

# Wadena Indians Basketball



## “The Scrapbook”

1960-1980

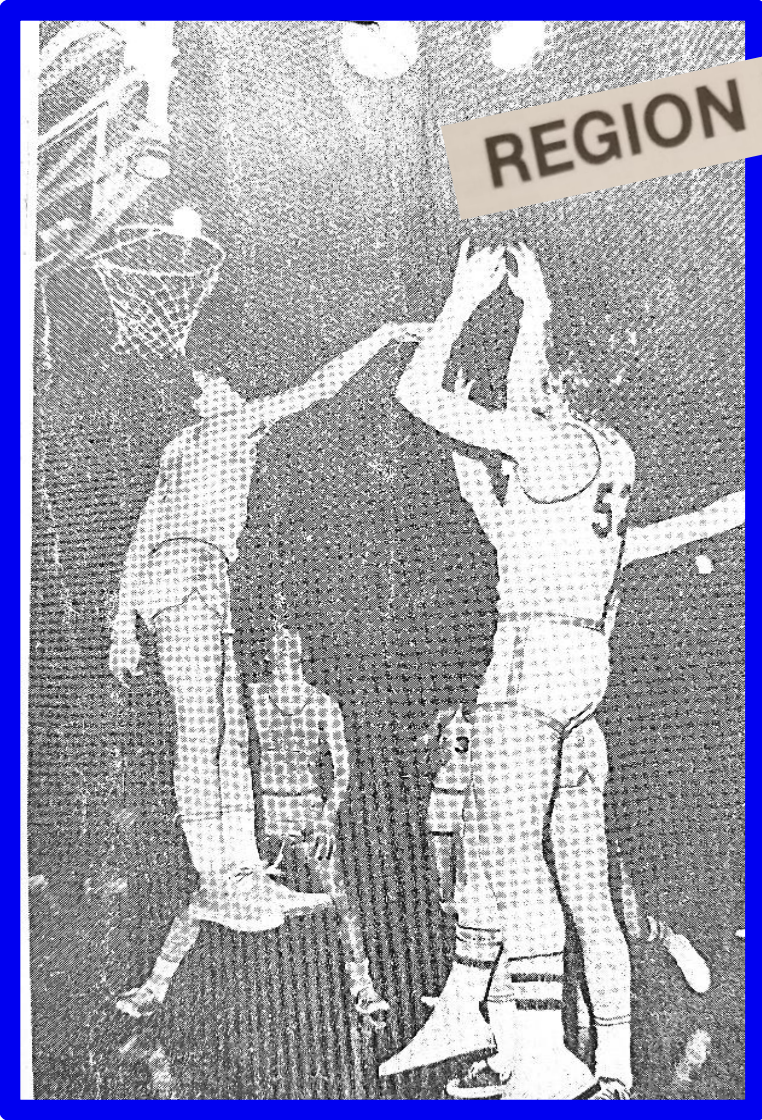
# Wadena Indians Basketball

all-conference

REGION VI

District 24

Mid-State



## “The Scrapbook”

1960-1980

2020

# Dedication

In the modern era (1938-2020)\* of basketball Wadena has had approximately 20 head coaches. The most team success during that time has been under coach Lowell Roisum (1970-1984). His teams' cumulative winning percent during those fourteen years is significantly higher than during any other fourteen-year period before or since. In 120 years, no Wadena boys' basketball head coach has had a longer tenure nor more wins than Lowell Roisum. And none have won more conference and district titles. This "Scrapbook" is dedicated to Coach Roisum.



## Lowell Roisum

1970-1984

### The Most:

Seasons: 14

Wins: 148

Championships: 4

District 24 (2)

Mid-State Conference (2)



Coach Roisum was a knowledgeable and patient teacher of the game. He expected effort and focus from his players as well as sportsmanship and class. He led by example.

Jebb Willis  
Class of 1974

\*From 1927-37 the Indians thrived under Coach Anton Chermak, in an era marked by a "center jump" after each made basket. His teams won two District 24 titles, one Region 6 championship and they were runner-up of the 1936 Minnesota State Tournament. The 1936-37 season marked the end of the "center jump" after each made basket.

## The Beginning

Wadena High School basketball started around the turn of the century. The Wadena athletic teams' nickname of "Indians" came from the town's namesake, Ojibwe Chief Wadena, who lived in the later part of the 19th century.



**The Great Chief Wadena**  
1885

In the 1990's the Wadena and Deer Creek school districts merged and the new WDC athletic teams' nickname was changed to the "Wolverines."

## Wadena Basketball History

"**The Scrapbook 1900-1959**" included, among other things, these highlights:

- Mid-State Conference Champions: 1959(t)*
- District Champions: 1916, 1922, 1923, 1934, 1936 and 1943*
- Region 6 Champions: 1936*
- State Tournaments: 1922, 1923 and 1936 (runner-up)*

In "**The Scrapbook 1960-80**" you will find more of the same, as well as "*decade highlights,*" "*teams by year*" and some interesting and fun "*bonus*" sections.

In putting together "The Scrapbook 1960-80" accuracy has been a primary goal. My sources of information have been The Brainerd Daily Dispatch archives (found on newspaperarchive.com), The Wadena Pioneer Journal archives and WHS Yearbooks (both found at the Wadena County Historical Society) and the contents of some WHS player scrapbooks from the 1960's and 70's.

Jebb Willis  
Class of 1974

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# Decade Highlights

## “The Scrapbook 1960-80”

### **The 1960’s** (pg 7)

#### -Achievement Highlights of the 1960’s

Team Highlights including:

1965 District 24 runner-up

1966 District 24 runner-up

Player Highlights: D. Stoneman, T. Schiller, F. Plautz, G. Willis, K. Browne

#### -Coaches of the 1960’s

Coaches: Harold Willis and Melford “Whitey” Aus

#### -Affiliations with Conference and District

Conference: Mid-State

District: District 24

#### -Big Change on the Horizon

### **The 1970’s** (pg 13)

#### -Achievement Highlights of the 1970’s

Team Highlights including:

1974 District 24 Champions

1974 Mid-State Champions

1978 District 24 Champions

Player Highlights: J. Willis, R. Olson, R. Hooten, J. Browne, B. Willis

#### -Coaches of the 1970’s

Coaches: Melford “Whitey” Aus and Lowell Roisum







#### -Affiliations with Conference and District

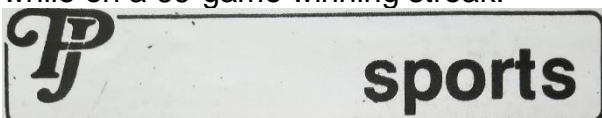
Conference: Mid-State

District: District 24 (Class “A”) / Region 8-2 (Class “AA”)\*



**\*One Class to Two Classes:** Effective the 1970-71 season the MSHSL went from a one class to a two-class tournament. Wadena started in the smaller school class “A” but was moved to the larger school class “AA” (effective 1975-76) and then moved back to class “A” (effective 1977-78).

