

Championship Quarter-Finals—Thursday, March 19

Menasha 75, Beloit 61
 Hartford 58, Eau Claire 51
 Superior East 82, Birnamwood 51
 Sheboygan Central 68, Tomah 60

Championship Semi-Finals—March 20

Menasha 62, Hartford 51
 Sheboygan Central 64, Superior East 62

Consolation Semi-Finals

Eau Claire 76, Beloit 63
 Tomah 74, Birnamwood 60

Consolation Championship—March 21

Eau Claire 62, Tomah 52

State Championship Final

Menasha 61, Sheboygan Central 57

Many records fell during the three days of play during which 63,376 fans poured into the fieldhouse to watch the action. While the total attendance did not set a new mark which is 64,387, the crowd of 12,771 for the first afternoon, Thursday, set an all-time high for that playing session.

Other marks to go by the boards included the most points single game for a team when Superior East dropped 82 through the cords. The old mark was 76 set by Wisconsin Rapids in 1951.

The most points for two teams, 136, was set in the Menasha-Beloit game which the former won 75-61. However, that did not stand up and Eau Claire and Beloit combined for 139 the second day of the tourney when the former won by a 76-63 score.

The most free throws for a single game was also set by Menasha when they tallied 29 against Beloit. The old record was 25 by Eau Claire in 1950.

Larry Erickson set a new assists mark when he was credited with 10 in Eau Claire's win over Beloit and Dennis Hanley, Birnamwood, did likewise in Superior East's win over Birnamwood. The old record was 8 and held by Dick Jorgenson of Neenah in 1952.

Menasha's total of 78 free throws in 113 tries also set a state mark that erased the 57 set by Wisconsin Rapids in 1951.

Incidentally, Menasha shot at a 33% count for the tourney for field goals as the new champions made 60 baskets on 180 attempts.

The entire tournament was full of real battles and some very excellent basketball in general. Brilliant individual stars were plentiful and all had their big innings at one time or other during the meet. Underdogs came in for their share of glory too and while the "little" fellow of the meet, Birnamwood, did not win either of its starts, it was the sentimental favorite of the crowd. Hartford, another school playing in the state meet for the first time,

was another choice of the crowd and an excellent five. Superior East was highly regarded but stumbled in the semi-finals when it appeared that they had a win over Sheboygan Central in the bag.

The new champions richly deserved their hard won laurels. They played three worthy opponents and had to hustle every minute to come home with the title. The team showed its great staying ability when it appeared that Hartford had them whipped in the semi-finals. The Eric Kitzman coached team went to work in the final few minutes after trailing most of the game and won decisively in the stretch drive. It takes a real champion to come from behind and win especially when a team has generally been made the pre-tourney favorite. Menasha shoke off the pressure and won like a true champion.

The well-coached Sheboygan Central would have been a very popular champion also. Considering that they were playing in their first state tourney, they did a remarkable job and won high praises from fans from everywhere.

Menasha was the third smallest school in the tourney, but they had the squad with fine ability and still greater desire. That held true for Sheboygan, a club that really did not seem to know the meaning of defeat.

Consolation honors went to a very good Eau Claire team that got off to a bad start in the first round but was able to recover quickly and play some very excellent ball. The team had balanced scoring and did a remarkable job after the first game. Tomah, a team that has tried all-out for years to get the coveted state crown lost to Eau Claire in the consolation final. The Indians also had a well balanced team but did not hit their championship stride except for the first game in the consolation round.

MENASHA — The new state champions had a lot of class and showed to their best advantage after getting by Beloit in the first round. They had to come from behind to beat Hartford in the final few minutes of a bitterly contested game but they had the drive and reserve power to go all out in every game. The champs employed a fast break on the attack and a very active pressing defense a good share of the time. The cat-like activities of the front line made the team doubly dangerous and the champs were able to steal the ball and make life miserable for their opposition a good share of the time. Coach Eric Kitzman's boys were in top condition for the rough three game title flight and with good reserve talent, the Menasha coach was able to substitute in good style and not weaken his ball team. Big Bob Jedwabny, the tallest man on the team, was able to play but a few minutes of the title game due to illness but again it was the fine reserves of the winners who took over and carried the load in great style. While five boys played most of the time, it was strictly a squad victory for the Blue Jays. Jerry Gawlick who replaced Jedwabny in the title game at center did a fine job and was very helpful in Menasha's coming through with the title.

The starting five was composed of Fred Schmidt, Greg Ropella, Jedwabny, Jack Wippich and Tom Koloski.

The reserves who had lots of action in the tourney were Clem Massey, Roger Miller, Jerry Gawlick, Arlyn Kloepel and Bill Vokman.

Menasha with its three wins in the state meet ended a most successful



Menasha — Winner State Basketball Tournament

(Left to right): Arlen Kloeppel, Gerald Jeffery, William Volkman, Tom Kosloski, Clem Massey, Jerome Gawlick, Robert Jedwabuy, Roger Miller, Greg Ropella, Felix Ropella, Jack Wippich, Fred Schmidt, Coach Eric Kitzman.

season with 25 victories and but three defeats. That in itself is a remarkable record.

