

BOXSCORE

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 WINTER ISSUE

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

Our IHSBHS website address is Indianabasketballhistory.com. You can also enter IHSBHS or "Boxscore" on any search engine.

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THE 1941 INDIANA ALL-STARS by Cliff Johnson, Editor

The 1941 summer classic all-star game pitted the best of Kentucky's most recently graduated seniors against those of Indiana, in the 2nd year of a newly established rivalry. The 1940 game had gone to Indiana by a close margin of 31-29. By the spring of 1941, several minor wrinkles had been ironed out between the two Athletic

Associations to assure fairness while maximizing the mutual benefits. It also became clear that the news media would need to play a major

Optimism was the guiding light.

Friday night, August 22, at 8:30 p.m. was settled upon as the scheduled tip-off time for the game.



Front Row: Dave Strack, Ind. Shortridge; Bob Rowland, Martinsville; Carl Campbell, Kokomo; John Bass, Greenwood; Leroy Mangin, Washington. Back Row: Max Pearsey, Rushville; Mulford Davis, Elwood; Bill Butler, Decatur Central; Don Server, Madison, Marshall Koontz, New Castle.

role in publicizing the game and stimulating public interest to assure adequate gate receipts at Butler Fieldhouse during the basketball off-season and the summer's heat.

Although far from being a sellout at the vast 15,000-seat arena in downtown Indianapolis, 6,904 fans showed up for the tilt. It was a slight improvement over 1940's attendance

and the gate receipts generated enough revenue to cover expenses, with a small amount of profit left over. One of the unusual aspects of the Kentucky line-up this year was the inclusion of the entire starting first five from tiny Inez High School in Martin County (today, Sheldon Clark H.S.), 1941 state champions.

Rosters for the two squads were as follows:

Kentucky All-Stars

Alex Harmon, 5-9 f (Inez)
 Bill Taylor, 6-1 f (Inez)
 Bob Cooper, 6-2 c (Inez)
 Lester West, 5-8 g (Inez)
 Joe Kirk, 5-10 g (Inez)
 John Padgett, 6-2 f (Hardin)
 John Sieweke, 5-11 f (Ashland)
 Bob Stout, 6-2 c (Cumberland)
 Ed Hansel, 6-2 c (Dixie Hts.)
 Paul Butcher, 5-5 g (Meade Mem.)

Indiana All-Stars

John Bass, 6-0 f (Greenwood)
 Bob Rowland, 6-2 f (Martinsville)
 Carl Campbell, 6-3 f (Kokomo)
 Leroy Mangin, 6-4 c (Washington)
 Dave Strack, 5-8 g (Ind. Shortridge)
 Max Pearsey, 6-3 f (Rushville)
 Mulford Davis, 6-3 c (Elwood)
 Bill Butler, 6-1 g (Decatur Cent.)
 Don Server, 5-9 g (Madison)
 Marshall Koontz, 6-4 c (New Castle)

Glenn Curtis handled the coaching responsibilities again for Indiana, while Ed Diddle and Ted Hornback repeated as mentors for the 1941 Kentucky squad. The superior height and size of the Hoosier boys gave them a distinct advantage on the boards and near the hoop, but Kentucky was flush with speed and the ability to shoot from all corners of the court. Throughout the first half, it looked like an even match between the two squads. As the horn sounded to end the first 16 minutes of play, Indiana was leading by the slim margin of two points, 22-20. Kentucky stayed mainly with the Inez first five on the court throughout the first half, demonstrating the shooting accuracy,

cohesion, and spirit that had guided the Indians to their first and only state championship in 1941. Deep into the third period, Indiana's strength around the keyhole began to take its toll on the Inez boys, and Kentucky began to substitute freely in order to inject more height into the contest. Mangin, Campbell, and Koontz, however, had taken over at close range for the Hoosiers, and Indiana's advantage escalated to 48-38 with little more than three minutes left to play. The remainder of the game was essentially anticlimactic as the margin was readily maintained by the Hoosiers. The final score read 52-41. The box score was as follows:

Indiana (52)

FG FT TP

Bass, f	0	1	1
Rowland, f	3	0	6
Campbell, f	5	0	10
Mangin, c	6	2	14
Strack, g	3	0	6
Pearsey, f	0	0	0
Davis, c	1	3	5
Koontz, c	4	0	8
Server, g	0	0	0
Butler, g	1	0	2

Kentucky (41)

FG FT TP

Harmon, f	3	1	7
Taylor, f	3	2	8
Cooper, c	2	2	6
West, g	2	2	6
Kirk, g	1	2	4
Sieweke, f	0	1	1
Padgett, f	2	1	5
Stout, c	1	0	2
Hansel, c	0	0	0
Butcher, g	1	0	2

Very few of the All-Stars from either of these 1941 teams were able to continue putting their basketball talents on display at either the college or pro levels. This was largely due to the outbreak of World

War II on Dec. 7, 1941. After serving in the military forces, a handful of them enrolled in college and played ball at later stages of their lives.

IHSBHS MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Many of our IHSBHS members are senior citizens and thus from time to time we lose a few to age complications or to the grim reaper. Nevertheless, such losses do not seem to diminish the overall count of our membership from one year to the next, owing to the steadily increasing number of new member enrollments. The total active and paid-up members at present is about 140. That number does not include those whose membership dues have not yet been received for 2018, nor those who have inadvertently allowed their memberships to lapse in 2017. Prospects for continued IHSBHS growth look to be certain. Our list of currently active members has been prepared by Sec'y/Treasurer Rocky Kenworthy and is attached at the tail end of this quarterly issue. The newest members total 25. They are, in alpha order, as follows: Trent Anderson, Willamette, IL; Bill Boone, Crawfordsville; Tom Brown, Fairmount; Mark Buxton, Spr'gfield, IL; Jerry Cain, Knightstown; Don Chastain, Mitchell; Bill Clossin, Chattanooga, TN; Scott Combs, Pulaski, TN; Rob Evans, Perham, MN; Richard Gill, Suwanee, GA; Jerry Lewis, Hilton Head, SC; Rush McColley, West Lafayette; Carl Miller, Thorntown; Jeff Rasley, Indianapolis; Rich Roberts, Indianapolis; Dr. Robert Robinson Sr., Zionsville; Dr. Bob Robinson Jr., Barre, VT; Bruce Schooler, Munster; William Schooler, Delphi; Larry Sharp, Indianapolis; Dick Stevens, Debary, FL; Matt Werner, Union Mills; Tom Wethington, Jamestown. Welcome to IHSBHS, and enjoy our Boxscore contents.