# 1960's

Achievement Highlights	
Teams	Players
<p align="center"><b><u>1965 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u>            Overall Record: 10-11*            Mid-State: 4-6 (4<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>*Wadena played without junior Tony Schiller (13 ppg) and senior Brent Grangruth (10 ppg) for nine and eight games respectively. However, the Indians were at full strength for the tournament.</p> <p><u>District 24</u>            Season Record: 3-7 (5<sup>th</sup>)            Tournament: 2-1 runner-Up            Wadena 42 C-I 43 (Dist 24 title game)</p> <p align="center"><b><u>1966 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u>            Overall Record: 14-7            Mid-State: 6-4 (3<sup>rd</sup>)</p>  <p><u>District 24</u>            Season Record: 4-5            Tournament: 2-1 runner-Up            Wadena 38 C-I 40** (Dist 24 title game)</p> <p align="center">**NOTE:  <b>CHAMPIONSHIP</b> C-I beat Pine River 48-47 in  <b>Basketball</b> the 1966 Dist 24 semis and  <b>TOURNAMENT</b> beat Wadena 40-38 for the            title. Henning defeated C-I 61-59 in the            Region 6 title game. In the Minnesota            State Tournament semifinals Henning lost            to Edina in triple overtime. Edina went on            to win the state title in 1966, 1967 and 1968            while on a 69-game winning streak.</p>	<p align="center"><b><u>Don Stoneman 1962-65</u></b></p> <p>Three-year starter            920 career pts            1965 Dist 24 3rd - 17.8 ppg            1964 Dist 24 4th - 18.2 ppg            1963 Dist 24 6th - 13.9 ppg            All Mid-State            WCCO All-State Team of the Week - 1965</p>  <p align="center"><b><u>Tony Schiller 1963-66</u></b></p>  <p>2x All Mid-State            Dist 24 1966 - 6th: 13.8 ppg            Dist 24 1965 - 7th: 13.2 ppg</p> <p align="center"><b><u>Francis Plautz 1966-68</u></b></p> <p>2x All Mid-State            Dist 24 1968 - 16.6 ppg (2<sup>nd</sup>)            Dist 24 1967 - 14.9 ppg (3<sup>rd</sup>)</p>  <p align="center"><b><u>Greg Willis 1967-69</u></b></p> <p>Dist 24 1969 - 15.9 ppg (1<sup>st</sup>)            All Mid-State            2x season ave            dbl/dbl pts/reb</p>  <p align="center"><b><u>Kip Browne 1967-69</u></b></p> <p>Dist 24 1969 - 15.8 ppg (2<sup>nd</sup>)            All Mid-State            80% free throw</p> 



# Wadena Indians Basketball Coaches of the 1960's

Coaches	Comments
<p><b>1955-64</b> <b>Harold Willis</b></p> 	<p><u><b>Hometown</b></u> Hendricks, Minnesota</p> <p><u><b>College</b></u> South Dakota State University</p> <p><u><b>Notes</b></u> -Hendricks High School Athletic Hall of Fame 2016 -Minnesota HS State Track Meet 1944 - 2nd place mile run -7 letters at SDSU - basketball (4), track (2), football (1) -Ortonville, MN coach 1955 MN State Basketball Tournament -Wadena, MN 1959 Mid-State Conference Champions (t)</p>
<p><b>1964-1970</b> <b>Melford "Whitey" Aus</b></p> 	<p><u><b>Hometown</b></u> Rugby, ND</p> <p><u><b>College</b></u> Minot State University University of North Dakota</p> <p><u><b>Notes</b></u> Graduate assistant coach UND - 2 years. During his tenure at UND Aus coached with three future NBA coaches. UND head coach <b>Bill Fitch</b> (Cleveland Cavaliers head coach) and his assistant <b>Jimmy Rogers</b> (Minnesota Timberwolves first head coach) as well as UND player and future NBA Hall of Fame player and coach, <b>Phil Jackson</b> (played for New York Knicks and was head coach of Chicago Bulls and L.A. Lakers, winning multiple NBA titles).</p>





# Wadena Basketball

## 1960's Team Affiliation

The one constant affiliation for Wadena basketball was being a "large school" member of **District 24** along with Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Little Falls and Staples. Wadena was also a charter member of the **Mid-State Conference**, with 1954-55 being its inaugural season. In 1965 Little Falls joined the Mid-State Conference to make it a six-team league.

### Conference Affiliation

<h2 style="margin: 0;">Mid-State Conference</h2> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">(Inaugural Season 1954-55)</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><b><u>Charter Members</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aitkin</li> <li>Crosby-Ironton</li> <li>Park Rapids</li> <li>Staples</li> <li>Wadena</li> </ul>	<p style="margin: 0;"><b><u>Membership Addition:</u></b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Little Falls - 1965</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px auto; width: fit-content;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><b>MID-STATE CONFERENCE</b> (Final Standings)</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-family: monospace;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 5%;">W</th> <th style="width: 5%;">L</th> <th style="width: 10%;">Pts.</th> <th style="width: 10%;">TP</th> <th style="width: 10%;">OP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Crosby-Ironton .....</td> <td>9</td> <td>0</td> <td>70</td> <td>419</td> <td>427</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Falls .....</td> <td>6</td> <td>9</td> <td>14</td> <td>309</td> <td>321</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staples .....</td> <td>6</td> <td>4</td> <td>12</td> <td>377</td> <td>399</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wadena .....</td> <td>4</td> <td>6</td> <td>8</td> <td>318</td> <td>345</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park Rapids .....</td> <td>2</td> <td>9</td> <td>6</td> <td>353</td> <td>371</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aitkin .....</td> <td>0</td> <td>9</td> <td>0</td> <td>447</td> <td>371</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		W	L	Pts.	TP	OP	Crosby-Ironton .....	9	0	70	419	427	Little Falls .....	6	9	14	309	321	Staples .....	6	4	12	377	399	Wadena .....	4	6	8	318	345	Park Rapids .....	2	9	6	353	371	Aitkin .....	0	9	0	447	371
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Mid-State Champions	Wadena Place - Record
1960 Crosby-Ironton 8-0	5 <sup>th</sup> (1-7)
1961 Crosby-Ironton 8-0	4 <sup>th</sup> (2-5)
1962 Crosby-Ironton 7-0	2 <sup>nd</sup> (6-2)
1963 Park Rapids 7-0	3 <sup>rd</sup> (4-4)
1964 Crosby-Ironton 6-1	4 <sup>th</sup> (1-6)
1965 Crosby-Ironton 9-0	4 <sup>th</sup> (4-6)
1966 Crosby-Ironton 8-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> (6-4)
1967 Crosby-Ironton 10-0	2 <sup>nd</sup> (5-5)
1968 Aitkin 8-2	3 <sup>rd</sup> (6-4)
1969 Crosby-Ironton 9-1	3 <sup>rd</sup> (5-5)

# Mid-State Title

# Wadena Basketball 1960's Team Affiliation District 24

As was true prior to the 1960's, district affiliation continued to be treated much like a conference during the regular season. The six large District 24 teams' standings in District 24 play were reported throughout the season.

