

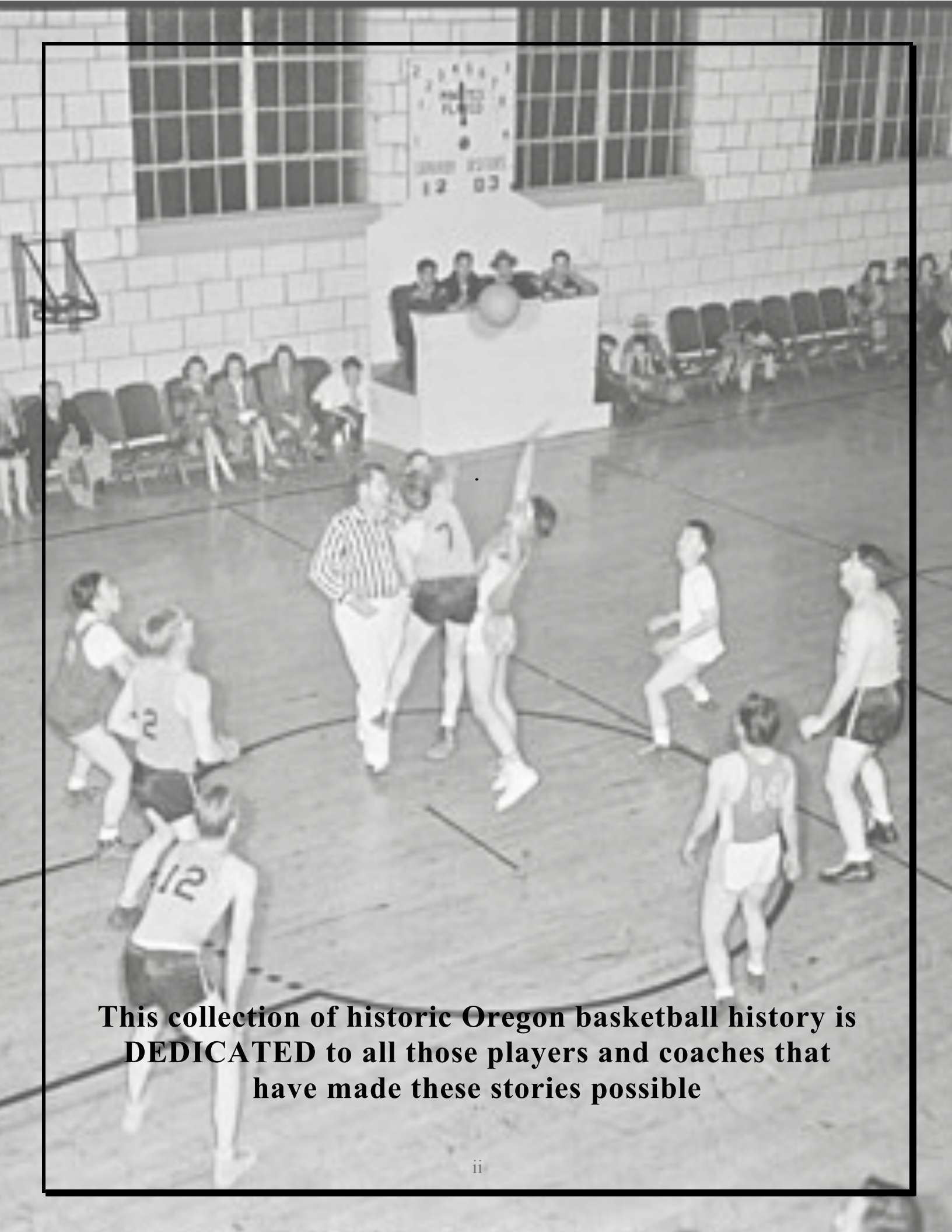


# Full Court Press

## A Collection of Oregon Basketball History

By Tom Rohlffs  
Author of "Cutting Down the Nets"





**This collection of historic Oregon basketball history is  
DEDICATED to all those players and coaches that  
have made these stories possible**



# **Dr. James Naismith**

”



**"The Father of Basketball"**



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# Basket Ball.

The ball to be an ordinary Association foot ball.

1. The ball may be thrown in any direction with one or both hands.
2. The ball may be batted in any direction with one or both hands (never with the fist).
3. A player cannot run with the ball, the player must throw it from the spot on which he catches it, allowance to be made for a man who catches the ball when running at a good speed.
4. The ball must be held in or between the hands, the arms or body must not be used for holding it.
5. No shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping or striking, in any way the person of an opponent shall be allowed. The first infringement of this rule by any person shall count as a foul, the second shall disqualify him until the next goal is made, or if there was evident intent to injure the person, for the whole of the game, no substitute allowed.
6. A foul is striking at the ball with the fist, violation of rules 3 and 4, and such as described in rule 5.
7. If either side makes three consecutive fouls it shall count a goal for the opponents (consecutive means without the opponents in the meantime making a foul).
8. A goal shall be made when the ball is thrown or batted <sup>into the basket</sup> from the grounds and stays there, providing those defending the goal do not touch or disturb the goal. If the ball rests on the edge and the opponent moves the basket it shall count as a

Naismith's original typewritten 13 Rules of Basketball sold for \$4,338,500 on December 10, 2010.



# A Brief History of Oregon High School Basketball

*Excerpts by Andrew Millbrooke & Tom Rohlffs*

**W**HEN TALKING ABOUT HIGH school basketball in Oregon, it all starts with **Amory Tingle 'Slats' Gill**. Slats played in the first two high school state championship games, leading Salem to the 1920 title. He was named



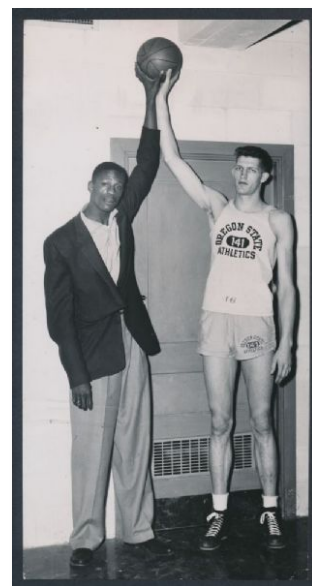
1947 Oregon State College  
Low Beck, Mush Silver, Cliff Crandall,  
Erland Anderson, Alex Peterson, Coach Slats Gill

All-Tournament first team both seasons. At age 27 he became head coach at Oregon State University, leading the Beavers to 599 wins and two final four appearances from 1928 until 1964. Gill also was the Beavers baseball coach from 1932-37 and athletic director from 1964 until his untimely death from a stroke in 1966. Gill was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1968. Oregon State's basketball arena, Gill Coliseum, is named in his honor.

Amory got the nickname 'slats' as a twelve-year-old, when swimming one day, a friend commented on his skinny frame that his ribs were sticking out like slats on an old picket fence.

Salem was the center of basketball power in the state from the 1920's to early 30's, playing for 10 of the first 14 state titles, winning four championships. The state tournament was played in Salem every year as well. Coach Hollis Huntington led Salem to three titles ('25, '26, '33) during this stretch. Astoria had a great run to start the 1930's winning four titles in six seasons ('30, '32, '34, '35) under coach John Warren. Salem continued to be a major power until the 1950's winning three more titles ('39, '40, '50) under the direction of coach Harold Hauk. Salem finished runner-up in 1941 and 1948 as well.

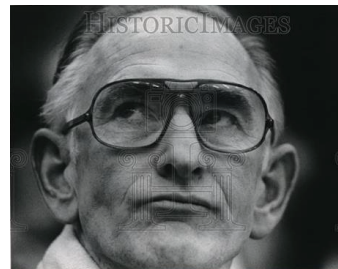
The 1950's brought in a big man that set state-tournament single-game records that still stand today. Lincoln's Wade "Swede" Halbrook, a man that eventually grew to 7-feet 3-inches tall, tore down 34 rebounds in a 1952 game against Salem and made 24 field goals in 36 attempts against Central Catholic that same year. It was no surprise when Lincoln won the



*Bill Russell & Wade  
"Swede" Halbrook before  
the game.*

title and Swede was named first team all-tournament. Halbrook played two seasons for Gill at Oregon State, earning All-American status in 1955. Life magazine declared Swede the "World's Tallest Basketball Player" in 1954. Halbrook played two seasons in the NBA and his Syracuse Nationals team defeated Wilt Chamberlain's Philadelphia Warriors in a three-game sweep in 1961.

The balance of power shifted north in the 1970's as teams from the Portland metro area won the big school state title in 19 of the next 25 seasons from 1970-1994. In the ensuing 15 seasons, Portland area teams won nine titles for a total of 28 of the past 40. The Benson Techmen led the early charge winning three of four titles from 1971 until 1974, led by the great Richard Washington, a first team all-tournament selection for three straight years ('71- '73). Benson Coach Dick Gray added two more titles to the Techmen trophy case, winning in 1981 and 1990. Coach Gray accumulated 563 victories in 41 seasons.



*Dick Gray.  
5 State Titles*



*Richard Washington*

At the end of the 70's along came a kid from Eugene who many long-time observers believe was the best all-around player ever to play high school basketball in Oregon: Danny Ainge. Before playing professional baseball for the Toronto Blue Jays and helping the Boston Celtics win NBA titles, Danny Ainge was a three-sport star for the North Eugene Highlanders. Ainge is the only high school athlete to be named first team All-American in football, basketball, and baseball. He led the Highlanders to the state title in basketball in 1976 and 1977. Coach Barney Holland also led North Eugene to the 1966 title. Ainge went on to star in college at BYU, earning the Wooden Award as the nation's best player as a senior in 1981.

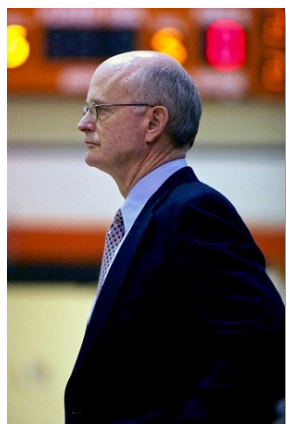
Mike Doherty's record of 850-390 is tops among high school coaches. He won three state titles in 50 years. Doherty coached at nine Oregon high schools — Washington (1962-65), McNary (1965-69), Reynolds (1969-75), Corvallis (1975-91), Baker (1991-95), Hermiston (1995-98), Oregon City (1998-2010), Scappoose (2010-2011) and Newberg (2011-12). He led McNary to the 1968 title with a 44-42 win over Lake Oswego. He also coached Corvallis to titles in 1980 and 1984, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1986. His 28-2 Oregon City team



*Mike Doherty*



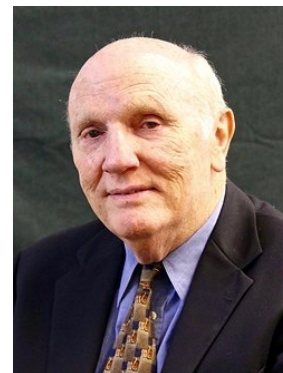
also finished runner-up in 2008. In 2002, he was inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and in 2007, was named national coach of the year by the National Federation of High School



*Nick Robertson*

Coaches Association. Two other coaches that stood the test of time; Nick Robertson coached 41 seasons compiling a 711-314 record. He won titles in 1979 with McMinnville and 1998 with Beaverton. Barry Adams' five different teams won 654 games in a 40-year career. He won titles in 1983 with Glencoe and in 1996 with South Salem. Barry was chosen Oregon Coach-of-the-Year four times.

Doherty, Robertson, and Adams are enshrined in the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame.



*Barry Adams*

As far as total state championships you must talk about them in two eras, pre-1960 and post-1960.

**Pre-1960:** Salem won seven state titles between 1920 and 1950. Astoria won six titles in a 13-year span from 1930 to 1942 and added a 3A title in 1998. Klamath Union won four state titles, their last one coming in 1965. Franklin, Medford, and Eugene all won three championships during this period.

**Post-1960:** Corvallis picked up five championships between 1936 and 1984. North Eugene won four titles between 1963 and 1977 and added a fifth with a 5A championship in 2007. Benson won five titles between 1971 and 1990. Jefferson won three titles (1951, 1972, 2000) and five 5A championships. Grant won four titles, spanning from 1969 to 2008. Parkrose ('64, '78, '82), Wilson ('85, '89, '91), have won three titles. Jesuit and the West Linn Lions have dominated tournament play by winning eight state tournaments in succession. Under Coach Gene Potter the Crusaders have won seven titles since 1999.

### **Mike Doherty's coaching record**

#### **School-Years-Record**

Washington 3 (45-24)

McNary 4- 57-40)

Reynolds 6 (107-42)

Corvallis 16 (299-96)

Baker 4 (49-38)

Hermiston 3 (37-34)

Oregon City 12 (231-90)

Scappoose 1 (10-15)

Newberg 1 (15-11)

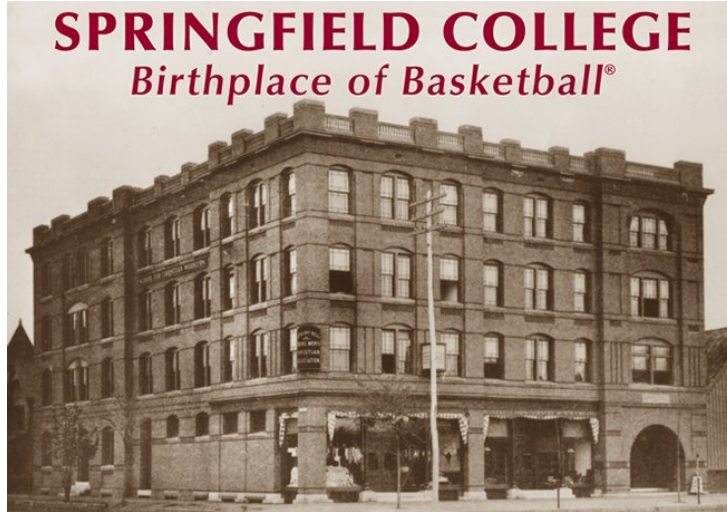
**TOTAL: 50 (850-390) .686**



*Jesuit's Gene Potter-9 Finals*

# The Evolution of Basketball

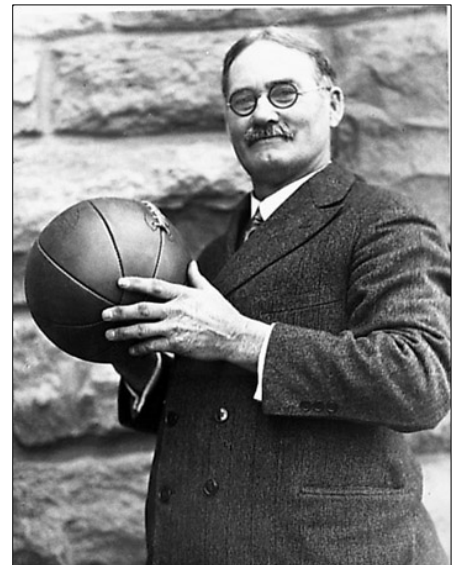
**T**HE GAME OF BASKETBALL is often referred to as the only major sport, which originated in the United States. A Canadian invented the American game of basketball and an American invented the Canadian game of hockey. Unlike many other popular sports, basketball was not conceived by changing the principles or rules of an existing game. It was a deliberate and original invention created out of necessity to provide a challenging, vigorous activity that could be played indoors during the harsh New England winters.



**James Naismith** was a Canadian farm boy from Almonte, Ontario, and was raised by his uncle.

He wondered about his future and decided, "The only real satisfaction that I would derive from life was to help my fellow beings." He was influenced by D.A. Budge, General Secretary of the YMCA of Montreal, to pursue a career in the YMCA and to study at the YMCA International Training School in Massachusetts (later to be named Springfield College).

Naismith attended as a student in 1890 and was asked to join the faculty in 1891 by Dr. Luther Halsey Gulick, the director of the physical education department. During a psychology seminar Dr. Gulick challenged his class to invent a new game. Gulick was desperately looking for an indoor activity that would be interesting, easy to learn, and easy to play indoors in the winter that wouldn't be as rough as rugby. Such an activity was needed both by the Training School and YMCAs across the country. Naismith believed that one way to meet that challenge was to take factors of known games and reinvent them.



At the same time, Dr. Gulick assigned Naismith one particular class that was completely uninterested in the routine exercises, marching and mass



calisthenics that formed a part of their compulsory daily physical education session. He gave the new instructor 14 days to come up with a game to keep the bored students from being rowdy in the hallways. Three instructors had gone down in defeat trying to rouse enthusiasm in this group of young men.

"When he had assigned me the class of incorrigibles," writes Naismith in his own version of the invention of the game basketball, "I had felt that I was being imposed on; but when he told me to do what all the directors of the country had failed to accomplish, I felt it was the last straw".

Naismith struggled with the class of young men with no success. He made attempts at modifying football and soccer. "I had pinned my hopes on these two games and when they failed me, there seemed little chance of success," writes Naismith. He tried lacrosse, a game he had learned to play in Almonte, even though some members of the class were Canadians and knew how to play the game, it didn't succeed. The beginners were injured and the experts were disgusted; another game went into the trash.

"As I sat there at my desk, I began to study games from the philosophical side. I had been taking one game at a time and had failed to find what I was looking for, this time I would take games as a whole and study them".

Naismith then methodically studied the elements of existing team games and factored out a number of specifics he would mold into a new game. "My first generalization was that all team games used a ball of some kind; therefore, any new game must have a ball."



*Naismith's first team*

Much time and thought went into this new creation. It became an adaptation of many games of its time, including American rugby (passing), English rugby (the jump ball), lacrosse (use of a goal), soccer (the shape and size of the ball), and something called duck on a rock, a game Naismith had played with his childhood friends in Bennie's Corners, Ontario. "Duck on the Rock" required players to knock a "duck" off a large

boulder by throwing rocks at it. The goal could not be slammed through, thus necessitating "a goal with a horizontal opening high enough so that the ball would have to be tossed into it, rather than being thrown."

Tackling, a popular component of football, was a problem in Naismith's mind; he could see the carnage that would result indoors on wooden floors.



*Original equipment*

"But why was tackling necessary," he reasoned, "It was because the men were allowed to run with the ball, and it was necessary to stop them. With these facts in mind, I sat erect at my desk and said aloud: 'If he can't run with the ball, we don't have to tackle, and if we don't have to tackle, the roughness will be eliminated.'" I can still recall how I snapped my fingers and shouted, "I've got it!" He then concluded that a game must have an objective, and there must be

some kind of goals, but he eliminated the goal used in soccer and lacrosse. With the Duck on a rock game in mind, I thought that if the goal was horizontal instead of vertical, the players would be compelled to throw the ball in an arc; and force, which made for roughness, would be of no value. A horizontal goal, then, was what I was looking for, and I pictured it in my mind. I would place a box at either end of the floor, and each time the ball entered the box it would count as a goal. There was one thing, however, that I had overlooked. If nine men formed a defense around the goal, it would be impossible for the ball to enter it; but if I placed the goal above the players' heads, this type of defense would be useless."

He settled on a toss-up between two players as a way to start the game after considering several alternatives.

Naismith was ready to try the new game with the class and set down on a scratch pad the first set of 13 rules in less than an hour, which described, among other facets, the method of moving the ball and what constituted a foul. The college stenographer, Miss Lyons, typed them up.

He asked "Pop" Stebbins, the custodian, to fetch two boxes about eighteen inches square. "No, I haven't any boxes," he replied, "but I'll tell you what I do have. I have two old peach baskets down in the store room, if they will do you any good." A few minutes later, baskets tucked under his arm and a few nails and a hammer in hand, Naismith nailed the baskets to the lower rail of the balcony, one at either end of the gym. The height of that lower balcony rail happened to be ten feet.



*Springfield Gymnasium*



He then posted the rules on the gym bulletin board and waited for his class of "incorrigibles" to come in.

Naismith recalls, "The first member of the class to arrive was Frank Mahan. He gazed at me for an instant, and then looked toward the other end of the gym. Perhaps I was nervous, because his exclamation sounded like a death knell as he said "Huh! Another new game!" The number of players was actually determined by the total number of students (18) that showed up for Naismith's physical education class. Naismith promised them that if this game proved to be a failure he would not try any more experiments on them. A referee was appointed. The teams were chosen with three centers, three forwards, and three guards per side. Two of the centers met at mid-court. The game would be divided into two, fifteen-minute halves with a five-minute resting period in between. They went over the rules, divided the group into two teams of nine players each. Naismith tossed the first basketball in history, and the game of "basket Ball" was born. The date was December 21, 1891.



A man was stationed at each end of the balcony to pick the ball from the basket and put it back into play. Someone, with a long pole, would dislodge the ball. Obviously, this slowed down the game. It wasn't until a few years



*Archive photo*

later that the bottoms of those peach baskets were cut out to let the ball fall loose. The peach baskets were replaced first by heavy woven wire rims in 1892. Then, a year later, in 1893, cast iron rims were used. Open-ended nylon nets were approved for use in 1912. This was a major milestone in basketball since the free-falling ball after a made basket dramatically increased tempo and scoring of the game.

Although there was no scorebook, the score of the first game was said to be 1-0 with William Chase credited in making the first basket in the history of basketball. It was reported to be about 25' (a half-court shot in the small Springfield gymnasium) midway through the 30-minute game.

Word of the new game spread like wildfire. It was an instant success. A few weeks after the game was invented, students introduced the game at their own YMCAs. The rules were printed in a College magazine, which was mailed



to YMCAs around the country. Because of the College's well-represented international student body, the game of basketball was introduced to many foreign nations in a relatively short period of time. High schools and colleges began to introduce the new game, and by 1905, basketball was officially recognized as a permanent winter sport.

The game was a success from the first toss-up onward and word spread that Naismith's class was having fun. Within a few days the class attracted a gallery. Teachers from a nearby girl's school watched the game and took it away with them to organize the first girls' basketball team. Frank Mahan suggested the game be given a name, and he and Naismith settled on "Basket Ball" instead of Naismith-Ball.

Naismith continued to control the development of the game and its rules for five years. He left Springfield for Denver to become the physical education director for the YMCA in that city and to study for his medical doctorate. On his graduation, the University of Kansas was seeking an athletic coach and a director for their 650-seat chapel which students attended every morning. He was ideally prepared for the post and was recommended to the University as "Inventor of basketball, medical doctor, Presbyterian minister, teetotaler, all-round athlete, non-smoker, and owner of a vocabulary without cuss words."



*1899 Kansas U. Team. Naismith top right*



*James Naismith and Phog Allen circa 1932*

In 1898, Dr. Naismith became the first college basketball coach of the University of Kansas basketball team. He compiled a record of 55–60, and is, ironically, the only losing coach in Kansas's history. Naismith is at the top of massive and prestigious coaching tree, as he coached Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame coach Phog Allen, who himself coached Hall of Fame coaches Dean Smith, Adolph Rupp, and Ralph Miller who all coached future coaches as well.

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Dr. Naismith and his wife, Maude, attended the Berlin Olympic games in 1936 when basketball became one of the Olympic events. They were dinner guests of one Adolph Hitler.

**Florence Kincaid Naismith**, the second wife of Dr. James Naismith, served as a housemother for Delta Delta Delta on the OSC campus in Corvallis, from 1941-1947, then returned again in the same capacity in 1949, after spending a year as a housemother at the University of Washington. The two had married on June 11, 1939, in Lawrence, Kansas, about two years after the death of Naismith's first wife. He died of a heart attack, in 1939, at age 78.



*The "Father of Basket Ball" with first wife Maude, the first female player*

### **The 13 Original Rules of Basket Ball:**

These original rules were first published in January 1892 in the school's newspaper, *The Triangle*. All of these original rules are in some way still in effect today.

1. The ball may be thrown in any direction with one or both hands.

*Comment: Still current today.*

2. The ball may be batted in any direction with one or both hands (never with the fist.)

*Comment: Ball cannot be kicked.*

3. A player cannot run with the ball. The player must throw it from the spot on which he catches it, allowance to be made for a man who catches the ball when running at a good speed if he tries to stop.

*Comment: They must pass or dribble the ball with one hand. No allowance made when receiving a pass.*

4. The ball must be held between the hands; the arms or body must not be used for holding it.



5. No shouldering, holding, pushing, tripping, or striking in any way the person of an opponent shall be allowed; the first infringement of this rule by any player shall count as a foul, the second shall disqualify him until the next goal is made, or, if there was evident intent to injure the person, for the whole of the game, no substitute allowed.

6. A foul is striking the ball with the fist, violation of Rules 3, 4, and such as described in Rule 5.

7. If either side makes three consecutive fouls, it shall count a goal for the opponents (consecutive means without the opponents in the mean time making a foul).

*Comment: This rule has been replaced by bonus free throws after a certain number of team fouls.*

8. A goal shall be made when the ball is thrown or batted from the grounds into the basket and stays there, providing those defending the goal do not touch or disturb the goal. If the ball rests on the edges, and the opponent moves the basket, it shall count as a goal.

9. When the ball goes out of bounds, it shall be thrown into the field of play by the person first touching it. In case of a dispute, the umpire shall throw it straight into the field. The thrower-in is allowed five seconds; if he holds it longer, it shall go to the opponent. If any side persists in delaying the game, the umpire shall call a foul on that side.

*Comment: This out of bounds rule has been changed in that ball possession goes to the opposite team of the last player touching the ball. The inbounds five-second count is still in effect and shot clocks have replaced the delay of game fouls.*

10. The umpire shall be judge of the men and shall note the fouls and notify the referee when three consecutive fouls have been made. He shall have power to disqualify men according to Rule 5.

11. The referee shall be judge of the ball and shall decide when the ball is in play, in bounds, to which side it belongs, and shall keep the time. He shall decide when a goal has been made, and keep account of the goals with any other duties that are usually performed by a referee.

*Comment: The referee has essentially been replaced by official scorers and timers. Out of bounds and goal decisions are made by the on-court officials.*

12. The time shall be two 15-minute halves, with five minutes' rest between.

13. The side making the most goals in that time shall be declared the winner. In case of a draw, the game may, by agreement of the captains, be continued until another goal is made.

*Comment: Sudden death or the first team to score has been replaced with five-minute overtime periods.*

Dr. Naismith, with all of his imaginative planning, could not have dreamed his "Peach Basket" game would develop into the world's greatest indoor sport. Although the original 13 rules have been expanded to over 100, the spirit and principles of the original rules are still in effect. Major rule changes over the years addressed the number of players, the court boundaries, dribbling, and the elimination of the center jump after made baskets.

### **Team Size:**

Originally, there was no set rule on the number of players. The idea was that the game could be played by any number of players. However, that did not

work out. After experimenting with teams up to 50 players, early games were primarily played by nine players on each side—the reason being that 18 students showed up for Naismith's class. In 1897 five players became the mandatory team size.

### **Substitutions:**

Initially, players were not allowed to re-enter the game. The rule was changed in 1920 to allow a player to re-enter the game one time. In 1934, the rule was expanded to allow players to re-enter the game twice, and, in 1945 the rule was finally changed to permit players to return to the game an unlimited number of times.

### **Baskets:**

Originally, the game was played with peach baskets or 18" square boxes hung from the balconies of the running tracks of most indoor facilities. At this time the basket height was established at 10 feet—the balcony height.

### **Backboards:**

Wire mesh backboards were introduced in 1895 to prevent spectators in the balconies from interfering with play. Wood replaced the easily dented wire mesh backboards in 1904, and plate glass backboard usage was approved in 1909. Backboards were mounted flat against walls. In 1916 to prevent players from running up the walls for easy lay-ups, a two-foot gap was between the backboard and the end line was required. In 1939 this gap was increased from 2 feet to the present 4 feet to allow for more movement underneath the basket. As gymnasiums increased in size, spectators found it difficult to see from behind the backboard and the glass backboards evolved.



### **The Ball:**

The first basketball games were played with soccer balls. However, they proved to be unsuitable for dribbling and ball handling. The first manufactured lace-up basketballs were produced in 1894 by a bicycle manufacturing company. In the late 1890's Spalding took over as the official ball maker. In 1905 the choice of basketballs was left up to the teams. Because of their inability to maintain their shape and their laces, these early brown leather basketballs were hard to dribble. In 1929 basketballs were re-designed for more bounce and with concealed laces, which eliminated erratic bounces. The balls were bigger, lighter and easier to handle. In 1942 molded basketballs that maintained a constant shape replaced the stitched balls.



**Scoring:**

Originally, a successful goal was counted as one point, and one point was also given to a team anytime three consecutive fouls were called on the opponent. Free throws were first introduced in 1894. Both a made field goal and a made free throw were counted as one goal.

**Timing:**

The first games were played in two fifteen-minute halves. Shortly later this was increased to two 20-minute halves. There was no provision for extending the game if the score was tied. However, once leagues started to be formed, ties needed to be broken. The first tie breakers were "sudden death," with the first team to score a point, either a field goal or free throw, winning the game. Thus, games were decided without one team having a single ball possession. In the 1960's, in order to provide each team with an equal chance, Sudden Death was replaced by overtime periods. High schools would play one overtime period and a sudden death second overtime period.

**Shot Clock:**

Before 1954 a team that was ahead in the score would use stalling tactics. In 1954 the NBA instituted a 24-second shot clock. This was a milestone for basketball since it eliminated stalling, sometimes as early as the third period, by teams' ahead in the game because there was no way for the team behind to catch up other than to foul. The shot clock shortened the end of game fouling and ensuing parade of free throws, which made for a dull game.

**Fouls:**

Fouls were assessed for using a fist, traveling and physical contact (holding, pushing, tripping, or striking of an opponent). When a player committed two fouls they were disqualified until a goal was scored. For any flagrant fouls, just as today, players were disqualified for the whole game. When a team committed three consecutive fouls, without the opponent committing a foul, the opponent was awarded a goal—the predecessor to today's bonus rules. In 1911, player fouls for disqualification was increased from two to four, and increased again in 1945 to five fouls. In 1922, traveling or running with the ball was changed to a violation and no longer considered a foul. In the early years' fouls were considered rude and poor sportsmanship.

**Free throws:**

When free throws were introduced in 1894 the free throw line was established at 21 feet from the basket. Anyone could shoot the free throws. This resulted in teams deploying specialized free throw shooters. A year later, in 1895, the free throw line was moved closer, to a distance of fifteen feet from the basket. In Oregon, a single player could be designated as the "foul shooter". He would shoot all foul shots for his team. In 1924, the free throw rule was amended which required the player who was fouled to shoot the free throws.



**Passing:**

Passing rules have not changed over time. Rules 1 and 2 of the original rules relating to passing the ball are still in effect today.

