

Basketball

Drama and suspense have created excitement for more than a half-century of WIAA State Basketball Tournaments but the 1969 production will have a place of its own in the memories of high school sports enthusiasts for years and years to come – and probably forever.

An undefeated (26-0) Beloit team determined not to finish second-best in the State a second year in a row won the game but a gallant, underdog Neenah quintet always will know it took a miracle to prevent it from ascending the throne.

The final score was 80-79 in a double-overtime spectacle which left players and coaches on both sides physically and mentally exhausted and produced near-hysteria for 13,000-plus fans at the University of Wisconsin fieldhouse in Madison along with perhaps close to a million viewers on television.

The suspense of the overtimes goes without saying but those two three-minute sessions – the first time a State final has gone into double overtime – were anti-climactic. The real drama came as the horn sounded the end of regulation play.

Neenah had just whittled away nearly a half-minute of time stalling and setting-up a final shot which pressure-free Pat Hawley made to break a 68-68 tie and give the unheralded Rockets an apparent championship. But Beloit was not ready to succumb even against these virtually million-to-one odds and with two seconds showing the boys of Coach Bernie Barkin planned their do-or-die effort.

The man of the hour was LaMont Weaver who, after taking a perfect throw-in from Dan Wohlfert, dribbled apparently once, then fired a lefthanded baseball pitch from about five feet behind the center-line and two feet inside the out-of-bounds stripe. The shot came from 52-55 feet away and hit the backboard on the button before caroming through the net and leaving the Beloit followers in pandemonium and the Neenah fans in disbelief at the 70-70 tie.

Coach Ron Einerson's cagers, who in the Sectional finals had dethroned Manitowoc's 1968 State champions, grabbed the lead in the overtime on Bob Block's layin but Beloit got one point back on Dave Kilgore's free throw and, when Chuck Loft rebounded home Kilgore's second shot which missed, the Knights had a 73-72 lead with 2:11 to play. The score stayed that way for nearly two minutes until Block tied it with 21 seconds remaining on a free throw but with 19 seconds to go big Bruce Brown, a great player in the entire tournament, made two free throws to return the lead to Beloit, 75-73. With 10 seconds to play Hawley withstood pressure again and made two tying free throws, 75-75. Weaver came close to winning it for Beloit as the first overtime ended but he waited a split-second too long and the shot missed narrowly anyway.

Beloit got the first point in the second overtime on Kilgore's gifter but Tom Kopitzke, a sharp-shooter all night, got that one back and another to give Neenah a 77-76 lead with 2:32 to go. The ball changed hands thereafter and not until a minute later (at 1:29) did Beloit regain the lead on Wohlfert's layin. Kopitzke, however, again got two free throws with 1:18 to play and Neenah was in front again, 79-78. Again, the ball changed hands without a point, and with 36 seconds to play Weaver put-on the hero's mantle once more by making two free throws to account for the final 80-79 score. The ball changed hands again with Beloit missing a free throw with seven seconds to play and Neenah calling a time-out with four seconds to go. But the Rockets had only time to take a wild and under-shot fling at the basket before the horn ended the overtime and the game.

Third-place honors for the second year in a row went to Kimberly which whipped Nicolet, 75-59, while consolation laurels went to Milwaukee Lincoln by virtue of an 83-70 triumph over Eau Claire Memorial.

Beloit won its way into the finals by turning back Kimberly, 70-56, and Neenah held off Nicolet at the finish for an 81-79 triumph which put it in the title contest. Opening-round battles saw Beloit win from Eau Claire Memorial, 73-65, and Neenah topple Wausau 72-59. Kimberly, meanwhile, took a 71-59 decision from Durand while Nicolet turned in the only upset

of the tournament by dealing Milwaukee Lincoln its only setback ever in six years and 18 games of State Tournament play by a 78-73 score. Consolation semi-finals saw Lincoln beat Wausau 84-77, and Eau Claire beat Durand, 53-44.

The regular-season and final-season records of the State Tournament teams were as follows:

Beloit 18-0 and 26-0, Neenah 14-4 and 21-5, Kimberly 18-0 and 25-1, Nicolet 13-5 and 19-7, Milw. Lincoln 13-4 and 20-5, Eau Claire Memorial 17-1 and 23-3, Durand 17-1 and 23-3 and Wausau 12-6 and 17-8.