DISTRICT 24					
	W	L	Pct.	TP	OP
Wadena	7	1	.875	556	499
Crosby-Ironton	7	3	.700	595	576
Little Falls	5	3	.625	457	438
Aitkin	3	6	.333	512	493
Brainerd	3	6	.333	515	586
Staples	1	7	.125	449	483

## District 24 Tournament Format

The general format of the District 24 tournament in the 1960's had two components, as in the past. First the small schools competed in the Sub-District 24 tournament. The champion and runner-up (or East/West division winners 1961-63) would then be seeded in the District 24 tournament with the six large schools.

<b>District 24 Schools</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Large Schools</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aitkin Brainerd Crosby-Ironton Little Falls Staples <b>Wadena</b></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">District 24</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u><b>Small Schools</b></u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sub-Dist East:</u> Backus Pequot Lakes Pillager Pine River</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Sub-Dist West:</u> Menahga Motley Sebeka Verndale</p>

# Wadena Basketball 1960's Team Affiliation

<b>District 24 Champions</b>				
<b>District 24</b>			<b>Sub-District 24</b>	
<b>1960</b>	<b>C-I</b>	69	<b>1960</b>	<b>Verndale</b> 54
	Brainerd	51		Pequot Lakes 45
<b>1961</b>	<b>Brainerd</b>	64	<b>1961</b>	<b>Pillager - East</b>
	Little Falls	59		<b>Sebeka - West</b>
<b>1962</b>	<b>C-I</b>	72	<b>1962</b>	<b>Pine River - East</b>
	Brainerd	66		<b>Sebeka - West</b>
<b>1963</b>	<b>Brainerd</b>	56	<b>1963</b>	<b>Pine River - East</b>
	C-I	53		<b>Sebeka - West</b>
<b>1964</b>	<b>Brainerd</b>	44	<b>1964</b>	<b>Sebeka</b> 54 (1st since '47)
	C-I	41		Pine River 48
<b>1965</b>	<b>C-I</b>	43	<b>1965</b>	<b>Pine River</b> 69
	Wadena	42		Sebeka 57
<b>1966</b>	<b>C-I</b>	40	<b>1966</b>	<b>Menahga</b> 49 (1st since '29)
	Wadena	38		Pine River 42
<b>1967</b>	<b>Brainerd</b>	63	<b>1967</b>	<b>Pine River</b> 64
	C-I	55		Menahga 54
<b>1968</b>	<b>Brainerd</b>	66	<b>1968</b>	<b>Motley</b> 62 (1st title ever)
	Aitkin	47		Verndale 55
<b>1969</b>	<b>C-I</b>	50	<b>1969</b>	<b>Pillager</b> 50 (1st since '50)
	Little Falls	48		Menahga 35

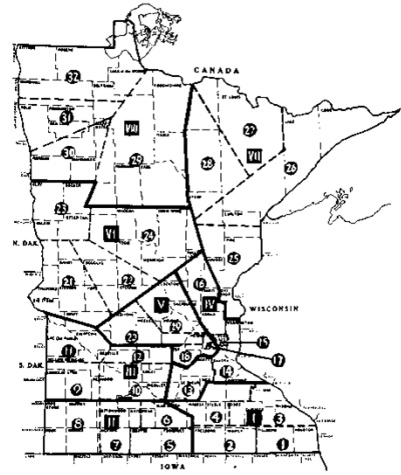
## District Title



# Big Changes on the Horizon

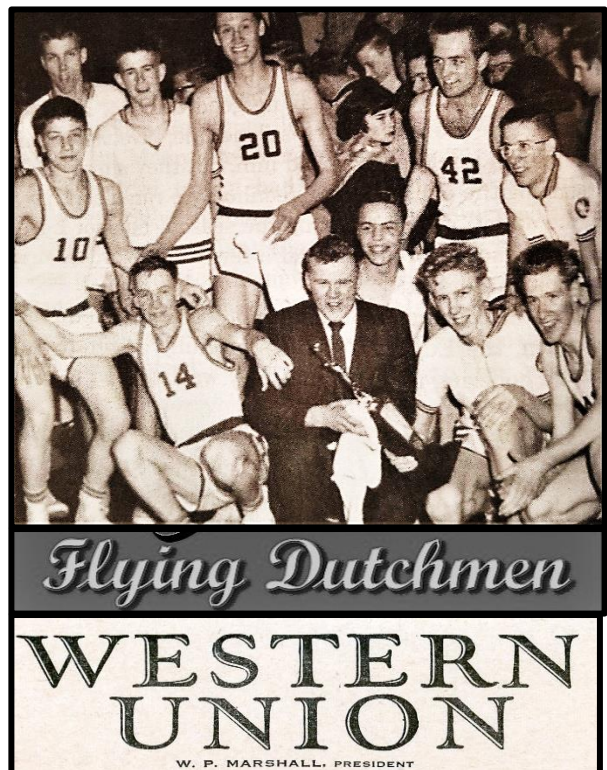
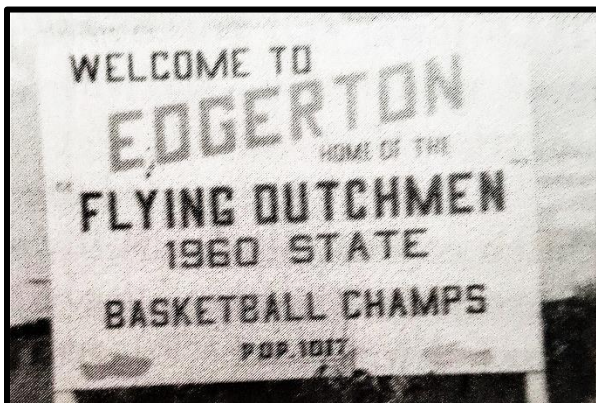
The landscape of Minnesota High School Basketball would soon change, and it would change often. In the decade of the 1970's there would be only one more season of a one class tournament. The 1970 Minnesota State Champions would be the Sherburn Raiders. A community of about 1,000 Sherburn was much like the 1960 Minnesota State Champions, the Edgerton Flying Dutchman.

*Districts and Regions*  
OF THE  
**MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE**  
Districts No. 1 to 32      Regions No. I to VIII








The starting five from the 1970 MSHSL boys' state basketball champion Sherburn Raiders (front row, left to right) John Tirevold, Paul Krohn, Pete Eiden, Jeff McCarron and Tom Mulso pose with the championship trophy.

After 1970 there would be a Class A tournament and a class AA tournament. In the 1971-75 Minnesota State Tournaments the A and AA champions would play to determine the best team in the state. And then, beginning with the 1976 tournament, that changed...