**Dribbling:**

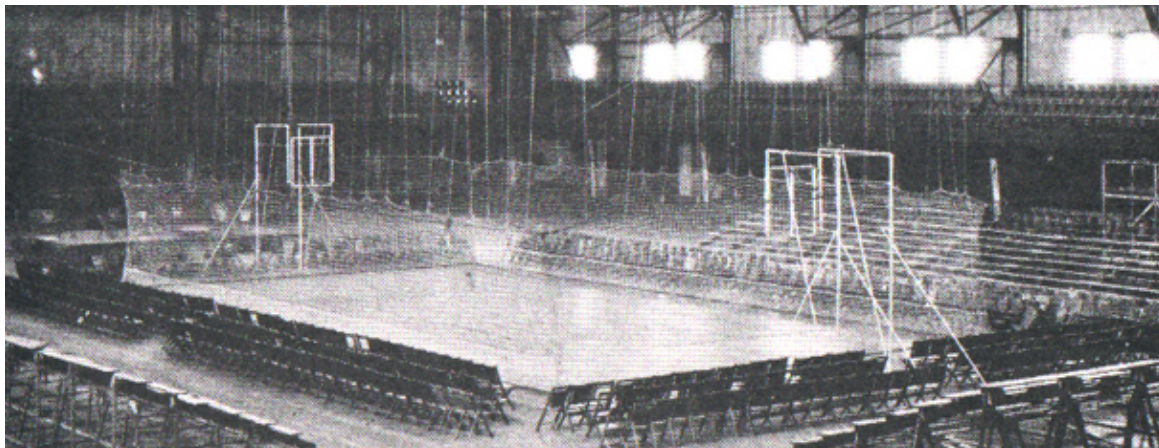
In the original rule's players could not bounce the ball. In 1901, the rule was enacted permitting players to bounce the ball one time. However, players were required to pass the ball and could not shoot after bouncing it. This single dribble amounted to a pass more than a dribble since the ball had to be tossed higher than a player's head and then recovered. Players could use this one bounce tactic numerous times in succession since there was no rule limitation. In 1909, continuous dribbling and shots off dribble were instituted. Being able to shoot off the dribble transformed the dribble from a defensive maneuver to get out of trouble into a potent offensive weapon. Double dribbling was also eliminated at this time. Note: In 1927 there was a period when dribbling was outlawed, but then reinstated two weeks later. The earliest balls had laces, which made it difficult to dribble. The guards were the ball handlers and were the players that started the basketball play. When the laces were eliminated in the 1940's, ball handling guards became more valuable and effective.

**Out of Bounds:**

In the beginning, boundaries were not defined. In most cases, they were just the walls. It was not until 1904 that boundaries became straight lines. The original rule regarding out of bounds situations turned out to be disastrous. Ball possession was awarded to the first player to touch the ball after it went out of bounds. This led to pushing, shoving, elbowing, desperate dives, and total bedlam. It was even worse when the ball ended up in the balconies, with all players making a mad dash to be first up the stairs, which created log jams and fights. Teams resorted to forming wedges to block the opponents from going up the stairs. Teams even tried to bypass the stairs by hoisting players up to the balcony in an effort to be first to touch the ball first. One Astoria player (Roy Seeborg) threw the ball into the balcony so the clock would run out. Prior to 1938, after a turnover the offended team could grab the ball and pass it in quickly before the defense could get organized. Many called this "race horse" basketball. It also led to players holding the ball from the other team. "Tug-of-War" confrontations occurred trying to get the ball. After 1938 a referee had to handle the ball before putting it in play.

Basketball at one time was referred to as the "Cage Game" and players as "Cagers". This was a result of wire mesh (chicken wire) or chain-link fencing being hung around the entire court in an effort to make the game go faster by eliminating all the out of bounds delays. However, in reality, it served more as a barrier to protect the players and rowdy spectators from each

other, as well as from the objects being thrown onto the court. The wire cage actually resulted in additional rough play with player's body checking each other into the wire mesh as in hockey. Players often received cuts, bruises, and even incurred infections from the rusting wire mesh. Although, the use of cages was abandoned by 1933, "Cagers" is still used today.



In 1913, the out of bounds rule was changed to the current rule of the team causing or touching the ball last when it goes out of bounds loses possession. This rule change was a major impact in reducing the physical play that was commonplace in the early games.

### **Midcourt Line:**

The midcourt line was established in 1932 to eliminate stalling. Prior to this time, the offensive team had the luxury of the entire court at their disposal of which they took full advantage. This created dull, low scoring games with teams spreading the court and playing keep away rather than trying to score. Adding the midcourt line aided the defensive team by cutting down the area to defend to just half the court. A year later, in 1933, a rule requiring a team to advance the ball past the midcourt line in less than 10 seconds was enacted. FIBA and the NBA modified and reduced the 10-second rule to eight seconds in 2000. College women's rules do not have a 10-second rule.

### **Three Second Area**

In 1936 the three-second area was created to prevent the offensive players from camping around the basket, and to eliminate the ensuing rough play, which commonly took place. The three-second area was 6 feet wide. Because of its shape, it became known as the "Key" or "Key Hole". In 1957 the three-second area was expanded to 12 feet. The NBA and International width is 16 feet.

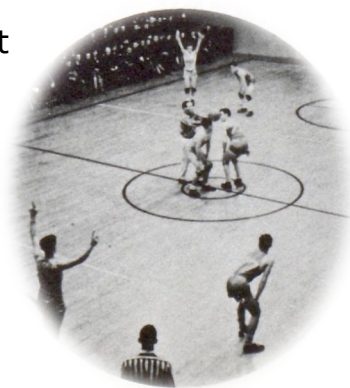
### **Center Jump:**

Before 1937, a center jump followed each successful basket. Teams with a good jumper had an advantage. It resulted in "winners out". Having a jump ball situation after every goal also slowed the game down considerably. In



the early years, referees complained about the running and the jump ball provided a break for officials and it also created a lull for boisterous fans. Alternating possession replaced jump balls in 1981.

This was done to eliminate the multiple violations that were occurring on jump balls and official's inconsistency of tossing the ball up. It should be noted that in the early days, jump balls were extremely physical. Like on the early out of bounds situations, players pushed and shoved in effort to gain possession of the ball. Even, the referee was often caught up in these jump ball skirmishes and sometimes injured.



### **Goal Tending:**

Before 1944, it was legal to goal tend. Another team advantage that had a tall player that could catch or swat away a shot attempt. Because of this rule the two-handed set shot became effective as it was launched from three-point range and most players used the backboard to avoid the leaping opponent centers. In 1944 the goal-tending rule was adopted making it illegal for a defensive player to touch the ball on its downward flight. This was in reaction to Bob Kurland (the first player to dunk in a game) and George Mikan standing in front of basket and swatting practically every opponent shot attempt.

### **Offensive Basket Interference:**

In 1958 offensive basket interference was enacted. Mainly as a result of Bill Russell, who became known as the "Funneler" from using two hands to guide his teammates shots into the basket? Because of Wilt's offensive dominance at Kansas University, the end line was moved further behind the basket. Kansas would lob the ball from out-of-bounds under their basket and Wilt would dunk it. Note: In international basketball, once the ball strikes the rim offensive basket interference and goal tending rules do not apply.

Most of the rule changes that have evolved have been the result of the following dominant five players:



**Leroy Edwards: Three-second rule**

This rule was implemented in 1936 to prevent big players from controlling area and to prevent rough playing under the board.

Leroy Edwards is generally recognized as the player responsible for the implementation of the rule. He was was a 6'5" center in the early days of professional basketball. Edwards was a prolific scorer in the days of low-scoring games. He was also a very physical player.

The three-second rule did not prevent Edwards from dominating the game throughout his career. He played professional ball from 1936-1949 and is considered one of the all-time best basketball players.

**Bob Kurland**

Bob Kurland was a 7-foot-tall basketball center, who played for the two-time NCAA champion Oklahoma A&M Aggies basketball team. Kurland was known to leap above the rim to grab opponents' shots. This led the NCAA to ban defensive goal tending in 1945. He was also the first player to dunk during games.

**George Mikan**

George Mikan was the first *National Basket Association (NBA)* "big-man" that at 6'10" had the coordination and skill to dominate the game during his time. He developed a deadly hook shot with either hand while in college.

But also, while playing in college at De Paul University, his ability to catch an opponent's ball on its downward path to the basket caused the *National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)* to ban goal tending in 1945.

The rule changes resulted in Mikan using his hook more, making him a better all-around player. Mikan played pro ball from 1946-1956 and is considered one of the all-time best basketball players.

**Free throw lanes widened**

In the NBA, Mikan controlled the area around the basket to such a degree that in 1951, the league widened the free throw lane to give other players a chance.

**Wilt Chamberlain: Free throw plane**

No single player in basketball history has been responsible for more rule changes than Kansas University's Wilt Chamberlain.

When Wilt Chamberlain was in high school, he had a unique way of shooting free throws. He would stand at the top of the key, throw the ball up toward the basket, take two steps, jump toward the rim and jam the ball through the net. Doing this resulted in basketball rules to state that a player cannot cross the plane of the free-throw line when shooting a free throw.



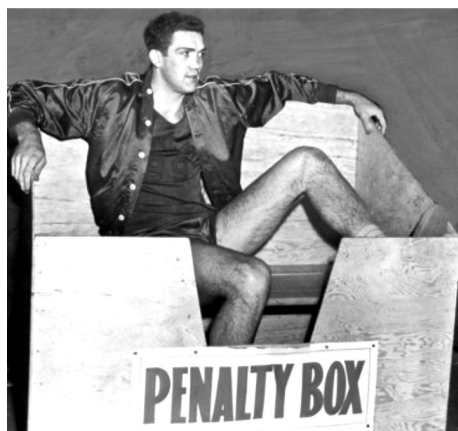
In 1956, during his freshman year in college, the NCAA banned dunking free throws; as a result of rumors that Chamberlain had been doing that in high school. Later, the NBA also banned dunking free throws.

Later, in 1964, the NBA widened the lane even more, because of the dominance of Wilt Chamberlain.

Although Chamberlain had problems shooting free throws throughout his career, the rule did not really improve his already dominant game.

### **Lew Alcindor (Kareem Abdul-Jabbar): Dunking**

When Lew Alcindor started playing basketball in college for UCLA, the NCAA officials felt that he was too dominant a player—one who could dunk the ball at will. They felt he would be unstoppable, so they changed the rules to forbid dunking in college games. This was called the "Alcindor Rule." The Alcindor rule held from 1967 to 1975, when it was rescinded, and players were allowed to dunk again.

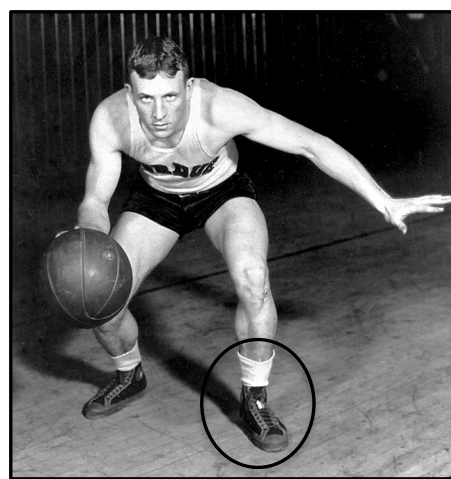


As a result of the rule, Alcindor developed a good hook shot, which he used effectively during his playing days in college and the NBA.

As players got bigger, play got more aggressive. In 1947, in an effort to decrease rough play or "indoor football", players were sent to a penalty box after committing their fifth foul. They would be allowed back in the game after two minutes. The experiment lasted only a short time in high schools.

### **Game Coaching:**

Each high school had a basketball coach, manager, and captain. Prior to 1949, no coaching was allowed during the game or even during a timeout. The captain was the one that called timeouts, talked to teammates, and communicated with the referee. However, coaching was allowed during half time. In 1949 coaching during the game was officially allowed. The manager would be a student that organized the season schedule and planned transportation.



*Purdue's John Wooden*

## **"Sneakers"**

Around 1892 the first canvas sneakers were born, called Keds, being produced by U.S. Rubber Company. In twenty years Keds became very common, and they got the name "sneaker" from Henry Nelson McKinney, an advertising agent. They were so quiet that a person wearing them could sneak up on someone. In 1917 Marquis Converse produced the first pair of shoes created specifically for basketball, the Converse All-Stars. Chuck Taylor, an Indiana hoops star, became their testimonial and made them definitely the best-selling basketball shoes of the time.

During the 20's and 30's players would lace their locker key to their basketball shoe. (Note above the locker key on All-American John Wooden's shoe)

I'm sure most of you that read this book spent your illustrious basketball careers lacing up your Converse shoes.



# First Public Basket Ball Game

Armory Hill Y.M.C.A.

March 11, 1892

Over 200 spectators craned their necks over the gallery railing of the Christian workers' gymnasium while they watched the game of "basket ball" yesterday afternoon between the teachers of the International Young Men's Christian Association Training School and the students.

The teams were: *Teachers*: Gulick, Clark, Naismith, Stagg, Morse, Brown, and Myer; *students*: Davis, Mahn, Thompson, Archibald, Ruggles, Libby, and McDonald.

The teachers worked hard and performed wonders of agility and strength, but they were not "in it" with the students, who had the advantage in science, and the score at the end was 5-1 in favor of the latter. The most conspicuous figure on the floor was Stagg in the blue Yale uniform, who managed to have a hand in every scrimmage. His football training hampered him, and he was perpetually making fouls by shoving his opponents. He managed, however, to score the only goal that the instructors made. Dr. Gulick and Dr. Clark also did good work for their side.

Among the students the best work was done by Ruggles, who tossed the ball into the illusive basket four times, and McDonald who scored once and did a great deal of brilliant playing. The spectators followed the game with much interest and amusement. Another game will be played soon between the seniors and the faculty of the physical department.



**Dr.  
James  
Naismith**

Played the violin.  
Outstanding gymnast, fencer, rugby player.  
Played on Stagg's Springfield football team.  
Doctor of medicine & Presbyterian minister.  
First Kansas University basketball coach.  
Invented the padded football headgear.  
Tossed jump ball at 1936 Olympic basketball competition in Berlin.



**Amos  
Alonzo  
Stagg**

College football All-American.  
Springfield College football coach.  
Played in first public Basket-Ball game.  
Member of football and basketball Hall of Fame  
Football innovator.  
Invented 5-member basketball team and  
baseball batting cage.  
Coached for 71 years.



## Basket Ball in Salem

*Written by Al Jones, retired Sports Writer for Capital Journal newspaper*

**T**HE SPORT OF BASKET BALL was an instant hit after its debut here, early in 1892, in the first game in the Northwest. That was only a month after it was invented at a YMCA National Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts, in December of 1891.

So rapidly did this indoor game become popular that the Salem Capital Journal newspaper on January 10, 1892, said, "Basket Ball is all the rage. This will train the men for football in the spring." The YMCA then was in a three-story building on the northwest corner of Commercial and Chemeketa Streets NE. The players were from the YMCA and Willamette University, and they were anxious to try an indoor sport better than lifting weights and jumping over parallel bars.

A leader here was Frank E. Brown, 21, a first-year student in the Willamette U. Academy who was inspired by a talk by John R. Mott, a YMCA National Director. Brown was also hearing about basketball from W.U. students who had been at the Springfield conference where James Naismith invented the sport. He had noticed two peach baskets in the alley in Plainfield, Mass., and hung them in the gym as targets for the ball.

Naismith's "crudely simple" rules suggested eight players on each team, taking turns removing the ball from the baskets. But, in Salem, a team could have up to 10—even in the cramped quarters. Forbidden was dribbling, or running with the ball. A player could catch his own pass, and a foul counted as a point without shooting it. Brown said that, "while Naismith started the game with a tip-off, we used to lie down in the middle of the floor with our hands on the ball, and scramble for the ball when the whistle was blown." Two fouls would disqualify a player.



*Early basketballs were brown with laces*

Brown, as a student and, later, college physical director, helped pressure University trustees to build a gymnasium. It was dedicated in 1895 and was used until it burned down in 1921. Brown served 40 years on the YMCA Board and was a major contributor to building the YMCA Youth Wing in the mid-1950s. Willamette University, in 1962, dedicated a Memorial Recreation area to Dr. Brown, located west of the Putnam Student Center.

## Silverton Captures 1909 State Crown

**J**UST 18 YEARS AFTER the game was invented on the East coast, Oregon high schools had their first-ever state championship tournament.

True, a six-team tournament could hardly be called a true state tournament, but in 1909, an invitational tournament featuring six teams would have to do. And to be fair, the committee did their best to determine the best teams by asking for full cooperation from all schools showcasing basketball teams.

The six schools arrived in Corvallis for the first state tournament in early April of 1909 and one wonders what was going through their minds on the eve of the first preliminary games.

Players from **Lincoln, Albany, Pendleton, Hood River, Silverton** and **Newberg** arrived at Oregon Agricultural College (OSU) to compete for the first state championship. In addition, the administrators arranged for a magnificent oak shield with the names of the members of the team and the scores of its games in gold letters to be awarded to the winning team. Also, "each member of the championship team is to receive a gold medal suitably engraved."

*The Barometer* also expected good crowds while the *Corvallis Gazette Times* predicted in a dispatch to the *Oregon Journal* that the games would be "hotly contested throughout."

The uneven bracket meant that two teams would have to win two games to win the title while four teams would have to win three. After the drawing, Silverton and Albany would meet with the winner advancing to the championship. Hood River would meet Newberg in one preliminary game with the winner advancing to take on the winner of the Lincoln-Pendleton game.

The tournament opened on April 2, 1909 with Albany taking on Silverton at the OAC Armory. In a special dispatch from Corvallis, the *Oregon Journal* reports, "the game between Albany and Silverton was fast and interesting throughout. Albany took the lead early in the game but soon lost it by poor shooting, the Silverton lads seeming to be right at home on the local floor. The final score was 36-7 in favor of Silverton."

The win put the Silverton's into the championship game where they would await their opponents.

The next game featured Hood River and Newberg and was more exciting than the game before it but not nearly as fast. Unlike the Silverton and

Albany tilt, Hood River and Newberg were more evenly matched and the back and forth game saw many lead changes. In the end, with Hood River frantically trying to equalize, the horn sounded with Newberg in the lead 22-20.

The Gazette Times proclaimed in the Oregon Journal "Silverton looks like the winner of the series, judging from the team's accuracy in passing and tossing baskets."

Pendleton defeated Lincoln to set up a game with Newberg. The winner to advance to face a well-rested Silverton squad who played one game on Friday and had all day to rest on Saturday. Newberg and Pendleton would play their game early Saturday afternoon, with the winner facing Silverton later that night.

Eastern Oregon's champions, hung tough but Newberg prevailed with a 26-20 victory. Claude Larkin and John Larkin played all-around good games for Newberg and every man on the team played in the contest.

"The Pendleton team was faster and handled passes better, but the weight of the Newberg men was too much for them," reported the Barometer on April 6, 1909. The game was a nip and tuck affair throughout and the teams went into the half all square at 11. Newberg pulled out a 26-22 victory with a strong second half.

Less than six hours later, Newberg took the floor for the championship game against Silverton. The championship game between Newberg and Silverton got out of hand quickly. Newberg, apparently drained from having to play two games in six hours, could not contain Silverton's Fisher and Brooks who combined for 15 field goals in the contest.

The Barometer says Newberg was tired from the game with Pendleton and was "worn out, slow on their feet and poor on baskets which resulted in an overwhelming victory for Silverton."

When the final whistle blew, Silverton had the championship with a 46-7 win. Silverton "showed a decided superiority in passing and accuracy tossing baskets. Fisher and Brooks led Silverton. Fisher "threw eight baskets and Brooks seven."

With that, the first true state championship was complete. Silverton made no doubt they were the best team at OAC that weekend. They so completely demolished their competition; even feeble complaints about two games in one day are unfounded. Pendleton might have been tired but a day of rest wouldn't have been the difference of more than 40 points.



There is no mention of a tournament in 1910. There were others in the following years, 1913 and 1917. But not until 1919 did a yearly basketball tournament in Oregon catch on.



*Players: Brooks, Fisher, Steelheimer, Edison, Ross, Reynolds*

## 1921 Tourney Scandal

**I**N 1921, IN JUST its third year of formal tournaments, the Oregon Activities Association had their first scandal on their hands.

Coach Ad Dewey of Baker, showed up in Salem for the 1921 state tournament with a superb team. Led by 6'4" star center Roy Stoddard, Baker rolled to three wins in the first two days of the tournament. Baker beat Molalla 25-17 in their first game and then beat Franklin in their second game. Dewey's 1919 Lincoln team had won the first "official" Oregon State championship over Salem.



*Coach Dewey*

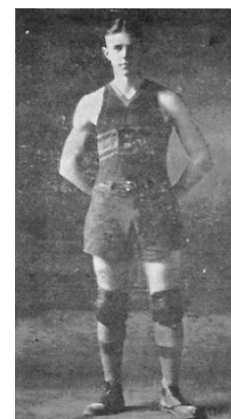
Captivated with Stoddard, the March 12 issue of the Oregonian proclaimed, "Stoddard easily surpasses in playing ability any high school player ever seen on a local court."

Stoddard, Dewey and the Bulldogs knocked off McMinnville the evening of the second night to set up a championship game against Salem on Saturday. Word had filtered back to Baker that the hometown five was cruising in the state tournament against the state's top quintets and school principal George McIntire was skeptical.

McIntire had previously declared Baker's star player, Harry "Red" Blakely ineligible because of academic shortcomings so it was highly unlikely that Stoddard could have risen up so quickly to take the state by storm.

He sent a telegram reading, "If Stoddard is a big guy with red hair, send him home; he's ineligible".

McIntire was right. The Stoddard in Salem was Blakely and the real Stoddard was playing under the name Luce.



*Blakely ?*

The state association questioned the Baker coach who feebly offered; "I knew our team didn't have a ghost of a chance in the tournament without Blakely". Without hesitation the board expelled Baker from the tournament immediately and the three defeated opponents were let back in the tournament.



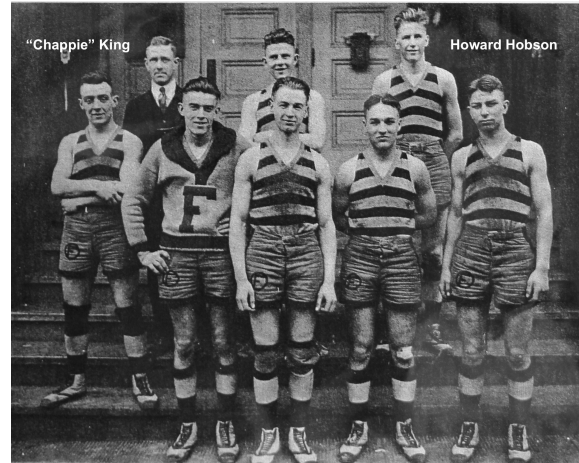
*McIntire*

Franklin star Howard Hobson (*bottom, front row, far right*) recalled later that it was "the craziest thing that has ever happened to me." Thinking they were out of the tournament, the Quakers had already "broken training" which amounted to eating ice cream cones. Suddenly, they were back in the tournament.

The Quakers played a hastily arranged game Saturday morning, defeating Molalla 23-17 and then came back later in the evening and defeated defending state champion Salem 26-19 for the state championship. Future coaches "Chappie" King and Howard Hobson would be selected to the All-tournament First Team.

In Baker, loyalties were divided as some felt that McIntire shouldn't have spoken up. In fact, things got so heated he required a police escort for a time. Coach Dewey retired in shame as the true identity of Blakely came to light.

He (Blakely) came to Baker for his senior year after spending two years in the Navy. Previously, he earned basketball all-state honors in Illinois after leading Centralia to the 1918 state championship.



*Franklin Quakers*

Later, he flunked out of Oregon Agricultural College (later named Oregon State University) before going to North Dakota State with Dewey and becoming a star player on Dewey's team there.

Ironically, the story does not end there for Baker. In fact, less than a year later, Baker came under scrutiny AGAIN for using an ineligible player, this time on the gridiron.

The February 2nd edition of the Joseph Herald in 1922 details the story of Lloyd Tunncliffe a star on the football field for Baker. Tunncliffe came under inquiry early in the season. Allegations abounded that Tunncliffe was too old to be playing high school football. According to my research, he played 16 quarters or half of the games at left halfback.

Finally, Prairie City brought forth a formal complaint to the board of control proving that Tunncliffe was in fact over 21 years of age and had played more than four years of high school sports. The state association had no choice but to suspend Baker athletics for the remainder of the school year.

Why did Baker test the association less than a year after the Blakely situation? Perhaps the school district didn't have proper documentation for Tunncliffe. If that was the case, how did Prairie City? Is it possible that they merely didn't care and played Tunncliffe regardless of the consequences? We may never know.

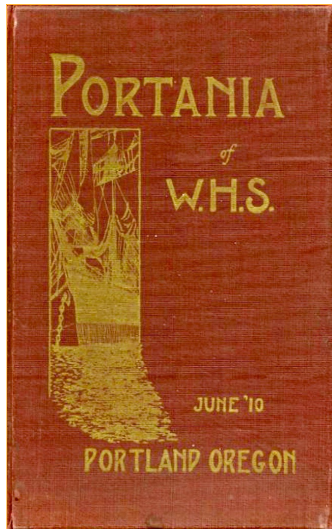




# Oregon's Basketball Growth

**B**Y THE EARLY 1900's basketball was popping up on the west coast with undeveloped high school and town teams springing into action throughout the state.

According to the 1910 Washington High School yearbook, the Portland Interscholastic League added basketball in 1907 and an extremely competitive league was immediately born.



Early southern power Marshfield began their basketball program in 1909 playing three games against a North Bend business college. Using track uniforms, the team lost two of three to the business school. By 1914, District 9 anteed up \$10,000 for the construction of a new gymnasium in Marshfield and interest in basketball surged. Beginning in 1915, Marshfield won the next seven county championships, a significant achievement at that time.

Marshfield rival North Bend began in 1910 and won a Coos County championship in 1914.

Out East, Burns High School began basketball in 1914 with an interclass game pitting the sophomores against the rest of the high school.



*Portland's Washington High School*

In the Willamette Valley, the game was played by many of the large schools. Early powerhouse Salem High School has records dating back to 1908 when they went 3-3 in what was known as the Western Oregon Interscholastic League featuring Roseburg, Eugene and Albany in addition to Salem.

Roseburg was the class of this league going 6-0 in that initial year.

Southern Oregon's Ashland's first season on record is a 3-3 campaign in 1911 followed by an incredible 1912 campaign in which they went 15-1 winning the first of two "unofficial state championships." Included in one of the 15 wins was a 90-6 shellacking of Jacksonville high school.

As is often the case during this time, the school yearbook declared a two-game series would decide the state championship. Ashland's school yearbook in 1912 did the same by declaring a two-game series with Dallas

to be for the state championship. However just days before the contest, Dallas lost to Newberg throwing the Ashland claim into jeopardy. Undaunted, Ashland took two from Dallas and succeeded in earning a home and home contest with Newberg at the end of the season. Ashland took the opener in Ashland 30-16 but the return game ended in a tie at 20-20. For some reason, Newberg would not settle the tie and efforts to arrange a third game at McArthur Court in Eugene were unsuccessful thus making Ashland the "unofficial state champions."

Unofficial champions ruled the early days as Oregon's vast frontier and a budding road system made cross-state travel impractical. Still, there were calls for a true state championship to be determined. The first state tournament as we now know it began in 1917 when R.L. Mathews, basketball coach at Willamette University, invited teams from the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon to his university for a state playoff. But teams west of the Cascades were either not invited to the early tournaments or couldn't attend thus making it difficult to classify these early tournaments as state championships.

Games were 40 minutes in length. Overtime was "sudden death" until a 5-minute overtime was revised in the early 20's. Some teams had to play six games. A team could even play three in one day. Until 1926 it was a single-elimination tournament.

This changed in 1919 when invitations were sent all over the state for teams to attend the state tournament. However, the tournament again consisted of teams west of the Cascades. For the purposes of this book and history we will count the 1919 tournament as the first tournament in Oregon history. The Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) does likewise.

By 1920, the state was divided into districts and 12 teams from all over the state could win a trip to Salem. Each district was responsible for its own qualification plan as opposed to invitations. Now, a true state champion could be determined.

Small schools had their fair share of early success in terms of reaching the tournament in Salem. Once they reached Salem it was a different story. The small schools were just 2-15 in the first six years of the tournament. Myrtle Point picked up a 10-point win over Tillamook for the first "B" school victory in the state tournament in 1923.

But big losses were the norm. Rainier lost 52-16 to Salem in 1920. Heppner lost 44-19 to Marshfield in 1921. Joseph lost 65-8 to Eugene in 1922 and then 59-22 to Salem in 1923. Maupin lost 43-10 to La Grande in 1927.

According to Francis P. Leipzig's History of the state B tournament, there were 185 registered "B" schools in Oregon in the early 20's or almost triple the number of "A" schools. But they still did not have their own tournaments.

Hometown newspapers cited many reasons the small schools didn't fare well: The long drive, larger courts, immense crowds, and enrollment sizes.

How realistic is it to expect Joseph, student population of 54, to compete with Salem, the capital of the state with an enrollment of over 1500? They played hard and had fun, but they were obliterated.

By the end of the decade, the small schools had picked up a few victories and won a few trophies, but Salem, Astoria and Medford still ruled.

March 12, 1933 proved to be a historic day for the small schools in the state of Oregon. On that day a motion was presented by Father Francis P. Leipzig asking that the Oregon Activities Association Board of Control look into the possibility of staging a "B" school state tournament.

In December of 1933, the Oregon Activities Association voted to amend the constitution to make it read, "The Board of Control shall conduct each year an "A" and "B" high school tournament." The motion amendment passed by a vote of 58-9.

The committee made plans for eight "B" school districts with eight schools qualifying for the state tournament and playing in a three-day state tournament. The changes would not take affect right away.

The rules were supposed to take affect for the 1934- '35 season. They did not, however, take effect until the 1935-1936 season when the crack Bellfountain team went on to become the first ever "B" state champion. Many fans of Oregon basketball history know that the Bells came back to win the "B" title again in 1937 and shocked the state by winning the final two games to capture the "A" title as well. Bellfountain was the only school to accomplish the feat although others were close.

Father Leipzig continued to advocate for a separation of the state tournaments, to get the "B" schools their own tournaments apart from the larger schools. The vision came to fruition in 1941 when for the first time, eight "B" schools laced up their shoes at Oregon College of Education in Ashland in the first-ever State "B" Tournament.

By 1941, the tournaments were separated and held in different locations.

It would be interesting if the "1A" school champion would be given a chance to compete against the "6A" champion like Bellfountain did in 1936 and 1937 and other schools until 1940. Who knows who would have won titles against the big schools? Damascus Christian-67; Jesuit-63? ...

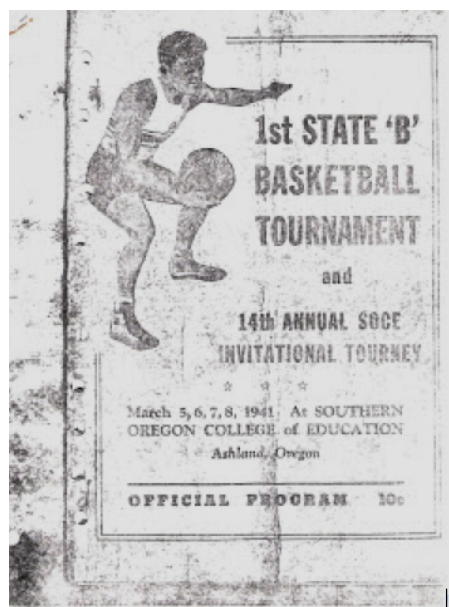


## Journey to Every Corner of Oregon

**T**HE SMALL SCHOOL BASKETBALL tournament has been nomadic in its quest for a home. Even the name of the smallest classification has undergone several shifts. From 2A, to B to 1A, the smallest schools have played all over the state in search of a home for their state tournament.

