

BASKETBALL

A team which reached the top on the crest of a 49-game winning streak was crowned State Champion of basketball by the WIAA in 1962.

Milwaukee Lincoln — winning its second straight title and its third in the last four years — put the finishing touches on the season by beating another fine, high-rated quintet, Eau Claire, in the finals of the State Tournament.

The two teams meeting in the finals had been ranked No. 1 and No. 2 in the final "Big Sixteen" — Lincoln No. 1 and Eau Claire No. 2. Lincoln posted a perfect record season with 26 wins for 1961-62, the Comets going back to early in the 1960-61 campaign for their most recent setback.

Lincoln was not alone with a perfect record for the regular season. Joining the Milwaukee school as winners of all 18 regular season games were Auburn-dale, Brodhead, Niagara, Oakfield, Salem and Wabeno while Hudson and Kewaunee had 17-0 records for the year. Hudson, Niagara and Oakfield continued unbeaten until the Sectional finals — one step before the State Meet — with Oakfield losing to eventual champion Lincoln and Hudson to eventual runnerup Eau Claire.

Attendance around the state during the regular season again was high. Nearly 350,000 persons watched the 1962 Tournament Series games from Sub-District and Sub-Regional level to the State Meet. Radio coverage of the Tournament Series was as great as before and the State Meet was televised for the third consecutive year.

Wisconsin followed all National Federation rules for the first time in several years (these relate especially to the three-second rule and the overtime rule), and there was no sentiment expressed which was unfavorable to the switch.

Top Basketball Records

UNDEFEATED

Milwaukee Lincoln	26	0
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ONE DEFEAT

Niagara	23	1	Brodhead	21	1
Oakfield	23	1	Hudson	21	1
Auburndale	21	1	Salem	20	1
Kewaunee	18	1			

TWO DEFEATS

Shell Lake	22	2	Wabeno	20	2
Lancaster	21	2	West Milwaukee	19	2
Bloomington	20	2	Antigo	18	2
Crivitz	20	2	Baraboo	17	2
Randolph	20	2	Oconomowoc	17	2
Random Lake	20	2	Whitefish Bay	17	2

THREE DEFEATS

Eau Claire	23	3	Gays Mills	17	3
Drummond	22	3	Neenah	17	3
Durand	18	3	Dodgeville	16	3
Milwaukee North	18	3	Elkhorn	16	3
Monona Grove	18	3	Glidden	11	3

FINAL RECORDS OF STATE TOURNAMENT FINALISTS

Milwaukee Lincoln	26	0	Beloit	19	7
Eau Claire	23	3	South Milwaukee	16	10
Green Bay West	17	9	Drummond	22	3
Sheboygan South	19	5	La Crosse Central	18	7

Conference Basketball Champions of 1961-62

Badger	Monona Grove	12	2
Big Eight	Beloit	11	3
	Madison East		
Big Rivers	Eau Claire	7	1
Blackhawk	Bloomington	16	0
Braveland-Northern	Menomonee Falls	13	3
Southern	Brookfield Central	12	4
Central Lakes	Necedah	6	2
Central Wisconsin	Weyauwega	12	2
Cloverbelt-Eastern	Neillsville	7	1
Western	Altoona	6	0
Coulee	Bangor	11	3
Dairyland	Eleva-Strum	10	2
Dual County	Randolph	14	0
Dunn-St. Croix	Elmwood	12	2
Eastern Wisconsin	Brillion	11	2
	Sheboygan Falls		
Flambeau	Glidden	12	0
	Prentice		
Fox River Valley	Manitowoc	11	3
	Sheboygan South		
Fox Valley Tri County	Oakfield	14	0

State Title to Lincoln Again

Lincoln High of Milwaukee added to its recent domination of Wisconsin prep basketball by exhibiting a classy performance on the way to winning the 47th annual WIAA State Tournament in the University of Wisconsin field-house in Madison on March 15-16-17.

The Comets of Coach Dick Wadewitz — a poised and precisely-coached club — lived up to their No. 1 rating as best in the state as they won their three games in the State Meet — the championship coming in the form of a 93-80 triumph over an excellent Eau Claire quintet.

