

## BASKETBALL AND IOWA – A TRADITION FOR MILLIONS

(Timeline and narrative researched and written by Bud Legg, IHSAA Information Director)

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### BOYS' BASKETBALL TIMELINE

- 1891 Game invented by Dr. James Naismith in Springfield, MA
- 1893 First "game" played in Iowa between State University of Iowa Y.M.C.A. and Cedar Rapids Y.M.C.A. with University winning 12-2. Three points were awarded for a made field goal and one point for each foul by the opponent.
- 1896 Points for a made field goal *were reduced from three to two* and instead of being awarded a point for an opponent foul, the offended team was awarded a free throw – one point if made.
- 1897 Iowa high schools start out with "Y" teams in larger cities with West Waterloo and Ottumwa being among the first, followed by Boone, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, et al
- 1903 Iowa High School Principals' Club organized a rules committee to draft a uniform code for basketball. This action led to one set of rules for all interscholastic sports and eventually the I.H.S.A.A.
- 1909 Glass backboards were first used, though not required.
- 1910 Player with four fouls was disqualified
- 1912 The Iowa High School Athletic Council organized its first "State Tournament" (1912). These first tournaments were invitational with usually four or eight teams being invited by the council to play, usually at Iowa City or Ames.
- 1920-22 Two "Invitational State Tournaments" held – one at Iowa City; one at Ames
- 1922 Game shortened from two 20 minute halves to four eight minute quarters.
- 1923 I.H.S.A.A. assumed control of the sport and initiated a tournament qualifying structure leading to the State Tournament. A total of 830 schools had teams; 777 belonged to the I.H.S.A.A.
- 1923 Osage defeated Council Bluffs, 21-14 in the finals of round robin tournament at Boone High School in first ever I.H.S.A.A. State Tournament. Oskaloosa and Spirit Lake also qualified for the tournament. Round robin tournaments continued through 1926 with class A and B tournaments being played in 1925 and 1926.
- 1927-30 State Tournament at Iowa City, University Field House featured eight qualifying teams in one class.
- 1931-1940 Start of the "Sweet 16" qualifiers for the State Tournament, held at Drake Field House and Iowa State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls.
- 1932 New rule adoptions: (1) Ten second backcourt rule; (2) numbering on the front and back of the uniform; (3) free throw lane spacings set; and (4) three-second lane restriction.
- 1933 Dunkerton becomes the first ever small school state champion, defeating Des Moines Roosevelt, 22-20, in a single class tournament
- 1937 Center jump after each made field goal is eliminated
- 1938 Sudden death in overtime to determine the winner of tie game
- 1940 Fan-shaped backboard were legalized
- 1941-44 Due to World War II, State Tournament reduced to eight qualifiers. Games played at Drake Field House.
- 1944 Players permitted five fouls before disqualification
- 1944 Due to gas rationing, State Tournament was abbreviated to four teams and returned to University Field House, Iowa City.
- 1945-1955 State Tournament returned to 16 qualifiers and one class.
- 1946 Transparent backboards were legalized.
- 1947 Rectangular target on backboard was required
- 1947 High-tide for member schools playing basketball – 952
- 1948 Fouling player to raise his hand above his head
- 1951 Roland, one of the smallest teams in the tournament, led by Gary Thompson captures the crowd with their play despite losing to Davenport, 50-40 in the championship.

1955	Veterans Auditorium Des Moines hosts State Tournament for first time. Due to availability of Vets, the tournament returned to Iowa City in 1960 and 1962
1956-1961	State Tournament is divided into two classes of 8 qualifiers each.
1957-60	First round of the Class A and B state tournaments were played at satellite sites around the state, with 8 winners advancing to the quarterfinals in Des Moines or Iowa City
1957	Free-throw lane expanded from 6 feet to 12 feet in width
1961	Sudden death (first team with a two point advantage) in second overtime eliminated
1961-66	State Tournament goes back to a single class with 8 qualifiers.
1964	Iowa adopts "bench decorum" rule for coaches
1967	Dunking during the game made illegal
1967-1974	State Tournament return to two classes of 8 qualifiers each.
1971	Sportsmanship winner initiated among teams competing in the tournament.
1973	First year that an all-tournament team in each class was chosen by the media
1974	Fouling player no longer required to raise his hand.
1976	Dunking legalized except in pre-game and intermission warm-ups
1975-1984	State Tournament moves to three classes of eight qualifiers each.
1982	Iowa becomes the first state to adopt the use of the three-point field goal from beyond an arc of 19'9" for 1982-83 season.
1983-84	Seeding method used in all classes for the State Tournament
1985	Current four classes with eight team each format starts.
1985	Alternating possession rule for jump balls adopted except at the start of the game and each extra period.
1988	Palmer wins a third straight state championship, just the third time it had been done, and with an all-time best scoring average of 103.9 points per game.
1994	The length of overtime periods increased from three minutes to four minutes
2002	Three former Iowa preps (Nick Collison, Kirk Hinrich and Kyle Korver) win All American honors and are drafted by the NBA, swelling the number of active Iowans in the NBA to seven – more than any other state in the Midwest
2006	State Tournament moves into the new Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, adjacent to Veterans Auditorium

