

BASKETBALL

Basketball had its greatest year as a high school sport in Wisconsin during the 1924-25 season. A total of 356 high schools maintained school teams. While no definite data is available for the previous year it is, nevertheless, safe to say that at least thirty high schools supported teams for the first time during the past year. With a gradual increase in school gymnasiums and with the resultant greater interest in basketball this athletic activity is bound to grow.

A definite statement as to the number of boys participating in basketball can not be made due to the fact that only fifty per cent of the member schools returned the Information Blank sent out by the Secretary last April. The figures as given have been determined on the basis of the returns made on these blanks. A total of 3439 boys participated in inter-high school basketball during the past year. The number who took part in class games will easily pass the 4,000 mark. The larger schools show a heavy class team participation while the smaller schools, because of limited enrollment, do not schedule inter-class contests.

A total of 7,500 boys in basketball shows clearly the actual hold this game has upon high school students.

The greatest handicaps to basketball at the present time are the great number of non-ventilated, poorly heated village halls, which must, of necessity, be used for the game in the absence of school gymnasiums in so many communities. Practically all of these playing spaces are too small for the game not to mention accommodations for the spectators. Few have adequate dressing rooms, while fewer still provide showers. This handicap is being removed by the addition of from 10 to 20 gymnasiums to school plants each year. The time will soon be at hand when every high school in the State will have a gymnasium. Most of the school gymnasiums provide, not alone, a reasonably adequate playing space but the other mentioned essentials as well. Further handicaps offered to basketball as a high school sport are financial and coaching. Financial limitations seriously handicap in both equipment and schedule. Only a few of the W. I. A. A. schools are in a position to employ expert coaches, men especially trained for coaching. It is estimated that 90% of the men coaching in Wisconsin high schools are regularly employed instructors of other than Physical Education subjects. This is a healthy situation for the schools, one which must do its part to keep the academic work of the schools to the front. It is a situation, however, in which the great majority of schools find themselves handicapped in actual athletic competition.

There was a tendency during the past season for some schools

to overdo basketball. Some high schools arranged and played two and even three games each week during the season. The Board of Control carefully considered this matter and decided that it was a serious handicap to the further development of basketball and has therefore limited the number of games to be played during the 1925-26 season to twelve between December 1 and March 1. Any team participating in more than this number of games during this period will be automatically barred from tournament competition.

Schools are maintained for the purpose of offering an educational opportunity to the boys and girls of school age. Athletics have their place and are valuable but if overemphasized, handicap the work of the school for which each community spends a great deal of money each year.

The Board of Control desires to develop athletics to the point where they will benefit the greatest number of high school students. The Board realizes that this development can only come if athletics remain secondary to the educational program, and while at all times stimulating athletics will, at the same time, do all in its power to keep a proper balance between the athletic program and education.

Basketball has improved in Wisconsin during recent years. The writer has been in personal touch with this sport in the State for over twenty years. During this period there has been a remarkable growth in interest on the part of all, as well as a real improvement in the game itself. The greatest improvement, however, has come during the last seven years. Attendance at a number of district tournaments as well as an analysis of the games played at the State Meet show an emphasis upon the defensive side of the game, with but little attention given to the offense. The final game of the State Tournament demonstrated this point clearly. A good defensive team wins games, it is true, but this type of basketball will not continue to attract people to the contests. Coaches should, and undoubtedly will, devote more time this year to a development of the offense and will not concentrate all of their attention on the defensive side of the game. One of the leading coaches in this country recently made the statement that the coaches in general must spend more time upon offensive tactics, as it will be found upon careful analysis that after all the best defense is the best offense. A study of Western Conference scores for the past season bears out this point. Conference coaches during the past season emphasized offense with the result that the best offense won the Championship.

REVIEW OF BASKETBALL IN WISCONSIN HIGH SCHOOLS

Basketball, as a Wisconsin high school sport, has had a remarkable development and growth during the last twenty years. Men in

a position to know, estimate that not more than forty high schools were playing the game in 1900. This limited number was undoubtedly due to two factors, first, the comparative newness of the game, and second, lack of places in which to play.

Basketball proved an interesting game and developed rapidly, especially in the Fox River Valley, from 1900 to 1904. In 1905 Lawrence College—then Lawrence University—divided the State into eight districts and in March of that year conducted the first Wisconsin high school basketball tournament.

From the first Lawrence College paid train fare for eight men and local entertainment for the four teams surviving the first round.

Each team competing was selected by the Lawrence College Committee and in the judgment of this Committee was the best team in the district represented.

