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December 2014 FREE

2014-2015 Boys Basketball Preview

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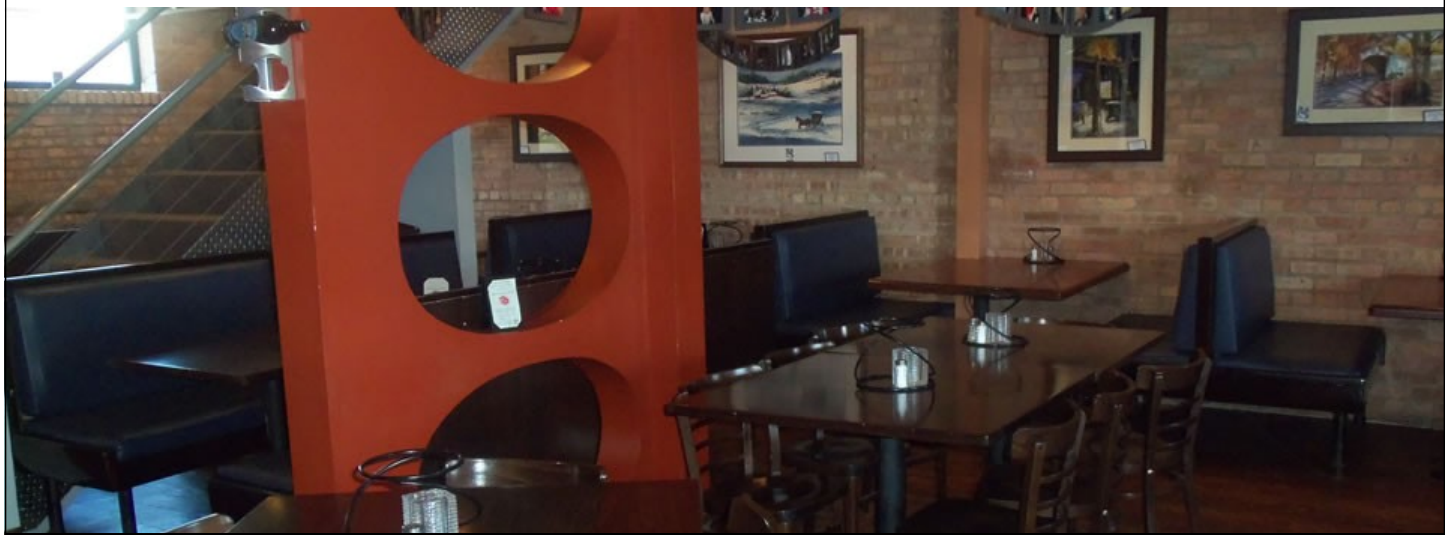

MAB ONLINE MAGAZINE

Second verse, same as the first….well, not exactly, but this is our second basketball preview in a row. This time we look at the boys teams around the area. Last year was a great one for basketball talent last year and the Region (yes, Michigan City is in the region) had a state champion. Looking forward to this season, it seems that the talent level is right where we were last year.

Of course, we cover some football and baseball too, but basketball is certainly center stage.

It took a little longer to get this issue to you than we would have liked, but technology issues have delayed the release. We hoppe that you enjoy it regardless. As always, please feel free to reach out if you have any comments or suggestions.

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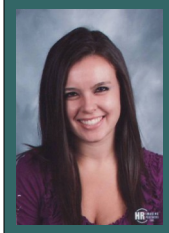

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Athletes of the Month

Written and Compiled by Andy Wielgus MAB Staff Writer

Tyler Littlejohn
LaPorte

LaPorte's Tyler Littlejohn caught 7 passes for 54 yards and scored 2 touchdowns in the LaPorte Slicers upset of Mishawaka at Kiwanis Field, in the 5A Sectional 9 Championship game. He also set the school record for pass receptions at LaPorte.

Rensselaer Football

The Rensselaer Bombers football team led by Head Coach Chris Meeks won the 1st ever team state title in Rensselaer Central High School History over Evansville Mater Dei, 45-21 in 2A. The school began playing football in 1898.

Eric Manazy
LaPorte

After coming back from injury this season, LaPorte QB Eric Mazany has led the Slicers to the 5A State Finals with a victory over Fort Wayne Snider 35-7

Charles Salary
LaPorte

LaPorte's Charles Salary runs for 305 yards and 4 td's in a 55-21 5A Regional Championship over Elkhart Central. It is the 2nd ever Regional Crown for the Slicers.

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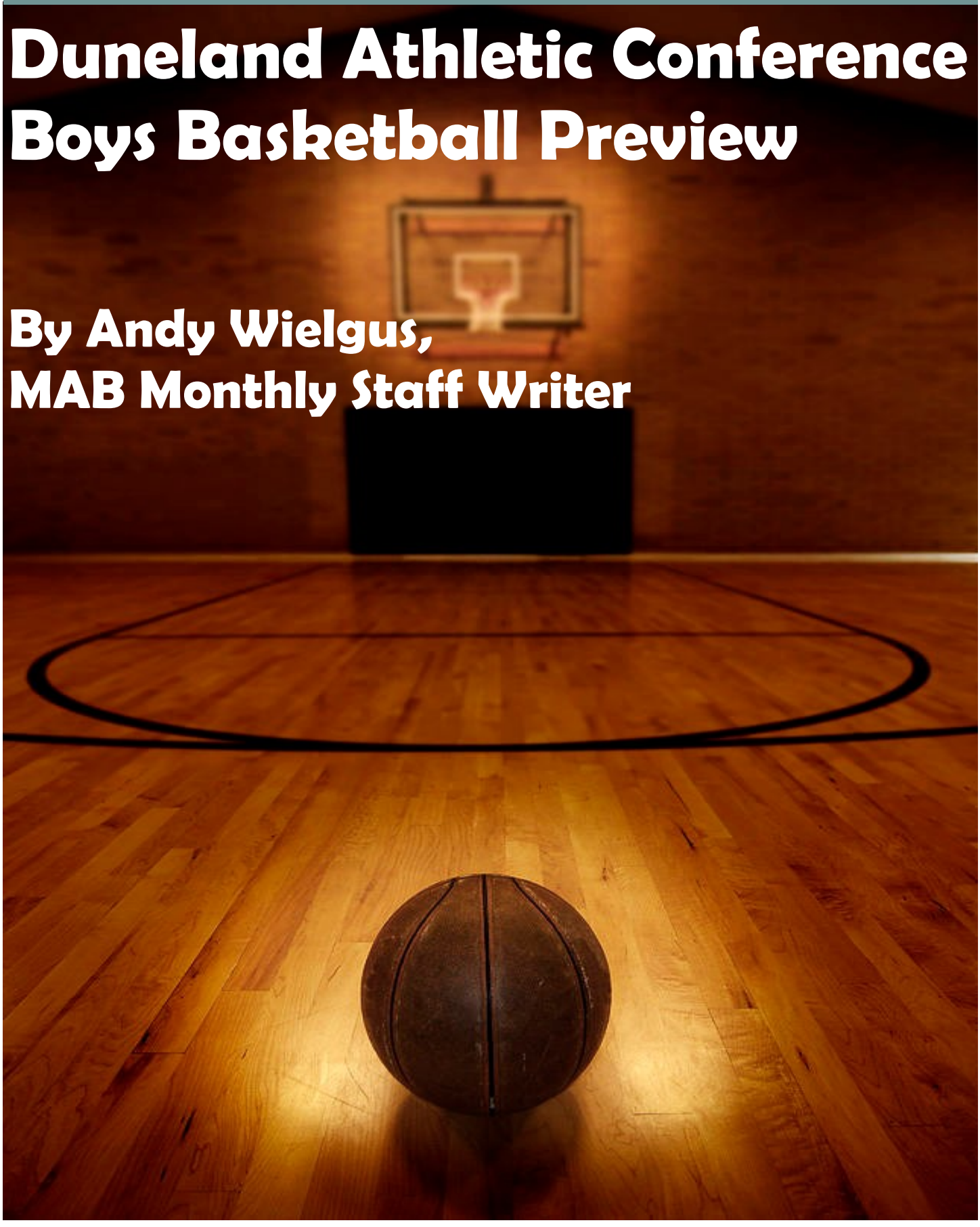
Duneland Athletic Conference Boys Basketball Preview



By Andy Wielgus, MAB Monthly Staff Writer

The DAC will see a solid returning v core at CP, Valpo, and in Michigan City. Youth and a need for experience will be evident at some of the other schools. This year will showcase several experienced and upcoming point guards at many of the DAC Schools in Collazzo, Boyd, Bonin, Cherry, Helm, and Walls. D1 Talent is in the DAC as well with TenHove, Gelon, Wilkins, and Palombizio again being leaders for their respective teams.

Crown Point returns basically the same nucleus from a year ago for Clint Swan that went 12-9, except Bret Barclay who is playing D1 Basketball in Louisiana. The Bulldogs were knocked out of the tournament by Michigan City in the 4A Sectional 83-72. This year the Dogs will be anchored by 4 year varsity player 6'6 Sr. Nick Jeffirs [14.5ppg] who has committed to play at St. Joe's in Rensselaer. 6'1 Senior guard Josh Berquist, 6'3 Sr. Thayne Bukowski, and 6'3 Sr. Noah Morales are back along with 5'8 Jr. Point Guard Blake Bonin.Bonin has one of the highest free throw percentages in the state, year in and year out. He is also the grandson of Hall of Fame Coach Jim East and his father Leo is on the CP Staff as a Varsity Assistant. A three or four guard look will be present with the Dogs this year, with one of the area's best shooters in 6'5 Jr. D1 Recruit Grant Gelon[12.7ppg], to go along with 6'3 Soph. Sasha Stefanovic [the son of the former Merrillville and Illinois State Star Lou Stefanovic], 6'4 Jr. Tommy Sanborn, and 6'4 Soph. Ken Decker. Look for 6'5 Jr. John Sakeleros and 6'6 Soph Andrew Kenneally to play a lot also. 6'3 Jr. Leo Zdanowicz, and 5'10 Soph Dominic Tomich will contribute as well. The Dogs have beefed up the schedule adding Bowman, Penn, and Lafayette Jeff. The Dogs will be one of the favorites the next two-three years in the DAC; they can really shoot threes, and are loaded with size. In that, they do have a low post presence in Jeffirs, Kenneally, and Sakeleros. The question for CP will come on defense and in turnovers. If they solve these, they have a legit chance to win the DAC and beyond.

Chesterton went 12-10 last year before being knocked out of the tournament by LaPorte 71-58. Injuries to key players really hurt the Trojans under Tom Pellar last year. This year they will be led by the son of former Mr. Basketball Dan Palombizio, 6'6 Sr. Chris Palombizio [19.4ppg] who has committed to Western Michigan. The athletic 6'3 Jr. Niles Dilosa returns as well. Others that will contribute include 6'2 Jr. Rhys Lewis, 6'4 Jr. Jack Mullen, 6'5 Jr. Jacob Webber, 6'4 Soph Jon Andershock, 6'0 Soph Ethan Conway, 5'10 Soph Ray Yagelski, 6'2 Jr Luke Finke, 6'0 Soph Erik Ralph, 6'0 Freshman Ky Palombizio, and 5'10 Jr. Antwan Beeks. Health is a key issue with the Trojans as it really stymied them last year.

Lake Central had a run to the State Finals last year going 22-4 before losing to Indianapolis Tech 63-59 under Coach Dave Milausnic. Gone are D1 Talent in Wideman and Wilburn to Butler and Ball State, but the cupboard is not bare and teams should not overlook the Indians this year with 5'10 Sr. Joe Bannister[8ppg] to go along with the long range shooting of Juniors 5'10 Skylar Smith, 6'5 Frank Dijak, 5'8 Sean Griffin, and 5'9 Gage Ray. 5'11 Sr. Amir Ransom is back along with 6'4 Sr. Ian Martin. Also contribut-

ing will be 6'3 Soph Norell Smith, 6'1 Soph Nate Edvardsen, 6'2 Soph Austin Atkins, 6'6 Jr. Ethan Darter, and 6'4 Jr. Ryan Bereda. If the threes are falling for the likes of Smith and Dijak, the Indians could surprise some teams this year.