When the event was a single class tournament in the 1920's and the mid-30's the Salem Armory played host. The little schools like Joseph, Heppner, Wallowa and others made the long trek to the Capital City and the large floor, long trip and enormous opposition was often too difficult to overcome.

Still in Salem, the tournament moved to Willamette University for the late 30's as the small schools fought to gain their own tournament. This finally happened for the 1941 state tournament, hosted at Southern Oregon Normal College in Ashland. This was held in conjunction with the Southern Oregon Normal School's annual Invitational Tournament.



The tournament continued to bounce around in the early 40's as war curtailments and other issues forced the tournament to drop to just four teams from 1943-1945. These tournaments were held at Willamette University along with the large school tournament.

In 1946, the small town of Arlington hosted the tournament after several years of hosting the district 7 tournaments in town. The town hosted the event for three years, 1946, 1947 and 1948 before the tournament moved again, this time to Union High School for the 1949 tournament.

Union high school also had a history of hosting district and county tournaments but they would only host the small school tournament for one season before the tournament was on the move again.

The tournament moved from the eastside of the state to the furthest point west as the Astoria Armory hosted the tournament in 1950. Again, Astoria had a history of hosting district and county events and surely basketball mad Astoria would support three-days of hoops.

It didn't and once again, after one season, the tournament moved back to Willamette University and stayed there from 1951-1955. For the 1956



season, the school association created a third division breaking up the small school division. The smallest classification remained known as 2A, but the middle division became known as A-2 and included teams like St. Helens, Redmond, Coquille, Molalla and other future 3A schools.

Baker had the chance to host its first state tournament in 1956 after years of supporting the district tournaments and county tournaments in town. It was obvious to many that Baker wanted the tournaments in town but again, the tournament couldn't gain traction and moved again.

The tournament bounced around between Bend (1957, '59, '61, '63), Baker (1960, '62) and Pendleton (1958) in search of a permanent home. For the 1960 tournament, director Gary Hammond got together a group of citizens and lobbied the OSAA to host the tournament in Baker.

The OSAA was skeptical, but the tournament was held at very low cost and even made money for the OSAA. Then, according to Hammond, "they (the OSAA) awarded the tournament to Pendleton."

Beginning in 1964, the tournament enjoyed its longest stretch in one location as the Pendleton Armory gave the small schools a home for 10 years. Meanwhile, back in Baker, Hammond and his associates were attempting to get the tournament back to Baker.

Hammond teamed with two other community leaders and made a pitch to the OSAA to add a fourth classification and to host the tournament in Baker. One of Hammonds' partners', Leo Adler, asked Hammonds to come up with a dollar figure on what it would cost to run the tournament. When Hammonds came up with an estimate, Adler cut a check to cover the amount and the new "B" classification was born.

At the conclusion of the 1973 season, the OSAA decided to break the classes up yet again. To this point, small schools were still matching up with schools three and four times their size. Schools like Powers, Mohawk, Malin and Elgin had had great success at times playing the 2A schools but the vast majority of the small schools had trouble matching up.

Listening to their small school constituents yet again, the OSAA created the "B" division, which was made up of schools with enrollments of 75 or less. In addition to creating a fourth division, the OSAA moved the tournament to its permanent location, Baker City in Eastern Oregon.

Baker had a rich history of hosting small school tournaments. From the old district tournaments of Eastern Oregon in the 30's to the Old Oregon League tournaments of today, the citizenry and community of Baker had always welcomed the small school crowd. In what can only be described as 100% commitment to the tournament, the citizen volunteers who make the Baker City state tournament hum is what keeps the state association coming back.

That and the low overhead cost, ease of managing the event and the profits.

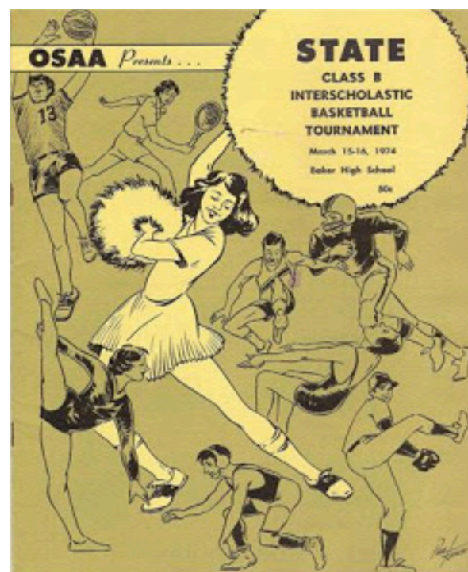
For what it lacks in hotel and gym space, it makes up for with its heart and atmosphere and its help at all cost attitude that typified small town Oregon. For many, Baker City was small school basketball. It wasn't played in a half empty arena in Portland. It wasn't held in an apathetic community committed to making the town money.

It was played in a town that represented the small schools that traveled there. People from Powers, Prospect, Elkton, Alsea, Imbler, Jordan Valley, Helix and Jordan Valley cherished Baker City because it represented them. They looked at Baker City and saw a city that WANTED their tournament and their fans. They needed the tournament and did whatever they could to keep the tournament in Baker.

Small towns in Oregon overcame obstacles to survive and thrive. Same for Baker City. What it lacked in housing it made up for with its sheer delight in hosting the event. It overcame its shortcomings because it wanted to. It became clear very quickly that Baker City was the place for the small school state tournament.

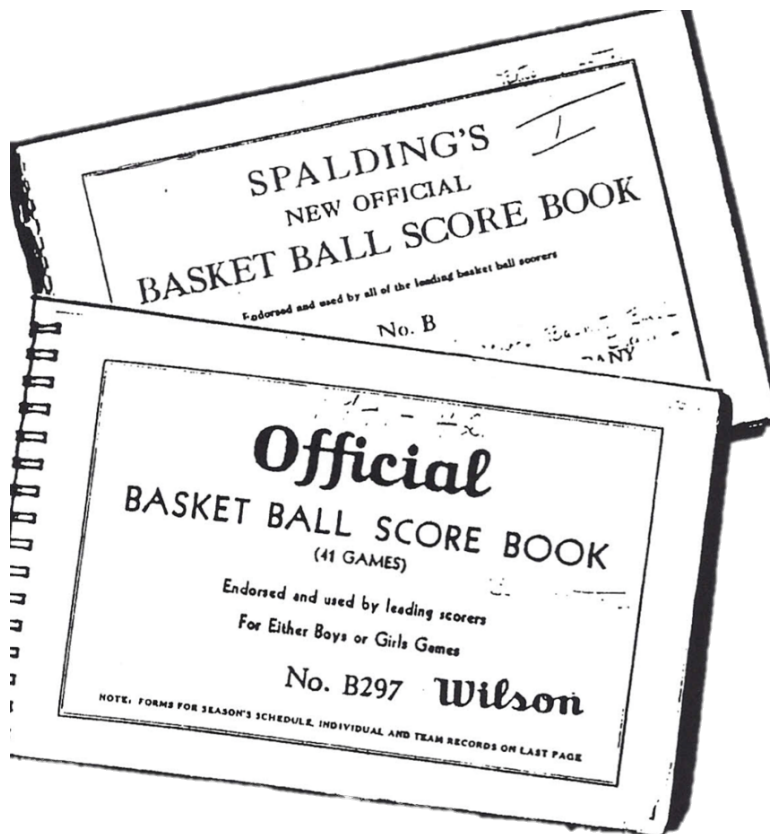
34 years later, the elite of the small schools still traverse the mountains from the west, snake through the back roads of the north east and abandon their ranches in the southeast for a few days to take in what is now four days of wall-to-wall basketball.

What sets the 1A tournament apart from its big school brethren is the community support from the host city. While the majority of the crowd comes to cheer for their school or town, there are a great number of local



residents who travel to Baker City to be a part of the tournaments. Take Dick Haynes for example. Haynes is a Baker City resident, without a dog in the fight. He does however; love the pageantry and passion of the small school tournament. "I enjoy the color of the small school. Everybody from these small towns turns out to support them," Haynes tells Baker City Herald reporter Mike Ferguson. Rich Cason of Elgin agrees and adds, "People are friendlier at a small school tournament. If you go to Salem or Portland, you're a stranger. But here, they're here to help you."

Cason's comments personify why so many in Baker and small towns throughout the state don't want the 1A tournament moved. It's an extension of their town. They choose to live in Powers or Jordan Valley or Arlington or Dufur because they like the closeness. They like to feel connected to their neighbors, their schools and co-workers. And when eight teams converge on Baker City that first week in March, despite the different colors and mascots, at some level, everyone feels like family.





## Oregon's Annie Oakley

SHE WAS EASILY the highest scoring player in the state, boys or girls. Her prodigious scoring and shooting were known throughout the league and region. She was 5'11" with a relentless work ethic; college coaches had to have been lining up to offer scholarships. Her name was Gladys Minney.

But nobody called.

Nobody called with a scholarship after Minney scored 50 points in the county championship game, singlehandedly outscoring the opposition. Nobody called with an offer despite 57 points per game average as a sophomore.

No coaches visited after opposing team protested her playing for the Vida boys' team in the playoffs as a freshman. "We'll put boys in our girl lineups," a captain of a Vida opponent cracked when told of Minney playing on the boys' team.

Unfortunately for Gladys Minney, she grew up 90 years too early. Before Facebook, YouTube, recruiting services and AAU basketball. She was just a country girl who loved to shoot baskets. Gladys Minney would never play in college. In rural Lane County in the early 1930's, women's college basketball wasn't even an option.

Gladys Minney started on Vida high school's county championship team as a seventh grader in 1928. There were only seven girls in the school, just 10 students total and without Minney and close friend and fellow 7th grader Vivian Thomson, there might not have been a Vida girls basketball team in 1928.

Vida, a tiny school located in rural Lane County 30 miles east of Eugene, barely had enough students in the school to field a basketball team. For years the task for the girls on the Vida basketball team was simple, pass to Gladys Minney and get out of the way. More often than not, Minney obliged and filled the stat column with so many points the opposition was helpless to stop her.

Her scoring totals read like an Oregon winter forecast. 32, 35, 41, 42, 48, 50. Occasionally, her totals reached spring levels like the 56 she put up against St. Mary's or the 63 against Coburg. She is once reputed to have scored 104 against Santa Clara, a point total that reportedly put her into Ripley's Believe it or Not.

In February of 1930, the *Eugene Register Guard* said of Minney, "the star forward sinks baskets faster than most girls can burn biscuits."

For girls in Oregon high school basketball in the late 20's and early 30's,



there was no state tournament. In many cases, there weren't even county tournaments. So in some respect, the girls of Lane County were special and had the unique opportunity to show their abilities to a broader audience.

Gladys Minney drew supporters to the Lane County tournament better than any boy player ever could. They were drawn to this girl who played with such aggression and ability it was almost too much to believe.

Gladys learned at the foot of her brother, Art, who was four years older. He taught Gladys how to effectively play and make close-in shots with either hand. Art had a stellar career for Vida and led the Vida boys' team to the 1929 County Championship game against Pleasant Hill.

Gladys Minney's career for the Vida high school team began in 1928 as a 7th grader when she played the "running center" in the old 6-player games of girls' basketball.

The 1928 team was led by Metola Allen, daughter of Charles "Warhorse" Allen, star running back for Amos Alonzo Stagg in the 1890's. Metola played a forward position and scored 64 points in Vida's 72-32 Lane County Championship victory over defending champion Thurston. Gladys was scoreless in the championship game but played the entire game and gained valuable experience.

Another 7th grader, Vivian Thomson played for the championship team at guard. Vivian and Gladys formed a formidable duo that would lead Vida in their homemade purple and gold uniforms for years to come.

Gladys didn't wait long to announce that the 1929 team was her team. She dropped 73 on Santa Clara in a preseason game as Vida dominated 100-10.

She led Vida into the 1929 county tournament and continued her scoring output. 43 against Walker, 35 against Mohawk and 42 against Thurston to lead Vida into their second straight tournament championship game, this time against Lorane.

Meanwhile, Art and the Vida boys were also putting on a good show. The Minney's had the county wrapped around their fingers. According to the

*Register Guard*, "800 people managed to crowd into the YMCA gymnasium Saturday evening." Everyone in attendance was "focused on the Minney family of Vida."

With 120 points in three games, Gladys Minney took the floor against Lorane in the championship game and put her stamp on the 1929 county championship tournament.

With fans packed into the YMCA gym, Minney delighted the crowd with 50 points in Vida's 58-36 win over Lorane.

Both Gladys and Art earned All-County First Team mention after the tournament.

Now a veteran as a high school freshman in 1930, Gladys Minney continued to dominate the girls of Lane County. Vida entered the county tournament in February and appeared to be the leading contender to capture their third straight Lane County Championship.



Vida cruised in their first two games, defeating Santa Clara 53-3 and Pleasant Hill 46-18 to enter the county championship. Minney poured in 23 points in the first half against Pleasant Hill and even though her opponent, Matthews, did all she could to stop her, "Minney was too tall and did just about as she pleased when she got the ball."

Friday morning, in a boy's game against Creswell, Vida star forward Ennis Groff wrenched his knee after a high jump forcing him to the sideline. The Vida boys had entered the tournament as a favorite to win the championship but Groff's injury put their title claims in jeopardy.

To compensate for the loss of one of his best players, Vida boys' coach Lyon Lawrence hatched the idea of replacing Groff with Gladys Minney. News of the bold coaching move spread and soon the Lane County tournament had a swirling firestorm.

"Gladys Minney may show boys real accuracy," reads a front-page story in the *Eugene Register Guard*. News reached Bend and the *Bend Bulletin* posted a small piece about the brewing controversy.

The *Register Guard* proclaimed Minneys' scoring prowess, noting the "phenomenal girl forward of the Vida girls' team will play in his (Groff's) place and, the team will hardly notice the difference."



Gladys' parents gave permission for their freshman daughter to play on the Vida boys' varsity team but other teams vehemently protested the inclusion of a girl on the boys' team. The controversy spread and Lawrence, compelled by the growing sentiment from teams around the league didn't allow Gladys to play for the boys' team. The Vida boys put up a good fight but St. Mary's stalled with the lead in the fourth quarter and went on to win 21-13.

With the notion of playing for the boys' team an afterthought, Minney and Vida could now refocus on capturing their third straight Lane County championship. Standing in their way was an underrated but scrappy Mohawk club. Once again, a Vida team was at the center of a controversy.

"In most of the fans' opinions, Vida made a strategic error when Gladys Minney, star forward, was substituted at center. Minney is sure of many baskets when she is in her forward berth and that is what Vida needed to win the game."

Mohawk played a "fast and furious game" aided by "the fast-little Healy, guard of the Mohawks" who was a star of the game. Mohawk's 27-24 victory ended Vida's two-year run as champions of Lane County. Most surprisingly, Minney tallied just 12 points in the game.

Devastated, the Vida girls retreated to their locker room in tears. Their two-year reign as queens of Lane County was over.

Robin Alexander, a McKenzie River fishing guide who has written a screenplay about Minney's life talked to relatives of Gladys. They say she talked about her life and basketball career frequently. Her son Steve told Alexander that officials from out of town had come to watch Gladys play to make sure she was playing by the rules. They had never seen a girl play so skillfully and were likely suspicious of her age. The controversy of joining the boys' team surely brought more attention from league and state officials.

Gladys speculated that Lawrence was spooked by the officials poking around his team and didn't want to risk further trouble. To alleviate the pressure, she thought, he switched her to center and Vida lost.



Once again, Minney was named to the All-County First Team at the conclusion of the tournament.

Minney entered the 1931 season as a sophomore but with three years of experience at the varsity level. Teammate and close friend Vivian Thomson matched the experience and provided an experienced core that would help lead a young Vida team that season. Minney's younger sister Thelma joined the team that year as the running center but the team was inexperienced in most positions.

Vida let Minney carry the load on most nights and the high scoring forward usually obliged. Late in the season Minney scored 63 points in a 68-28 victory over Coburg.

With Minney draining shots from all over the floor, Vida was always a threat to win the county championship. She started the 1931 tournament off with a bang; scoring 41 points in a 47-21 win over Creswell. She followed with a 56-point outing to pace Vida to a 71-7 win over St. Mary's. The *Register Guard* joked, "Gladys Minney let down and only scored 56 points in this game."

In the semifinals, Oakridge slowed Minney and kept the game close. Oakridge grabbed the lead in the third quarter and the game seesawed back and forth in the final quarter. Vida countered and surged into the lead late in the fourth and held on for a 36-34 victory. Minney tallied 32 points in the contest, her lowest total in months.

A record crowd made its way out for the 1931 Lane County championship tilts. Vida was shooting for their third championship in four years, this time battling Crow for the crown. Crow boasted their own scoring sensation, Iris Fitch, who came into the championship game averaging over 22 points per game, including 26 in their semifinal win over Siuslaw.

The game was a back and forth affair, with neither team seizing control. Fitch and Minney dueled from the forward spot and the two kept the crowd entertained throughout the game.

The teams were deadlocked at 42 with seconds remaining before Crow looped in the game-winning basket and went on to capture the 44-42 victory. The two forwards each tallied 36 points in the game but it was Fitch's Crow team who had the last laugh. It was the second straight county championship game defeat for Vida.

Both Fitch and Minney were named to the All County First Team at the conclusion of the tournament.

Though only a sophomore, Gladys Minney's high school basketball career had come to an end.

The association governing high school athletics was attempting to seize control of Oregon's growing high school sports world. In the late 1920's and early 1930's Oregon had hundreds of schools, many of them rural and difficult to reach. Efforts were made to unify all the schools under one umbrella. Too often schools and their leagues operated under their own rules and guidelines and the association wanted to ensure that everyone was playing under similar rules.

One of the key points the association was attempting to control was eligibility, specifically preventing players from playing high school sports beyond the usual four years. In the late 30's, all the Portland schools refused to abide by the state association's "ninth term rule" and were barred from competing in post-season play.

The *Eugene Register Guard* doesn't elaborate on the end of Minney's career or cover any potential scandals over Minney not being allowed to participate as a junior and senior. Minney was an observer at the 1933 Lane County Tournament for what would have been her senior year.

*Eugene Register Guard* columnist Roy Craft wrote,

"One of the most interested spectators at the "B" league tournament is Gladys Minney, ex-Vida star and probably the greatest girl athlete ever developed in the state."

Basketball would have been a welcome diversion for the Minney household because that year her father, Frank died of a staph infection after a five-month hospitalization.

Frank was an avid supporter of the Vida teams and attended nearly every Vida game. He was notorious for driving his kids all over Lane County in a 1928 Chevrolet sedan. According to Alexander's research, he would drive the sedan all over rural Lane County, including the McKenzie Highway, which was a gravel road at the time, to gyms and schools over the area. The old Thurston gym, which is now the Thurston Grange, was a 40-minute drive from the family farm.

Frank's passing was difficult for the Minney family. With her father gone and the depression strangling the family finances, options for Gladys were limited. There would be no college basketball for the high-scoring forward. There wouldn't even be college. Money was too scarce and it wasn't feasible.



Minney was instead, "forced to retire to her memories of glory while the men athletes her ages are just getting started."

Minney married Tom Minor at a young age and played club basketball after high school. She became an avid fisherman and camper as an adult. She spent over 22 years managing the City Variety and Sporting Goods Store in Eugene.

According to Alexander, Minney remained a fan of the game of basketball and even attended games at Sutherlin high school. On occasion she would speak to the Sutherlin team and became close to the team and players.

It would be overstating it to say the unceremonious conclusion of Minney's high school basketball career was a tragedy. The death of her father was a tragedy. The other things served as salt in the gaping wound.

Rules are rules and they need to be followed. I would certainly never suggest that schools evade the rules for their own gain. But it is disappointing that basketball fans of that era missed out on two full years of Gladys Minney tossing in baskets with machine-gun speed. Gladys played in the time of 6 on 6 basketball. Of the top 14 all-time individual top scoring games, her name appears 10 times. Dad would be proud...

#### **40-POINT GAMES**

104	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Santa Clara	1931
84	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Dinty Moore	1931
76	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Thurston	1931
73	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Santa Clara	1928
72	Ruth Nagel	Santa Clara	vs Crow	1936
64	Metola Allen	Vida	vs Thurston	1928
64	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Linslaw	1931
63	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Coburg	1931
56	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs St. Mary's	1931
51	Miss Russell	Thurston	vs St. Mary's	1930
50	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Lorane	1929
50	Irene Patton	Scio	vs NA	1935
48	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Mohawk	1929
48	Gladys Minney	Vida	vs Lorane	1928

*Courtesy of Doug Calvert*

## Coach Beaman and the Pansies

*Excerpts from the Register-Guard, Kenn Hess and Tom Rohlffs*

**G**ENEVIEVE BEAMAN, THE VETERAN coach, was stern and demanding. A disciplinarian who, in 1918, studied coaching theories at the University of Oregon under legendary track coach Colonel Bill Hayward. His definition of a good season: "95 percent consists of the material you inherit and the other 5 percent is in the coaching." In other words, the better the players, the better the coach." She made up her mind that she could hold her own in a man's world.

Genevieve knew, as the only woman in the class, she faced improbable odds of being a boy's high school coach. She discovered immediately that in some districts, where only one "high-salaried" faculty member could be afforded, the principal had to coach both boys' and girls' athletics to hold the job.

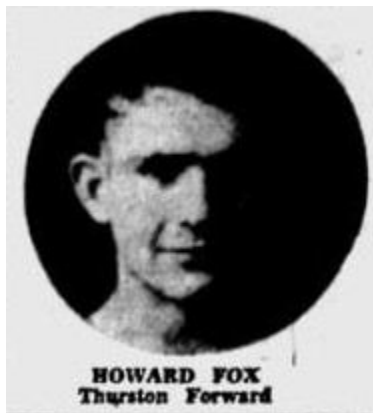
Genevieve was hired by Junction City in 1917 as the principal, boy's and girl's basketball coach and the track coach. The other teacher, a male, knew nothing about basketball. Her vast career would take her to 12 rural Oregon schools. The education trail took her to Port Orford, Gold Beach, Antelope, Gardiner, Coburg, Blue River, Thurston, Lowell, St. Mary's (Eugene), and she would complete her career as the librarian at Sweet Home high school from 1948-1956. She lost her husband in 1922 and never remarried. She passed away in 1972 at the age of 82.



*"I loved my boys"*

All of this experience led to this opportunity to deliver the first ever state tournament berth in the history of Thurston high school after years of runner-up finishes and near misses.

And much to the delight of the Thurston coach, the material in the Thurston hallway was better than 95 percent of the material around the state.



And as star forward Howard Fox toed the free throw line with the score tied at 30 in the second overtime of the district championship game, the coach could only think back to a lesson learned in Hayward's class.

In the late 1930's, Thurston high school was a tiny, rural school and bore no resemblance to the large school it is today. It had 17 boys in the school. 10



minutes outside of Springfield, the town wasn't much to behold. A post office, a grange hall, a gasoline pump, and a two-teacher schoolhouse.

They also had what could be called "The First Family of Thurston Basketball."

The Fox family produced seven players who would end up playing for Thurston high school and the 1938 team featured three starters and a reserve from the Fox family. Everett, a star on the 1936 and 1937 teams was the team manager.

Seniors Howard and Kenny were the leaders. They were big, strong, and two of the best players in the county. Leo was the third Fox starter with Delano, a future star but only a freshman in 1938, serving as a reserve. Howard had been on the all Lane County tournament team since his sophomore year when he teamed with older brother Everett to lead Thurston to the county title. While Howard provided the brawn, it was Kenny who was the heart of the Thurston team with his unselfish play and leadership.

Howard logged the press and the honors. He was 6-3 and quick. A natural athlete, he earned a basketball scholarship to the University of Oregon but ultimately became a major league pitcher for the Cincinnati Redlegs.

Howard and Kenny were the two who did everything for Thurston during the 1937-38 season. In fact, in the championship game against league nemesis Lowell, both made last second shots with Thurston trailing by two points.

First, Howard hit a long shot as time expired to tie the score at 24 and force overtime. Then, at the end of overtime, with Thurston again trailing by two, Kenny buried a desperation heave from just inside mid-court as the clock expired to keep Thurston's hopes alive.

And now it was back to Howard with the game in his hands and the opportunity to erase two years of frustration at the district tournament.



And the coach was now helpless. There was no play to run. No defensive adjustment or offensive wrinkle. It was up to one of the best players in the state. Part of the 95% coach Hayward said would be key to a successful season.

With over 3,000 fans watching, senior forward Howard Fox calmly buried a pair of free throws in the second overtime and moments later, Thurston had its first state tournament berth.

It wasn't the only first achieved that night.

It was the first trip to the state tournament for the coach as well.

It was also the first time in Oregon history an Oregon boys team reached the state tournament with a *woman* as its head coach.

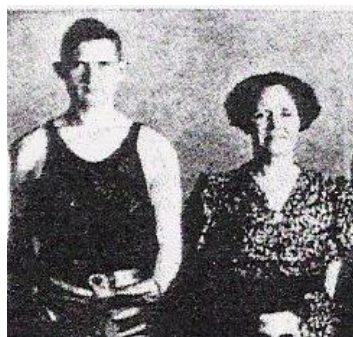
Genevieve Beaman. Student of Bill Hayward. Coaching veteran. Now in the record books.

The ecstasy of the moment was quickly tempered for coach Beaman when her elated players swooped her onto their shoulders and paraded her around the gymnasium floor.

"Everybody in Thurston must have been there," she recalled many years later. It's not surprising considering the near misses Thurston had endured in the previous years. The win removed a giant monkey off of Thurston's back.

Beaman was an educator for six decades. She estimated she coached for over 25 years. In addition to boys' basketball, she coached girls' basketball and occasionally track. At small rural schools, she was often the principal, coach *and* custodian.

She moved around the area gaining experience as an administrator and coach. Seeing the small schools lacked the numbers for football or baseball, she focused her attention on basketball, even though "music was her extracurricular love" in her early days of teaching.



*Howard Fox and  
Coach Genevieve Beaman*

She learned about the game the way any male coach would. She attended physical education training courses at the University of Oregon where she was the only woman in the class. She learned through experience.

So, when an intriguing job like Thurston opened up, Genevieve Beaman was ready for the challenge.

Beaman took over the Thurston job from Jim Watts, an Army Colonel who had played basketball at University of Oregon. It was Watts who built the foundation of a championship team but could never capture the elusive championship trophy.

Thurston, while dominant in Lane County, couldn't get past Bellfountain, the giants of small school basketball at the time. The Bells of Bellfountain remain

the only small school team in Oregon history to win a state championship when it was a single class tournament. The tiny school located in Benton County, won consecutive district 16 tournaments at Thurston's expense.

It was Watts who gave Thurston the nickname "Pansies" when he jokingly referred to the players as pansies during the first week of practice.

"It was in direct contrast to the size and ruggedness of the team," Watts would say years later. "They weren't afraid of hard work, being mostly farm boys with chores to do before and after school."

Watts said the players were "willing and wanted to learn to play basketball the way it should be played."



The Pansies name stuck, much to the annoyance of the hard-nosed Beaman who "deplored the nickname" and "fought it every minute." Recognizing the kids loved the name, Beaman relented and "the Pansies we were." After Beaman left, the school changed the mascot to Panthers.

With consecutive runner up finishes in the strong District 16, Thurston entered the 1937-1938 offseason in reasonably good shape. There were still two Fox brothers returning in Kenny and Howard, who would both be in their third year of high-level play.

Plus, Bellfountain had been decimated by graduation, which likely meant the strongest challenge would come from within Thurston's own county and possibly even their own division.

That offseason, the Lane County basketball league was broken into three divisions ranging from four to seven teams. The leagues were realigned and renamed for the 1937-1938 season and Thurston was put into the Valley division, a league featuring some of the strongest teams in the district.

First, Jim Watts, who had taken the Pansies to the brink of a state tournament berth in each of the last two years, left Thurston to take a job at Roseburg. In 1941 he led the Indians to the state tournament. After the season he joined the Army. He later settled down in Texas.

The lone bright spot for Thurston that offseason occurred at the ballot box. Voters in the Thurston district narrowly approved a \$6,000 bond to build the school a new gymnasium. A new gym for Thurston had been on the ballot as far back as 1935 and it was the summer of 1937 when the vote tilted in favor of a new building. Barely! The measure passed by a count of 71-69 and the boys of Thurston would have a new gym for the 1937-1938 season.

Beaman had a proven track record as a coach. She had been coaching and teaching for 20 years at small schools throughout the state. She had led Gold Beach to a county championship. She had the pedigree. At the moment, she didn't have the players.



*Roseburg 1941*

When Genevieve Beaman accepted the job at Thurston, in the summer of 1937, she thought she was stepping into an ideal situation. She had two experienced superstars returning to her team in the form of Howard and Kenneth Fox. The chief rival at the district level had been decimated by graduation and voters were showing signs of approving a bond to build a new gym at the tiny school in rural Lane County.

By August, the situation turned, and the cruelest blow of all, the Fox brothers transferred or were *recruited* away from Thurston.

The Fox brothers transferred their senior year, or according to Beaman, were stolen by Portland's Roosevelt high school, and the completion of her shiny new gymnasium would be December at the earliest. It looked as if for the first time since 1935 that the Thurston varsity team would take the floor without a Fox brother in the lineup.

Their coach, Genevieve Beaman, was sure they were recruited from under her nose. Even 27 years later, Beaman still sounded agitated about Thurston's "Transfer Gate". She didn't hold back and accused schools of recruiting her star players away from Thurston.

"All the schools wanted them," Beaman said. "They stole that gang in Portland. They wanted them for football too."

Without Watts and the Fox "gang", things looked bleak for Thurston to finally break through and reach the state tournament.

There appears to be little doubt that both would have aided the Roughriders' basketball fortunes. Both, good athletes, were in the 6'2", 6'3" range—tall for that era. At the time Roosevelt had lost 58 consecutive Portland Interscholastic League games.

They would spend about six weeks during the fall at Roosevelt and when questions about eligibility came up, they returned home.



While the builders began to replace the gymnasium, the school set about replacing Watts. They found Beaman, well-traveled and experienced, to take on the program with or without the Fox gang.

Whatever the actual cause, the Fox brothers were back and the Pansies were in business.

With a new gym and the stars back home, the Pansies set to work on recapturing the Lane County title and finally breaking through at the district tournament. Chief competitors Lowell and Coburg both had new coaches as well. Lowell lured P.G. Strombo from Bandon who quickly pronounced Lowell was "50 points better than Bandon."

Strombo quickly gained a reputation as one of the more quotable coaches in the county. He wasn't just a big talker making idle boasts. The Red Devils would prove to be the only team in the newly formed Valley division of the Lane County B League to challenge Thurston and the two schools would meet four times during the season.

At Thurston, Beaman took what Jim Watts had started and put her stamp on it. She deployed two basic defenses, "a zone in the small gyms and man-to-man in the big ones." There was no standard size like today's 84'x50' courts.

The season began with three straight wins for Thurston including a 19-point win at Coburg in the second game of the season, no doubt pay back for the Broncos' victory in the Lane County title game the year before. Four days later Kenny Fox poured in 26 points in a non-league game at Vida setting up an early season showdown at undefeated Lowell.

Lowell's balanced attack helped thwart Thurston who were led by Howard's 15 points. The Red Devils got contributions from star forward Wayne Renfro with six points in the third quarter and center Glen Rosenbaum who tallied six in the fourth to quell two Thurston second half rallies. Lowell pulled away for a 31-26 win.