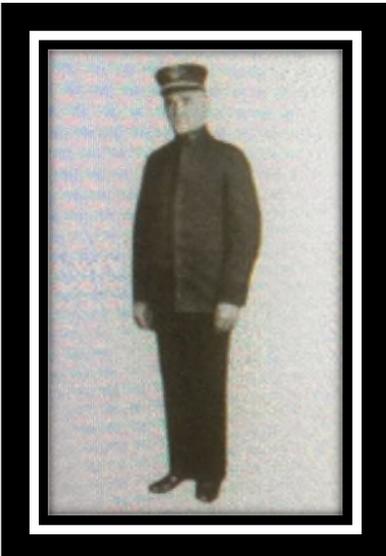
'OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE' STOPS A GAME

by

**Leigh Evans, IHSBHS board
member**

Editor's Note: While the ongoing controversy about certain NFL players not paying tribute to our national anthem is fresh in our minds, Leigh Evans, Editor of on-line Hickory Husker, decided to submit to us this amusing account of a 1930 high school game incident in which just the opposite kind of conduct materialized, quite by accident. Read on.

An early season contest in 1930 between the Sharpville Bulldogs and the home-standing Kokomo Kats was stopped dead in its tracks with minutes left in the second quarter. The reason? Kokomo's Band Leader Mr. Caylor got his signals crossed and thought it was halftime. For no particular reason, (it seemed), Caylor suddenly called for "The Star Spangled Banner."



Kokomo Band Leader Caylor

From accounts at the time, Sharpville center Van Bibber had just crossed half court and was preparing to shoot. However, as sixty some horns began belting out the familiar notes, the Bulldog team

captain pulled the ball to his side and stood at attention. The rest of the players for both teams, taking their cue, stopped where they were on the court and did the same. Bench coaches, substitutes, and game officials quickly followed suit while a quick-thinking time keeper stopped his watch.

The entire gym would stay frozen for the better part of a minute. As the band (awkwardly) ceased playing, the ballplayers picked up where they had left off and young Van Bibber resumed his dribble and took his shot. No record of whether it went in or not, but he was not called for a double dribble. That would have truly been un-American or at least un-Hoosier. A newspaper account at the time closed with this: "If there is a moral to this incident, it is that even in Hoosier basketball our flag is still there." Kokomo would go on to win, 28-19, but that hardly seems to matter 87 years later.

CRISPUS ATTUCKS: AN OVERVIEW as recounted personally by Oscar Robertson

Editor's Note: This article has an ESPN Enterprises, Inc. trademark copyright and appears here as a reprint via courtesy of "The Undefeated." Formally entitled "How an all-black high school team starring Oscar Robertson changed Hoosier Hysteria," we've shortened the title here to fit our Table of Contents. Oscar Robertson, its author and the National Association of Basketball Coaches' "Player of the Century," is also an established labor leader, entrepreneur, author, basketball ambassador, and an advocate of healthy living and organ disease prevention. He is in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame as an individual and as co-captain of the 1960 gold-medal winning U.S. Olympic basketball

team. The first player to average a triple-double for an entire season, he holds the NBA's career record for triple-double games (181) and previously held the single-season record of 41 which Russell Westbrook broke on April 9, 2017. The black president of any national sports or entertainment labor organization, he led the National Basketball Players' Association's class-action, anti-trust lawsuit against the NBA, resulting in the Oscar Robertson Rule which ultimately made NBA players the first pro athletes to receive free agency. More than 120,000 readers have been schooled in the fundamentals of the game through his instructional books "Play Better Basketball" and "The Art of Basketball."

Long before there was "March Madness"—which is now a multi-billion-dollar industry—there was the more localized phenomenon known as Hoosier Hysteria: the run-up to the Indiana state high school basketball championship. High school basketball in Indiana has long been akin to religion. When I was playing at Indianapolis' Crispus Attucks High School, Butler University Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, site of the final rounds of the tournament, was the cathedral. And the state title was and still is the holy grail.



Oscar Robertson

Until 1997, all Indiana high schools, whether they had 100 students or 2,500, were in one single class and competed for the same title. No matter how poorly a school might have fared in its regular season, it got a second chance when the four rounds of the state tournament began. Today there are four classes instead of one, ranked according to school size from 4a down to 1a. The tournament's final rounds were moved from Butler Fieldhouse in 1971 and, since 2000, have been played in Bankers Life Fieldhouse, home of the NBA Indiana Pacers and the WNBA Indiana Fever.

Last March, Crispus Attucks made it to the state finals for the first time in 58 years, competing in Class 3a this time around. I would not have missed this game for the world. And the Tigers did not disappoint, edging Twin Lakes in a 73-71 squeaker, to win the school's fourth state championship. Only three other schools have won more. The bad, bad Tigers are back!

Breaking a 44-Year Drought

Before 1955, teams from smaller cities and towns, some so small they were barely on the map, routinely won the state title. No school from Indianapolis—Indiana's largest city and state capitol—had won the championship in 44 years of organized high school basketball. But in 1955, our Crispus Attucks Tigers had an opportunity to change all that—we were in the state's Final Four for just the second time in the school's basketball history. Attucks had been a source of pride for Indianapolis' black community ever since its doors opened. Our parents, our teachers, and our community had taught us pride in ourselves, inner dignity and resilience in the face of adversity. Our school was known as much for its academic excellence as for its athletic achievements. We

had lost only one game all season, and we were not going to lose now. We were comfortable playing at Butler Fieldhouse, where we played many of our "home" games anyway (our school gym was too small to host basketball games). And we were eagerly looking forward to the traditional champion's ride on the fire truck and a big celebration downtown. Or so we thought, anyway.