From 1905 to 1916 the winner of the Lawrence tournament was recognized as the State Champion. The following is a list of the Lawrence tournament winners for those years:

1905 Fond du Lac	1913 Janesville
1906 Appleton	1914 Appleton
1907 Oshkosh	1915 Fond du Lac
1908 Superior	1916 Baraboo
1909 Menomonie	1917 Wittenberg
1910 La Crosse	1918 Wisconsin Rapids
1911 Appleton	1919 La Crosse
1912 Madison—Central	

The Lawrence College Tournaments did much to stimulate interest in high school basketball and will always be given credit for the rapid growth of the sport in Wisconsin.

In the spring of 1915 Wisconsin Normal School athletic directors started holding district invitation basketball tournaments. In 1916 the idea was developed and each district winner was sent to a State tournament held at the Milwaukee Normal School.

Because of the territory covered the plan of selecting district winners through tournament competition, the Normal final winner was generally accepted from 1916 on as the logical state champion. Because of this general acceptance Lawrence College discontinued its tournament after 1918.

The first Normal state tournament was held at Milwaukee in 1916 with Fond du Lac the winner. The 1917 finals were played at Menomonie with Eau Claire the winner. In 1918 Stevens Point staged the final and Madison Central won the title, while in 1919 La Crosse won at La Crosse.

Beginning with 1920 the W. I. A. A. took charge of all tournaments and while retaining the Normal schools as district centers,

placed the State tournament at the University of Wisconsin. The winners of the University tournaments from 1920 to 1925 inclusive have been as follows:

1920 Superior—Central	1923 University High—Madison
1921 Appleton	1924 Fond du Lac
1922 Fond du Lac	1925 La Crosse

The W. I. A. A. has been in charge of Wisconsin high schools tournaments since 1920. In that year ten district tournaments were conducted and each Normal school was required to pay a sanction fee of \$15.00. This sum, together with the team entrance fee of \$1.00 constituted the only revenue to the Association from the district and state tournaments. In 1920 the teams at each tournament were limited to eight reducing, to some extent, the element of chance and also reducing the number of games necessary to determine the winner.

A ten team state tournament, however, did not prove satisfactory because of byes and also because of the fact that one of the finalists had to play two games on the last day while the other was required to play only one.

After considerable study by the Board of Control it was decided to have sixteen district tournaments with a sixteen team state final. Some of the Wisconsin Normal Schools did not favor this plan but after considerable discussion it was put into operation in 1923. District tournaments were conducted that season at:

Oshkosh Normal	Stout Institute
Lawrence College	Eau Claire Normal
Stevens Point Normal	Marquette University
Rhineland High School	Whitewater Normal
Two Rivers High School	La Crosse Normal
Marinette High School	Platteville Normal
Ashland High School	Brodhead High School
River Falls Normal	Watertown High School

The sixteen district plan with a final at the University proved unusually successful and the Board of Control decided to continue the same plan for 1924.

The actual net profit of the sixteen district tournaments in 1923, according to reports made to the Board by the schools conducting the meets, was \$4,982.46 with total receipts of \$17,229.33.

The W. I. A. A. did not profit by the 1923 tournaments other than through the sanction fees of \$15.00 per tournament center and the team entrance fee of \$1.00 or a total of \$368.00.

After the close of the 1923 tournaments the Board of Control made a study of the tournaments conducted in other states and at the beginning of the 1923-24 season decided upon a new financial policy. The tournaments in 1924 showed total receipts of \$20,251.47

with a net profit of \$5,845.76. Under the new financial plan the net profit was equally divided between the schools conducting the tournaments and the Board of Control. The Board received for its share the sum of \$2,924.24, while the individual schools or centers retained \$2,921.52.

Two new tournament centers were used for the 1924 tournaments, namely Rice Lake for Stout Institute and Wisconsin Rapids for Stevens Point.

The financial plans adopted by the Board of Control for the 1924 tournaments were revised but very little, as they had been found to be very satisfactory. The following is a summary of the plan used for the 1925 tournaments, which will be found to be almost a duplicate of that of the previous year.

The school conducting the tournament must guarantee the following expenses:

1. Hall rent.
2. Awards—about \$60.00 delivered by the Board to the Local Manager.
3. Advertising, tickets, ticket takers, janitor service.
4. Officials. Selected and assigned by the Board of Control.
5. Expense of local manager.
6. Sanction fee.
7. Two balls. Furnished by the Board.

After guaranteed expenses the money remaining to be spent as follows:

1. Each out of town team to be allowed \$16.00 per day for hotel expenses.
2. Each team to be allowed train fare—nearest railway distance—eight men.
3. Balance or net proceeds to be divided fifty-fifty between local school and the Board of Control.

1925 DISTRICT TOURNAMENTS

The detailed reports from the sixteen local tournament managers shows a total district tournament attendance of 78,500. This means an average for all tournament sessions of 817. This is a splendid showing, especially when it is considered that one-half of all the games were played in the afternoons. The total receipts exceeded those for the previous year by \$2,140.27, while the net profits were \$1,805.71 above those for 1924.

