

# B O X S C O R E

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## THE 1946 INDIANA ALL-STARS

by

Cliff Johnson, Editor

This article will conclude our long series of early Indiana All-Star classic games with Kentucky's All-Star teams. With this installment, we will have covered all the initial Classics played between 1939 and 1959. We've come full circle, beginning with the 1947 game, proceeding through 1959, returning

to the earliest contest in 1939 (Indiana only), and then marching forward again to finish with this one

was probably running at an all-time high for the annual Classic by the first week of June 1946. WW II had



The Indiana All-Stars paused from their first practice session at the Central Y.M.C.A. yesterday afternoon long enough to have this picture taken in the order of selection by the state's sports writers and commentators. From left to right they are as follows: (Front) John Wilson of Anderson, Bob Kohlmeier of Evansville Central, Dick Oyler of Flora, Dave Bruck of Richmond, Bill Butterfield of Evansville Bosse; (rear) Coach Glenn Curtis, Bob Ritter of Anderson, Roger Thews of Culver, Jerry Stuteville of Attica and Charlie Fouty of Terre Haute State. Bob Milton of Fort Wayne Central, sixth player voted to the team, had not arrived when the shot was made.

held in 1946. It's taken nearly five years to span that 20-year period, but we hope the narratives have been interesting and informative for everyone.

Basketball enthusiasm in Indiana

run its course on both the western and eastern fronts by the early fall of 1945 and life was at last returning to a more docile and normal state. Returning military personnel, of course, comprised a large part of the

rising interest in basketball, but also the thirst for revenge against Kentucky's All-Stars, who had conquered Indiana in 1945, added a great deal of ardor and anticipation to the collective psyche of Hoosier fans. The state tournament had concluded ten weeks earlier amid an array of new scoring records set both by teams and individual players, so the Indiana basketball world appeared more than poised to take on Kentucky's challenge scheduled for June 21.

Basketball had begun taking on some innovations, too, that sparked added enthusiasm. The newfound availability of resources that had been scarce during the war, while bolstering the economy, became a significant factor in improving the quality of sports facilities and equipment used during the transition. Bonds were being sold now at a rapid pace for constructing improved and larger gyms and playing arenas; basketballs could be molded now rather than stitched; colorful new team uniforms were in ready supply; and improved athletic shoes became available that would not leave black scuff marks on the courts.

The black scuff marks had become a severe problem for indoor athletic programs during the war because of a domestic rubber shortage brought about by the diversion of real rubber to the war effort (mostly for military vehicle tires). So, for four years athletic shoes containing mostly carbon compounds or asphalt in the soles had to be purchased by or for the basketball players and gymnasts. The wood playing floors then became so ingrained with the black substance that the legitimate court markings could often not be visually defined. This was the case at Butler Fieldhouse, where the 1945 Classic had been played. By June 20, its playing court had been re-painted, seats added to the stands, and new

decorations implanted to enhance the building's appearance. But the work had not yet been assessed so it was too late to permit use of the facility. Besides that, Butler's administration opted to make the court off-limits for any events during the summer months so that the reparations could be preserved for its home games beginning that fall. Therefore, once again as in previous years, the State Fairgrounds Coliseum had to be put back into use for the upcoming bi-state contest. While the Coliseum had the same problem as Butler's Fieldhouse with the black scuff marks, a contractor had been hired earlier that year to fix the problem. Instead of re-painting the floor though, a strong astringent was applied with a large power-driven brush and then it was fine-surfaced with an electric buffer. The refurbished floor was nearly completed by June 1, with the contractor proclaiming, "it was shining like the top of your dining room table."

The night of June 21 arrived, and after multiple practice sessions during that week, both teams were primed and ready for action. Kentucky's coaches were once again Ed Diddle from Western Kentucky Teachers' College and his ever-present assistant, Ted Hornback. Indiana's mentor was likewise the same in the person of Glenn Curtis, already a basketball legend in the Hoosier state. The Kentucky team was being headed by John (Sonny) Allen, a 6-2 forward from state champion Morehead Breckenridge H.S. Sonny was a natural team leader and a constant scoring threat. He was to be accompanied on the starting five by two of his teammates from Morehead, 5-8 Don Battson and 6-2 Frank Fraley. Kentucky presented some height, with two players reaching the 6-5 mark, but it was relying primarily on some fast-

breaking speed and ball-handling abilities to get the job done. Indiana had jumping Johnny Wilson, Mr. Basketball, from state champion Anderson as its main trigger man, augmented by team leader Bob Kohlmeyer from Evansville Central and tall Bill Butterfield from city rival Bosse. Like Kentucky, this team possessed an abundance of speed but, also like Kentucky, was not long on height. Its tallest players were 6-4 Stuteville and 6-5 Butterfield. A fast-paced and high-scoring contest was being expected. The official lineups were as follows:

#### KENTUCKY ALL-STARS

6-5 Alex Stevens, Gravel Switch  
 6-5 Tommy Lyons, Mt. Sterling  
 6-2 Sonny Allen, Morehead  
 6-2 Frank Fraley, Morehead  
 6-1 Charlie Simons, Dawson Springs  
 6-0 Kenny Reeves, Maysville  
 6-0 Bobby Moore, Frankfort  
 5-11 Gene Rhodes, Louisv. Male  
 5-8 Bill Fisher, Bowling Green  
 5-8 Don Battson, Morehead

