moving the event up to mid-June, a few years later. But the major revision and now familiar format began the next year, 1940, when officials in Kentucky offered to take their own All-Star team to Indiana to play in the "classic."

In the meantime, the 1939 affair was still scheduled to take place at the specified time, 8:30 p.m. on Friday, August 18, at the Butler Fieldhouse. Everett Case, then considered to be the dean of all Indiana high school coaches, had guided his Frankfort team to the state championship five months earlier in a repeat of the town's previous 1936 championship. Case had also advanced to Final Four appearances at Frankfort in 1925, 1928, 1929, and 1930, winning all the marbles in both

1925 and 1929. The Hot Dogs and their coach formed a superb combination over the years, by any account. Now, the latest edition of these players was to face those considered by the Indiana voters to be the best individual basketball stars in Indiana. What a challenge!

The Frankfort team was seriously handicapped, however, with the absence of high-scoring forward Jim Laughner and pesky guard Dan Davis. Laughner had not yet graduated and thus was ineligible to participate in the game, according to IHSAA rules. Davis could not attend the game either, because of post-graduation commitments. Lewis Cook, another big scoring threat, was ineligible to play as well because of his underclass status, but he suited up for the game and played anyway. The logical thinking was that since he would turn 20 and thus be ineligible for high school play the next season anyway, it would surely be OK to play him in this game. That decision, however, raised a furor among IHSAA officials who promptly put Frankfort on probation for the next season because of the apparent violation of its rule against post-season play by an athlete still enrolled in school.

Nevertheless, Frankfort was able to put ten boys into uniform through the use of four players from its "B" team graduates. Center Charles Johnson, the Hot Dogs' leading scorer, and graduated stalwarts Ernest McGill, Harold Pyle, Billie Joe Wetzel, and Loren Brower accompanied Cook and the four B team members to form a complete team for coach Case.

The All-Stars, by comparison, were formidable. The power of the squad was concentrated in forwards George Crowe (Mr. Basketball) from Franklin and George Fields from Mooresville; 6-8 center Fred Krampe from Indianapolis Shortridge; and

guards Don Frazier from Greencastle and Bud Goodwin from Bloomington. Other All-Star members included Howard Mitchell from Indianapolis Crispus Attucks and Wayne Payton from Spencer at forwards; George Taylor from Greencastle at the center post; with Johnny Williams from Southport and Roger Bundy from Salem covering the guard spots. The coach, also as selected by the *Star* readers, was Tom Downey of Rossville, assisted by Doyle (Buck) Plunkitt of Southport.

By game time Friday evening, the city of Indianapolis was being besieged by a downpour of rain that continued on through the night. As a consequence, most seats remained empty at Butler Fieldhouse. The paid attendance was counted at 5,200 which left nearly 10,000 seats vacant--in spite of the measly \$1 selling price for the choicest seats in the arena. The cheaper ones cost only a quarter. The turnout was disappointing, but the show had to go on.

Frankfort, while surprisingly having an edge in overall height against the All-Stars, was clearly outclassed in speed, agility, and shot-making right from the opening tip-off. They were also feeling the absence of Laughner and Davis, without a doubt. The All-Stars rushed to a quick 10-1 lead during the first quarter before the Frankfort squad had taken a collective deep breath. Additionally, it came as a shock that Crowe, Fields, and Krampe were overpowering the Hotdogs on the backboards. That continued throughout the first half which mercifully ended for Frankfort with the All-Stars in command of a 24-12 lead. The third quarter was essentially static, with coach Downey substituting freely among all ten of his players. Once the All-Stars' lead had escalated to 29-12

during a lengthy defense-minded period, they began to relax a bit on defense. Taking advantage of that, Frankfort initiated a late scoring surge while belatedly exercising its own sound defensive skills. The margin was reduced by nine points with about a minute left to play, but the margin buildup earlier in the game would not be overcome. The All-Stars prevailed, 31-21. Don Frazier, the 5-2 guard from Greencastle, led in scoring with 9 points and received an award for the game's outstanding player.

COACHING RECORDS

All-Time total wins (per IHSBHS records)

Jack Butcher 806
 Bill Patrick (retired 2017) 764
 Pat Rady 761
 Jack Keefer (still active) 760
 J.R. Holmes (still active) 760
 Howard Sharpe 722
 Bill Stearman 714
 Jim Jones 700
 Basil Mawbey 699
 Gene Miller (still active) 672
 Jim East 653
 Marion Crawley 644
 Jim Miller 607
 Joe Hinton 594
 Cliff Wells 582
 Jimmie Howell (still active) 582
 Al Rhodes (still active) 581
 Bryan Hughes (still active) 566
 Ward Smith 553 (recorded only)
 By Hey 550

Notes: Pat Rady retired as Cloverdale's coach in September, 2015. He is now third to all-time wins leader Jack Butcher. Whitko's Bill Patrick, at #2 now, just concluded his long career. Jack Keefer of Lawrence North and J.R. Holmes of Bloomington South are tied for the number four spot, behind Rady. Ward Smith may have won a few additional games that have been

lost from the records, unfortunately. IHSBHS welcomes any information that may correct or contradict the numbers on our list. Our research is tireless, but it isn't the last word.