LaPorte graduated several standout players including Josh Fleming from last year, going 16-8 under Tom Wells before bowing out in the 4A Regional to Lake Central 70-60. This year 6'3 Junior Starter Matt Otwinowki will lead the way with 5'11 Sr. WR Tyler Littlejohn[who set the record for pass catches in school history this year in football], and 6'1 Sr. Brian McGuire. Look for 5'10 Jr. Ren Crump, and 6'0 Jr. Ben Walker to play also this year for the Slicers as well. Others to contribute will include 6'1 Soph Nik Ormsby, 6'2 Soph Andy Samuelson, 6'4 Soph Scott Cooper, 6'4 Jr. Brady Cummins, 6'2 Jr. Ian Dudek, 5'10 Soph Owen Strieter, 6'1 Jr. Jake Senne, and 6'2 Soph Ben Dermody. If this core can duplicate the football team's success, it will be a great season again in LaPorte.

Merrillville had a tough year going 4-16 under Coach TJ Lux and was knocked out of the tournament by LaPorte 62-49. 6'2 Junior QB DJ Wilkins[12ppg] is a D1 Recruit and he is back along with 6'3 Senior West Side Transfer Ramone Atkins. The Bucs also return 6'0 Jr. Charles Jacobs, 6'2 Soph. Jonah Jackson, 5'10 Jr. Marcel Cherry, 6'3 Soph Cameron Wilson, and 6'3 Jr. Jarius Stevens. Others to contribute will include 6'4 Sr. VJ Cox, 6'1 Soph Mitch Ward, 5'9 Soph Sharrod Mitchell, and 5'11 Soph Zion Young. The young Pirates look to improve on the campaign from last year in the DAC and in the Sectional.

Michigan City went 14-9 last year under Head Coach John Boyd before bowing out to LaPorte 67-51 in the Sectional. 6'3 Sr. Brad Pawloski is back along with 2 other starters in 5'7 Soph. Jaronde Boyd and 6'5 Jr. Shan-Quan Hemphill. Others that may contribute include 6'3 Sr. Shayne Barron, 5'10 Sr. Jerome Watts, 6'1 Sr. Mike Miller, 5'9 Sr. Zach Stewart, 6'0 Sr. MiQuan Dority, 6'3 Jr. Cevin Crawford, 6'4 Soph. Makiyah Smallwood, 6'4 Soph.Dante Combs, 6'0

Soph. Troy Jones, 6'6 Soph. Tyler Games, and 5'10 Soph. Matt Westman. The Wolves may be one of the top contenders again in the DAC and the Sectional this year.

Portage under Head Coach Rick Snodgrass went 13-11 last year and had a successful season before bowing out to Michigan City 64-49 in the 4A Sectional. This year the Tribe will look to 5'9 Sr. Point Guard Jordan Collazo[10.4ppg] to lead the way. 5'10 Sr. Guard Tim Bryant will contribute as well as 6'1 Sr. Tyler McCann, 6'0 Sr RB from the Football team Nathan Cherry, 6'3 Jr. Canaan Cooper, 6'2 Jr. Jordan Olson, 5'9 Sr. Brian Mihal, 5'11 Jr. Marquis White, 6'4 Sr. Quinten Utterback, 6'1 Soph Tyler Meuz, 6'2 Sr. Andre Johnson, 6'1 Jr. Kevin Jenkins, and 5'11 Sr. Shamari Lewis.The Indians will go as far as there Senior Point Guard Jordan Collazo can take them this year.

Valpo had an up and down year last year going 12-9 with some big wins under Head Coach Matt Thomas. The Vikings were knocked out of the tournament by their rival Chesterton 45-39 in the 4A Sectional. The Vikings will be led again this year by 6'7 Jr. Center Connor TenHove [11ppg]. Look for 5'9 Speedy Junior Evan Walls to run the point this year along with fellow Junior 6'1 Steve Helm. Senior leaders this year include 6'3 Sr. Brandon Nicholas, 6'0 Sr. Max Jindra, 6'4 Sr. Cole Wolf, and 6'3 Sr. Drew Paul. Underclassmen 5'9 Soph. Zach Anslem, 6'4 Soph. Trace Ramsey, 6'3 Soph Jay Bisacky, 5'11 Jr. Tony Kloss, and 6'1 Freshman Curtis Jones will contribute as well. The Vikings style of play and size will cause a lot of team's trouble this year and TenHove is one of the best juniors in the state.

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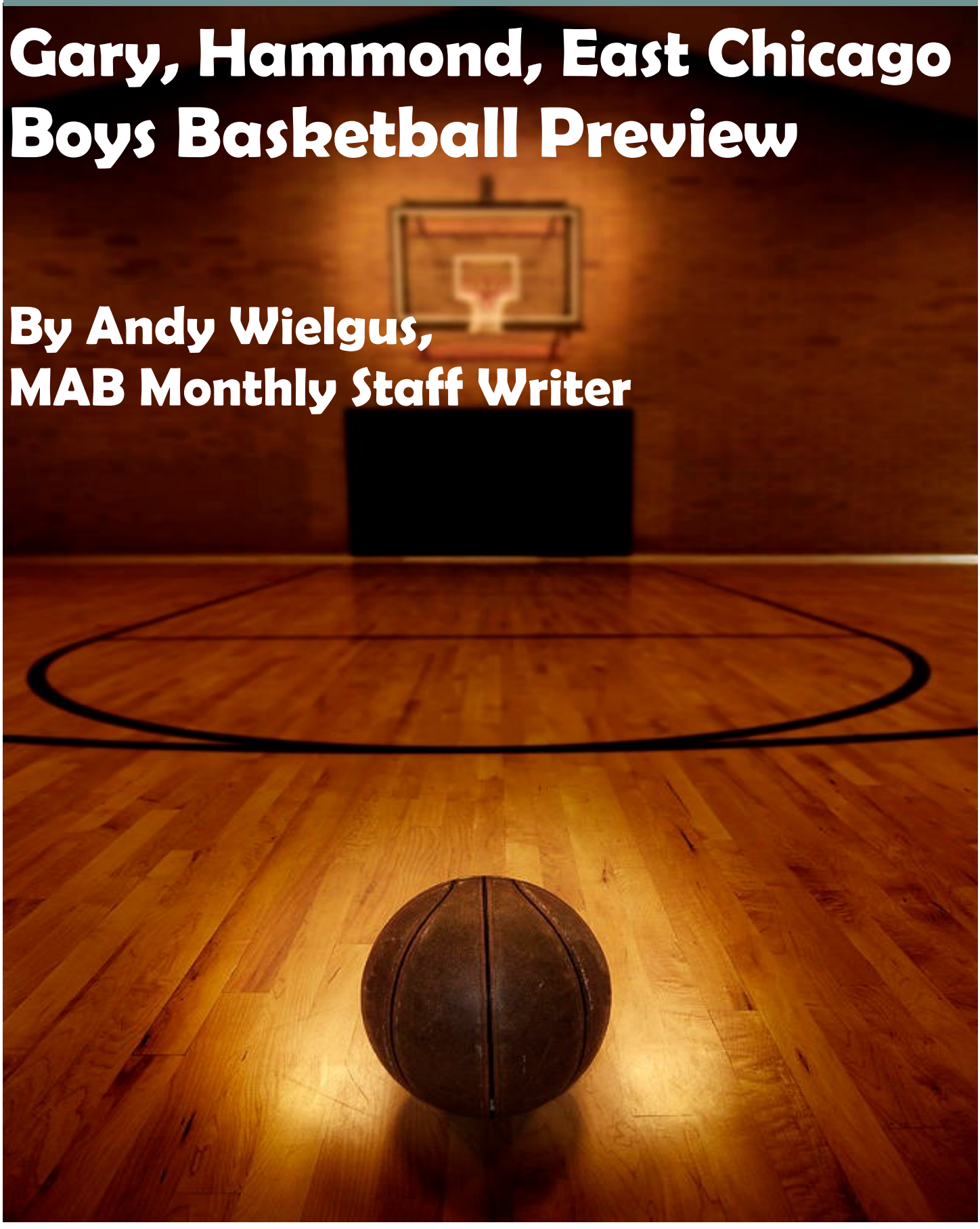
Gary, Hammond, East Chicago Boys Basketball Preview



By Andy Wielgus, MAB Monthly Staff Writer

East Chicago Central under Abe Brown went 12-10 a year ago and he is 97-56 in his eighth season at EC. The Cardinals were knocked out of the tournament by Lake Central 70-57 last year. This year EC will be led by their D1 recruit 6'1 Sr. Hyron Edwards [18.5ppg] at the Pt. Guard spot and 6'5 Damien Jefferson [15.3ppg], who is one of the top junior players in the State. Other Cardinal standouts include 6'1 So Jamar Adams, 6'2 Soph Kelshawn Lewis, 6'2 Soph Jermaine Couisnard, 6'3 Sr. Joshua Toodle, 6'9 Soph Johnnie Jones, 6'3 Jr. Malee Jackson, 5'11 Soph Alyon Stubbs, 5'7 Jr. Treyvon Smith, 6'4 Jr. Madison Hawkins, and 5'10 Soph Darion Reed. EC Central has a proud tradition and a state championship under Pete Trgovich. Former player E'twaun Moore is now with the Chicago Bulls.

Bowman under Head Coach Marvin Rea won there last state title over the Linton-Stockton Miners 86-73 in 2A in 2013. Last year in 3A they fell to Greensburg in the State Title game 89-76.Rea is 119-46 overall at Bowman. Rea is the only coach in Calumet Region History to have won 2 state titles and the Eagles are in 3A. Bowman will be full of talent again this year and Crown Point and Munster have been added to the schedule. They also have added several Lew Wallace players to the program including 6'4 Jr. Chris Porter and another new player in 6'7 Jr. Robert Howard. Standouts include 6'1 Junior Akil McClain, 5'7 Junior Martin Schiele and 6'3 Junior Montrell Barfield. Additional help up Front will come from 6'8 Junior Avery Edwards. Others to contribute include 6'3 Jr. Henry Taylor, 5'7 Jr. Derrick Thompson, 6'1 Soph Carlos Johnson, 6'3 Jr. Xavier Walker, 6'1 Jr. Kenneth Stalling, 6'2 Fr. Langston Stalling, and 6'1 Jr. Travon Atwater. The move to 3A was no problem for the Eagles, as they will be a favorite right away again.

Lighthouse under Coach Thomas Smith went 11-6 and the Lions look to improve this year as they have a new coach in Quincy Taylor. Leading the way will be 6'1 Sr. Alexander Johnson and 5'8 Sr. JaQuan Robinson. Crown Point senior transfer 6'10 Rade Kukobat will bolster the frontline and the Lions will also get help from 5'10 Sr. Jordan Scott, 6'0 Sr. Ben Jackson, 5'6 Sr. Danzell Douglas, 5'6 Fr. Bryant Grant, 5'8 Sr. Jamell Rembert, 6'5 Fr. Devoneire Glass, 6'4 Fr. Jonquil Dawson, 6'3 Soph Javon Riley, 6'2 Sr. Kwame Mootye, 6'1 Soph Rashaud Colbert, and 5'10 Soph Qur'an Harris. A big jump to 3A proved to be a real challenge for the Lions as they were knocked out of the tournament by Bowman 111-62 last year

Gary Roosevelt has a 2nd year coach in former EC Central standout and LC Ass't. Marcus Jefferson, who had replaced Renaldo Thomas. The Panthers went 10-7 in the first year under Jefferson and were knocked out of the tournament by Gary Lew Wallace 71-69. Standouts include 6'8 Junior Tevin Farris [21ppg], to go along with 6'3 Jr. Da'Shawn McIntee, and 6'8 Sr. Josh Falls. In the backcourt 5'7 Sr Hammond High Transfer Antonio Poole will lead with 5'10 Sr. Khayree Sims. Others to contribute include 6'0 Sr. Jeremy Dickerson, 6'1 Soph Devon Moore, 5'10 Jr. D'Angelo Whitt, 5'9 Jr. Matthew Pittman,

6'4 Sr. Marlon Gross, 6'2 Jr. D'Angelo Grays, and 6'1 Jr. Joseph Lipscomb. Roosevelt is a program with 2 state championships before the class era. And the Panthers would like to see a return to the era of Roosevelt Athletic excellence. Last year they won 8 more games then the previous year.

