

THE 1944 STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

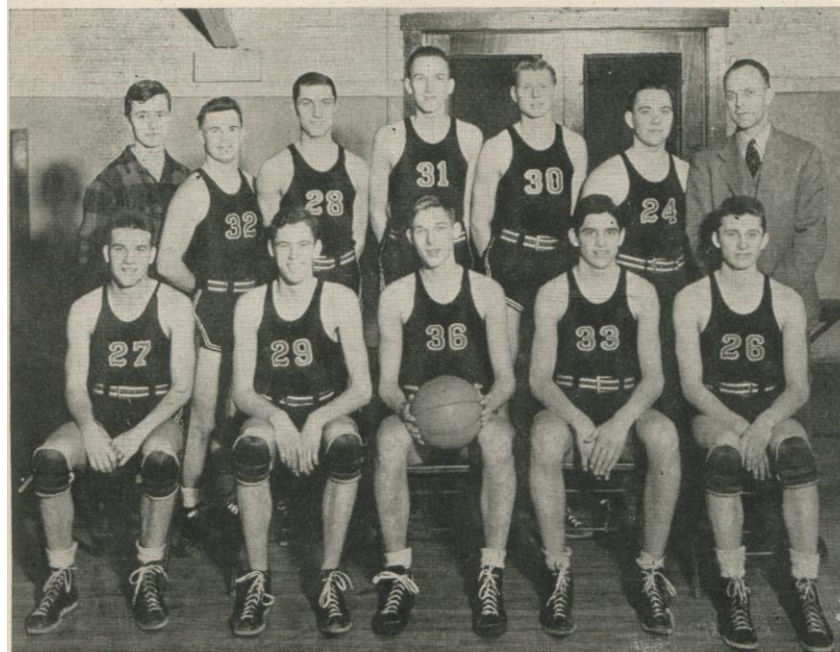
The 1944 State Basketball Tournament was held in Madison on March 17 and 18. It represented the final contest between four teams which survived the District, Regional and Sectional Meets in which 366 different teams participated.

The four Sectional winners competed in two games Friday evening with the losers playing for consolation honors on Saturday and the first round winners in the championship final. The paid attendance exceeded the 1943 figure by 50%. The final attendance was the largest paid high school gate ever recorded at the State Tournament.

The war time tournament plan has proven unusually popular with sport followers. The record attendance all along the line and the record turnout at Madison bear strong evidence to this fact. Competing teams all along the line also fared well financially.

The special prices to registered coaches, principals and organized school groups were popular and should aid in making future meets still more attractive.

The wholehearted cooperation of the University of Wisconsin, especially of the Athletic Department, and the efficient efforts of Guy Sundt, Harry Stuhldreher, Wm. Aspinwall, Coach Harold Foster and others, as well as the cooperation of the Press, contributed very substantially to the success of the Meet.



Waukesha—Winner State Basketball Tournament

STATE TOURNAMENT SCORES

FIRST ROUND

| | | | |
|------------------|----|------------------|----|
| Eau Claire | 36 | New London | 25 |
| Waukesha | 28 | Tomah | 13 |

Third Place

| | | | |
|------------------|----|-------------|----|
| New London | 27 | Tomah | 15 |
|------------------|----|-------------|----|

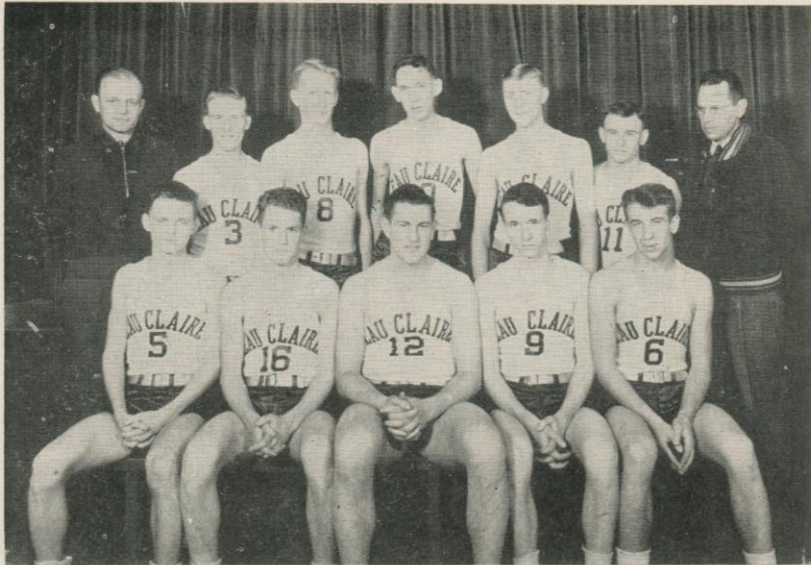
Championship

| | | | |
|----------------|----|------------------|----|
| Waukesha | 23 | Eau Claire | 18 |
|----------------|----|------------------|----|

Officials:

Werner Witte

G. M. Manion



Eau Claire—Runner-Up State Basketball Tournament

A well-balanced Waukesha High School team won the 1944 State High School basketball tournament at the University of Wisconsin field house on March 17 and 18 when the Spring City five came from behind to defeat a strong Eau Claire team by a score of 23 to 18. Over 3,000 fans watched the title battle and were well rewarded with a thrilling game.

Waukesha in winning the title turned back the threat of Tomah in the first night's play to win 28 to 13. The Indians' offense failed to click and the tight Waukesha defense held them without a basket during the last three quarters of play.

Waukesha with an offense built around the fine ball handling of its captain, Burt Woyahn, played steady ball throughout the tourney although their shooting in the first half of the championship game was extremely erratic. The new champions, incidentally the crown was the first ever won by Waukesha in state competition, were a confident group of youngsters, all of them seniors and they never lost their poise throughout the title play.

In the final, Waukesha was held without a basket for the first quarter and barely was able to stay on even terms with Eau Claire during the half, trailing 6 to 5 at half time.

The champs came with a rush after Eau Claire had added to its lead, and when Woyahn scored 7 points in a row while Eau Claire was held scoreless, they jumped into a lead which they never again relinquished. Big Ed Price at center for Waukesha was a tower of strength on defense and handled the ball superbly under the basket. Price was high scorer of the streamlined tourney gathering 16 points for the two nights of play.

Bob Illing, Dick Ryan, Ray Miller and Tony Litt were other boys who carried the greater portion of the load for Waukesha in taking the title.

Eau Claire beaten in the title play had a powerful team with drive galore and scoring ability throughout its lineup. The runnerup team vanquished New London in the first round with great shooting in the third quarter that built up a 31 to 23 lead and allowed them to play a smart stalling game throughout the last period.

In the title battle the loss of big Ed Johnson, their fine center, was a blow to Eau Claire. The Old Abes were well ahead when he went out on personals as a great deal of their defense had rested on his shoulders.

Art Geske, Bill Proctor, Bob Williams and Bill Zorn were the mainstays of this team with Johnson.



New London—Consolation Winner, State Basketball Tournament

New London, winner of third place, surprised the fans with their hard driving game and the fine shooting under pressure. They gave Eau Claire a great battle during the first half but lost their shooting touch in the third period of the game and fell back too far to catch their opponents. Jim Bodoh, Dave Meshke, George Hanlon and Louis Stern shared scoring honors on this team with Dick Bunke, their center, playing a strong game on defense. In beating Tomah for third, New London carried the fight to their opponents and won the plaudits of the crowd by their driving finish for third honors.

Tomah heralded as a dark horse in the pre-tourney dope lost its scoring touch with Ken Dams and Alden Mork the only ones on the team to hit the hoop with