EVOLUTION OF THE SINGLE CLASS TOURNAMENT: 1911-97

by

Roger Robison

In 1905, efforts began to abolish football after 18 deaths and 149 serious injuries were reported. Efforts at reform included the organization of an Intercollegiate Athletic Association--which became the N.C.A.A. in 1910. By 1909/10 the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) was likewise calling for the elimination of football. By 1912 only 20 Indiana high school football teams still played. But interest in the new game of basketball slowly began and helped to fill the void. An idea materialized that the adoption of a state-wide tournament might help even more.

Wisconsin had been the first, in 1905, to initiate a state-wide high school basketball tournament. Illinois, Utah, and Ohio followed between 1906 and 1909. Meanwhile, students at Indiana University were frustrated because Purdue had beaten I.U. in 15 of their 18 basketball games. The new athletic director at I.U. was C.P. Hutchins, M.D., who had been involved with the Wisconsin tourneys. He laid the groundwork for the I.U. Boosters' Club to host a state-wide tournament in 1911 in an effort to recruit better players to I.U.

The tourney was held in Bloomington for nine of its first ten years (see [Tables 1A, 1B, 1C](#)). Originally it was an Invitational but it quickly became open to all IHSAA members who could afford the travel costs. The number of entries increased every year until 1938

except during conscription for World War I. School consolidations reduced the number of entries to below 700 in 1960, below 600 in 1964, below 500 in '68, and below 400 in 1986.

After the first four tourneys, it became necessary to institute sectional eliminations to reduce the number of teams so that the tourney could continue to be played off in only two days--an IHSAA requirement. After another six years, nearly 400 were entered and regional elimination tourneys had to be added to reduce the 32 sectional winners to 16. Thus, in 1921 the Sweet 16 was born and considered by many to have been the start of the golden age for the tourney. To accommodate more paying customers the tourney was moved to the Indianapolis Fairgrounds (see [Table 2](#)).

In 1921 and 1922, the 32 regional participants had to win only one game to advance to the finals. For 1923 and 1924, some regional teams had to win two games while others only one. During 1925 and 1926 the regionals increased to eight in number with eight teams at each site. The winners had to play two games to advance to the finals. As the entries continued to expand, by 1927 the sectionals finally peaked at 64 and the regionals at 16. This remained the standard for the rest of the entire single class era.

The two-day Sweet 16 was eliminated in 1935/36 amidst concern for player stamina, especially now that the center jump after free throws had been eliminated that year. This rule change reduced the amount of time available for players to take a break in the action. In 1937-38, the center jump after field goals was also abolished, reducing any rest time even further. To help alleviate the resulting player fatigue, the semi-state (or semi-final tourney) was then instituted which

Table 1. SINGLE CLASS TOURNEY FORMAT 1911-97**A. 1911-20 I.U. BOOSTER CLUB HOSTS AT I.U. EXCEPT FOR 1919 AT PURDUE**

<u>Year</u>	<u># in IHSAA</u>	<u>Entries # of</u>	<u>Entry %</u>	<u>Tourney Gym Format</u>	<u>Finals</u>	<u>Location</u>
1911	222	12	5%	Invitational	12	I.U. Assembly Hall
1912	244	13	5%	Invitational	13	I.U. Assembly Hall
1913	258	38	15%	Open.	38	I.U. 3 gyms
1914	314	77	25%	Open.	77	I.U. 4 gyms
1915	387	155	40%	14 Sectionals	14	I.U. Assembly Hall
1916	448	204	46%	16 “	16	I.U. Assembly Hall
1917	502	255	51%	20 “	20	I.U. Men’s Gym
1918	453	301	66%	20 “	20	I.U. Men’s Gym
1919*	560	275	49%	22 “	22	Purdue Memorial Gym
1920	621	372	60%	26 “	26	I.U. Men’s Gym

B. 1921-35 I.H.S.A.A. SWEET SIXTEEN AT INDIANAPOLIS; sixteen finalists

<u>Year</u>	<u>IHSAA #</u>	<u># of entries</u>	<u>Entry %</u>	<u>Sectionals</u>	<u>Regionals (# teams in that Regional)</u>	<u>Finals Teams</u>
1921	673	394	59%	#32	#2: @ Purdue (16), Indiana (16)	8+8
1922	694	488	70%	#32	#2: @ Purdue (16), Indiana (16)	8+8
1923	738	596	81%	#48	#3: @ Purdue (18), Ft. Wayne SS (18), I.U. (12)	5+5+6
1924	762	665	87%	#52	#4: @ Purdue, Indiana, Ft. Wayne, Earlham; (13 each)	4+4+4+4
<u>Two teams from each 8 team Regional advance.</u>						
1925	784	674	86%	#64	#8: @ Anderson, Bloomington, Evansville, Ft. Wayne Frankfort, Gary, Kokomo, Richmond: 8x2=	16
1926	777	719	93%	#64	#8: @ Bedford, Ft. Wayne, Greencastle, Kokomo Martinsville, Muncie, Rushville, S. Bend: 8x2=	16
1927	798	731	92%	#64	#16: <u>One team from each Regional advances: 16x1=</u>	16
1935	801	781	98%	#64	#16: Last Sweet 16	

C. 1936-97 FINAL FOUR ENTRIES AT INDPLS FOR SAMPLE YEARS.

1936	805	784	97%	#64	#16 Regional winners reduced at 4 Semi-states.	4
1938	805	787	98%	#64	#16 Peak # of entries (before consolidation).	4
1960	696	694	99%	#64	#16 Peak paid attendance to tourney: 1.5 million	4
1990	390	386	99%	#64	#16 Record of 41,000 fans at Finals	4
1997	385	382	99%	#64	#16 Last year Single Class: Paid attendance: 0.9 mil.	4

limited that portion of the tourney to a single day. The 4-team final round was likewise reduced to a single day only. That format lasted for 62 years