Gary West Side under second year Head Coach and longtime Ass't. Murray Richards went 9-10 last year before bowing out to EC Central in the tournament 68-44. Richards is 21-18 at West Side. Contributors this year in the frontcourt will include 6'2 Sr. Marlon Northern, 6'6 Sr. and Football Standout Christian Jacobs[10ppg], 6'3 Sr. Phazon Calhoun, 6'2 Sr. TuQuary Scott, and 6'1 Sr. Daronte Buggs. Others contributing this year include 5'10 Sr. Kirk Myricks, 6'0 Fr. Telonte Mitchell, 6'3 Jr. Jeffrey Townsend, 5'8 Jr. Johnathan Berry, 6'0 Soph McKey Lunn, 6'2 Sr. DeAngelo Brewer, and 5'11 Jr. Jalwon Carson. The Cougars would like to bring back the glory of the State Championship year of Chris Hunter and Brandon Cameron. The sectional will be tough though with Munster and EC being the favorites.

Hammond Morton Governors under second year Head Coach Kevin Dermody went 8-14 a year ago. The Govs were knocked out of the tournament 71-57 by Munster. Morton returns several key performers this year will include 6'4 Junior.Tayon Carter, 5'11 Sr. Mark Snorton, 6'4 Sr. Jachi Covington, 6'1 Sr. Jarrett Dickey, 5'9 Sr. Ed Collins, and 5'9 Junior Devin Doby. Others to contribute include 6'3 Jr. Tayvon Carter, 6'1 Sr. Devantra Crenshaw, 5'10 Jr. Corey Hair, 6'0 Sr. Dequan Kohnke, 5'6 Jr. Jaren Thomas, 5'8 Soph Eric Lowe, 5'9 Soph Tyreion Jackson, and 5'11 Soph Deshawn Jones. Year in and year out Morton is very athletic and they would like it to transition to more wins this year.

Hammond High under Larry Moore Jr. went 13-10 last year and was knocked out of the tournament by Griffith 49-41. The backcourt will be led by 6'1 Sr. Aaron Haggard [16.5ppg].and others will help the frontcourt including 6'5 Jr. Jaylon Styles, 6'6 Jr. John Wilson, 6'6 Sr. Nasir Cade, 6'1 Jr. Xavier

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Harman, and 6'6 Soph. Caleb Coleman. In the backcourt the Cats will also get help from 5'6 Sr. Darnell Culbreath, 6'1 Sr. Ahmani McCombs, 5'10 Jr. Kyle Collins, 5'3 Sr. Deontae Williams, 5'5 Jr. Dorian Deloney, 5'8 Jr. Travonte Marley and 5'8 Junior Tim Echoles. The Cats hope to bring back the glory days of Leroy Harwell and George Green from the past.

Hammond Clark under Joe Delgado went 0 -22 and they hope to make some noise in Hammond this year under new coach Aaron Mercer Jr. Key leaders include 5'8 Sr. Anthony DelValle, 5'9 Sr. Lavonte Beans, and 6'0 Junior Eddie Rebeles. 6'1 Junior Zach Bucsko will contribute also along with 6'3 Ricky Scott, 6'3 Stanley Thomas, 5'10 Travonte Wallace, 6'4 Nicholas Davis, 5'9 George Roper, and 5'10 Jeremy Shannon-Chase. The Pioneers hope to be ready for the postseason as they gain experience through the year and they hope to get some wins along the way.

Hammond Gavit went 6-16 under Head Coach Brandon Ridenour and the new coach in Woodmar is Mark Barnhizer who is 384-279 in his career. The Glads will be led in the Frontcourt In the backcourt, Coach Barnhizer will look to 6'2 Sr. Casey Jackson, and 6'2 Junior Randy Ferguson to lead the way. Others that will contribute will include 5'3 Jr. Jermond Evans, 6'0 Fr. George Tucker III, 6'1 Fr. Justyn McClinton, 5'10 Sr. Derrick Fisher, 5'9 Sr. Maurice Winters Jr., 6'1 Soph Eric Johnson, 5'5 Sr. Jermaine Buchanan, 5'9 Sr. Dontae Adams, and 6'0 Sr. Ernest Bolden. The Glads hope to get close to the 12 win total of a year ago of 2012-13.

21st Century went 15-6 last year under Coach Rodney Williams before bowing out of the tournament to Marquette 72-57. This year the Cougars will be led again by 5'10 Junior Eugene German[19ppg], He will get help from 5'8 Sr. Josigha Coleman, 5'6 Sr. Joseph Harris, 6'3 Sr Christian Booker, 6'5 Soph Jaylon Maxwell, 6'0 Fr. De Andre Gholston, 6'0 Fr Kirrendan Pellebon, 5'5 Jr. Marquis Stephens, 5'6 Jr. Tyshaun Mack, 5'10 Sr. DeVantaye Washington, 5'6 Soph Core'von Lott, and 6'3 Sr. Chanton Booker.

Hammond Academy has a new coach in Justin Swart. And they will be led by 6'0 Sr Kory Humphrey and 6'2 Sr Cameron Beamon. Others to contribute included 6'1 Sr. Brandon Smith, 6'1 Sr. Brian Smith, 6'1 Sr Jacob Rzepka, 5'10 Jr. Isaias Jackson, 5'10 Jr. Keith Smith, 6'2 Jr. Julian White, and 5'11 Caden Bell.

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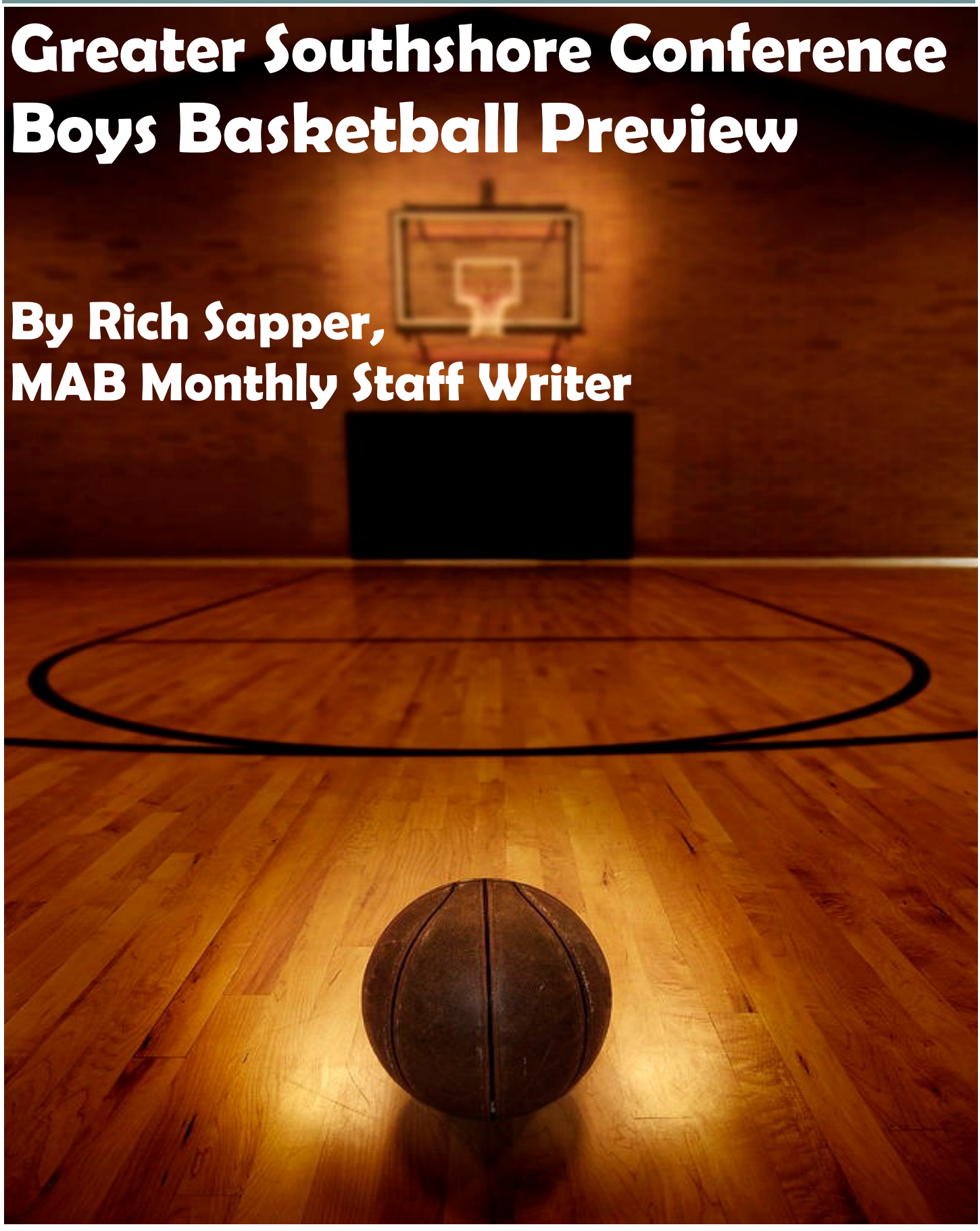
Greater Southshore Conference Boys Basketball Preview



By Rich Sapper, MAB Monthly Staff Writer

Calumet– Last season, Matt Justin's Warriors had a respectable 12-9 season highlighted by solid conference wins and a double overtime victory on the road at Clark. The Warriors feel, however, in the first round of the sectional to New Prairie.

Calumet will head into this campaign losing leading scorers Dantrell Brooks and Javonta Whitehead who graduated and transfer Anthony Harris. Senior swingman Dakota Humphry is expected to carry much of the load this season along with sophomore G/F Quentin Perry. D'Angelo Daniels, David Williams, and Mark Davis will also provide senior leadership.

Edison– Last season, the Eagles were 15-7, 15-4 against teams not named Bishop Noll who Edison lost two in the regular season, conference tournament and the sectional. Other than that, Edison had a tremendous season by anyone's standards.

The great news if you are an Eagles fan is that leading scorer, senior G Brian Patterson returns with nearly 17 ppg. Senior center Mark Novakovich will return as well patrolling the paint. Kyle Gooch and sophomore Michael Boyer are expected to contribute as well.

Michigan City Marquette - Marquette has been steadily improving over the past several years and last year, they went all the way to the state finals, beating Barr-Reeve in overtime 70-66 bringing their record to 20-6.

Senior Ryan Fazekas will return to lead the Blazers before heading to Providence next season. Braxton Miller, JoVonte Peals and Malcolm Reed make up the rest of the seniors on this year's squad.

Noll – The Warriors had a tremendous season last year, amassing a 21-4 record making it all the regional falling 75-64 in double overtime to Westville. Had things worked out differently, the GSSC could have had two representatives in the state finals.

Head Coach Josh Belluomini will lose 39 ppg from last year's starting lineup, including leader scorer Larry Crisler who is now playing baseball at IU.