#### INDIANA ALL-STARS

6-1 John Wilson, Anderson  
 6-1 Bob Kohlmeyer, Evansv. Cent.  
 5-8 Dick Oyler, Flora  
 5-10 Dave Bruck, Richmond  
 6-5 Bill Butterfield, Evansv. Bosse  
 6-0 Bob Milton, F.W. Central  
 5-11 Maury Conwell, Kokomo  
 6-0 Roger Thews, Culver  
 5-11 Charles Fouty, T.H. State  
 6-4 Jerry Stuteville, Attica

6-0 forward Bob Ritter from Anderson had been selected by the Indiana sportswriters for All-Star game participation, but he sustained a broken foot bone in an Indians' semi-finals tournament game and had to forgo play in the Classic. Bobby Milton of the Fort Wayne Central Tigers was also hampered with a case of athlete's foot, but he decided on the eve of the contest to grit his teeth and hope for the best.

By game time on the evening of June 21, all 11,000 seats in the Coliseum had been sold and many

disappointed fans had to be turned back. As the opening whistle blew, the roar of the crowd made it obvious that this game was one that had been eagerly awaited. In essence, it was a grudge match.

Kentucky took the tipoff and came out firing the first quarter, with Allen, Moore, and Rhodes showing the way. The initial period ended in a 10-6 Kentucky lead. The two teams battled fiercely for rebounds throughout the second quarter but frequently missed the mark on field goal attempts. The successful field goals were divided somewhat evenly, however, and that kept both teams vying for the lead. Allen, Reeves, and Moore were pacing Kentucky, while Wilson grabbed half a dozen leaping rebounds and scored underneath repeatedly to keep Indiana in the game during the first half. The score at halftime was 29-24, Kentucky still ahead.

Indiana turned the contest around during the third quarter, with several Wilson tip-ins coming from teammates' missed shots. His leaping ability for snatching rebounds away from the eager reaches of Bluegrass cagers became a major factor. With Butterfield's able scoring and rebounding assistance to supplement Wilson's fine performance, the third period closed with Indiana sporting a one-point lead at 44-43.

Kentucky briefly regained the lead at 47-46 in the first few minutes of the fourth quarter when Reeves and Rhodes combined forces on a fast break and Allen pumped in a goal from long range. It was a short-lived lead however, as Fouty and Wilson quickly retaliated with two more Indiana goals and Kohlmeyer sank another one, along with a brace of free throws. With six minutes and forty-seven seconds left in the game, the Hoosiers were maintaining the lead at 52-47. Action picked up

markedly from that point on as both teams began trading field goals regularly while also committing fouls that put opponents at the line for repetitive free throws. Meanwhile, Wilson continued his remarkable play off the boards and plopped in several field goals close-in under defensive pressure. Allen and Moore kept Kentucky in the game with a late barrage of fielders, but they came too late as Indiana was able to counter every time with points of its own either by a field goal or by free throws. The game became somewhat rough toward the final minutes. Kentucky's team collectively committed 21 fouls, with Moore and Lyons fouling out and superstar Allen playing late with four. Indiana was charged with 18 fouls of its own during the game. Kohlmeyer fouled out, and three other Hoosier starters played late with 3 fouls apiece. Allen of Kentucky was awarded the Star of Stars plaque. The game's box score was recorded as follows:

#### KENTUCKY (55)

	FG	FT	TP
Rhodes	2	1	5
Moore	5	7	17
Lyons	0	1	1
Allen	10	0	20
Reeves	3	0	6
Battson	1	1	3
Fraley	0	0	0
Fisher	0	0	0
Simons	0	1	1
Stevens	1	0	2
Totals	22	11	55

#### INDIANA (62)

	FG	FT	TP
Wilson	10	7	27
Bruck	0	0	0
Butterfield	1	3	5
Kohlmeyer	5	5	15
Oyler	0	0	0
Fouty	4	2	10
Stuteville	0	2	2
Milton	1	0	2
Conwell	0	0	0
Thews	0	1	1
Totals	21	20	62

## NEW IHSBHS MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members into our organization and hope their experience will be as stimulating, informative, and entertaining as it has been for all our veteran members:

Bill Bartok, Laguna Beach, CA  
 Michael Bex, Charleston, SC  
 Gene Chandler, Litchfield Park, AZ  
 Matt Huffman, Fayetteville, NC  
 Dick Meyer, Bloomington, MN  
 Bradford Raths, Camby, IN  
 Jim Thacker, Elkins Park, PA  
 Larry Thompson, Nappanee, IN  
 Neil Thornhill, New Castle, IN  
 Bill Walker, Huntington, IN

## IHSBHS Meeting Held

A site meeting was held on Saturday, July 28 by IHSBHS for the first time in several years. The meeting was organized mainly by John Ockomon, IHSBHS past president. It was opened to all IHSBHS and Hickory Husker members, Hall of Fame associates, friends of high school basketball, and enemies as well. The site was the Indiana H.S. Basketball HOF facility in New Castle. About 30-35 guests were in attendance.

