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First High School Tournaments

William J

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First High School Tournaments

The first high school basketball tournament was held in Iowa City in 1912. It was an invitational meet sponsored by the University of Iowa in which the Iowa High School Athletic Board selected the four teams that had "shown the best form" during the season. The outcome proved the teams (Ottumwa, Sioux City, Grundy Center, and Wilton Junction) had been well selected and deserved to compete for the championship. The 1912 basketball record compiled before Ottumwa entered the tournament indicates a strong team.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
<th>Ottumwa</th>
<th>Opponents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 5</td>
<td>Penn Academy at Oskaloosa</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 13</td>
<td>Fairfield at Ottumwa</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 21</td>
<td>Parsons Reserves at Ottumwa</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 27</td>
<td>Muscatine at Ottumwa</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 30</td>
<td>Ottumwa YMCA at Ottumwa</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 2</td>
<td>Oskaloosa at Ottumwa</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 9</td>
<td>Fairfield at Fairfield</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Muscatine at Muscatine</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Grinnell at Ottumwa</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 8</td>
<td>Iowa U. Freshmen at Ottumwa</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 27</td>
<td>Fort Morgan, Colo, at Ottumwa</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 434 208

The other three teams had compiled equally im-
pressive records. Sioux City had been a power in northwestern Iowa for almost a decade, and had played the best teams in adjoining states. Grundy Center was the pick of north-central Iowa high school teams, while Wilton Junction (a school that had battled powerful Davenport for several years on equal terms) was just concluding its best season.

1912 Tournament

The first Iowa high school basketball tournament opened with Ottumwa playing Wilton Junction. Wilton had the smallest tournament team, but they were like “chain lightning” when it came to speed. Throughout the game the Wilton boys “fought like fiends to overcome their handicaps” with a result that the crowd, “recognizing and admiring their pluck, cheered them heartily and often.” Bannick scored 20 out of 31 points for Wilton Junction, which all agreed was remarkable. Unfortunately for Wilton, every man on the Ottumwa five was a star, and the game ended in an Ottumwa victory — 40-31. Sioux City had an easier time “wiping out” Grundy Center by a score of 41-21.

The consolation game on Saturday was a thriller, with Grundy Center finally overcoming the Wilton “midgets” 40-37. Ticktin amassed five field goals for Wilton, while Captain Hasbrook proved the decisive factor for Grundy Center by
throwing baskets in “phenomenal form” — nine baskets and eight free throws for a total of 26 points.

In the championship contest, forward John Nevin was the big factor for the victorious Ottumwa quintet. Whenever Sioux City threatened, Nevin repulsed their onslaught by throwing a goal in “spectacular fashion.” Ottumwa guarding was superb and greatly outshone Sioux City. The final score — 38-31 — represented a great team victory for Ottumwa.

The first All-State team was picked by Manager N. A. Kellogg of the University of Iowa.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Team</th>
<th>Second Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nevin, Ottumwa</td>
<td>Schafer, Ottumwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hasbrook, Grundy Center</td>
<td>Shull, Sioux City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whittle, West Waterloo</td>
<td>Lester, Ottumwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wormhoudt, Ottumwa</td>
<td>Lodwick, Ottumwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aldrich, Sioux City</td>
<td>Ticktin, Wilton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No sooner was the first state tournament over than Ottumwa accepted an invitation to play at the Tri-State Tournament at Omaha the following week end. The results of this tournament showed the best teams in Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska were evenly matched: Omaha beat Kansas City 35-33; Kansas City vanquished Ottumwa 39-28; and Ottumwa humbled Omaha 39-35.

1913 Tournament

In 1913 the Iowa High School Athletic Board selected eight teams to play in the state tourna-
THE PALIMPSEST

ment. A committee of three — Principal George E. Marshall of Davenport, Superintendent Eugene Henely of Grinnell, and Principal W. H. Blakely of Fort Dodge — met in Room 31 of the Burkley Imperial in Iowa City to choose eight teams out of the thirty-three that had battled hard all winter for the coveted honor. From a set of records and statistics “four miles high” the committee finally selected Clinton, Charles City, Corning, Davenport, Fort Dodge, Jefferson, Ottumwa, and Sioux City.

