

# ALL IN THE FAMILY

By Niles Layman

This year the game of basketball is 122 years old. It was founded in the fall of 1891 by James Naismith while teaching at the School for Christian Workers in Springfield, Massachusetts.

At the Springfield YMCA Naismith struggled with a rowdy class which was confined to indoor games throughout the harsh New England winter and thus was perpetually short-tempered. Under orders from Dr Luther Gulick, head of Springfield YMCA Physical Education, Naismith was given 14 days to create an indoor game that would provide an “athletic distraction”. Gulick demanded that it would not take up much room, could help its track athletes to keep in shape and explicitly emphasized to make it fair for all players and, not too rough. Basketball was the Naismith solution.

In the spring of 1893 the YMCA at Crawfordsville, Indiana was the first organization in Indiana to adopt the game of basketball.

In the 120 years since that time untold thousands of Indiana high school and grade school students have played in organized basketball games. Initially designed to provide a winter conditioning program, the game has grown like wildfire, particularly in Indiana. It is now played worldwide.

Having been adopted by the state of Indiana as a high school sport, basketball teams have grown from 15 schools in 1904 to its peak of 820 schools in 1942. Today the 410 number is the primary result of school consolidations in the 60's and 70's.

Given that the game was primarily designed to be played inside during the winter months, one of the biggest challenges early in the development of the game was finding a large enough facility in which to play. Some of the schools played in skating rinks, vacant churches, school auditoriums, halls, barns, etc.

To play the art of basketball, it only took a hoop on a tree or barn and two people with similar interest. In Indiana the sport quickly became the primary

vehicle for physical exercise and entertainment.

As a result of the “recession” and World War II, travel of any distance in Indiana was really a luxury.



In this same time frame many townships had an established grade school and high school. The small geographic area making up these township teams included brothers, cousins, uncles and nephews. In many cases they would play wherever they could find a hoop, often in someone's back yard. Usually they played against each other almost on a daily basis and often several hours at a time. Many children's

interest started at an early age, some as soon as they could throw the ball high enough to reach the rim. As a result, many grade schools also organized a team.

In many of the smaller rural high schools (which were numerous throughout Indiana until consolidation took place in the 60's & 70's) the number of available students interested in playing could be quite small. For example, in my high school (Paris Crossing) in 1955 there were approximately 120 students in all four grades. If you reduce that number by 70 to account for female students, that left 50 boys in all four grades. Trying to find 24 of those boys (12 for JV and 12 for Varsity) interested in playing could be difficult.

This is verified by looking at the members of some of the early teams. The 1912 Lebanon team included Lowell and Rex Dale. The 1918 Lebanon team included Gerald and Merrill Gardner. The 1924 Martinsville team included Warren and Robert Schnaiter and the 1926 Marion team included Everett and Robert Chapman. While the relationship of all these players is unknown, it would seem reasonable to assume that they were either brothers or cousins.

This has been the case ever since. Recently we can see examples of this relationship by looking at some of the more publicized and successful players.

## Father Coaching Sons High School Team

**Sam, Steve, Sean and Bryce Alford.** Sam played high school ball at Washington High. He then went on to coach at Monroe City, South Knox, Martinsville and New Castle. Sam coached both his sons - Steve and Sean at New Castle. During his career he had 452 wins and 245 losses. Steve attended IU and went on to coach at Southwest Missouri State and the University of Iowa. Currently Steve is coaching his son Kory at New Mexico and Bryce will join him next year. Both Sam and Steve are members of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Bill, Billy and Dave Shepherd.** Bill attended Hope High School where this team won their school's only sectional and regional tournaments in history (prior to class basketball). That was in 1945. Billy and Dave both attended Carmel High School and graduated in 1968 and 1970 respectively. Both Billy and Dave were Mr. Basketball their senior years. All three Shepherds are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.