# 1970's

## Achievement Highlights

Teams	Players
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1974 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u> Overall Record: 20-3 (Most wins) Mid-State Conference Title: 11-1 (First ever outright conference title)</p> <p><u>District 24</u> Tournament: Champions! 60-52 win over Crosby-Ironton (First Dist 24 championship since 1943)</p> <p><u>Region 6</u> Melrose 52 Wadena 36 Wadena defeated Cyrus for 3<sup>rd</sup> place</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b><u>Jebb Willis 1971-74</u></b> Three-year starter 14.5 ppg 1974 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist 24) 14.1 ppg 1973 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist 24) 2x All Mid-State WCCO / St Paul PP All-State Teams</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b><u>Roger Olson 1972-75</u></b> Three-year starter 15.5 ppg 1975 (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist 24) Career Record: 49-21 (70%) (most career wins) All Mid-State WCCO All-State</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1975 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u> Overall Record: 17-6 Mid-State Conference Record: 9-3 (2<sup>nd</sup>)</p> <p><u>District 24</u> Tournament: runner-up 61-49 loss to Crosby-Ironton</p>	<p><b><u>Reggie Hooten 1974-77</u></b> Three-year starter 15.5 ppg 1977 15.0 ppg 1976 Career Reb Record 2x All Mid-State (Hon Mention as soph) WCCO All-State</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1978 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u> Overall Record: 16-7 Mid-State Conference Record: 7-3 (2<sup>nd</sup>)</p> <p><u>District 24</u> Tournament: Champions! 50-47 win over Staples</p> <p><u>Region 6</u> 70-53 semifinal loss to Breckenridge</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p><b><u>Jeff Browne 1975-78</u></b> Three-year starter 18.2 ppg 1978 16.3 ppg 1977 Career 1,000 Pt Club 2x All Mid-State (Hon Mention as soph) WCCO All-State</p> </div> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1979 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Season</u> Overall Record: 15-6 Mid-State Conference Record: 8-2 (2<sup>nd</sup>)</p> <p><u>District 24</u> Tournament: runners-up 55-52 (2-OT) loss to Henning</p>	<p><b><u>Brad Willis 1977-80</u></b> 22.7 ppg 1980 (1<sup>st</sup> M-S Conf) 17.2 ppg 1979 (1<sup>st</sup> M-S Conf) 13.8 ppg 1978</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RECORDS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Career: over 1,100 pts/700 rebs)</li> <li>-Season: 477 pts and 61% fg</li> <li>-Single game: 43 pts vs Sauk Centre</li> <li>-2X All Mid-State (Hon Mention as soph)</li> <li>-1980 WCCO All-State</li> <li>-MN 12-man All-Star team</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  </div>

# Wadena Indians Basketball Coaches of the 1970's

Coaches	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1964-1970</b> <b>Melford "Whitey" Aus</b></p> 	<p><b><u>Hometown</u></b> Rugby, ND</p> <p><b><u>College</u></b> Minot State University University of North Dakota</p> <p><b><u>Notes</u></b> Graduate assistant coach UND - 2 years. During his tenure at UND Aus coached with three future NBA coaches. UND head coach <b>Bill Fitch</b> (Cleveland Cavaliers head coach) and his assistant <b>Jimmy Rogers</b> (Minnesota Timberwolves first head coach) as well as UND player and future NBA Hall of Fame player and coach, <b>Phil Jackson</b> (played for New York Knicks and was head coach of Chicago Bulls and L.A. Lakers, winning multiple NBA titles).</p> <p>Chuck Luna's tenure as the <b>assistant coach</b> under Aus and Roisum covered three decades.</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1970-1984</b> <b>Lowell Roisum</b></p> 	<p><b><u>Hometown</u></b> Kerkhoven, MN</p> <p><b><u>College</u></b> St. Cloud State University</p> <p><b><u>Notes</u></b> Prior to accepting teaching and coaching positions at Wadena, Lowell Roisum held similar positions in Battle Lake, MN. After 14 years as Wadena's head coach Roisum had collected more than 160 wins, two Mid-State Conference titles and two District 24 Championships. In the thirteen seasons of 1960-72 Wadena won only 35% of its games. In the next eight seasons the Indians won 64% of their contests.</p>

# Wadena Basketball

## 1970's Team Affiliation

The one constant affiliation for Wadena basketball was being a "large school" member of **District 24** along with Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Little Falls and Staples. Since 1954-55 Wadena was a charter member of the **Mid-State Conference**. Little Falls and Detroit Lakes joined the conference in 1965 and 1970, respectively making it a seven-team conference. Effective the 1976-77 season Little Falls left the Mid-State Conference.

### Conference Affiliation

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mid-State Conference</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Inaugural Season 1954-55)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Charter Members</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aitkin Crosby-Ironton Park Rapids Staples <b>Wadena</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">1965 Little Falls joins 1970 Detroit Lakes joins 1977 Little Falls leaves</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>1970</b> Detroit Lakes joins Mid-State Conference</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mid-State Conference Pre-1977</p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="border: none;">W</td> <td style="border: none;">L</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Detroit Lakes</td> <td style="border: none;">10</td> <td style="border: none;">0</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Park Rapids</td> <td style="border: none;">7</td> <td style="border: none;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Little Falls</td> <td style="border: none;">6</td> <td style="border: none;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">C-1</td> <td style="border: none;">6</td> <td style="border: none;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Aitkin</td> <td style="border: none;">5</td> <td style="border: none;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Staples</td> <td style="border: none;">1</td> <td style="border: none;">9</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="border: none;">Wadena</td> <td style="border: none;">1</td> <td style="border: none;">10</td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1977</b> Little Falls leaves Mid-State</p>		W	L	Detroit Lakes	10	0	Park Rapids	7	3	Little Falls	6	4	C-1	6	4	Aitkin	5	6	Staples	1	9	Wadena	1	10
	W	L																							
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Staples	1	9																							
Wadena	1	10																							

Mid-State Champions	Wadena Place - Record
1970 Detroit Lakes (10-0)	7 <sup>th</sup> (1-10)
1971 Crosby-Ironton (11-1)	7 <sup>th</sup> (0-12)
1972 Little Falls (10-2)	6 <sup>th</sup> (3-9)
1973 Little Falls (10-2)	4 <sup>th</sup> (6-6)
<b>1974 Wadena (11-1)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> (11-1)</b>
1975 Little Falls (11-1)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (9-3)
1976 Little Falls (12-0) (LF final season in MS Conf)	5 <sup>th</sup> (5-7)
1977 Aitkin (9-1)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (6-4)
1978 Crosby-Ironton (8-2)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (7-3)
1979 Crosby-Ironton (10-0)	2 <sup>nd</sup> (8-2)

# Wadena Basketball

## 1970's Team Affiliation

### District 24

Below are the 1969-70 final standings of the six large schools of District 24. Starting with the 1970-71 season Little Falls and Brainerd would become class "AA" schools and therefore removed from the class "A" District 24 tournament while Aitkin, C-I, Staples and Wadena would be in the class "A" division and comprise the four large schools of class "A" District 24, along with the eight schools that formerly made up Sub-District 24.

