

STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Wisconsin Rapids became the king of Wisconsin high school basketball at the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse on Saturday night, March 17, as the splendid Rapids quintet defeated Madison-West in the final before a sellout crowd of nearly 14,000 rabid fans. The score was 64 to 55.

Rapids made the crown role after numerous previous tries by Red Raider teams and did a superb job in winning. The champions beat Menasha, Menomonie and West in riding through to the title and in all games they appeared to be masters of the situation.

Rapids had a gifted quintet that had speed galore, splendid shooting, good height, great desire and good coaching. They made few mistakes and had confidence in their own ability. The well-balanced first team was without a doubt one of the greatest to ever perform in a State Tournament.

Rapids never faltered in its quest for the title. Its veteran players had nerves of steel, this being best demonstrated when they scored 18 of 21 free throws in the championship game when the pressure was really on the players.

West proved to be a capable challenger but could not beat the balance of the new champions.

The tourney proved to be the greatest success in the history of the meet and the 26th annual must go down in the record books now as "the top" in every department.

The general, all-around play of the teams showed that basketball coaching has also improved in the state. Guests were loud in their acclaim of the improvement in play throughout the meet. Sportsmanship certainly was on the upgrade throughout the tourney and there was a minimum of booing as compared to meets of the past.

New attendance marks were set while the scoring records were badly mauled by the competing teams.

In the 10 games played, a total of 1,118 points were rung up with the competitors scoring 422 field goals and 274 free throws. The high mark on baskets came in the Rib Lake-Baraboo contest when the teams tallied 53, Rib Lake hitting 26 and Baraboo 27.

Tournament Scores

First Round

Madison-West	75	Onalaska	41
Rib Lake	64	Baraboo	62
Wisconsin Rapids	76	Menasha	59
Menomonie	49	Wauwatosa	48

Second Round Championship

Madison-West	45	Rib Lake	35
Wisconsin Rapids	65	Menomonie	41

Consolation Semi-Finals

Menasha	54	Wauwatosa	53
Onalaska	55	Baraboo	51

(overtime)

Consolation Championship

Menasha	67	Onalaska	59
---------	----	----------	----

Championship

Wisconsin Rapids	64	Madison-West	55
------------------	----	--------------	----

WISCONSIN RAPIDS—The new champions finally broke the jinx. After numerous previous tries for the State top honors, Wisconsin Rapids with one of the finest all-around teams to ever play in a State Meet took the crown back home.

Rapids presented one of the finest starting fives in the history of the



Wisconsin Rapids — Winner State Basketball Tournament

tourney in Jerry Raasch, Don Brewster, Charles Gurtler, Doug Gill and Jim Ritchay. Its reserve power was strong when needed.

Rapids had speed, fine shooting and all-around ability to win the richly deserved honor.

Rapids also showed remarkable ability from the free throw line as the team hit 18 of 21 tries in the title game and tallied 57 out of 79 attempts in the tourney.

Other members of the title squad were Bob Olson, Wayne Oestreich, Red Anderson, Jack Crook and Jim Grosklau.

It is an interesting fact that the teams that had the best free throw completion records in the State Basketball Tournament were the two fives that annexed the State crown and the consolation title, Wisconsin Rapids and Menasha.

The splendid Rapids five tossed in 57 gift shots as against 22 misses for a remarkable 72.1% while Menasha hit 50 out of 76 for 65.8%.

Rapids, in the final game that sent the team home with the coveted title, scored 18 out of 21 tries — a truly excellent mark.

MADISON WEST — The home town team had to be content with runner-up honors in the State Tourney as they fell before the all-around brilliance of Wisconsin Rapids in the title game. West proved its right to be classed as one of the outstanding teams in the State by going to the finals after taking the title in the strong Big Eight Conference.

West had good balance, fine scoring power and a better-than-average defense. It was West's defense that was expected to stop the Rapid's drive for the title but good long range shooting upset that prediction of the second guessers of the tourney.

Owen Roberts of the Regents upheld his reputation as one of the finest forwards in the State and scored 53 points in the tourney. Other mainstays of West were Bill Marshall, John Parker, Tom Mack, Jerry Quinn, Jack Mansfield, Jim Namio, Jim Clapp, Ed Sorenson and Jim Mohonoey. Five of the strong West squad will be back next season.