Chad Tucker

### **Al, Chad and Brad Tucker.**

Al graduated from Patricksburg High School in 1957. He spent his entire coaching career at Cloverdale High School. His career record was 256 wins and 133 losses. He coached both of his sons, Chad and Brad. Chad was named to the Indiana All-Star team in 1983 and went on to establish the all-

time scoring record at Butler with 2,321 points. That record still stands today. Chad is being inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame posthumously in March 2013. Brad went on to coach at South Knox.

**Bob and Kyle Macy.** Bob graduated from Converse High School in 1944 and was named to the 1944 Indiana All-Star team. He coached at Chili, Albion and Peru high schools. He coached Kyle who graduated in 1975 from Peru with 2,137 points and was named Mr. Basketball that year. Kyle won numerous awards while attending college at Kentucky. Both Bob and Kyle are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

## Two Brothers Playing For The Same School

**Tom and Dick Van Arsdale.** Both twins played on the same high school team, graduating from Manual in 1961. Both shared the Trester Award and

Mr. Basketball honors that year. They both went on to play at I.U. and both won All-American awards. They both went on to play in the NBA and both are members in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Bob, Steve and Dave Welmer.** Bob, the father, graduated from Columbus High School in 1947. He attended and played basketball for the Cincinnati Bearcats. Steve graduated from Columbus in 1968. He attended the University of Evansville and played varsity three years where he set the school field-goal percentage record of .589. Dave graduated from Columbus in 1975 and attended Ball State. He was named to the Hall of Fame Silver Anniversary Team in 2000. Bob and Steve are both in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Harley, Arley and Harold Andrews.** Played at Terre Haute Gerstmeyer. Harley graduated in 1953 and Arley graduated in 1954. They were twins but Arley suffered a childhood injury that set him back one year. They had an uncle, Harold that also played there and graduated in 1955. Harley was the Trester Award recipient and was voted All State in 1953. All three played on the 1953 team which made it to the state finals. Their team was beaten in the final game by South Bend Central - 42-41. The Arley and Harold team of 1954 also lost in the finals to Milan by 60-48 score. Milan went on to win the final game with the biggest upset in Indiana basketball history. All three Andrews members are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

### **John and Sylvester**

**Coalman.** Both attended South Bend Central and they were both on the 1957 state championship team which beat Crispus Attucks by 67-55. John graduated that year and was named Mr. Basketball. Sylvester graduated in 1959. Both are members of the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.



Sylvester Coalman

## Three Relatives playing for the same school

**Bill, Bob and Allen Menke.** All three brothers attended Huntingburg High. Bill was the team's leading scorer in both his junior and senior years. Bill graduated in 1936. Bob led his school to a runner-up spot in the 1937 tournament. He was the Gimbel

Award winner that year. Allen was twice named All-Sectional and All-Regional. He graduated in 1940. All three brothers have been elected to the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Ernie, Everett and Stanley Duncan.** These three brothers are still in school at Evansville Harrison. Everett and Stanley are identical twins and are both 6-5 sophomores. Older brother Ernie is a 6-2 junior. They also have a brother, Brandon, who is a 6-1 eighth grader and brother Robin who is a 5-10 seventh grader.

**Al, Robert and Roger Harden.** Al graduated from little Covington in 1961 and led his team to the 1960 sectional and regional championships and stunned Lafayette Jeff in the semi-state opener. They lost in the final game to East Chicago Washington 77-51. Sons Robert and Roger both played at Valparaiso. Rob was named to the Indiana All-Star Team in 1981 and Roger was named 1982 Indiana Mr. Basketball.

**Vernon, Marvin and Clarence Huffman.** All three brothers attended New Castle High School. Vernon led his team to the state championship in 1932. The finals in that era were played over two days. New Castle had to play four games in two days to win the title. He attended I.U. and was named All-American in both basketball and football in 1936. Marvin graduated in 1936. He started every game all four years of high school. He was named three times to the all-North Central Conference team, All-Sectional and All-Regional teams. He was named All-State in 1936. Clarence graduated in 1937. He went on to play basketball at Tennessee University where he played all three years and was named All-American his senior year. He was selected to the all SEC team three years.



