

Basketball

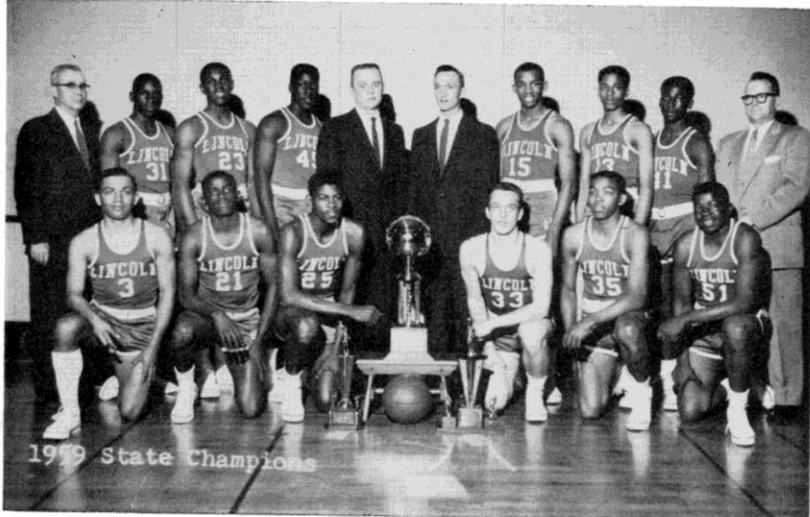
A regular season that produced its usual noteworthy events, a snowstorm that raised havoc with much of the tournament play and a pulsating state meet full of upsets and thrills featured the 1958-59 basketball campaign for WIAA-member schools.

Kimberly and Trempealeau, both undefeated until the late stages of tournament play, finished as the No. 1 rated teams in the Big and Little Sixteen, respectively, but a do-or-die Milwaukee Lincoln quintet amazed all and came out on top in perhaps the most excitement-spiced state meet in history.

Interest in basketball spectator-wise during the year represented little change over the previous year. A post-season survey indicated regular season attendance was down at a few more schools than it was up. Attendance at the sub-district tournaments was up while — due to the weather — district, regional and sectional gates were down. The attendance at the state meet was down only a shade from 1958's record year.

There was general satisfaction with the rules. There was a convincing sentiment on the part of state coaches for Wisconsin's adaptations from the National Alliance regulations on all three changes: overtime procedure, three-second rule and starting play at second and fourth quarters. Coaches indicated that they favored further attempts to reduce free throws but were not in favor of changing present rules, in fact more than 60 per cent of coaches participating in a survey indicated approval of the present personal foul system.

Of major significance was the decision to limit teams to 18 games beginning with the 1959-60 season except where previous commitments made it impossible. The rule will go into effect without exception in 1960-61.



Basketball Champs

MILWAUKEE LINCOLN — Left to right, (Front row) Charles Houston, Clifford Owens, Andy Chesser, Guy Vance, Paul Ramsuer, Harold Lamar, (Back row) Ath. Dir. Ron Foot, Ernest Jones, Edward Cobb, Roosevelt Moore, Ass't. Coach Gerald Kolterman, Coach Richard Wadewitz, Hosie World, Alan Suttle, Ernest Jackson, Principal Arthur Showers

Milwaukee Lincoln Wears State Basketball Crown

A fighting team that specialized in knocking off high-rated opposition with dramatic finishes wears the 1959 state high school basketball crown.

Lincoln of Milwaukee — never before as much as a contender in the State Tournament — won the 44th Annual affair in the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse by turning back cross-town rival, Milwaukee North, 65-56, in the championship game.

But its triumph in the finals was all but anti-climactic since the Comets — appropriately labelled the "Cinderella" team of the '59 tournament program — had blasted through the strong bracket with furious 82-81 and 79-77 (overtime) wins over Kimberly and La Crosse Logan.