Thurston now had to wait for Christmas break before they'd have another game to play. Meanwhile Lowell destroyed Springfield, a larger school in the "A" division, by 18 over the break and was brimming with confidence. The Pansies returned to the floor on January 6th against Mohawk. Thurston won 38-21 but a potentially disturbing trend was developing. Only Howard and Kenny Fox seemed to be capable of scoring on a consistent basis. Of the 38 points scored by Thurston, 36 were scored by the duo of Kenny and Howard. Ironically, younger brother Leo scored the other two points.

Howard led the Pansies with 22 points against Mohawk despite playing with a cast on his hand from an injury.

Days later Thurston received help from Oakridge who knocked off Lowell 28-16 to even the Red Devils and Pansies in the loss column with one apiece.

The Pansies won their next three games including a 75-52 win over Pleasant Hill where Howard poured in 39 points and Kenny added 22. Perhaps letting down slightly, Thurston struggled to a 37-33 win over Santa Clara three nights later in a fast and physical game with 41 fouls called between the two teams. That same night, Coburg knocked off Lowell 18-17 to push Thurston into the division lead with a 6-1 record.

The division lead was short lived.

The Pansies returned home to face Coburg. The game quickly turned into a disaster. The Pansies led 27-23 in the fourth quarter but failed to score down the stretch and the Broncos finished the game on an 8-0 run. Six points were scored by "diminutive guard" Palmer King in the decisive rally.

A week later, after another easy win over Pleasant Hill, Thurston and Lowell met for the second time. This game was even more disastrous than the Coburg game. Lowell broke open an early 5-5 tie with a 17-5 run to surge to a 22-10 at halftime lead. It ballooned to 17 after three when Howard Fox fouled out, soon to be followed by Kenny Fox, Elmer Jeans, and John Wicks. With four players confined to the bench because of fouls, the Thurston second-stringers attempted to hold down the fort. Strombo and the Red Devils piled it on and won 48-22 giving Lowell the league lead with an 8-2. Thurston sat at 7-3 but hopes of passing Lowell were fading.

Three nights later, on February 16, Howard took out his frustration on Vida, pouring in, a school record, 44 points in an 80-29 win.

Lowell clinched the Valley title with a win over Santa Clara on February 19 while Thurston wrapped up its regular season with a 54-37 win over Mohawk.

The 12th annual Lane County basketball tournament included 32 teams from the county at McArthur Court, aka, the "Igloo" on the campus of the University of Oregon. There was so much basketball to cram into the week that the first two days of the tournament featured two games played simultaneously. For the later rounds, organizers dropped the double feature approach and let the leaders take center stage.

The Valley division quickly established itself as the strongest division within the county. The semifinals were an all Valley division affair with Lowell taking on Oakridge and Thurston taking on Coburg. Since both participants in the Lane County championship game advanced to the district tournament the following week, the semifinal game was the most important game if teams were to extend their seasons.

Thurston and Coburg met in a rematch of the 1937 county championship game won by Coburg. To add to the challenge for Thurston, Kenny was battling a badly sprained ankle.

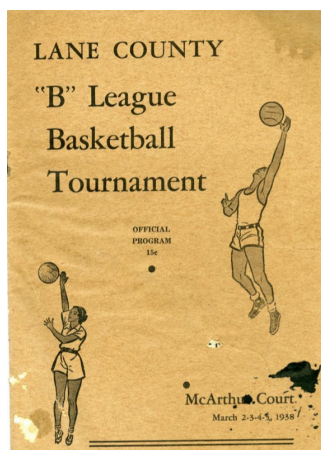
Some 2,500 fans attended the semifinal to watch the two-league rivals play for a spot in the district championship game where Kenny, despite the sprained ankle, "moved around like a charging firehouse plug".

Coburg led 5-4 late in the first quarter before Thurston seized control with an 8-2 run to close out the half and head into the locker-room leading 13-6. Coburg closed the gap to 15-10 at the end of three and then scored the first two points of the fourth period to cut the lead to 15-12.

After two minutes of scoreless play, Thurston scored five straight points to take a 20-12 lead with four minutes remaining. Coburg missed repeated attempts at cutting into the lead and the Pansies coasted to a 23-14 win.

The valuable win meant the Pansies avenged their championship game loss to the Broncos from the year before and guaranteed them a spot in the district tournament the following week. Standing in their way for their second county title in three years would be Strombo and the Lowell Red Devils, who withstood a gallant challenge from the Oakridge Warriors to gain the other spot in the finals.

3,500 fans packed into the arena for the Lane County "B" championship game, Thurston's third consecutive appearance in the Saturday night finale.



In the second meeting between Lowell and Thurston, the Red Devils overwhelmed the Pansies with a 17-5 run in the first half to jump to a big halftime lead.

The Red Devils did even better in the third meeting. Trailing 5-3 in the first quarter, Lowell outscored Thurston 17-2 to take a commanding 20-7 lead with two minutes to play in the first half. Unlike the second meeting between the two powers, Thurston refused to make it easy for Lowell.

The Red Devils led by 14 at 28-15 before Thurston finished the third quarter on a 14-4 run of their own to cut the lead to 32-29 at the end of three.

Lowell's star forward Wayne Renfro made sure momentum didn't swing too far in Thurston's favor. The 6-foot junior, who finished with 26 points on the night, scored six of Lowell's first nine points of the fourth quarter as the Red Devils regained control of the game and put the Pansies away. Lowell won 45-36 to win their first Lane County title.

For Thurston, it was their second consecutive Lane County tournament runner-up finish. While disappointed in not capturing the championship, Thurston still had the opportunity to continue their season the following weekend at the District 16 tournament at Junction City. Most believed Thurston and Lowell were destined to meet a fourth time.

Dick Strite wrote in the Register Guard on March 8 "high school principals from outside the county predict—Lowell—and Thurston will meet in the finals of the district 16 tournament."

Coach Strombo's Red Devils were impressive in their opener, completely annihilating Linn County runner-up Brownsville 34-7. Lowell limited Brownsville to two field goals in the game. Thurston reached the semifinals by knocking off Linn County champions Harrisburg 34-24. The Pansies outscored the Eagles 12-2 in the second quarter to take an 18-9 lead into halftime. They extended the lead to 14 midway through the fourth quarter and coasted to the 10-point win. Howard Fox led the way with 16 while Kenny chipped in 10.

Lowell knocked off two-time defending district champions Bellfountain 29-17 behind Renfro's 16 points in the semifinals, while Thurston used a dominant second half against Siletz to advance to the championship game. The Pansies, led by Howard's 22 points, outscored Siletz 23-8 in the second half.

The two wins set up the rematch that everyone predicted and wanted to see. The fourth meeting between Lowell and Thurston would be the biggest.

Long before there was an ESPN Classic there were the taverns and diners in small towns where locals would rehash games over beers after work or bacon and eggs in the morning.

The storylines heading into the fourth meeting between the two rivals would keep the locals talking for years to come even if the game turned into a blowout. Could Thurston win that elusive district championship on their third attempt? Could Howard Fox, the future Major League baseball player lead the Pansies to the promised land of Salem, site of the state tournament? Would Genevieve Beaman become the first woman to coach a boys' basketball team to the state tournament? Or would outspoken coach PG Strombo lead Lowell to their first ever-state tournament berth?

The players from Lowell and Thurston delivered an epic, double overtime district championship game at Junction City high school. The game featured a second half surge by Thurston, followed by a back and forth fourth quarter with several lead changes, and two last second shots with the season in the balance.



Lowell had controlled Thurston in two of the three meetings between the two small Lane County schools. They hammered the Pansies by 26 in their second meeting and had a double-digit lead in the second half of their third meeting before settling for a 45-36 win in the Lane County tournament championship at McArthur Court.

In the fourth meeting at Junction City, Lowell threatened to make quick work of the Pansies after jumping to a 13-6 lead midway through the second quarter. Led by Renfro and Wilson, the Red Devils were close to putting the game out of reach.

Instead, the Pansies defense stiffened and prevented the gap from widening and headed into halftime trailing 15-10.

The tense third quarter produced just one point between the two teams until the final minutes of the frame before Howard Fox, competing in his third straight district championship game, took over.

Fox scored six straight points in the final moments of the third quarter to tie the game at 16. He scored again to open the fourth quarter giving the Pansies their first lead of the game.

Howard Fox continued to carry Thurston but Lowell's Glen Rosenbalm answered each basket early in the fourth. Fox scored two more baskets for Thurston to give him 12 straight points for the Pansies, but Rosenbalm answered for the Red Devils. After Lowell scored to take a 24-22 lead, Kenny Fox "potted a one-hander from the side" with 1:30 left to tie the score at 24.

Wayne Renfro scored with 30 seconds remaining to give Lowell a 26-24 lead. As Thurston scrambled to find a tying shot, the ball came to Howard Fox who "let fly with a long one that passed through the hemp as the final whistle tooted to tie the score at 26-26."

Having staved off elimination with a long shot in regulation, Thurston once again found itself trailing as time ticked away. Rosenbalm did his part for the Red Devils, scoring four points in the overtime period including a shot from the key with under a minute to play to put Lowell up 30-28.

This time it was Kenny's turn to rescue the Pansies with a life-saving bucket. The senior "shot one from mid-court that barely reached the basket as the timer ended the period."

Whether it was nerves, fatigue or a combination of both, the second overtime produced no baskets as both teams attempted to gain control. Thurston caught the first break when Rosenbalm fouled Kenny Fox who buried the subsequent free throws. Lowell had no miracle shot in its bag of

tricks and was unable to tie the score. When the final horn sounded, the Pansies had their elusive trip to the state tournament and Genevieve Beaman's elated players carried her on their shoulders in jubilation.

For Beaman it was the most exciting and embarrassing moment of her coaching career. Beaman was straight-laced so being swept up and carried around a packed gymnasium was slightly awkward

The next week after the clinching win was a whirlwind for Beaman and her boys. Travel plans were quickly made and the community, swelling with pride, raised money to purchase new blue and orange uniforms for the Pansies to wear at the state tournament.

Summaries:				
<b>Thurston (32)</b>				
H. Fox, f	8	1	2	17
L. Fox, f	0	0	2	0
Wicks, c	2	0	0	4
K. Fox, g	3	5	1	11
Jeans, g	0	0	1	0
McQuinn, f	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Lowell (30)</b>				
Renfro, f	4	3	2	11
Wilson, f	2	0	3	4
Rosenbalm, c	5	0	3	10
V. Winfrey, g	0	1	0	1
Moon, g	2	0	1	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>30</b>
Referees: Small and Ramsey.				

The 1938 state tournament in Salem was broken into two divisions, an "A" and "B". The four smaller "B" schools participated in their own tournament with the winner entering the semifinals with three "A" schools. The year before, the Bellfountain "Giant Killers" had become the first "B" school to win the "A" state championship.

Thurston drew Chiloquin in the first round. The Panthers were back for their second straight trip to the state tournament after losing to Bellfountain in the finals of the "B" tournament in 1937.

According to Beaman, "the boys were so frightened they were shaking" early in the game. Indeed, the Eugene Register Guard said "both teams were nervous and played jittery ball in the first minutes of the game."

Chiloquin led through the first quarter before "the two Fox hot-shots began peppering the hoop with shots from all angles" to help Thurston take a 15-9 lead into halftime. In the third, Chiloquin's fast-break tempo began to take hold as the Panthers outscored Thurston 9-4 in the period to cut the lead to 19-18 after three quarters.

The veteran Panthers continued their onslaught in the fourth. After scoring 18 points through three quarters, Chiloquin erupted for 14 points in the fourth quarter alone to seize the momentum.

Kenny opened the fourth with a "long one from the center" but Chiloquin answered with baskets from forward Christy and Majors to regain the lead at 22-21 for the first time since the second quarter. Wicks scored to give Thurston the lead back but Majors quickly answered again for the Panthers to give Chiloquin a 24-23 lead.

After a Kenny Fox free throw tied the score at 24, Chiloquin reeled off six straight points to take a commanding lead late in the game. Howard Fox

scored another basket, giving him 13 points for the game, but it was too late. Chiloquin's forward Christy swished another shot and the Panthers had the game in hand.

The 32-28 loss sent the Pansies to the losers' bracket against Adams high school, winners of District 13, and first round losers to Amity.

The Adams Warriors came through the expansive District 13 with a 20-5 record before losing to an experienced Amity team in the first round of the "B" tournament.

The game between Adams and Thurston started slowly, with both teams missing the mark on most of their shots. The Pansies led 5-2 after the first quarter, with Howard Fox accounting for all 5 of Thurston's points.

Neither team seized control in the second and third periods and the teams entered the final frame with the outcome still in doubt. The Pansies led 27-23 heading into the fourth when the three Fox's singlehandedly outscored Adams 9-1 in the final frame to pull away for a 36-24 victory. Howard's 17 led the Pansies while Kenny chipped in 12.

The win pushed the Pansies into the consolation semifinals opposite of Woodburn who were led by Dick Whitman. Woodburn, an "A" school, prevailed in a hard-fought game 32-27 which ended the season and career of Thurston star Howard Fox.

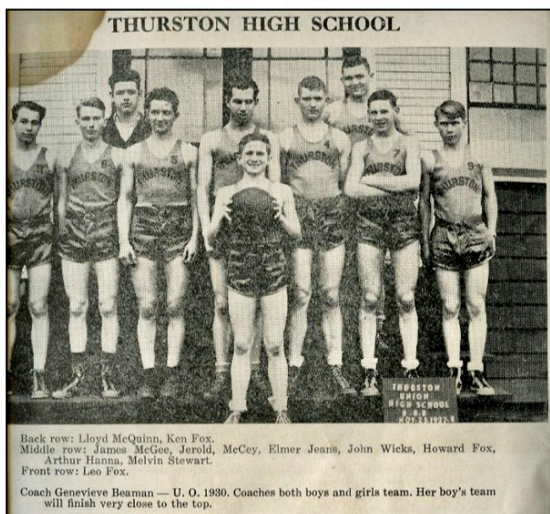
Howard tallied 17 points in the loss to Woodburn and finished with 47 total points in the tournament, which made him the third leading scorer in the tournament.

After the tournament, Howard Fox was named to the 2nd Team All-Tournament team and earned 1st Team All-Tournament honors among the "B" league players. He was posthumously inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame.

The loss to Woodburn ended one of the most remarkable runs in Oregon high school basketball history. Coach Genevieve Beaman remains the only woman coach to lead a boys' team to a state tournament berth in Oregon basketball history.

The Pansies, even with a 1-2 record in the state tournament, captured the hearts of those in attendance thanks to coach Beaman, the four Fox's, and the tiny school from rural Eugene with just 29 students in the school.

The end of the exhilarating 1937-1938 season ushered in the slow unraveling of Thurston's basketball dominance in Lane County. Within five years, Thurston high school wouldn't even exist and the new gym and school were sold off to a local farmer. Students were sent to Springfield high school and the Thurston's Pansies faded into memories.





**Sidebar:** Howie Fox would go on and play baseball and basketball for the University of Oregon and then sign a baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds. The 6'3" fastballer would pitch seven seasons with the Reds and one each for the Phillies and Orioles. He would win 43 games during his career and collect 66 hits as a pinch hitter. While breaking up a struggle at his San Antonio tavern he was stabbed to death. He was only 34 years old.

SCORES				
"B" League Games				
Thurston 26	lost	Lowell		37
Thurston 31	won	Santa Clara		22
Thurston 40	won	Coburg		21
Thurston 33	won	Mohawk		21
Thurston 29	won	Oakridge		17
Thurston 75	won	Pleasant Hill		52
Thurston 37	won	Santa Clara		32
Thurston 27	lost	Coburg		29
Thurston 42	won	Pleasant Hill		29
Thurston 22	lost	Lowell		48
Thurston 39	won	Mohawk		23
Thurston 33	won	Oakridge		20
"B" League Tournament Games				
Thurston 39	won	Mohawk		29
Thurston 35	won	Elmira		24
Thurston 23	won	Coburg		18
Thurston 36	lost	Lowell		45
Dist. No. 16 Tournament Games				
Thurston 34	won	Harrisburg		24
Thurston 40	won	Siletz		24
Thurston 32	won	Lowell		30
State Tournament Games				
Thurston 28	lost	Chiloquin		32
Thurston 36	won	Adams		24
Thurston 27	lost	Woodburn		32
-oOo-				



Thurston Union High's most famous season; the complete list of scores from the 1937-38 regular and post-season play. From the 1938 Thurstonian annual. Courtesy of Springfield Museum.



Front row, left to right: Wayne Hickson, Elmer Jeans, Leo Fox, Delano Fox. Back row: John Wicks, Howard Fox, Coach Genevieve Beaman, Kenneth Fox, Lloyd McQuin, Manager Fred Cox.

## Bellfountain – “Giant Killers”

**I**F YOU’VE BEEN IN Oregon a while, you’ve probably heard about arguably the most phenomenal basketball team in the history of the state, tiny Bellfountain High. In 1937, David smote Goliath in Oregon’s version of the



*Bellfountain School in 1937*

movie 'Hoosiers.' Back then; all basketball teams competed in the same division. Bellfountain, a school of 27 total students, beat Franklin of Portland (2,100 students) in the state semifinals, then beat Lincoln of Portland (1,728 students) for the championship, Bob Welch, Register Guard. "The odds are simply unimaginable."

*“They seem to come from nowhere and to do the impossible, these young men who appeared to be anything but extraordinary until they stepped onto the basketball court—but then magic happened. Hailing from a Willamette Valley Milltown described as “a wide spot in the road” and from a school that was among the smallest in the state, these eight remarkable athletes and their two special coaches spent the basketball season of 1937 defeating the best teams from the biggest schools in Oregon. And when the season had ended, the bell fountain giant killers had created a new chapter in Northwest sports history.”* —Joe Blakely, The Bellfountain Giant Killers.

After reading this quote from the book, I knew I had to see first-hand this rural community south of Corvallis and include the story in this Oregon high school records. All of us have seen the movie, *Hoosiers*, which I regard as the best sports movie of all time. The movie is taken from a true event in Indiana but only the last 18 seconds is accurate. The rest of the movie is fabricated. The team in *Hoosiers* came from a school of 161 students. The dates, games, scores, background, and names are fictional. There was no “picket fence” final play. The true team was the Milan Indians.



*1954 Milan Champions—the real "Hoosiers" team. Click links: <https://youtu.be/kjxyX6vHntw>; [https://youtu.be/p6\\_Tk\\_FyoVE](https://youtu.be/p6_Tk_FyoVE)*

The Bellfountain story, if made into a movie, would be a superior and a more remarkable story.



Bellfountain lies some 20 miles south of Corvallis at the base of Green Peak Mountain of the Coast Range. Small townships, Alpine and Monroe form a triangle with Bellfountain amongst the rolling hills of lush farmland and old mill sites. During this time Bellfountain had a store, mill, Grange Hall, school, church, park, and a post office (Dusty). Everyone, as of today, knew each other and families spent time each night visiting. There was no electricity in Bellfountain or the neighboring farms. The school was built in 1909 and its first graduation class was in 1913. The school had the only electricity in the area.

The name Bellfountain comes from a spring at the local park. The rock formation resembles a bell—thus the town of BELLFOUNTAIN was named.

The gym, built in 1912, did not have power—or a wooden floor. It was dirt until years later. Originally it had no lighting; so old cars would be lined up outside the windows if the game went into the twilight. The gymnasium is still in use and stands as a moment in time when eight young boys tossed around a leather ball. The state trophy still proudly adorns the school's trophy case.



*Bellfountain Gym built in 1912*

In the gym photo you can see the large potbelly stove used to combat the winter cold. The community was so proud of their new floor, only socks or tennis shoes were allowed on the gym floor. Dances and skating were not allowed.

There was one radio in town and it was hooked up to a car battery and played on the front porch so those that could not attend the state tournament games in Salem could hear the games.



Students would ride horses or walk considerable distances to school after morning chores had been completed. Basketball practice was shortened so they could go home and do the afternoon work. Traveling to school for most of the players involved a two or three mile walk each way. Most were up hours before

that to finish chores before beginning the walk to school. No team was more finely conditioned than the Bells in 1937. This was during the Great Depression and the boys worked summers at the mill with their fathers. This life-style of hard work would carry over to their adult lives.



The school included two classrooms, the gymnasium next door, play area and horse hitching post in the back. It was said that 200 fans crammed into the small gymnasium confines to cheer on their local team. The team did not have a mascot and it was only at the state tourney that the sport writers gave them the name Bellfountain "Bells".

The Bellfountain Community Church sits proudly on a precipice across the road from the school. It was built around 1899 and has served the community for over 115 years. The church bought the school and gym in 2000 and it has remained the center of activity since the Grange Hall no longer exists.

Pastor Greg Klein met us and showed us the school and the historic old gym. A plethora of trophies rest proudly in their trophy case. Each building is the way it was in 1937. Pastor Klein showed us old photos and shared information he has absorbed over 35 years as the church leader.



The students would attend the school through the 1938 school year and then after consolidation, they were transferred to Monroe High School some six miles away.

It isn't surprising that Bellfountain won the title of Program of the Decade for the 1930's. Their historic championship in 1937 is the stuff legends are made. The Bells were a juggernaut in 1937 and had to have been a favorite after finishing third in state in 1936 with a 22-3 record.

The 1937 state champions lost just two games that year and breezed to the state championship. The "8 boys of winter" showed it at the state tournament, blowing past their three opponents. Their closest game was the state championship game against Lincoln, a 14-point blowout.

It is clear that sportswriters of the era didn't take the Bells seriously, referring to Bellfountain as "someplace in Benton County" and "a wide spot



in the road." What they should have seen was a basketball team full of players who were hard working and had grown up playing together for years. But they shouldn't have taken the Bells lightly on the floor. Bellfountain was 21-2 heading into the tournament including two wins over traditional powerhouse Salem, and wins over Corvallis and the Willamette University freshman. Bellfountain was a good and experienced team.

From elementary school recess to pickup games in the fading sunlight of a Willamette Valley summer to the maple floors of gymnasiums up and down the valley, the Bellfountain Bells logged countless hours of games together.

The Bells picked up Coach Ken Litchfield's team-oriented passing offense and quickly made it an art form. He taught a smothering style defense and a pass first, dribble only if you had to, on offense. He would tutor the boys from the 5<sup>th</sup> grade through their junior season. When they entered as high schoolers, the community knew they had something special. The eighth graders had defeated the JV team of Philomath, 42-10! Bellfountain turned out en masse to see and travel to all games. Everyone supported the local team, as do most small school communities. After he moved on to become the superintendent at Shedd, Coach Burton "Bill" Lemmon, first year coach out of Willamette University, continued what they learned from Coach Litchfield through their senior year. They dominated their opponents with a crisp passing and cutting system that frequently left the opposition



breathless and hopeless to try to stop it. In those days there was a center jump after each field goal. Bellfountain, without a player over six feet, was at a definite disadvantage. Basically, it was "winners out" for the opposition. If you had a tall player, it would be make a basket, tap it to your own team, make a basket, repeat process. Many schools had players 6'4".

Basketball was a slower game then. Sportsmanship was taught and it was rude to foul the opponent. There was a center jump after every made basket. The set shot was prevalent; the jump shot was rare and frowned upon as showboating. Dunking the ball was in the future. Bellfountain perfected the fast break by crisply passing the ball into the opponent's defense without the ball hitting the floor.

Coach Lemmon had been an all-state player in Tacoma, Washington and he knew that it was coach Litchfield's team and he only had to guide his cagers.

Bellfountain did not escape the gloom of the Great Depression and although the song "Happy days are here again" was the number one song; it was not a sign of the period. Athletics and particularly, basketball provided a diversion to what the community and country was going through. The team

gave the locals something to look forward to—the playoff games and beyond. Town's people travelled many adventurous nights journeying gravel and dirt roads to rival gymnasiums.

Dick "Bunny" Kessler was the only one close to six feet and was the center jump specialist. He could really jump and would win over half the jump balls after made field goals, even against much taller opponents. He proved valuable as a defensive cog as goal tending was legal. His inside scoring complimented the outside launchings of his teammates. He scored 20 points against Portland champion Franklin and converted all of his nine free throws in the championship game. His 16.3 average was tops on the team. He was recruited by Oregon State College. Bellfountain converted 15-17 from the foul line. He would be the leading scorer and rebounder and win the sportsmanship trophy, as did Harry Wallace in the 1936 tournament.



Harry Wallace (*right*), the All-Tournament 5'10" guard had an interesting incident that helped him become one of the best shots in the state. One summer he was at the Bellfountain Park experiencing a traveling show. The barker said that if anyone could stay in the ring for three rounds with "Bobby the bear Ferguson" they would collect TWO DOLLARS. Harry was picked up by the black bear and slung to the ground breaking his left arm. With no medical insurance, he learned from his coach to shoot with a crooked wrist. He became a superb shooter after his freshman season.



*Team Captain & floor general*

As winter dissolved into spring, the talk turned from hard times to the state tournament. On the morning of Wednesday, March 17, as Amelia Earhart was taking off on her round-the-world flight and the Portland City Council voted to experiment with a strange new gadget called a parking meter, a long line of cars moved from Bellfountain to Willamette University in Salem. Bellfountain would be the smallest school and the smallest team in the big show.



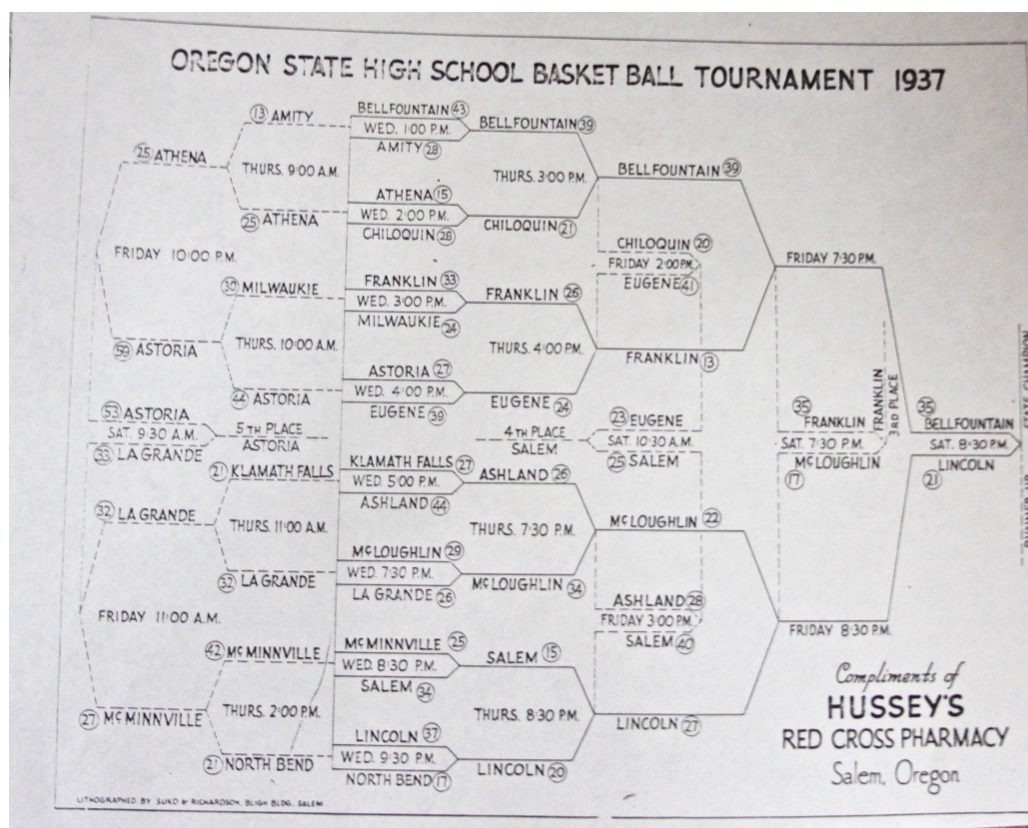
Bellfountain was the crowd favorite and as they came on the floor the

crowd of 3000 cheered their approval. The Bells immediately ran up a 20-3 lead against Amity and won convincingly 43-28. Dick Kessler was the big show as he hit nine of 12 shots from the field and scored 20 points. Harry Wallace contributed 10 and Wayne Larkin had nine.

The Oregonian still called the Bellfountain team the "boys from somewhere in Benton County".

At 3 P.M. the following afternoon, Bellfountain faced Chiloquin and raced to a 16-5 quarter lead. Kessler was everywhere and was the top point man with 16 and captain Wallace chipped in with 11. Bellfountain-39. Chiloquin 21. With the victory they won the B team classification. Since they were the small school champions they were entered against the "big boys".

Sportswriters had penciled Franklin vs Lincoln in the finals.



The overflow crowd on the third night, March 19 was anti Franklin. Franklin, a school of over 2100 students was the Portland champion. Franklin had just knocked off Eugene and had used rough tactics to upset them. They tried to intimidate the Bells but it didn't work. The first quarter was tied at four. Bellfountain led at halftime 16-9. The Bells defense held the Quakers without a point for 13 straight minutes. The little team from somewhere in Benton County was in the tournament finals after drubbing Franklin 39-13.



Lincoln of Portland felt they could derail the "giant killers" and sentiment was on the side of the Bells. The whole state of Oregon was rooting for Bellfountain that night. The tip-off was at 8:30 P.M. on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Bunny Kessler was matched up with the 6'5" Lincoln center. Bellfountain's crisp passing and fast break led to a 9-4 first quarter lead. A dominant second period led to a 20-8 lead.

The Bells kept the pressure on and won handily 35 to 21. Each team had 10 field goals but Bellfountain converted 15 of 17 free throw attempts. The Bells



had only four fouls for the game. Kessler was 9-9 from the free throw stripe and scored 13 points to lead all scorers. Stan Buckingham added 9 and Wallace 5.

Following the game, Kessler and Wallace were named first team all-tournament and Stanley Buckingham made it on the second team. Larkin, Kessler, Wallace and Stan Buckingham were selected on the all-state B team.

Kessler was voted the sportsmanship trophy just as Wallace had earned the same honor the previous year.

For the Bellfountain Bells, 1937 was the climax to a historic high school season. They won 24 games with only 2 defeats.

**1937 Scores: (24-2)** Earned a 7-1 record at state tournament in 1936 & 1937. In 1938 jump ball after made basket eliminated. Bellfountain students were moved to Monroe High School in 1939.

*Bellfountain-43; Amity-28*

*Bellfountain-39; Chiloquin-21 (Class B State Champions)*

*Bellfountain-39; Franklin-13*

*Bellfountain-35; Lincoln-21 (Class A State Champions)*

It's difficult to visualize the celebration and trip back to Bellfountain. I think it would resemble something, in a smaller version, of the reception when Indiana's Milan traveled home. The only difference is Bellfountain had no mayor to welcome the team and there would be no parade. I think it would have been a lot of honking horns through Benton County and a lot of feasting and celebrating afterwards. And I also think, knowing what I know about the eight players, coach, and Bellfountain fans, they'd be back at work and school the next day. To a man, that experience was the greatest single event, not only in the state of Oregon, but also in many Bellfountain lives.





Just like the 1954 Milan Indians and 1936 Valley High School of Menlo Washington, the Bells would live forever as the greatest David vs Goliath story in small high school history.

