

# 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

## IHSBHS Officers

President	Roger Robison	Frankfort	1954
Vice Pres	Cliff Johnson	Western	1954
Webmaster	Kermit Paddack	Sheridan	2002
Treasurer	Rocky Kenworthy	Cascade	1974

## Editorial Staff

Editor	Cliff Johnson	Western	1954
Syntax Edits	Tim Puet	Valley, PA	1969
Content Edits	Harley Sheets Rocky Kenworthy	Lebanon Cascade	1954 1974
Tech Advisor	Juanita Johnson	Fillmore, CA	1966

## Board Members

John Ockomon, Harley Sheets, Leigh Evans, Cliff Johnson, Tim Puet, Roger Robison, Jeff Luzadder, Rocky Kenworthy, Doug Bradley, Curtis Tomak, Kermit Paddack, Hugh Schaefer.



## Publication & Membership Notes

*Boxscore* is published by the Indiana High School Basketball Historical Society (IHSBHS). This publication is not copyrighted and may be reproduced in part or in full for circulation anywhere Indiana high school basketball is enjoyed. Credit given for any information taken from *Boxscore* would be appreciated.

IHSBHS is a non-profit organization. No salaries are paid to anyone. All time spent on behalf of IHSBHS or in producing *Boxscore* is freely donated by individual members.

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

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

2018 SPRING 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](http://Indianabasketballhistory.com).

You can also enter IHSBHS or "Boxscore" on any search engine.

## CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE

1942 Indiana All-Stars..... 1  
 The 1917 State Tournament..... 3  
 Montgomery County's Keg..... 7  
 Coach John L. Adams (b. 1893).. 9  
 1938 Elwood Ticket Strike..... 12  
 IHSBHS Membership Form..... 13  
 HOF Membership Form..... 14

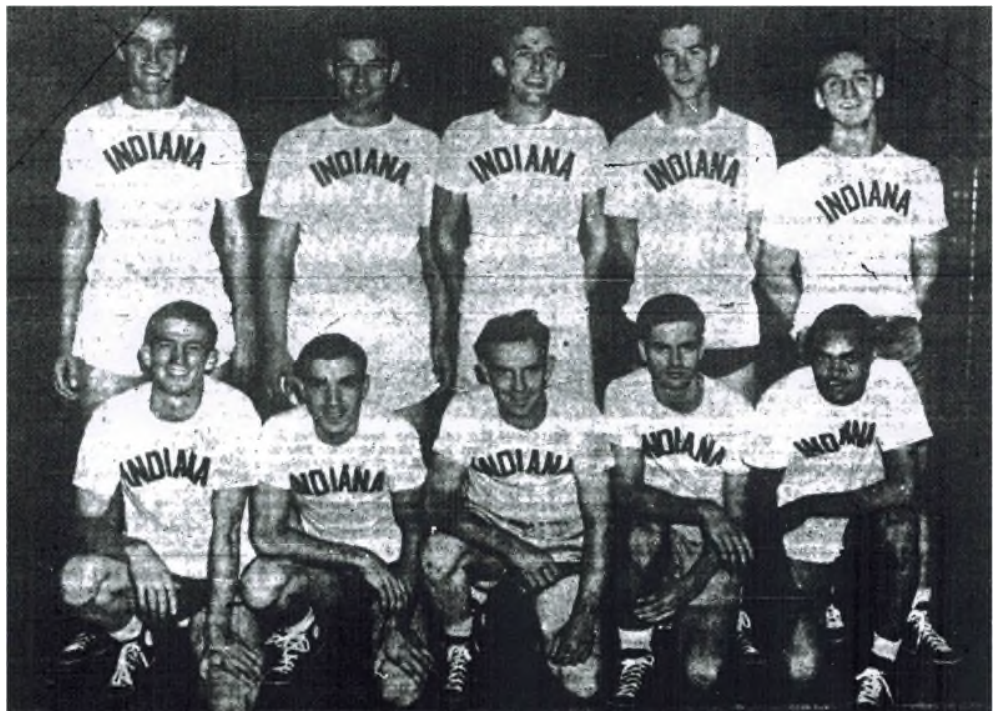
## THE 1942 INDIANA ALL-STARS by

Cliff Johnson, Editor

Friday, August 28, 1942 was the date selected for the 3rd annual Classic game to be played between the Indiana and Kentucky All-Star teams. Indiana had won both the 1940 and 1941 games played at Butler Fieldhouse. But less than half the seats had been occupied in both the previous two games, so the site selected for the 1942 game became

the newly erected but smaller Fairgrounds Coliseum, today referred to as the Indiana Farmers Coliseum. Its construction was a

This new facility would accommodate about half that of Butler's seating capacity, so the numbers seemed to make sense for



Front Row: Clay Moody, Muncie Burriss; Jake Luther, Lawrence Central; Kenneth Cage, Tipton; Mack Peyton, Richmond; Charles Harmon, Washington. Back Row: Jim Riffey, Washington; Jim Ertel, Tipton; Bud Brown, Muncie Burriss; George Babcock, Logansport; Bill Lodge, Madison.

part of President Roosevelt's WPA Program designed to provide jobs for the nation's unemployed while carrying out various provisions of the Administration's "New Deal."

its use as the All-Star Classic site. The August 28 date might also bring in fans attending the Indiana State Fair. The scheduled date was also a bit later in the year than the two

previously held games were, speculation being that the intense summertime heat might be avoided to some extent.

Player participation had been a problem at the first All-Star Classics too, owing to college enrollment obligations.

Summertime preparations for curricula selections, housing, fee payments, and various other on-campus obligations sometimes had interfered with the date selected for the Classic. Scheduling on a final week in August, however, was thought to be a possible solution to that problem. Those players who were college bound should have most of their affairs in order by that time, thus freeing them to return briefly for the Classic just before fall semesters would begin.

Reserved seat tickets for spectators were made available throughout the week at the downtown Haag's Claypool drugstore in Indianapolis and on Friday afternoon at the Coliseum ticket office. They cost \$1.10. General admission tickets were also made available at many sporting goods stores in Indianapolis. Those were priced at 55 cents, with the better mid-court seats going to the first fans through the gates on Friday evening.

In spite of the nation's widespread and growing concern about the World War II battles that had just begun in the Pacific and European theaters (or possibly because of it), Hoosier and Bluegrass residents began paying greater attention to high school basketball. It was one way to momentarily escape worries about the war situation, however fleeting such moments might be. Ticket sales hit a record for the 1942 Classic and all the built-in seats were quickly sold out. An additional 500 temporary seats were set up, and all of those were gobbled up, as well.

By game time, 7500 spectators had crowded into the Coliseum to see the game.