The meeting began at 1 p.m. First, there was an introductory welcoming of attendees to the HOF by Chris May, its Executive Director. This was followed by a presentation on the history & basketball program at the Indiana Masonic Home at Franklin, delivered by Leigh Evans, publisher of Hickory Husker and an IHSBHS board member. Roger Robison, IHSBHS president, then gave a talk about Jake Gimble, the Gimble Medal, and other significant achievements and events throughout Gimble's life. Dr. Robison has also written a story about Jake Gimble that appears in this issue of Boxscore. Chris Smith and Michael Keating, co-producers of the

"Hoosier Hardwood Photo Project," gave a detailed account of the everyday matters entailed in their Project, including the main objectives of traveling all over Indiana photographing the state's historic gymnasiums and arenas (still standing), finding and recording "lost photos," locating other significant monuments in Hoosier Hysteria's 12 decades of history, and writing stories about their discoveries. At the conclusion of the meeting, attendees took in the countless sights and exhibits on display at the HOF until the 5 p.m. closing time.

### **Billy Edwards, Martinsville 1950s Court Star**

by

**Mike Bex, IHSBHS member**



Billy Edwards, who played on the varsity for Martinsville for three full years (1953-56), was the first Artesian to score more than 1,000 career points. His mark of 1,171 points during that period surpassed each of the career totals of previous Martinsville Hall of Famers John Wooden, Lester Reynolds, Arnold Suddith, Mel Payton, and the first Gimbel Prize award winner Claude Curtis. During the 1916-43 era,

while using a "possession control" game strategy devised by Coach Glenn Curtis (a distant cousin of Claude), the Artesians won three state championships and finished twice as state runners-up. They made it to the "sweet sixteen" 14 times and to the regionals 21 times. Martinsville put its first competitive basketball team on the court in 1911. However, no player in its basketball history ever finished his playing career with at least 1,000 points until Edwards did it in the spring of 1956.

Edwards' coach, Vincent Bisesi, was a 1927 member of Martinsville's state championship team and, appropriately enough, became a disciple of Glenn Curtis' "possession control" style of coaching. However, Billy's shooting skills were readily recognized by Bisesi, so beginning with his sophomore year a long leash was usually given to him so that the team could put more points on the scoreboard. During the 1954, '55, and '56 seasons, as the Martinsville Daily Reporter documented, Martinsville (or its opponents) used "possession control" in 33% (23/69) of its games played. In reality though, that actual percentage might have approached 50%, or even more, if the slow-down tactics had also been applied to games where it was used only at specific times.

Of thirty-six players now in the HOF who played during Edwards' three years, he ranks 8th in total points scored, behind Arley Andrews, Oscar Robertson, Bill Greve, Frank Radovich, Hub Hougland, Dalen Showalter, and Nick Mantis. In other words, he outscored 80% (29/36) of those inductees. Perhaps even more startling, in the 1954 regionals as just a sophomore, he outscored 95% (22/23) of all future HOF players from that year.

During the full season as a sophomore in 1954, the stocky

Edwards averaged 15.4 points per game, scoring a total of 400 for the 26 games played. By state tournament time he was leading Martinsville to the sectional championship by accumulating 78 total points in the four games, averaging 19.5 points per game. Then in the regional he turned in another sizzling performance by scoring 50 points, 25 in each of Martinsville's two contests. Curiously, of the 23 players who played that year in the regionals and who are now in the HOF, only Ray Ball of Elkhart with 58 total points outscored Edwards in those tournament games. Despite the 71-62 loss to powerful Terre Haute Gerstmeyer in the regional's final game, Edwards outscored the famed high-scoring Andrews twin, Arley (sibling Harley had graduated the year before), and Arley's uncle Harold, who was also on the 1954 team. The Martinsville Daily Reporter delivered the news afterward to the hometown community that the designated outstanding player in the regional had been Martinsville's sophomore sensation, Bill Edwards. Martinsville finished its season at 13 wins against 13 losses.

During Edwards' junior year of 1955, defenders of opposing teams were presumably instructed to shut down Billy's offensive threat as much as possible during games. As a result, fouls were often committed against him and his trips to the foul line increased measurably. Realizing what was happening, he and his coach were driven to improve his accuracy on free throws. Although free throws attempted in those days were not always accurately recorded, it is closely estimated that during the previous season he had made 96 of his 149 free throws, an acceptable 64.4%. But by the end of his junior year that percentage had risen to

74.4% on a tight calculation of 122 successes out of 164 attempts at the line. His points per game also rose to 16.9 compared with 15.4 for the previous season. His total point output dipped to 354, but that was mainly the result of fewer games (21) having been played. Martinsville was dropped by Mooresville early in the sectional by the close score of 77-74, finishing the season at 8-13. But Edwards had had another outstanding season as the leader and top scorer of his team.