Senior guard Roman Penn is the retunring leading scorer with 7 ppg last season. Senior F Lee Howard also return to the starting lineup.

North Newton – North Newton will have a new head coach in Tyler Marsh after a pair of tough 2-19 seasons.

Coach Marsh will have key performer, senior F Kyle Mack (15 ppg and 6 rpg) will be back to build around. Blake Ramos is also expected to be a key contributor to the Spartans this year.

River Forest- Long time head coach Jason Quigg has moved from the basketball court to the athletic directors office. This season, the Ingots have a new head coach who is very familiar with the conference in former Whiting coach Derrick Milenkoff.

Milenkoff will have seniors Malachi Sala, Anthony Laas and Ryan Slavey to build around.

Wheeler- The Bearcats suffered it's first losing season in over a decade last year finishing only 6-14 last year, but had some success in conference.

Tom Johnson's team will lose leading scorer James Miller, but returns most of a solid lineup that includes Austin Greiner, Chris Nodd, and Jared Catherman who will bring experience to a roster looking to return to the former dominance that this team enjoyed.

Whiting- Tim Hopps and the Oilder had a nice 2013-2014 going 13-9, including 5 wins in a row to end the season going into the sectional. If they are going to repeat last year's success Coach Hopps will have to find a replacement for Matt Dvorsck who was an honorable motional all stater last year.

Chris Dietz bring s his 8 points and 8 boards back for the Oilers and Senior Joseph Hawkins will be expected to contribute a great deal this season as well.

Hanover Central- Bryon Clouse and the Wildcats struggled last season eaking out a lone victory in a 2 point win over North Newton late in the season.

The best news for the Clouse is that he has all of the pieces back from last season and is going to be able to rely on that experience. Junior Guards Payton Smith and Jordan Smith are expected to lead the way. Football standout Daquon McDonald joins the team for the first time this year and adds extra athleticism.

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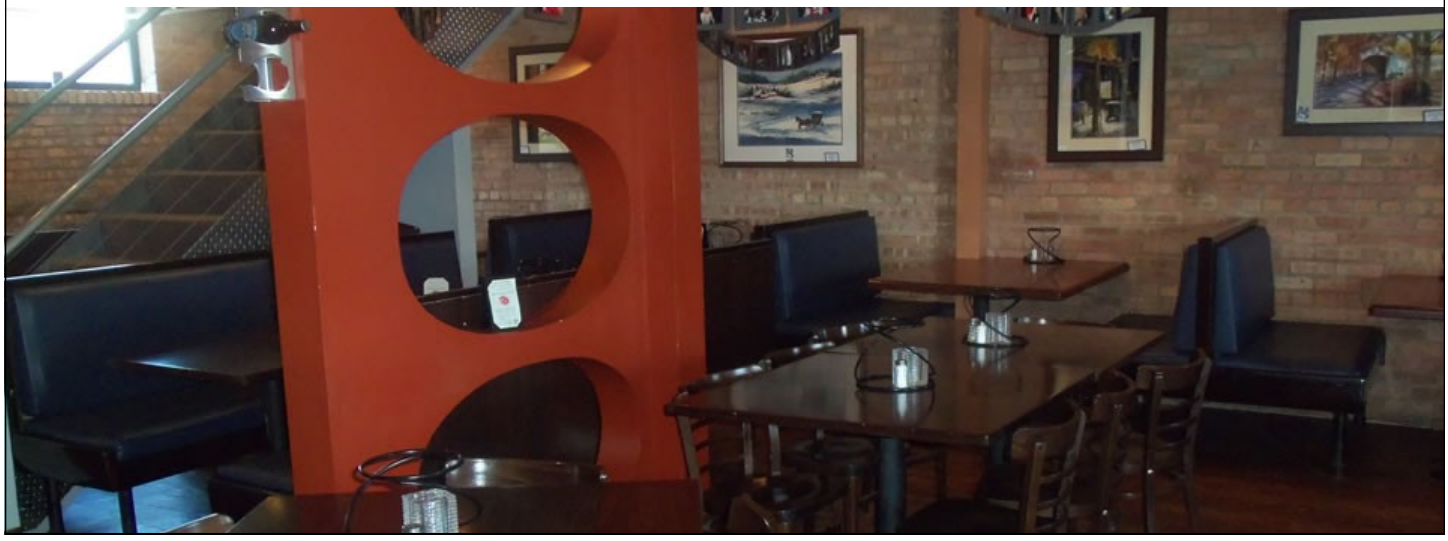
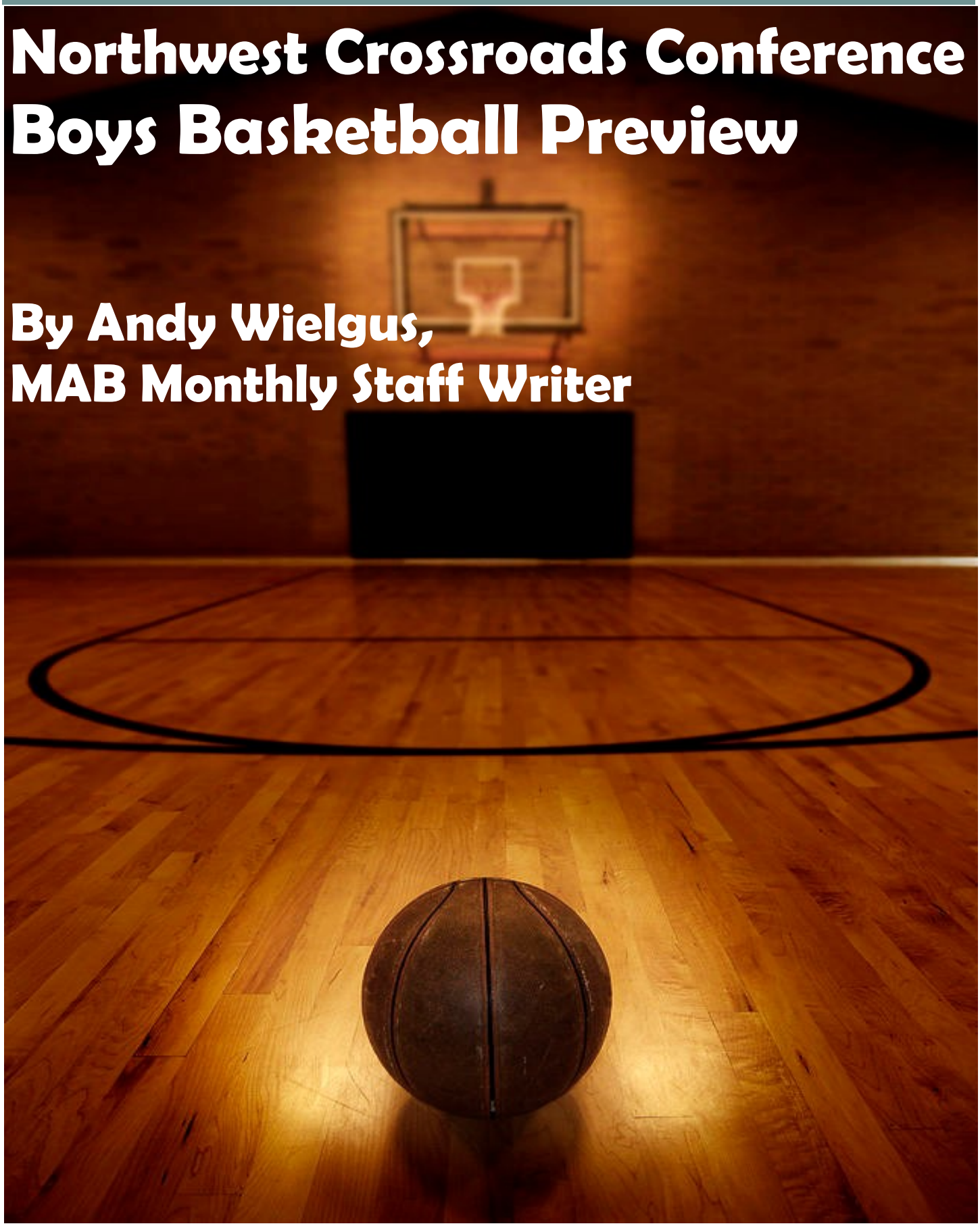


Northwest Crossroads Conference Boys Basketball Preview



By Andy Wielgus, MAB Monthly Staff Writer

Once again Munster and Griffith will be the teams to beat in the NCC this year. Other teams do have an upcoming core that could challenge the Mustangs and Panthers throughout the season. Top players in the NCC include Drew Hackett, Nick Podkul and the Murphy Twins at Griffith.

Andrean started last season with losses to Lake Central and Crown Point and they rebounded well going 13-10 under new Coach Scott Hicko. They also defeated Marquette and went onto to do well in the tournament, before bowing out to Bowman 65-58 in the 3A Regional. The Niners experienced players are 5'11 Sr. Ben Davidson and 6'2 Sr. Nick Podkul [11ppg.]. Also getting playing time this year will be 5'11 Sr. Parker Huttel, 6'3 Sr. Matthew Anjorin, 5'11 Sr. Jon Kerby, 6'2 Jr. Dane Chance, 6'4 Sr. Bobby Pollitt, 6'8 Junior Aiden Finnigan, 6'5 Junior Chris Wolak, 5'7 Soph Evan Galindo, 5'7 Soph Winston Carey, and 5'11 Junior Collin Flowers. The Niners will look to compete in the NCC and for Sectional success and may have to get some of its players going after another great Football Season.

Griffith under Coach Gary Hayes did well in his second year beating East Chicago and going 16-7, before bowing out to Bowman 80-44 in the tournament. The HS program is loaded with young talent that is led by two of the best junior players in the area in 6'4 twins Anthony and Tremell Murphy. The Murphy twins will be helped by 6'4 Calumet Sr. transfer Anthony Harris, 6'3 Sr. Josh Terzarial, and in the backcourt the Panthers will be helped by 5'9 Sr. Frank Azoona, 5'11 Sr. Lawrence Mosley, and 6'1 Junior Anthony Quintero. Others to contribute include 5'8 Kelston Haden, 6'1 Sr. Ja'Von Quarles, 5'8 Jr. Isaiah Martinez, 6'3 Jr. Marcus Marsenic, 6'3 Soph Cornell Hampton, 6'2 Soph Torin Dillon, and 5'11 Soph. Al Ervin. If the youth prospers Griffith could be a factor in the NCC. Hayes was formerly the coach at Lake Station Edison in Basketball and Tennis.

Highland under Head Coach Jordan Heckard did ok a year ago going 8-15 and improvement over 7 the previous year. The Trojans were knocked out of the 4A Tournament Lake Central 76-39. And the Trojans will look to 6'1 Sr. Nathaniel Amon to lead them this year. The Trojans would like to improve on the wins from a year ago. Look for the following backcourt players to contribute as well: 5'9 Sr. Julian Tucker, 6'0 Fr Tyler Brankin, 5'9 Sr Dan Dal Santo, 5'9 Jr. Julius Davila, and 6'3 Jr. Brendan Anderson. In the frontcourt the following players will contribute and they include: 6'3 Sr. Branden Pullyblank, 6'3 Sr. Zack Syvertsen, 6'0 Sr. Antonio Pagan, 6'2 Fr. Nick Thompson, and 6'4 Jr. Zach Petraitis.

Hobart under Head Coach Mike Black went 10-12 and they play in a tough DAC Sectional, but do have a chance at the upper tier in the NCC. They were knocked out of the tournament last year by Valpo 85-64. Leading the Brickie backcourt will be 6'2 Junior Josh Uhles, 6'0 Sr. 6'0 Sr. Alec Parsanko, 5'11 Jr. Luis Cordero, 5'8 Jr. Josh Torres, and 6'2 Junior Jordan Chontos. Chontos is the nephew of former major league baseball player Larry Bigbie. In the frontcourt the Bricks will be led by 6'3 Junior and Football WR Monte White, 6'3 Sr. Juan Lamar III[11.5ppg.], 6'3 Jr. Mike Torres, 6'7 Soph Alexs Novakovich, 6'1 Junior Isaiah Gransberry, 5'11 Sr. Donny Parlock, and 6'4 Sr. Shane Tomaga. The Bricks future looks bright as there junior group is very deep.