With more-than-the-usual publicity being given by sportswriters in newspapers from both states, the 1942 Classic promised to be a top-rate attraction this time, as well as a financial success. Widely-recognized player names appeared on both rosters, the degree of experienced talent being unquestionably high. The Kentucky team included several graduated seniors who had set scoring records at their respective high schools. Some would go on to become notable NBA and BAA professionals, once the war had ended. A nice balance existed between the tall and husky inside boys and the shorter but quicker outside marksmen. The Indiana team was equally endowed, with virtually all its players having acquired big-game experience from deep runs in state tournament play. For example, Washington was furnishing two of its stalwarts who had been starters on its championship squads for two years running. Muncie Burris, state runners-up to Washington that spring, was likewise furnishing two of its stars who also had led the team to the sweet sixteen a year earlier. Tipton, a team that had reached the final eight in the 1942 tournament before being bumped off by Burris, was a third team that contributed two members. Madison and Logansport each furnished a player who had been on teams that reached the semi-finals three years in a row. Lawrence Central, from the Indianapolis area, made it to the final eight in the 1942 tournament and was furnishing its star performer. The 10th player, from Richmond, had been a three-year veteran who played in what was arguably the toughest high school conference in

the state, the NCC. A knockdown, drag-out battle was anticipated by fans from both sides of the Ohio River.

### **Kentucky Roster**

Ira Fields, 5-10, Cumberland  
John Oldham, 6-1, Hartford  
Turner Hogan, 5-11, Cave City  
Paul Noel, 6-4, Versailles  
Paul Champion, 5-10, Lawrenceburg  
Leslie Kitchen, 6-0, Lexington  
Charlie Moran, 5-10, Horse Cave  
Jack Coleman, 6-5, Burgin  
Thomas Moseley, 6-3, Lexington  
James Hendricks, 6-2, Hardinsburg

### **Indiana Roster**

Clay Moody, 5-11, Muncie Burris  
Jake Luther, 5-11, Lawrence Central  
Kenny Cage, 5-10, Tipton  
Mack Peyton, 6-0, Richmond  
Charles Harmon, 5-11, Washington  
Jim Riffey, 6-4, Washington  
Jim Ertel, 6-4, Tipton  
Bud Brown, 6-4, Muncie Burris  
George Babcock, 6-4, Logansport  
Bill Lodge, 6-2, Madison

The coaches were Ed Diddle and Ted Hornback for Kentucky, paired against Paul Lostutter and Bill Perigo for Indiana. While Diddle and Hornback were coaching the Blue Grass All-Stars for their third consecutive year, Lostutter and Perigo were new names at the Hoosiers' helm. The Hoosiers' former two coaches were now serving in the war effort and were unavailable, so replacements had to be found. However, in its infinite wisdom, the IHSAA had initiated a new rule barring high school coaches from being involved with the All-Star game. Its timing couldn't have been worse, since many of the state's high school coaches were already being drafted or volunteering to serve in the military. Lostutter, who had been a former coach at Bedford, had recently been elected mayor of the city so he was eligible, as was Perigo who was actively coaching, but out-of-state in Michigan.

Friday night arrived, and the ensuing game was close and exciting. The lead changed hands several times. Spectators were on their feet a large portion of the 32 playing minutes, essentially defeating the purpose of spending all that loose change for their seats. Kentucky held a two-point margin at the first quarter mark, 8-6. The teams traded baskets during the next quarter, and by halftime the Blue Grass team was still in the lead, but now by only a single point, 19-18. Led by the towering Coleman and Noel duo, Kentucky built up its biggest lead of the game, five points, midway through the third period, and it seemed that the team might pull away at that stage. But Indiana came roaring back with goals by Babcock, Cage, and Brown to regain the lead at 30-26. Noel, Champion, and Kitchen fought back with fielders that resulted in another lead for Kentucky, 32-30, as the 3rd period closed. The final quarter was a hair-raising, skin-tingling affair, with both teams fighting hard for the lead. With the lead favoring Kentucky 37-34 and four minutes left to play, all hell broke loose as Cage, Ertel, and Moody combined points in a whirlwind drive that sent Indiana back into the lead, 39-38. The roar of the largely partisan fans became deafening as Brown tipped in a fielder that seemed to clinch the victory for Indiana, with less than a minute to go. Coleman was not about to give up, however, as he registered his 5th FG of the game to close the gap at 41-40, with half a minute remaining. Coach Lostutter called a time out and then sent his team back onto the floor with instructions to freeze the ball over the remaining seconds. Kentucky turned up the pressure on defense, but to no avail as the gun dutifully discharged to end the game with the Hoosiers in front, 41-40.

The Star of Stars award, voted by the sportswriters on hand, went to Kenny Cage of the Hoosiers. He led the team both with his sparkling court maneuvers and total points (13). Bud Brown contributed 12 points to the cause. Kentucky's effort was headed by Jack Coleman and Paul Noel, with 13 and 11 points, respectively. It should be noted that Kokomo's Jack Turner had officially been selected for the All-Star team, but because of a bad industrial burn sustained during the summer he was not able to play. He was replaced by one of the "alternates," Clay Moody of Muncie Burris, who contributed five points for the Hoosiers.

#### Boxscore Account

##### **Kentucky (40) FG FT TP**

Coleman	5	3	13
Noel	5	1	11
Oldham	0	0	0
Mosely	1	1	3
Kitchen	2	1	5
Hendricks	0	0	0
Champion	2	0	4
Fields	0	0	0
Hogan	0	0	0
Moran	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>
Totals	17	6	40

##### **Indiana (41) FG FT TP**

Brown	4	4	12
Babcock	2	0	4
Lodge	0	1	1
Ertel	1	0	2
Cage	6	1	13
Riffey	2	0	4
Moody	2	1	5
Luther	0	0	0
Peyton	0	0	0
Harmon	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals	17	7	41

No All-Star Classics were held in 1943 or 1944, owing to WW II travel restrictions. Our next two issues will recap the 1945 and 1946 Classics.

## **THE 1917 STATE TOURNAMENT**

by

**Roger F. Robison, IHSBHS president**

*Editor's note: 1917 was a landmark year for basketball in Indiana, and this article continues the theme initiated in our last issue's article entitled "The Hoosier Triangle Triumph of 1917."*

### **District/Sectional Eliminations**

1917 was the third consecutive year for the preliminary elimination tournaments, which served to reduce the number of teams traveling to Bloomington for the finals. It had been tried in 1912 and then abandoned in 1913 and 1914. The fiasco of using four separate floors in 1914 convinced the IHSAA to try again in 1915 to use the elimination process. That year fourteen elimination tourneys were used to cull the 153 teams for the Bloomington finals. In 1916, sixteen tourney sites reduced the 193 entries. By 1917, there were 502 schools that had joined the IHSAA and 255 of them entered the tournament.

The District Elimination Tournaments, later known as Sectionals, were basically organized at the county levels. This meant that numerous hamlets were forced to play at the despised local county seat school which usually had the largest enrollment and the largest gym. IHSBHS co-founder Harley Sheets, quoting author Phil Hoose captured the frustrations of the county schools: Hoose believed that it was common knowledge that county seat schools typically had advantages of (1) their home court, (2) the highest paid and often most experienced coach, (3) recruited star ballplayers from the smaller schools, and (4) a large network of feeder grade schools that might put major league baseball farm systems to shame. In

1917, the sectional hosts won 13 of the 20 sectional championships (see table 1).