In his senior year, Edwards (by now 6-0 in height) continued to rack up points on the scoreboard for the Artesians. By the end of the season, his points per game average had escalated to 18.95 by scoring 417 points in the 22 games he played. His free throw shooting accuracy also jumped to a personal record of 80.6% by sinking approximately 137 of his 170 attempts at the line. The sectional that year, held in Bloomington, was won by neighboring school Morgantown. The Trojans, a powerful team (21-2) going into its second-round game with Martinsville, squeaked by the Artesians via a score of 71-68, despite some heroic efforts in that game by Edwards and his teammates. Martinsville finished its season at 10 wins, 12 losses.

All in all, Billy Edwards scored 20 or more points thirty (30) times in 69 career performances. He attained an overall scoring average of 16.9 points per game while saving his best playing performances for the major tournament events. In seven sectionals, two regionals, and six holiday tournament games, 15 games in all, his scoring average was 19.5 points per game. It seemed that the bigger the contest and better the competition, the bigger the game that Edwards brought to the court. Without a doubt, his outstanding play for the Artesians was well

deserving of his being designated All-South Central Conference forward for two years running, in 1955 and 1956. And that puts him in good company with the best of the Artesians' legendary court stars of all time.

### JAKE GIMBEL & HIS PRIZES

by

**Roger F. Robison**

Jake Gimbel was born in Vincennes on April 17, 1876, and died in Santa Monica on January 28th, 1943, at age 66. After retiring in 1915 from business in Vincennes, Gimbel appeared at Indiana University (I.U.) and approached President Bryan about awarding the "J. Gimbel Prize for the Building of Mental Attitude" (sportsmanship) to male student athletes at I.U. The Prize would consist of a gold medal and cash from the earned interest on a deposit of \$500. Bryan described Gimbel as a wonderful man who likes to help young Indiana adults (see Fig. 1). The *Indiana Daily Student* and the university's *Arbutus* yearbook described him as a philanthropist and psychology

student who had, for several years, been helping young men and women to attend college by giving free loans. Gimbel named a committee of faculty to select the Prize winner each December so that the award could be made at the following January 20th Founders' Day ceremonies. The initial winner in 1916 was Claude Ewing, a student from Clinton, Indiana, who lettered in football and participated in track events and gymnastics [1-4].

After the first award in 1916, Gimbel approached the IHSAA about a similar Prize for the high school boys at the finals of the high school basketball tournament, then held yearly in Bloomington. They gratefully accepted the proposal in November 1916 with the first Gimbel Prize awarded in 1917. The Prize was awarded from 1917 through 1943 (see Table 1). Reportedly, Gimbel would personally pin the medal on the winner every year from 1917 through 1942. As Gimbel died just prior to the 1943 tourney, the IHSAA funded the award that year, in tribute to him. In 1944 the award was renamed as the "IHSAA Award" and from 1945 onward became the "Arthur L. Trester Award," honoring the long-time IHSAA Commissioner who passed away in 1944 [5].



JACOB GIMBEL

Figure 1

#### Table 1: All Time Gimbel Prize Winners

1917 Claude Curtis, Martinsville
1918 Ralph Esary, Bloomington
1919 Walter Cross, Thorntown
1920 Harold Laughlin, Bedford
1921 Ralph Marlowe, Sandusky
1922 Reece Jones, Vincennes
1923 Maurice Robinson, Anderson
1924 Phillip Kessler, Richmond
1925 Russell Walter, Kokomo
1926 Richard Williams, Evansv. Central
1927 Franklin Prentice, Kendallville
1928 Bob McCarnes, Logansport
1929 Emmett Lowery, Ind. Tech
1930 Ken Young, LaPorte
1931 Norm Cotton, T.H. Wiley
1932 Jess McAnally, Greencastle
1933 James Seward, Ind. Shortridge
1934 Art Gosman, Jasper
1935 James Lyboul, Richmond
1936 Steve Sitko, F.W. Central
1937 Bob Menke, Huntingburg
1938 Bob Mygrants, Hammond High

1939 James Myers, Evansv. Bosse  
 1940 Duane Conkey, Mitchell  
 1941 Donald Server, Madison  
 1942 Ken Brown, Muncie Burris  
 1943 David Laflin, Lebanon

The university Gimbel Prize has continued to be awarded at I.U. ever since 1916 and in California since 1930. The I.U. winner in 2016 was Elliott Yee, in men's tennis. The Jake Gimbel Prize at the University of California-Berkeley was recently awarded in 2017 to Justin Murphy, in men's rowing. The "J. Gimble Athletic Attitude Prize" at Stanford in 2017 was awarded to Peter Galli, in wrestling, and to Garrett Sweatt in track and cross-country. The J. Gimbel Prize at UCLA is awarded to the man who has shown the "Best Attitude toward the University in Athletic Endeavor." In addition, there were Gimbel scholarships established at Cal Tech, the UCLA Dental School, and for graduates at the Santa Barbara school system. At 40 separate universities in California the J. Gimbel Scholarship Fund awarded \$1000 loans without interest to male students doing graduate work, with payback plans being left to the discretion of the recipients [4].