Table 2. FINALS SITES (& when built): SEATS

1911-16 I.U. Old Assembly Hall (1896)	1500
1917,'18;'20 I.U. Men’s Gym (1917).	2500
1919 Purdue Memorial Gym (1909)	2500
1921-27 Indianapolis Fairgrounds: Old 1907 Coliseum: 1921-24: Cow Barn: 1925-27.	7200
1928-42 Butler Fieldhouse	15,000
1943-45 Fairgrounds. WPA Coliseum (1939).	
1946-71 Butler/Hinkle Fieldhouse	15,000
1972-74 I.U. NEW Assembly Hall II (1971)	17,000
1975-89 Market Square Arena pro basketball gym.	
1990-99 Hoosier/RCA Dome pro football stadium.	

and resulted in a single championship trophy per year, not four as is the case today. But that single trophy was being awarded

more and more to just the largest schools in the state. The dearth of small school championships became a factor by 1997 in the IHSAA’s decision to introduce multi-class basketball to the state.

GREEN, PURPLE & GOLD:**The 1985-87 Marion Giants**

by

Cliff Johnson

By the mid-1980s, I had long since departed from the frigid winters of Indiana in favor of the more temperate mercury readings found in southern California. It was a well-considered move, but I acknowledge having missed Hoosier basketball afterward. The Milan

miracle had materialized in the same year (1954) I graduated from high school, and the intensity of Hoosier basketball had persisted for most of the next four decades. I stayed around for one more decade, finally leaving the state behind in 1966. I remember the North Central Conference as having arguably the best and most glamorous basketball teams in the state. Aside from my own school Western in Howard County, Kokomo had always been the team I supported most during the regular season, particularly if the Wildkats got past us in the sectional—which they normally did.

I followed the Kats’ seasons remotely for awhile after my big

geographic relocation, mostly through communications with past Hoosier friends. A couple of decades later, one of them casually mentioned to me that Marion High, one of the Kats major protagonists in the NCC and a neighboring school in the adjoining county, was making lots of noise on the basketball courts. The Giants had won two straight state titles and had so much veteran manpower returning in 1987 that the chances of a triple looked good. I knew that the Franklin Wonder Five had turned that trick about 65 years earlier, but no team had done so since. So, I started paying attention. Not easy though, living 2,800 miles away from the action. And that was even before Vice President Gore had invented the internet (sorry, just a stale joke). Newspaper clippings and Alexander Graham Bell's actual invention were about all I could rely on. Anyway, as most of you know, Marion did accomplish that triple championship on March 28, 1987.

Aside from the hundreds of stories and articles that appeared in the spring of 1987, very few since have come to my attention that recount that truly historic accomplishment thirty years ago. I don't know if I haven't looked hard enough or if they truly don't exist. It prompted me to do a little research of my own, just the same. I decided to begin with 1985 and go forward through 1987, recalling those three seasons for you--as well as for myself.

The Giants had always been serious contenders in the pursuit of state championships. From 1912 (Marion's first state tournament season) to 1984, they had advanced to the "sweet sixteen" of the state tournament 27 times and had participated nine times in Final Four competition. Three of those nine times they captured all the marbles (1926, 1975, and 1976). They had also recently experienced ten straight

years (1975-84) of having never won fewer than 20 games per season. The Giants were at the peak of their performance those ten years and fully living up to their nickname.

By 1982, the late Bill Green (1934-2011) was starting his second stint as coach at Marion. His earlier years there had been from 1971 through 1976, during which time he garnered exactly 100 wins against 48 losses. But the last two of those seasons had been remarkable. The Giants became state champions both years, while tallying 54 wins against only four losses. That double consecutive championship had been attained six times before in Indiana history—by Wingate in 1913-14; Lebanon in 1917-18; Washington in 1941-42; Evansville Bosse in 1944-45; Muncie Central in 1951-52; and Indianapolis Crispus Attucks in 1955-56.

Even before his 1971 arrival at Marion, Green had accomplished statewide recognition as a winning coach. In 1969, for example, his Indianapolis Washington Continentals had swept through an undefeated season (31-0), culminating with the title of state champions. Green's career as an Indiana high school coach had begun in the late 1950s with Park School of Indianapolis, after he received his bachelor's degree from Indiana Central College—now known as the University of Indianapolis—and a master's degree from Indiana State College (now University). In three seasons, Park School won 58 games with Green serving as an assistant coach. By the fall of 1961, he was recruited to take the reins at Sacred Heart High in the capitol city. His two-year stay there resulted in 31 wins out of 44 games played. Cathedral, another Catholic school in Indianapolis, then hired him in the fall of 1963 where he stayed for four seasons, yielding a less auspicious

record of 27-37. Nevertheless, the Indianapolis Washington administration decided that Green might be the ideal person to assist its head coach, Jerry Oliver. That spot had opened up in the fall of 1967. The decision was a good one. The Oliver/Green combination guided Washington to two very good seasons at 16-7 and 24-3. The next year, when Oliver left for Indiana University, Green was named head coach of the Continentals for 1968-69. He proceeded to lead the school to its first and only state championship.