The following is the tabulated statement of district receipts, disbursements as well as net profits:

Tournament	Receipts	Expenditures	Local School	W. I. A. A.
Oshkosh	\$ 1,874.50	\$ 845.62	\$ 514.44	\$ 514.44
Platteville	1,855.20	843.60	505.80	505.80
Monroe	1,748.75	898.52	425.12	425.11
Whitewater	1,617.01	797.09	409.96	409.96
Milwaukee	1,485.75	889.32	298.21	298.22
Appleton	1,299.30	774.99	262.16	262.15
Stevens Point	1,485.75	987.94	248.90	248.91
Watertown	1,365.51	899.97	232.78	232.78
Manitowoc	1,365.50	938.96	213.27	213.27
River Falls	1,221.50	922.20	149.65	149.65
Ashland	1,234.95	992.51	121.22	121.22
Rice Lake	1,236.90	996.97	119.96	119.97
Eau Claire	1,308.40	1,099.36	104.52	104.52
Rhineland	1,215.20	1,020.26	97.47	97.47
Marinette	1,051.25	895.03	77.66	77.66
La Crosse	1,026.27	937.05	44.61	44.61
	\$22,391.74	\$14,739.39	\$ 3,825.73	\$ 3,825.74

There were three changes from the previous year in tournament location. The Brodhead tournament was given to Monroe because of better playing facilities. The Wisconsin Rapids tournament was assigned to Stevens Point because of an earlier agreement to this effect, while the Two Rivers tournament was given to Manitowoc, with the consent of Two Rivers which has an ideal tournament floor. The coming year will undoubtedly see a few changes in tournament centers as the Board will, at all times, endeavor to secure the best playing conditions available.

When the sixteen tournament plan was first inaugurated considerable difficulty was experienced in securing suitable locations. The plan has, however, justified itself and the Board is literally flooded with requests for tournaments. This proves conclusively that basketball is growing in popularity.

The following is a report on the games played in all of the district tournaments. A cut is also given of the winning team in each district.

1925 STATE TOURNAMENT

The 1925 State Basketball Tournament was the biggest and best ever held in Wisconsin. The total receipts of \$3800.30 also set a record for Wisconsin. The University provided splendid entertainment for all of the teams entered.

Wisconsin basketball has been developing rapidly and will soon rank with the best played in this country. The 1925 tournament showed that Wisconsin has developed a stronger defensive than offensive game. The great number of coaches present saw this clearly and an effort will undoubtedly be made during the coming year to develop a stronger offense, which will make the game still more popular.

The 27 game tournament schedule was used for the first time. This schedule was so satisfactory that it will be used again next year. Under this plan each team plays each day and no team is eliminated until after it has lost two games. The first day losers go into the consolation series while the first round winners enter the championship series. During the entire schedule only two teams of the entire sixteen are forced to play more than one game per day. Even in this case the two who are compelled to play two games in one day play each other in the second contest of the Saturday third place championship round, thereby giving each an equal opportunity.

The alphabetical plan of drawing for the first game was used in the State Meet as well as in all district tournaments. This plan of scheduling tournament games is absolutely fair and will be continued.

The Board of Control made a more liberal expense allowance to competing teams this year than ever before. A still more liberal expense allowance, possibly expenses for a total of nine men instead of for only eight, will be made for both district and state tournaments for next year. The Board is now in a position to do this as the receipts of all tournaments were more than sufficient to make possible this extra allowance for next year.

The State Tournament expenses were considerably higher this year than for the previous meets. This matter of State Tournament expenditures has been carefully studied and in spite of an increased allowance for the teams the total for next year will be no higher than that for the past season.

The W. I. A. A. standard emblem award was used for the first time in the state meet and met with general approval. The Board plans on standardizing awards for all meets and tournaments.

The Reserve Fund for the State Meet has reached the \$1,000.00 mark and will be maintained at that figure. The following is the financial statement of the 1925 State Meet.

Financial Statement

Receipts—			
Single Admissions	2,996.80		
Season Tickets	783.50		
Profit on Program Sale	20.00	\$3,800.30	
Expenditures—			
Competing Teams	1,395.62		
Awards	237.00		
Printing and Publishing	180.71		
Entertainment	344.85		
Officials	359.68		
Labor	306.13		
General	141.62	\$2,965.61	
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Balance 1925 Tournament		834.69	
University Share—Reserve Fund		\$ 170.34	
W. I. A. A. Share		664.35	

Note—The University Reserve Fund now totals \$1,000.00. Hereafter the entire profit goes to the W. I. A. A.