WHO was this guy [4]??? A Rockefeller? A Rothschild? A Guggenheim? No, this Hoosier philanthropist was a life-long bachelor and retired merchant from Vincennes, Indiana, the first home of the fabulously successful Gimbel family of German Jews from Bavaria. Jake was the nephew of the family patriarch, Adam Gimbel, and he was a first cousin to the illustrious Gimbel brothers, who developed the world's largest department store chain [6]. Adam Gimbel [1816-1896] had immigrated to the port of New Orleans in 1835, at age 18, to escape the poverty and mandatory military conscription in Bavaria. He spent two years working as a dock-hand. Then, like many Jewish immigrants he became an itinerant

foot peddler traversing the agrarian South. These peddlers were much treasured by the isolated rural inhabitants for information and news as well as their manufactured goods. Working out of a base in New Orleans, Adam covered the Mississippi Valley all the way to Cairo, Illinois, at the junction with the Ohio River. By 1842 he had traveled east along the Ohio and up the Wabash where he found himself at the crossroads of Vincennes. There, he opened a rented store in which the goods were arranged by departments instead of haphazardly. It was called a department store.

Several brothers and at least two sisters also came to Vincennes from Bavaria. Brother Seleman came in 1855. Sister Gertrude married Issac Joseph from Philadelphia, and patriarch Adam married Fridolyn Kaunweiler from Philadelphia in 1847. There was significant social intercourse between the immigrant Jewish communities in Vincennes and Philadelphia. Adam and Fridolyn had 14 children. The first eight were born in Vincennes, including five of the seven sons who would develop the foremost department store chain [6,8]. Adam Gimbel and his son-in-law Issac Joseph built their first store in 1857 at 202-204 Main St., and in 1859 they expanded to 206 Main. Gimbel and a new partner, B. Kuhn, took over added space at 208 and 210 Main. After the Civil War, Adam Gimbel sold out and moved with his immediate family to Philadelphia. However, the store in Vincennes was reacquired in 1868 for his first son Jacob (1851-1922) to "learn the business." He was followed there by his brothers Charles (1861-1932), Daniel (1863-1939), Ellis (1865-1950), Louis (1867-1930), and Benedict (1869-1907). By 1875 the Vincennes store had 40 employees. Efforts to expand faced continuous

opposition because of political differences with the city leaders. Consequently, in October of 1881 the brothers expanded up the Wabash River to Danville, Illinois. However, in 1886 the family believed that "trade by railroad" was replacing "trade by river boat" [12]. In 1887 they opened in the German-American boom town of Milwaukee. By 1891 they had sold out in Vincennes and moved to Milwaukee. They expanded to their new home town of Philadelphia in 1894, just two years before Adam's death [4, 6, 8].

The Gimbel brothers went on to open stores in New York City in 1910 and Pittsburgh in 1925. They acquired the Saks-5th Avenue and Saks 34th St. stores in 1923 and during the 1930s expanded to Chicago, Boston and San Francisco. By World War II they had the largest department store corporation in the world with 20 locations and seven flagship stores, each managed by one of the seven Gimbel sons. The Gimbels introduced escalators, the Slinky and the Thanksgiving Day parade. They pioneered at least four in-house radio stations beginning in 1922; WAAK (Milwaukee), WCAE (Pittsburgh), WGBS (New York), and WIP (Philadelphia). In 1965 they had 53 stores: 22 Gimbels and 31 Saks. They sold out in 1973 to a tobacco conglomerate and the stores were all closed in 1986 [6].

When patriarch Adam left Vincennes for Philadelphia in 1868, his brother Seleman (1838-94) remained. Seleman, Jake's father, was active in the wholesale liquor business, the local Democrat party, and banking. He was president of the German National Bank, the first in Vincennes, when it opened in 1888. At least five other original officers and contributors were Jewish. Seleman and his wife Mary Hyman (1851-1929) who was from

Wabash IN, had three children: Rose (1872-1941), Mrs. Jacob Labe of Philadelphia; Grace (1873-1955), Mrs. Lewis F. Miller of Chicago/Philadelphia, and Jake (1876-1943) who never married [4,8].

Jake was tutored at home until he attended Vincennes University (VU) for three years: 1889/90 to 1891/92. In 1889 VU, which was the oldest university in the old Indiana Territory (since 1801), was re-chartered as a two-year college so as to increase the state funding for Indiana, Purdue and State Normal (later, Indiana State). Jake went abroad for the next two years to continue his education [4]. He was at the Rancher's Institute in Stuttgart during 1892/93 and at La Chatelaine in Geneva for 1893/94. His father Seleman died in February of '94, leaving his mother a widow for another 35 years (see Fig. 2). Jake, in all probability, inherited his father's business interests.



Figure 2

Jake returned to Vincennes to work in the old Gimbel store which was now operated as a part of Issac Joseph & Sons. Jake, at age 23, and two junior partners from Oaktown, Houghton and Bond, bought out Joseph's store at 202-204 Main in 1899. In 1902 they bought the whole

building (202-210 Main) from the Gimbel Bros. of Philadelphia. They then took over 206 Main in 1904, as part of their store. At age 39, Jake retired when he and Houghton sold the store to Frank Bond in 1915. Under the Gimbel-Bond name the store expanded and prospered in Vincennes until it was closed in 1986 to the sorrow of Knox County. The vacant 1857 structure burned down in 2011 and is now an unoccupied lot (see Fig. 3).