**Table 1-Sectional Winners**

**Site, No. of teams, Winner**

Anderson, 16, Anderson  
 Bloomington, 12, Bloomington  
 Bluffton, 11, Bluffton  
 Brazil, 11, Rockville  
 Columbus, 14, Columbus  
 Crawfordsville, 16, Wingate  
 Franklin, 12, Trafalgar  
 Greencastle, 15, Lizton  
 Kendallville, 12, Kendallville  
 Kokomo, 15, Kokomo  
 Lafayette, 14, Lafayette  
 Lebanon, 13, Lebanon  
 Logansport, 13, Rochester  
 Martinsville, 13, Mart'ville  
 New Castle, 10, Muncie  
 Richmond, 13, Richmond  
 South Bend, 13, South Bend  
 Valparaiso, 11, Gary Emerson  
 Vincennes, 11, Vincennes  
Washington, 9, Washington  
 Total 255 teams in sectionals

It seemed that there were an unusual number of mismatches in the district tourneys in 1917. Muncie won over Cowan, Lewisville, and Mooreland by 72, 78, and 52 points respectively, for an average winning margin of 67 points! Vincennes won over Farmersburg, Edwardsport, Sandborn, and Otwell by 34, 16, 89 and 108(!) points for an average win margin of 62. Richmond won over Rushville, Union City, Westport, and Liberty by 30, 49, 86 and 50 points for an average win margin of 54. Undefeated Gary Emerson, by contrast, won its big city sectional over Valparaiso, Plymouth, East Chicago, and Gary Froebel by only 8, 16, 10 and 7 points, for a win margin of 10.3. Indianapolis did not have a sectional, so Manual, Ben Davis, Tech, and Broad Ripple played at Martinsville, which won by an average of 11 points over Castleton, Tech, Monrovia, and Mooreland. Lebanon won its sectional by an average of 35 points. The Lebanon sectional was

typical of most, hosting 9-16 teams and using over two days to complete games that lasted for only one hour apiece--since the game clock was rarely stopped.

**Lebanon Sectional Results**  
**Counties of Boone, Clinton, and Carroll**

**March 9**

Delphi received a bye  
 1 p.m. Lebanon 81, Cutler 12  
 2 p.m. Bringhurst 23, Burlington 16  
 3 p.m. Frankfort 32, Flora 19  
 4 p.m. Advance 47, Jamestown 14  
 7:30 Kirklin 21, Colfax 20  
 8:30 Thorntown 41, Zionsville 6

**March 10**

Thorntown received a bye  
 09 a.m. Lebanon 56, Delphi 7  
 10 a.m. Bringhurst 35, Frankfort 20  
 11 a.m. Advance 50, Kirklin 17  
 2:30 Lebanon 23, Thorntown 19  
 3:30 Advance 30, Bringhurst 19  
 8 p.m. Lebanon 32, Advance 18

At Lebanon, the third game with Thorntown was a crucial game and the 4-point margin (23-19) was Lebanon's narrowest tourney victory. The Tigers trailed at halftime only three times all season, including this game. The other two times that happened resulted in defeats.

At Bloomington (BHS), Clifford Wells was the team's new coach. He was born in Indianapolis on March 17, 1896. By 1912, his family had moved to Bloomington. Wells had an illustrious coaching career, being enshrined into Indiana's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1965 and into the Naismith Memorial (National) Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, MA in 1972. He passed away on Aug. 15, 1977. Before Wells, the BHS coach had been C.E. Montgomery who guided the team to the finals in both 1915 and 1916. Wells was a sub in '15 and by '16 was a starter and selected as team captain. He was also called upon that season to coach the BHS freshman team, which included his younger brother. The following school year, 1916-17, Wells became

a 20-year old freshman at Indiana University. At the semester break in early Jan. 1917, BHS coach Montgomery left to take a job at Purdue. The local school board prevailed upon Wells to temporarily fill in as BHS coach for the second semester while it searched for a full-time replacement. Montgomery had won only two games of six before he left. After Wells took over on Jan. 12, the team won six of nine before hosting the first sectional ever to be held at BHS. The team breezed through its sectional and for the 3rd straight year it reached the finals, where Wells, not yet 21, was still a student at I.U. while mentoring the BHS team.

**State Finals, March 16 & 17, 1917**

As usual, the I.U. Boosters Club arranged free room and board in Bloomington for all 20 of the state finalists:

**Room & Board Designations**

Kokomo & Rockville to Sigma Chi Frat.  
 Richmond & Pendleton-Sigma Nu Frat.  
 Rochester to SAE Frat.  
 Washington to Delta Upsilon Frat.  
 Martinsville to Beta Theta Pi Frat.  
 Columbus to Phi Psi Frat.  
 Gary Emerson to Masonic Home  
 Bloomington--players' own homes  
 Lafayette to DTD Frat.  
 South Bend to PDT Frat.  
 Trafalgar to ATO Frat.  
 Muncie to PGD Frat.  
 Kendallville to KS Frat.  
 Vincennes to Phi Beta Pi  
 Bluffton to Alpha Chi Sigma  
 Lizton to dorms or homes  
 Wingate to dorms or homes  
 Lebanon to dorms or homes

The first six state tourney finals were played at I.U.'s Assembly Hall (constructed 1896). This facility was 65 feet X 125 feet, and had a playing floor that covered 50 feet X 90 feet. It seated about 1200 spectators, and could accommodate another 300 for standing room only (see Fig. 1). The site today is a parking lot just south of the campus Union Building. A small marker has been placed at the

NE corner of the site (Fig. 2).



Figure 1



Figure 2

The new 1917 Men's Gym (Fig. 3) was on the second floor of the new physical education building--now identified as the School of Public Health. The building covers an area

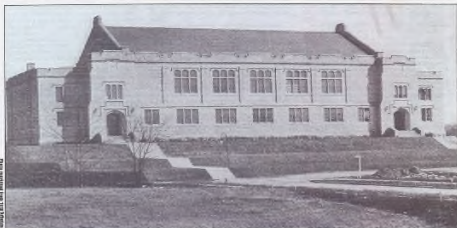


Figure 3

of 240 X 328 square feet and is located just north of the Student Union Building. Its gym floor was 90 X 160 feet, considerably larger than that of Assembly Hall. Just beneath the playing floor, on the first level, a swimming pool was constructed. The normal seating capacity for basketball games was 2,500, but chairs could be added to accommodate 1500 more spectators whenever needed. The final I.U. game at Assembly Hall was played on Jan. 5, 1917, and the first game at

the new Men's Gym was on Jan. 19, 1917 (vs. Iowa). An added feature at the new facility was the use of 1.5-inch thick glass backboards made by a local mirror company. Evidently the glass was a little too unique for the I.U. and Iowa players, since the final score was only 12-7, in favor of the Hoosiers. It set a record that still stands as the fewest game points scored in I.U. history.