No Indiana Farm Boys Here

Butler Fieldhouse was packed with 15,000 fans for that 1955 championship tilt on Saturday night, but it seemed eerily quiet as we took the floor against Gary Roosevelt High School, led by slender (*editor's word*) center Wilson Eison and future NBA star Dick Barnett. Even Attucks' fans, confined as always to a corner of the Fieldhouse and surrounded by police, seemed more subdued than usual as they cheered for their "bad, bad Tigers." For the first time, two all-black schools were meeting for the state championship. Not only might Indianapolis have its first state champion—Indiana would have its first all-black state champion, *regardless*. It would also be a first for the entire country. The mythological image of Indiana basketball for many years was that of a skinny farm boy shooting at a rusty hoop nailed above the barn door. But there were no skinny farm boys on the court that night. Both teams were made up of kids who had developed their games on inner-city public playgrounds. We had changed the game. We had proven emphatically that our up-tempo style of basketball could be just as effective as the plodding, feet-on-the-floor approach many coaches still favored. And we thought we might have also changed the culture as well. Our fan base was now spreading throughout the city. Luke Walton, the radio play-by-play

announcer, was now referring to us as "Indianapolis Attucks." Perhaps we had opened a small crack in the walls of segregation and discrimination that stood at the time.

The Klan 'Brings Us Together'

From the time it opened in 1927, Crispus Attucks had been a segregated school. Front organizations for the Ku Klux Klan had pressured the Indianapolis School Board into moving black high school students out of the general school population into a separate school of their own. All-black high schools were built in Gary and Evansville as well. Even in the mid-50s, the Klan had tremendous influence in Indiana politics, business, and education. At one point an estimated 25 percent of all white men in Indiana were members. One of the Grand Dragons of the Klan was based in Indianapolis, from which he oversaw a "fiefdom" of 23 states. Our school was named for a man of color—part African-American, part Native American—who was the first casualty of the Boston Massacre in 1770 and by extension, the American Revolution. According to legend, the Klan marched past our school in a victory parade when the school opened. But the move to segregate us backfired spectacularly at that time. Attucks was overcrowded, and its facilities substandard compared with other schools. But most Attucks teachers had advanced degrees, and some had doctorates. Excluded from teaching at white schools, these dedicated men and women were determined to create a superior academic environment within the confines of a segregated school system.

Academics Shaped Everyone at Attucks

The impetus for academic excellence came from Russell A. Lane, Attucks' principal from 1930 to 1957. He had a law degree and a

doctorate in education and believed that Attucks should set the standard for secondary school education. He expanded the curriculum accordingly, with college prep courses included. Lane also emphasized cultural pride, discipline, and respect. Athletes were students first and foremost, and enjoyed no special privileges. They were also reminded that any time they stepped on a court or an athletic field, they were representing not just Attucks, but the entire black community. And while we might not have been aware of it at the time, our quest for a breakthrough on behalf of all-black schools was part of the larger social context of the mid-50s. The Supreme Court's landmark decision of *Brown v. Board of Education* had legally put an end to school segregation in 1954, although it would take years for the law to be fully implemented. Earlier in 1955, Marion Anderson—denied the right to sing in Washington's Constitution Hall sixteen years previously—had become the first black artist to sing at the Metropolitan Opera House. Later that year, Emmett Till was brutally murdered in Mississippi, and his killers were never brought to justice. Rosa Parks refused to move to the back of the bus and set off the Montgomery bus boycott that accelerated the civil rights movement.

Ray Crowe Speeds Up the Game

On that Saturday evening in March 1955 at Butler Fieldhouse, all we were thinking about was winning a state championship. Attucks had come close once previously, reaching the Final Four in 1951 during Ray Crowe's very first year as head coach. For its first six years, Attucks was not allowed to play against member schools in the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA), and it took 15 years to gain admittance to IHSAA

membership and the "Hoosier Hysteria" that was state tournament competition. Before 1951, Attucks had been focused more on "legitimacy," in gaining acceptance in the larger community. Its basketball teams played a technically sound but passive, non-confrontational game so as not to upset anyone. All that changed when Crowe, a math and physical education teacher, was promoted from assistant coach into the head coach position and, against all odds, launched Attucks' period of greatest athletic success.

Crowe was totally on board with the Attucks philosophy of academic excellence above all else. That did not mean he was comfortable with the status quo when it came to basketball. He noted that "Some of the older teachers still thought we needed to avoid being too aggressive and confrontational. 'I needed to make them understand that the worse disgrace we could bring to the school was to lose when we had a chance to win.'" Crowe installed the more up-tempo style of play that his players were already using on the playgrounds. It was faster, louder, more stop-and-go, more improvised—a style that, like jazz, allowed for individual excellence within a team context. You had to be in great shape to play for Crowe. You ran on offense, pressed on defense. I think he had probably learned from the visionary coach John McLendon that you could play an all-out running game and score a lot of points while minimizing turnovers and maintaining discipline, good fundamentals, and strong defense.

How the 'Dust Bowl' Shaped Our Teams

My family--dad, mom, older brothers Bailey and Henry, and me—had moved to Indianapolis from the farms of central Tennessee in 1942,

when I was four years old. Indianapolis was hostile territory if you were black. I was naïve about the depths of segregation in Indianapolis and in the world. We kids being black, poor, and unwelcome outside our own neighborhood, activities were pretty much limited to school, church, and sports. And basketball was the king of all sports. Guys played from sunrise to sundown. There was a vacant lot near our house, and someone put up a backboard and a hoop. Our games would kick up clouds of dust, so the lot became known as "the Dust Bowl." Even when we started playing on asphalt courts at the nearby Lockefield Gardens housing project, "the Dust Bowl" became the generic name for anywhere we played outdoors. Players from Attucks dominated at both the Dust Bowl and the Senate Avenue YMCA, where indoor pickup games were played. The older kids didn't want to play with us younger kids, so we had to keep challenging them until we were competitive enough to stay on the court.

The Dust Bowl was the crucible in which my game was forged. I learned the importance of playing against people who were better than you, so you can learn from them and improve your own game. Every moment we weren't on the court, I was off to the side, working on my game. I started developing a side-step, fade-away jump shot, releasing it above my head so it wouldn't be blocked by taller players. I would even shoot at night by moonlight until the neighbors would tell me to go home.

Tom Sleet—Coach, Mentor, Inspiration

I could practice all day and night, but I still needed someone to give me direction and structure. That person was Tom Sleet, who coached my 7th

and 8th grade teams at Public School No. 17 and freshman basketball at Attucks. He taught us the critical importance of the fundamentals—that athleticism and gamesmanship, aka basketball intelligence—don't mean anything unless you can execute consistently. We learned how to pivot, how to box out under the boards, how to set a pick, how to move without the ball. Basically, we were running what is now known as the triangle offense, in the seventh grade. Coach Sleet also emphasized the importance of defense and taught us how to play a tough, intense man-to-man game. More importantly, he showed us how to become good citizens, and gave us self-confidence, a winning attitude, and the encouragement to believe that we could succeed on the court and in other facets of life.