Without question during the first 75 years of the Iowa High School Athletic Association basketball was the gold standard. The revenue realized from the sport virtually paid the freight for non-revenue sports plus goods and services and operational costs of the Athletic Association.

From 1912 through 1922 the I.H.S.A.A did not conduct a State Tournament series. A group of educators operating with the approval of the IHSAA and known as the Iowa High School Athletic Council reviewed the records of teams and held "invitational state tournaments" usually in Iowa City or Ames. These college communities offered playing facilities and lodging for the teams. In 1920 continuing through the 1922 season, two invitational state tournaments one in each city.

Starting in 1923 the I.H.S.A.A. assumed full control of the sport as member schools started to add basketball to their athletic programs. A qualifying system of tournaments was established. The first two I.H.S.A.A. state tournaments were held at Boone High School. From that beginning, the sport became increasingly popular with more schools and fans supporting it.

The tournament was divided into two classes, based on enrollment, in 1925 and 1926, before returning to a single class structure in 1927. From 1927 to 1955 the State Tournament was usually played at the State University of Iowa Field House or Drake Field House. In 1955, the tournament for the first time was contested in the new Veterans Auditorium (a.k.a. The Barn) in Des Moines.

Another period of classification from 1956-1960 resulted in a two class structure but from 1961-1966 there was only one class of eight qualifiers. Since 1967 the tournament has stayed in classes, increasing to three in 1976 and to four in 1985.

State championship games at the University Field House in Iowa City and Veteran's Auditorium in Des Moines (first in 1955) drew over 14,000-15,000 fans during the period of 1946-1980 even with a larger television audience.

The 1953 tournament was the first to be televised and it has continued to the present. In early years all games were televised. In recent years both Friday and Saturday sessions have been aired.

The all-time record for paid ticket sales for the state tournament are: 8-sessions, 1968 – 71,131; 10 sessions, 1977 – 95,504; and 12-sessions, 1994 – 95,027.

In nearly a century of competition over a million students have played the game, which has seen many rule changes. Behind all rules changes is a simple philosophy embracing fair play, balance between offense and defense, simplicity, adaptability, and the physical welfare of the participant.

Part of the love affair with basketball stemmed from the fact that nearly every school in the state had a team. From the 33 member schools that competed in 1906 to 775 in 1923, the first year the I.H.S.A.A. conducted the State Tournament, the number of schools providing basketball increased to an all-time high of 952 in 1947. As school consolidation became more vogue, starting in the late 1950s and sharing programs came on the scene the number of teams diminished to approximately 385 by the start of the 21st century. With over 12,100 participants, grades 9-12, the sport is second only to football in student interest.

While Hollywood has glamorized Indiana basketball with the film "Hoosiers," Iowa was also the home of a proud and storied past. Nearly 20 years before Milan, IN (Hickory in the movie) won Indiana's state title, giant-killers Dunkerton with population a shade over 600, nearly three times smaller than Milan, was the giant killer with a 22-20 upset of one of the largest schools in the state, Des Moines Roosevelt, for the 1933 state championship. The Red and Black clad Raiders used just five players the entire tournament being led by the play of Wally Gladdis and Dean Holdiman. They won over the taller Riders, who were led by Marcellus McMichael, the only four-time, first team all-state player in Iowa history through the 2006 season.