In addition to Beloit and Kimberly, five schools were unbeaten during the regular season. They were Evansville, Fish Creek, Monticello, North Crawford and St. Croix Central.

The change in tournament format of the previous year (all weekend games) again played a big role in shattered attendance records. Total attendance for all levels of activity – State, Sectional, Regional and District – reached 422,252 – an increase of more than 4,000 over the 417,907 of the previous year. Included was a gain of nearly 700 fans at the State Tournament to a record 80,421 – the first time the paid total has eclipsed the 80,000-mark at Madison.

It was estimated that nearly four million fans watched about 3,750 regular-season basketball games in 1968-69.



1969 STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

This is the Beloit team which beat Neenah in double overtime to win the State Basketball Tournament at Madison last month. Left to right, front row, Coach Bernie Barkin, Dan Wohlfert, Mike Masterson, Otha Williams, Terry McCrary, Stan Storey, Managers Jack Eddy and Jim Long; back row, LaMont Weaver, Chuck Loft, Dave Hanzlik, Bruce Brown, Dave Kilgore, Willie Hodges, Assistant Dick Basham.

State Box Scores

Championship Finals

BELOIT 80	FGA-M	FTA-M	NEENAH 79	FGA-M	FTA-M
David Kilgore	11-4	6-3	Tom Kopitzke	16-10	8-7
Chuck Loft	7-4	1-0	John Arpin	8-2	3-2
Bruce Brown	14-8	11-10	Tom Koepke	15-8	4-4
Lamont Weaver	19-10	6-5	Pat Hawley	11-5	5-4
Dan Wohlifert	8-4	2-2	Bob Block	7-3	2-1
David Hanzlik	0-0	0-0	Jim Hoelzel	4-1	1-1
Mike Masterson	0-0	1-0	Brian Cannon	0-0	0-0
			Greg Schultz	1-1	0-0
Totals	59-30	27-20	Totals	62-30	24-19

Score by quarters:

Beloit	14	15	21	20	5	5	—	80
Neenah	22	13	13	22	5	4	—	79

Personal Fouls: Beloit 15, Neenah 21

Field Goal Averages: Beloit .508, Neenah .484

Rebounds: Beloit 41, Neenah 32

Officials: Eugene Calhoun and George Stadky

Third Place Playoff

KIMBERLY 75	FGA-M	FTA-M	NICOLET 59	FGA-M	FTA-M
Bill Lamers	19-8	1-0	Tom Lonnborg	8-1	4-4
Robin Ristau	14-7	10-7	Barry Stampf	9-6	0-0
Jeff Wildenberg	19-8	7-6	Steve Bazelon	21-10	3-2
Don Hagany	9-2	10-5	Jeff Swenson	2-1	0-0
Wayne Swokowski	4-1	0-0	Jim Bronson	11-4	9-7
Gene Loiselie	8-2	1-1	Gary Rieboidt	2-0	0-0
Jim Gage	0-0	0-0	Jay Grieger	4-1	0-0
Joe Ruys	0-0	0-0	Ken Zganjar	0-0	0-0
Gary Kilsdonk	0-0	1-0	Jim Reinert	1-0	0-0
Tim VanderVelden	0-0	0-0	Jim Treu	0-0	0-0
Bill VanderVelden	0-0	0-0	Jeff Brown	0-0	0-0
Jack Wildenberg	0-0	0-0			
Totals	73-28	30-19	Totals	58-23	16-13

Score by quarters:

Kimberly	19	22	18	16	—	75
Nicolet	16	14	18	11	—	59

Personal Fouls: Kimberly 13, Nicolet 20

Field Goal Averages: Kimberly .384, Nicolet .397

Rebounds: Kimberly 56, Nicolet 38

Officials: Duane Mueller and Rudy Van Fleet

Consolation Finals

MILW. LINCOLN 83	FGA-M	FTA-M	EAU CLAIRE MEM'L 70	FGA-M	FTA-M
Dwight Turner	10-3	0-0	Tom Poquette	9-4	7-3
David Hickembottom	21-10	3-2	Greg Morley	12-7	13-10
Jimmy Foster	11-5	1-1	Pete Almberg	8-2	3-2
Ellis Turrentine	18-11	4-3	Stan Morley	8-5	2-1
Carl Glenn	11-5	2-0	Gregg Bohlig	13-6	6-4
Mike Hubbard	6-3	5-2	Bob Burling	0-0	0-0
Henry Mallett	3-0	0-0	Dick Vorpahl	2-1	2-0
Eardis Carr	0-0	0-0	Ed Mattes	0-0	1-0
James Richardson	1-0	0-0	Bob Hansis	2-0	0-0
James Van Dyke	0-0	0-0	Kevin Kassera	1-0	0-0
Donald Morris	0-0	0-0	Rich Volkman	1-0	0-0
Dennis Norton	0-0	2-1			
Totals	81-37	17-9	Totals	56-25	34-20