Kimberly came to Madison with a perfect record and the No. 1 rating in the "Big Sixteen" while La Crosse Logan had lost only once and was ranked No. 4. They fell on successive nights in the quarter-finals and semi-finals, then North — also toppled only once and ranked No. 6 — bowed in the championship fracas. Even that is not the whole story since Coach Dick Wadewitz' surprising cagers had whipped Milwaukee Washington (rated No. 3) in the regionals and tipped Madison East (defending state champions) and Janesville (rated No. 9) in the sectionals.

While Lincoln was taking the title, Logan bounced back from its semi-final loss to stop Eau Claire, 74-54, for third-place honors. Eau Claire extended Milwaukee North, losing 59-56, in the other semi-final contest. Superior Central retaliated after losing in the first round to Logan, 73-70, by taking consolation honors in the form of a 61-56 decision over Sheboygan Central. Other opening round games saw Eau Claire stave off Sheboygan Central, 58-55, and Milwaukee North beat Green Bay West, 65-47. The consolation semi-

finals went to Superior by an 89-78 margin over Kimberly and Sheboygan by a 74-55 mark over Green Bay.

Steady Andy Chesser was the key to Lincoln's success while amazing Charlie Houston, despite a withered arm and minus two fingers on the same hand, was the sparkplug. Both played instrumental roles in Lincoln's pulsating victories the first two nights. Both times the Comets made up deficits to win although in the semi-final contest with Logan the comeback was almost unbelievable. Logan led, 51-29 — by 22 points — about halfway through the third period, still Lincoln pulled even at the end of regulation and won in overtime. And in both games, the Comets almost didn't win. Kimberly in the quarter-finals had a basket disallowed for a traveling violation with only a couple seconds remaining, and Logan registered a basket from mid-floor a split second after the final buzzer in the overtime semi-finals which, had it come on time, would have tied the score.

Outstanding team balance in the place of individual stars was noticeable in the entire tournament. At the same time it could not be denied that the 1959 tournament will go down as more exciting perhaps than any others. There was a total difference of only seven points in three of the four quarter-final games while on semi-final night the total difference in two games was only five points.

Individual performances took a back seat to team balance during the 1959 Tournament but nonetheless there were some noteworthy statistical achievements.

Leading the point-making parade was La Crosse Logan's fine front-court performer, Dave Horton, with

65 points, an average of 21.7 points. This compares with the record of 91 set by Sam Antcliffe of West Allis Hale in 1956.

Following Horton in scoring were Chesser of Milwaukee Lincoln with 58 points, Gene Hamilton of Milwaukee North with 55, Kruger of Superior Central with 54 and Jack Weber of La Crosse Logan with 51. There were nine players with total points in the 40's, another tribute to the fine team balance in this year's meet.

The best one-game effort was 27 points, first by John Springer of Superior Central in the consolation semi-finals, then by Horton in the championship semi-finals. Kruger of Superior and Jack Lamers of Kimberly each had 25-point nights.

Still another indication of team balance can be seen in these scoring figures. Four times a team had two boys with at least 20 points in the same game. Twice a team got double-digit scoring efforts out of five players, six times there were four boys breaking into double figures and

TWO ATTENDANCE MARKS BROKEN

Two of the three attendance marks not equalled or broken during last year's record-breaking assault were shattered during the 1959 State Basketball Tournament at the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse.

Setting records this year were the Friday afternoon crowd of 11,847 (old mark 11,671 in 1954) and the Friday combined total of 25,647 (old mark 25,644 in 1954). At the same time the Thursday and Saturday evening audiences of 13,800 tied existing marks set in 1948 and 1946, respectively.

The total attendance was down about 500 from a year ago. The 1959

six times there were three boys turning the trick on the same team.

Horton edged Chesser, 45-44, for rebound honors which saw these two boys each grab 16 when they met in the championship semi-finals. Kruger was third in rebounds with 42.

