

STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Hurley became the new Wisconsin Interscholastic high school basketball champion as the gallant little team from the north defeated LaCrosse Logan in the finals of the 34th annual W.I.A.A. tournament at the University of Wisconsin field house on Saturday night, March 12, before a sell out crowd of 14,304.

The tournament, which was the greatest ever, produced new attendance record. The new figures of 62,682 exceed the former mark of 60,400 established last year.

The tournament attracted record crowds with sell outs on all three nights. Thousands were turned away as the Badger fieldhouse was packed with the cheering throngs mostly for the new champions. It was a case of a good little team turning the tables on a good big team in the title battle.

The tournament brought forth one new record in scoring when Lon Weber of Cuba City sank 9 free throws in one game. This erased the old mark of 8 set by Johnny Kotz of Rhinelander in 1939 and tied by Warren Hoff of Eau Claire and Bobby Mader of Wisconsin Rapids in 1946.

Hurley scored 20 free throws in a single game to tie the mark set by Beloit in 1947.

The Hurley victory was an unusually popular one and went to a group of deserving boys well coached and in excellent physical condition.

Tournament Scores

First Round

Eau Claire	38	Cuba City	36
LaCrosse Logan	53	Kimberly	41
Hurley	48	Reedsburg	44
Wauwatosa	55	Wisconsin Rapids	49

Consolation Semi-Finals

Kimberly	45	Cuba City	39
Reedsburg	41	Wisconsin Rapids	39

Championship Semi-Finals

LaCrosse Logan	37	Eau Claire	33
Hurley	62	Wauwatosa	50

Consolation Final

Reedsburg	62	Kimberly	52
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Championship Final

Hurley	37	LaCrosse Logan	36
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Hurley—Winner State Basketball Tournament

Hurley first eliminated Reedsburg, a team that went on to win the consolation title and then disposed of the champions, Wauwatosa who when they stepped on the floor that night were the proud possessors of a 39 game winning streak over a period of the last two seasons. Hurley met each situation as it presented itself and its starting five carried the brunt of the load practically every minute of the three games played. The Midgets were outmanned in every game but their taller foes could not handle the "fight and will to do" of the new champs. Their terrific ability to control rebounds on both ends of the court was their strongest forte and long range snipping at the hoop brought them many points and great discouragement to their opponents who had no means of stopping this fine shooting.

Hurley overcame its worst cold streak of tourney shooting in the final game when the new champs trailed by nine points at half time. They came back with a rush in the third period and scored 11 points while holding LaCrosse Logan without a marker. Once ahead, the Midgets were almost unstoppable although LaCrosse did fight back valiantly and once forged ahead by a single point.

The title five was composed of Len Bartolutti, Pete Savant, Carl Hermanson, Wayland Baron and Noel Mattei. Few subs were used by Carl Vergamini in any of the three games.

LACROSSE LOGAN—The river city team proved a fine surprise at the tourney as it fought its way into the finals but a cold spell in the third quarter of the title game ruined their hopes and they lost the fine stride that had sent them racing away from Hurley to a 22 to 13 margin at half time. Tall Jim Thomas played his finest game of the tourney in the final and had lots of help from Merlin Nehring but when guards Ralph Twite and Hank



LaCrosse-Logan—Runner-Up State Basketball Tournament

Smothers fouled out of the game, Hurley became their masters. Logan defeated Kimberly and Eau Claire to enter the final round.

REEDSBURG—Reedsburg annexed consolation honors by trouncing Kimberly in the final game of the tourney. The Beavers had the misfortune to draw the eventual champions in the first game but lost only by 4 points after a fine fight. Reedsburg then pulled an upset by nosing out Wisconsin Rapids in the final seconds of play and went on to turn back Kimberly in the final. Bill Frazier, Bob Schroeder and fiery little Jim Arenz paced them to their two wins with the trio being among the highest scorers of the tourney.

KIMBERLY—The Papermakers after losing to Logan in the first round bounced back nicely to defeat Cuba City and advance to the consolation finals where they bowed to Reedsburg. The Kimberly team produced individual performers but lost much of its team play after the first half of the first game of the tourney. The huge throngs at the game delighted at the long range shooting of Dick Van Eyck and the brilliant under the basket play of Steve Lemmers. This rangy outfit did a fine job at the tourney.

CUBA CITY—Cuba City, the real little fellows of the tourney and only Class C squad in the meet, were great favorites with the fans. They looked like winners in their first game against Eau Claire and were in good position to win until the superior height of their foes started to tell in the final three minutes of play. Lon Weber, a fine guard, set a new tourney record



Reedsburg—Consolation State Basketball Tournament

for free throws in a single game with 9 against Kimberly while Cliff Kirk proved to be one of the finest floor men in the meet. Bob Olson won all-star mention with his fine shooting and under the basket play.

WAUWATOSA—The defending champions had plenty of class and their ability to race Wisconsin Rapids into the ground in the first game made them big favorites to repeat. However, the Tosans met their masters after 39 wins in a row in the new champs, Hurley. It was a brilliant battle until the final three minutes of play when Tosa lost its scoring touch and Hurley went on to win going away. The squad had great physical personnel with Dick Schwab voted one of the outstanding members of the meet and Ray Kotz, Roger Godfrey, Walter Zitzke and Gene Kvitle fine performers.

WISCONSIN RAPIDS—The Rapids five came to the state meet with a 24 game winning streak but succumbed to the old fieldhouse jinx. The fine Rapids team drew Tosa in the first game and with the champs racing at their finest form fell back into the consolation round after a magnificent game. Rapids then was upset in the final second of play by Reedsburg in the second round. The game was definitely a let down for the Rapids five after their great battle against the defending champions. Dean Showers, Mike Daly, Francis Simonis, Jack Torresani and teammates were a well balanced outfit.

EAU CLAIRE—Coach John Novaks boys again gave the fans plenty of fine basketball but could not halt Logan in the semi-finals. The three times and out theory failed the Old Abes as they hoped to upset Logan—after dropping