Score by quarters:

Milw. Lincoln	22	27	18	16	—	83
Eau Claire Mem'l	19	16	15	20	—	70

Personal Fouls: Milw. Lincoln 23, Eau Claire Mem'l 12

Field Goal Averages: Milw. Lincoln .464, Eau Claire Mem'l .446

Rebounds: Milw. Lincoln 55, Eau Claire Mem'l 42

Officials: Roger Harring and Phil Greenway

Championship Semi-Finals

NEENAH 81	FGA-M	FTA-M	NICOLET 78	FGA-M	FTA-M
Tom Kopitzke	12-6	8-6	Tom Lonnborg	4-2	4-3
John Arpin	12-5	4-1	Barry Stampf	4-2	0-0
Tom Koepke	8-2	3-1	Steve Bazelon	18-12	13-10
Bob Block	12-8	2-1	Jeff Swenson	6-1	1-0
Pat Hawley	13-7	7-5	Jim Bronson	16-8	5-4
Jim Hoelzel	2-1	4-4	Gary Rieboidt	5-3	5-1
Greg Schultz	1-0	5-3	Jay Grieger	1-0	3-2
Brian Cannon	1-0	2-2	Ken Zganjar	2-1	0-0
Dave Wagner	0-0	0-0			
Totals	61-29	35-23	Totals	56-29	31-20

Score by quarters:

Neenah	18	21	23	19	—	81
Nicolet	13	19	13	33	—	78

Personal Fouls: Neenah 21, Nicolet 25

Field Goal Averages: Neenah .475, Nicolet .518

Rebounds: Neenah 40, Nicolet 42

Officials: Otto Breitenbach and Duane Counsell

BELOIT 70	FGA-M	FTA-M	KIMBERLY 56	FGA-M	FTA-M
David Kilgore	3-0	7-4	Bill Lamers	12-4	1-0
Charles Loft	2-0	5-3	Robin Ristau	14-7	4-4
Bruce Brown	10-8	17-14	Jeff Wildenberg	18-8	7-6
Lamont Weaver	16-8	4-4	Don Hagany	8-2	2-1
Dan Wohlifert	9-3	5-5	Wayne Swokowski	8-0	0-0
David Hanzlik	1-1	0-0	Gene Loiselie	2-0	2-2
			Gary Kilsdonk	2-0	1-1
Totals	41-20	38-30	Joe Ruys	0-0	0-0
			Jim Gage	1-0	0-0
			Totals	65-21	17-14

Score by quarters:

Beloit	8	12	20	30	—	70
Kimberly	13	12	17	14	—	56

Personal Fouls: Beloit 13, Kimberly 25

Field Goal Averages: Beloit .488, Kimberly .323

Rebounds: Beloit 36, Kimberly 40

Officials: Orlando Palesse and Ken Kulick

Consolation Semi-Finals

MILW. LINCOLN 84	FGA-M	FTA-M	WAUSAU 77	FGA-M	FTA-M
David Hickembottom	14-7	3-2	Jerry Bird	19-4	4-2
Dwight Turner	8-5	5-2	John Pieper	0-0	1-0
Jimmy Foster	19-10	0-0	Bob Steif	8-3	10-8
Ellis Turrentine	22-6	8-6	Keith Steinagel	2-0	0-0
Carl Glenn	4-2	3-1	Gary Gray	12-4	6-4
Mike Hubbard	5-2	5-2	Al Caillouette	2-1	0-0
Henry Mallett	1-1	6-4	Bruce Weinkauff	8-7	7-7
James Richardson	0-0	2-1	Wayne Christianson	12-7	6-4
			Leon Rusch	0-0	0-0
Totals	73-33	32-18	Tim Hale	0-0	0-0
			Totals	63-26	34-25