My first experience facing white players on the same court came when I was in the 7th grade at P.S. No. 17. In the 8th grade, we won the city's junior high school tournament. People started taking notice, including Attucks coaches who were in the stands. Some of the older players at the Dust Bowl, seeing how serious I was about my game, started taking me under their wings and giving me helpful tips. Following our tournament win, we got even more good news in our household: my oldest brother Bailey, better known as "Flap," was chosen for Crowe's first varsity squad at Attucks. Flap was always a better shooter than I was. And where I was quiet and reserved, keeping my true feelings internalized, he was always vocal in speaking up for himself, which often put him at odds with his coach. He went on to star at Indiana Central College (*later University of Indianapolis*), setting an Indiana collegiate scoring record that stood for many years. Then he played for the Globetrotters and briefly for the

Syracuse Nationals and Cincinnati Royals, but I felt he never got the shot at the pro game that he truly deserved. He died much too young, in 1996.

Flap Puts Attucks on the Map

Flap made a lasting contribution to the lore of Indiana high school basketball. His last second shot capped a 10-point comeback against perennial powerhouse Anderson in the 1951 state semi-finals and put Attucks in the Final Four for the first time. Even though the team lost in the afternoon and would not make it to the Final Four again for four years, this win was a turning point for Attucks basketball. Attucks teams brought a new flair to the game, which horrified basketball purists. Having played pickup games at the Dust Bowl for years, they could play "positionless basketball" long before that term was in vogue. They had been further schooled by Sleet and Albert Spurlock, who taught industrial arts and coached track, cross-country, and junior varsity basketball. All Crowe had to do was apply the finishing touches. Crowe ran very few set plays, but his teams still played with discipline—focusing on team success, sharing the ball, working for good shots, deferring to the better shooters, and playing within themselves without showboating. And he emphasized that whatever the fans, your opponents, or the officials threw at you, you were to maintain your poise and composure. Keep your cool. He was not going to lose a game on a technical foul, and his players were not either.

Starting in 1951, Crowe's teams were burned by bad calls in the state tournament three years in a row. He became determined that referees not be allowed to influence the outcome of a game (this was a tall order since there were no black officials in the

Indiana Officials Association). He stressed the need to build an early lead and keep it. His mantra was "The first 10 points are for the refs...the rest are for us." He also allowed his tallest players to dunk the ball during warm-ups, alternating right and left hands, giving opponents a little preview of what they were up against before the game even began. Attucks' visually exciting style of play coincided with the emergence of television, and tournament games were now shown live statewide on TV. I had seen very few varsity games up to this point. But when I watched Attucks beat Anderson on TV, I got a vision of what I could achieve.

Following in my Brother's Footsteps

In 1953, Bailey graduated and went on to Indiana Central. And, thanks to puberty and another summer of work on the farm, I grew from 5-8 to 6-3 and packed on some muscle. As a sophomore, I joined the junior varsity group lined up for tryouts. But Bill Mason, a senior guard I knew well from the Dust Bowl, kept beckoning to me. "Come on over here, Oscar," he said, "This is where you belong." I was the last person chosen for the varsity, and assigned my brother's old number, 43. Even if you were among the chosen, Crowe made it clear that your first priority was academics. All players from grades 9 to 12 met in his home room every morning. He called the roll and talked us through our homework assignments. If grades had been issued, he posted them for all to see. And then we were off to the other courses on our schedules. The day was interrupted by a second roll call at mid-day. The city fathers wanted to make sure we were all "in our place" and not out wreaking havoc. I enjoyed school—the process of learning, the wisdom our teachers passed on, the personal

attention and encouragement they gave us. I was naturally shy and did not raise my hand to volunteer answers, but I was ready if called upon. And bit by bit, I came out of my shell and learned to interact with people in settings other than the basketball court.

Stars Hallie Bryant and Willie Gardner had graduated along with my brother, and we were considered an unknown quantity for 1953-54. I was assigned to play forward and, sometimes the pivot as well. I came off the bench to score 15 points in our opener and started after that. My game wasn't yet as consistent as I wanted it to be, but we were winning—despite season-ending injuries to Willie Merriweather, Winford O'Neal, and Sheddrick Mitchell, our three tallest and most talented players. By this point I was assuming more of a leadership role, and coach moved me to guard so I could bring the ball up and create more movement on offense. Even without our star threesome, we were still competitive till the very end of the season. In the semi-finals, however, we lost 65-52 to tiny Milan High School which was en route to a 32-30 championship win over perennial powerhouse Muncie Central, thanks to "the shot" by Bobby Plump. And we took one small step on the cultural side. As we advanced through the tournament, superintendent of schools H. L. Shibler arranged for cheerleaders from all the Indianapolis schools to join forces with our cheerleaders for the first time. It became a tradition from that point on.

1955 Could Be Our Year

As Attucks' popularity grew, our "team without a gym" cut down on road trips and began playing more Indianapolis schools—sometimes at the Arsenal Tech arena on the east side of town, and more and more

often at Butler Fieldhouse. We could draw up to 11,000 people for our games, and were supposedly the best-drawing high school team in the country. The gate money went right back into improving conditions at our school. Going into the 1954-55 season, our expectations were high. O'Neal had graduated, but Merriweather and Mitchell were back from their injuries. We had a solid, deep squad, and another year's experience playing together. We finished the regular season 20-1, losing only to Connersville where we had fallen too far behind to mount a comeback on their wet, slippery court and came up one point short. Then it was on to the sectionals, the regionals, and the semi-state, where we faced basically the same Muncie Central team that had lost to Milan the previous year.

Stealing the 'Game of the Century'

Central and Attucks had traded No. 1 rankings all season long, and some of the media were calling this "the game of the century." And it was a close, hard-fought battle. After numerous lead changes, Central had the ball for a last shot with ten seconds left, but I deliberately played well behind my man and then leapt forward to steal the pass and seal a 71-70 win. In the first afternoon game of the finals, New Albany put up a good fight, but we pulled away at the end and won 79-67. In the second game, Gary Roosevelt had its hands full with Fort Wayne North before winning, 68-66. Between the afternoon and evening games, neither Attucks nor Roosevelt teams were permitted to rest in Butler University's dorms during the break, although white teams had always done so during previous tournament weekends. The Roosevelt players stayed with families in town, while our team was crowded into a downtown hotel room. We figured Roosevelt would

be tired in the final game, and we were right. We pressed them from the beginning, jumped off to an early lead and never looked back. We were up 21 at the half, and the only suspense was about whether we would score 100 points. Final score: Attucks 97, Roosevelt 74. Eison, who went on to be named Indiana's "Mr. Basketball," had 32 points and set a three-game tournament scoring record. I had 30 with a bit of time left, but when I saw a little-used senior forward named Willie Burnley open near the basket, I felt it was more important for him to get into the championship scoring column than it was for me to tie the record.