Madison West — Runner-Up State Basketball Tournament

MENASHA — The Elvejays were the only truly race horse team in the State Meet and they gave all comers plenty of trouble with their speed and pressing tactics. They annexed the consolation title by piling up a fine total of 67 points in the final game and staving off a strong rally by Onalaska in the final quarter.

Pat O'Keefe proved to be the outstanding player from the point-making angle and he rammed in 27 markers in the championship game. However, brilliant all-around ability of Pat Metoxon, Ted Eisch and Jim Overby helped the team greatly. Menasha had the second best free throwing mark of the tourney. O'Keefe scored 58 points in his three days of competition.



Menasha — Consolation State Basketball Tournament

ONALASKA — Fierc little Onalaska went to the final of the consolation only to be beaten by a bigger and faster club that had to stage a great final quarter rally to carry away the honors. Rated strictly an outsider in the tourney, Onalaska surprised the fans after its loss to Madison-West and played fine basketball. Its win over Earaboo was scored in the only overtime game of the tournament and the first extra period tussle since the opening game of the 1947 meet when Stevens Point edged out Neenah.

Little Harley Jones was the Hilltoppers ace of the overtime game with able support from such fine scorers as Newell Nelson, Earl Johnson, Marlowe Morkwed, Dave Wick and Ken VanRiper. Johnson was one of the top scorers of the tourney with 53 points for the three games while Nelson added 43 more and played a splendid floor game and was the team's play maker.

BARABOO — The Southern Ten champions never did hit their stride in the State Tourney. Despite fine size and some exceptionally fine shooting by Rex Ziemke and Jim Schilstra, the Circus City five dropped both its starts to Rib Lake and Onalaska in the consolation round. Ziemke scored 18 points in the first game and 21 in the second for a total of 39 while Schilstra was adding 20 for the second day to his first day count of 12. Baraboo loses three starters for next season, including the high scoring duo mentioned.

Baraboo carried a 15 game winning streak into the State Meet but found the string snapped quickly in the first round of play.

WAUWATOSA — The Milwaukee suburbanites were one of the disappointments of the meet as they failed to go at their usual top speed from the very outset of the meet and were beaten in one of the biggest thrillers of the tourney by Menomonie. It was a tough game to lose. Tosa went into the final couple minutes with a substantial lead but the Indians closed with a rush that stunned the Tosa five and they dropped a single point decision. It was their misfortune to drop their second game in the consolation round also by a lone point. Tosa thus was eliminated from both title flights by the small margin of two points.

Center Alan Tetzlaff, guard Jim Hamilton, guard Walt Jensen and forward John Spicuzza played well in both games despite the defeats. Tosa loses but two starters from the squad and could be a very strong quintet a year hence.

MENOMONIE — Faced with the loss of a star player before the State Meet, Menomonie pulled a major upset when it defeated Wauwatosa by a single point in the first round. Substitute Harry Schofield pulled the game out of the fire with a long basket in the final 10 seconds of play.

However, the Indians could not match the ability of Wisconsin Rapids despite a great fight. They stayed close to Rapids for the first half and with half of the second period played held a single point margin. However, Rapids gradually pulled away and the shooting of Menomonie dropped off.

In Marv Hillman, the Indians have a fine all-around player who will be back next season. Marv Hansen, Bob Gabriel, Dick Olson and Lyle Kraft carried most of the load for the team's gallant try for the top honors.

RIB LAKE — Winners of their first game over Baraboo due to some brilliant long range shooting by their little guards, Bernie Schabel and Don Chasky, Rib Lake was a big favorite with the crowd both days in the tourney. They had the misfortune of running into Madison-West when the home town team had a hot first quarter and fell behind too much to close the gap in the second half. Rib Lake made a desperate bid to get back into the title running but never got closer than seven points in the semi-final tussle.

Besides the splendid guards, the starting front line of Marvin Doubek, Dale Lewis and Ronald Minarcini played fine ball. Three of the starting lineup will be lost for next season but the return of Schabel and Lewis could prove to be the nucleus for another title contender.

State Tournament Free Throw Records

Here are the team figures for the tourney which also shows that the eight quintets scored a trifling over 61½% of their shots from the free throw line.

Team	Attempts	Made	Missed	Percentage
Baraboo	33	19	14	.579
Rib Lake	43	25	18	.581
Menomonie	33	20	13	.606
Wauwatosa	36	23	13	.639
Madison-West	61	35	26	.573
Onalaska	84	45	39	.535
Menasha	76	50	26	.658
Wisconsin Rapids	79	57	22	.721
Totals	445	274	171	.6156