As a side note, all four 1969 state finalists had nearly perfect records coming into the final games. Vincennes, Washington, and Marion were all undefeated, and Gary Tolleston had lost just one single game all season. Washington's afternoon contest with Marion was touted as the clash of the year, pitting the state's top two titans against one another. Green's Continentals gained a close win in the final 20 seconds, 61-60. That evening, Washington found itself matched against Tolleston, which had halted Vincennes' march to a perfect season in the afternoon's second game by the surprisingly wide margin of 77-66. The once-defeated Blue Raiders now posed a serious threat to any team standing in their way for the crown. In the final, a pitched battle raged for nearly the game's duration, but Tolleston relented in the final minute of play, 79-76.

Marion's administration, apparently impressed by Green's tactics and irrepressible desire to win, opted to offer the coach's post to him two years later, after the Giants' renowned mentor Jack Colecott had been appointed athletic director. Green's first four seasons at Marion were all on the winning side, but by 1974-75 his team really got rolling, becoming state champion

two years in a row with 28-1 and 23-5 records. A sabbatical leave for the next five years allowed Green to write and publish a book about his strategy favoring the match-up zone defense. He returned to coach Marion again at the beginning of the 1981-82 season, and to extend a string of seven 20-plus wins per season that he initiated in 1975. The string had been sustained by replacement coach Larry Liddle throughout Green's five-year absence. Green then stretched that string to ten by the end of 1983-84.

The 1984-85 Team

As the 1984-85 season approached, there was plenty of optimism in the Giants' camp and

and two backups at 6-4. All carried between 190 to 220 pounds of rebounding power. The starting backcourt duo featured a 5-5 set-up artist and a good medium range shooter at 6-2. Field goal accuracy would be a major factor in the success of this team, as statistics at the end of the season would ultimately show. Its shooting average was over 50 percent, high by any comparison at the high school level. Jay Teagle, the starting center, sank 58 percent of his attempts. The Purple & Gold were ranked #1 in the state from the beginning of the season to the end, and finished with an unblemished record of 29-0 as state champions.

Lyndon Jones, 6-2 G
Nikkie Mallory, 5-5 G
Mark Krabbe, 6-0 G
Geoff Eltzroth, 5-10 G

1984-85 Season Record

Anderson Highland 68-48
Norwell 58-51

Lawrence North 61-55

Anderson 70-62

Kokomo 77-65

Huntington North 69-58

Blackford 75-58

FW South Side 76-62

Muncie North 69-57

Richmond 62-54

Jay County 68-36

New Castle 79-63

Lafayette Jeff 57-53

FW Northrop 64-63

North Central 78-60

Logansport 60-42

Madison Heights 71-52

Ind. Chatard 81-65

Muncie Central 63-58

FW Snider 59-57

-Sectional-

Elwood 81-53

Mississinewa 68-52

Madison Grant 83-55

-Regional-

Huntington North 69-62

Bellmont 87-78

-SemiState-

Warsaw 70-65

Mich. City Rogers 83-72

-Finals-

Southridge 76-52

Richmond 74-67



1984-85 State Champions. Photo provided by the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Sorry, player i.d.'s not provided.

the city of Marion. The 1983-84 squad had gone 17-5 during the regular season in stiff NCC competition and had added five more wins in state tournament play before being retired in the regional. There were several veteran players returning. And, there was no shortage of height or heft, with a front line measuring 6-4, 6-5, 6-10,

1984-85 Roster:

Jay Edwards, 6-4 F

Lefon Bowens, 6-5 F

Greg Roper, 6-2 F

Eric Ewer, 6-4 F

Kyle Persinger, 6-2 F

Mike Craft, 6-3 F

Jay Teagle, 6-10 C

Daric Keys, 6-4 C

The 1985-86 Team

Three starters from the 1984-85 team were lost to graduation (Bowens, Teagle, Mallory), but the outlook was promising again for 1985-86, with nearly all the rest of the team returning. This included several of the "backup" players who were polished performers, good enough to star on nearly any other high school team. The sportswriters' #1 ranking for the Giants continued

for the entire first half of the season as the school racked up victory after victory, most by wide margins. After a relatively close five-point

once again in the Final Four, after an 83-82 squeaker over Michigan City in the final game of the Fort Wayne semi-finals. Kyle Persinger netted