#### 1969-70 District 24 Large Schools

	W	L
Aitkin .....	13	4
Little Falls ...	10	8
Brainerd .....	7	9
C-I .....	8	10
Staples .....	4	14
Wadena .....	2	14

#### District 24 Tournament Format

Effective 1970-71 Minnesota high school basketball teams were divided into two classes. Class "A" (small schools) and class "AA" (large schools) would each have their own post-season tournament. The traditional format of the class "A" District 24 tournament changed because of that. After 1970 there was no Sub-District 24 tournament. For the class "A" District 24 tournament, from 1971-75, the top two teams of the four large schools (Aitkin, C-I, Staples and Wadena) and the top two teams from the eight small schools were automatically seeded into the eight-team District 24 tournament. The remaining six small and two large schools had a "play-in" round and the winners were seeded into the remaining four slots to complete the quarterfinal match-ups.

<b>District 24 Schools</b>	
Effective 1971	
<p><b><u>Large Schools</u></b></p> <p>Aitkin Crosby-Ironton Staples <b>Wadena</b></p>	<p><b><u>Small Schools</u></b></p> <p>Backus Menahga Motley Pequot Lakes Pillager Pine River Sebeka Verndale</p>



# Wadena Basketball 1970's Team Affiliation

(Continued)

In the second half of the 1970's there would be many changes:

1. For two seasons, starting with 1975-76, Wadena was moved into Class AA, Sub-Region 2 of Region 8. Effective 1977-78 they returned to Class A, District 24, Region 6.
2. Effective 1975-76 Bertha-Hewitt, Deer Creek, Henning and NY Mills joined District 24.
3. Effective 1976-77 Aitkin and Crosby-Ironton left District 24.



## District 24

This was the District 24 membership at the end of the decade.

### Large Schools

Staples  
Wadena



### Small Schools

Backus	Bertha-Hewitt
Deer Creek	Henning
Menahga	Motley
New York Mills	Pequot Lakes
Pillager	Pine River
Sebeka	Verndale



# Basketball

## Wadena Basketball 1970's Team Affiliation

<b>District 24 Champions</b>			
<b>District 24</b>			<b>Sub-District 24</b>
<b>1970</b>	<b>Aitkin</b>	46	<b>1970 Pequot Lakes</b> 73 Verndale 71  (LAST EVER SUB-DIST 24 GAME)
	Little Falls	37	
(LAST EVER <u>ONE-CLASS</u> DIST 24 GAME)			
<b>1971</b>	<b>C-I</b>	<b>79</b>	In 1971 Brainerd and Little Falls were moved into the new, large school, class "AA" tournament with 8 regions statewide and each region having 4 sub-regions (like districts). This resulted in class "A" District 24 with four remaining "large" schools and the eight former sub-district schools. These twelve teams had the top two seeds of the four larger schools and the top two seeds of the eight sub-district schools given automatic quarterfinal seeds into the District 24 tournament. The remaining eight teams had a play-in game for the four open quarterfinal slots.
	Staples	40	
<b>1972</b>	<b>C-I</b>	<b>80</b>	
	Verndale	75	
<b>1973</b>	<b>Staples</b>	<b>64</b>	
	C-I	57	
<b>1974</b>	<b>Wadena</b>	<b>60</b>	
	C-I	52	
<b>1975</b>	<b>C-I</b>	<b>61</b>	
	Wadena	49	
<b>1976</b>	<b>Deer Creek</b>		For the 1975-76 and 1976-77 seasons Wadena was moved into the large schools Class AA, Region 8.  Effective 1975-76 Bertha-Hewitt, Deer Creek, Henning and New York Mills joined District 24.
(Wadena moved to Section 8AA. See the "Teams by Year" info for their 1975-76 and 1976-77 tournament results)			
<b>1977</b>	<b>Verndale</b>		
<b>1978</b>	<b>Wadena</b>	<b>50</b>	Crosby-Ironton (eff '75-76) and Aitkin (eff '76-77) left District 24 just prior to Wadena's return.
	Staples	47	
<b>1979</b>	<b>Henning</b>	<b>55 (2-OT)</b>	For 1977-78 Wadena was back in Class A, District 24.
	Wadena	52	

---

# District Title

# Teams by Year

<b>1960's Teams</b> (pg 20)	<b>Rosters, Records and Results</b>
<b>1970's Teams</b> (pg 36)	
<b>....and one!</b> (pg 58)	



For each decade there is a summary for each of the ten basketball seasons.

Two decades  
Twenty seasons  
(...and one!)

In the season summaries there are many team pictures and news clippings with team and personal awards and stats. Much of what you will find comes out of the WPJ archives and WHS yearbooks, both housed at the WCHS.

<b>Wadena High School Year Books</b>		
<b>1960's</b> (pg 20)	<b>1970's</b> (pg 36)	<b>...and one, 1980!</b> (pg 58)

# The 1960's Seasons

Wadena Upsets Warriors 65-46 in Tourney Opener

## Decade Win/Loss Record

81 - 117

# Basketball

## The Best of the '60s

### Season Record

14-7 in 1966

### Mid-State Conference

2<sup>nd</sup> place: 1962 (6-2) and 1967 (5-5)

(C-I was conference champions in both seasons)

### District 24 Tournament

Runners-up in 1965 and 1966

1965 Title Game: Crosby-Ironton 43 – Wadena 42

1966 Title Game: Crosby-Ironton 40 – Wadena 38



**DISTRICT 24**

**P**

**sports**

The biggest regular season win of the 1960's: 1969

**Wadena Stuns C-I Rangers  
62-55, 1st Indian Victory  
Over Crosby in Ten Years**

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1959-60



"A" TEAM, ROW ONE: J. Pettit, D. McIntire, R. Miller, D. Zosel, A. Crocker. SECOND ROW: J. Zosel, J. Gerlach, L. Gedde, J. Uselman, D. Anderson, G. Stover, J. Erickson.

	TEAM RECORDS		
	(All Games)		
	W	L	Pct.
Brainerd	15	2	.833
St. Cloud Tech	13	4	.765
Crosby-Ironton	10	8	.556
Little Falls	7	10	.412
Staples	7	11	.389
Aitkin	2	18	.111
Wadena	1	17	.056

### Records

Season 1-18  
 Mid-State 1-7  
 District 24 1-9

Dist 24 quarterfinal, best effort of season.

## C-I Squeezes By Wadena In 45-42 Fray

**CROSBY (Special)** — A fired up Wadena quint, loser of 17 of 18 games played during the regular season, never said die here Monday and nearly upset the heavily favored Crosby-Ironton Rangers in an opening round District 24 tournament clash.

Final score was 45-42 for Coach Clayton Kermeen's Rangers, who found themselves tied up with a little over a minute remaining.

## Uselman Leading Mid-State Scorer



Uselman (W).....14.5  
 Draves (C-I).....14.3  
 Callen (PR).....13.8  
 Ottarson (PR).....13.0

**Jim Uselman**  
 All Mid-State

The Indians were hit hard by graduation and struggled all year.