The four finalists won their positions in convincing fashion:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Round</th>
<th>Second Round</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Davenport</td>
<td>30 Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ottumwa</td>
<td>54 Charles City 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sioux City</td>
<td>25 Clinton 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Dodge</td>
<td>30 Corning 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ottumwa easily disposed of Fort Dodge in the consolation match, taking the curtain-raiser 35-15. The stage was now cleared for the championship, with Davenport facing a considerably larger Sioux City team. Sioux City led momentarily 7-4, but five free throws in a row by Rhodes kept Davenport from being demoralized until Allen and Hanssen began finding the basket. Thereafter, Davenport was never headed, winning easily 34-18. Manager N. A. Kellogg of the University of Iowa basketball team refereed all games, and Captain Hanson of the University baseball team umpired.
Basketball is a friendly athletic contest; not a matter of life and death for player, coach, school, fan, state, or nation.
BOARD MEMBERS

George Edward Marshall
(Deceased)
Sioux City-Davenport
Board Member 23 Years

Frank W. Douma
Ottumwa
Chairman

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES

George A. Brown
(Deceased)
Des Moines, 1927-1941

Lyle T. Quinn
Boone, 1941-
TWO EARLY STATE CHAMPIONS

Ottumwa High School — 1912

Cedar Rapids High — 1914
A Word of Appreciation to Our Business Men: The business men of Mt. Pleasant are the loyal supporters of the High School. This year, when we were in danger of ruin due to the fact that our athletic coach was called to the colors, they brought an experienced coach from Ottumwa to put our team in shape. When, through his assistance, we were again able to take the Southeastern Iowa championship; they sent our team to Iowa City to compete with the strongest schools in the state. By reason of hard fighting and good team work and the support of the whole town, our team again brought home the honor of being the best basketball team in the state of Iowa.
THE NEAR VICTORS DESERVE OUR RESPECT

Fort Dodge lost to Cedar Rapids in 1916

Iowa City (1918 team) Was Second to Mt. Pleasant in 1917 and 1918
TEAMS FROM NORTHWEST IOWA

Spirit Lake High School — 1918

Cherokee High School — 1917
SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF 1952 STATE TOURNAMENT

Marion 72, Ogden 42

Keokuk 55, Roland 43
Ames 47, Cherokee 45 (semi-final)

Davenport 47, Danville 20
EXPERT OFFICIATING . . .

Referee Beckerman Calls a Foul

Close Quarters Under the Basket
DAZZLING SPEED

Ottumwa versus Muscatine

Ottumwa versus Burlington
STUDIES IN CONTRAST

Happy Cheer Leaders — Their Team's Ahead

A Study in Faces — The Fans on Their Feet
THE PRESSURE IS ON — TWO MINUTES TO GO

Something's Gone Wrong — The Coach Is Worried

Keokuk v. Davenport — Logan and Widseth Contend
COACH PAUL MOON — MAKER OF CHAMPIONS

Moon's First State Champions — Davenport, 1929
Moon's First State Champions — Davenport, 1929

Moon's Greatest Championship Team — Davenport, 1950
CARRYING OFF THE CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHIES

Davenport Defeats Keokuk for Championship in 1952

Keokuk Carries Off Second Place Trophy in 1952
The "sporting authorities" of Iowa City picked the following men for the mythical 1913 All-State team:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Team</th>
<th>Second Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rhodes, Davenport</td>
<td>Forward, Hanssen, Davenport</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schafer, Ottumwa</td>
<td>Forward, Strong, Sioux City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allen, Davenport</td>
<td>Center, Kline, Clinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomson, Davenport</td>
<td>Guard, White, Cedar Rapids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hollenbeck, Sioux City</td>
<td>Guard, Murphy, Sioux City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1914 Tournament**

The system of sectional tournaments was introduced in 1914. Both winner and runner-up entered the state meet from the preliminary games held at Des Moines, Ames, Grinnell, and Cedar Falls. Only 39 high school teams played in the preliminaries compared with 925 in 1953. The winning teams were Cedar Rapids, Clinton, College Springs, Corning, Davenport, Grinnell, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City.