Amid all the hoopla of the opening game, someone forgot to engage a referee. A volunteer was recruited from the stands. It turned out to be Ward Lambert (ultimately a notable Hall of Fame coach) who had come to scout the two teams. As if that oversight was not embarrassing enough, Lambert's Purdue team returned for the Dedication game that followed and scored a 22-15 victory over the Hoosiers. This was partly attributable, perhaps, to the fact that Purdue's team had already been using glass backboards at its home gym. Before the finals of the high school state tournament began, Lambert invited the nearby Lebanon and Lafayette teams to practice at Purdue to familiarize themselves with the larger college-size floor and the glass.

The floor (see Fig. 4) at the new Men's Gym had a paucity of markings compared to today.



Figure 4

Playing rules for 1917 would be strictly enforced during the games. A few of the more archaic rules were (1) a prohibition against starters or

substitutes re-entering a game, (2) a player's ejection after committing four personal fouls, (3) an enforcement of ball handling fouls (traveling, double dribble, carrying or palming the ball, etc.), which were designated as Technical Fouls but not counted toward the personal foul limit, (4) the award of a single free throw regardless the type of foul committed, and (5) a designated team shooter for all free throws.

Bloomington's first opponent in the finals was Lafayette, scheduled for Friday, March 16, one day prior to Wells' birthday. BHS outscored its opponent by eight FGs to five, in winning that game 23-14. Marxson had four FGs, Rogers two, and Esary two with seven FTs to boot. After leading 11-7 at halftime, BHS was up 18-9 with 10 minutes remaining. When it got to 22-12, Wells inserted his three subs. With four minutes left, BHS back guard Dobbins fouled out. Since the starters could not re-enter after once leaving the game, BHS had to finish with only *four* boys on the floor. During the four minutes, however, Lafayette could only manage to outscore BHS 2-1, so Wells' early birthday present was a first-round victory.

The next round opponent for BHS was Martinsville, the game scheduled for 8:30 P.M. of the same day. Martinsville had already beaten BHS twice during the regular season, but on the way to Bloomington one of its starters became ill with "ptomaine poisoning." In the game, the score was tied at 16 as the gun sounded, but a PF was called on Martinsville. BHS star center Esary was high scorer with four FGs and four FTs, but this time he missed the FT. That sent the game into overtime and Martinsville forward South hit the winning FG for the win, 18-16.

### 1917 State Tourney Finals

**Round One--20 teams****Friday, March 16**

Muncie 31, Lizton 8  
 Kokomo 19, South Bend 16  
 Bloomington 23, Lafayette 14  
 Martinsville 27, Washington 23  
 Rochester 36, Wingate 15  
 Richmond 29, Columbus 20  
 Vincennes 42, Bluffton 18  
 Gary Emerson 53, Rockville 16  
 Lebanon 34, Trafalgar 14  
 Kendallville 31, Pendleton 24

**Round Two--10 teams**

Kokomo 22, Muncie 16  
 Martinsville 18, Bloomington 16

**Saturday, March 17**

Rochester 26, Richmond 21  
 Gary Emerson 19, Vincennes 9  
 Lebanon 43, Kendallville 8

**Round Three--5 teams**

Martinsville 26, Kokomo 21  
 Gary Emerson 27, Rochester 17  
 Lebanon--BYE

**Round Four--3 teams**

Lebanon 36, Martinsville 12  
 Gary Emerson--BYE

**Final Game**

Lebanon 34, Gary Emerson 26

**Lebanon's Path to the Title**

In its first game, Lebanon outscored Trafalgar 16 FGs to 5, winning 34-14. Ball scored five FGs and White hit five FGs plus two FTs. DeVol, Adam, and Frank each hit two FGs for another 12 points. All three subs, Gardner, Grater, and Frank, were used. Against Kendallville, Lebanon scored 21 FGs while the losers hit only one in a 43-8 blow-out. White scored 13 points, Adam 8, and Ball 4 to, total 25 points for the starters. All three subs played, with Frank scoring 6 FGs and Gardner 3 more, for another 18 points in the Lebanon victory. At 3 P.M. against Martinsville, the Tigers sank 16 FGs to the Artesians' 4 and led 20-4 at halftime. Coach Staggs began substituting early in the second half. Ball scored 7 FGs, Adam 5, and White 1 (plus 4 FTs). DeVol, Gardner, and Grater each scored two points in the 36-12 thrashing.

The *Indiana Daily Student*, the *Indianapolis Star*, and the

*Indianapolis News* carried only brief summaries of the final game. The only known source of a play-by-play account of the final game was in the *Lebanon Daily Reporter* and is reproduced here:

The final game started at 8 p.m. At one minute, White scores under the basket=2-0. PF on Ball (L), Harris (G) misses FT. PF on Dunleavy (G) for holding, White (L) scores the FT=3-0. Gary missing on long shots. Another PF on Dunleavy for holding, White scores another FT=4-0. PF on Adam (L) for pushing, Harris gets the FT=4-1. After a series of short passes, DeVol (L) is open underneath and scores=6-1. Ball gets a tip-in=8-1. It could be a run-away for Lebanon. Kyle (G) hits from the side=8-3. White hits a long shot=12-3. Time out for Adam, with a bloody nose. Ball hits from the side=14-3. PF on Ball for pushing and Harris gets the FT=14-4. PF #3 on Dunleavy for holding and he is close to fouling out. White scores the FT=15-4. It's beginning to look like a blow out for Lebanon which leads by eleven. McLennan finally gets a FG=15-6. PF on DeVol for blocking, Harris misses FT. DeVol Scores two from the side=17-6. Harris scores underneath=17-8. PF on McLennan for holding, White misses FT. Ball hits from the sideline=19-8. McLennan and Kyle score seconds apart=19-12. The anti-Lebanon crowd is on its feet shouting encouragement to the Steel City boys. Adam hits a short one to quiet the crowd. White hits the deck in a collision. Adam scores again underneath to silence the crowd=23-12, still an eleven point margin at the half.

DeVol scores on a tip-off play after the center jump to start the second half=25-12, Lebanon's biggest lead. PF on DeVol, and Harris connects on FT=25-13. PF on Johnson (G) for pushing, but White misses FT. Kyle scores from the side=25-15. From far out, Dunleavy heaves in his only Fg=25-17. PF on Little (L) for pushing, Harris misses FT but Kyle puts it in for two=25-19. PF on Little again for pushing and Harris connects the FT =25-20. Technical ball handling Foul on DeVol for double dribble, and Harris misses FT but then puts it in for two=25-22. It's a three-point game and the crowd is wild for the underdog Gary. Adam gets his 4th FG to put Lebanon back up by five=27-22. Time out DeVol with knee problem, Gardner subs for DeVol. PF on Little for blocking and Harris misses the FT. Frustrated, Harris is called for a PF fro tripping. White hits the FT=28-22. White scores two from the side=30-22. It is

midnight, Cinderella. McLennan scores but Adam answers from long=32-24. Harris scores on an assist from Kyle=32-26, too little too late. PF on Johnson, and White gets his 5th FT=33-26. Still 2:30 to go. Technical Foul on Dunleavy and White scores his 6th FT=34-26. Technical Foul on Kyle, but White misses the FT as time expires.