**Coaches L-R**  
 Reg Mead  
 John Conzemius  
**Harold Willis**  
 (head coach 1955-64)

Bill Larson

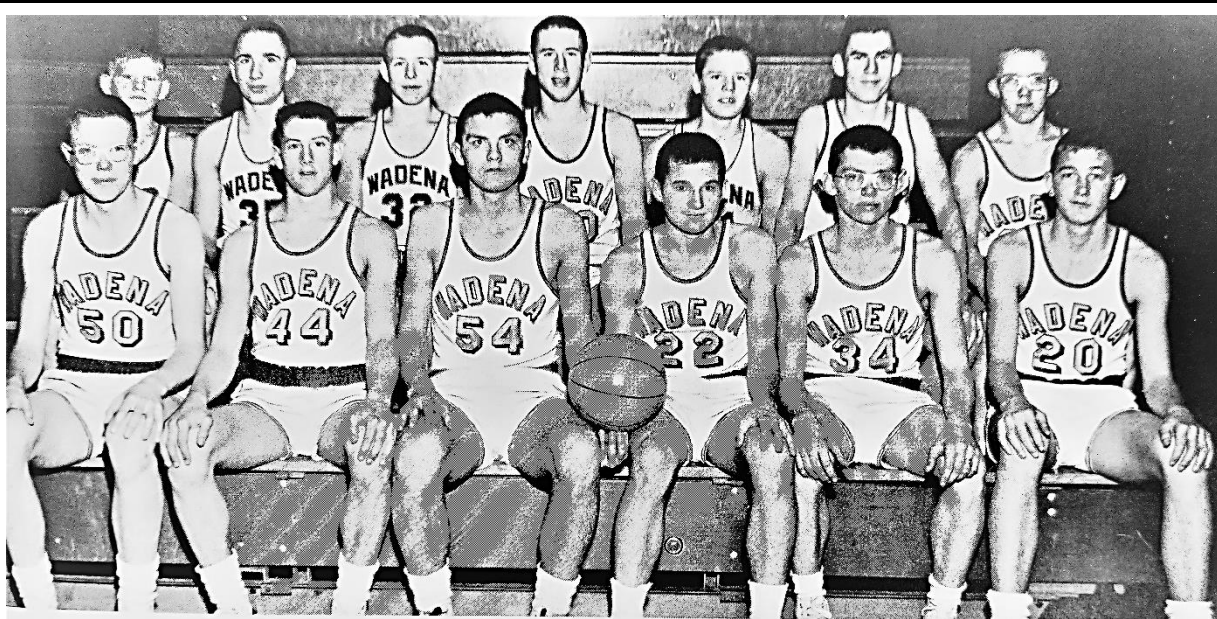
### 1960 Champions

District 24: Crosby-Ironton  
 Region 6: Melrose  
 State: Edgerton



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1960-61



ROW ONE: L. Gedde, D. Zozel, D. Anderson, R. Stofer, D. McIntire, J. Dale. ROW TWO: H. Crocker, T. Fahey, R. Sundahl, J. Zozel, L. Overmoen, W. Smith, D. Jarvela.

### WADENA RECORD (17 Wins, 13 Losses)

DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS (Final)				
	W	L	Pct.	TP OP
Brainerd	10	0	.000	537 484
Crosby-Ironton	7	2	.700	365 307
Little Falls	4	4	.500	513 503
Aitkin	3	7	.300	492 354
Staples	3	7	.300	507 574
Wadena	1	9	.100	457 603

MID-STATE CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct.	TP OP
Crosby-Ironton	8	0	1.000	452 332
Aitkin	5	3	.625	276 380
Staples	3	4	.429	362 390
Wadena	2	5	.286	433 459
Park Rapids	1	6	.143	249 314



### 1961 Champions

District 24  
Brainerd  
Region 6  
Sauk Centre  
State  
Duluth Central



**Coach**  
Harold Willis  
1955-64



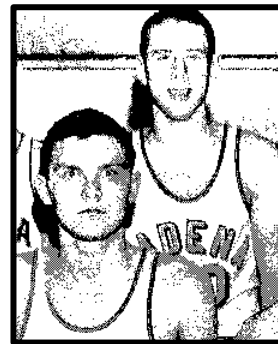
DISTRICT 24

### Top Individual Scorers All Games

Wolff (SC).....17.8  
Plantz (SC).....17.6  
Brown (B).....15.0  
Erskine (S).....14.7  
Stimac (C-I).....14.3

### All Mid-State:

Anderson: 11.6 ppg  
Zozel: 5.7 ppg



Duane Anderson & John Zozel

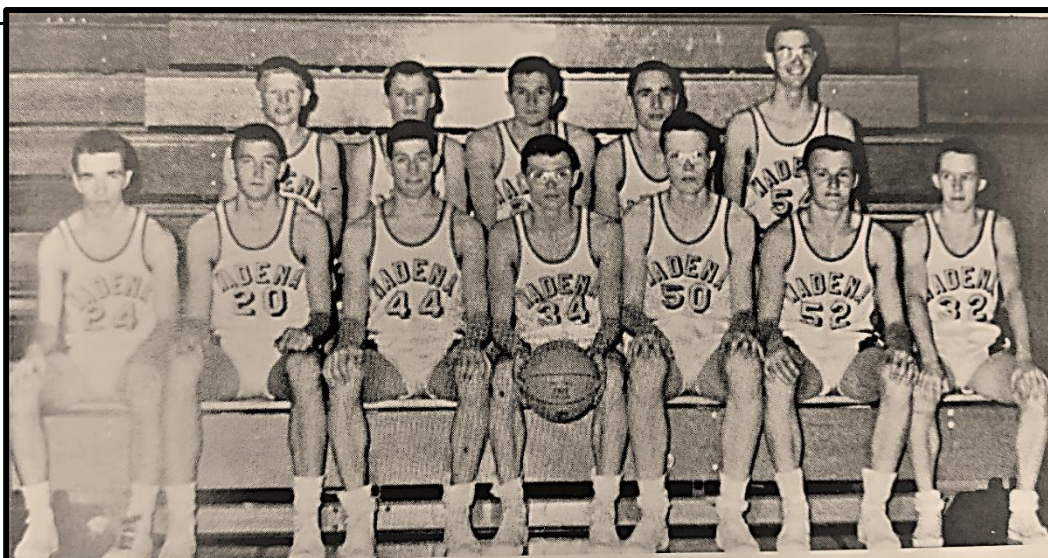
Providing the nucleus for next season would be juniors **Larry Gedde, Dennis McIntire** (8.2 ppg) and **Jack Dale** (7.0 ppg).



**Larry Gedde**  
15.4 ppg  
2<sup>nd</sup> Mid-State scoring  
13.0 ppg - all games

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1961-62



ROW 1: L. Pettit, J. Dale, D. Zosel, D. McIntire, L. Gedde, B. Weller, D. Jarvela. ROW 2: H. Crocker, L. Overmoen, R. Stofer, T. Fahey, S. Sundby.