Kankakee Valley's 2nd year coach is Nathan Vanduyne and he went 8-14 last year before bowing out to Andrean 43-39 in the tournament. Also helping the Kougar frontline will be 6'1 Jr Chad Hill, 6'1 Sr. Matt Gralik, 5'11 Soph Jake Jones, and 6'0 Soph. Danny Rockley, The KV backcourt will be bolstered by 6'1 Junior Darrick Webster, 6'4 Sr. Dylan Caldwell[9.4ppg], and 6'0 Junior Logan Abbring. The Boys and Girls Basketball team both hope to have a big year and keep the Kougar Crazies going wild in Wheatfield again this year.

Lowell had a good year last year going 16-5 under Nate Richie.But they lose their all everything player in Zachary Van Hook, 7 other seniors, and have a new Coach in Joe Delgado. The Red Devils will also get help in the frontcourt from 6'3 Sr. Jayson Savich, 6'7 Jr. Hayden Monix, 6'6 Soph Zack Seegers, 6'2 Sr. Eric Zukauskas[8.3ppg], and 6'2 Soph. Shane Van Hook. In the backcourt the Devils will be led by 5'9 Junior Brandon Cory, 6'3 Soph Nicholas Mantis, 5'8 Jr. Justin King, 6'0 Sr. John Wietbrock, 5'8 Soph Josh Redmon, and 5'10 Soph Jonathan Cory.

Munster's Coach Mike Hackett went 20-5 last year. He has another club that will look to lead the class in the NCC this year in his 15th campaign. Munster was knocked out of the tournament by Lake Central last year 53-37 and Coach Hackett is 272-62 at Munster High School. Key performers this year include 5'11 Junior Connor Manous, 6'6 Sr. Nikola Mandic, 6'1 Sr. Mike Hayes, 6'3 Sr. Adam Ostoich, 6'2 Sr. Kevin Schlotman, and 6'2 Sr. Drew Hackett. Others to contribute include 5'11 Jr. Luke Pillarella, 6'2 Jr. Luke Hackett, 6'1 Sr. Austin Elland, 6'5 Soph Mike Madura, 6'5 Soph Jake Strbjak,and 6'2 Jr. Antoine Van Dyke. Look for the M dome to be a tough place to play again his ye ar.

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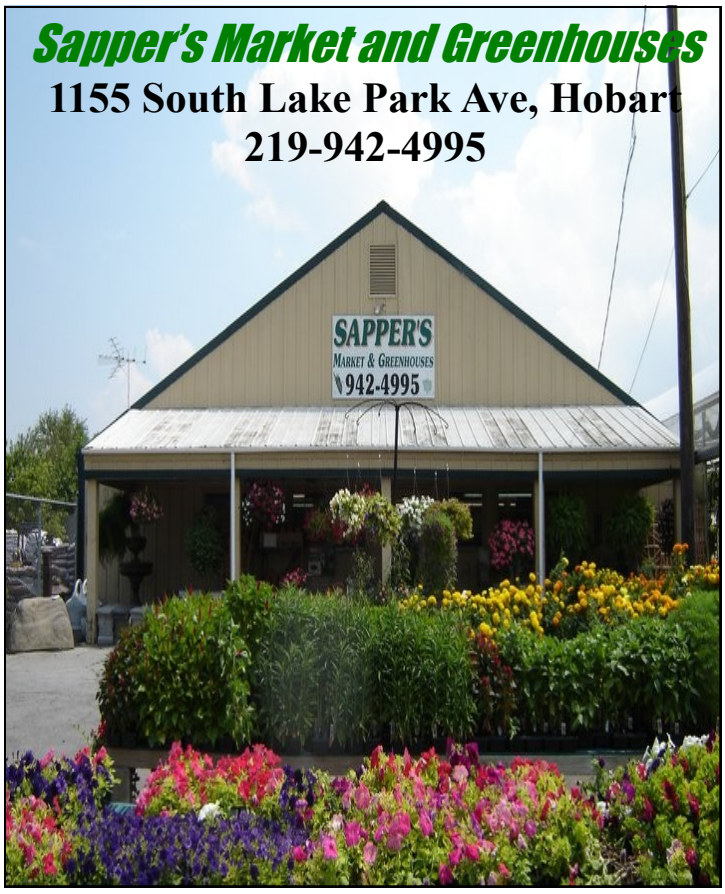

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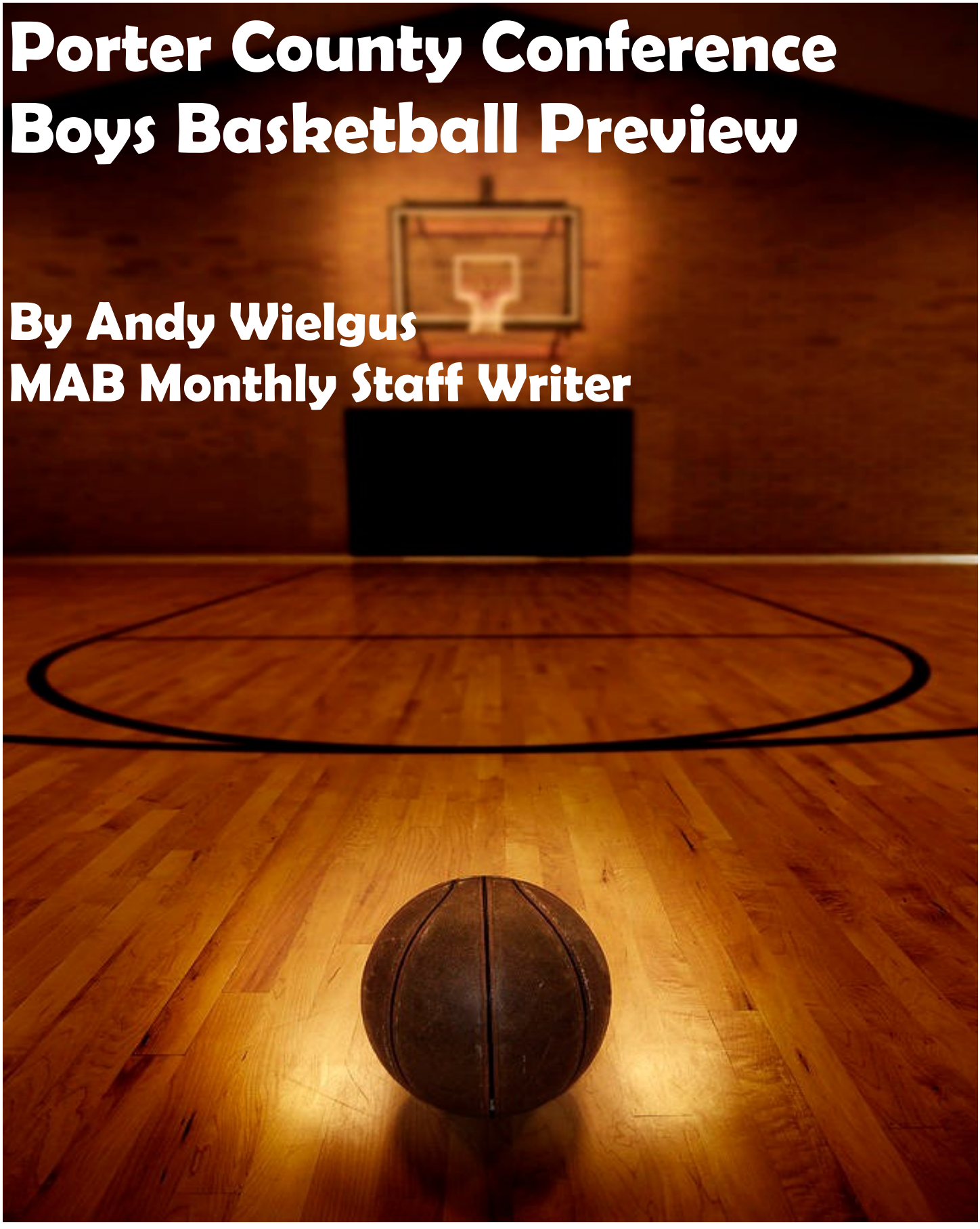

By Andy Wielgus
MAB Monthly Staff Writer

Last year was a great in the PCC with Kouts, Westville, and Washington Township all winning 16 games. Look for another banner year again in the PCC this go around.

Boone Grove went 6-14 under Matt McKay a year ago, before bowing out of the tournament to Hebron 38-35. They will be led by 6'0 Sr. Ike Mioduski [10ppg] and 6'1 Sr. Alex Schutkovske. The Wolves will get strong contributions from 6'1 Jr Evan Stewart [who is a RB on the Football team], 6'3 Jr. David Sorrell, and 5'11 Sr. Kyle Kaminski. Others to contribute this year include 6'5 Sr. Dan Gholston, 5'10 Jr. Austin Bills, 6'6 Jr Tristen Hesser, 6'1 Jr Ian McKay, and 5'11 Jr. David Ooms.

Hebron went 13-10 last year under John Steinhilber, before bowing out in the tournament to Whiting 47-43. This year the Hawks will be led by 5'9 Sr Bryce Hanaway [13.2ppg] and 6'6 Sr Spencer Sutherland. Other Hawks making strong contributions include 5'10 Sr Brad Blank, 5'9 Jr Ryan Schmidt, 6'3 Sr Colton Jones, 6'0 Soph Jake Evans, 5'10 Jr Donovan Friel, 6'5 Jr Daniel Ryan, 6'5 Soph Kodi Cruse, 6'2 Fr Carson Roeske, 5'11 Sr Drake Earley, and 5'10 Sr Zac Hernandez.

Kouts went 16-5 last year under Matt Crawford before bowing out to 21st Century in the tournament 82-71. This year the Mustangs will be led by 6'4 Jr Dylan Bruce [9.5ppg]. And he will get help from the following players including 6'3 Jr Trevor McCormick 5'10 Sr Alex Sanders, 6'0 Jr Jared Birky, 6'3 Fr Dillon Matthes, 5'10 Sr Jake Spaulding, 6'2 Jr Tyler Aiken, 6'2 Sr Will Ward, 6'0 Sr Mark Neary, 6'3 Soph Ethan Ketchmark, and 6'0 Soph Alex Garavalia,

Lacrosse went 3-17 last year and has a new coach this year in Jeff Mitzner. They bowed out of the tournament to Culver 64-31. This year the Tigers will be led by 6'3 Jr Zachary Brown [9.1ppg]. And he will get help from 6'4 Jr Jonathan Rosenbaum, 6'0 Jr Jared Spoljaric, 5'9 Sr Austin Harris, 6'1 Sr Corey James, 6'3 Soph Jeremy Johnson, 5'10 Jr Boston Tucker, 6'2 Jr Andrew McCormick, 5'8 Sr Wylie Brown, 5'10 Sr Jason Pressel, 6'3 Soph Dylan Claypool, 6'1 Sr Nathan Elliott, 5'11 Soph Ryan Kiel, and 5'10 Jr William Malecki.

Morgan Township went 10-10 a year ago under Eric Braden, before bowing out to 21st Century 80-51. This year the Cherokees will be led by 6'3 Jr Jake Koselke [16ppg] and 6'2 Sr Chase Braden [16ppg]. They will also get contributions from 5'7 Jr Jacob Hernandez, 6'0 Sr Connor Martin, 5'10 Sr Tyler Abbott, 6'2 Jr Dalton Kizlor, 5'9 Jr Austin Abbott, and 6'1 Sr Tyler Hartley.