**Boxscore Account**

<b>Lebanon ( 34)</b>	<b>FG</b>	<b>FT</b>
F DeVol	3	0
F Adam	5	0
C Ball	3	0
G White	3	6
G Little	0	0
Gardner	0	0
	14	6/9

<b>G.Emerson (26)</b>	<b>FG</b>	<b>FT</b>
F Harris	3	4
F McLennan	3	0
C Dunleavy	1	0
G Kyle	4	0
G Johnson	0	0
	11	4/8

In spite of three different versions of the final game's box score, the annual *Basketball Record Books*, published by the *Indianapolis News*, came up with a seemingly accurate list of the five leading scorers of the state finals (see Table 2). However, a review of the Lebanon newspaper's box scores suggests that Adam tied for sixth place, giving the Tigers' team three of the top six scorers (see Table 3). Ball, a junior, was apparently a mid-term graduate and became a senior the second semester. He graduated early and left for DePauw. Lebanon was awarded a shield for 1917 to go with its 1912 trophy.

**Table 2: Leading Scorers**

<b>Player</b>	<b>Games-Points-Ave.</b>		
Harris, Gary Emer.	4	49	12.3
White, Lebanon	4	43	10.8
Curtis, Mart'vl	4	39	9.8
Arnold, Roch.	3	36	12.0
Ball, Lebanon	4	34	8.5
Adam, Lebanon	4	32	8.0
Kyle, Gary Emer.	4	32	8.0
Mikesell, Roch.	4	32	8.0

**Table 3: Lebanon Top Scorers**

<u>Opponent</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Ball</u>	<u>Adam</u>
Trafalgar	12	10	4
Kendallville	13	4	8
Martinsville	6	14	10
Gary Emerson	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>
Totals	43	34	32

### POST SCRIPTS

**1917 All-State Selections:** The three officials at the finals selected White, Curtis, Arnold, Kyle, and Miller for their All-State Team. I.U. Coach Lowman selected the All-State teams for the *Indianapolis Star*. White and Kyle were the only unanimous choices. Meanwhile, the YMCA awarded eight medals for sportsmanship: Esary (Bloomington), Miller (Rochester), Curtis (Martinsville), Gipsan (Kendallville), Jessup (Richmond), Craig (Muncie), Ratliff (Lizton), and Arbuckle (Kokomo).

### INDY STAR

<u>1st team</u>	<u>2nd team</u>
F White-Leb.	O'Donnell-S.B.
F Adam-Leb.	Harris-Gary
C Arnold-Roch.	Curtis-Mart'vl
G Kyle-Gary	DeVol-Leb.
G Little-Leb.	Miller-Roch.

### INDY NEWS

F White-Leb.	Mikesell-Roch.
F Curtis-Mart'vl	Harris-Gary
C Ball-Leb.	Parker-Kok.
G Kyle-Gary	Ivey-Roch.
G Miller-Roch.	Little-Leb.

### IND. DAILY STUDENT

F White-Leb.	Mikesell-Roch.
F Curtis-Mart'vl	Harris-Gary
C Parker-Kok.	Arnold-Roch.
G Kyle-Gary	Kixmiller-Vin.
G Miller-Roch.	Little-Leb.

Cat Adam, Lebanon's star forward, was later the coach who cut our own Harley Sheets, IHSBHS Co-Founder, from his junior high team. Harley, of course, went on to be a mainstay with the Tigers varsity.

Jake Gimbel, who first initiated the state finals sportsmanship award in 1917, was born in 1876 at Vincennes and died at Santa Monica, California in 1943. His uncle Adam

(1816-96), an itinerant pack-peddler, had started selling dry goods in Vincennes in 1842. Adam and his fourteen kids moved on to establish the famous Gimbel Brothers-Saks department store chain. Jake's father stayed on in the original 1857 Vincennes store while also getting involved with some local banking and politics. Jake ran the store until he sold out in 1915 and retired. A life-long bachelor, he spent the next 28 years giving away medals and money.

In 1916, Jake started giving an annual gold medal and cash at the I.U. Founders Day events held annually in Bloomington on January 20th. The recipient had to be a student athlete with a good "mental attitude," i.e., in sportsmanship, to receive the Gimbel (College) Prize. The next year, in concert with the IHSAA, he began awarding a similar medal and cash to a basketball player at the finals of the high school state tourney--the Gimbel (High School) Prize. The first year's Prize went to Claude Curtis of Martinsville. Look for a more detailed story of Jake and the Gimbel family in a future Boxscore issue.

Twenty-four days after Lebanon took the title, pro-British President Woodrow Wilson and Congress declared war on Germany and Austria. The USA thus became involved in World War I after three years of neutrality. The majority of U.S. citizens were opposed to the declaration, especially those living west of the Alleghenies--many of whom were of German and Irish descent. To overcome this opposition, it required Wilson to mount an unprecedented propaganda campaign to draw sympathy and support for the cause. About two million young men were conscripted. 116,500 of them died and 200,000 were wounded, many with resultant deformities and disabilities that

lasted a lifetime. Then, after the Americans saved their Allies from impending defeat, the naïve former university professor Wilson and the impotent U.S. diplomats allowed the British and French to impose such punitive and vindictive terms upon Germany that a second World War would later become inevitable.

### REFERENCES:

1. *Lebanon Daily Reporter*, 1917; online at Indiana State Library.
2. Schwomeyer, Herb, *Hoosier Hysteria*, 8th edition, 1993.
3. Various newspaper obituaries on Cliff Wells.
4. *Indiana Daily Student*, 1917 issues.
5. Bikoff, Ken, *A Step Forward*, as printed in *Inside Indiana*, Nov. 14, 2009.
6. Robison, R. F., *Rules of the Game*, Hot Dog Press, 2007.
7. Richard Day, *Windmills, Gimbels, Early Banking, and Old Vincennes*, #20 Vincennes Historical Society, 1985.

## THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY'S KEG

by  
Bill Boone

In 1957, the Montgomery County Coaches Association decided to institute some symbol of county basketball superiority that would become a "traveling trophy," similar to the Indiana-Purdue Old Oaken Bucket. After some discussion, the coaches agreed to use a small wooden keg, purchased at a local hardware store and donated by the Sportsman Shop. The rules for possession of the keg were simple. A team had to beat the owner of the wooden trophy during regular season play, which included the County Tourney, but not the Sectional. Of course, no team outside the county, nor Crawfordsville, could claim the prize and the school that had the keg at the end of the season could cherish it until the next basketball season rolled around.

To figure out which school would have possession of the keg first, the names of all nine county schools

were placed in a hat to be drawn out. The Alamo Warriors became the first team to own the much-desired keg on November 1, 1957. The Warrior fans could not foresee it at the time, but that was the first and last time that the little school would possess the trophy. Three and a half weeks later the tribe lost the keg to a hungry Darlington delegation. That was on November 26, 1957, and Alamo never won the keg by beating another county school.