Victory in the 1962 tournament was not only a repeat of the 1961 program in which Lincoln won in overtime over Rice Lake but also a repeat of the 1959 meet in which cross-city rival Milwaukee North was a victim. Thus, the Comets have won the State three times in the last four years. This is the most extensive domination of WIAA basketball since Beloit won three straight titles in 1932-33-34 and added a fourth three years later in 1937.

Lincoln, whose brilliant Max Walker was rivaled only by Eau Claire's equally outstanding Stan Johnson among individual standouts in the tournament, left the State Meet with a fabulous record of having extended its winning streak to 49 games. The Comets thus were the first school since Two Rivers in 1941 to take the State Title with a perfect season. Lincoln posted a 26-0 record during the 1961-62 campaign and not since the early weeks of the 1960-61 campaign has it tasted defeat.

Prior to the championship game, Lincoln also looked great in subduing a fine Sheboygan South team, 75-63, in the semi-finals. In the opening round, however, the Milwaukeeans were less impressive as a stubborn South Milwaukee team forced them into a 62-59 decision. Eau Claire, 23-3 for the season, reached the finals following a heart-stopping 79-76 triumph over a tough Beloit aggregation in the quarter-finals and a hard-earned 81-69 verdict over strong Green Bay West.

The Green Bay quintet went on to capture third-place honors with a easy win over Sheboygan South, 69-48, while Beloit was victorious

over South Milwaukee in an excitement-ending 73-71 battle for the consolation honors. The other first-round games saw Sheboygan South gain the semi-finals with the tourney's only one-point verdict, a 64-63 decision over a La Crosse Central team that was much better than its two State Meet defeats indicated, and Green Bay West easily outscore Drummond — the only small school in the meet, 79-52. Beloit and South Milwaukee earned consolation finals berths by beating Drummond, 89-62, and La Crosse Central, 64-55, respectively.

Eau Claire led Lincoln most of the time in a closely-battled first quarter of the championship game, the period ending with Coach Harry Gibbs' upstate team in command, 23-21. But Lincoln grabbed the lead early in the second period — for keeps, as it turned out, and opened up margins of as much as six points before settling for a 41-37 edge at the intermission. Eau Claire remained a game challenger in the third period despite deficits of as much as a dozen points but it looked like Lincoln was in on the strength of a 66-56 three-way stop advantage. The Abes battled back furiously in the first six minutes of the last period, cutting the margin to 79-76 with 2:59 to play. But with 2:34 remaining Lincoln took a five-point lead and then raced down the stretch to a not-too-be-denied championship.

It was appropriate that Walker and Johnson paced their teams not just in the 27 and 28 points, respectively, which they scored in the finals but in their all-around bril-

liance. The two also appropriately wound up as the top scorers in the tourney with averages of close to 30 points per game. The meet's top rebounder, Dan Davis, supported Walker with 18 points but Wadewitz' crew had plenty of other contributors in the finals with Willie White getting 17 points, Early Suttle 15 and Norman Clark 14, the latter in reserve. Erik Kleven and Dick Hanson had 15 each and Dale Lyon added 14 for the Old Abes who shot .500 in the title game but still were outdone by Lincoln's .507. Davis, incidentally, rebounded to the tune of 20 grabs in the title tilt.

The 93 points by Lincoln for a title game was a new record as was Eau Claire's 80 for a losing team in a title game. The 173-total for two teams in a title game likewise comprised a record. Lincoln now has won nine games without a loss in its State Meet history. Lincoln also has tied Eau Claire, Superior Central and Wausau with three State titles although Beloit with five and Fond du Lac and Shawano with four each are tops in this category. Eau Claire tied Superior Central by making 1962 its 25th trip to the State Meet. And the Old Abes also have appeared in nine championship finals contests.

Sheboygan South got off to a 20-14 lead over a Green Bay West team it had defeated twice in Fox River Valley Conference play but the Wildcats went in front, 36-31, at halftime and easily dominated second-half play to take the third-place playoff. Ben Johnson, with 14 free throws along the way, led the winners with 26 points while Rick Kroos had 12 for the losers. Beloit led almost from start to finish over South Milwaukee in the consolation finals and at times by as much as 15 points. But the Rockets had a 24-14 advantage in the final quarter and almost caught the Beloit squad. The balanced attack on both sides was led by Glen Thostenson with 20 for Beloit and Gary Woychik with 21 for South Milwaukee.