Oregon filmmaker Phil Bransom is tackling the Cinderella story of the Bellfountain Bells. As of this writing it is on hold.

The team has celebrated a few team reunions. At the 25<sup>th</sup> reunion the seven surviving members suited up and beat the Monroe varsity team.

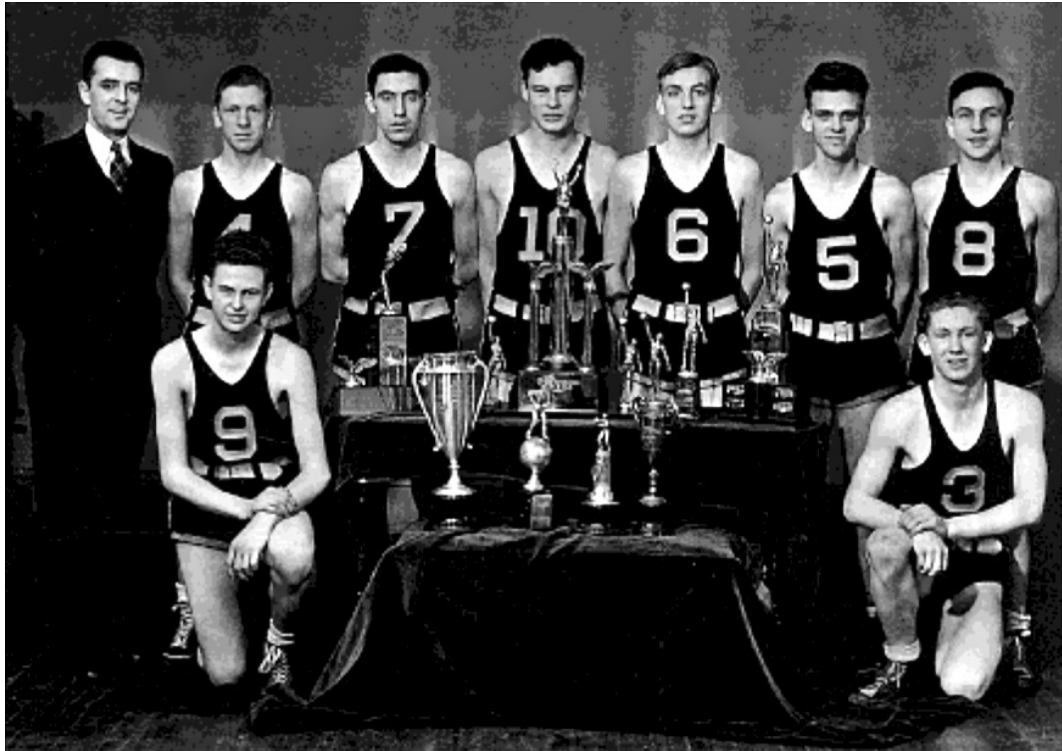
The Bells, with an enrollment of 27 students and eight team members, cruised to the Oregon state title and into basketball immortality.



*1977 40th reunion*



*Bellfountain's student body*



*The state championship basketball team. Back row: L-R Coach Bill Lemmon, Stanley Buckingham, Harrison Wallace, Richard Kessler, Frank Buckingham, Clifford Larkin, Norman Humphrey. Kneeling: L-R Lynn Hinton, John Key*



*And David put his hand in the bag and took out a stone and slung it. And it struck the Phillistine on the head and he fell to the ground.*





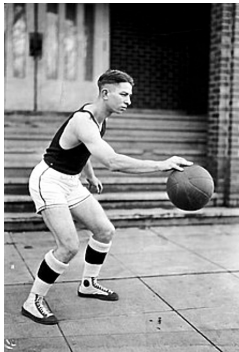
# Howard "Hobby" Hobson

*"If there is a basketball game in heaven, I know who's coaching"* —Former University of Oregon star Laddie Gale on national championship winning coach Howard Hobson.

BORN IN 1903, HOWARD HOBSON grew up in Oregon and attended Portland's Franklin High School. His team would win an unusual championship after losing a game to Baker High School in the 1921 state tournament. However, Hobson and his teammates were re-instated to the tournament when it was revealed that Baker had used an ineligible player and forfeited their wins.



Hobson and his mates shook off the effects of "breaking training", which amounted to not practicing and eating ice cream and won two games in a row on Saturday to claim the state championship. "Hobby" would be selected to the All-Tournament First Team. The championship did not signify the end of Hobson's time in Oregon sports history. It was rather just beginning.



He played for the University of Oregon from 1924-1926, tying Oregon Agricultural College for the Pacific Conference Crown in 1925. The Ducks fell to OAC in the playoff series. In 1926 the Ducks won the conference crown only to lose to California in the championship series.

After he graduated from University of Oregon, he began his coaching career, stopping at Kelso, Washington before landing back in Portland at Benson High School in 1930. 164 eager basketball hopefuls appeared at try-outs. Hobson and Benson missed the state tournament his first year but the following two were banner years for the Portland school.



*Captain Howard Hobson, front row, second from right*

In 1931, the team compiled a 21-5 record heading into the state tournament. They easily defeated Pleasant Hill in the first round and squeaked by Ashland 24-22 in the second round. All that stood between Benson and a berth in the state championship game was the Capitol City '5' that had dominated the state in its early years. Salem prevailed 25-18 knocking Hobson and Benson to the third-place game. There they would meet another early powerhouse, Astoria, who was coached by John Warren. I wonder if Hobson and Warren knew that they would soon be in line for the same job at the University of Oregon. Warren's Astoria club got the best of the matchup, winning 30-23 to secure third place. Benson sophomore flash, Cliff "Chief" McLean, was chosen as a unanimous First Team selection.

The following year Benson cruised to Salem with a 25-1 record and looked every part the championship contender. Once again Astoria was strong, as were Salem, Corvallis and Medford. Benson caught a nice draw into the semifinals, easily defeating small school entry Athena 38-11 before hammering Lincoln 33-14 to reach the semifinals. The win set up a showdown with Warren and the Fishermen. Once again, Warren and Astoria got the better of "Hobby" with a one-point win. Astoria would go on to win the state championship. Cliff McLean would repeat as the top vote getter on the tournament First Team while teammate Morrie Helser was chosen on the Second Team. McLean was the state basketball player of the year in 1932.

Hobson missed most of Astoria's dominance over the next couple of years after opting to join the college coaching ranks at Southern Oregon where he won three league titles in a row. (56-13) He also coached the football team. Following the '34- '35 season, which ended with a trip to the national AAU Tournament, Hobby was ready to advance in coaching. His success at the high school and small college level came at just the right time as the University of Oregon was looking for a new coach to lead their team after coach Bill Reinhardt left to become football coach at George Washington.

**Sidebar:** *Cliff McLean would follow his coach, Howard Hobson, to Southern Oregon Normal (now SOU) and play football and basketball for three years. Subsequently he and Hobson would find their way to the University of Oregon where McLean played baseball and basketball his senior year.*



**McLean**

Another quality applicant entered his name into the hat as coach for University of Oregon, Astoria's John Warren. Astoria and Warren were fresh of a remarkable streak, having won four of the past six Oregon state high school championships. Both candidates were worthy choices. So, the university did the logical thing and hired them both. Hobson coached the varsity while Warren was hired to coach the freshmen.

Hobson immediately loaded the roster with in-state players, including the top players from Astoria's 1935 state championship team.



In addition to basketball, Hobson also coached the Oregon baseball team.

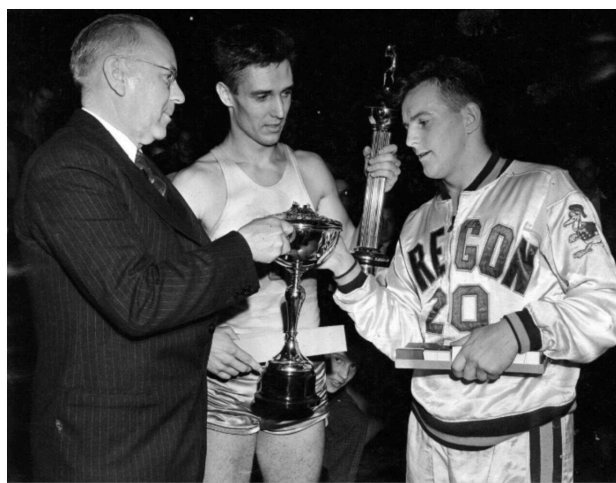
So, began the journey to the NCAA championship for the Oregon Ducks.

During his illustrious coaching career, Hobson became somewhat of a trailblazer. He was notorious for his stat keeping, at a time when very few teams charted stats. He had his managers chart every shot, rebound, assist and turnover. He was also one of the first coaches to advocate the use of a three-point line and widening the old "keyhole" three-second lane. As an active member of the NCAA rules committee, he staged a game between Columbia and Fordham in 1945 where the new three-point line and widened lane were used. He also advocated a 30-second shot clock, which should come as no surprise given Oregon's up-tempo style of play.



His fast-breaking offense frustrated and wore down his opponents but equally confounding was a zone scheme he employed that would later become known as a "matchup zone." It looked like a 2-3 zone but it employed man-to-man principles so teams couldn't figure out if they were to run a zone offense or a man-to-man offense against the defense. Hall of Fame coach Phog Allen, who played for James Naismith and coached the likes of Dean Smith and Adolph Rupp showed up at the 1939 national championship press conference to discuss Oregon's mysterious and effective defense.

Basketball in the late 30's was still catching hold and Hobson saw an opportunity to make a splash and promote the University of Oregon to the masses back east. In the championship season of 1939, Hobson and the Ducks became the first west coast team to travel east for a series of games.



*Team Captain, Bobby Anet accepts broken championship trophy. During the game Anet had dived over the scoring table breaking the trophy.*

The Ducks met City College of New York at Madison Square Garden where a crowd of 16,000 fans roared as CCNY knocked off the Ducks 38-36. The trip was the first for a West Coast team. Oregon won the Pacific Coast Conference title and advanced to the West Region tournament, where they beat Texas and Oklahoma to advance to the title game at Northwestern University in Chicago. The Ducks beat Ohio State 46-33 before a crowd of 5,500 to win the inaugural NCAA title.

He continued to lead the program and in 1944 handed it over to John Warren.

Hobson would eventually move east to coach at Yale and coached there from 1948-1956. He won or shared five Big Three championships. He also became the first coach to win a championship on both coasts. Just as he had done at Oregon, Hobson pioneered inter-sectional play at Yale, bringing his 1948-1949 team to the Pacific Coast for a series of games. He guided Yale to the NCAA tournament in 1949. He authored many books on the sport as well.

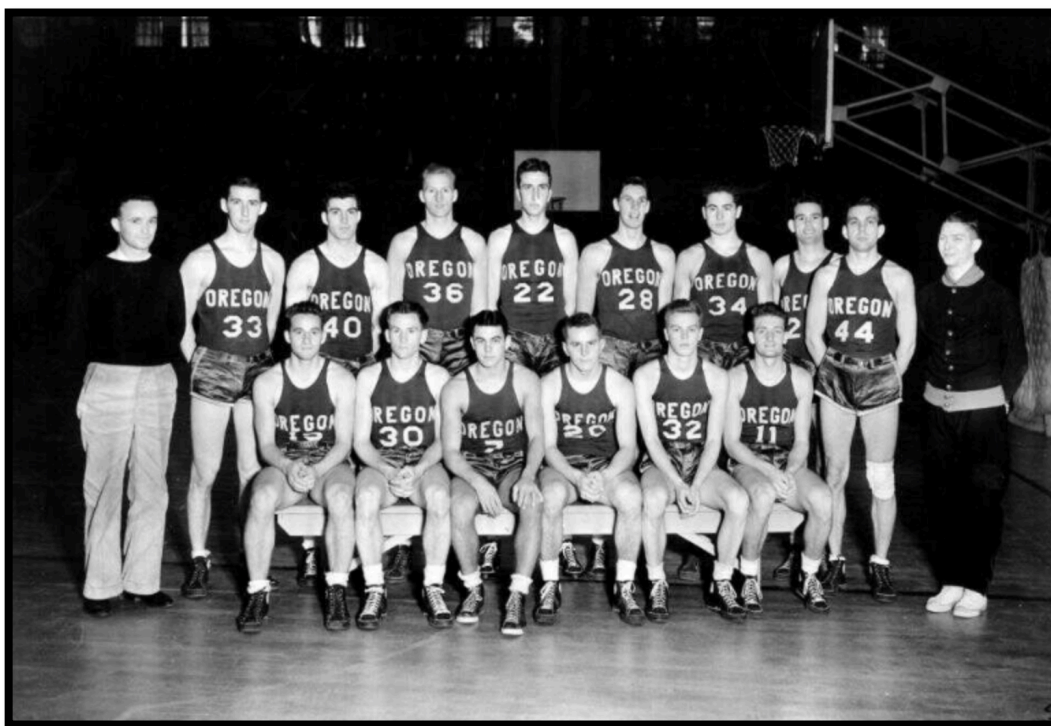
He retired in 1956 with a record of 495-291 in 27 seasons as a basketball coach.

In 1947 he was named President of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) and was enshrined into the basketball Hall of Fame as a coach on October 13, 1965 and inducted into the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural class in 1980. He died in 1991.

At the time much of the nation regarded the N.I.T. as the national championships. Clair Bee's undefeated Long Island University-Brooklyn Blackbirds declared themselves the true national basketball champions.



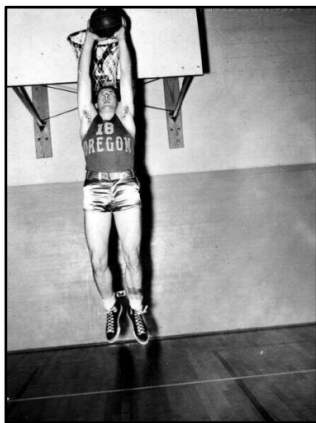
*Long Island Blackbirds*



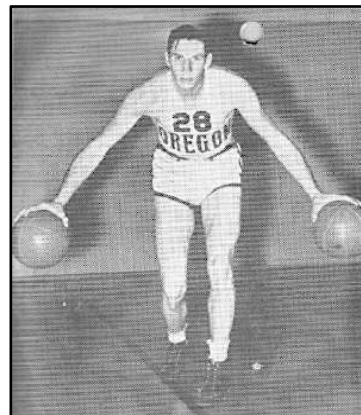
*1939 Oregon Webfoot "Tall Firs" Basketball Team*



Webfoots' pre-season team photo. Back row: Manager Jay Langston, Wimpy Quinn, Earl Sandness, Laddie Gale, Slim Wintermute, Archie Marshik, John Dick, Coach Howard Hobson. Front row: Ted Sarpola, Ford Mullen, Toivo Piippo, Red McNeeley, Wally Johansen, Bobby Anet, Matt Pavalunas, George Andrews. Not pictured: Bob Hardy, Don Mabee.



*6'4" Jr. John Dick*



*Sr. All-American  
6'4" Top Scorer - Laddie Gale*



*Sr. All-American  
6'8" Urgel "Slim"  
Wintermute*



*Sr. All-American  
5'8" Bobby Anet*

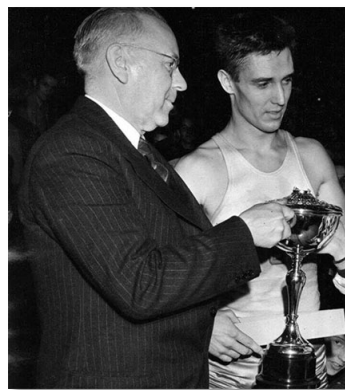


*Sr. 5'11" Wally Johansen*





*Northwestern University's Patten Gymnasium*



*Victorious trip back to Eugene*



*Team Reception in Eugene*



# OREGON



## NATIONAL CHAMPS

### Wandering Webfoots Whip Ohio State

**Oregon Emerald Coach Hobby Hobson's Team Outfights Nation's Finest**

**FIRST ANNUAL BUSINESS MEET STARTS TODAY**

**Nation Hails Ducks After 46-33 Victory**

**Northwest Leaders To Talk 'Job-Hunting' With BA Students**

**Thirteen Get Straight A Grades, 136 on Winter Term Honor Roll**

**Bedlam**

**Orchids For the Team**

Scoring				
	1	2	T	
Oregon	21	25	46	
Ohio State	16	17	33	

### Oregon

Glossary · SHARE · Embed · CSV · Export · PRE · LINK · ?

Basic Box Score Stats																		
Player	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL
John Dick	4										5	5	1.000					3
Bobby Anet	4										2	3	.667					10
Laddie Gale	3										4	5	.800					10
Wally Johansen	4										1	2	.500					9
Slim Wintermute	2										0	1	.000					4
Player	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL
Ford Mullen	0										0	0						0
Matt Pavlunas	0										0	0						0
School Totals	17										12	16	.750					8

### Ohio State

Glossary · SHARE · Embed · CSV · Export · PRE · LINK · ?

Basic Box Score Stats																		
Player	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL
Jimmy Hull	5										2	4	.500					2
Robert Lynch	3										1	3	.333					7
William Sattler	3										1	2	.500					7
Richard Boughner	1										0	0						2
Jack Dawson	1										0	0						2
Player	MP	FG	FGA	FG%	2P	2PA	2P%	3P	3PA	3P%	FT	FTA	FT%	ORB	DRB	TRB	AST	STL
John Schick	1										0	0						2
Don Scott	0										1	1	1.000					1
Richard Baker	0										0	0						0
Gilbert Mickelson	0										0	0						2
Charles Maag	0										0	0						0
Robert Stafford	0										0	0						0
School Totals	14										5	10	.500					13



## Fighting Fishermen

**W**OODROW WILSON WAS PRESIDENT. The Great War was over and the "boys" were coming home, many to complete their high school educations. The eligibility requirements for athletics was not as restrictive as it is now and it was not uncommon for team members to be in their early 20's.



The first quarter century of Oregon high school basketball produced some early dynasties. The first "official" state basketball tournament was held in 1919 but earlier efforts had been attempted. Invitational tournaments had been tried under the guise of state tournaments, but most of all they were set up to get teams and spectators to bring revenue into their community. Some college towns saw it as a way to show off their campuses for future recruits. Southern

Oregon had many invitationals in the early years. Finally, in 1919 schools from all over, including teams east of the Cascades began Oregon's "March Madness".

Small schools were being invited to the "big dance" along with the large schools such as Eugene, Salem, Portland, and Medford. Salem was selected as a central tournament site. Schools that were from central and eastern Oregon had much to contend with, even getting to Salem. It took Wallowa, one of the powerful small classification schools, in 1925 and 1929, 24 hours to get to the big city by train. Most of these rural schools were just thrilled to go to the valley site. Caravans of vehicles loaded with fans would empty the town to venture to the tournament. Some schools would have fundraisers to have their boys participate. It would be the biggest experience of the school year and some schools would get new uniforms for the big trip. Most didn't expect to win against the likes of the large valley schools with their enormous enrollments. It was a thrill to travel and see another part of the state. Many teams would travel for each game avoiding the expense of lodging in local motels. They would face a hostile environment, larger gyms, travel, different official's interpretations, homesickness, and eating and sleeping conditions. "B" schools had their own tournaments with the winner advancing against the big schools. Many times, the reward of competing at the event was to visit a college campus. Before 1926, it was a single-elimination format. In 1932 the tournament expanded to 16 teams.

The group to run and coordinate this event was originally created in 1918 as the "Oregon State High School Athletic Association", the name changed to the "Oregon School Activities Association", or O.S.A.A., in 1947.

## 1919-1942

It is during this time that two high schools emerged as consistent entries at the state tournament. Salem with a population of around 17,000 and Astoria with about 14,000 Scandinavian immigrants would dominate as no other period of the 97-year tournament history.

From 1919 to 1942 the two regular warriors would see the evolution of the game and be in every state tournament but one. The two schools would be crowned state champions 12 times out of the first 23 years.

Salem would be state champs six times and runner-up's seven times. Astoria would also win the state crown six times and finish second twice.

Salem would win a trophy nine out of the 13 years between 1930 and 1942. Astoria earned a trophy 11 times during the same period. In addition to these six first place trophies came trophies for two third place finishes, a fourth and two fifth places. That's 11 trophies in 12 seasons—unequaled in Oregon boys' basketball annals.

During the first 23 years both schools earned a spot in 22 tourneys! They would be responsible for 21 of the 24 championships and runner-up hardware.

Between the two powers, they would have 71 players selected to the two All-Tourney teams—34 for Astoria and 37 for Salem—out of a possible 230.

The "Fighting Fishermen" would take home a trophy every season from 1930-1937.

Many illustrious coaches would be tournament regulars: Salem's Hollis Huntington and Harold Hauk; Klamath Union's Dwight French; Medford's Prince "Prink" Callison; and Eugene's Hank Kuchera.

The first Astoria basketball team was formed in 1910 and since that time the sport has been almost as popular and important to the little seaport town as lumber and the priceless salmon.



The first three years at the tournament, 1919-1921, the Fishermen would play for three different coaches. The next three campaigns were under the guidance of once great Astoria athlete, Martin Nelson, whose 47-yard drop kick field goal is still an Astoria record. Although a football coach by trade his hoopsters achieved a remarkable 53-11 record; including a second-place

trophy in 1923. Lloyd Sowers carried the basketball torch until John Warren's appearance in 1928-'29. Sower's record was 50-17. It was this environment that Mr. Warren strode into—WINNING!

### **Scandinavian Influence**

The colorful coastal village of Astoria has been renamed twice, and influenced significantly by the people who immigrated to it over the years; a large portion of which were Scandinavian in origin and whose descendants continue to live in the region. Eventually they would help the basketball program to immortal greatness.

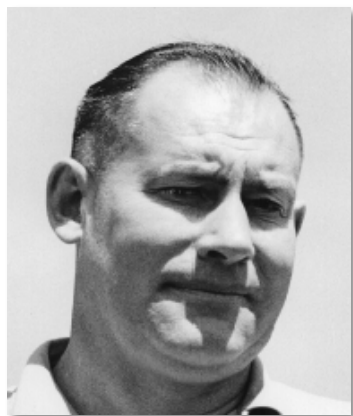
Astoria's population continued to grow from the time of its establishment in 1811 until 1930, ranging from a meager 300 people in the city up to 14,000, and once again dropping to 10,000 where it's lain until the present day. Most of the population growth was due to the enormous opportunities in the fishing and timber industries from the early 1800's until the early 1900's.

But its what basketball meant to one community that makes for an interesting story. The past 100 years has included many wars, financial recessions, and hardships to many. Basketball has been a diversion in our everyday lives. A flash flood leveled the town of Heppner, killing 250, but the town rebounded around its basketball team.



But basketball has another importance to local Astorians. Besides developing coordination, skills, confidence, social enjoyment, competition, winter gym warmth, individual development, and a carry-over sport to be enjoyed at all levels of competition—it can even bring a divided town together...

Former great athlete and coach, Wally Palmberg, mentioned in his 2001 interview that the kids from Finland, Norway and Sweden kept to their particular neighborhoods and kept their traditions in school, play, and work.



*John Warren*

Not speaking English fueled the division from groups of kids around the town. The town was divided. Despite the shared Scandinavian roots of many in the Astoria area, it wasn't until the coming of John Warren in the fall of 1928 that Astoria had the opportunity to become one united town.

John Warren was born in La Grande and raised on the family's farm in Helix. He learned at an early age the value of hard work. He played on the University of Oregon football team and moved to Astoria to coach football.



Coach Warren arrived in Astoria as a 22-year-old. In those early years, relaxed eligibility rules kept some of his athletes competing into their early 20's. He wasn't much older than many of his early cagers.

From September of 1928 to June of 1935, Astoria was John Warren's town. After all, the Pendleton High School, University of Oregon graduate produced four state basketball champions and two unbeaten football teams in his short seven-year stay at Astoria High School. During this period his "Fighting Fishermen" won four state championship, a second place, and two third place trophies.

On the gridiron, Warren's gridders were 44-13-5. Many of those wins came at the stadium that now bears his name. Known as "Honest John" by Astorians and opponents, Warren's 1928 (6-0-1) and 1931 (7-0-2) teams were unbeaten. The 1928 unit played Centralia Junior College to a 6-6 tie. In Warren's last two games on the sideline at Gyro Field, his troops presented him with routs of Seaside (64-0) and Scappoose (77-0).

### **Basketball dynasty**

Events were ready to launch John Warren on his fabulous coaching career. A three-school junior high school system carried on a highly competitive athletic program of football and basketball. The local YMCA at this time was referred to in the Spaulding Yearbook as the YMCA basketball hotbed of the United States. These two entities combined to funnel a stream of outstanding young athletes to the high school.

However, he must have seen the handwriting on the wall—he enrolled in summer basketball camps to learn the game after his first coaching season.

He quickly established his reputation as an excellent basketball coach, and set out to understand the Scandinavian students who played for him along with their parents. He made it a point to visit each of the neighborhoods where the residents segregated themselves from the other ethnicities, spending time with both individuals and groups. In so doing the residents began to feel comfortable with him, and thus were encouraged to attend the local high school games, mixing with other residents outside their neighborhoods and helping to create one whole community. Without realizing it, Coach Warren helped bring the ethnic Scandinavian groups together, and bring them into America's mainstream. An interesting fact was that the team was dubbed the "Flying Finns" by L.H. Gregory, a sportswriter for the Portland Oregonian, to which the team objected. The team was still a bit ethnic conscious but without ill feelings associated, and there was only one Finnish player on the team. Thereafter the Astoria High School teams became known as the "Fighting Fishermen", and are called thus today.

To Coach Warren's credit he tried to understand these sturdy ethnic youngsters and their parents. He spent time in "Little Helsinki", also in Uppertown and Alderbrook, to visit with parents and friends of his athletes, and to spend time with individuals and groups. The people felt comfortable with him and thus were encouraged to attend the games to mix with others and to feel that they were a part of the community. In this respect, Coach Warren was doing something that he may have little realized; helping to bring these ethnic people into America's mainstream. He sensed the intense, inherent pride embodied in the offspring of these immigrant parents. Conditioning became his forte and he combined this in his coaching with an appeal to this competitive quality. He brought the ethnic sides together with a common goal and molded them into cohesive units that became the great champions of the 30's.

### **1928-29 (18-4) District Champions. RUNNER-UP**

*Coach John Warren*

**Roland Larson:** All-Tournament First Team

**Milton Thompson:** All-Tournament Second Team

In Warren's first season, his team established an 18-4 record. In the district



*1928- '29 Second Place Team. Coach Warren's first team*

playoffs against a strong St. Helens team, the Fishermen won both games by scores of 28-27. Many years they would have to win five district games just to get to the tournament.

At the state tournament, Astoria wiped out Eugene 41-25, upset the tournament favorite Washington High of Portland with Ed Lewis, the to-be All-American basketballer for Oregon State in a 25-24

thriller. After this encounter, the team experienced a letdown coupled with fatigue. This hurt Astoria's championship hopes as they lost to Medford 35-14 in the finals. Roland "Dodo" Larson was selected on the All-Tourney team, Milton Thompson on the second All-Tourney team. This was the beginning that launched Coach "Honest John" Warren on a fabulous career.

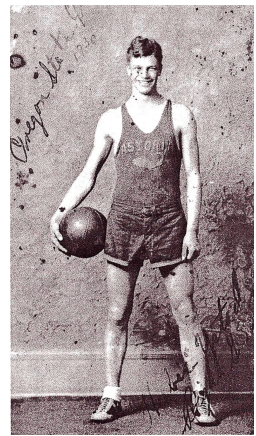
### **1929-'30 (22-4) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach John Warren*

**Herb Ystad:** All-Tournament First Team



Astoria High's 1930 basketball team probably never realized it at the time, but it set the precedent of winning championships at the state tournament when it brought home the state title for the first time. Astoria High was to follow this first title with five more state high school basketball championships during the era of 1931 through 1943. In addition to these six first place trophies came trophies for two third place finishes, a fourth and two fifth places. 11 trophies in 12 seasons—unequaled in Oregon boys' basketball annals.



*Herb Ystad-1930*

The 1930 championship team had only one starter returning from the previous year. The team was very young but talented. The starting center was Pern Averill who was a 9th grader at Lewis and Clark Junior High. Wally Palmberg, a promising future star, was only a sophomore and already one of the leading scorers on the team.



After taking the state title in 1930 and a third-place finish in 1931, Astoria was one of the heavy favorites to take home another crown in 1932. After all, the Fishermen were loaded with talented local youths that would go on to etch their names in the state of Oregon's hoop history. Many are still household names in Clatsop County.

### **1930-'31 (23-8) District Champions. THIRD PLACE TROPHY**

*Coach John Warren*

**Wally Palmberg:** All-Tournament First Team

Seven players off the 1930-31 team that closed out the previous season with a 23-8 mark, returned for another campaign. Among those on the 1931-32 team were: Robert Bergstrom, Edward Makela, Wally Palmberg, Tom Hayashi, Robert Lee, James Mackey, Erling Orwick, Harold Wright, Leland Canessa and Pern Averill.

### **1931-'32 (29-4) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach John Warren*

**Bob Bergstrom:** All-Tournament First Team

**Wally Palmberg:** All-Tournament Second Team

**Ed Makela:** All-Tournament Second Team

Astoria finished the season with 29 wins; the most ever by an Astoria squad. At home, the purple and gold were 15-1. All four losses during the regular season were avenged. Both frosh teams from Pacific University and Willamette University were among the teams that fell to the Fishermen.

Bob Bergstrom finished his high school career right behind Palmberg on the career-scoring list. Astoria had two players that were on the state championship unit of 1930. Senior Wally Palmberg started for three years and would become the Fishermen's all-time career scoring leader during his final year. Junior Pern Averill was elevated to the varsity as a freshman and would play one more season on the 1932-33 Astoria team that went on to grab another third-place state trophy. Both Bergstrom and Palmberg would start for Slats Gill and the Oregon State Beavers a few years later. After the tournament, Oregon Governor, A. W. Norblad, presented awards to the victorious teams. It was extra special for Norblad who was an Astoria resident.

Astoria almost did not get a chance to play in the 14th annual hoop tournament. All-state performer and leading scorer, Wally Palmberg did not enter school until the fourth week of school, choosing to use a valid work permit. Lower Columbia League member, Westport High School, claimed that Palmberg be declared ineligible.

The district athletic board awarded the county title to Westport. A few days went by before the state athletic board over-ruled the district decision saying that Palmberg's paperwork was in order. After a lengthy protest and a dominating win over Westport, (54-12) the local cagers were off to Salem and their second title in three years.

Palmberg would go on to shake off the missed school time, later becoming the president of a Wyoming community college.



Another eligibility challenge came up on the opening day of the state tournament. A Portland lawyer, representing a Portland high school, presented a birth certificate that showed Palmberg was over the 19-year-old age limit. Palmberg's brother was sent back to Astoria to obtain a copy of Palmberg's actual birth certificate from the family's safe, which proved the other to be falsified.