Score by quarters:

Milw. Lincoln	31	18	19	16	—	84
Wausau	15	24	15	23	—	77

Personal Fouls: Milw. Lincoln 25, Wausau 18

Field Goal Averages: Milw. Lincoln .452, Wausau .413

Rebounds: Milw. Lincoln 57, Wausau 43

Officials: Lowell Bakken and Bob Goemans

EAU CLAIRE MEM'L 53	FGA-M	FTA-M	DURAND 44	FGA-M	FTA-M
Tom Poquette	9-3	4-3	Ken Harmon	12-3	9-5
Greg Morley	15-6	5-2	Mike Krisik	7-2	1-1
Pete Almberg	5-0	13-6	Jeff Lunderville	6-3	5-1
Stan Morley	12-4	5-4	Tom Bauer	14-3	1-1
Gregg Bohlig	15-5	3-2	Mike Silberhorn	11-2	2-0
Dick Vorpahl	0-0	0-0	Joe Springer	8-3	5-4
Kirk Heimstead	4-0	0-0	John Langlois	2-0	0-0
Bob Burling	1-0	0-0	Ron Krisik	0-0	0-0
Totals	61-18	30-17	Totals	60-16	23-12

Score by quarters:
 Eau Claire Mem'l 11 6 15 21 — 53
 Durand 11 7 14 12 — 44
 Personal Fouls: Eau Claire Mem'l 18, Durand 21
 Field Goal Averages: Eau Claire Mem'l .295, Durand .267
 Rebounds: Eau Claire Mem'l 65, Durand 46
 Officials: Gene Koepke and William Wendelberger

Quarter-Finals

NEENAH 72	FGA-M	FTA-M	WAUSAU 59	FGA-M	FTA-M
Tom Kopitzke	17-5	4-3	Jerry Bird	14-6	6-4
John Arpin	10-5	0-0	John Pieper	5-2	2-2
Tom Koepke	11-5	4-2	Bob Steif	7-4	5-4
Pat Hawley	13-9	5-2	Keith Steinagel	2-0	2-2
Tom Ponto	3-2	1-1	Gary Gray	15-8	3-1
Bob Block	6-3	4-3	Bruce Weinkauff	5-2	0-0
Brian Cannon	0-0	1-0	Leon Rusch	4-1	0-0
Jim Hoelzel	3-1	4-1	Tim Hale	1-0	0-0
Greg Schultz	0-0	0-0	Totals	53-23	18-13
Totals	63-30	23-12			

Score by quarters:
 Neenah 18 17 19 18 — 72
 Wausau 22 10 13 14 — 59
 Personal Fouls: Neenah 12, Wausau 14
 Field Goal Averages: Neenah .476, Wausau .434
 Rebounds: Neenah 43, Wausau 36
 Officials: Otto Puls and Ted Scalissi

NICOLET 78	FGA-M	FTA-M	MILW. LINCOLN 73	FGA-M	FTA-M
Tom Lonnborg	8-5	4-4	Dwight Turner	7-2	2-2
Barry Stampfl	4-0	0-0	David Hickembottom	20-7	8-6
Steve Bazelon	20-8	10-6	Jimmy Foster	15-3	1-0
Jeff Swenson	15-6	3-2	Carl Glenn	4-0	1-0
Jim Bronson	13-8	10-6	Ellis Turrentine	30-14	9-4
Jay Grieger	3-1	9-4	Henry Mallett	7-3	2-1
			Mike Hubbard	3-1	0-0
Totals	63-28	36-22	Totals	86-30	23-13

Score by quarters:
 Nicolet 17 23 21 17 — 78
 Milw. Lincoln 19 12 17 25 — 73
 Personal Fouls: Nicolet 14, Milw. Lincoln 22
 Field Goal Averages: Nicolet .445, Milw. Lincoln .349
 Rebounds: Nicolet 54, Milw. Lincoln 61
 Officials: Richard Lowell and Herb Cahoon