### WADENA RECORD

(10-8; 1,064 points, foes 1,016)  
 Wadena 63, Detroit Lakes 55  
 Wadena 64, Verndale 47  
 Wadena 55, Aitkin 39  
 Wadena 45, Park Rapids 31  
 Crosby-Ironton 63, Wadena 62  
 Wadena 62, North-St. Paul 57  
 Wadena 66, Staples 49  
 Detroit Lakes 69, Wadena 61  
 Brainerd 80, Wadena 51  
 Wadena 48, Little Falls 43  
 Wadena 48, Park Rapids 47  
 Sebeka 63, Wadena 56  
 Perham 49, Wadena 47  
 Crosby-Ironton 69, Wadena 52  
 Brainerd 91, Wadena 75  
 Wadena 65, Aitkin 51  
 Little Falls 74, Wadena 64  
 Wadena 80, Staples 64

### BOX SCORES

Wadena (40)	fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
McIntire, f	3	5	3	15	
Zosel, f	3	0	4	13	
Gedde, c	0	1	4	18	
Dale, g	1	1	5	3	
Pettit, g	0	1	3	4	
Overmoen, g	3	2	2	4	
Stofer, g	0	0	1	0	
Total	10	10	22	49	



**Coach**  
 Harold Willis  
 1955-64

### District 24 Tournament

Sebeka 53 Wadena 49  
 (Trojan's Nevala scored 26)

### MID-STATE CONF

	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	7	0
Wadena	6	2
Aitkin	3	4
Staples	1	6
Park Rapids	0	3

### DISTRICT 21 STA

	W	L
BRainerd	9	1
Crosby-Ironton	9	1
Wadena	5	5
Little Falls	5	5
Aitkin	2	8
Staples	0	10

### Top Scorers

All Games

Kroll (C-I).....17.8  
 Lenzmeier (S)....17.6  
 Brown (B).....15.0  
 Laumann (B).....14.7  
 Bothof (S).....14.3



**Jack Dale**  
 14.5 ppg  
 All Mid-State



**Larry Gedde**  
 12.5 ppg  
 All Mid-State



**Dennis McIntire**  
 11.4 ppg  
 All Mid-State



### All Conference


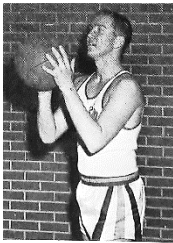
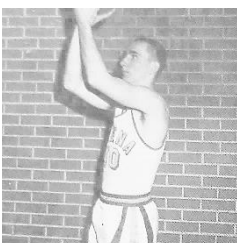
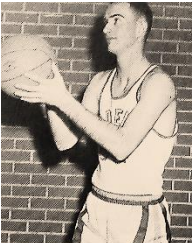
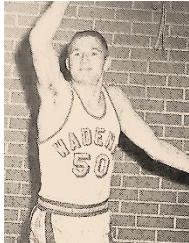
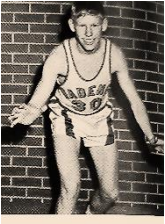

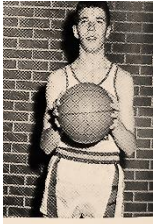
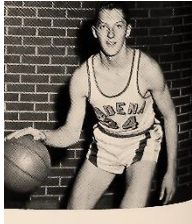
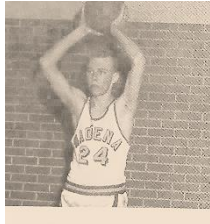
### 1962 Champions

District 24:  
 Crosby-Ironton  
 Region 6:  
 Crosby-Ironton  
 State:  
 St. Louis Park

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
*Basketball*  
**TOURNAMENT**

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1962-63

 <p>Capt. Lee Overmoen <b>All Mid-State</b> Sr-14.2 ppg</p>	 <p>Don Stoneman Soph-13.9 ppg</p>	 <p>Tom Fahey <b>All Mid-State</b> Sr-12.2 ppg</p>	 <p>Steve Sundby Jr-8.3 ppg</p>	 <p>Randy Stofer <b>All Mid-State</b> Sr-7.2 ppg</p>
 <p>Harley Crocker Sr-7.7 ppg</p>	 <p>Bob Toffe Jr</p>	 <p>Jim Walz Jr</p>	 <p>Norm Gregerson Jr</p>	 <p>Stan Zaniewski</p>

**A .500 Team**  
Season: 10-10  
Mid-State Conference: 4-4 (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
District 24 Season: 5-5 (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
District 24 Tournament 1-  
**Wadena Snaps Pine River String at 20.**

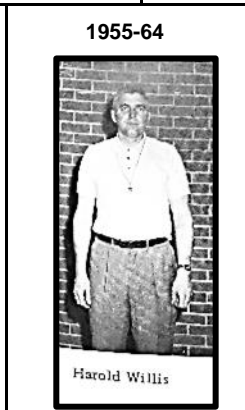
**Wadena Against Brainerd, Staples vs. Crosby-Ironton**  
BY JIM WALLACE  
A 20-game winning skein accomplished by the Pine River high school Tigers was ended at Staples — and with it the opportunity for the first small school breakthrough in District 24 basketball since 1925 — as Wadena's Indians fought off a blistering rally in the closing seconds for a 52-49 triumph.

**TOURNAMENT BOXES**

Wadena (60)	fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Fahey, f	4	2	1	3	10
Stofer, f	9	1	1	4	19
Sundby, c	1	1	0	5	3
Overmoen, g	1	2	3	2	4
Crocker, g	4	1	0	3	9
Stoneman, f	6	3	2	4	15
Gregerson, f	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>60</b>

Warriors (77)	fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Lyscio, f	5	4	6	4	14
Garvey, f	11	4	0	3	26



**WADENA'S RECORD**  
Nine Wins, Nine Losses  
Coach Harold Willis

Wadena 67, Verandaie 61.  
Wadena 72, Aitkin 39.  
Wadena 75, Sebeka 57.  
Park Rapids 58, Wadena 54.  
C-1 54, Wadena 48.  
Wadena 43, Patrick Henry 41.  
Wadena 62, Staples 56.  
Detroit Lakes 65, Wadena 58.  
Brainerd 62, Wadena 60.  
Wadena 71, Little Falls 36.  
Park Rapids 57, Wadena 46.  
Perham 40, Wadena 70.  
C-1 53, Wadena 61.  
Brainerd 76, Wadena 72.  
Wadena 84, Aitkin 77.  
Little Falls 59, Wadena 54.  
Wadena 74, Staples 55.  
Wadena 58, Detroit Lakes 48.