### **1932-'33 (27-7) District Champions. THIRD PLACE TROPHY**

*Coach John Warren*

**Lee Canessa:** All-Tournament Second Team

### **1933-'34 (39-4) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach John Warren*

**Ted Sarpola:** All-Tournament First Team

**Bobby Anet:** All-Tournament First Team

**Lee Canessa:** All-Tournament Second Team

### **1934-'35 (40-4) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach John Warren*

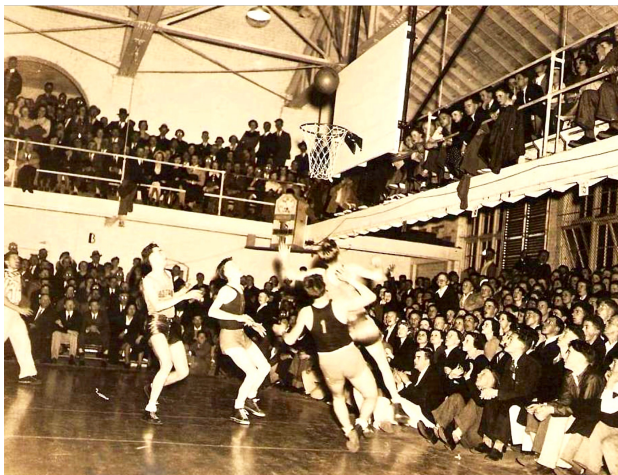
**Ted Sarpola:** All-Tournament First Team

**Bobby Anet:** All-Tournament First Team

Winters brought statewide attention to Astoria, as Warren's cagers would win four state titles, along with compiling a 192-35 record—a .846 winning percentage. Seven seasons on the maple hardwood of Patriot Hall saw the Fishermen prevail in 106 of 119 games. The 1934-1935 high schoolers were 24-2 at the friendly confines of the Jerome Avenue hoop palace. That team, Warren's final at Astoria, set a state record for wins its 40-4 record. Averaging a 27-5 win-loss record during Warren's tenure, the locals won the last 27 games that Warren coached against high school foes.



*Bobby Anet*



The 1935 tournament, at Willamette University, is arguably the most talented tournament ever. In terms of star power, this tournament had it all. At least seven Division 1 basketball players under one roof! The 1935 state tournament included seven future players on Oregon's 1939 national champion Tall Firs squad. Laddie Gale (Oakridge), Robert Hardy (Ashland), Ted Sarpola, Wally Johansen, Bobby Anet (Astoria), John Dick (The Dalles) and Don

Mabee (McMinnville) all appeared in the 1935 tournament. In addition, Astoria coach John Warren led Astoria to a 40-4 record and a state championship. Warren would join the University of Oregon program in 1936 as freshman basketball coach and would later coach the varsity.

In the fall of 1935, Warren joined the University of Oregon staff coaching football, basketball and baseball at the freshman level. He was swooned by Howard Hobson at the University of Oregon to coach the freshman



Astoria's 1935 team which won second straight title for John Warren probably produced more famous collegians than any in Oregon history. Bobby Anet, Ted Sarpola and Wally Johansen went on to become members of the Tall Firs of Oregon, the first NCAA champions in 1939. From left, *front row*: Anet, Henry Nilsen, Henry Kokka, Sarpola and Johansen. *Back row*: Coach Warren, Ernest Koven, Hiram Parker, Mel Olson and Albert Luukinen.

basketball team and bring some talent with him. This provided a direct line between Astoria and Eugene, as many division one players would be in the Webfoot lineup from the mouth of the Columbia River. Warren served seven seasons as freshman basketball coach, compiling an impressive 108-12 win - loss record. The program was discontinued when freshmen became eligible for varsity action during World War II. Four former "Fighting Fishermen" were on the "Tall Firs" national championship team of 1939—Oregon's first national championship.

After the hostilities in Europe had ended, Warren took over the coaching reigns of the Duck varsity for five years. His 1944-1945 squad registered a 30-13 record. The 30 wins was the most victories in a season by the University of Oregon until 2016.

Warren coached varsity football in 1942, before the program was suspended in 1943 due to the war. He also coached track and swimming.

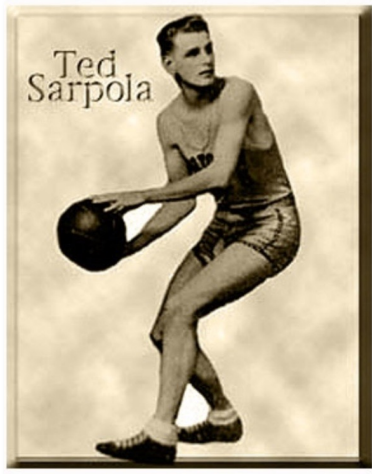
### **1935-'36 (29-11) District Champions. FOURTH PLACE TROPHY**

*Coach George Emigh*

**Ted Sarpola:** All-Tournament First Team

**Henry Kokka:** All-Tournament Second Team

Ted Sarpola would surely have been tagged with the moniker "Magic". His fancy, on target passes and jump shot (the two-handed set shot was still used widely) was the talk of Oregon's prep circles.



Playing in the era of the center jump after each basket and the six-foot lane, not to mention no three-point field goals, Sarpola is believed to be the state of Oregon's first high schooler to score over 1,000 points in a career. In fact, at the time of his induction in 1997, Sarpola's 1,223 career points still stood as the AHS all-time career leader.

His 473 points during his junior year was also thought to be an Oregon record for one season at the time.

Sarpola led the Fishermen in scoring three consecutive seasons. His three straight 1st team all-state tournament selections put him on a very exclusive list.

Arthur Daley of the New York times wrote, after Clair Bee's Long Island University team had defeated the Ducks 56-55 in overtime at New York City's Madison Square Garden on December 16, 1940 "One reason Oregon lost is because it had to part with Ted Sarpola, its most talented performer, seven seconds before the first half ended. He had scored 13 points in the half: the slickest basketball artist seen around these parts since Hank Luisetti".

Sarpola would spend 34 years in the education field, with coaching stops in Baker City, The Dalles and Clatskanie. His final 11 years were as an employee of the Astoria School District.

### **1936-'37 (30-9) District Champions. CONSOLATION TROPHY**

*Coach George Emigh*

**Earl Sandness:** All-Tournament Second Team

### **1937-'38 (25-14)**

*Coach George Emigh*

In 1939, after compiling records of 29-11, 30-9 and 25-14 in his three years as coach at Astoria, George Emigh felt the heat of not winning it all; he left for Portland's Franklin High School.



**1938-'39 (23-15) District Champions.**

*Coach Wally Palmberg*

**1939-'40 (33-9) District Champions. THIRD PLACE TROPHY**

*Coach Wally Palmberg*

**Roy Seeborg:** All-Tournament First Team

**Art Koski:** All-Tournament Second Team

**Gene Knutsen:** All-Tournament Second Team

**1940-'41 (24-8) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach Wally Palmberg*

**Roy Seeborg:** All-Tournament First Team

**Elman Peterson:** All-Tournament Second Team

Nine of the state champions members would go on to play college basketball. The Fishermen would win 30 consecutive games between 1941 and 1942



**1941-'42 (26-4) District Champions. STATE CHAMPIONS**

*Coach Wally Palmberg*

**Rube Wirkkunen:** All-Tournament First Team

**Stan Williamson:** All-Tournament First Team

**Eben Parker:** All-Tournament Second Team





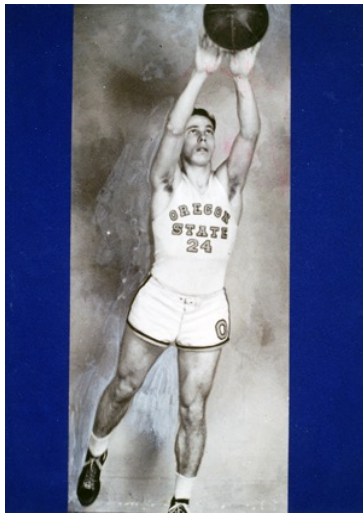
### **1942-'43 (19-2) District Champions.**

*Coach Wally Palmberg*

**Ken Seeborg:** All-Tournament Second Team

**Fred "Happy" Lee:** All-Tournament Second Team

Palmberg, arguably the best-known basketball personality in Astoria history, was the spark that led John Warren's 1931 and 1933 AHS teams to state titles was now the heir to the Fishermen nation.



*Wally Palmberg*

After three seasons and All-America honors under legendary Slats Gill at Oregon State University, Palmberg returned to Astoria as a coach and educator. The 5-foot-11 forward won All-American honors, as well as All-Pacific Coast Conference honors, in 1936 when he averaged 11.1 points for the Beavers.

Although Palmberg had not finished his course work at OSU, the job at Astoria was his, and the school held the position until Palmberg rushed to complete his college obligations. Palmberg's coaching job was again being held for him and he guided the Fishermen two more seasons before moving on to other endeavors.

If winning state titles in 1941 and 1942 were highlights of his coaching career, then Palmberg's biggest disappointment while at the Fishermen helm, had to come after his Fishermen defeated Salem, 32-25 in the opening round of the 1943 state tournament. Astoria, coming off back-to-back state titles, entered the tournament as the odds-on favorite to take home its third consecutive 1st place trophy. After all, Astoria rolled into Salem 18-0, packing a 29-game win streak, and loaded with talent. Two members of that team would start at Oregon State as freshmen. Astoria defeated Salem, 32-25 in the first round. That evening Palmberg gathered his troops and broke

the bad news to them. He would be reporting to the Navy in the morning, and the Fishermen would have to continue without him.



First Row: Johnson, Moore, Lee, Bryant, Dove.  
Second Row: Palmberg, Crandall, Wells, Nopson, Hill Seeborg, Thornton.

Astoria lost to Baker 29-24 and Pendleton 38-34 in its next two games without Palmberg sitting at the head of the bench. Future Astoria Hall of Fame coach, Pete Bryant, was a member of that team.

After he returned from the Navy he would coach two more seasons. The native Astorian's high school record was 167-65 for a .720 winning percentage. The two coaches that brought six state championships to Astoria in 14 seasons had a combined record of 359 wins against only 100 losses. (.782)

He returned to coaching in the mid-1950's, this time at the college level as the headman at Oregon Institute of Technology.

Palmberg's Klamath Falls squads won three Oregon Collegiate Conference titles: 1957, 1958, and 1961. He coached the Owls to their first 20-win season when the school went 20-4 in the 1957-58 season.

The **Astoria Royal Chinooks** were a professional basketball team based in Astoria who played in the Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League (PCBL) during the 1947-48 seasons. Palmberg was their player-coach and part owner. Their home court was the Astoria Armory.

When his coaching career ended, Palmberg earned his administration credentials and was a dean at Pendleton's Blue Mountain Community College, before becoming President of Central Wyoming College, a two-year institution in Riverton.

His book, *Under One Flag, a history of Lower Columbia Sports*, is considered one of the best of its kind in the entire country.

Palmberg was named to the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 1981 and the OSU Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

According to the 2001 interview, Palmberg was one of the few people who could recall Astoria when basketball was still in its infancy, and talked about how the sport eventually broke down cultural barriers in the city. "Basketball games were played everywhere, he added. The power company complained about backboards being nailed to power poles and wanted them removed. The town's people rebelled and the company ended up helping put up hoops. If local drivers came across a street basketball game in progress, they stopped for a suitable break in the action and a wave-through before they proceeded. Bobby Anet and Wally Johansen, two starters on Hobby Hobson's Championship team of 1939, lived across the street from each other in what was called Uniontown. They lived on a hill and could not put up a hoop but there was always a game to be found in the town. Both players had their college numbers retired at U of O. The YMCA and junior high schools developed players at an early age and kids played together all the way up since their elementary days."

"All the immigrants that came from Scandinavia didn't think much of us. There was constant antagonizing towards each other," Palmberg shares. "The Finns couldn't understand English, so they were lost. But after the stories got in the paper, some of them got very interested in what we were doing. They took classes to speak English, and eventually became very avid followers of the game." Throughout this era, many kids used the nickname "Swede".

The "Golden" years were over. The yearly drive to Salem would dry up and the trophy drought would hover over the deep-sea port like the morning mist. It would be 58 years before a Mike Goin club would bring a state championship home to Astoria in 1998. As you scroll through the All-Tournament teams one does not see any more names from Astoria until Gordon Scott appears in 1958 and 1959. He played under Coach Jerry Mosby. Astoria Hall of Fame coach Pete Bryant's stars, Dave Romppanen and Jon Norgaard, would join the tourney teams in '62 and '63. The Fishermen would move to a lower classification in 1981. Before that time Astoria had been one of three original schools, along with Hillsboro and Beaverton, to form the METRO League.

As a Sunset High School player, in the early 60's, I remember the long bus ride down to Astoria to battle the Fishermen. We would stop and eat the pre-game meal at Oney's Restaurant along Hiway 26 at Elsie. The cantankerous owner, Oney Camberg, was a faithful Astoria basketball fan. With her longshoreman dialect, she would torment us on how we would lose that night.



*Super fan*

The packed Astoria gym would be full of crazed fans. The court was college length and the announcer would be intimidating. All Astoria basketball players had "butch" haircuts. We were the first Washington County team to beat Astoria on their home court. For a small school competing at the big school classification, they were always tough to contend with. Astoria High, a school that never exceeded 425 students, is the first team west of the Mississippi to win 1500 games.

They *love* their basketball.



*Wally Palmberg*

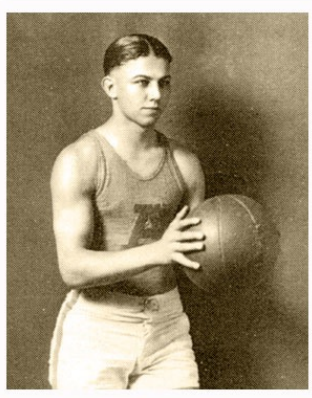


*John Warren*

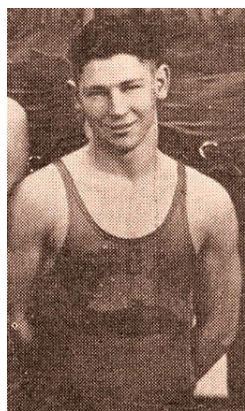




*Algot "Swede" Westergren  
1923*



*George Anderson-1925  
4-year starter*



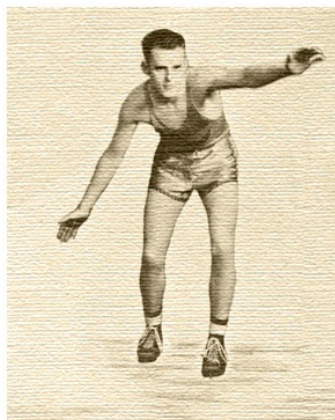
*Lee Canessa-1934*



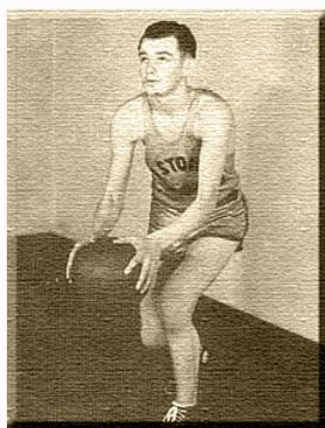
*Wally Johansen-1935*



*Earl Sandness  
1937*



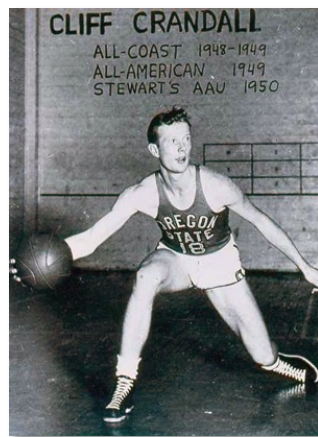
*Toivo Piippo-1937*



*Roy Seeborg-1941*

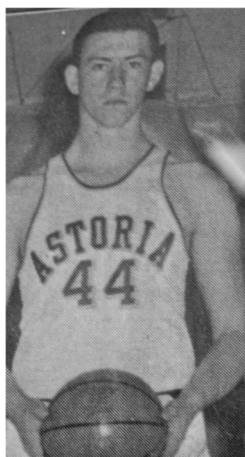


*Stan Williamson-1942*

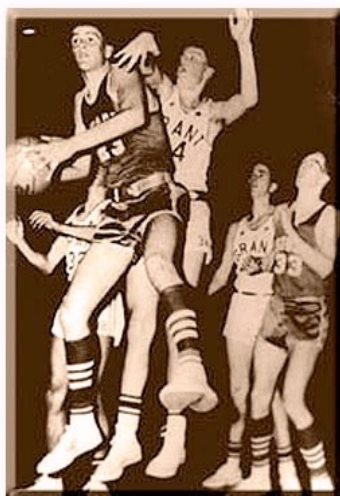


*Cliff Crandall-1943*

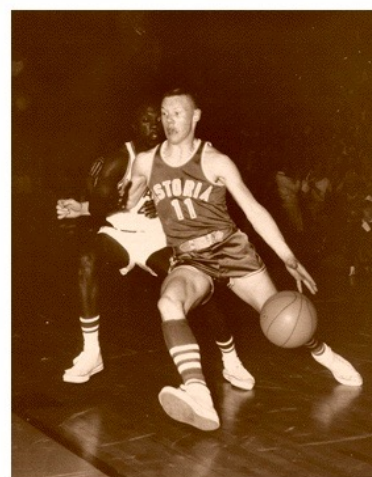




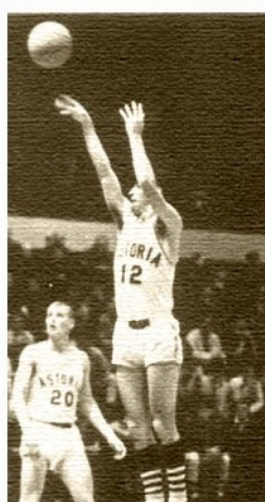
*Gordon Scott-1958*



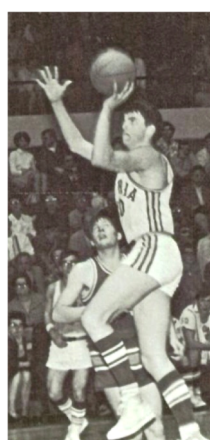
*Dave Romppanen-1963*



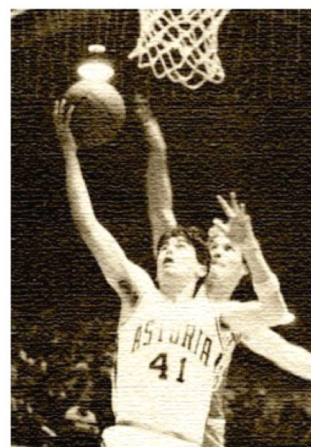
*Jon Norgaard-1963*



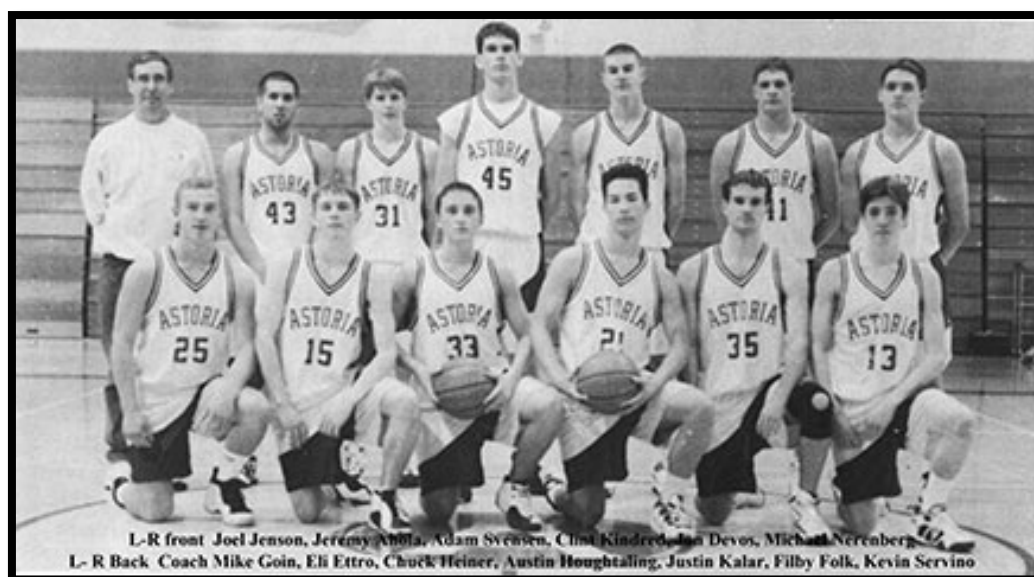
*Mike Goin-1967*



*Jim Mott 1970*



*Eric Viuhkala-1987*



*1998 State Champions*

## Indians—Heroes Before Trail Blazers

# 1977

WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR: President Carter pardons Vietnam “dodgers”, Elvis dies, Marquette defeats North Carolina, Seattle Slew wins the Derby and yes there’s that memorable Sunday day on June 5<sup>th</sup> when an expansion team, named the Portland Trailblazers, pulled off the unheard come-from-behind conquest over the Philadelphia 76ers. Who can forget Bill Walton throwing his sweaty jersey into the stands and the two Blazers fans perched atop the basket support or the victory parade through downtown Portland. “Red hot and rolling” became a legend!



Since Blazermania, Oregonians have had to rest on that memory as the only Oregon professional basketball championship. But 30 years before there was another team and league that battled for a professional championship down the street—the Portland Indians.

The Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League was a struggling professional

basketball league with teams from the Pacific Northwest in the United States and Canada. The league existed for two seasons: 1946-47 and 1947-48.

## Champions

1946-47: Bellingham Fircrests won round robin playoffs; chose not to play in the World Professional Basketball Tournament, so runner-up Portland Indians went instead, losing to the Sheboygan Redskins in the first round.

1947-48: Portland Indians defeated Seattle Athletics 3 games to 1. (The fourth game was disallowed after a timekeeping error and replayed two days later with Portland winning 76-74).

Portland's first pro basketball championship was not seized inside a multimillion-dollar arena in front of 13,000 spellbound fans.

And the Rose City's first champions were not heralded by the national media or feted in a ticker-tape parade.

Instead, the morning after winning their championship, Portland coach Harry "Swede" Roos, star center Noble Jorgensen and teammates quietly read a short account in The Oregonian, grabbed their lunch pails and drove to their offseason jobs.

# Is It Over, It's Official; Indians Win Hop Title

## Seattle Falls By 76-74 Tally

By BILL MULEN  
Special Staff Writer

The Portland Indians nailed up their second straight Pacific Northwest Basketball Association basketball league championship at the armory Sunday night by taking back the Seattle Athletics, 76 to 74, thus bringing to an end a season that for a time threatened to continue on indefinitely.

Was Portland's third triumph in the best-of-five title series with the As, who could salvage only one game in the set. The Indians were the first two played in the night, then dropped the third to Seattle at the armory Thursday night. Friday night's 81-to-80 Portland win was ruled non-existent on a disputed accidental stop with the buzzer, so Buray's team, officially the fourth of the series, actually was the first.

Close to Bitter End

Reason is out for Dizzy Trout's tremendous enthusiasm and his new weight strengthening—he took off 15 pounds before even more strenuous. Dizzy Trout's spring camp; he had to accept, due to poor 1847 showing, a 25 per cent cut in pay. . . . But if he pitches this season as Tiger bones and he himself think he can, and as spring camp gives evidence he will, he'll probably get it all back. . . . The days of easy going football practice in Pacific Coast conference, and particularly in the Pacific

SECTION TWO

PAGES 1 TO 12

# The Oregonian

# SPORTS

PORTLAND, OREGON, MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1948

## Greg's Gossip

By L. H. Gregory  
Sports Editor, The Oregonian

RE



But while the 1976-77 Trail Blazers beat the Philadelphia 76ers for their title, Portland's entry in the 1947-48 Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League knocked off its geographic rival, Seattle.

Since that season, Portland's title remains disputed, at least by Seattle Athletics forward Merlin "Boody" Gilbertson. "That was the biggest heist in basketball history," Gilbertson said.

In August 1946, when the seven-team Pacific Coast league was formed, pro basketball was a speck on a sports landscape long dominated by baseball, football, boxing and college sports.

Troubles in the new Pacific Northwest enterprise surfaced from the start. The Salem Trailblazers drew only 220 fans to their opener, while the aptly named Spokane Orphans, unable to secure a regular home floor, drew only 300 twice against Portland.

Portland, which along with Seattle's then-Blue Devils and the Vancouver, B.C. Hornets drew from the league's largest populations, attracted only 500 fans to each of its first two games in the 2,400-seat Portland Armory.

The fortress-like Armory, built in 1891 and constructed in dark stone and whitewashed brick at Northwest 10th Avenue and Couch Street, occupied an entire block in a blue-collar district of warehouses, breweries and automotive businesses. Presidents Taft, Roosevelt, and Wilson have given speeches there. It was used for all kinds of events. The south two-thirds of the building, inside which Portland played its games, was razed years ago. What remains is now the Gerding Theater at the Armory.



*Portland Armory*

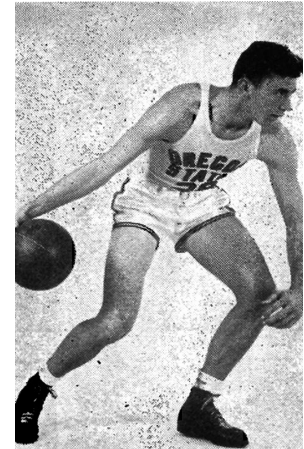
"The spectators sat right on the court line—that was out of bounds," former Portland guard Dave Teyema, said of the armory, whose portable court consisted of 160 sections and rested on asphalt. "You'd hit a dead spot in the floor and the ball would go flying."

After two sparse crowds, Portland reduced its ticket prices from \$1.80 (reserved) and \$1.20 (general admission) to \$1.25 (reserved), 85 cents (general admission) and 50 cents for students.

The Portland Armory, as pictured in 1949, looking northwest from Northwest 10th Avenue and Couch Street. The 2,400-seat arena hosted pro basketball games in the late 1940s—including the Rose City entry.



League president Ray W. Clark, who operated the St. Francis Hotel at Southwest 11th Avenue and Main Street, and team president Otis Anderson, a car dealer, saw crowds grow as the product on the court improved in that inaugural season. The team—featuring 6-foot-8 player-coach Urgel "Slim" Wintermute, former Oregon All-American with the 1939 NCAA champion "Tall Firs," and former Oregon State All-American John Mandic, a 6'4" forward—won 20 straight home games and the regular-season title with a 33-10 record but placed second to Bellingham in the playoffs.

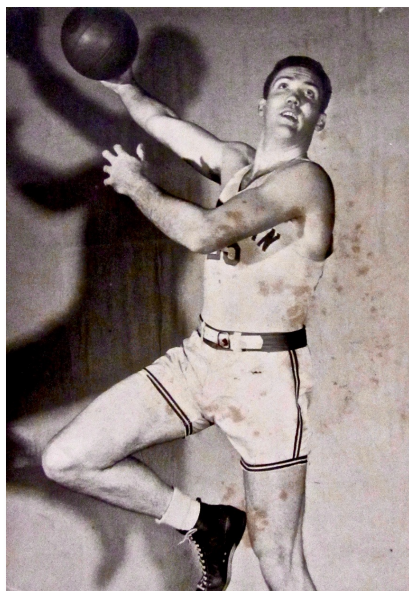


*John Mandic*

The Rose City's prospects looked dim for the league's second—and last season. Depleted, Portland had lost Mandic to the National Basketball League's Rochester Royals and Wintermute retired from basketball.

Before the season, coach Howard Maple resigned.

They signed three players from the Waterloo (Iowa) Pro-Hawks of the defunct Professional Basketball League of America. The 6'9" Jorgensen, who had starred at the University of Iowa, became Portland's centerpiece.



*6'9" Noble Jorgensen*

Portland appeared headed for doom in January after a devastating 12-game losing streak and with spotty fan support.

This was where Anderson, forever the car salesman, proposed a split season that allowed his team a mental reset. The league agreed.

After Portland's 7-26 first half, Jorgensen went on a tear, scoring a then-league-record 42 points against Bellingham.

Dave Teyema played for Portland in 1946-47 and part of the 1947-48 season.

"Jorgy was very good, more of a straight-ahead big man," said Teyema, a Roosevelt High School alum who finished the 1947-48 season with Vancouver. "He'd get his own balls off the basket.

There weren't too many really big guys in those days."

Portland fared better in the second half (9-14) and then got hot. Former Oregon guards Al Popick and Stan Williamson joined in March and became starters and helped Portland finish first in the round-robin playoffs at 5-2, advancing to face Seattle for the title.

Game 4 of the best-of-five finals. Portland ahead of Seattle two games to one. Twenty seconds left on the clock. Portland holding an 81-80 lead. Seattle star and player-coach Al Brightman scooped up a loose ball, nothing between him and the basket but waxed maple.

As Brightman raced toward the basket, timekeeper Millis L. "Windy" Wingate tripped the final buzzer. Referee Frank Mandic—John's brother—blew his whistle.

Brightman paused and then laid the ball into the basket.

Officials decided the final buzzer was the authority. Portland celebrated and Seattle protested. Clark stepped in and called a do-over.

The Oregonian's headline the next day summarized: Hoop Windup Is Confusin'; Not Amusin' —Premature Buzzer Cancels Pro Clash.

The cast of characters is worth noting: Clark was Portland's majority owner, Frank Mandic a former Portland player and Wingate a longtime Portland sports booster. Game 4 was played in front of "1,500 clients raw-throated and both clubs in torrid-temper" at the Armory.

"Homers", Seattle cried.

"There's no question who won that game," says Merlin "Boody" Gilbertson.

"The timekeeper hit the horn and the officials didn't know what to do," said Gilbertson, Seattle's third-leading scorer. "There was no question who won that game. Ten times I feel robbed. I'm an honest Norwegian and I don't like liars.

Game 4 was replayed two nights later, and Portland won 76-74. The Rose City had its first championship for keeps.

But further explanation of what happened behind the scorer's table on April 9, 1948, was forever lost on the Sellwood Bridge eight months later when Wingate was killed in an automobile crash.

Portland pro basketball then went into extended hibernation—until coach Jack Ramsay, finals MVP Bill Walton and his Blazers teammates electrified Memorial Coliseum almost three decades later.