During the remainder of that season, the symbol of basketball supremacy changed hands two more times. The New Market Purple Flyers beat the Indians on January 10, 1958. Ed Stephens provided an interesting note when he shared the fact that the New Market cheerleaders were the only group to literally lose the keg (his future wife was one of the cheerleaders). After winning the keg in the afternoon game of the County tourney, the NM cheerleaders decided to go to the Gin-Jer-Boo to celebrate. They went inside to eat and forgot to lock the keg in their car. When they came out, you guessed it, the keg was gone. Some kind souls returned it in time for championship game and the Flyers retained it until they really lost it to an up-and-coming New Ross "dynasty" on February 7. The Blue Jays were determined to keep a powerful grip on the winnings, and they managed to do just that for nearly two years. From February 7, 1958 to January 23, 1960, the keg wore the blue and white colors of New Ross. The Jays finally surrendered the trophy to an outstanding Linden team, but not without shedding a few well-deserved tears.

New Ross felt sweet revenge, however, at the start of the next season as they grabbed the keg back from the tenacious Bulldogs on November 4, 1960. This time, the

keg stayed in New Ross for more than 26 months—until January 20, 1962, when New Market again reclaimed the then very emotion-producing little wooden container.

During the next five years, from January 20, 1962, to January 21, 1967, the keg changed hands twenty-one times including a record five times each during the 1964-65 and 1965-66 seasons. Also, during that time, Darlington set the record for having the keg the shortest period of time. The Indians won the keg during the 1965 county tourney by upsetting undefeated New Ross on Saturday Afternoon and then losing it to Coal Creek Central in the title game that very night.

From February 3, 1967, to the end of the 1970-71 basketball season, when consolidation took place, only two county teams had possession of the keg. Darlington, with the help of some of the best players in the school's history, captured the keg from Coal Creek Central in early February 1967, and held on to it for nearly three years—until December 19, 1970, when Linden's Bulldogs wrested the trophy away from the tribe. Darlington had the last say, however, as the determined gang won the keg back from the Bulldogs in February of 1971. When the season closed, and consolidation occurred, Darlington, the last team to own the trophy, was allowed to keep the keg in the trophy case in their school. The little traveling keg finally had a chance to rest.

It would be impossible to say how much the wooden keg meant to all of the players, cheerleaders, students and fans who were involved in Montgomery County basketball during those fourteen years that it was in existence. Suffice it to say that probably nothing else in the history of Montgomery County basketball ever evoked more emotion—be it tears of happiness or

tears of sorrow—than the County Keg. After several years, the Keg was presented to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame where it still resides. It still makes appearances in the county on special occasions like the dedication of the plaque at the site of the first basketball game outside Massachusetts where basketball was invented. That site is at the corner of Main and Washington where the old YMCA Armory was once located.

For the sake of the record, I have included a list of the schools that won the keg, the date they won it, and some miscellaneous facts concerning the keg. Each time a school won the keg, a small metal plate with the school's name was fastened on the side of the keg. The names of the schools and dates that they won the keg are as follows:

November 1, 1957 Alamo  
 November 26, 1957 Darlington  
 January 10, 1958 New Market  
 February 7, 1958 New Ross  
 New Ross throughout the 1958-59 season  
 January 23, 1960 Linden  
 November 4, 1960 New Ross  
 New Ross throughout the 1960-61 season  
 January 20, 1962 New Market  
 November 9, 1962 Coal Creek  
 November 16, 1962 Waveland  
 January 17, 1963 Linden  
 January 19, 1963 New Ross  
 November 8, 1963 Waveland  
 January 16, 1964 Ladoga  
 January 18, 1964 Linden  
 January 31, 1964 New Market  
 December 22, 1964 New Ross  
 January 16, 1965 Darlington  
 January 16, 1965 Coal Creek  
 February 5, 1965 Darlington  
 February 19, 1965 Waynetown  
 November 30, 1965 Coal Creek  
 December 18, 1965 New Market  
 December 21, 1965 New Ross  
 January 21, 1966 New Market



February 11, 1966 Linden  
 November 1, 1966 New Ross  
 January 19, 1967 Ladoga  
 January 21, 1967 Coal Creek  
 February 3, 1967 Darlington  
 Darlington held it in 1968-69 & 69-70.  
 December 19, 1970 Linden  
 February 5, 1971 Darlington

### Misc. Facts About the Keg:

#### Most Times Won:

New Ross 6  
 Darlington 5  
 New Market 5  
 Linden 5  
 Coal Creek 4  
 Waveland 2  
 Ladoga 2  
 Waynetown 1  
 Alamo 0

#### Longest Time Held:

Darlington (2 yrs., 10 mos., 16 days),  
 Feb. 3, 1967 to Dec. 19, 1970  
 New Ross (2 yrs., 2 mos., 16 days),  
 Nov. 4, 1960 to Jan. 20, 1962

#### Shortest Time Held:

Darlington (7 Hours),  
 Jan. 16, 1965—2:30 to 9:30  
 Ladoga (2 days) twice,  
 Jan. 16, 1964 to Jan. 18, 1964  
 Jan. 19, 1967 to Jan. 21, 1967

#### Total Time Held:

New Ross 5 yrs., 4 mos., 3 days  
 Darlington 3 yrs., 9 mos., 16 days  
 New Market 1 yr., 9 mos., 0 days  
 Linden 1 yr., 8 mos., 2 days  
 Waynetown 9 mos., 11 days  
 Coal Creek 1 mos., 27 days  
 Alamo 25 days  
 Ladoga 4 days

## COACH JOHN L. ADAMS (1893-1964)

by Bob Hammel

*Editor's Note: The following Introductory Comments (with references) to this article were provided by Roger Robison, IHSBHS president.*

### Introductory Comments

Coach Adams was inducted into the Monroe County Hall of Fame, along with nine others, on 14 July

2017. John L. Adams was one of a quintet of coaches who dominated Indiana high school basketball before World War II. They were originally known as the coaches' Wonder Five during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century--as they collectively won every state title from 1918 through 1925; then '27, '29, '33, '34, '36, and '39 for a total of 14. Four of the five went on to coach at the college level.

Adams graduated from

	<u>Griz Wagner</u>	<u>Glen Curtis</u>	<u>John Adams</u>	<u>Cliff Wells</u>	<u>Everett Case</u>
	1886-1934	1892-1958	1893-1964	1896-1977	1900-66
<b>Won-Lost:</b>	174-22 (?)	411-145	514-185	582-240	465-144-1(t)
<b>State Titles:</b>	1920-22	'18,'24,'27,	1923	1919, 1934	'25,'29,'36,
		'33			'39
<b>College job:</b>	Franklin	Indiana St.	-----	Tulane	N.C. State

Bloomington High in 1912 and from I.U. in 1932. In 1912/13 and '13/'14 he attended I.U. where he participated in football, basketball and track. He left in 1914 to take a job teaching at the hamlet of Smithville in southern Monroe County. Beginning his second year there, 1915/16, the person serving as both principal and coach resigned and left the combined job to Adams. Adams coached for three years before leaving for the U.S. Army in 1918/'19. He maintained a lifelong membership in the American Legion and later served as commander of the Vincennes Post. Adams returned to coach Smithville in 1919/20 where he lost to Cliff Wells and Bloomington High, 14-13, in the Sectional.