Robbie Morrell 5-8 G

1985-86 Season Record

Anderson Highland 90-45

Norwell 85-56

Anderson 58-45

Lawrence North 78-61

Kokomo 88-45

Huntington North 69-60

Blackford 68-47

FW South Side 68-50

Muncie North 79-61

Richmond 68-64

New Castle 66-61

Warsaw 52-55

Lafayette 69-64

Madison Heights 60-56

FW Northrop 75-77

North Central 70-72

Logansport 74-64

Muncie Central 74-69

Ind. Chatard 84-51

FW Snider 73-58

-Sectional-

Madison Grant 96-73

Oak Hill 66-48

Mississinewa 71-59

-Regional-

Logansport 85-64

Huntington North 57-54

-SemiState-

FW Northrop 79-72

Mich. City Rogers 83-82

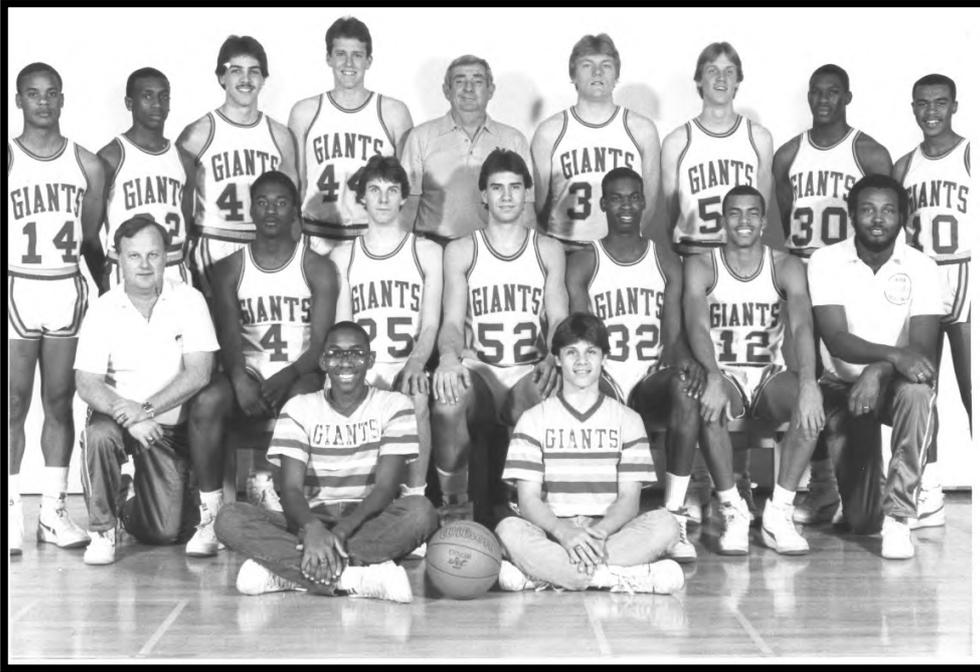
-Finals-

Southridge 63-54

Anderson 75-56

The 1986-87 Team

By now, the public was applying the moniker "Purple Reign" to the Giants purple & gold- bedecked team that appeared to be dominating the state's basketball atmosphere. "Purple Reign" seems to have been a homespun homonym associated with the movie "Purple Rain" which had been released by Warner Brothers three years earlier. It was produced to showcase the talents of *Prince*, a popular rock star attempting to be a movie actor. Prince's musical artistry was never in question, but



1985-86 State Champions. Photo provided by the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Sorry, player i.d.'s not provided.

win over New Castle in mid-season, Marion came face-to-face with an ever-strong Warsaw team that had finished the previous season with a 23-3 mark, losing to the Giants 70-65 in the final game of the Fort Wayne semi-finals. The year before that, 1983-84, Warsaw had captured the state championship. Jeff Grose, the Tigers' Mr. Basketball, graduated in the spring of 1985, so Marion's prospects of continuing a 40-game win streak looked viable. However, it was not to be. The Tigers were still plenty tough and prevailed 55-52. The Giants dropped two of their next four games, each by two points- Fort Wayne Northrup 75-77, and North Central 70-72. The team relinquished its #1 state ranking before picking up steam again and winning the last four games of the regular season. Those winning ways continued through the state tournament, and the team found itself

one of two free throws in the final three seconds to pull the game out for the Giants. Their two wins in the final matches became slightly anticlimactic, as they stormed by Southridge 63-54 and Anderson 75-56. The full season ended at 27 wins against 3 losses. A double state championship mimicked the same feat the Giants had achieved ten years earlier. Was a third consecutive crown attainable?

1985-86 Roster

Jay Edwards 6-4 F

Eric Ewer 6-6 F

Mike Craft 6-4 F

Daric Keys 6-6 C

Jim Huddleston 6-4 C

Scott Hunt 6-6 C

Lyndon Jones 6-3 G

Kyle Persinger 6-4 G

Steve Walker 5-10 G

Robert Stanley 5-11 G

Kevin Spurgon 5-9 G

the lead role in that film was the only part in which Prince was ever cast on screen.

Once again, the Giants were the choice of sportswriters to beat a path to the state finals and, most probably, to the championship. The odds

Lafayette pulled off the upset, 78-74, on its home court. It was the only loss experienced by the Giants for the entire season and came against a recognized out-of-state powerhouse. Lexington Lafayette, one of Kentucky's largest high schools, had

perfect season for the Giants culminated in a record of 29 wins against a single loss.

1986-87 Roster

Jay Edwards 6-5 F
 Daric Keys 6-6 F
 Robert Stanley 6-0 F
 Anthony Butler 6-2 F
 Eric Ewer 6-6 C
 Scott Hunt 6-7 C
 Eric Krabbe 6-4 C
 Kyle Persinger 6-5 G
 Eric Persinger 6-3 G
 Steve Walker 5-11 G
 Derek Barnett 6-1 G

1986-87 Season Record

Anderson Highland 68-62
 Norwell 78-57
 Anderson 77-59
 Lawrence North 99-51
 Kokomo 69-60
 Huntington North 79-49
 Lexington Laf. 74-78
 Muncie North 73-45
 Richmond 51-49
 New Castle 93-57
 Warsaw 84-50
 Lafayette Jeff 88-56
 FW Northrop 77-46
 Madison Heights 81-66
 North Central 85-68
 Blackford 49-32
 Logansport 108-72
 Muncie Central 79-56
 Ind. Chatard 90-66
 FW Snider 76-61
 -Sectional-
 Elwood 81-57
 Mississinewa 66-48
 Oak Hill 96-60
 -Regional-
 Peru 106-69
 Belmont 81-70
 -SemiState-
 Mich. City Rogers 95-63
 Penn 97-62
 -Finals-
 Bedford N. Lawr. 70-61
 Richmond 69-56