Figure 3

One of Jake's first known acts of philanthropy was arranged in 1907 when he provided financial assistance to Curtis G. Shake (1887-1978), a 1905 Vincennes University (V.U.) graduate who wished to attend the I.U. Law School [4]. Shake was teaching in a one room Knox County school when Gimbel offered to pay for his law studies if Shake agreed to help another student in a similar manner. Shake went on to serve as chief justice of the Indiana Supreme Court during 1939-44 and as a judge at Nuremberg in 1947. Thus began a life-long tradition for Jake to sponsor young men for graduate work with scholarships disguised as unrestricted loans--an effort to encourage the recipient to reciprocate.

In August of 1910, Jake financed an expedition to Georgetown, British Guiana, in South America, to search

for a mysterious electric fish of the order Gymnotiformes. Fish within this Order possess organs that generate electrical discharges [see Table 2]. The electric eel is the only species of this Order that can generate enough electricity to stun prey--860 volts for two milliseconds. Discharges from other species can produce only a few millivolts and are used for navigation, communication, and/or mating. The expedition was led by Hoosier Max M. Ellis (1887-1953) who had graduated from V.U. in 1907 and would obtain his Ph.D. in Zoology from I.U. in 1911 [9]. The search for this mystery fish was successful, and it was named *Porotergerus gimbeli*, after the sponsor of the expedition (see Table 2). Both Ellis and Shake were later active in the founding of a social fraternity, Sigma Pi, at V.U. and I.U.

**Table 2: Order of Electric Fish**

**Phylum:** Chordata-----mostly vertebrates; 66,000 species; 32,000 are fish.

**Class:** Actinopterygii-----ray-finned bony fish.

**Order:** Gymnotiformes-electric organs; 225 species; electric eel (knifefish).

**Family:** Apterontidae-currently 15 genera of 88 species have been identified.

**Genus:** *Porotergerus*-----first described by Max M. Ellis 1909-12.

**Species:** *gimbeli*-----one of only three known species.

An earlier Carnegie Museum Expedition had collected specimens from the mouth of the rivers near Georgetown. Working on his Ph.D. thesis, Ellis had started in 1909 on identifying the specimens of Gymnotids in the Carnegie collection. He identified several new species and the new Genus *Porotergerus*. This required a revision of the entire Order and made study of the living fishes desirable. Ellis requested support for the expedition to South America and Jake provided it.

*Porotergerus gymnotus* had been identified earlier by Ellis in the Carnegie collection. He found the second species which he named *P.*

gimbeli, in an inland fresh water creek emptying into the Demerara River. It remains one of only three known species [10]. As an acknowledgement of his generosity, Jake treasured this tribute all his life. Ellis' work earned him his Ph.D. in 1911. It was published in the *Memoirs of the Carnegie Museum* in 1912-13 [11]. Ellis went on to a distinguished career as a marine physiologist at Colorado and Missouri. Following his support of Ellis, Jake served as a trustee at V.U. from 1911 to 1917 [4].

Jake's mother died in March of 1929 and, as his two sisters had married well, it is assumed he received a significant inheritance. He moved to the Los Angeles area near Westwood where UCLA had recently relocated during 1927-29 (see Fig. 4). He quickly became



Figure 4

involved with the California universities. Just as the Great Depression began in 1930 Jake started offering a Gimbel Prize for mental attitude/sportsmanship at U.C.L.A., Stanford, and U.C.-Berkeley. As the Great Depression deepened, his philanthropy increased to benefit college students all over the state in the form of \$1000.00 unsecured loans (scholarships) for graduate studies. Among other gifts to U.C.L.A., the school tapped him in 1937 for the \$1500.00 cost of a 100 ft. high steel "victory" flag pole, which is now a landmark at the center of campus. He had originally

wanted to donate a fountain. When UCLA wanted the flagpole instead, he installed a plaque at the base showing the *Porotergus gimbeli* electric fish, from the Gimbel Expedition, in bas relief (see Fig. 5).



Figure 5

It was here that the UCLA Gimbel Prizes were awarded during his lifetime. UCLA awarded him its school monogram in appreciation.

When Jake died in 1943, his will provided for his surviving sister Grace while everything else was to be given away in Prizes and scholarships. A provision was made for a grant of \$1000.00 per year to fund a series of free lectures in California on the "Psychology of Sex". These lectures proved to be a bigger hit than giving away money. The first lecture was at Berkeley in 1946 when Alfred C. Kinsey of I.U. addressed a standing-room-only crowd. The University had to install loudspeakers to reach the crowds outside the building. At Berkeley in 1966, Dr. Eric L. Berne, the author of "Games People Play," gave the Jake Gimbel Sex Psychology Lectures (see Fig. 6). In 1976 Dr. J. Golden lectured at UCLA on sexual dysfunction of the physically ill.