During his four years at Smithville, Adams won 86 while losing 24. The team played Bedford, Salem, French Lick, Scottsburg, Mitchell, Switz City and Sandborn, among others. Meanwhile in 1920, Vincennes lost its home sectional to Washington. That was enough for Knox County to hire Adams as its basketball coach and athletic director. In that role, Adams also filled in to coach track for 17 years,

football for seven, baseball for one, and some golf.

### John Adams; no, not the President--the all-time Indiana coaching great.

From the 1912 Bloomington High School Gothic – yearbook – included in its Senior Class Prophecy:

*John Adams likes the farming best,  
 Although the city's grand,  
 He's going back to Morris Creek,*

### To work on father's land.

The prophet just didn't know John L. Adams. And, no wonder. The real John Adams hadn't been allowed to surface yet. John L. Adams was one of the first *great* names in Indiana high school basketball coaching. When he retired in 1939 from coaching 27 years after that prophecy but still just in his mid-40s, he was:

\* The **first** (and in 1939 the only) **500-game winner** in Indiana high school basketball coaching;

\* Possessor of the longest winning streak, **38 games**, in state history (which he had been for 17 years – and was to remain for 17 more: 1922-56);

\* Coach of the state-championship team with the most victories ever (which he still is: his 1923 champion Vincennes Alices went **34-1**, and no champion since has won as many games).

But in that same yearbook, under "Athletics," was this note: *The prospects for basketball looked good. But no floor could be secured, and the squad was forced to disband*

*without playing a game.* The plaque in the Indiana High School Basketball Hall of Fame at New Castle which went up with his induction in 1970 says, "He played on Bloomington High School's first basketball team." That's true. He lettered on the 1910-11 Panther team, as a junior. But as the *Gothic* noted, it turned out he was a senior in 1912, the last year when BHS did *not* have a basketball team. By 1912-13, a gym had been built and the city where the jewel known as the Indiana high school basketball tournament began two years earlier finally had a place for its own high school to play.



John L. Adams

Meanwhile, John L. Adams left the farm to attend Indiana University, from where in 1915/16 he headed right into his own piece of history. Not far from his home ground, he became the basketball coach at Smithville, went 86-24 there, and when the coaching job opened at Vincennes after the 1919-20 season, he got the job. There, he is a legend. In 19 years, his teams won 19 sectionals – never lost a sectional game, and had a winning streak of 73 games.

His first Vincennes team, 1920-21, won its first eight games, lost a couple, then brought in Smithville and won by a point, went to Smithville and won by two, brought in Bloomington High and won by two. It was the first game in an eventful coaching relationship between John L. Adams and his alma mater. John's first Vincennes team went **35-6**, went to the 16-team State Tournament at Bloomington and lost in the second round to Anderson.

The next year, 1921-22, Vincennes won its ***first 38 games***. This was the year when Franklin – no longer truly the "Wonder Five" with some of the keys from its 1920 and '21 champions graduated but with all-timer Fuzzy Vandivier as a senior – was to win its record third straight State. But, when the tournament began, unbeaten Vincennes was No. 1-ranked. The Alices and Franklin never met; Vincennes was upset at the State by John's alma mater, Bloomington, which it had beaten at Bloomington during the season, 30-18. That 38-game winning streak remained the state record until Oscar Robertson came along at Indianapolis Crispus Attucks and, on the way to the first perfect-record state championship in 1955-56, won 45 in a row. That record wasn't topped until Lawrence North won 50 straight, fifty years later. That's the progression: set in 1922, broken in 1956, re-broken in 2006, and never broken since.

Adams and Vincennes didn't mope for long after the '22 upset. The next year, the Alices took off again, against a schedule Adams purposely stacked. In order, Vincennes knocked off traditional powers Washington, Anderson, Columbus, Lebanon, Lafayette Jeff, Martinsville and Columbus again. That was just a stage-setter. Adams reached into Illinois and brought in a Knox County (Bruceville) native and

one-time IU contemporary of his, **Arthur Trout**, who was well on his way to his own Hall of Fame coaching career at **Centralia**. Trout's team came in seeking revenge; the year before it had won its 2nd of three state championships under Trout but lost at Vincennes, 38-15. This trip back home was no better. Vincennes won, 40-19.

Continuing the string of titans that had started with Washington, Adams' Alices followed Centralia by whipping in succession reigning Indiana champion Franklin, then Washington, Terre Haute Wiley, Bedford, Bloomington, Evansville Central, Anderson and Lebanon. The overall record was now 20-0. The Martinsville (28-26), Anderson (29-27) and first Lebanon (19-16) game were all close. But the margin in the rest of the 15-game stretch of powerhouses averaged 20.5 per game – 38.4 to 17.9.

On Feb. 2, Evansville Central came to town, a team Vincennes had beaten 37-26 on its own court two weeks earlier. In his book *90 Years of Alices*, the late Vincennes basketball historian Bill Stedman told how a Vincennes player, Eddie Prullage, stayed on the court long minutes after everyone else had left, because his man hit the long field goal that won for the visitors, 31-29. Six weeks later, Prullage was cutting down the nets at the Indianapolis Coliseum after Vincennes completed that record **34-1** season by beating Muncie for the championship, 27-18.

Through the championship season, Vincennes had been playing its home games in a relatively new gym but one built in a junior high school. For Adams to put together the schedule, he did emphasize the stature his program had attained along with some salesmanship on his part, because, as Vincennes *Commercial* sports editor George W. Purcell wrote in 1926, "The ridicule of the

state was being flaunted at Vincennes' 'cheese box' gym. "The best teams of Indiana are threatening to cancel ...Vincennes' big drawing power while playing on foreign floors alone has kept southern Indiana's premier team on many schedules of the larger schools in the state."

By then, a citizens/fans group had formed, and more than 3,300 pledged to pay for construction of a \$100,000 Gothic-style coliseum, with a seating capacity just over 6,000. Construction was completed in six months, and it included a luxury section (414 theater seats), an electric scoreboard (gift of the 1926 Senior class), and a \$20,000 three-manual pipe organ with 57 stops (donated by the local Kiwanis Club). With seats on the gym floor for special programs, local star Red Skelton as well as names like Will Rogers, Gene Autry and Dick Clark drew up to 7,500 there. The building was ready for the 1926-27 season and remained the Alices' home through the 1988 sectional. Its last 27 years it bore the name John L. Adams Coliseum.

Adams never got an Alices team back to a Final Four, but his scheduling kept him in royal company. In a five-year stretch starting immediately after his championship, his team won regular-season victories over four state champs: Martinsville (1924 and '27), Frankfort (1925), and Muncie (1928). Later, his Alices won regular-season games over state title-bound teams in 1931 (Muncie) and 1933 (Martinsville). Adams was an innovator with his coaching program. He scheduled games for his junior varsity with varsity teams from smaller high schools in the area, and he even entered his "jayvees" in the huge inter-state Wabash Valley Tournament a few times, reaching the semifinals with

them once. His 1925 varsity team had won the "Valley" tournament.