Eighteen years later tiny Roland excited tournament goers and a state-wide media audience and became the tournament darling, by defeating larger opponents -- Hull, Waterloo West, and Des Moines East to gain a title match-up with legendary Davenport, who prevailed 50-40. Roland was led by 5'8" Gary Thompson who was the first Iowa prep to score over 2,000 career points. He was a three-time All-State player, a collegiate All-American, and remains as the only Iowa prep basketball player to be inducted into the National Federation's Hall of Fame. Davenport was coached by Paul Moon whose 16 tournament appearances and seven state championships remain as Iowa all-time bests. Moon began his career in Illinois where he was an assistant coach for the eventual legendary Adolph Rupp.

Yet another exciting tale of small school basketball belongs to Palmer, only the third and last team to win three straight championships -- 1986, 1987, and 1988. The Panthers in 1988 also established an Iowa all-time team scoring average of 103.9 points per game for the season and through the tournaments. Coach Alden Skinner's team topped the 100-point mark 15 times during that season and continued to win in 1989, eventually losing in the semifinals of the state tournament. Their 3-point shooting accuracy, led by Troy Skinner and Brian Pearson, helped revolutionize offensive strategies.

Like Dunkerton and Roland before them Palmer played before packed gyms during regular season games at home or on the road. When it was all over, they had won 103 consecutive games, an Iowa all-time best, and as of 2008 the fifth longest streak all time in the United States. Paullina strung together 88 straight wins and Aplington-Parkersburg won 74 straight, 52 by Aplington alone.

The larger high schools dominate many of the "team bests" in State Tournament competition. Like their smaller counterparts, they also have great pride and followings. After the 2008 tournament, Wahlert, Dubuque and Marshalltown each have made 24 state tournament appearances, followed by Davenport Central, Mason City and Waterloo East each with 22. Davenport leads with nine state championship trophies with seven under Paul Moon, who was the first coach to direct a school to three consecutive titles (1950-53), a feat equaled only by Paullina (1968-1970) and Palmer (1986-88). From 1951-53 his teams never lost to an Iowa team as they won 60 straight.

Coaches and players, many of whom are featured in the Hall of Pride, achieved a level of excellence that dreams are made of. After the 2008 season over 70 coaches had accumulated 400 or more varsity victories and over 45 athletes have scored 1,900 career points or more. More than 40 athletes have scored 700 or more points in a season. Other statistics are just as impressive. As of 2008 over 300 coaches and players have been inducted into the IHSAA Basketball Hall of Fame, which was started in 1969.

The State Tournament has seen 492 schools qualify. Each school has their own story, but shares with all a common pride in representing their community and the citizens who without fail have supported them. In the process a virtual litany of local folk heroes are made from youngsters in sneakers and shorts each with the same dream.

And if those heroes move on to play in college, at any level, or to the National Basketball Association, the community pride adopts yet another team. The names of coaches and players, far too numerous to mention here, revive the magic moments and thrills that linger fresh in the minds of home town folks and those memories never die.

In 2002 three former Iowa preps -- Nick Collison (Iowa Falls) and Kirk Hinrich (Sioux City West) at Kansas and Kyle Korver (Pella) at Creighton -- won All American honors and were drafted into the National Basketball Association. They increased the number of active Iowans in the NBA to seven -- more than any other state in the Midwest. And those seven players hail from each of the four classes of high school competition and are among 15 Iowans who have played in the NBA.

The I.H.S.A.A. has also been the leading innovator for change in the game. In 1964-65 the bench decorum rule was put in place for coaches. Nearly 13 years later a similar rule became part of the national code.

The school administrators of Iowa have favored the current number of classes (4) since 1985, and Iowa has led other states in broadening opportunities for students regardless of the size of school they attend. Iowa also pioneered the three-point field goal starting with the 1982-83 season, five years before it became a national rule. And Iowa, the recognized leader in advocating good sportsmanship, has made it a center piece of the State Tournament. A school in each class is recognized for having the best sportsmanship by players, coaches and fans in the tournament, an accomplishment on the same level as winning the title.

Boys' basketball in Iowa is truly a remarkable story dispelling the myth that more games and sports specialization is essential. To the contrary, today's Iowa basketball legends are multi-sport stars in their high school. Iowans have lived with rules and limitations and perhaps that is the secret why our kids are balanced as adults. Often times the students who play basketball are not only in other sports but take part in numerous other school activities. Each activity is educational, and the IHSAA's rules allow for the vast percentage of students to participate in and enjoy a wide variety of school activities.