Sioux City had been scheduled to play Fort Dodge in the first round, but the team failed to show up for the tournament, so Davenport played two games in one day, winning the first and losing the second. Davenport’s victory over Grinnell allowed her to play in the consolation as seen by the following:

**First Round**
- Davenport 20 Grinnell 9
- Cedar Rapids 22 Davenport 16
- Corning 30 College Spr. 23
- Clinton 24 Fort Dodge 17

**Semi-Finals**
- None — see 1st round
- Clinton 27 Corning 23
The Davenport-Cedar Rapids game in the first round caused the most excitement in 1914. Davenport had been expected to win by a close margin. According to the Iowa City Citizen: “Cedar Rapids high school was down in force and had a big bunch of rooters on the ground to exchange compliments with the bunch up from Davenport, and the two factions kept lively. The game was a fight from start to finish, thirteen fouls being called on Davenport, and five on Cedar Rapids.” Cedar Rapids led 12 to 9 at the half and increased the score to 22-16 when the final gun sounded.

In the championship match Cedar Rapids beat Clinton 28-23, while Davenport humbled Corning 32-23, after trailing at the half 15-19.

In 1915 fully 68 high school teams entered the sectional tournaments, compared with 39 the previous year. The ever widening interest coupled with the development of stronger teams is attested by the 112 high schools that entered the sectionals in 1916. The following year 144 high schools competed in the sectionals.

1917 Tournament

The 1917 tournament was noteworthy for several reasons. In the first place, the eight teams emerged from the largest preliminary field. Secondly, because of the number of new teams to ap-
PEAR FOR THE FIRST TIME — Mount Pleasant, Nashua, Indianola, Council Bluffs, and Iowa City. Thirdly, two of these new teams were destined to become champion and runner-up in both 1917 and 1918. Thus, Mount Pleasant defeated Iowa City twice in succession, a coincidence that has occurred only once in over forty years of tournament history.

The record of the eight teams competing in the 1917 high school tournament is worth recording:

**First Round**
- Mt. Pleasant 12 Nashua 8
- Marshalltown 9 Council Bluffs 5
- Iowa City 12 Sioux City 11
- Indianola 13 Fort Dodge 12

**Consolation**
- Marshalltown 16 Indianola 12

**Semi-Finals**
- Mt. Pleasant 9 Marshalltown 4
- Iowa City 28 Indianola 10

**Championship**
- Mt. Pleasant 28 Iowa City 22

*1918 Tournament*

In 1918 five new teams entered the state tournament — Dallas Center, Ellston, Goldfield, New Hampton, and Sioux Center. The record of this tournament left three tournament veterans in the top three positions:

**First Round**
- Mt. Pleasant 30 Dallas Center 11
- Ellston 30 Goldfield 22
- Iowa City 29 New Hampton 9
- Cedar Rapids 20 Sioux Center 16

**Consolation**
- Cedar Rapids 37 Ellston 15

**Semi-Finals**
- Mt. Pleasant 31 Ellston 12
- Iowa City 19 Cedar Rapids 9

**Championship**
- Mt. Pleasant 17 Iowa City 16

Since 1912 the state basketball tournaments
have been held in six different Iowa towns. Iowa City played host for the first five tournaments.

In 1917 the state tournament was held in Ames for the first time. Since that year tournaments have been held in Iowa City, Ames, Boone, Ottumwa, Des Moines, and Cedar Falls. Iowa City and Des Moines have been the most popular, playing tournament host 22 and 12 times respectively. For the eighth straight year thousands of Iowa basketball fans will jam the huge University of Iowa fieldhouse in 1954 to cheer on their favorite teams. Iowa City is truly a colorful mecca at tournament time.

William J. Petersen