South Central 5-16 last year and they bowed out of the tournament to Argos 75-51, Coach Eric Bransz will look to 5'11 Sr Mark Richards [12.6ppg] to lead the Satellites this season. He will get help from 5'10 Jr David Williams, 5'11 Jr Matt Clemons, 6'3 Soph Garrett Hewlett, 6'2 Jr Jacob Clindaniel, 6'0 Sr Noah Matthys, 6'2 Sr Colin Froedge, 5'7 Soph R.J. Snyder, and 6'1 Jr Cooper Husmann.

Washington Township was knocked out by Marquette 75-62 in the tournament after going 16-6 for Coach Scott Bowersock. The

Senators will be led by 5'8 Sr Alex Lowther [12ppg]. He will get help from 5'8 Jr Alex Perez, 6'2 Jr Nathan Line, 5'11 Jr Dustin Payne, 5'9 Sr Lucas Soliday, 6'3 Fr Brock Pappas, 6'3 Sr Evan Muha, 6'3 Sr Michael Prescott, 5'10 Jr Clark Martinez, 5'10 Sr Troy Kwiatkowski , 5'10 Soph Brenden Payne, 6'2 Soph Nolan Johnson, and 6'0 Soph Braden Kingery.

Westville went 13-9 last year and they bowed out of the tournament to Kouts 69-57. New Coach Nate Mrozinski will look to 5'9 Jr Josh Brownlee [8ppg] to lead the way. He will get help from 6'0 Sr Austin Swistek, 5'7 Sr. Jordan Raney, 5'8 Jr Carter Swistek, 6'1 Jr Eric McClintock, 6'0 Jr Alex Quinn, 6'4 Sr Max Dille, 5'11 Sr Jake Parsons, 5'8 Jr Ryan Fath, 5'11 Jr Bryan Walker, and 6'0 Jr Seaghan House.

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2014-15 MAB HS Basketball Broadcast Schedule

11-12-14	530pm	MAB Weekly
11-15-14	3pm	Oregon-Davis Lady Bobcats Kickoff Show @ TBA
11-18-14	7pm	Girls BB Westville @ OD
11-21-14	7pm	Girls BB Lowell @ Portage
11-25-14	7pm	Girls BB OD @ Washington Township
11-26-14	7pm	Boys BB Noll @ Munster
11-27-14	Noon	Girls BB OD @ Frontier
11-29-14	7pm	Boys BB Valpo @ Hobart
12-3-14	7pm	Girls BB Laville @ OD
12-5-14	7pm	Girls BB Portage @ Crown Point
12-6-14	530pm	Girls BB OD @ SB Adams
	2pm	BNL @ West Side Girls BB
12-9-14	7pm	Boys BB 21st Century @ Griffith
12-10-14	530pm	MAB Weekly
12-12-14	530pm	Girls BB OD @ Knox
12-13-14	5pm	Girls BB OD @ Michigan City
12-14-14	1pm	Boys BB North Judson @ Valpo
12-16-14	530pm	Girls BB OD @ Mishawaka
12-20-14	2pm	Girls BB Canterbury @ Gary West Side
12-23-14	7pm	Girls BB SBSJ @ Crown Point
12-27-14		TBA Times Roncalli Girls BB Tny - OD games
1-2-15	5pm	Girls BB Culver Community @ OD
1-3-15	7pm	Girls BB Lacrosse @ OD
1-7-15	530pm	Girls BB OD @ Triton
1-9-15	530pm	Boys and Girls BB DH Merrillville @ Chesterton
1-10-15	7pm	Girls BB Elkhart Christian @ OD
1-13-15	5pm	Girls BB Glenn @ OD
1-14-15	530pm	MAB Weekly
1-15-15	7pm	Girls BB Argos @ OD
1-6-15	530pm	Boys and Girls BB DH Chesterton @ LaPorte
1-17-15	7pm	Girls BB Crown Point @ Merrillville
1-20-15		Bi County Tny - Times TBA
1-23-15	530pm	Boys and Girls BB DH LaPorte @ Michigan City
1-24-15	7pm	Boys BB Griffith @ EC Central
1-29-15	7pm	Girls BB Northwood @ OD
1-31-15	7pm	Girls BB Lowell @ Crown Point
2-3-15	7pm	Girls BB OD @ South Central
2-5-15	7pm	Girls BB Elkhart Central @ OD
2-6-15	7pm	Boys BB Munster @ Griffith
2-7-15	7pm	Boys BB Munster @ Merrillville
2-10-15	7pm	Boys BB EC Central @ Lake Central
2-12-15	530pm	MAB Weekly
2-13-15	7pm	Boys BB Whitney Young @ Bowman
2-17-15	7pm	Boys BB Rensselaer @ Portage
2-20-15	7pm	Boys BB Michigan City @ Merrillville
2-24-15	7pm	Boys BB Bowman @ EC Central
2-27-15	7pm	Boys BB Bowman @ Munster

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Football State Champion Recap

Recaps Provided by the IHSAA

Big defensive play sends North Vermilion over Pioneer in Class A

The North Vermilion Falcons, with the No. 1 defense in Class A football, used that asset when they needed it most in the state championship game.

Clinging to a one-point lead in the final 2 minutes, North Vermilion forced and recovered a fumble by the Pioneer Panthers and held on for a 27-26 victory. Dakoda Chapman forced the fumble, and Braeden Hollowell jumped on it at midfield. The stout defensive play preserved the Falcons' triumph over Pioneer and the top offense in Class A.

The Falcons surrendered 451 total yards to Pioneer while collecting just 270 themselves. But North Vermilion produced a timely 10-play, 64-yard drive for the winning score with 2:49 remaining. Adam Scott made the extra point that nudged the Falcons ahead.

North Vermilion won its first football state title in its first finals appearance. Coach Brian Crabtree's team, ranked second in the Associated Press poll, completed a perfect 14-0 season while defeating four consecutive top-10 clubs at the end.

Jacob Earl rushed for 108 yards on 21 attempts for the Falcons. Cody Wright completed 12-of-24 passes for 162 yards and two touchdowns. Earl caught three passes for 72 yards and a pair of scores.

Early in the second quarter, North Vermilion's Vaughn DePugh returned an interception 95 yards for a touchdown. That set a record for a scoring interception for all classes.

Coach Mike Johnson's Pioneer team, ranked fifth by AP, finished 13-2. The high-scoring Panthers averaged 53.2 points in beating their first five opponents in the tournament. They surpassed 60 three times.

The Panthers amassed 415 rushing yards in the title-game loss, led by 157 from Justin Mersch and 113 from Keith Nies.

Pioneer's Parker Englert named Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner
At the conclusion of the state championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named Parker Englert of Pioneer High School as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class A football.

Longest Interception Return
Overall: 95 by Vaughn Depugh, North Vermillion vs. Pioneer
A: 95 by Vaughn Depugh, North Vermillion vs. Pioneer

Most Touchdown Receptions (tied)
2 by Jacob Earl, North Vermillion

Stout running attack boosts Rensselaer Central over Evansville Mater Dei in Class 2A

Rensselaer Central captured the first state championship in any sport in its school history. The Bombers' unstoppable running attack made sure of that accompishment.

Rensselaer amassed a record 383 rushing yards in defeating the Evansville Mater Dei Wildcats, 45-21, in the Class 2A state title game. The previous Class 2A championship mark for team rushing was 380 yards, set by Jimtown against Clarksville in 1997.

The Bombers rolled to 24 first downs, compared

to seven for the Wildcats. Rensselaer held a time-of-possession advantage of 32 ½ minutes to 15 ½.

The Bombers didn't finish far off of their Class 2A-leading average of 52.21 points per game. Rylan Arihood ran for 149 yards and a touchdown on 29 attempts for Rensselaer. Trevor Hill totaled 99 rushing yards and a pair of touchdowns on 13 carries.

For Mater Dei, Drayke Richardt rushed for 104 yards on 11 attempts. Quarterback Kurtis Wilderman passed for 145 yards and a score. Julian Weidner caught five passes for 114 yards and a touchdown. Luke Neitzke returned a kickoff for a 77-yard TD and also scored after recovering a fumble.

The game pitted undefeated teams against each other. Coach Chris Meeks' Bombers, ranked second by the Associated Press, finished 15-0. Mater Dei, coached by Mike Goebel and top-ranked by AP, completed its season 14-1.

Rensselaer's Rylan Arihood named Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner

At the conclusion of the championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named Rylan Arihood of Rensselaer Central High School as the winner of the Class 2A Mental Attitude Award.

Class 2A Championship Game Records Set

Team

Most rushing attempts - 67 by Rensselaer

Old Record: 54 by River Forest vs. Indianapolis Scecina, 1990

Most rushing yards - 383 by Rensselaer

Old Record: 380 by Jimtown vs. Clarksville, 1997

Most first downs rushing - 22 by Rensselaer

Old Record: 19 by FW Bishop Luers vs. Indianapolis Cardinal Ritter, 2012

Cook, Tri-West Hendricks topple No. 1 Andrean in Class 3A

The Tri-West Hendricks Bruins did it with quick strikes. The Bruins did it with methodical drives. Mostly, they accomplished it with Wesley Cook carrying the load.

The Bruins bolted from a halftime tie with the top-ranked Andrean Fighting 59ers and scored 21 consecutive points en route to a 49-27 victory in the Class 3A state championship game. The Bruins won their fourth state crown – 10 years after their last.

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The player behind Tri-West's three straight touchdowns after halftime was Cook, who started the surge by returning the third quarter's opening kickoff 89 yards for a score. That set a new Class 3A record.

Cook followed with two more touchdowns. The first was a 2-yard rush to cap a 12-play, 78-yard march. The next was a 59-yard run on a one-play drive. That gave the Bruins a 21-point lead with 9:36 left in the game.

Cook finished with 218 rushing yards and four touchdowns, including the kickoff return.

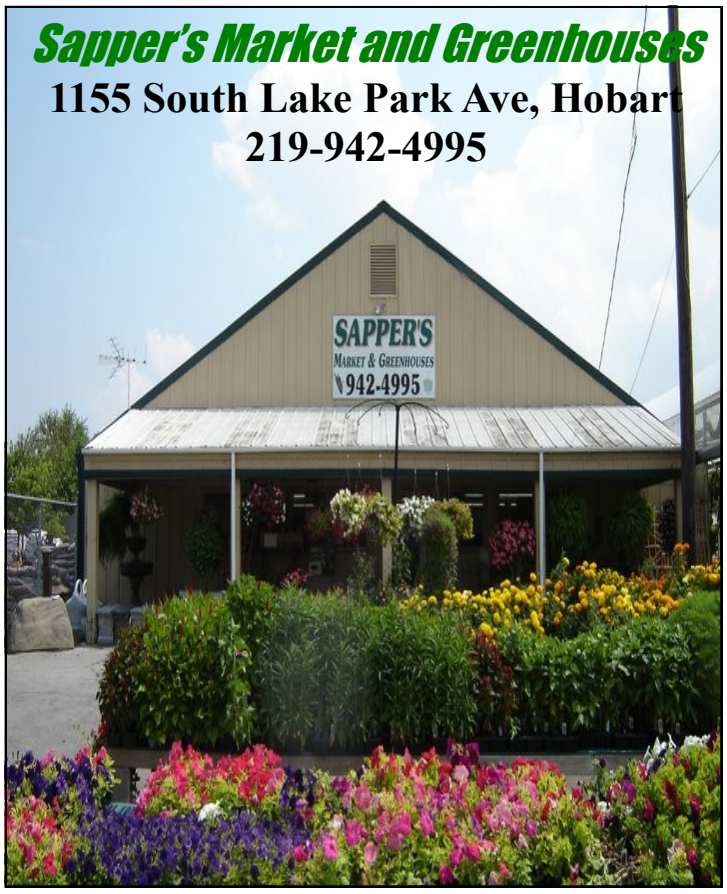
Tri-West quarterback Jake Hendershot completed 22-of-33 passes for 279 yards and one touchdown. Peyton Hendershot caught seven passes for 99 yards. Casey Coll had seven receptions for 90 yards and a score.