While the 1976-77 Trail Blazers beat the distant Philadelphia 76ers for their title, Portland's entry in the 1947-48 Pacific Coast Professional Basketball League knocked off its geographic rival, Seattle. —*The Oregonian*

# PACIFIC COAST PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE

## 1946-'47 to 1947-'48

### FINAL STANDINGS (through Sunday, February 23, 1947)

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland Indians	33	10	.767	
Bellingham Fircrests	26	12	.684	4.5
Vancouver Hornets	24	14	.632	6.5
Seattle Blue Devils	18	19	.486	12.0
Salem Trailblazers*	8	21	.276	
Yakima Ramblers*	8	25	.242	
Spokane Orphans*	1	17	.056	

\*dropped by league

ROUND ROBIN PLAYOFFS	W	L	Pct	GB
Bellingham Fircrests	9	3	.750	
Portland Indians	7	5	.583	2.0
Vancouver Ramblers	6	6	.500	3.0
Seattle Trailblazers	2	10	.167	7.0

INDIVIDUAL SCORING	GP	PTS	PPG
Gale Bishop, Bell	39	771	19.8
Norm Baker, Van	37	694	18.8
John Mandic, Port	42	642	15.3
Slim Wintermute, Port	42	440	10.5
Norm Dalthorp, Sea		436	
Fred Osterhaus		352	
Al Maul, Sea		344	
Ernie Maskovich		333	
George Andrews, Van		330	



*Norm Baker*

\*\*\*\*\*

### TEAM ROSTERS

**Bellingham Fircrests-** Gale Bishop F, Chuck Patterson F, Bob Cotton C, Bobby Dorr G, Al Akins G, Ray Wark G, Smith, Olson, Simon, V. Sindern, Marcell G

**Portland Indians-** Urgel (Slim) Wintermute C (player-coach) (Oregon), Bill Tait F, Mike Hafenecker, John Mandic F (Oregon State), Harry Parrish (earlier with Yakima) (Presbyterian College), Ted Sapola (Oregon), Jack Butterworth G, Howard G, Frank Mandic, Roy Pflugard G, Don Durdan, Bob Hamilton

**Salem Trailblazers-** Ernie Maskovitch, O'Brink G, "Stretch" Osterhaus C, Don Stitt G, Len Yandle (Oregon), Kolb G, Johnson, Stroyan, Gray, Teyama, Anton, Vaughn

**Seattle Blue Devils-** Norm Dalthorp F, Al Maul F, Glavin, "Sig" Sigurdson C, Parsons, Wally Leask G (Washington), Chase, Frankie Watson (Gonzaga), Ernie Maskovich, Logg, Bill Fleming, John Katica F (St. Martin's)

**Spokane Orphans-** Johnson, Bill Magruder, Stroyan, Howard, Don Stitt, Bowen, Oberstaller, Olson (some of these players may have transferred from the Salem franchise when it ceased operation) Spokane's team was operated by Rufus Fox of that city. He later became the head coach at Hillsboro High School.

**Vancouver Hornets-** Doug Peden G, Norm Baker F, Ritchie Nicol G, Arthur Chapman, Ken Lawn F, Reg Clarkson, Sykes, George (Porky) Andrews G (player-coach?).

**Yakima Ramblers-** Harold (Moose) Schlichting C (Washington), Smith, Joe Matanich (Cle Elum, WA High), John Matanich (Cle Elum High), Don Sanders (Central Washington), Emil Drovetto G (Cle Elum High), Clipper Carmody G (Central Washington), Sorenson, Harry Parrish (later with Portland).

**Bellingham** declined an invitation to the World Pro Tournament in Chicago following the season. Portland, picking up Norm Baker and George Andrews from the Vancouver Hornets to replace Mike Hafenecker and Bill Tait, who were unable to make the trip, went instead as regular-season champions and playoff runner-ups. The Indians met the Sheboygan Redskins in a first-round game on Sunday, 6 April. 1947 and led after three quarters, 43-35, before bowing, 62-48.

\*\*\*\*\*

# **PCPBL 1947-'48**

**FINAL STANDINGS** (First half through games of Saturday, January 31, 1948, second half through games of Saturday, February 21, 1948)

<b>FIRST HALF</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Pct.</b>	<b>GB</b>
Seattle Athletics	22	10	.688	
Bellingham Fricrests	21	10	.677	0.5
Tacoma Mountaineers	16	13	.552	4.5
Vancouver Hornets	16	15	.516	5.5
Astoria Royal Chinook	11	19	.367	10.0
Portland Indians	7	26	.212	15.5

<b>SECOND HALF</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>Pct</b>	<b>GB</b>
Bellingham Fircrests	14	7	.667	
Vancouver Hornets	13	7	.650	0.5
Seattle Athletics	8	10	.444	4.5
Portland Indians	9	14	.391	6.0
Tacoma Mountaineers	5	11	.312	8.0

<b>LEADING SCORERS</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Norm Baker, Van	585
Noble Jorgensen, Port	478
Al Brightman, Sea**	443
Al Maul, Sea	425
Ken Hays, Ast-Bell	314
Arvid Sutherland, Port	299
Boody Gilbertson, Sea	288
Bill Osterhaus	282
Ray Wark, Bell	266
Bill Tait, Port	238
John Katica, Tac	236
Bob Graf, Tac	233
Wally Leask, Sea	233
Norm Dalthorp, Sea	216
Ernie Endress, Tac	203
Rube Wirkkunen, Ast-Bell	199
Erland Anderson, Ast-Port	199
Otto Kerber, Port	196
Jack Voelker, Sea	187
Ken Lawn, Van	172



**\*\*Gale Bishop of Bellingham had scored in excess of 400 points before being sidelined in February and for the remainder of a season with a "cut hand."**

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### **PCPBL RECORDS**

Most Points, Team, Game 88, Portland vs. Bellingham, December 14, 1947  
Most Points, Team, Game 89, Astoria vs. Bellingham, December 17, 1947  
Most Points, Team, Game 97, Vancouver vs. Astoria, December 27, 1947  
Most Points, Team, Game- 108, Bellingham vs. Portland, January 4, 1948  
Bellingham (108)- Bishop 41, Wark 18, Gainer 4, Gaffney 14, Akins 19, Baker 5, Thompson 0, Pattran 2, Chamberlin 5; Portland (67) -Smith 2, Sutherland 15, Jorgensen 21, Kerber 14, Taitt 0, Hashhagen 2, Stitt 3, Roos 5, Rodrigues 5.  
Most Points, Individual, Game- 43, Ken Hays, Bellingham vs. Portland, Monday,  
Most Points, Individual, Game- 42, Noble Jorgensen, Portland vs. Bellingham,  
Most Points, Individual, Game- 41, Gale Bishop, Bellingham vs. Portland,

On Monday, February 2, 1948, the Astoria club (Palmborg Brothers, Inc., named after three brothers—William, H.G. and Wally Palmborg) announced it would suspend operations due to "lack of attendance." President Clark later said that the franchise might be relocated to either Everett (WA), or Bremerton (WA). It was not revived, given that the league was in its last season. The team's star player, ex-Oregon "skyscraper," 6-foot-7-inch Ken Hays, was assigned to the Bellingham team

### **ALL-STAR TEAMS**

**First Team-** Gale Bishop, Bellingham; Al Maul, Bellingham; Noble Jorgensen, Portland; Norm Baker, Vancouver; Al Brightman, Seattle.

**Second Team-** Tom Smith, Portland; John Katika, Tacoma; Ken Hays, Astoria-Bellingham; Ray Wark, Bellingham; "Boody" Gilbertson, Seattle.

### **TEAM ROSTERS**

**Astoria** (Lower Columbia River) Royal Chinooks- Bill Magruder F, Rube Wirkkunen F, Ken Hays C (Oregon), Jack Howard G, Vernon G, Ty Lovelace G (Eugene, OR High), Wally Palmborg G (player-coach-part owner) (Oregon State), Bob Warren G, Erland (Andy) Anderson F (Oregon State), Frank Smith.

**Bellingham Fircrests-** Al Maul F (Bremerton, WA High), Gale Bishop F (player-coach) (Washington State), Chuck Patterson C, Ray Wark G, Bobby Dorr G, Cliff Gaffney, Chamberlin, Al Akins G, Elmer Gainer (later with Seattle).

**Portland Indians-** Bill Taitt F, Tom Smith F-C, Arvid (Suds) Sutherland C, Don Stitt G, Roy Pflugard G (player-coach in mid-season), F. Smith, John Bianco G (player-coach at beginning of season), Noble Jorgensen C (joined team upon demise of Waterloo franchise in BAA), Bill Dwyer F (Seton Hall), Good, Bowen, Ken Hashhagen (Pennsylvania), B. Anderson, Otto Kerber G (Waterloo in BAA), Harry Roos G (player-coach in late season) (Waterloo in BAA), Dave Teyema G (later joined Vancouver), Mike Hafenecker, Jack Butterworth, Ted Sarpola, Durdan, Abel (Rod) Rodrigues G, Stan Williamson G (Oregon), Al Popick G (Oregon), Jack Goldsmith.

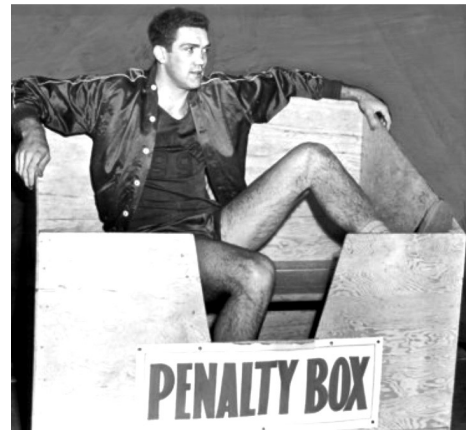
**Seattle Athletics-** Wally Leask G (Washington), Price, Hal Kottman C, Al Brightman G (player-coach) (Boston Celtics of BAA), "Boody" Gilbertson G (Washington), Dean White C (later with Vancouver), Frankie Watson F (Gonzaga), Norm Dalthorp F (Washington), Bill Glavin, Ken Suesens G (Sheboygan of NBL), Elmer Gainer (with Bellingham earlier).

**Tacoma Mountaineers-** John Katica F, Bob Voelker F (Washington), Bob Graf C, Hoffler F, Jack Voelker (Washington), Ernie Endress F, Sig Sigurdson G, Marv Harshman F (Pacific Lutheran), Tom Wark, Tom Cross.

**Vancouver Hornets-** Norm Baker F, Ken Lawn F, Bill (Stretch) Osterhaus C, Ritchie Nicol G, Doug Peden G, Arthur Chapman, Jack Vaughn, George (Porky) Andrews G (player-coach), Dave Teyema G (from Portland), Dean White C (with Seattle earlier).

The Salem Trailblazers (a nickname that would one day be attached to an NBA team in Oregon), Yakima Ramblers, Spokane Orphans and Astoria (Lower Columbia River) Royal Chinooks were flops; the first three failing to complete the first season and the latter team a second-half dropout in the second campaign. Astoria was chosen for a franchise location in the second season because occasional Portland games played there during the first season drew reasonably well. Bellingham played at least one game in neighboring Lynden (WA), and Tacoma's Mountaineers played at least one game in Centralia (WA). There may have been other "neutral" site games played which will be produced by additional research into the two seasons of play.

The league rules called for 48 minutes of playing time, divided into four, 12-minute quarters, and allowed for six fouls before an individual's disqualification. Due to increased physical roughness, an experimental "penalty box" such as ice hockey, was a short-lived effort. A player was removed after his sixth foul but could re-enter after a two-minute period. This proved to be an advantage for the over aggressive player. He would "use up" his allotted fouls knowing that he would be back in two minutes. Thus, it was a fiasco and was eliminated from professional and high school games.



A good crowd for the Coast Pro league was between 1,000 and 1,500, with a couple houses approaching the 2,000 mark in Portland. But, all too often, the lesser members of the loop played before thin gatherings of barely 100 more. The major-city newspapers of Vancouver, Seattle and Portland were sparing in their coverage of the new league, which sprang from the prosperous times immediately following World War II and which produced an explosion of new leagues in most major sports—including the new National Basketball Association.

These, in turn, fell prey to a variety of circumstances, most notably over-expansion, inadequate playing facilities and the advent of television's early days. The Coast Pro Basketball league was one of the casualties, with Clark declining to launch a third season in 1948-49.

**RIP CITY** would have to wait...

## Jim Winters Breaks Color Barrier

**J**IM WINTERS MADE UP his mind when he graduated from the University of Portland in 1957 that he wanted to help shape young minds.

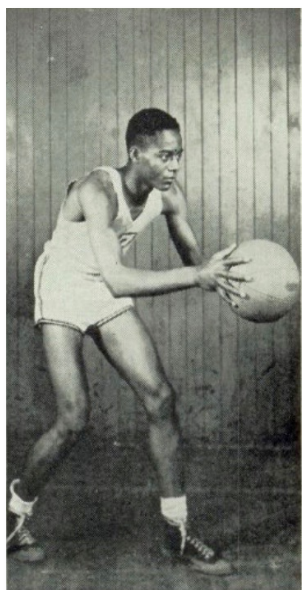
Even though he had impeccable credentials as an all-American college basketball player, student and a military veteran, none of the Portland high schools would hire him as a coach.

When an opportunity arose in St. Paul, he decided to try out the rural farming community in north Marion County.

What he found was a home.

When Winters was hired as St. Paul's boy's basketball coach, he became the first African-American head basketball coach—and possibly the first African-American head coach in any sport—in the state of Oregon.

Winters was born in Arkansas and moved to Portland early in his high school days, enrolling at Roosevelt.



*Roosevelt Sophomore  
starter, Jim Winters*

Though 5'10" and initially in the shadow of older brother, Jackson, he would later be his teammate at University of Portland. Winters made a name for himself at Roosevelt and the University of Portland.

He led the PIL in scoring (1948); was All-PIL first team (1949) and led the Roughriders to the school's only State Basketball Championship. Winters, who led the tournament in scoring, was named first team All-Tournament.

He followed his older brother Jackson in attending the University of Portland on a basketball scholarship. He met Patricia Anne Minor, also of Portland, and married her on March 2nd, 1951. Playing on four University of Portland NAIA National playoff teams during his career between the years of 1949 and 1952, he led the Pilots to

three 20-win seasons before serving three years in the Korean war, during which time the Pilots suffered three consecutive losing seasons. He returned for his senior season in 1955-56 to lead the pilots to his 4th 20-win season and garnering all-American honorable mention honors along the way. His impressive 20.2 points per game scoring average during that season still ranks third all time. Basketball fans and alumni from that era will always

remember the memorable games against Seattle University and victories over the Slaters Gill led teams of Oregon State University. Winters would be selected honorable mention all-American.

He was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War in between his years as a player at Portland, though he played some basketball while in the service.

When he finished his teaching degree from Portland, he sought out a job where he could teach and coach.

Winters was more concerned about the poor state of the roads leading to St. Paul than racism in the community.

"He said that the people treated him really good and he got along well with the athletes. Usually a small town could be very harsh, especially on the segregation situation," said Lloyd Bergman, a teammate of Winters' at Roosevelt and University of Portland.

"He actually enjoyed it. I don't think Jim would have stayed if he had hit any major obstacles or major problems."

Winters taught history, P.E. and health at St. Paul and worked as a guidance counselor.

Though Winters focused on being an educator, his work as a coach made him a trail blazer.

"Obviously I always say I thought it opened up the doors because he had some success," said Jimi Winters, his son. "It opened up the doors for some other black coaches."

"I think he was keener on shaping young people's lives, getting them to be serious at school and compete hard as athletes. I can tell you without any reservation that he was proficient in sports, but he was very, very big in academics and shaping people's lives."

Under Winters' guidance, St. Paul reached the Class 2A state basketball tournament in 1965 and his team won a Marion County championship.

"Well, he brought a new discipline to our program, I can tell you that," said Tom Frith, who played for Winters from 1957-1960. "I would like to think that he brought us into the modern era, if that was even possible back in 1958."



"He was strong on fundamentals. The funny thing about it, my first year there he had us put on a full-court press when the rest of the league hadn't even heard of a full-court press."

Race was a factor during Winters' playing days at Portland. There were times when he couldn't eat in the same restaurants and stay in the same hotels as his teammates. But no one remembers race being a factor during Winters' decade in St. Paul.

"We were embraced like we always belonged there," Anne Winters said. "Not one time ever that I can recall we felt different than anyone else. I didn't know we were different than anyone else until we moved to Portland."

While working and coaching at St. Paul, he also played semi-pro basketball with the Valley Motors team in Salem.

"He was a good ballplayer," said Jerry Smith, who played for Winters from 1957-1961. "He shot a true jump shot and he'd get about two feet off the ground."

The entire time he was in St. Paul he was an assistant football and track and field coach and eventually became the head track coach.

Winters was the assistant coach under football coach Buck Weatherill when St. Paul reached its first state championship game, a 32-22 loss to Sisters in the Class B-6 state championship game in 1959, the final six-man football game in Oregon.



"We had a very successful football program, and I think Jim Winters was a big part of that," Frith said.

After the 1966 school year, Winters moved back to the PIL schools, working at Jefferson and then Roosevelt. He coached at Roosevelt until 1975 and continued his work as a counselor until retiring in about 1985.

In addition to St. Paul's Hall of Fame, he previously was enshrined in the PIL Hall of Fame and University of Portland's athletics Hall of Fame.

"It's very, very special for St. Paul, absolutely, because they gave him his first opportunity when nobody else would," Jimi Winters said.

*(By Bill Poehler, Statesman Journal and revised by Tom Rohlffs)*

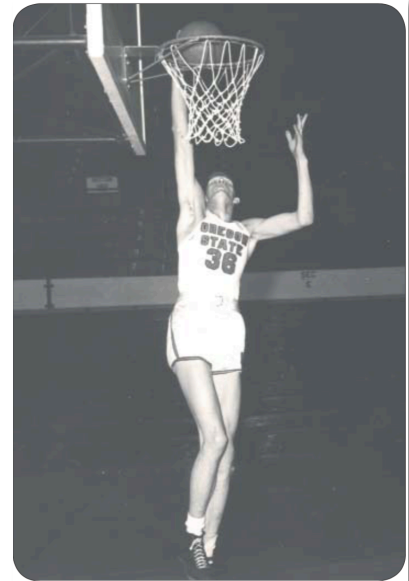
# Harvey Wade "Swede" Halbrook

## "Dream or Nightmare"

*A sophomore at Oregon State College, he is the tallest man ever to play basketball, topping Oklahoma A&M's onetime giant, Bob Kurland, by a good three inches! Despite his size, Halbrook is not what is known in the game as a "goon." He is well coordinated, moves and defends adequately, and when he gets the ball he just bounces up and dunks it for a basket. His team's high scorer, he has averaged 23.7 points a game. At college, Swede sleeps in an eight-foot-long bed and pals around with 6-foot-8-inch Ted Romanoff. "He doesn't make me feel so conspicuous," says Swede. —Life Magazine, 1954*

*By Scott Ball. Edited by Tom Rohlfs, retired coach*

**H**ARVEY WADE "SWEDE" HALBROOK was born on January 30, 1933. Moving from Arkansas to Oregon when he was a sophomore, he enrolled at **Portland's** Lincoln High School



**Swede Halbrook**

As a youngster growing up in Portland's post-war housing development, Halbrook picked up the nickname "Swede." The nickname befits him—his ancestry is German and Dutch—but still it figures that Wade would be tagged with a misnomer. For Halbrook, was an individual doomed always to stick out in the crowd like a Douglas fir in a forest of smaller evergreens.

Part of Swede's trouble is that he was 7 feet 1 inches tall in high school. Naturally he tends to protrude among people. Outside of placing electric light bulbs in ceiling fixtures without benefit of a ladder about the only thing 7 feet 1 inches of body is good for is playing basketball. Dr. Naismith did not have Swede in mind when he invented the game, but basketball as much as anything saved Swede from becoming a misfit.

The skinny boy, whose shirt sleeves ended somewhere on his forearms and whose trousers never quite got to his ankles, figured to be the butt for the natural cruelty of children. When he entered Lincoln High School he was so uncomfortable, with girls snickering at him, that he considered transferring to Benson Tech, an all-boys' school, even before he tried out for the team. Chuck Boice, Oregon State editor emeritus, was a teacher at Lincoln at the time and still remembers seeing Swede in a line of other students wishing to transfer to Benson. Boice informed Lincoln basketball coach Jim Partlow of what was about to happen and Partlow just as quickly went to counsel his young giant.

Then he got his first opportunity to turn jeers into cheers. "He had nothing to bond him to the school at the time," says Coach Partlow of Lincoln. "Ultimately basketball gave him the tie."

After one year of high school basketball, his talents became obvious. Partlow recognized both the star material and the behavior problem in the moody young giant. Besides teaching Wade how to play basketball he spent a good deal of his time trying to insulate Halbrook's emotions from the riding he took from the wildly partisan high school crowds. Swede did learn to play basketball, and he was pretty good at it.

Not far into his junior year, another side to Swede's personality became evident, Boice recalled. "He was not just an extremely tall young man willing to try basketball but a competitive athlete with pretty good hands. In a tight game he wanted the ball and could take it to the basket."

He led Lincoln to the state championship and established a new set of Oregon records. During the finals of the 1952 state championship tournament the spectators, who had been riding Swede throughout the tournament, stood up when he left the game and gave him an ear-shattering ovation that lasted for several minutes. Genuinely touched, Swede remarked, "It gave me a sort of feeling that maybe it was worth it all."

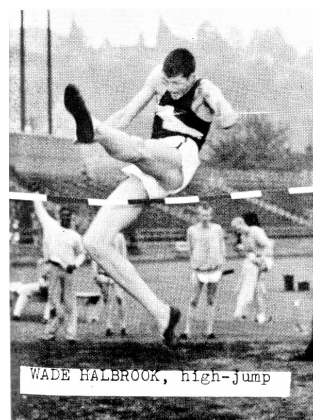
"Then there was the media. It is difficult to comprehend today the attention Halbrook attracted. There was no television, unfortunately, but TV wasn't needed for him to become a household name throughout Oregon," Boice added.

He and his Lincoln Cardinal teammates played in the prestigious 1952 Oregon high school basketball tournament.

There has not been a more dominant Oregon high school player than the 7'1" Swede Halbrook. Coach Partlow, the Lincoln coach for nine years said he would be as domineering today as he was then. The three-second zone has been expanded to 12 feet, which might have slowed down his scoring some.

He was superior in strength and stamina and could use either hand on his whirling hook shot. He held the city high jump record of 6'2" for a time before the advent of the "Fosbury flop". He was agile, had all kinds of moves, good touch, and could dish off the ball."

That Cardinal team of '52 had very quick, fast players that could break presses and distribute the ball. The "little guys" could shoot too. The remainder of the squad was Charles (Chili) Baines at 5'5", Sly Hannon at 5'8", and Phil Carlin and Mickey Holzman, both 5'9". Their style of play complimented Swede.





Row I: Mac Blake, forward; Syl Hennon, guard; Chili Baines, guard; Phil Cerlin, forward; Dick Satalich, guard; Mickey Holtzman, forward.  
 Row II: Jim Partlow, Coach; Bob Rose, forward; Larry Jensen, forward; Wade Halbrook, center; Jim Cunningham, forward; Tom Idinopulos, forward; Gordon Brem, Mgr.

It was not easy for Lincoln to make it to the tournament that year. Defending state champion, Jefferson, and Cleveland would be challenging foes. Cleveland and Lincoln would be co P.I.L. champions. They would split their two league contests and would have a one game playoff for tournament position. The Indians got the best of the Cardinals that night using slow down tactics.

The 1952 tournament was all Halbrook and Company.

Lincoln easily breezed by Harold Hauk's Salem squad, 70-43. Halbrook had a 40-point, 34 rebound performance. This 40-point night reset the previous record of 39 he set the preceding year.

The next victim was the Bend Lava Bears coached by Roger Wiley. The central Oregon team was even with Lincoln until Swede went on a scoring rampage. His 41 points plus 32 rebounds put away any upset hopes. Swedes' fourth quarter barrage paved the way for 68-53 victory.

In the semifinals, with the La Grande Tigers, it was all Halbrook despite a slow tempo employed by Vic Adams' Eastern Oregonians. The Tower of



Lincoln dropped in 34 points and corralled 32 rebounds in the Cards 53-42 victory.

The finals pitted the Cardinals against Central Catholic, one of the pre-tournament favorites and one of the better Oregon high school teams of all time. Coach Bob Mulder's classy cagers carried a 24-1 record into the tournament.

The main players were Bob Altenhofen, 6'4" center, John Foster, 6'3" springy-legged forward; and Paul Bartholemy, 6' guard who ran the attack and could hit from the outside.

Altenhofen, regarded as one of Oregon's most outstanding players ever, was selected three straight years on the All-Tournament first team.

The Rams were overwhelmed by Halbrook's awesome performance—51 points and 20 rebounds—arguably the finest individual game in tourney history.

Central Catholic had defeated The Dalles, Marshfield, and Cleveland soundly to set the match up.

The then-record crowd of 7,856 at McArthur Court sat down believing a close contest would follow. Taking high passes from Hannon, Carlin, and Baines, Halbrook had 28 points and Central Catholic had 19 at the half. The outcome was never in doubt. Swede had 40 points at the end of three. He scored his 51st point from the free throw line. He connected on 24 of 36 shots. His tournament tally was 166 points in four games.

He set the state tournament scoring record with 41.5 points per game. His 166 points incredibly surpassed the entire four-team opponents that Lincoln faced. He was selected to the All-Tournament First Team both years.

His 1,035 points for the season is still an Oregon high school record.

"When we had the team that won the state championship," said Partlow, "the kids on the team were all under 6' and very quick and fit in with Swede just perfectly. He was certainly ahead of his time. If he had been playing 20 years later, he probably would have been an instant millionaire, knowing the demand today for players Swede's height."

### Wade "Swede" Halbrook

Lincoln High School of Portland  
1951-1952 Season Record 24-3  
450 Field Goals 135 Free Throw 1,035 Points 38.3 ppg.

		FGM	FTM	Points
December 7, 1951	vs Tillamook (74-34)	19	5	43
December 15, 1951	at Tillamook (57-38)	13	5	31
December 21, 1951	at Salem (70-51)	15	8	38
December 28, 1951	at Longview (43-44)	8	3	19
December 29, 1951	at Scappoose (58-56)	12	9	33
January 5, 1952	at Corvallis (36-28)	13	7	19
January 8, 1952	vs Longview (60-45)	13	3	29
January 12, 1952	at Molalla (77-26)	30	6	66
January 18, 1952	vs Washington (83-46)	26	5	57
January 22, 1952	at Jefferson (71-50)	17	5	39
January 27, 1952	at Cleveland (40-51)	12	1	25
January 29, 1952	at Roosevelt (64-42)	13	8	34
February 1, 1952	at Grant (65-46)	18	4	40
February 5, 1952	vs Benson (60-39)	13	11	37
February 8, 1952	at Franklin (85-56)	21	3	45
February 12, 1952	at Washington (40-18)	14	2	30
February 15, 1952	vs Jefferson (58-48)	14	5	33
February 19, 1952	vs Cleveland (61-43)	12	4	28
February 22, 1952	vs Roosevelt (90-53)	32	7	71
February 26, 1952	vs Grant (70-55)	21	3	45
February 28, 1952	at Benson (70-39)	21	0	42
March 4, 1952	vs Franklin (75-50)	21	6	48
March 8, 1952	at Cleveland PO (36-38)	8	3	19

State Tournament at Eugene's McArthur Court				
March 19, 1952	Salem Vikings (70-43)	19/39	2	40
March 20, 1952	Bend Lava Bears (68-53)	20/39	1	41
March 21, 1952	LaGrande Tigers (53-42)	16/29	2	34
March 22, 1952	Central Catholic Rams (66-44)	24/36	3	51

71 point game vs Roosevelt 32-of-41 FG's 7 FT's Qt. Pts. 18-16-13-24  
66 point game vs Molalla 30-of-51 FG's 6 FT's Qt. Pts. 21-16-19-10

In three varsity seasons at Lincoln, Halbrook scored an amazing 1,747 points, scoring 1,035 as a senior in 27 games, an unheard of 38.3 average. Included was a game on February 22, 1952, in which he scored 71 points against Roosevelt, the second-highest single-game total in Oregon prep history. Halbrook hit 32 of 41 shots from the field that night, added 7 of 8 free throws and scored 24 of his points in the fourth quarter.

The 71-point game was a state record at the time, but stood for less than 24 hours before Jerry Crimins of Mac-Hi, who had heard news accounts of Halbrook's performance, scored 73 points against Hermiston. Crimins' record still stands. Halbrook also had games of 66 and 57 points as a high school senior. Halbrook had found the academic going at Lincoln fairly rugged. Still he became the most sought-after high school graduate in the Pacific Northwest—75 colleges bidding for his services. But Amory T. "Slats" Gill, Oregon State College basketball coach generally gets his pick of athletes within the state, and he got Swede. Halbrook was headed for Corvallis to play under coaches Slats Gill and Paul Valenti.

MAC HI (116)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Crimins f	31	11	4	73
Oelrichs f	4	0	5	8
Shaffer c	0	5	5	5
McCallister g	10	3	3	23
Kopta g	1	1	3	3
Records f	0	0	4	0
Blankenship c	0	2	4	2
Scott f	1	0	1	2
Wheat f	0	0	0	0
H. Cockburn g	0	0	0	0
Totals	47	22	29	116

HERMISTON (63)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Taylor f	1	2	5	4
McKean f	0	6	5	6
Leips c	10	6	3	26
Manny g	0	1	0	1
Evans g	9	5	3	25
Englert f	0	2	4	2

Immediately, things began turning around for the Beavers and the part Halbrook played in this is unquestionable. Slats had been through four straight losing seasons before the arrival of Swede and suddenly Oregon State was a national contender.



When Swede arrived at the large OSC campus he was slightly appalled at the size of his new venture and even made vague plans to decamp and enlist at another school. He never quite decided, however, and hung on at OSC. He broke in with the OSC varsity in 1953 playing against Indiana and its great center, 6-foot 10-inch Don Schlundt. Swede scored a highly creditable 44 points to Schlundt's 53 in the two-game series, and snared 17 rebounds to his opponent's 19. By the end of the season he had scored 614 points, breaking the old OSC mark by 121. Under Gill he became a genuine star, hooking well with both hands, using an effective jump shot and learning to pace himself. Oregon sportswriters were stimulated to dub Swede with dubious titles like the "Splendid Spire" and "Tower of Lincoln."

After high school he played two seasons at Oregon State University (1954, and 1955) and was a national sensation. He was First Team All-Pacific Coast

Conference and All Northern Division in 1954 and 1955. He was an All-American selection in 1955 with great promise as the tallest college basketball player.

Now at 7'3" and 225 pounds, Halbrook towered over most other players of his era, far above even the rival basketball centers of his day, but Valenti said "He was pretty athletic, too. He wasn't just big. He had talent. He could get up and down the court better than you'd think he could. His height helped. But he had basketball ability and skills, too."

Swede brought national attention to OSC basketball along with winning seasons and new records. Yet he disappointed both team and fans by leaving school early, dashing Beaver hopes for a national title in the process.

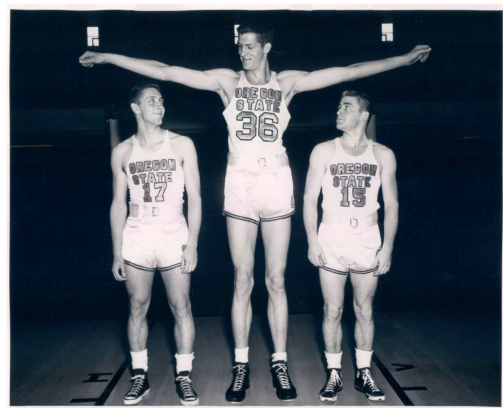
After three years at Oregon State College, he left as an enigma, though his feats on the basketball court were legend.

Perhaps Corvallis and OSC simply weren't big enough to keep the "splendid spire" around. A good basketball player, with agility and the ability to run, in addition to the obvious advantage of height, Halbrook didn't adjust well to college life or to the discipline Oregon State Head Coach Slats Gill demanded of his players, both on and off the court.

While the *Life* article portrayed Halbrook as a coach's dream, in reality he was something of a nightmare for Slats and Valenti. But Swede could not shake his personal problems.

Halbrook make a desperate attempt to become just one of the boys. He tasted the heady wine of nighttime carousing and began cutting classes. As a result, he flunked a number of credits during the 1954 spring term and to make up for the deficiencies he buckled down in the fall.