1986-87 State Champions. Photo provided by the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame. Sorry, player i.d.'s not provided.

seemed to favor them, mostly because of all the seasoned returnees on hand and the high level of court skills each had exhibited in the past. K. Persinger (6-5), Keys (6-6), Ewer (6-6), Jones (6-3), and Edwards (6-5) were the driving force, while several promising underclassmen had materialized to back them up. This contingent had no problem preserving its reputation as one of the best (and tallest) teams in the state and so was almost unanimously selected as the number one ranked high school team in Indiana, at season's start. It roared through its first six games without a hitch, chalking up victories with relative ease against some good competition. The margin of victory averaged 30.5 points per contest. It took an outstanding Kentucky five at a holiday event called the Thoroughbred Classic to throttle the rampaging Giants. Lexington

been state champion five times previously, and was cruising toward another good season in 1987.

The remaining games on Marion's regular season schedule presented few problems, except for a slowed up two-point cliff-hanging win over the Red Devils of Richmond. Those two teams would ultimately meet again in the final game of the state tournament. The Giants this season were an offensively oriented team, consistently racking up huge scores against their opponents. Ninety points were exceeded eight times in its first 24 games, and at least 100 points were scored twice. Marion's two contests at the finals at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis were nearly blow-outs, with Bedford North Lawrence (which featured freshman scoring sensation Damon Bailey) going down 70-61, and perennial foe Richmond (24-4) falling this time by 69-56. A near-

Green's Legacy

After the 1986-87 season ended, Bill Green left the high school ranks for five years to assume the reins at the University of Indianapolis. He had less success at the college level with the Greyhounds, compiling a record of 58-82. He then returned to coach four more seasons at Marion (1993-96), each one concluded with a winning record. Coach Green was indisputably one of the most successful coaches in Indiana high school history. His is a name that's right up there with the greatest ever, which would of course include such icons as Everett Case, Marion Crawley, Cliff Wells, Glenn Curtis, Ray Crowe, and Jack Butcher, to name a few. After retirement, Green's overall record as an Indiana high school coach appears to be 411 wins against 171 losses. That's an excellent winning percentage of 70.6.

WHEN BASKETBALL WAS KING

by
Mike Beas

Editor's Note: This article appeared recently in the Daily Journal, a newspaper circulated from Franklin, IN. Mike Beas, sportswriter, is the author. It was submitted to Boxscore by Roger Robison, IHSBHS president.

The high school that Sam Hoagland proudly represented on basketball courts in and around Johnson County has ceased to exist for the past 50 years. Hoagland, who wore the purple of the Morgantown Trojans isn't alone, however. Former Nineveh players Bruce Lucas and Don Dugan can make the same claim—as can Joe DeHart, a 1954 Trafalgar graduate, and Tim Baird, who, like Hoagland, represented Morgantown. Rivals at the time, these men are on friendlier terms, united by their love of the game and

by the school that absorbed their alma maters starting with the 1967-68 school year. Now it's all about the red, white, and blue of Indian Creek High School.

Hoagland, the baby of the bunch at age 68, was part of Morgantown's final graduating class. The other four men squared off against each other as part of the rivalries between Morgantown, Nineveh, and Trafalgar in the 1950s. Each is a walking, talking reminder that boys' basketball took place in these parts prior to the opening of Indian Creek fifty years ago. It was special. "Hoosiers-esque," if you will.



Left to right: Sam Hoagland (Morgantown, 1967), Joe DeHart (Trafalgar, 1954), Tim Baird (Morgantown, 1954), Don Dugan (Nineveh, 1957), and Bruce Lucas, (Nineveh, 1954). Photo taken at Indian Creek High School gymnasium by Scotty Roberson/Daily Journal.

All five men, now ranging in age up to 81, treasure memories of capacity crowds shoehorned into quaint gyms. They remember the elevated sense of participation through the week as Friday night's game approached, and an all-encompassing school spirit that, sadly, began fading away generations ago as society changed and entertainment options increased. "Those were really good rivalries. 'A lot of good friendships. 'All the players knew the other players, and everybody just got along good,'"

Lucas said. "And the game was a lot different than it is now. 'It was a slower-paced style of ball, and the sportsmanship was just different. If you knocked someone down, you would pick them up rather than just walk off.'"

To celebrate Indian Creek's 50th-year anniversary, the boys' basketball team will wear throw-back uniforms with NHJ (Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson) on the front of each jersey for a home game. On Jan. 27 (2017), Indian Creek players are wearing purple Morgantown T-shirts with the Trojans' logo during pre-game and half time warm-ups.

Shirts dedicated to the Trafalgar Redbirds (Feb. 10) and Nineveh Eagles (Feb. 17) will follow.

Hoagland, the president of Morgantown's senior class and student council during the 66-67 school year, also played basketball for DeHart, the Trojans' head coach for four seasons in the early 1960s. "I would run through the wall for that man if he asked me to," Hoagland said. "He was my coach my freshman and sophomore years in basketball and cross country. 'I was awfully disappointed when he

decided to give up coaching, but I could understand it even back then. 'He was from Trafalgar, and there was a little bit of animosity. 'We upset them my sophomore year up there on their home court. 'They had an excellent team in '65 too. 'They were really tough.'