KIMBERLY 71	FGA-M	FTA-M	DURAND 59	FGA-M	FTA-M
Bill Lamers	6-4	7-5	Ken Harmon	13-5	14-11
Robin Ristau	6-2	2-2	Mike Krisik	15-5	4-3
Jeff Wildenberg	12-9	4-3	Jeff Lunderville	1-0	2-0
Don Hagany	5-4	11-9	Tom Bauer	15-6	6-4
Wayne Swokowski	6-4	1-1	Mike Silberhorn	6-1	2-1
Gene Loiselle	3-2	3-1	Joe Springer	4-2	0-0
Jim Gage	1-0	0-0	Ron Krisik	0-0	2-0
Gary Kilsdonk	1-0	0-0	John Langlois	1-1	2-0
Joe Ruys	0-0	0-0	Totals	55-20	32-19
Tim VanderVelden	0-0	0-0			
Totals	40-25	28-21			

Score by quarters:
 Kimberly 12 24 18 17 — 71
 Durand 20 19 9 11 — 59
 Personal Fouls: Kimberly 21, Durand 19
 Field Goal Averages: Kimberly .625, Durand .364
 Rebounds: Kimberly 36, Durand 34
 Officials: Ken Leland and Gordon Hintermeyer

BELOIT 73	FGA-M	FTA-M	EAU CLAIRE MEM'L 65	FGA-M	FTA-M
David Kilgore	6-3	2-0	Tom Poquette	13-3	0-0
Chuck Loft	7-6	4-2	Greg Morley	10-5	11-7
Bruce Brown	12-11	5-4	Pete Almberg	13-3	2-2
Lamont Weaver	6-2	7-6	Stan Morley	21-6	3-3
Dan Wohlfert	8-5	3-2	Gregg Bohlig	17-8	3-2
David Hanzlik	2-1	0-0	Bob Burling	1-0	2-1
Mike Masterson	1-0	0-0	Dick Vorpahl	0-0	1-0
Willie Hodges	1-0	2-1	Ed Mattes	0-0	0-0
Stan Storey	0-0	0-0	Totals	75-25	22-15
Otha Williams	1-1	0-0			
Steve Larsen	0-0	0-0			
Tracy McCrary	0-0	0-0			
Totals	44-29	23-15			

Score by quarters:
 Beloit 20 19 10 24 — 73
 Eau Claire Mem'l 13 13 8 31 — 65
 Personal Fouls: Beloit 14, Eau Claire Mem'l 17
 Field Goal Averages: Beloit .659, Eau Claire .333
 Rebounds: Beloit 42, Eau Claire Mem'l 38
 Officials: Wayne Kelliher and Gene Berce

State Tournament Records

These were new records established or equalled in the 1969 State Basketball Tournament:

Team	Individual
Best Field Goal Percentage For Single Game — .659 by Beloit vs. Eau Claire Memorial (29 of 44) in championship quarter-finals.	Best Field Goal Percentage for Three Games — .750 by Bruce Brown, Beloit (27 of 36 attempts).
Undefeated Teams Which Have Won State Championships — Fond du Lac (16-0) in 1919; Superior (12-0) in 1920; Wisconsin High-Madison (21-0) in 1931; Mayville (20-0) in 1935-B; Fall Creek (21-0) in 1937-C; Rhinelander (20-0) in 1939; Two Rivers (21-0) in 1941; Milw. Lincoln (26-0) in 1962; Dodgeville (26-0) in 1964; Monroe (26-0) in 1965; Manitowoc (26-0) in 1968; Beloit (26-0) in 1969.	Best Field Goal Percentage for One Game — .917 by Bruce Brown, Beloit (11 of 12 attempts) vs. Eau Claire Memorial.
Most Championships Won — 6 by Beloit (1932, 1933, 1934A, 1937A, 1947 and 1969).	These are other current State records not changed by 1969 play:
Most Tournaments — 32 by Eau Claire Memorial.	Team Scoring Records
Most Tournament Games Played — 87 by Eau Claire Memorial.	Most Points in Three Games — 250 by Milwaukee Lincoln, 1967 (109, 80, 61).
Most Tournament Victories — 48 by Eau Claire Memorial.	Most Points in One Game — 109, by Milwaukee Lincoln (defeating La Crosse Central 109-71) in 1967.
Most Tournament Defeats — 39 by Eau Claire Memorial.	Most Points in Title Game — 93, by Milwaukee Lincoln in 1962 (Milwaukee Lincoln 93, Eau Claire 80).
	Most Points for Two Teams in Single Game — 180 (Milwaukee Lincoln 109, La Crosse Central 71) in 1967.