Bruce Parkinson

first sectional championship in 1972. He was All-County, All-Conference, and All-Sectional three years in a row. He was co-captain of the 1972 Indiana All-Star team. He attended Purdue University

**Jack, Bruce and Austin Parkinson.** Father, son & grandson. Father Jack graduated from Yorktown in 1942 where he played varsity all four years. He attended the University of Kentucky and played varsity three years. He made All-American in 1946. He was a member of the 1946 NIT championship team. Son Bruce also attended Yorktown and was on the team that won the school's

where he was a four year starter and named All-Big Ten in 1975, Academic All-Big Ten in 1977 and captain of the USA 1975 Gold Medal Pan-Am team. Grandson Austin was a standout player at Northwestern High and was named to the Indiana All-Star team in 2000. He also attended Purdue University where he holds the school record for most assists for four years (430). He is now coaching the IUPUI Indianapolis women's basketball team. Jack and Bruce are in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

**Pete, Rick and Rich Mount.** Father, son and grandson. Father Pete was a four year starter for Lebanon, leading his team to a state runner-up finish in 1943, scoring 1,133 points in his high school career. He was All-State in 1943 and 1944. He graduated in 1944 and is a member in the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame.

Son Rick graduated from Lebanon in 1966 and scored 2,595 points while there. He was the first "high schooler" to ever be featured on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. He averaged 33.1 points per game during his junior and senior years. He was Mr. Basketball in 1966. He went on to play at Purdue University scoring 2,323 points. He was a three time All-American at Lebanon and also at Purdue.

Grandson Rich graduated from Lebanon in 1989 and was named to the Indiana All-Star Team that year. He attended Purdue one year and then transferred to Virginia Commonwealth.

**Luke, Tyler and Cody Zeller.** Three brothers that grew up and played basketball in Washington, Indiana. They are probably today's most notable Indiana basketball brothers.

Luke played varsity all four years in high school scoring an average of 15 points per game during his freshman year, 18.1 points as a sophomore, 19.8 as a junior and 19.6 during his senior year. He led his team to a 27-2 record and the Class 3A State Championship in 2005. He was named Mr. Basketball and McDonald's All-American. He was a four time All-State and All-Conference selection. He attended Notre Dame and played all four years and is now a member of the Phoenix Suns.

Tyler also played varsity all four high school years and his team won state championships in 2005 and 2008. He was named Mr. Basketball and McDonald's All-American in 2008. He graduated with a 3.99 GPA and was third in his class. He played four years at North Carolina with a 12.8 point and 6.7 rebound career average and is now a member of the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Cody also played varsity all four years and led Washington to three state championships. He was named Mr. Basketball and McDonald's All-American

in 2011. He averaged 2.4 points per game as a freshman, 15 as a sophomore, 20.5 as a junior and 24.6 his senior year. He won several other awards and was ranked the 12th best recruit nationally in 2011 by ESPN. Unless you have been out of the country the last two years, you know that Cody is leading Indiana University's basketball team's resurgence.

## Four Brothers Playing For The Same School

**Billy, Bob, Jim and Mike Steele.** All four brothers played on the Cloverdale varsity team which was coached by Al Tucker. Billy played 1967-1970 scoring 1,206 points. His team's record for his three years was 52-14. Bob played two years (1970-1971) scoring 126 points. Jim played one year (1969-70). Mike played four years (1970-1973) and scored 1,271 points. During his four years his team had a record of 67-26. During the 1969-1970 season all four boys played on the varsity team.

There was also another Steele boy (Rex) that played on the varsity team in 1969-1970, but he was not related to the four brothers. All five Steele boys were on the floor at the same time in a number of games during this season.

When the referee called a foul on "Steele," the boys were confused as to which one should raise his hand. I don't believe there are any other high school teams in Indiana that has duplicated this fete. During the era of 1967-1973 when the Steele boys played, they had 112 wins and 32 losses (77%). They won three holiday tournaments, four county championships and four sectionals.