Based on tournament accomplishments, Trafalgar was the most successful of the three programs. The Redbirds won their lone sectional in 1917, but picked up three Johnson County tournament championships in 1922, 1957, and 1958. Morgantown won a sectional in 1956, but never could bring back the nets from the county tourney. Of the three, it might have been the Nineveh gymnasium that was the most imposing venue for visiting teams. "I guess Nineveh was the toughest," DeHart says. "It was a small court and a small gym, and we liked a lot of room to run and work our fast break." Asked if the Nineveh court wasn't the standard 84 feet in length, DeHart turns to Lucas. Lucas assures that it was. "Everything just came in on you at the end of the court, I guess. 'We always thought it was smaller, says DeHart.

Morgantown's proximity made it so that Trafalgar and Martinsville were the Trojans' most anticipated games, according to Baird. "We only played Nineveh one time during my time at Morgantown, but we keyed for Trafalgar every year," says Baird, who played for Trojans' coach Keith Rhodes, a former player at Butler University under the legendary Tony Hinkle. "We ran a very sophisticated Butler system," continued Baird. "The year that Milan won the state, I could have gotten to (Crispus Attucks) coach Ray Crowe or any of the coaches who played them and told them to put a man on (Bobby Plump) and play a four man zone."

Dugan, whose children graduated from Indian Creek, can still rattle off players, coaches, and an opponent's state ranking from his nights as a Nineveh basketball player. So long ago, yet so yesterday! "It was highly competitive." "The gyms were crowded every time you played and, to me, it was more exciting that way," Dugan says. "The atmosphere was pretty wild. 'The crowd was right on top of you.'" Laughing, he added, "I could hear my dad hollering at me every once in a while. 'He was too close to me, but I wouldn't tell him that. 'I couldn't talk back to him.'"

**1919
FEAR, ELATION, AND
ZIONSVILLE'S GREATEST
UPSET EVER**

by
**Kermit Paddack, IHSBHS Board
member**

THE FOLLOWING IS AN
EXCERPT FROM THE BOOK
*Zionsville Basketball, A Century of
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The 1918-19 school year was a time that encompassed several changes and events that were paramount in the history of Zionsville schools, as well as in the United States as a whole. In early September the Zionsville Schools said goodbye to Superintendent T.H. Stonecipher, who had held the job for 11 years. During Stonecipher's tenure, 146 students graduated from ZHS, 97 of which entered colleges or professional schools. So beloved was Stonecipher that more than four years after he left, students felt it

necessary to pay tribute to him on the front page of the first edition of the *Walnut Chips*—the first school newspaper at Zionsville.

Events on the national level also hit close to home as the flu epidemic that was wreaking havoc worldwide made itself known in Zionsville. In early October, many cases were reported, and health officials closed the schools in an effort to prevent the spread of the disease. A detailed outline of suggestions from health authorities was published in the *Zionsville Times* on October 10:

1. All colds, however slight, should be treated as possible attacks of influenza. Patients affected by colds should stay at home and sterilize discharge from the nose and throat.
2. Avoid feeling or spreading fear of the disease.
3. Avoid crowds.
4. Regulate bodily functions and keep them so.
5. Avoid the breath or expelled secretions from people suffering from colds.
6. Wash out the nose and throat two or three times daily by a nasal spray or douche and by a gargle with a 'normal salt solution' (1/2 teaspoonful salt to one glass-- 8 ounces—of clean water).
7. All those in attendance on patients with influenza should wear masks such as are provided by the Red Cross Nursing Bureau.
8. Clothing should be warm and dry. Food simple and easily digested. Drink water freely.

Deaths on account of the sickness were frequent and often reported on the front page of the *Zionsville Times*. However, the threat faded and apprehension subsided as the schools reopened on November 4.

The demise of one fear was followed shortly thereafter by extreme jubilation when on November 11 it was announced an armistice had officially ended the Great War (World War I). Reports said the biggest noise the world had ever heard was made as celebration, and the people of Zionsville did their part to contribute. The townspeople used anything they had at hand to make noise, and an enormous bonfire was put together near town hall to champion the occasion. The whole town and part of the surrounding country folk were on hand, and all those assembled hoped such a celebration would not be needed again.

The basketball season that followed may not have influenced the nation, but the results were still exciting for the small town at home. Once again, a schedule for the season was announced in early November, and an announcement was made that no season tickets would be sold due to the uncertainty of playing games. Instead, admission of 20 cents was charged to everyone. The slate included 17 games and had a few open dates they hoped to fill. The exact number of games played is still a bit mysterious due to the erratic newspaper coverage of the day combined with a significant amount of changes made to accommodate large amounts of sickness on other squads. Mooresville, for example, was rescheduled twice because of their

team being infected with the mumps, and a game with Westfield was played in Noblesville to avoid a flu scare in the former town. Regardless of confusion, certain results were recorded and reported for 20 regular season games with the record consisting of 14 wins and six losses. The team even posted an impressive seven game-win streak at one point, and they did not lose a game in the month of December.

Newspaper coverage was sparse when it came to sports in these early years; however, a full roster of the team was printed in the November 28 edition of the *Zionsville Times* that included first and last names. The team members were as follows: Clyde White (captain), Dillard Collins (floor captain), Earl Marsh, Loring Lowe, Tilton Shelburne, Merritt Gault, Elmer Baldock, and Elmer Harvey. It was also noted the "basket ball team should be the idol of the school, physically, mentally and morally." It can be assumed the team held this standard as it was never reported otherwise.