In 1933, Jake was awarded an honorary M.A. by Indiana University for his philanthropy. Afterwards, he began to sign and receive mail as Dr. Jake Gimbel. This foible is easily overlooked as honorary degrees are frequently doctorates. Not so easily ignored is why an honorary degree has apparently never been conferred

on Jake by any of the three major California universities, whose

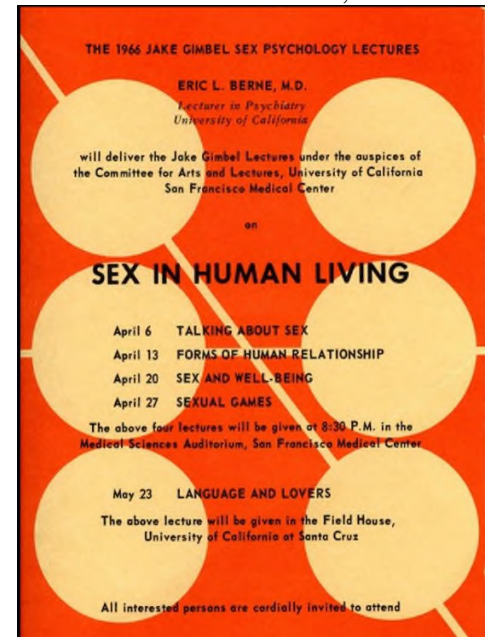


Figure 6

students have benefitted so much from his largess. It might be time for V.U. and I.U. to examine their annual list of doctorate honorees and compare what they have contributed relative to Jake Gimbel. It would be appropriate to make it official: "Dr. Jake Gimbel—Hoosier Philanthropist."

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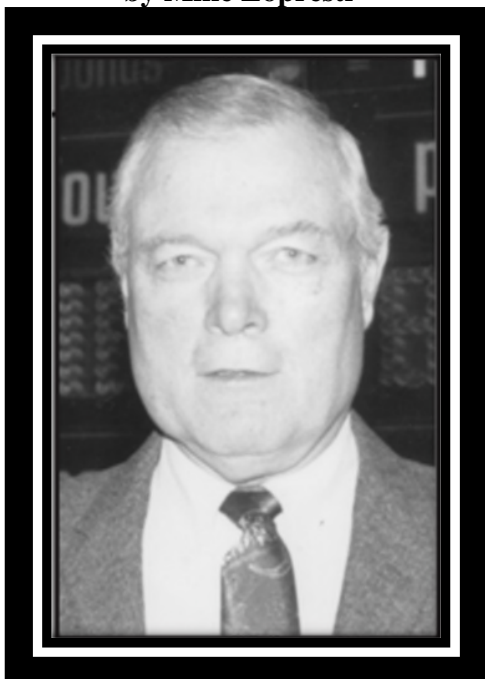
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### COACH JERRY HOOVER, ACTIVE AND AGELESS by Mike Lopresti



Coach Jerry Hoover

*Editor's note: Mike Lopresti is an independent columnist and sportswriter who has written articles*

*for several different publications, over the years. This one appeared on June 3, 2017 in the Indianapolis Business Journal (IBJ) under the header "82-year-old coach embarks on last turnaround project." The IBJ management, along with Mr. Lopresti himself, have granted us permission to repeat the text, containing Hoover's personal interview, in this issue of Boxscore. At the conclusion of the article, my own recent interview with Jerry Hoover is added.*

An interesting fellow, the new boys' coach at Blackford, in Hartford City, between Marion and Muncie. He has the confidence to believe he can heal a program that has lost 72 of its last 73 games--and the record at eight previous high school jobs to prove it. Oh, and did we mention he's 82 years old (*ed. note--this year 84!*)?

Now, before you ask if Jerry Hoover has slipped a groove to even think of tackling such a task, let him explain. "It's what I do," he began. "I just don't feel like fishing. I've never golfed. I've never hunted. I've never played cards. All I've ever done is coach basketball. This is an opportunity to keep doing that." Besides, someone just reminded him how many people now work into their 80s. "The world is changing," he said.

Hoover last coached the Logansport girls to a regional championship, with Miss Basketball Whitney Jennings. Of course, he was just a kid then in 2014. Only 78. But the fire remains. Take last winter, when he was helping out with the Winamac team. Practice would be over at 5 o'clock, and he'd jump in his car and drive to see a high school game. By his count, he watched 270 teams play. Loretta, his wife of 56 years, didn't mind.

"I went about every night," [states

Hoover]. "I just love basketball. I missed the coaching so much. I'm in pretty good health. This is the kind of a job that in the past I've had pretty good success at, so I just looked into it and it seemed like a decent fit." Blackford won once last season, against Anderson Prep Academy, and that snapped a 61-game losing streak. So Hoover could use roster help. Well, about that--his son Don, a college professor with expertise in human motion, is coming as his assistant. Don has three sons who all play basketball, and [they] will be a senior, freshman, and eighth-grader.