## Five Brothers Playing For The Same School

**Larry, Howard (Bugsy), Willie, Kenny and Louis Humes.** These five brothers all played for Madison, but not at the same time like the Steele's at Cloverdale.



Larry Humes

Larry played 1959-1962. During that time, his team's record was 95-5. The team was undefeated in regular season three years. They missed the fourth year with one defeat. They won four sectionals, four regionals and one semi-state. Larry was named Mr. Bas-

ketball in 1962 and is in the Indiana and Evansville University Halls of Fame. While Larry was in college at Evansville his team won Division II championships in 1964 and 1965. He was named All-American all three years.

Howard played 1962-1965. Howard played on the same team with Larry in 1961-1962. During Howard's tenure his team's record was 76-21. They won four sectionals, one regional and one semi-state. Howard was named to the 1965 Indiana All-Star team. He went to college at Indiana State where his team went 23-8 in 1967-1968 and won the Great Lakes Regional championship and the Indiana Collegiate Conference title. Howard was elected to the Indiana State Hall of Fame.

Willie attended Madison 1964-1967 and played with Howard during his junior & senior years. Willie went to college at Idaho State. He scored 51 points his very first game. He averaged 31.5 points per game during his college career. He was named to the Big Sky Conference Silver Anniversary team and was a two-time All-Conference player. He is now the girls' high school basketball coach at Madison.

Kenny and Louis also played at Madison but the author was unable to find any information about their career performance. In 2012, the city of Madison renamed one of their streets in honor of the Humes family and their contributions to the community - "Humes Way", a fitting honor for a great basketball family.

In many other circumstances we see a number of players from the same family. They usually had parental coaching and encouragement and they played together wherever or whenever they could. I am sure this was the case with the Zellers, Steeles, Humes etc.

If it were possible to find records of all the teams that have played in the last 119 years in Indiana, I think we would find a large number of relatives playing on the same team or for the same school.

As interest in basketball grew in Indiana, it was not uncommon for some of the high school graduates to return to their own high schools to coordinate its athletic program and/or coach their high school team. Coaches such as Bill Stearman, Bill James, Fuzzy Vandivier, Jack Butcher and Harley Collins are among the many.

There was also a large contingency that returned to coach other Indiana high schools and/or colleges and out of state colleges. Coaches such as John Wooden, Norm Sloan, Larry Bird, Al Tucker, Barney Scott, Bill Green, Bobby Leonard, Don Server, Everett Case, Gene Cato, Ray Crowe, Jim Miller,

Howard Sharpe, Jerry Oliver, Scott Skiles, Steve Alford head the list. And that list goes on and on. This list is like a Who's Who of Indiana High School Basketball. It is estimated that nearly 75% of today's Indiana High School coaches have played on an Indiana High School team sometime in their career.

There is also the opportunity for those grade and high school students today that have a burning desire to become more proficient at playing to attend a summer basketball camp. These camps are usually conducted by college coaches. In Indiana there are currently 40 different sites where basketball training is available. There are eight Division I camps, four division II, ten division III, thirteen NAIA locations and five McCracken Basketball Camps. These sites usually schedule several different dates during the summer to accommodate those interested in attending.

With the advent of high school consolidation, the number of opportunities for students to play basketball on their school's team has been reduced. Since consolidation the interest by boys and girls alike has turned to other sports. Sports such as track, swimming, volleyball, soccer, cross country, tennis, football, softball, gymnastics, etc.

As enrollment grew in schools, pressure also increased for them to expand their athletic program to provide more sports opportunities. These are excellent solutions for those students seeking athletic opportunities. While high school basketball could still be considered the king of high school sports in Indiana, it undoubtedly now shares the spotlight with these other sports.

But even today, with the reduced number of teams, you probably will still find that numerous players and coaches are still "All in the Family".