Adams also must have taken some business courses in his IU years. Just across the street from the main entrance to the Coliseum he operated "The Adams," a short-order restaurant with big lunch-time and before-games trade. He designed and copyrighted what is claimed to be basketball's first comprehensive score book. Stedman in *90 Years of Alices* said the biggest national sporting goods names – Spalding, Wilson and Rawlings – bid for rights to publish the book, but Adams self-published, and self-profited. He left basketball relatively young, but his Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame plaque notes he "also coached football, baseball, track, and golf at Vincennes and was the school's athletic director for 39 years, retiring in 1959." He died in April 1964.

#### LONGEST WINNING STREAKS IN INDIANA H.S. BOYS BASKETBALL

50	Lawrence North; 2005-06.
49	Bloomington South; 2008-10
45	Indianapolis Attucks; 1955-56
40	Marion; 1984-86
39	Michigan City Elston; 1966-67.
<b>38</b>	<b>Vincennes: 1921-22.</b>
36	South Bend Central 1956-57
33	Princeton; 2008-09
32	Frankfort: 12/26/35-12/29/36
32	E. Chicago Roosevelt: 1969-70
32	E. Chicago Washington: 1970-71
32	Pike: 2002-03

Regular season only; Vincennes 59:  
(1921-23)

Undefeated but tied; Frankfort 37:0:1  
(11/22/35-12/29/36)

#### **John L. Adams Basketball Records @ Vincennes 1921-39:**

<u>Year</u>	<u>W-L</u>	<u>Final</u>
1921	35-06	(8)
1922	38-01	(8)
1923	34-01	(#1)
1924	17-09	(32)
1925	29-05	(4)
1926	20-11	(32)
1927	22-11	(64)
1928	24-10	(32)
1929	21-11	(16)
1930	18-12	(64)

1931	17-11	(32)
1932	24-06	(16)
1933	19-12	(8)
1934	18-09	(32)
1935	19-08	(64)
1936	19-09	(32)
1937	19-07	(64)
1938	17-10	(32)
1939	18-12	(8)
Total:	428-161	

#### 1923 IHSAA State Champions



#### 34-1 Alices

Front Row: Byron Harper, Wayne Wampler, John Pickett, Boyd Hickman. Middle Row: Loyal Duncan, Harold Mayo, Reese Jones, Raymond Allega, John Wolfe. Back Row: Coach Adams, Firman Wampler, Emery Thorn, Edwin Prullage, Gilbert Alsop, Emerson Varner, Creighton Johnson.



John L. Adams Coliseum

#### References:

Stedman, Dr. Wm.; *90 Years of Alices*, 1905-94; Vincennes, 1995.  
Anonymous; John Adams; Evansville Press, Feb. 12, 1954, page 20.  
Robison, R.F.; *Everett Case & Frankfort Hot Dogs*; Hot Dog Press, 1998.  
Bob Hammel, the famed sports historian, author, and former Bloomington sports editor.

Hammel reviewed the career of Adams for the Monroe Co. induction ceremonies.

#### 1938 Elwood Ticket Strike

by

### Leigh Evans, IHSBHS Board member

Sectional ticket squabbles are as old as our great tourney, but the Elwood Panthers took it to an altogether higher level in March, 1938. As the Panthers prepared to enter the Madison County sectional, the red & blue found themselves 9-11 and with a less-than-decent chance to get through the eight-team sectional hosted by Anderson.

From most contemporary accounts, the Elwood principal, C.C. Hillis, was a popular man in the Panther community. Newspaper articles point to civic accomplishments and he was well-liked by the students. When he was given control of the entire allotment of 600 tickets granted to Elwood High, his first order of business was to set up a morning sale to those adults holding season tickets. Nearly 400 of the tickets were gobbled up. Next came the biggest mistake of his administrative career. It was out of character for the experienced administrator, and a black mark on an otherwise laudable career. Rather than to make any of the 200+ tickets available to the student body, Principal Hillis instead decided to set up an afternoon sale to others outside of the school. Those too were sold as fast as they could be passed out the sales window. No tickets were left for the high school students.

The "new" Anderson High School Goal House, as it was called at the time, held 5,000 spectators and seats were based upon school enrollments. Six hundred fans were set to take their seats in the Elwood section but none would be actual high school students. The student body took quick action and staged a walkout complete with a parade of banners calling for dismissal of Principal Hillis. The strike saw nearly 600 students refusing to attend classes for an entire week, and their

demonstration gained statewide attention. While many sympathized with the Elwood youths' plight, the general public was not at all comfortable with students participating in civil disobedience in 1938.

The Muncie Morning Star opined, "student strikes are never justified, and tolerance of pupil defiance of rules only tends to encourage flouting of authority." Then IHSAA Commissioner Arthur Trester weighed in with his usual soft but fatuous touch by declaring that "Local fans and students are warned that over-bearing loyalty, such as demonstrations or disturbance, may bring down the fatal stroke." Elwood's local paper was full of editorials over the rift, but fell on the side of the students. "High school officials must bear in mind that basketball is a sport played by and for the students. 'Businessmen and gamblers may play too prominent a role in the annual frenzy.'"

Principal Hillis, realizing his mistake, publicly asked for adults to voluntarily give up their tickets to students "in order that the student

Little to no takers gave up their previously purchased tickets. The strike was finally ended when another allotment of tickets was made available to the Elwood students from the ranks of other schools participating in the sectional.

Elwood went on to win its opener with Alexandria 29-21, but dropped its semi-final contest to Lapel 27-19. Anderson would go on to down Lapel in the championship game 37-22 and advance to what was then called the semi-finals before dropping a 38-36 morning game to Columbus. Principal Hillis would from that day on make sectional tickets available to students.



**1937-38 Elwood team**

First Row: Teddy Robbins, Richard Riser, Harold Hodson, Aaron Hartzler, Robert Silvey, Billy Bunch. Back Row: Robert Brown, George Blackburn, Ralph Stevens, James Fouch, Billy Holtsclaw.

**C. C. Hillis, Elwood principal**

cheering section be maintained."



## Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Annual Membership Program

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

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

As an Annual Member of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame you will receive the following recognition and benefits during the next year.

- name recognition on the Annual Membership display in the lobby of the museum
- name recognition in the Indiana Basketball History Magazine, & Induction Banquet Programs
- free museum admission for the member and 3 guests, 20% discount in the gift shop
- Hall of Fame lapel pin for "new" members and HOF stationary kit for each renewal
- subscription to Indiana Basketball History Magazine
- invitations to Inductee's Reception and other special events

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

### 2018 Membership Form

#### Membership Categories

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame, One Hall of Fame Court, New Castle, IN 47362. The Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Your contribution is tax deductible.

Check method of payment:

Enclose Check or Money Order or Call 765.529.1891 to use a credit card (VISA, MC, Discover, AE)

**You may also sign-up on our website at [www.hoopshall.com/main/membership](http://www.hoopshall.com/main/membership)**