Eau Claire, which had a tourna-

ment reputation for falling behind and fighting back, was behind in its semi-final tussle with Green Bay West, 36-29, as Ben Johnson rang the bell for 10 field goals in the first two periods. The Abes still trailed by five halfway through the third quarter, then two baskets by Stan Johnson put Eau Claire ahead, 54-51. Green Bay couldn't regain the lead, thereafter, although the count was tied at 56-all in the final period before Johnson again broke the tie and got his mates off to 25-13 edge in the last seven minutes. Johnson finished with 33 points to lead Eau Claire which also had 18 from Lyon. Ben Johnson led the losers with 30 points while John Drew added 19.

Sheboygan South got off to leads of 4-0, 8-2 and 15-7 in its semis' fracas with Lincoln. But the Comets had wrested the lead by the end of the first period, 17-16, and except for three times late in the second quarter, they stayed in front the rest of the way. Sheboygan trailed by just one point three times early in the second half and by only six points, 65-59, as late as three minutes from the end. However, Lincoln was unbeatable down the stretch, making 10 of the last 14 points to win by a double-digit margin. Walker scored his team's first seven points and had 17 at halftime before finishing the night with 32. White and Davis had 12 each and Suttle 10. John Cinealis was tough for South and scored 17 points. Frank Rimkus and Kroos each had 14 and Gary Kampman had 10. Walker also had 19 rebounds to go along with his point-making abilities.

Consolation semi-finals saw Beloit stretch a slim quarter lead to 48-29 at halftime and go on from there to win handily over Drummond. The winners had a balanced attack, topped by Gerald Kenney's 19. Drummond was paced by its fine backcourt ace, Guy Kneeland, with 29 points. Kneeland was second only to Walker and Johnson in scoring average-wise in the tournament with his 54 points in just two

games. La Crosse Central held the upper hand, 34-23, over South Milwaukee in its consolation semi-final but it was all South Milwaukee in the second half with a 40-21 edge that brought home a nine-point win. The winners trailed, 42-33, in the third period, then scored 12 points to two for La Crosse to gain the upper hand. Bill Scherer with 18 led the victors and Don Iverson's 13 topped Central.

Beloit and Eau Claire got the tourney off to a sizzling start with their quarter-final tussle. Beloit set the early pace without question, rolling up a lead of 32-20 in the second quarter and holding a 46-35 command at the half. But the foul-filled contest shifted into Eau Claire's favor in the second half as the Abes took a 58-57 lead before falling back again, 61-58, after three periods. Beloit still led by three with 3:13 to play but four points by Lyon put Beloit down by one. A little later Lyon made a free throw which snapped the last tie and put Eau Claire in the lead to stay in the final 75 seconds. Lyon finished his fine performance with 27 points, two more than Johnson, while Ron Wolf's 26 and Gay Lee's 20 paced Beloit. Green Bay West held only a 35-28 lead over Drummond at halftime but boosted this with a 44-24 edge in the second half to win handily. Drew's 19 topped the victors while Kneeland was the whole show for Drummond with 25.

Sheboygan South and La Crosse Central put on a terrific performance in their first-round contest. South held a 27-25 halftime lead, then fell behind, 48-47, after a third quarter display on the part of both teams that was as spectacular as any action in the entire tourney. There was only one foul and a total of 21 baskets in that eight minutes with La Crosse in front, 48-47. The closely-fought final period saw Central hold the edge until halfway to the end, then South took the reins, 55-54, 57-56 and 59-58, on baskets by Kroos (2) and Rimkus and in the final 3½ minutes the winners stayed on top except for a 62-62 tie broken at the one-minute mark by Rimkus. Cinealis with 20 and Kroos with 18 topped South while Jim Schultz with 22 and Iverson with 21 topped Central which had a .519 field goal shooting mark despite losing. Lincoln got off to leads of 8-1 and 14-7 over South Milwaukee but soon found itself with a battle although South trailed throughout the first half. A basket by Jack Swendorowski gave South its first lead at 33-32 in the third period and thereafter the game continued nip-and-tuck. South Milwaukee got its last tie with four minutes left on Tom Mihalko's basket, then with 2:16 to go Suttle put Lincoln ahead for keeps. Walker had 27 points, 11 in the last half, to lead Lincoln while Woychik's 18 led a balanced South attack.