Tournament Scores

First Day Games

New Glarus	24	Appleton	8
Beloit	16	River Falls	11
Shawano	27	Bloomer	11
Eau Claire	23	Superior	18
La Crosse	24	Tomahawk	8
Watertown	12	Manitowoc	5
Waukesha	19	Montfort	12
Neenah	17	Wisconsin Rapids	14

Consolation Series

Thursday

River Falls	17	Appleton	11
Superior	40	Bloomer	11
Manitowoc	20	Tomahawk	18
Wisconsin Rapids	19	Montfort	16

Friday

River Falls	20	Superior	16
Wisconsin Rapids	20	Manitowoc	15

Saturday

Consolation Final

River Falls	11	Wisconsin Rapids	10
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Championship Series

Thursday

Beloit	25	New Glarus	12
Shawano	16	Eau Claire	12
La Crosse	21	Watertown	17
Neenah	34	Waukesha	8

Friday

Third Place Games

New Glarus	20	Eau Claire	18
Waukesha	18	Watertown	12

Championship Series

Shawano	16	Beloit	15
La Crosse	11	Neenah	9

Saturday

Third Place Games

Waukesha	26	New Glarus	20
Beloit	18	Neenah	11

Third Place Final

Beloit	30	Waukesha	14
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Championship Game

La Crosse	10	Shawano	4
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A brief statement on each team competing in the State Tournament was made in the April Bulletin. For this reason no further statement will be made on the individual teams. The State Championship for 1925 was won by La Crosse, a team which played a wonderful defensive game but which showed only rare flashes on offense. The victory was well deserved, however, as the team at all times played smart basketball. Shawano won second place in the state meet. This team never really "got going" but played good enough ball to win its first three games. Shawano failed to show good form in the final game and had to be content with second place. Beloit was the mystery team of the meet. This team showed wonderful ball in flashes and at other times looked mediocre. Had this team had consistency it would easily have won the meet. River Falls, the winner of the Consolation series, played great ball after the first day. This team should be heard from next year, as a number of the boys will be back.

SPECIALLY SANCTIONED TOURNAMENTS

Sanctions were granted for eight independent tournaments. All of these meets were invitation affairs and from reports were successful both financially as well as from the standpoint of sportsmanship and competition.

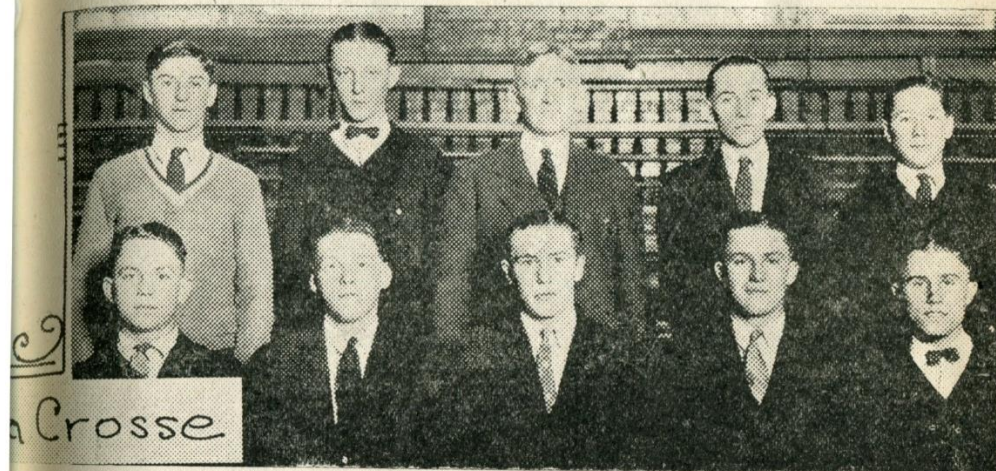
The following were the meets sanctioned together with the names of the local managers:

Antigo High School	H. H. Theisen
Laona High School	C. L. Robinson
Fond du Lac Y. M. C. A.	G. J. Van De Riet
Ripon College	C. H. Doehling

LA CROSSE

Local Manager—Robert Nohr Jr.

Winner—La Crosse



Prairie du Chien	22	Norwalk	7
Fountain City	20	Sparta	14
Viroqua	17	Bangor	15
La Crosse	22	Reedsburg	4
Sparta	21	Norwalk	11
Bangor	19	Reedsburg	10
Fountain City	15	Prairie du Chien	12
La Crosse	24	Viroqua	10
Prairie du Chien	27	Viroqua	11
Sparta	15	Bangor	13
Prairie du Chien	19	Sparta	13
La Crosse	34	Fountain City	21

Second Place Winner—Fountain City
Third Place Winner—Prairie du Chien