Coach Chris Coll's Bruins, ranked fifth by the Associated Press, finished 14-1 after losing only their season-opener (18-17) at West Lafayette.

Tri-West's victory in the finale kept the Fighting 59ers from gaining their second consecutive unbeaten state championship. Andrean had won 29 straight games, including 11 in a row in tournament play. Coach Phil Mason's Andrean team completed its season 14-1.

The Fighting 59ers were led in rushing by Trevor Berg, who had 95 yards and a touchdown. Quarterback Jake Paliga passed for 237 yards and three scores on 21-of-36. Jamie Johnson recorded eight receptions for 120 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Tri West's Nick Sprecher named Eskew Men-



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tal Attitude Award winner
At the conclusion of the championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named Nick Sprecher of Tri-West High School as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in

Class 3A State Championship Game Records

Most Combined Points
76 by Tri-West (49) and Andrean (27)

Most Kickoff Return Yards
149 by Andrean

Longest Kickoff Return
3A: 89 by Wesley Cook, Tri-West vs. Andrean

Most Rushing Touchdowns (tied)
5 by Tri-West

Total Offensive Yards:
465 by Tri-West vs. Andrean

Most First Downs (tied)
22 by Andrean vs. Tri-West

Most PAT Kicks (tied)
7 by Thomas Tinteria

Most Passing Yards
279 by Jake Hendershot, Tri-West vs. Andrean

Most Passing Touchdowns
3 by Andrean

Most Passing Touchdowns
3 by Jake Paliga, Andrean

Most Touchdown Receptions
2 by Jamie Johnson, Andrean

New Palestine unleashes offense in Class 4A win over New Prairie

Big-play, high-octane offense? The New Palestine Dragons, the state's top-scoring team, embodied the term as they marched to the Class 4A state championship.

Less than 15 minutes into the game, New Palestine had scored 35 points, needing a total of only 14 plays on its five touchdown drives. That provided a window to what would come. The relentless Dragons went on to capture a record-setting 77-42 victory over the New Prairie Cou-

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gars and finish an undefeated season.

New Palestine's scoring total set a new standard for all classes in the state finals. The Dragons averaged 61.5 points in six tournament games. In the Class 4A final, the game's combined scoring (119) also stood as a new record.

New Palestine's James Young totaled a Class 4A -record 282 rushing yards and two touchdowns in 17 attempts. In New Palestine's fast and furious start, Young bolted to a 98-yard touchdown run, setting a record for all classes in championship game play. Quarterback Alex Neligh ran for 178 yards and three touchdowns in 14 attempts.

Neligh also passed for 211 yards and five touchdowns, breaking the 4A pass-scoring mark and tying it for all classes. Duke Blackwell caught five passes for 130 yards and three scores. The Dragons totaled 462 yards against New Prairie, breaking that mark for all classes.

Coach Kyle Ralph's Dragons, ranked second in the Associated Press poll, finished 15-0 in winning their first football championship. Their record the last two seasons is 28-1.

Coach Russ Radtke's Cougars, ranked eighth in the AP poll, completed their season at 13-2. Radtke became the first coach to lead three different schools to a football state title game. He also coached North Judson-San Pierre and Grif-

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fith to the final game.

New Prairie's Tyler Weller rushed for 179 yards and four touchdowns on 27 attempts. The Cougars totaled 321 rushing yards and 389 total yards.

New Prairie's David Walbring named Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner
At the conclusion of the championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named David Walbring of New Prairie High School as the winner of the Class 4A Mental Attitude Award.

Class 4A State Championship Game Records

Team Records
Most Points: 77 by New Palestine
Most Combined Points: 119 New Palestine vs. New Prairie
Most Points in a Half: 49 (1st half) by New Palestine
Most Touchdowns: 11 by New Palestine
Most PAT Kicks: 11 by New Palestine
Most Rushing Yards: 462 by New Palestine
Most Rushing Touchdowns: 6 by New Palestine AND New Prairie
Most Passing Touchdowns: 5 by New Palestine
Total Offensive Yards: 673 by New Palestine
Total Offensive Yards by Both Teams: 1,062 by New Palestine vs. New Prairie
Most Kickoff Return Yards: 234 by New Prairie

Tied Team Records
Most Points in a Quarter: 28 by New Palestine

Individual Records
Most PAT Kicks: 11 by Kyle Barton, New Palestine
Most Rushing Yards: 282 by James Young, New Palestine
Longest Touchdown Run: 98 by James Young, New Palestine
Most Touchdowns Passing: 5 by Alex Neligh, New Palestine
Longest Interception Return: 79 by Tyler Weller, New Prairie
Longest Play from Scrimmage: 98 by James Young, New Palestine

Tied Individual Records
Most Points: 24 by Tyler Weller, New Prairie
Most Touchdowns: 4 by Tyler Weller, New Prairie
Most Touchdown Receptions: 3 by Duke Blackwell, New Palestine

Indianapolis Cathedral garners some history with win over LaPorte in Class 5A

Coach Rick Streiff and the Indianapolis Cathedral Fighting Irish carried home several historical accomplishments along with another trophy for the school's ever-growing display case.

Max Bortenschlager passed for 195 yards and three touchdowns and Caleb Cross rushed for 108 yards, leading the Irish over the LaPorte Slicers, 56-7, in the Class 5A state championship game.

For Cathedral, it was a record fifth consecutive state title while the final-game victory extended its record of tournament triumphs to 30, dating to 2010. It also was the 12th football championship overall for the Irish, tying them with Indianapolis Bishop Chatard for the most in state history.

Streiff, like his team, continues to build a lofty position in the record books. The win over LaPorte marked the 10th football championship for the coach, moving him ahead of Matt Lindsay (formerly of Fort Wayne Bishop Luers) and Bud Wright (Sheridan), each with nine.

James Schulz led Cathedral with 73 receiving yards and a touchdown on three catches. Evan Christopher rushed for 62 yards and three touchdowns.

The Irish, ranked seventh by the Associated Press, finished 9-5. The Irish have won three consecutive state championships with five losses on their record. NorthWood, in 2005, won the Class 3A crown with a 9-6 record.

Coach Bob Schellinger's Slicers, who were unranked and competing in their first football state championship game, completed their season 8-6.

Charles Salary led LaPorte with 123 rushing yards, including a touchdown.

Cathedral's Jared Thomas named Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner
At the conclusion of the championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named Jared Thomas of Cathedral High School as the winner of the Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award in Class 5A football.

Class 5A State Championship Game Records

Most Touchdowns (tied)
8 by Cathedral

Most PAT Kicks
8 by Vincent Alerding, Cathedral

Most Punts (tied)
7 by Noah Boardman, LaPorte

Ben Davis stuns No. 1-ranked Carmel in Class 6A

When the Ben Davis Giants fell behind by 17 points early in the second quarter, they didn't panic. They persevered. And they started chipping away.

The Giants scored 42 consecutive points and pulled out a 42-24 victory over the top-ranked Carmel Greyhounds in the Class 6A state championship game. Ben Davis, making its 10th appearance in a football championship game and the first in 12 years, collected its eighth title. The Giants became the seventh school with as many crowns.

Coach Mike Kirschner's Giants, ranked fourth in the Associated Press poll, finished with a 12-2 record. The Giants captured the state championship on the strength of victories over four consecutive top-10 teams to end the year.

One of the night's biggest plays for Ben Davis came with 5:38 left in the game. The Giants lined up as if to attempt a field goal. Instead, holder Kyle Castner took the snap, turned and headed for the right corner of the end zone, scoring a 3-yard touchdown that put Ben Davis ahead by 18.

On the Giants' first two touchdowns of the second half, they capitalized on a fumble recovery and a pass interception. The two takeaways set them up in Carmel territory, leading to scoring drives of 26 and 38 yards.

Castner, also the Giants' quarterback, passed for 136 yards and two scores on 18-of-30. Running back Chris Evans rushed for 131 yards and a touchdown on 19 carries.

Coach Kevin Wright's Carmel team completed its season 13-1. Carmel, also the runner-up in last year's tournament, was seeking its second state title in four years and eighth overall.

For Carmel, Shakir Paschall rushed for 94 yards and a touchdown on 13 attempts. Chris Perkins rushed for 64 yards and a pair of scores on 13 carries.

Carmel's Nate Thompson named Eskew Mental Attitude Award winner

At the conclusion of the state championship game, the IHSAA Executive Committee named Nate Thompson of Carmel High School as the winner of the Class 6A Phil N. Eskew Mental Attitude Award.

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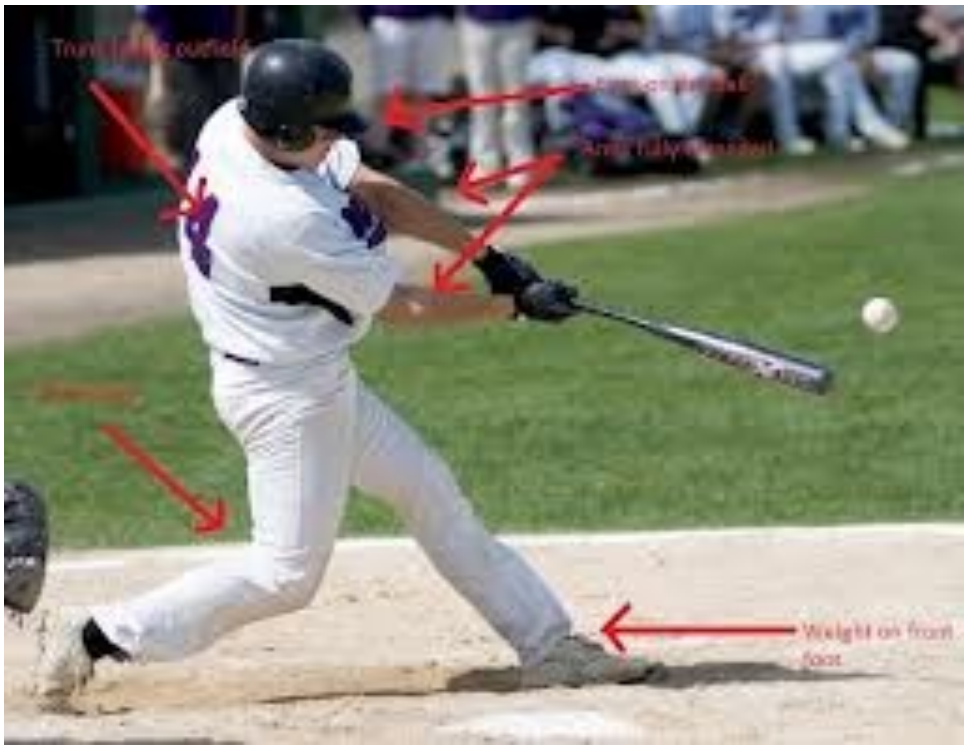
Baseball Tips On Hitting: How You Stride When Hitting Is Critical!

By: Larry Cicchiello Special to MAB Monthly



Exactly when you should start your stride varies among hitters. Usually, the stride begins a fraction of a second before the pitcher releases the ball and that's my preference. Many teach that the stride should start when you see the pitcher pivot on the rubber and the hitter can see the pitcher's rear end. That is not my preference. I think it's too early and leaves the hitter in a little bit of a "pause" mode and hinders momentum into the pitch. I like the swing to take place immediately after the stride.