Team Scoring Records Fall

No individual records were established or tied in the 1962 State Basketball Tournament at Madison but several team scoring and miscellaneous records were either set or equalled.

The following records were involved:

New Team Scoring Records

Most Points in One Game — 93, by Milwaukee Lincoln (Old mark was 92 by Waukesha in defeating Rice Lake 92-68 in 1960).

Most Points in Title Game — 93, by Milwaukee Lincoln (Old mark was 81 by Eau Claire in 1955 in defeating Superior Central 81-71).

Most Points for Two Teams in Title Game — 173, Milwaukee Lincoln 93, Eau Claire 80. (Old mark was 152 set by Eau Claire 81, Superior Central 71, in 1955, and tied by Milwaukee Lincoln 77, Rice Lake 75, overtime, 1961).

Highest Losing Score in Title Game — 80, by Eau Claire. (Old mark was 75, by Rice Lake, 1961,

in losing to Milwaukee Lincoln 77-75, ot).

Most Field Goals Scored in Single Game Both Teams — 71, Milwaukee Lincoln 38, Eau Claire 33; (Old mark was 70 set by Eau Claire 42, Black River Falls 28, in 1958).

Best Free Throw Percentage for Three Games — .767 by Beloit (66 of 86 attempts); Old mark was .755 by Shawano (83 of 110 attempts in 1956). Note: Green Bay West also surpassed old mark with .756 on 59 of 78 attempts.

Miscellaneous Records Set

Most Times Appearing in Championship Finals — 9, by Eau Claire. Extends own record; Eau Claire appeared in 1917, 1919, 1927, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1955, and 1962.

Most State Championship Games Lost — 6, by Eau Claire. Extends own record; Eau Claire lost in 1919, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, and 1962.

Best Record by Team winning state title — 26-0 by Milwaukee Lincoln; (Old mark was 21-0 by Two Rivers, 1941).

Miscellaneous Records Tied

Most Tournaments Played In — 25, by Eau Claire (1917 to 1962); Ties mark of 25 set by Superior Central (1917 to 1959).

Coaches of Most Championship Teams — 3, by Dick Wadewitz, Milwaukee Lincoln; Ed Fruth, Fond du Lac, and Herman Jacobson, Beloit.

Most Tournament Victories — 41, by Eau Claire (41-29) and Superior Central (41-34), both in 25 appearances.

Max Walker, Stan Johnson Top Scoring

Action in the 1962 State Basketball Tournament at Madison produced individual scoring co-leaders in the persons of Max Walker of Milwaukee Lincoln's champions and Stan Johnson of Eau Claire Memorial's runnersup.

Walker and Johnson each scored 86 points, an average of 28.7 per game, to set the pace among individuals. Next in line was Guy Kneeland with a 27.0 average on 54 points in two games. Ben Johnson

of Green Bay West averaged 21.0 with 63 points.

Dale Lyons, Eau Claire, averaged 19.7 (59 points); Gary Woychik, South Milwaukee, averaged 18.7 (56 points); Gay Lee, Beloit, averaged 18.0 (54 points); Ron Wolf, Beloit, averaged 17.3 (52 points), and Don Iverson, La Crosse Central, averaged 17.0 (34 points).

Walker and Stan Johnson also led in field goals with 37 and 34, respectively. Walker had the best field goal percentage with .627 while John Cinealis of Sheboygan South was second-best with .588 on 20 baskets. Johnson was third with .566 and Iverson, who had 15 baskets, had a .536 average.

There were several fine free throw shooting efforts. John Drew of Green Bay West made 12 for a .915 mark while Bill Scherer of South Milwaukee hit .882 with 15 conversions. Walker was .867 with 12 conversions, Lee was .857 with 24, Dick Hanson of Eau Claire had 15 for .833 and Stan Johnson had 18 for .818.

Leading the way among rebounders were teammates Dan Davis and Walker of Lincoln's titlists with 43 and 41, respectively.