A Celebration Denied

When the final horn sounded, we could not contain our jubilation as we raced onto the court. There's a picture of me on a ladder, cutting down the net with a mile-wide smile on my face. But our win came with a bittersweet aftertaste. As we climbed aboard a fire truck for the traditional ride downtown, followed by a caravan of our fans cheering for their "bad, bad Tigers," we had a strange feeling about the trip. And when we got to Monument Circle, we didn't stop and get off to join our fans in celebration. There would be no downtown celebration. Instead, Mayor Alex Clark read a brief tribute, we took another lap around the Circle, and then our parade was redirected to Northwestern Park in the black section near Attucks, where 25,000 people celebrated around a huge bonfire. That's when it hit me. It seemed like it was OK for us to win for the city, and bring pride to the general population, but we were still considered second-class citizens. I hung around for a while, but I really wasn't in much of a mood to celebrate, so I went home. Soon enough, we learned that city officials had called principal Lane before the finals and informed him there would

be no celebrating downtown. Merchants and city officials were concerned that if our “colored” fans were permitted to celebrate at Monument Circle, they would riot, loot and destroy businesses, shoot out the street lights, and engage in all other sorts of unspeakable mischief.

Can't Bring Back the Thrill

Once we learned what the city fathers had done to us, I was furious. To this day, I cannot forget the pain of being rejected in my own hometown. Our Attucks championship teams have since been celebrated several times, but there's no way to bring back the innocent excitement our group of deserving black teenagers—who had earned the celebration—was looking forward to at that point in time. The following year, when we won our second consecutive state championship, capping off an undefeated season and a record 45-game winning streak, I refused to take part in another bogus, second-class celebration, and just went home after the game.

It was obvious that if basketball's popularity discouraged racial discrimination, the public at large had still not gotten the memo. Athletic excellence might change attitudes on a personal and cultural level, but it could not by itself end institutionalized segregation and discrimination. Fortunately for history, Bob Collins, a sports reporter for the *Indianapolis Star*, accurately chronicled all Indiana high school athletic teams, including Crispus Attucks basketball, despite enduring continued harassment from whites. And that first Indiana state championship remains one of the highlights of my playing career, along with the gold medal won by our undefeated 1960 U.S. Olympic basketball team and the Milwaukee Bucks' first and only NBA title in 1971. Against all odds, we had

accomplished something that could never be taken away.

The 'Bad, Bad Tigers' Are Back

Attucks' success had unintended consequences. Middle-class blacks began enrolling their kids in schools other than Attucks, and those schools also snapped up the black student athletes who lived in their districts. Despite his 179-20 record over seven years, and three consecutive trips to the state finals, Coach Crowe was never named Indiana Coach of the Year. Bill Garrett, a former “Mr. Basketball” who had been the first black player at Indiana University, succeeded Crowe as coach in 1957 and led Attucks to its third title of the decade in 1959. Crowe had been promoted to athletic director when a new principal replaced Dr. Lane. The traditional fire truck ride downtown was discontinued 45 years ago, when the state finals were moved from Butler Fieldhouse to Indiana University's Assembly Hall. Lockfield Gardens and the Dust Bowl no longer exist, having given away long ago to the campus of Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis, and IU Health University Hospital.

Attucks was spared the wrecking ball but was downgraded to a junior high school in 1986. In 2006, it became a high school once again—a medical magnet school serving the hospital. But it seemed that its days of basketball dominance would remain a distant memory. In the last couple of years, however, the program has been rejuvenated and I'm betting that last March's visit to the state finals and its championship will not be its last. I'm proud to say that the “bad, bad Tigers” are back.

THE HOOSIER TRIANGLE TRIUMPH OF 1917 by Roger F. Robison

Long before coaches Sam Barry (1892-1950), Tex Winter (1922-),

and Phil Jackson (1945-) championed the “Triangle Offense,” the state of Indiana had its own revered “Triangle”—located from Crawfordsville to Purdue University to Lebanon High. In 1917, all three locations saw continued success.

Crawfordsville High School (C.H.S.) & Wabash College

At the Crawfordsville point of the Triangle, C.H.S. had lost the heartbreaking final game of 1916 in overtime to Lafayette. Its All-State junior Monte Grimes had been the second highest scorer at the 1916 finals, scoring 52 points, just behind Lafayette's Tilson at 54. Grimes had rashly (?) enlisted in the National Guard in 1916 and was called up for nine months of military duty on the Mexican border. He was not released until February 1917 and appeared in only the last five games of his senior season. C.H.S. finished the season with a 7-18 record. Wingate, led by freshman Alonzo Goldsberry, captured the 1917 Montgomery County sectional.

However, Wabash College was enjoying its second “Wonder Five,” a throwback name used for its original 1906-08 Wonder Five. The team was led by former high school All-State players Homer Stonebraker (1914 Wingate), Abe DeVol (1915 Lebanon), and Francis Bacon (1913 South Bend). See Fig. 1 of the 1917 Wabash team. Wabash was ranked #2 nationally, with Stonebraker making the All-America second team. Wabash played all its home games at the local Crawfordsville YMCA before getting its own campus gym after the 1917 season.

Wabash College

1916/17 = 19-2=ranked #2

Coach Paul Sheeks

Ind. Dental College:	53-5
# Illinois:	28-26
Purdue:	17-9
\$ Indy-Em-Roes:	32-21
Illinois Wesleyan:	32-20
* YMCA College:	61-42
Rose Poly:	63-7

Illinois Ath. Club:	20-28-L
*YMCA College:	40-32
\$ Indy-Em-Roes:	28-23
* St. Mary's College:	30-22
Earlham:	51-11
* Georgetown:	44-12
Notre Dame:	25-18
Michigan State	19-20-L
DePauw:	29-7
Indiana:	20-17
Notre Dame:	27-17
DePauw:	36-20
Rose Poly:	35-16
<u>Miami-Ohio:</u>	<u>41-17</u>
* Unknown location.	
\$ semi-professional team.	