Whether you stride when the pitcher pivots or a split second before the pitcher's release is a personal preference. On the other hand, one of the better baseball tips on hitting to remember is that it makes no sense at all to stride very late and have to rush everything after that. The stride is actually a weightless step that is used for timing. You should pretend that you are stepping on a sheet of ice and don't want to slip and fall. No transfer of weight should take place when striding.You should land on the ball of your foot. Avoid the very common mistake of landing on your heel. It can cause you to spin like a top and your entire "foundation" will be ruined. If your foundation or base is disrupted, it won't matter how many things you do properly after that. You will have no chance of being a successful baseball hitter.

You should stride with your front foot and toes pointing straight out across from your body. If you have a tendency to "fly open," I would highly recommend pointing the toes

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slightly inward. In other words, slightly back toward the catcher. This will encourage you to "stay closed." Opening any part of your front side too early will create many baseball hitting problems. One, your head will go along for the ride and you will be looking at the baseball out of the corners of your eyes. Two, any power you have will be lost because the hitting is not taking place out by your third base coach if you are a right-handed hitter or by your first base coach if you are a left-handed hitter. Lastly, low and away pitches will be almost impossible for you to hit successfully. Stay closed!

Always remember that the stride and the swing are two separate movements. There is a fine line between them and only a fraction of a second, but they must be separate and preferably smooth movements. The stride must be completed before the ball is in the hitting zone. The length of the stride varies from none at all to a couple of feet. The average stride is about four inches.

Some believe that the shorter the stride is the better it is. Some very good hitters take no stride at all. They simply pick up their front foot and then put it back on the ground in the same spot. My personal preference is about a 4 inch stride and it will be your shot to call on this one, as to which you prefer.

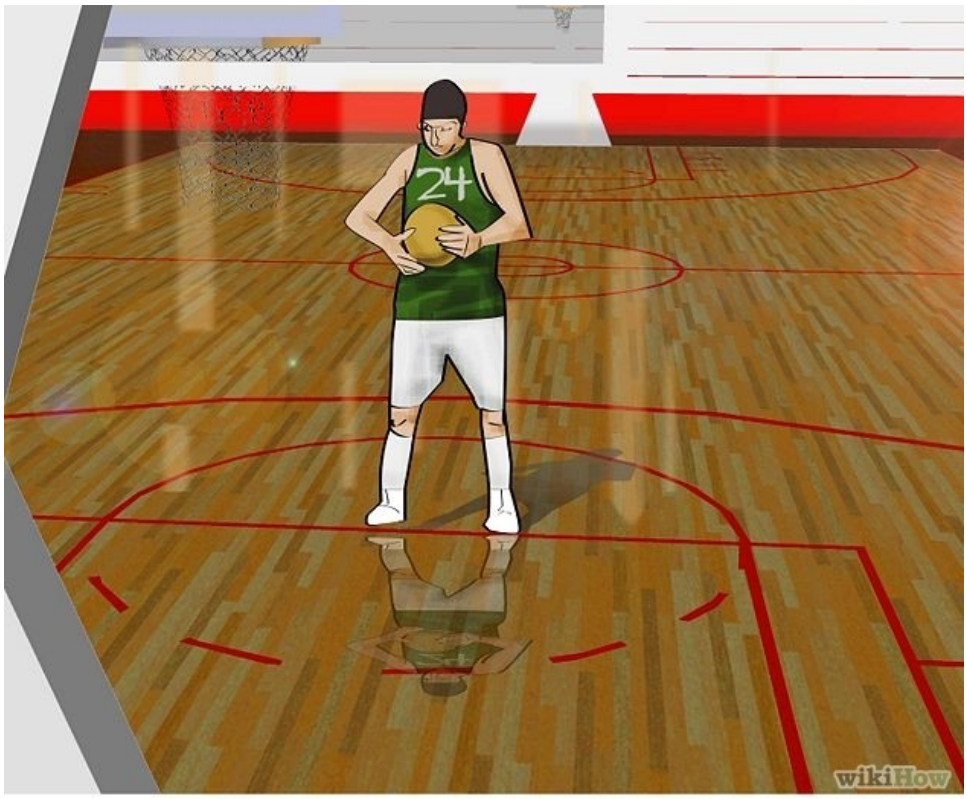
An advantage in keeping the stride short is that it encourages your head to "stay quiet." In other words, a long stride may possibly cause your head to move around more and make it more difficult for your eyes to actually focus on the baseball.

Remember, one of the more important baseball tips on hitting to remember is that it is absolutely necessary to keep your weight back when you stride! "Foot forward, weight back." Some youngsters have a hard time with this. When they stride and their front foot goes forward, they have a strong tendency to shift their weight forward also. This is not what you want to do.

Larry Cicchiello is the successful author of “Excellent Baseball: 30 Seconds Away.” He unconditionally guarantees that ANY baseball player, coach or baseball parent who wants to help their child will be fully equipped! Some FREE tips at http://www.LarryBaseball.com

How To Become a Better Free Throw Shooter

Adapted From WikiHow



1. Remember BEEF

- Keep your Balance. First off every shooter has a different routine when they step up to the free throw line, whether it is two dribbles or no dribbles at all. However, every good shooter begins with balance, there is always a nail at the middle of the free throw line, find the nail or dot and line your shooting foot up with it and be on balance this is the B in BEEF, BALANCE.
- Keep your Elbow straight. After you have your balance, have your elbow on your shooting hand line up to make an L right under the ball. Make sure your fingers are spread to insure backspin.
- Focus your Eyes on the rim. Keep your eyes on the back of the rim, so you are basically looking through the net. Aim for the back of the rim.

Follow through. After you release the ball, keep your hand up in the air for a second or two after the ball leaves it, as though you were reaching into a cookie jar.

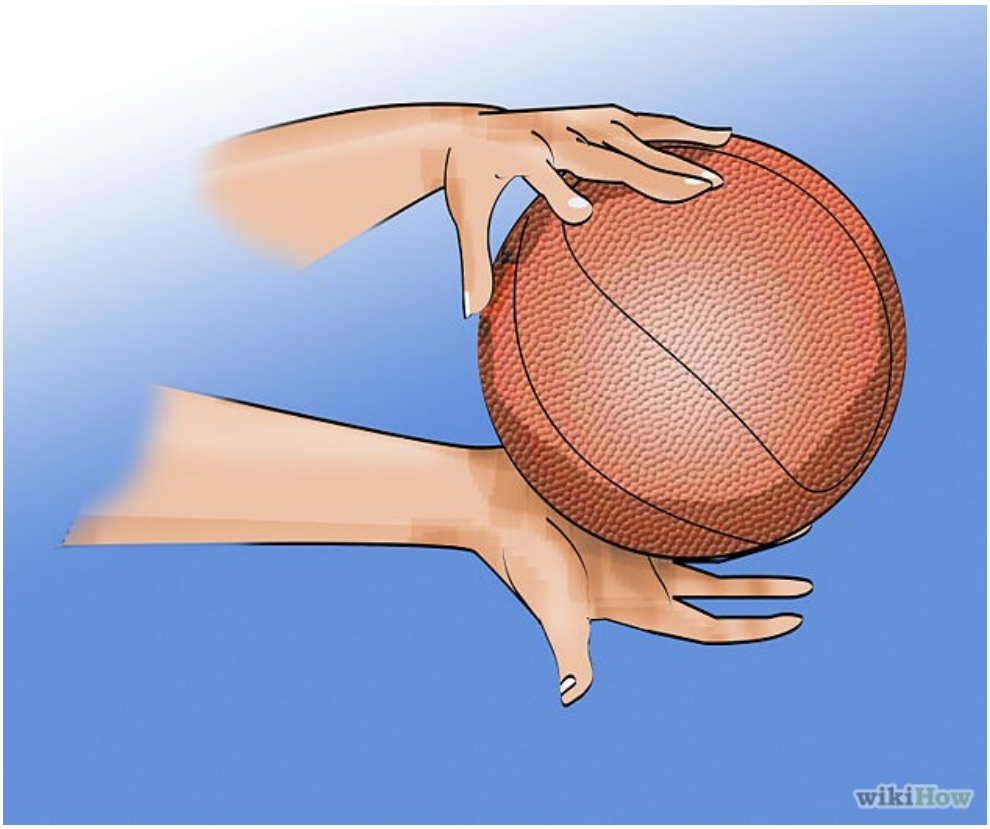
2. Step up to the free throw line.

3. Pay attention where you put your shooting hand leg. That means, if you are right-handed, line up your right foot exactly even with the basket right on the line. Vice-versa for left handers. This will improve your free throw dramatically.

4. Set your feet shoulder width apart.

5. Point both feet forward, squared to the bas-

ket. Your toes should point in the direction of the basket.



6. Bend your knees slightly.

7. Place ball in your shooting hand.

8. Don't use your Non-dominant hand to help shoot. Keep it straight! That hand is to guide and hold the ball in place.

9. Place the opposite hand on the side of ball for balance.

10. Aim for the back of the rim.

11. In one fluid motion, extend and bend legs and shoot with your finger pads. Snap your wrist to put movement on the ball.

12. Follow through the shot. Your dominant hand should stay up once the ball leaves your hand. Your non dominant hand should be down by your side

IHSAA Executive Committee Rejects Basketball Tournament Proposal Press Release Provided

The Executive Committee of the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) rejected a proposal that would alter the state basketball tournament during its monthly meeting this morning. Members voted unanimously (17-0) against the measure that was presented to them in August by a study committee made up of leadership of the Indiana Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA), the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (IIAAA), the IHSAA Board of Directors and IHSAA staff.

Feedback received from constituents around the state since the format was introduced in August was mostly against the measure. During nine administrator meetings around the state this fall, informal straw polls collectively showed 68 individuals in favor of the proposed format while 228 were against (22.97% approval). The proposal, which would have begun with the 2015-16 school year, called for the largest 64 schools by enrollment to make up Class 4A. Sixteen sectionals would have been played with four teams each and all games played on Saturday. The remaining schools in Classes 3A, 2A and 1A would have been evenly distributed with seven or eight schools per sectional and played in a Tuesday-Wednesday-Friday-Saturday format.

Additional portions called for the IHSAA staff to determine host sites at each level of the state tournament with the same site hosting both years of the alignment window. In recent years, school administrators within each sectional have determined the hostsite with some rotation between schools

"I want to commend the Executive Committee for their thoughtful deliberations surrounding the basketball tournament format proposals," IHSAA Commissioner Bobby Cox said following the meeting. "The Committee entertained two different proposals throughout this process and in the final analysis, those varied proposals did not significantly improve the current tournament format. While the Association is not presently modifying the four class tournament, several salient points were raised during the conversations and those objectives will be considered during the next reclassification and realignment exercise which will occur in April of 2015."

Did you Know?

The Pittsburgh Steelers won Super Bowls IX & X, and XIII & XIV becoming the only NFL team to win back to back Super Bowls twice.

More catchers have become MLB managers than any other position.

On October 2, 1920, the Cincinnati Reds and the Pittsburgh Pirates played a triple header on the same day, something that no baseball teams have ever done since.

After retiring as a player, Babe Ruth spent one year as a coach with the Dodgers.

George Washington played cricket with his troops.

The last NFL player not to wear a helmet was Dick Plasman, a Bears lineman.

December Broadcast Schedule

12-3-14	7pm	Girls BB Laville @ Oregon- Davis
12-5-14	7pm	Girls BB Portage @ Crown Point
12-6-14	530pm	Girls BB Oregon-Davis @ SBAdams
12-9-14	7pm	Boys BB Gary 21st Century @ Griffith
12-10-14	530pm	MAB Weekly
12-12-14	530pm	Girls BB Oregon -Davis @ Knox
12-14-14	1pm	Boys BB North Judson @ Valpo
12-16-14	530pm	Girls BB Oregon -Davis @ Mishawaka
12-23-14	7pm	Girls BB SB St. Joe @ Crown Point
12-27-14	TBA	Roncalli Girls BB Tny - Oregon-Davis

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