Once again, the sectional tournament required the team to travel north, only this time they even had to leave Boone County and head to Frankfort, Clinton County. The competition included Flora, Lebanon, Kirklin, Rossville, Delphi, Thorntown, Burlington, Advance, Colfax, Bringhurst, Cutler, Scircleville, and Frankfort. ZHS drew Scircleville for the second consecutive year, and the result, also for the second consecutive year, was a win. The game seemed to never be in question as they led 15-1 at the half and closed it out at 30-8. In a bit of foreshadowing, the young Elmer Harvey, a sophomore, was

said to be the team's "main cog" in the game with 14 points to his credit.

The win on Friday evening created a matchup for Zionsville that was certainly exciting but also terrifying. A 2 p.m. tipoff was scheduled for Saturday against Lebanon, a team that won the state championship the two previous years (1917 and 1918). More recently, they dismantled Kirklin on Friday (54-3) and Frankfort (31-6) on Saturday to reach the semifinal round. According to LHS coach, Rex Dale, his players were somewhat tired, and their star, Fred "Cat" Adam, was slightly hurt during the morning game. This provided little comfort to the Zionsville team that had never beaten a first-string team from the county seat.

The excitement was palpable as a capacity crowd of 1,200, including 300 Lebanon-specific, fans turned out for the start of the game. It began slow and took five minutes before the 0-0 tie was broken by a Lebanon basket. Despite a frequently acknowledged height advantage, Zionsville had trouble getting shots and keeping the ball during the early stages of the game. As the contest wore on, Lebanon acquired eight more points despite poor shooting from under their own basket. At the half LHS held a 10-0 lead, and things looked dim for the ZHS squad, to say the least.

During the intermission, Lebanon decided to change uniforms due to similarity to the Zionsville teams'. Something in the uniform change must have inspired the ZHS squad as things quickly began to turn around. Dillard Collins scored a long field goal, and Elmer Harvey added two more baskets. This moved the score

to 12-6, and the sudden revival began to turn the crowd in favor of Zionsville. Merritt Gault managed another long field goal that got the crowd in a frenzy and had the team within five points. Harvey added two more baskets for ZHS to bring them within one. What seemed impossible at the half now felt like some sort of destiny for the Green and Brown from Zionsville. With momentum in their favor, Zionsville got the ball back, and things became tense under the basket. Once more, Harvey managed to get a shot up, and it fell through the net as the crowd erupted in cheers and Zionsville took a 14-13 lead. With only a minute to play, Lebanon managed a couple of shots unsuccessfully. As the last seconds ticked off the clock, the crowd spilled onto the floor, bursting with excitement for the tremendous upset they just witnessed.

For the Zionsville supporters on hand, the game was an emotional roller coaster that started with disappointment and ended with euphoria. Later accounts of the scene cited laughing, crying, singing, and whistling as well as hugs, kisses, fainting, and people throwing hats and coats. Superintendent J.L. Pleasant was so excited he called back home to the Corner Drugstore twice to let everybody know the boys had beaten the champions. On the other side of things, the Lebanon faithful were simply stunned, frozen, and unable to process the disappointment that had befallen them.

That evening, the championship game in Clinton County was played between two teams from Boone County. Thorntown provided the opposition, and after the surprise win over the defending state champions,

many thought Zionsville would make a fight out of it. However, they were sadly mistaken. It seemed more likely the afternoon game took all the fight they had for the day. Thorntown quickly came out swinging, gained an early lead, and never looked back as they took home the championship with a 22-9 victory. THS made it to the semifinals of the state championship the following week at Purdue before they fell to Bloomington.

Fresh off his unexpected heroics, Elmer "Steve" Harvey told his teammates they would win "something" in the state tournament next year. While this might have been an erroneous prediction, it did show confidence in the team after such a lofty success. For Harvey, he would be a leader on the team for the next two years before graduating from ZHS in 1921. After high school he went to Indiana University where he played one year of basketball and earned a chemistry degree in 1925. He spent his next 39 years working for the Dupont Chemical company. Although he lived in New Jersey, his connection to Zionsville stayed strong as he always maintained a subscription to the *Zionsville Times* and kept up with the happenings of the town. He was always proud of the 1919 team, and when it was announced the school was giving away the pictures that hung in the halls, he made sure to secure the team photo. It stayed in his home for the rest of his life and now hangs in the office of his son James in North Carolina. Elmer "Steve" Harvey passed away in October of 1979.

The win over Lebanon was one that would be recounted locally for

years to come. It was the first time Zionsville managed to post a victory over the big boys that played in the shadow of the courthouse and showed they were able to compete. It took a while before ZHS made it back to this sort of excitement and success, but the win in 1919 did provide the first taste of success for the town and the program.

To read the rest of Zionsville's basketball history as written in *Zionsville Basketball, a Century of Eagles*, you can order a copy at zionsvillebasketballhistory.com, or place an order by using the form at the end of this Boxscore issue.

EDITOR'S REMARKS

IHSBHS is hungry for materials that any of its members might like to furnish us for personal storylines. We've been receiving some pretty good stuff from time to time over the years, but we certainly don't want the pantry to hold empty shelves any time soon. Our ranks are filled with former ballplayers having had past experiences worth sharing with readers. We'd like to know about them, even if you might consider them trivial. You'd be surprised how entertained subscribers can be when they read personal accounts of former seasons, ballgames, or perhaps obscure events. You don't need to be a professional writer to do this, either. General opinions or comments are good, even if you've had limited or no experience of your own on the courts. Please let us hear from you.

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