L. Smith (1883-1926). When Smith left Purdue for UC-Berkeley in 1916 he took Vaughn with him. Smith's record was 30-10-3 at Penn, then 12-6-3 at Purdue, and finally 74-16-7 at UC-Berkeley where he became a legend with three mythical national titles before dying of pneumonia at age 43. But Assistant Vaughn, like Monte Grimes that same year, injudiciously joined the National

'15) at guard, centers Alf Smith (Thorntown '15) and Paul Hake (Gary H.S '13), along with Herbert Hart at the other guard with Robert Markley and E.J. Williamson at forwards. The Boilers finished third in the Big Ten (see Table 1), while continuing its mastery of Indiana University.

Purdue vs. Indiana

1901-04: P.U. won 8, I.U. 0
 1905-08: P.U. won 3, I.U. 3
 1909-13: P.U. won 10, I.U. 0
 1914: P.U. won 1, I.U. 0
 1915: P.U. won 2, I.U. 0
 1916: P.U. won 1, I.U. 1
 1917: P.U. won 2, I.U. 0



Figure 1

Pete Vaughn (1888-1969) had graduated from C.H.S. in 1908. He played football and basketball at Notre Dame the following two years. The 1909 basketball team's record was 33-7, while the football team was 7-0-1 with Vaughn making the All-America selection. Notre Dame's football team was so good that other colleges came to poach the players. Vaughn and a lineman teammate transferred to Princeton where Vaughn played both basketball and football, making All-America again in football in 1911 & 1912.

Vaughn became Purdue's basketball coach from 1912/13 to 1915/16, but posted three losing seasons. However, as a three-time All-American in football he may have been hired primarily as the assistant to head football coach Andy

Guard and was likewise called up for duty. Like all the other National Guard men at that time he was released in the spring of 1917 just in time to be drafted for WW I. After the war, Vaughn returned to coach Wabash College, with marked success.

Purdue & the Big Ten (aka the Western Conference)

At the Purdue point of the triangle, Ward Lambert (CHS '07, Wabash College '11) became the third consecutive basketball coach from Crawfordsville--following Ralph Jones and Pete Vaughn. Lambert took over at Purdue after four winning seasons at Lebanon High. He took over a Boiler squad that had not had a winning season for the previous three years. He started All-State players Paul Church (Lebanon

During this period and beyond, Indiana was light years away from the Triangle in athletics success. The Hoosiers would labor with basketball coaching turnover problems until 1925. Football was the foremost college sport, as it commanded the greatest numbers for player participation, spectator attendance, and revenue--as true then as it is now. From 1892 to 1912, or even longer, most colleges relied on a motley assortment of individuals to coach the "minor" sport of basketball. They might include student managers, team captains, basketball reserves who were also on the football team, football coaches, former players, and YMCA coaches, trainers, or managers. By 1916, I.U. had used 14 official and at least five unofficial basketball coaches.

As I.U. had no pipeline to Wabash College, it sought to improve its situation by turning to the more "progressive" state of Wisconsin for its sporting needs. In 1910, it had hired C.P. Hutchins, a Wisconsin M.D. to be its Athletic Director and football coach. It was Hutchins who suggested the high school state tournament concept to the I.U. Boosters Club in 1910. By 1916, I.U. had lured coach Ewald Ortvin

Stiehm (U. of Wisconsin '1909) to be its A.D. and football coach. At 6'3", 180 pounds, and that birth name, he became known sociably as "Jumbo." Steihm (1886-1923) won nine letters at the University of Wisconsin where he played on championship football and basketball teams as well as lettering in track and tennis. His prior coaching years at the University of Nebraska between 1911-15 had been phenomenal. In football he went 35-2-3 over the four years and won or tied the Missouri Valley Conference each year with a total conference record of 14-0-1. In basketball, he went 55-14 and was 33-4 in conference play.

In 1916, Jumbo recruited fellow Missouri Valley veteran coach Guy S. Lowman from Kansas State to coach I.U. basketball for the 1916-17 season. Lowman was a 1905 graduate of the Springfield, Mass. YMCA where basketball was invented in 1891. He played football and basketball, while lettering in baseball. This was his first big break and he would remain in the Big Ten for the rest of his career. At I.U., Lowman posted a record for wins at 13 while losing 6 (see table 2). Lowman was 3-5 in Big Ten play. His 13 wins at I.U. was broken only three times before 1939. In 1921 (15 wins), 1928 (15 wins), and 1936 (18 wins).

Patrick Premo, a professor of accounting at St. Bonaventure in Allegheny, N.Y., began to analyze basketball season records from 1892-93 through 1948-49, the year that the Associated Press began its national rankings. By consulting with various basketball authorities around the nation (including present Boxscore Editor C. Johnson), he published his preliminary data in 1995. Premo then linked up with Phil Porretta, a computer programmer who was also studying these early teams. Their collaboration resulted in the Premo-

Porretta Power Poll for college teams active from 1895-96 through 1947-48. They published their final results in 2009.

When Lambert and Lowman arrived in the Big Ten, basketball championships in that conference were being dominated by two outstanding coaches, Ralph Jones (Shortridge H.S., 1901) and Dr. Walter Meanwell. Each coach won or shared four conference titles from 1911 to 1917. Each coach has also been selected as the retrospective mythical national titlists three times. Meanwell is in the Naismith Hall of Fame, while for some reason Hoosier Ralph Jones is not. As determined by the Premo-Porretta Power Poll, Jones won the mythical title while at Wabash in 1906 and 1908, and at the University of Illinois in 1915. Meanwell won the mythical title at Wisconsin in 1912, 1914, and 1916. Incidentally, the Premo-Porretta Power Poll rankings listed Purdue at #2 in 1912, Wisconsin as #3 in 1913, and Illinois as #4 in both 1916 and 1917.