Wait, there's more. Jerry once played high school basketball in Monticello with his cousin, Jerry Brown. Jerry Brown had a son Ted, who played with Don Hoover. Ted has a son Luke, who is supposed to be a promising young point guard. He's coming, too. He must be what, Jerry Hoover's third cousin? "Or maybe the fifth," Hoover said. "It gets pretty thin that far out." Hoover is tickled by this family reunion, and no wonder. How many men get to coach their grandkids? "That's very appealing to me," he said. "They're very, very, good students. Gifted students. So I look forward to that, because it's always fun to coach gifted kids, particularly on the academic side."

The Blackford high command is looking forward to it, too. The Bruins haven't had a winning season since 2002 or won a sectional since 1991. They had to figure, why not roll the dice, even if their new coach has been eligible to order off the seniors' menu for nearly three decades? Never mind if his hearing isn't quite what it used to be. "We were thrilled that he was even interested in coming here, because it's been rough over the last several years, and to have someone with his experience and background was

frankly stunning," said Athletic Director Tony Uggen, who recalled the interview process. "I heard him out, and I actually called to the principal's office and said, "You may want to come down here, because this is interesting."

"Jerry summarized things the way he did when he met with the kids the first time. He said 'I know I look old. I get that everywhere I go.' Then he shared what he wanted to do, and his desire to turn around another program." Uggen checked around with other coaches and got good reports. "I've not heard anything negative about him. I've heard, 'This guy knows basketball, he has high expectations, he's going to demand a work ethic out of his kids.' Which is what we need." And the family members coming as part of the package? "That won't hurt anything," Uggen said.

Hoover grew up on a 61-acre farm near Monticello, went to Purdue, majored in agricultural economics, and figured his future was raising livestock and growing corn. "I wasn't any good at it. I just had that desire to be involved with basketball. I was a failure at farming. Basketball coaching has been the love of my life, and the purpose of my life." He went back to Purdue to pick up courses that would allow him to coach and teach, spent some time in the military, and went to work trying to revive losing programs. First, at DeMotte (enrollment of maybe 160) in 1963, then to Salem, North Judson, Lake Central, Ben Davis (where he coached future IU star and NBA player and coach Randy Wittman) and on to Monrovia, Kankakee Valley, and then the Logansport girls.

He won a lot of games, several sectional titles. At Lake Central and Ben Davis, he carried a 6-foot pole during games, when his teams ran the four-corners offense. A defender

had to be within 6 feet of his ball-handler for the closely guarded five-second count to start, and whenever he thought the referees had forgotten, he wanted a visual "so they could see exactly what 6 feet was. It helped four-corners execution a lot."

The years went by, but not so many that he was ready to retire. Not yet. "This is my absolutely last job. I'm not interested in moving somewhere else or trying to pay the rent or pay a mortgage [or pay for] a car. The outside pressures are a lot different now than they were when I was 35. I'm 82 and I've got to be very frank. I could have a heart attack, or have a stroke, or become incapacitated, or [even] die. So the agreement we've entered into is, my son will be the assistant [and] in case I get incapacitated one way or another, it's already in the contract [that] he takes over." But Jerry Hoover is planning to be around long enough to orchestrate a turnaround. "All of these schools, when I went there, were losing. We were able to do whatever it takes to get them to winning. All the feedback that I've gotten has been very, very positive. I've got ideas how you can turn programs around. I've done it eight times. If I can be productive for two years, they'll be able to be successful, even if I can't be there for any reason."

Should be something for Blackford's long-suffering fans to watch, anyway. "I think they're hungering for something different," Uggen said. "I don't want to say it'll be like a sideshow, but you'll have a lot of people who'll say, 'I want to go see the guy who's 82 years old (now 84-edit) coaching at Blackford, and see what he can do.'" The word to describe it? Uggen had the answer. "I can't say 'interesting' enough."

*Editor's Footnote: I spoke by phone to Jerry recently to get an update after this article first appeared.*

*Jerry, a 6 ft. 6 1/2 former Boilermaker, played two years before I arrived there. He has indeed already begun turning the Blackford basketball program around. The team's W-L record last year was 14-9, and he is expecting another good season this fall. One of the primary reasons for his continuing optimism is a 6-0 sophomore named Luke Brown. As a freshman last season, Luke led the team in most categories, including points scored, free throw shooting, and assists. He scored 48 points in a single game, and 32 in another. His overall FG percentage was 50%, (56% on twos, 43% on threes). He averaged 5.5 assists per game and sank 92% of his free throws. In the summer months Jerry runs a basketball camp for aspiring young players. He's been doing that for the past 32 years now by inviting all coaches up and down the state to enroll their promising players, both boys and girls, into his program. Once enrolled, their coach accompanies them to the Division 1 Team camp where they play anywhere from 8 to 14 games against other schools from all over the Midwest. Players and coaches are provided sleeping dorms, dining facilities, and basketball playing sites at college campuses. Enrollees experience four days of the finest competition, coaching advice, and basketball team building available in the entire nation. Last summer, roughly 2000 players were enrolled. Jerry has had as many as 2,500 enrolled in past years. The camp at present is located at Saint Francis University in Fort Wayne.*

**IN OUR NEXT ISSUE: Harley Sheets, IHSBHS Co-Founder, will offer a few insights on matters affecting some basketball programs in Indiana. Look for his article under the header "Tidbits."**

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

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