SHEBOYGAN CENTRAL — The newcomers to the state meet came very close to taking home the top honors and perhaps with a little luck could have come out of the three day tussle the No. 1 club. Sheboygan won the admiration of the fans for their ability to stay in the thick of the fight right down to the final minute. Their win over Superior East in the semi-finals was perhaps the highlight of the state meet.

The Redmen did not seem to know of the word defeat. In the Superior game it looked like the tall club from the far north would murder the lake



Sheboygan-Central — Runner-up State Basketball Tournament

(Left to right): Tom Schleg, manager; Mike Jung, John Schreiber, Alan Grosskopf, Gordon Zastrow, Robert Bergemann, Jack Meyer, Jerry Loersch, Robert Krause, Frank Ewig, Leon Grohskopf, Charles Menas, Richard Baldwin, Mr. Carl Huebner, Coach.

shore five. However, Sheboygan came back in the final minutes of play to win the most exciting game of the tourney by a two point margin. Fans at the tourney were high in their praises and termed guard John Schreiber of the Redmen — Mr. Clutch. For it was Schreiber who made life miserable for every team with his excellent ball handling, his ability to sink set shots from far out and his fine drive-in shots in the clutch.

Sheboygan had good balance like the champions. With just a few breaks they might well have taken the title home.

Coach Carl Huebner handled his team in great style and outsmarted some of his opposition. Sheboygan would be a welcome addition to the tourney a year hence, prep fans will readily admit.

The starting five was composed of Robert Krause, Frank Ewig, Jerry Loersch, Gordon Zastrow and Schreiber. The reserves who played in practically every game and gave a good account of themselves included Jack Meyer, Leon Grohskopf, Charles Menas, Richard Baldwin and Bob Bergemann.

EAU CLAIRE — The consolation champions got off to a very bad start in their first game against Hartford but after that they were a ball of fire and big favorites with the fans.

Eau Claire had a miserable first half against Hartford and trailed at the end of the first half of their first tourney game by a 38-20 count to Hartford. They staged a great second half comeback but could not overcome the big lead.

In Larry Erickson they had one of the outstanding players of the tourney and certainly one of the finest floor men to play in a state meet in many a



Eau Claire — Consolation Winner State Basketball Tournament

Top Row (left to right): J. Haig, asst. coach; Marlin Spindler, E. Seem, M. McDonald, W. Gorell, W. Rolland, J. Fuller, mgr.; J. Novak, coach.
Bottom Row: D. Steidtmann, R. D. Johnson (Jet), L. Erickson, capt.; R. Lorentz, R. Dreke, R. R. Johnson (Whitey).

season. Erickson did everything well and ran the ball club from the rear court beside doing a goodly share of the scoring. Roger "Jet" Johnson was one of the top point makers of the tournament.

Jet Johnson equalled the high scoring for a game of the tourney when he poured in 28 points against Beloit. The nifty forward scored 10 baskets on 20 shots and added eight free tosses in nine tries in that game.

The starting five for the consolation champions was Erickson and Bob Lorentz at forwards, R. D. Johnson at center, R. G. "Whitey" Johnson and Dick Stiedtman at the guards. The five who helped out were Ery Seem, Wayne Gorrell, Ronald Dreke, William Rolland and Michael McDonald.

TOMAH — The Indians of Tomah got away to a bad start in the tourney when they dropped their opener to Sheboygan Central by a 68-60 score. They staged a brilliant fourth quarter rally against the Redmen that netted 25 points but they were too far behind at that time to cut the gap.

Coach Stew North of the Indians alternated his 10 players continually in every game and sometimes appeared to lose some of his strength with the numerous changes.

The team had a new star in each game although center Wayne Stoltz appeared to be the best scorer on the club. Fred Pongratz was an ideal relief man for most any job and in the second round of play paced the team with an excellent scoring splurge of 19 points that brought home the win and gave Tomah a chance to annex the consolation crown.

However, against Eau Claire in the consolation final, the team had one of its cold streaks and fell so far behind that the fine fourth period rally was not enough to catch their foes. Tomah scored 28 points in the final eight minutes of play but could not erase a 18 point deficit of the first half.

The starting five was made up of Harry Peth and Gary Koch at the forwards, Stoltz at center and Duke Severson paired with Dave Krueger at the guards.

The capable reserves who saw almost as much playing time as the regulars were John Jensen, Pongratz, Curt Cooksey, Bruce Ottø and Lee Bett-hauser.

HARTFORD — The Orioles of Hartford were the real "darkhorse" of the tourney. However, they presented a five that really was class galore and gave both their opponents a great battle. In Dennis Carroll, a sharpshooting guard, and Jim Stracka at center, they had two of the outstanding players of the three day session.

Hartford soundly trounced Eau Claire the first day by piling up a fine first half lead and they led Menasha up to the final couple of minutes in the championship semi-final.

Stracka was the choice of the alleged experts as the greatest rebounder seen in the tourney for many years while Carroll as a set shot artist has had few superiors.

Hartford had most of its troubles in the final quarter when the hard driving club seemed to slow up and was handicapped by small boys as replacements.

For their first start in a state meet, the Orioles made a tremendous impression. Menasha had to stage a fine rally in the final eight minutes of play