1917 Premo-Porretta Power Poll

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Team</u>
#1	Washington St. (25-1)
#2	Wabash Coll. (19-2)
#3	Minnesota (17-2)
#4	Illinois (13-3)
#5	Navy (11-0)
#6	Wisconsin (15-3)
#16	Purdue (11-3)

Dr. Walter Meanwell (1884-1953) was Born in Leeds, England, but grew up in Rochester, NY (see Fig. 2). At the local Rochester Athletic Club, he won boxing and wrestling awards while also playing the team sports--without distinction--of baseball and basketball. After graduation from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1909, Meanwell found work in the slums of nearby Baltimore. He became

involved with gymnastics recreation for underprivileged boys. Because so many of the unruly youth abhorred calisthenics, he taught them how to play competitive basketball. Between 1905 and 1915, basketball was so rough that many schools and colleges dropped the sport. Meanwell emphasized finesse. He later noted "I'd done some experimenting with slum kids back in Baltimore, but because they were kids nobody paid much attention to the stuff I'd devised, even though we'd been remarkably successful."

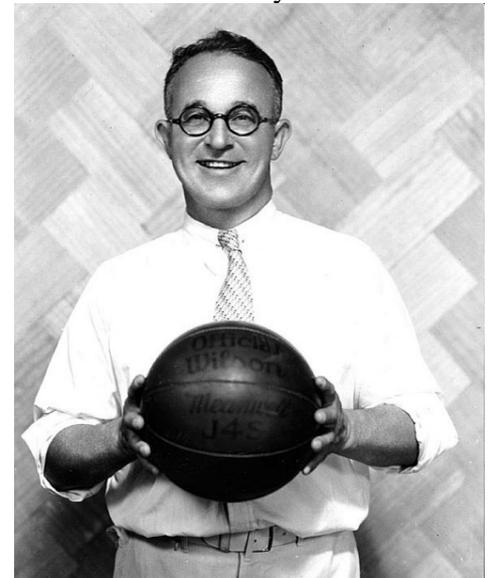


Figure 2

Meanwell got the attention of the University of Wisconsin, where he was hired for the 1911-12 season as the director of physical education and the fencing coach. He convinced the university that he could coach basketball, too. At that time, the offense routinely made long passes downcourt or cross-court, dribbled the ball waist high, and used only the center and forwards for scoring. Dr. Meanwell taught short passes and a motion offense that involved all five men as potential scorers. They utilized weaving and crisscrossing, pivot maneuvers, and screening for the shooter. This style of play later became famous as the "Wisconsin System." Meanwell took the conference by storm during

his first three years. Wisconsin was 44-1 over the three years and finished 35-1 in the conference.

Lebanon and the 1917 Season

When Ward Lambert left to replace Pete Vaughn at Purdue, Lebanon was able to secure Alva R. Staggs as coach. Staggs (1888-1942) was an all-sports star at tiny Walton H.S., in Cass County, Indiana, about ten miles south of Logansport. He graduated there in 1909 at age 21. He may have taught and coached at equally small Sharpsville in nearby Tipton County in 1910 and 1911. Afterward, Staggs graduated from Wabash College in 1914 with a degree in English. He played football and basketball under coach Jesse Harper and excelled in track & field. Then he coached Monticello (in White County) in 1915 and 1916.

The 1915-16 Lebanon team had averaged 24.5 points per game and 20 points were returning for the 1916-17 season. Seven of the top eight scorers were back, including four of the starters--Don White (g), Harry DeVol (f), Gerald Gardner (f), and defensive back guard Frank Little. White, Gardner, and Little had been All-State selections at the 1916 state tourney. Little was a unanimous first team selection by the Indianapolis News, Star, Times, Indiana Daily Student, and by the game officials. Gardner and White made the Star's second team selection.

When Staggs began pre-season practice he found that injury, illness, and ineligibility had decimated the squad. Instead of four returning starters he had only two: high-scoring floor guard White (Jr.) and forward DeVol (Sr.) who played as a point guard. Big All-State back guard Frank Little, at the time a man among boys at 168 lbs., was out until the 16th game of the season, quite possibly with rheumatic fever. Even

after returning as a starter in game #17, he was frequently rested and replaced by sophomore Clyde Grater. Little would die at age 47, presumably of heart disease.

Gerald Gardner, the 5-8 1/2 All-State forward, was academically ineligible until the second semester. He would then come off the bench. Fred Adam, the 1915-16 sixth man, was injured and would not return until the 4th game. Senior George White filled in until Sophomore Adam had recovered. Adam returned to start at forward, alongside DeVol. Senior Charles Frank challenged returnee Robert Ball for the center post.

Lebanon, 1916-17

Regular Season Games

Nov. 10, Veedersburg 28-12
 Nov. 17, @Advance 25-21
 Nov. 24, @Rockville 32-21
 Nov. 29, @Washington 35-14
 Dec. 01, New Richmond 23-13
 Dec. 08, Thorntown 28-15
 Dec. 15, @Lafayette 21-13
 Dec. 22, @New Richmond 23-13
 Dec. 27, @Martinsv. 44-42 (ot)
Dec. (?), Advance 06-28 (L)
Jan 05, @Thorntown 20-30 (L)
 Jan.12, @Frankfort 45-15
 Jan. (?), @C'fordsville 22-5
 Jan. (?), Washington 50-23
 Jan. 26, Lafayette 33-12
 Feb. 02, Martinsville 41-17
 Feb. 09, @Rochester 39-30
 Feb. 16, C'fordsville 33-12
 Feb. 23, Frankfort 64-9
 Mar. 02, Bedford 39-6

Sectional games

Cutler 81-12
 Delphi 56-7
 Thorntown 23-19
 Advance 37-18
State finals
 Trafalgar 34-14
 Kendallville 43-8
 Martinsville 36-12
 Gary Emerson 34-26

At the beginning of the season, while Staggs was shuffling his lineup, Lebanon won its first nine games. Over the Christmas holiday school break, trouble developed

briefly as the team had to go overtime to beat Martinsville and then was unable to score a single FG against county rival Advance, losing that game 28-6. Then on Jan. 5, the squad had to travel to play its biggest rival, Thorntown. The home team's coach, Chet Hill, started three boys who had played with the 1915 state champions: Clark Larsh, Andy Riggins, and Ted Stevenson. Thorntown finished 11-6 for the season after playing home and away games with all the Triangle powers: Lebanon, Lafayette, Wingate, and Crawfordsville, as well as Martinsville. Lebanon lost this rematch game with Thorntown, but by this time Staggs had settled on a starting lineup of DeVol, Adam, Ball, White, and Grater. The team would then go unbeaten through the remainder of the season, culminating in a state championship (see Fig. 3, team photo).