Eau Claire, Beloit and Lincoln ranked 1-2-3 in offense, the Old Abes averaging an even 80 points. Green Bay West, South Milwaukee and La Crosse Central were tops defensively, West restricting the opposition to 60.3 points per game. Eau Claire shot .461 in field goals and Beloit was .767 in free throws to lead in these categories. Lincoln picked off the most rebounds, 143.

The field goal shooting percentage was .401 for all teams for the entire tournament, slightly less than the average of recent meets and somewhat under the .423 mark set in 1958. Free throw shooting was .673 which is better than any of the past five years. Field goal output averaged 52.2 per game (two teams), free throw converting averaged 34.3, and the average number of fouls per game for both teams was 37.5 — higher than all but one of the last six tournaments.

Nearly 75,000 Watch Games

A total of 74,851 persons (paid) watched the six sessions of the 1962 State Basketball Tournament at the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse in Madison.

This total is considerably under the record of 81,497 established a year ago as well as the second-best mark of 80,022 in 1958.

In addition to the fans who watched at the Fieldhouse, the 1962 tournament was viewed by the biggest television audience in the three-year history of televised State Meet play. WMTV-Madison originated and televised the entire tournament. Outlets in Green Bay, Milwaukee, La Crosse and Eau Claire carried action on Friday and Satur-

day nights and a Duluth outlet carried Saturday night's game.

Following are attendance figures this year plus the records in all categories:

	1962	Record
Thurs. aft.	13,545	14,538 (1960)
Thurs. eve.	13,945	14,471 (1960)
Thurs.		
comb.	27,490	29,009 (1960)
Fri. aft.	9,814	12,576 (1961)
Fri. eve.	13,996	14,463 (1961)
Fri. comb.	23,810	27,039 (1961)
Sat. aft.	10,032	12,941 (1961)
Sat. eve.	13,519	13,800 (1946)*
Sat. comb.	23,551	26,600 (1958)
Grand Total	74,851	81,497 (1961)

*equalled several times

Championship Game

Milwaukee Lincoln	FG	FT	PF	PTS	Eau Claire	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Max Walker, f	13	1	4	27	Stan Johnson, f	11	6	3	28
Willie White, f-g	7	3	2	17	Dale Lyon, f	7	0	2	14
Dan Davis, c	6	6	4	18	Erik Kleven, c	5	5	2	15
Earl Suttle, g	5	5	3	15	Dick Hanson, g	6	3	5	15
Calvin May, g	0	2	1	2	Ron Poquette, g	3	0	5	6
Norman Clark, f	7	0	3	14	Mike Hulett, f-c	0	0	0	0
Totals	38	17	17	93	Steve Elliott, f	1	0	1	2
					Dick Arnold, g	0	0	1	0
					Larry Johnson, g	0	0	0	0
					Totals	33	14	19	80

Officials: Herb Cahoon and Bud Lowell

Field Goal Averages: Eau Claire .500; Milwaukee Lincoln .507

SCORE BY PERIODS

Milwaukee Lincoln	21	20	25	27—93
Eau Claire	23	14	19	24—80

Third-Place Playoff

Green Bay West	FG	FT	PF	PTS	Sheboygan South	FG	FT	PF	PTS
Ben Johnson, f	6	14	3	26	Dave Wensink, f	1	2	4	4
John Drew, f	1	6	3	8	Bryan Wirth, f	1	0	3	2
Don Doherty, c	3	2	3	8	Frank Rimkus, c-f	2	3	1	7
John Hansen, g	1	2	3	4	Rick Kroos, g	5	2	1	12
Gene Dahlin, g	2	5	4	9	John Huebner, g	3	0	2	6
Mike Thompson, g	3	0	4	6	John Cinealis, c	2	3	4	7
Lynn Baumann, g	0	2	0	2	Gary Kampman, g	0	5	5	5
Paul Ladrow, f	0	2	0	2	Tony Kaboord, f	1	0	1	2
Glenn Holubar, g	2	0	0	4	Pat Murray, g	0	2	2	2
Bob Vincent, g	0	0	1	0	John Weimann, g	0	1	2	1
Tom Boyce, f	0	0	0	0	Tony Baranoucky, f	0	0	0	0
Bill Harden, g	0	0	0	0	Tom Nick, f	0	0	0	0
Totals	18	33	21	69	Totals	15	18	25	48