Lincoln was the top offensive team with 226 points, two more than Logan, while North led the way defensively, 168, compared to 174 for Sheboygan Central. Kimberly with .4514 and Superior Central with .4511 led the field goal shooting category in which only Green Bay and Milwaukee North did not reach the .400 mark. Kimberly's .806 easily topped the free throw shooting figures although Milwaukee Lincoln's .727 also was noteworthy. Lincoln scored the most baskets, 93, with Logan second on 88. Superior led in free throws with 54, Logan being second with 48. Lincoln had the best rebounding team with a total of 128 but Milwaukee North and Superior were close with 124 and Sheboygan and Logan a shade behind these two.

gate showed 79,554 for the six sessions while in 1958, the record-setting year, it was 80,022. The '59 figure is easily the second best in history with the 1955 mark of 77,441 now No. 3 on the list.

The other figures for this year with the records in parentheses:

Thursday afternoon 14,226 (record 14,436 in 1958); Thursday combined 28,026 (record 28,236 in 1958); Friday night 13,800 (record 13,973 in 1954); Saturday afternoon 12,081 (record 12,800); Saturday combined 25,881 (record 26,600 in 1958).

RECORD SHATTERED, ANOTHER EQUALLED

One record was established and another was equalled during the 1959 State Basketball Tournament at Madison.

The new mark was made by Milwaukee Lincoln's eventual champions in their first-night triumph over Kimberly. The Comets converted 16 of 18 free throw attempts for an .889 percentage. That compares with .879 (29 of 33) by Eau Claire against Superior Central in 1955's title contest. Superior Central had an .875

mark (28 of 32) against Milwaukee North in the 1957 consolation finals.

The record which was equalled was an individual one with Walter Shelby of Milwaukee North doing the honors. He converted eight of 10 free throws in his team's first game against Green Bay West. His percentage of .800 and his 8 for 10 mark duplicated exactly the performance of Fred Kruger of Madison West against Shawano in 1958's third-place finals.

Team Statistics

| TEAM | G | FGA | FG | PCT | FTA | FT | PCT | PTS | OPP |
|-------------------|---|-----|----|------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Kimberly | 2 | 144 | 65 | 4514 | 36 | 29 | 806 | 159 | 171 |
| Superior Central | 3 | 184 | 83 | 4511 | 84 | 54 | 643 | 220 | 207 |
| LaCrosse Logan | 3 | 200 | 88 | 440 | 74 | 48 | 649 | 224 | 201 |
| Milwaukee Lincoln | 3 | 218 | 93 | 427 | 55 | 40 | 727 | 226 | 214 |
| Sheboygan Central | 3 | 185 | 76 | 411 | 62 | 33 | 532 | 185 | 174 |
| Eau Claire | 3 | 156 | 63 | 404 | 74 | 42 | 568 | 168 | 188 |
| Milwaukee North | 3 | 189 | 71 | 376 | 69 | 38 | 551 | 180 | 168 |
| Green Bay West | 2 | 105 | 34 | 324 | 49 | 34 | 694 | 102 | 139 |

Individual Scoring

| NAME | SCHOOL | FG | FT | PTS |
|-------------------------|--------|----|----|-----|
| Horton, LaCrosse Logan | | 27 | 11 | 65 |
| Chesser, Milw. Lincoln | | 25 | 8 | 58 |
| Hamilton, Milw. North | | 26 | 3 | 55 |
| Kruger, Sup. Central | | 23 | 8 | 54 |
| Lamar, Milw. Lincoln | | 20 | 9 | 49 |
| Lamers, Kimberly | | 19 | 10 | 48 |
| Davies, Sheb. Central | | 20 | 7 | 47 |
| Jansen, Kimberly | | 18 | 9 | 45 |
| Ranseur, Milw. Lincoln | | 18 | 8 | 44 |
| Van Bibber, Sup. Cent. | | 17 | 9 | 43 |
| Crisp, Sup. Cent. | | 14 | 13 | 41 |
| Springer, Sup. Cent. | | 11 | 18 | 40 |
| Johnson, LaCrosse Logan | | 15 | 9 | 39 |
| Houston, Milw. Lincoln | | 15 | 8 | 38 |
| Tupper, Sheb. Cent. | | 15 | 8 | 38 |