As an interesting note, Lebanon had played 9 of its first 13 games on the road and averaged only 27 points per game. But of the final seven scheduled games, six were at home and its per game average shot up by 15 points, to 42.3. That average was maintained throughout its eight state tournament games. For the entire 28-game championship season, the team averaged 35.5 points per game, compared to 24.5 during the previous season, 1915-16 (see Table 3, Lebanon scoring).

Table 1. 1917 BIG TEN: 9 teams

	<u>W-L</u>	<u>W-L</u>
ILL	10-2	13-3
MN	10-2	12-2
PU	07-2	11-3
WI	09-3	15-3
IND	03-5	13-6
CHI	04-8	09-12
OSU	03-9	15-11
NW	02-10	03-10
IA	01-8	07-9

Table 2. I.U. & P.U. 1917 Schedules.

<u>INDIANA: 13-6</u>	<u>PURDUE: 11-3</u>
D8: Ind. Dental College 40-10	-----
D15: Earlham 44-23	Rose Poly 44-9
D18: YMCA Vincennes 28-18	Franklin 37-10
J3: DePauw 24-14	Notre Dame 21-18

- J5: Rose Poly 35-9
- J12: @ Iowa 21-12
- J13: @ Iowa State Norm. 20-13
- J19: Iowa 12-7
- J28: Purdue 15-22-L**
- F2: Butler 18-9
- F6: @ Purdue 18-24-L**
- F8: @ DePauw 14-13
- F9: Central Normal 61-9
- F16: Wabash 17-20-L**
- F24: @ Ohio St. 24-19
- M2: Ohio St. 14-30-L**
- M6: @ Wisconsin 13-29-L**
- M7: @ Milwaukee Norm. 39-12
- M15: Wisconsin 16-18-L**
- Wabash 09-17-L**
- Illinois 24-28-L**
- Chicago 14-12
- Iowa 19-17
- @Indiana 22-15
- @Franklin 28-18
- Indiana 24-18
- @Ohio St. 29-28
- Chicago 16-13
- @Illinois 16-27-L**
-
-
- Ohio St. 32-17

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PREZ SEZ
A Commentary by Roger Robison,
IHSBHS President,
on FBI Probes and AAU Sponsors

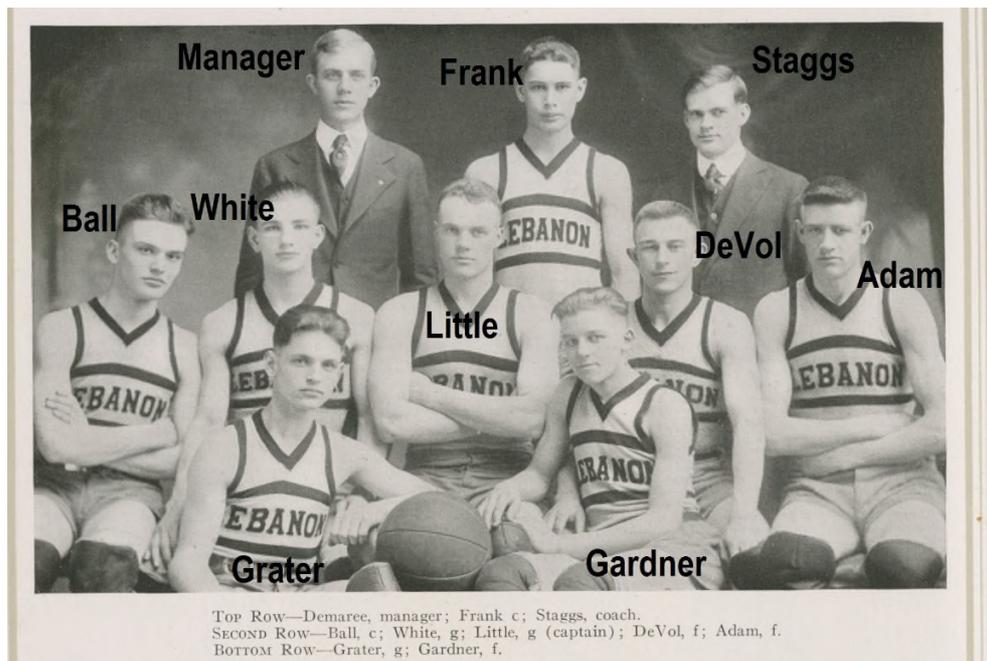
In September we learned that the FBI has charged 12 coaching staff members at Louisville, Auburn, South Carolina, Miami, Arizona, USC and Oklahoma State and six non-coaches with mass corruption, wire fraud and bribery of college basketball recruits. Four of the non-coaches are associated with Adidas basketball shoes. The NCAA was shocked...shocked by these accusations! Both Adidas and Nike sponsor AAU teams which attract players from local high schools for summer leagues and/or transfer to basketball factories to play their high school ball. The top five USA high school basketball programs are essentially factories. They are Monteverde, FL; Oak Hill Academy, VA; Mater Dei, CA; St. Anthony, NJ; and Findley, NV. The tuition usually runs from \$47,600 to \$52,698.

Ever wonder who is paying for this??? It appears the shoe companies and various agents bankroll the high school players under the table and then direct them to certain college programs and certain NBA teams. The families of high profile high school players are allegedly being paid \$100,000 to \$150,000 to see that their kid follows a certain path to the NBA.

No one seems to know what academic requirements are required to play college basketball as a freshman. Are there any??? Colleges might return to making freshmen ineligible so as to quit acting as farm teams for the NBA. Is it time to recognize the AAU teams as such and pay the talented players and their needy families instead of forcing them into the college charade?

Table 3 Lebanon Scoring

Players	1916	Players	1917
F- Gardner-So	2.6	Adam-So.	6.4
F- DeVol-Jr	1.4	DeVol-Sr.	3.8
C- McCormick-Sr	4.1	Ball-Jr/Sr.	7.0
G- D. White-So	5.3	D. White-Jr.	11.0
G- Little-Jr	0	BG Grater-So.	0
F- sub Adam-Fr	4.0	BG Little-Sr.	0
C- sub Ball-So	3.0	sub Frank-Sr.	3.6
F-sub G. White-Jr	1.6	sub Gardner-Jr.	2.1
Subs	2.5	sub G. White-Sr.	1.6
Total	24.5	Total	35.5



TOP ROW—Demaree, manager; Frank c; Staggs, coach.
 SECOND ROW—Ball, c; White, g; Little, g (captain); DeVol, f; Adam, f.
 BOTTOM ROW—Grater, g; Gardner, f.

Figure 3

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