The OSC team, strong with players like Tony Vlastelica, Bill Toole and another 7-footer, Phil Shadoin, played mediocre ball that season. When Halbrook returned from his scholastic labors after the first of the year, the OSC squad reeled off four straight victories and began looking like a strong contender for national honors.



Then Halbrook took to his evening wanderings and classroom absences again. Slats Gill, who has a reputation as a sort of Father Flanagan when it comes to straightening out athletic and academic risks, sat down for a two-and-one-half hour chat with Wade. The Splendid Spire offered no remorse, showed no sign of a desire to reform. Gill suspended him from the team. "It's not fair for the school and it's not fair for the fellows on the squad who

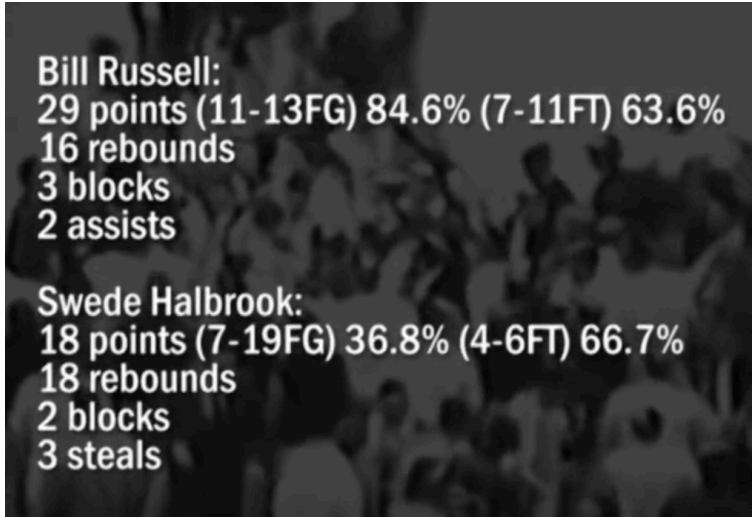
are doing the right thinking," he said. Then in bitterness, Gill fired a few rounds at the ethics of college athletic programs. "It isn't fair for a school to hang onto a boy—any boy—and give him nothing in return but a chance to play basketball. If he doesn't get any more out of college than that, he's going to wind up passing out towels in a locker room, and probably not doing too good a job of it. But Lord," Gill ended, reverting to his character as coach, "could we use him!"

Immediately after news of Halbrook's suspension broke, Buchan's Bakers, a Seattle firm, contacted Swede and offered him an opportunity to play basketball as an employee of theirs. Swede was supposed to receive about \$100 a week as a truck driver. Buchan's made plane reservations to Seattle for Swede but he never showed up. Instead he met with Coach Gill, confessed he had a "big shot attitude" and was reinstated.

Gill, however, did not allow Halbrook to suit up for the next game against the University of Oregon. The following night, in a return game at Corvallis, Gill had Halbrook ready on the bench. When he rose on the sidelines to limber up, the largest crowd in the history of Gill Coliseum (11,500) put on a terrific demonstration. Swede played poorly but OSC won in overtime 56-54.

When "Swede" enrolled at OSC, the college became an immediate contender for a national title. The team's moment came in the championship of the NCAA Western Regionals in Corvallis on March 12, 1955. The match-up featured the number one-ranked University of San Francisco Dons and its future National Basketball Association Hall of Fame center, Bill Russell, versus Halbrook and the Beavers. Ranked number eight, OSC had just won

the Pacific Coast Conference championship with a 15-1 record. The winner would advance to the Final Four in Kansas City. The outcome came down to a final shot. With seven seconds remaining, OSC's Ron Robins let one fly from his favorite spot on the floor. A packed Gill Coliseum watched it clang off the rim, a half-inch short of immortality.



**Bill Russell:**  
29 points (11-13FG) 84.6% (7-11FT) 63.6%  
16 rebounds  
3 blocks  
2 assists

**Swede Halbrook:**  
18 points (7-19FG) 36.8% (4-6FT) 66.7%  
18 rebounds  
2 blocks  
3 steals

*Halbrook's career at Oregon State ended in exciting fashion, in the 1955 NCAA Western Regionals. Halbrook scored 18 points in a 57-56 loss to the University of San Francisco at Corvallis. USF, sparked by Bill Russell and K.C. Jones, went on to win the national championship. Click link to view game. <https://youtu.be/f7LqNAletFU>*



"That was kind of a national championship game," said Paul Valenti, former Oregon State basketball coach who then was an assistant to head coach Slat Gill. "Swede had a good night that night and Russell had one of his better nights, but Swede did a good job on him. Halbrook also earned All-America honors in 1955 when he averaged 20.9 points and 14.1 rebounds, pacing the Beavers to a 22-8 record

Halbrook gave his answer two weeks later. Valenti recalls him saying: "I just can't promise you anything." So, at the end of the term, Halbrook was released from the team. Valenti still remembers the awful feeling everyone had when the decision was made. "There went the Pacific Coast Conference Championship, you would have to think. And a potential national championship."

The world's tallest player said goodbye. During his two years at OSC, the team had a 41-18 record. He remains the all-time; single-season leader in both free throws attempted (328) and rebounds in a game (36). He was twice named All-American.

Halbrook played only two seasons, 1954 and '55, and is the Beavers' 20th all-time leading scorer and eighth-leading rebounder. He was the tallest player in the history of OSU basketball at 7'3" and holds the career mark for free throw attempts in one season.



Back then the only alternatives were the AAU (i.e. Armed Forces), NIBL, or the Globetrotters until your four years were up.

After leaving Oregon State, his junior year, he played five seasons of AAU basketball for the Wichita Vickers in Kansas leading them to the national title in 1959.

The Syracuse Nationals of the NBA had drafted him in 1956 in the fourth round and 29th overall pick. He played 79 games for the Syracuse Nationals during the 1960-61. The team finished third that year and made the playoffs. During his NBA career he played in 143 games, scored 786 points and had 949 rebounds. A highlight of his career was holding the legendary Wilt Chamberlain of the Philadelphia Warriors to just 5 points in a game, and helping his team beat the Warriors three times.

"Wilt was really concerned with Swede," Nationals coach Alex Hannum told an Oregonian reporter at the time. "Wilt never had to look anyone in the eye and he would get more involved in trying to outplay Swede than he would in trying to win the game."

Halbrook's NBA career came to an end in 1963 when the Nationals cut him from the roster.

According to his sister-in-law, Helen Bronkey, Swede moved back to Portland and for the remainder of his life worked at a variety of odd jobs—security guard, roofer, bartender, painter, and construction worker—anything for a quick dollar. Friends and former teammates remember him as a "nice guy" but something of a "loner." He perhaps preferred obscurity. Perhaps the world was just too small for him to feel comfortable with the fame and attention his stature and talent inevitably attracted.

On April 5, 1988, Swede Halbrook died of an apparent heart attack on a city bus in downtown Portland. For over 12 hours, he went unidentified. Bronkey said his mother, Vivian; three brothers, Daniel, Joe and Richard; and four children, Mary Kay, Janet, John and Wade, survive Halbrook. He was fifty-five years old.

*(Courtesy of Beverly Braat and Kenn Hess)*



*All-Americans, Swede Halbrook and Bill Russell going "toe to toe"*

## **The 3-1 Game**

### **GROVE STALLS, HILHI ZONES**

### **SPARTS SCORE 3, VIKINGS 1**

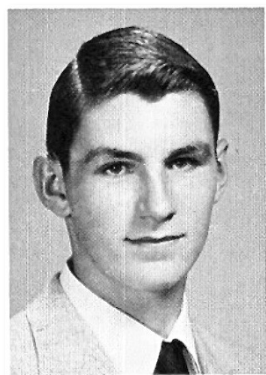
This is the headline as it appeared in the Hillsboro Argus newspaper, February 17, 1956. This game was one of the most interesting and controversial games ever played in the state of Oregon. The score turned many a sleepy reader heads the morning of February 18<sup>th</sup> in the Oregonian newspaper. The 3-1 final score is hard to believe especially when you remember that a new rule was put into effect for the 1955-'56 season to prevent stalling. The rule stated that a player would lose the ball when closely guarded for more than five seconds without passing the ball. This was put in to discourage stalling. The game up to that time had been speeding up but some teams were holding the ball at the end of games to win. The rules committee did not want to see stalling, which not only slowed down an exciting game, but they did not want to see the excitement of basketball taken away from the crowd.

Don Roberts was the Hillsboro Argus Sportswriter at that time, and his popular column, *Sport Splashes*, he recalls the game in these words:

3-1—it didn't bother me as much as some folks, for here was history in the making and it was a pleasure to be in on the folly.

The object of the game is to win: When that isn't true, we better stop playing. Winning is what the Forest Grove coach had in mind on that Friday.

Bruce Barker, Forest Grove coach: "They beat us by 23 points last time we played, and I knew we couldn't win against their zone defense, when that big 6'7" center (Goetze) would get all the rebounds. We hoped to win by stalling and waiting for a shot at the end of each quarter. If it worked, you're a hero; if it fails you're a bum. We couldn't find the basket, so we failed. Maybe people don't like stalling, but if stalling is outlawed they should outlaw the zone defense, too. I thought we should have had some technical fouls when a student brought that chair onto the floor and when one went out to get an autograph from our player. A technical should have been called when they booed while we were trying that last free-throw, with the chance to tie the score."



*Caryll Goetze*

Lou Samsa, Hilhi coach: "It was strictly in their hands. They were behind. They had to score to catch up. But they are entitled to play any system they wish, just as we are entitled to play any defense we want. We use a zone because we have to protect our big man. When we play man-to-man he, Caryll Goetze, gets called for fouls when he has made a good check. Our team revolves around him, so we have to keep him in there. The zone helps. We don't care what type of defense they use; that's what basketball is; an attempt by your team to outmaneuver the other. Several teams in the

league, including Forest Grove, play a zone against us, and we enjoy it. If we are behind, we have had to come after the ball. One thing that bothers me, is people say we stalled. At no time did we stall; we played as we always do, what little we had the ball, working against their zone, trying for a good shot. We had planned to go into our ball control with three minutes left, but we didn't see the ball

The Hilhi coach is right. Hilhi was on offense only four times, totaling three minutes and 47 seconds of the 32 minutes: 25 seconds in the first quarter, none in the second, 30 seconds in the third and 2:52 in the fourth.

Samsa said he has heard of a high school game, which ended 6-4 and 8-7 back in the day you didn't have to cross the centerline in 10 seconds but not 3 to 1. Officials Bill Taitt and Chris Christiansen, who might have felt ashamed about taking any money for this one, said they've never seen anything like it, either. Other quotable quotes:

Slim Wintermute, member of the Oregon national champion "Tall Firs" team, came to his first Hilhi game to see Goetze play, said: "To think I had to pick this one!" Taitt, who rested against the wall at the end of the court in the second half, walked the sidelines a time or two to chat with the former Webfoot center. Spectator Lloyd Ramp, tried to go home in the second quarter but decided to stay when he couldn't get his money back. "The stall is more comfortable at this south end; there isn't so much draft from the doors."



Homer Davis, Hilhi teacher: "This is the first game I brought my wife to but with the clock going uninterrupted so long, the babysitting fee won't be high.

Mrs. Barker, the Grove coach's wife, was quoted as saying: "If I had known he was going to do this, I'd stayed home."

Dick Burke is the Hilhi student who got Viking Gary Brown's autograph during the stall and it was Norbert Vanderzanden who politely took the chair to one of the officials. (Who politely refused)

Burt Benson, Grove captain, who stood so long with the ball under his arm, frequently carries all under his arm, might have change position enough to be called for taking steps, but he called Taitt's attention to the fact he wasn't moving his pivot foot.



Walt McKinney, who frequently carries the Argus camera to basketball games hoping for good action shots, missed this one. He could have set up his tripod on the balcony and taken an excellent time exposure.

Roberts: "Sad part, was the Spartans lost their shutout—leading 3 to 0 and owning the ball out of bounds with a little more than three minutes left, they seemed in good position to control it and keep the Vikings scoreless—and then the defense letdown... 3-1"

The headline in the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1956 Oregonian scoffed:

**SPARTANS, VIKINGS POST STATE ALL-TIME LOW  
IN 3-1 T.Y.V. CONTEST (?)**

Forest Grove's philosophy was to hold the ball for the last shot of each quarter. Forest Grove was ahead in the league standings before the game and, interestingly enough, ended up ahead of Hilhi in the final league standings. Grove refused to move the ball even with the new five-second rule that year and Hilhi stayed back in their zone. Forest Grove fired six times in the last period and came close to winning the game. Lou Samsa's Spartans had the ball only four times in the entire game. Hillsboro was 0-1 from the field and 3-7 from the free throw line. Forest Grove shot 10 shots and did not convert any. The Vikings were 1-3 at the foul line.

This is the play-by-play and summary of the historical game as reported by Don Roberts of the Argus:

**1<sup>st</sup> Quarter:** Hilhi's Caryl Goetze was fouled in the first 25 seconds of the game. He made his first and missed his second. Forest Grove made no attempt to score and Hilhi made no attempt to get the ball. End of first quarter: Hilhi 1, Forest Grove 0.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter:** The Vikings made seven passes in the first 7½ minutes after which they held the ball until 26 seconds remained in a half. Forest Grove shot with five seconds left but missed and the rebound also failed. At halftime: Hilhi 1, Forest Grove 0.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:** Hilhi controlled the tip. Brown fouls Goetze again. Goetze makes both free throws. Forest Grove's Flannery holds the ball under his arm for seven minutes until the 28-second mark. A Viking shot attempt fails at the end of the third period. Hilhi 3, Forest Grove 0.

**4<sup>th</sup> Quarter:** Forest Grove wins the jump ball. Forest Grove's Jack Newell fouls Hafner. Hafner misses his free throw. The Vikings Bill Hill shoots from the outside, Anderson rebounds for Hilhi and calls a timeout. Forest Grove pressures the Sparts at half court on the inbounds where the Spartans Marvin Graser is called for bumping the Viking's Burt Benson. The Viking captain makes his first shot but misses his second free throw try. Newell grabs a rebound for Hillsboro. Benson's long shot is off but is rebounded by Anderson. He is fouled by the Viks Brown. Anderson misses his gift toss. Two

minutes remain as the action heats up. Forest Grove's Brown shoots and misses and Hilhi gets the ball. Hafner travels at the 1:30 mark. Forest Grove calls a timeout. They hold the ball until 15 seconds remain. Hilhi shoots from the side. Flannery fouls Anderson of Hilhi on the rebound attempt. Anderson's free throw is off again and during the scramble under the basket. Hilhi's Jerry Scrafford fouls Gary Meeuwsen of the Vikings. Only eight ticks remain on the clock. The Junior Vikings center misses the one and one free throw with the Hilhi student body screaming. A Viking picked up the missed loose ball and takes a blind shot that's blocked by Goetze, the 6'7" Spartan center. The ball goes out-of-bounds to Forest Grove. The rivals from Forest Grove call a timeout to map their strategy with three seconds to go.

Flannery passes in to Hill near the centerline. He dribbles right and fires a long one hander, which hits the backboard, rim and bounds away.

All points in the game came from the foul line. Caryll Goetze, who would finish number two in the T.Y.V. scoring race, and would earn First Team All-League honors, scored all three points for Hilhi. He was three for four from the foul line and his hook shot was the Spartans only shot of the game. Bert Benson was Forest Grove's leading scorer with one point.

As seasons come and seasons go, this unique game will always be remembered as **"the 3 to 1 game"**.

### Summary

FOREST GROVE-1	FG	FT	FTA	TP	HILLSBORO-3	FG	FT	FTA	TP
Brown, f	0	0	0	0	Hafner, f	0	0	1	0
Newell, f	0	0	0	0	Scrafford, f	0	0	0	0
Meeuwsen, c	0	0	1	0	Goetze, c	0	3	4	3
Benson, g	0	1	2	1	Anderson, g	0	0	2	0
Flannery, g	0	0	0	0	Graser, g	0	0	0	0
Oppenlander, f	0	0	0	0	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
Hill, g	0	0	0	0					
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>					

**Sidebar:** Every basketball coach has that idealistic dream to shut out an opponent. Coaches tell their players of that goal but in actuality it doesn't happen—unless it's a 1-0 forfeit.

Alabama's Bibb County high school defeated Brookwood 2-0 in 2015. That tied a national record for the lowest-scoring high school basketball game in recorded history. It was the lowest scoring game since Durham Hillside (N.C.) defeated Roxboro Person (N.C.), 2-0 in 1977.

While including this chapter in my 1989 book *Hilhi Basketball*, I was fortunate to interview the center from Forest Grove that was a part of the 3-1 game in Hillsboro. I talked to coaches and people that were at the game and read clippings of the day. I could not find any high school that had recorded a lower scoring game in the country.

This adds more fuel to the fire that basketball needs a shot clock in high school. The main reason seems to be a financial one. Washington and California have the shot clock and Oregon does not. What do you think? —Tom Rohlffs

## Cutting Down the Nets

**A**lmost as traditional as the “dog pile” at the end of the final game at the state basketball tournament is the observation of a ladder being set up under the basket.

The custom dates back to the 1920s when teams in the famed Indiana boy's high school basketball tournament would celebrate winning the state title by



cutting down the nets as souvenirs. Flamboyant coach, Everett Case, wanted it to be a sign of winning the championship. In the first 25 years of the tournament, no team cut down the nets in Indianapolis as much as Everett Case's Frankfort teams, which won four state titles between 1925 and 1939. A non-athlete who became one of the nation's legendary coaches. A 23-year high school career, mostly at Frankfort. "Casey" posted a 726-75 record.

After serving in the Navy during WWII, Case took over coaching duties at North Carolina State in 1947.

Although known mostly as a football conference, he boosted Atlantic Coast Conference basketball into the national limelight. In 1947, North Carolina State won the Southern Conference championship. Searching for a way to commemorate their victory, Wolfpack players hoisted famed coach Everett Case on to their shoulders as he cut the net off the rim with a pair of scissors. Since his initial act of taking down the nets, Case's seemingly arbitrary choice has become something every player and coach dreams of. The opportunity to cut down the nets is afforded only to champions, and the simple souvenir is now one of sports' most treasured remnants.

His teams captured six straight Southern Conference titles when he brought the tradition of net cutting from the world of Indiana high school to all of college basketball.

Case achieved far more than popularizing the practice of cutting down the nets after winning a basketball championship.



Before Frank McGuire or Dean Smith or Mike Krzyzewski made their mark in the state, Case was regarded as the father of college basketball in North Carolina. His record of 377-134 at North Carolina State is still the school's best. The Wolfpack garnered 10 championships in old Southern Conference and ACC. He was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

He was an innovator of the sport. He introduced the Indiana fast break and pressed the entire game. He introduced special ways to introduce the players, the use of film, and entertainment and music during warm-up and timeouts.

The ACC tournament became one of the jewels of college basketball, the first and most important of the conference tournaments.



His stature in the sport was on display at the 1965 ACC Tournament. Confined to a wheelchair by the cancer that had forced him to retire early that season, Case was hoisted onto his players' shoulders for one last net-cutting celebration following N.C. State's upset of Duke in the ACC title game.

Case died the following year at age 65.

**Sidebar:** *Assistant coach, Press Maravich, took over the reins from the mortally ill Case after the second game of the 1965 season, going on to stun the league by winning the 1965 ACC tournament championship game with Duke. Pistol Pete Maravich's dream was to play basketball for his dad at North Carolina State. His failure to obtain the necessary academic scores lead him and his dad going to LSU.*



# Casaba Changes Through the Years

- 1892 First printed basketball rules appear.
- 1892 Cylindrical baskets of woven wire are introduced to replace the peach baskets.
- 1892 Cannot bounce the ball.
- 1892 First canvas sneakers were worn.
- 1893 First backboards introduced, 6 feet by 12 feet in size to stop fans in the balconies from touching the ball.
- 1894 One point awarded anytime three consecutive fouls were called on the opponent. Free throws were introduced as a penalty for fouls. Both a made field goal and a made free throw were counted as one point.
- 1894 First basketball invented to replace soccer balls.
- 1894 Free throw established at 21 feet from the basket. Anyone could shoot the free throws.
- 1895 Backboard reduced to 4 feet by 6 feet.
- 1895 Free throw line was moved to 15 feet. A single player could be the designated "foul shooter".
- 1894 First manufactured lace-up basketballs were produced.
- 1895 Wire mesh backboards were introduced to prevent spectators in the balconies from interfering with play.
- 1896 Player could not dribble with 2 hands more than once.
- 1897 Five players became the mandatory team size.
- 1901 Players allowed to bounce the ball one time. Players were required to pass the ball and could not shoot after bouncing it.
- 1901 Dribbler could not shoot for a field goal; the ball had to be passed to another player.
- 1908 Player committing 5 fouls (including traveling and other violations) was disqualified from game.
- 1904 Boundaries became straight lines.
- 1904 Wood backboards replace the easily dented wire mesh backboards.
- 1909 Glass backboards were approved and mounted flat against walls.
- 1909 Continuous dribbling and shots off the dribble were instituted.
- 1909 No coaching is allowed during the progress of the game by anybody connected with either team. After the first violation a free throw is awarded.
- 1911 Player fouls for disqualification was increased from two to four.
- 1912 Nylon nets allowed.
- 1913 Bottom of basket must be left open so ball could fall through.
- 1913 Out-of-bounds rule was changed. The team that lost the ball out-of-bounds loses possession.
- 1916 To prevent players from running up the walls, a two-foot gap was between the backboard and the end line.
- 1920 Players allowed to re-enter the game one time.
- 1921 Traveling or running with the ball was changed from a personal foul to a violation.
- 1923 The player fouled must shoot his own free throws. Before this rule, one person shot all the free throws.
- 1928 The charging foul by the dribbler is introduced.
- 1929 Wire mesh cage around court to keep ball in play and protect players from spectators was abolished. Two referees used instead of one.
- 1930 A held ball may be called when a closely guarded player is withholding the ball from play for 5 seconds.
- 1932 No player with the ball may stand in the free throw lane for more than 3 seconds.
- 1932 The ten-second (mid-court) line is introduced to stop stalling.
- 1933 Teams required to advance the ball past midcourt line in less than 10 seconds.
- 1934 Players allowed to re-enter the game twice.
- 1934 Circumference of ball reduced from 32 inches to between 29.5 and 30.25.
- 1935 No offensive player (with or without the ball) may stand in the free throw lane more than 3 seconds.
- Number of team timeouts increased from 3 to 4.
- Defensive player prohibited from touching basket while ball was on the rim.
- Basketball without laces made legal.
- 1937 Center jump eliminated after each successful basket.
- 1938 A referee had to handle the ball before putting it in play.
- 1938 The ball will be thrown in from the out-of-bounds at mid-court by the team shooting a free throw after a technical foul.
- 1939 Teams have the option of taking a free throw or taking the ball at mid-court.
- 1939 Gap increased from 2 feet to 4 feet. Glass backboard allowed spectators to see from behind the backboards.
- 1940 Fan-shaped backboards made legal.
- 1942 Any player, who has yet to foul out, will be allowed to receive a fifth foul in overtime.

- 1942 Molded basketballs that maintained a constant shape replaced the stitched balls.
- 1944 Defensive goal tending is banned.
- 1944 Five personal fouls disqualify a player; no extra foul is permitted in overtime.
- 1945 Players allowed to return to the game an unlimited number of times.
- 1945 Goal tending was adopted making it illegal for a player to touch the ball on its downward flight.
- 1948 Coaches are allowed to speak to players during a timeout.
- 1949 Coaching during the game, by the coach, was officially allowed. Previously the coach was only allowed to coach at halftime and timeouts. The captain previously called timeouts and conversed with the players.
- 1951 Games are to be played in four 10-minute quarters. Previously it was two 20-minute halves.
- 1952 Teams can no longer waive free throws and take the ball at mid-court.
- 1954 The one-and-one free throw is introduced allowing a player to take a second free throw if the first one is made.
- 1954 Games are changed back to two 20-minute halves.
- 1955 The two-shot penalty, in existence for the last 3 minutes of each half is eliminated; the one-and-one free throw exists for the whole game.
- 1956 Dunking free throws banned.
- 1956 On the lineup for a free throw, the two spaces adjacent to the end line must be occupied by opponent of the free thrower.
- 1957 The free throw lane is increased from 6 feet to 12 feet.
- 1957 Offensive goaltending is now banned.
- 1957 One free throw for each common foul for the first six personal fouls in a half, and the 1 and 1 is used thereafter.
- 1958 Offensive basket interference was enacted.
- 1963 Players called for personal fouls were asked to raise their hand.
- 1967 The dunk is made illegal during the game and during warm-up.
- 1972 The free throw on the common foul for the first six personal fouls in a half is eliminated.
- 1972 An official can charge a technical foul for "flopping" to get a charge.
- 1976 The dunk is made legal again. Bench technical are two free throws.
- 1980 30 seconds allowed to replace disqualified player.
- 1981 Alternating possession replaces jump balls. Players can leave spaces when ball leaves free throw shooters hand.
- 1982 When a closely guarded player is guarded for 5 seconds, a jump ball is no longer required. Instead a turnover is created. Two free throws are issued if a foul occurs in the last two minutes of a half or in overtime.
- 1985 If a shooter is intentionally fouled and the basket is missed, the shooter will get two free throws and then the team will get possession of the ball.
- 1986 A three-point shot was introduced at 19'9".
- 1987 Each intentional personal foul carries two free throws and the team possession of the ball.
- 1990 Beginning with the teams 10<sup>th</sup> foul in a half, two free throws are to be awarded for each personal foul.
- 1990 Three free throws are awarded when a shooter is fouled from three-point range and misses the shot.
- 1993 The five-second rule regarding closely guarded players is eliminated.
- 1996 Teams had to warm up and shoot at end of court farthest from their bench.
- 1997 The five-second rule regarding closely guarded players is reinstated.
- 1997 Timeouts can be made by players on the court or by the head coach.
- 1998 In a held ball initiated by the defense, the defense shall gain possession of the ball regardless of the possession arrow.
- 1999 The held ball rule from 1998 was rescinded.
- 2006 An airborne player falling out of bounds will not recognize a timeout.
- 2008 Three-point arc extended to 20'9".
- 2008 Eliminated first space nearest the basket in the lane (now only six players on the line)
- 2009 If a player who is fouled is not able to shoot the free throw, the opposing coach selects the free throw shooter from the 4 players on the opposing team.
- 2015 Dunking is permitted during warm up.
- 2016 Players occupying marked free-throw lane line spaces may not enter the free-throw semicircle until the ball touches the ring or until the free throw ends.
- 2017 Coach/team warning is recorded in scorebook after head coach is warned of misconduct. A warning is not required prior to calling a technical foul.



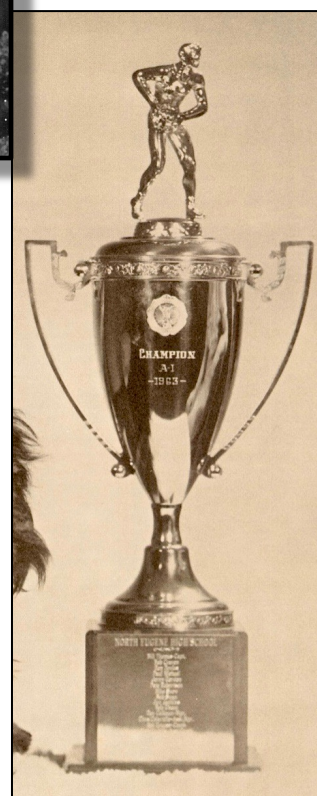
1937



1945



1951



1963



goal.

9. When the ball goes out of bounds it shall be thrown into the field, and played by the person first touching it. In case of a dispute the umpire shall throw it straight into the field. The thrower in is allowed five seconds, if he holds it longer it shall go to the opponent. If any side persists in delaying the game, the umpire shall call a foul on them.

10. The umpire shall be judge of the men, and shall note the fouls, and notify the referee when three consecutive fouls have been made. He shall have power to disqualify men according to Rule 5.

11. The referee shall be judge of the ball and shall decide when the ball is in play, in bounds, and to which side it belongs, and shall keep the time. He shall decide when a goal has been made, and keep account of the goals with any other duties that are usually performed by a referee.

12. The time shall be two fifteen minutes halves, with five minutes rest between.

13. The side making the most goals in that time shall be declared the winners. In case of a draw the game may, by agreement of the captains, be continued until another goal is made.

*First draft of Basketball rules.  
hung in the gym that the boys might  
learn the rules - Dec 1891 James Naismith  
6-28-31.*

This document transcends sports, being the birth of a creation of American culture that has become as influential as jazz and as widespread as Hollywood.



## About the author

At an early age, Tom became interested in statistical engineering. He kept game and season stats for the teams he played on from the sixth grade through high school. In 1988, while a coach at Hillsboro High School, he was the first to create a computer statistics program for baseball, volleyball, and basketball called Super Stats II. A number of schools still use the program.



His love for statistics carried over to his coaching career as well. He wrote an extensive historical record book for Hillsboro High School called "Hilhi Basketball, Past, Present, and Future" (1915-1993). This 350-page record book contains not only historical data but also the box scores for all games played from 1936. His next challenge was to update the Linfield College men's basketball record book. This 100-page record is on line.

Tom was an outstanding three-sport athlete at Sunset High School. In basketball he was an All-Metro League first team selection under legendary coach John Wyttenberg and selected on the All-State third team. He still owns the career Metro League record for free throw percentage at .845. He was also an All-Metro League Cross-Country runner capturing first place in all Sunset meets and setting

the two-mile record at 9:42. He was a pitcher on the Apollo varsity baseball teams and MVP pitcher (9-1) on the American Legion state runnerup team.

At Linfield College, Tom earned 11 varsity letters in four sports. He was a Northwest Conference All-Star selection and a pitcher on Linfield's first-ever National Championship team in 1966. Coached by Hall of Fame coach, Roy Helser, the team was inducted into the Linfield and Oregon Sports Hall of Fame. He played four years for fabled coach Ted Wilson's hustlin' Wildcats. He was a member of four Northwest Conference championship teams.

His purpose, in writing this 100-year boy's record book, is that high school coaches and Athletic Directors own a copy of the book and will keep it current and up-to-date so teams, athletes, and coach's records are preserved. Approximately 300,000 players and coaches have been a part of this illustrious 100-year history of Oregon high school basketball. Tom wanted to reference as many contributors as possible.

He has been married to his wife, Bonnie, since 1969 and they live in Hillsboro, Oregon.

## **Other books by the author**

*The Sprague Project*

*It Takes a Village to Build a Church*

*Hatfields' and McCoys'*

*Brake!*

*Heading for Home*

*Tualatin Plains—Worth Dying For*

*Hilhi Basketball—Past, Present, Future (1915-1993)*

*Rohlffs Genealogy*

*Cabo on Zero Dollar\$ a Day*

*The History of Oregon Boys' Basketball*

*30 classroom computer manuals*

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Steve Walker, OSAA

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Beaverton City Library

Pastor Greg Klein—Bellfountain Community Church

*"The Tall Firs, Oregon National Champs"*—Joe Blakely

*"Bellfountain Giant Killers"*—Joe Blakely

*"Under One Flag, a history of Lower Columbia Sports"*—Wally Palmberg

*"March 1939—Before the March Madness"*—Terry Frei

*"Hilhi Basketball—Past, Present, Future"*—Tom Rohlffs

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