**MID-STATE CONFERENCE**

	W	L
Park Rapids	7	0
Crosby-Ironton	6	2
Wadena	4	4
Staples	2	7
Aitkin	0	8

**DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS (Final)**

	W	L
Brainerd	8	1
Crosby-Ironton	9	1
Wadena	5	5
Staples	4	6
Little Falls	2	8

**Top Scorers**  
All games

Marshall (C-I).....15.8  
Vernon (LF).....15.7  
Lyscio (B).....14.5  
Goedderz (C-I)...14.3  
Overmoen (W)...14.2

**CHAMPIONSHIP**  
*Basketball*  
**TOURNAMENT**

**1963 Champions**

District 24  
Brainerd

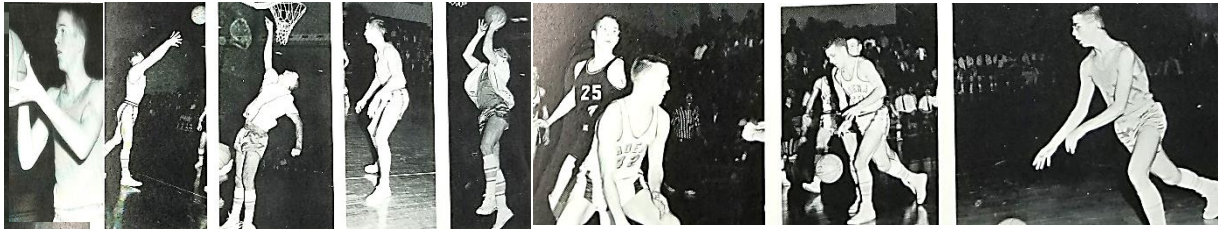
Region 6  
Sauk Centre

State  
Marshall



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1963-64



Top: Dave Campbell, Norm Gregerson, Steve Sundby-(C), Brent Grangruth, Mark Uselman, Bob Tofte, Don Breid, Jim Walz

Bottom: Phil Richter, Tony Schiller / Don Stoneman, Ray Ristvedt



# Wadena

Season Record 5-14  
Mid-State Conference 1-7 (4<sup>th</sup>)  
District 24 Season 2-8 (5<sup>th</sup>)

<p><b>WADENA INDIANS</b> Coach Harold Willis Record: 5-13 Points: 1,748 to 1,235</p> <p>Wadena 60, Verndale 57. Wadena 76, Sebeka 74. Ely 68, Wadena 63. Park Rapids 76, Wadena 64. C-1 60, Wadena 54. Staples 75, Wadena 54. Det. Lakes 59, Wadena 51. Brainerd 73, Wadena 64. Little Falls 72, Wadena 63. Aitkin 79, Wadena 71. Park Rapids 70, Wadena 58. C-1 69, Wadena 55. Wadena 77, Perham 51. Brainerd 83, Wadena 64. Wadena 67, Aitkin 48. Staples 94, Wadena 73. Wadena 77, Little Falls 56. Det. Lakes 71, Wadena 57.</p>
--

**District 24 Quarterfinal**  
Crosby-Ironton 65 Wadena 43

**AUS TO COACH:** Milford (Whitey) Aus, 28-year-old native of Rugby, N. D., who was assistant varsity cage coach at North Dakota the past two years, succeeds Harold Willis as basketball mentor at Wadena, which paid tribute to Willis for his eight-year tenure with a statement in this week's Wadena Journal, signed by a number of persons. The letter stated in part: "Wadena never had to feel ashamed of anything Mr. Willis did or said during or after any game. He was always a gentleman, doing what he felt was right. He is a man of deep courage. He never quit his team." To which we'd like to add: "His teams also played interesting basketball." . . . New sports editor of the Fer-

### Scoring Leaders

	All games
Hopkins (S).....	26.8
Gross (B).....	21.5
Tomlianovich (C-I)....	19.2
<b>Stoneman (W).....</b>	<b>18.2</b>
Kern (C-I).....	17.3

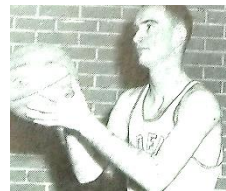
DISTRICT 24 STAN		
(Final)		
	W	L
Staples	4	1
Crosby-Ironton	4	2
Brainerd	7	3
Little Falls	3	7
Wadena	2	8
Aitkin	1	8
MID-STATE STAN		
	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	4	1
Park Rapids	4	1
Staples	4	3
Wadena	1	6
Aitkin	1	6

1955-64



**1964 Champions**  
District 24: Brainerd  
Region 6: Benson  
State: Luverne

### Mid-State All Conference:



**Steve Sundby**  
8.8 ppg

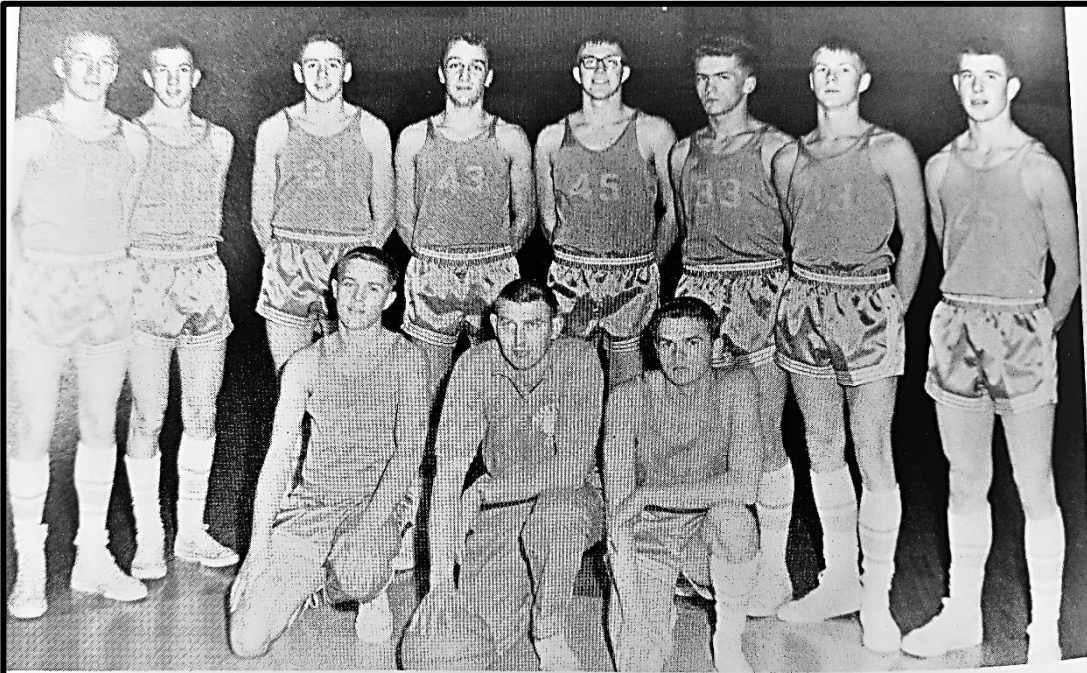


**Jim Walz**  
12.1 ppg

The Indians will return a number of key players for the 1964-65 season under new coach Whitey Aus. They include junior Don Stoneman (18.2 ppg) and sophomores Dave Cambell (6.3 ppg) and Tony Schiller (4.6 ppg).

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1964-65



FRONT--Jon Weiland, Coach Aus, Merle Bounds. BACK--Dave Campbell, Phil Richter, Larry Schiller, Steve Nelson, Don Stoneman, Jerry Fiskum, Gary Johnson, Mark Uselman. Missing--Brent Grangruth, Tony Schiller.

**AUS TO COACH: Milford (Whitey) Aus, 28-year-old native of Rugby, N. D., who was assistant varsity cage coach at North Dakota the past two years, succeeds Harold Willis as basketball Coach Melford "Whitey" Aus 1964-70**

Season Record: 10-11  
 Mid-State: 4-6 (4<sup>th</sup>)  
 District 24: 3-7 (5<sup>th</sup>)

**WADENA INDIANS  
 SEASON'S RECORD: 8-10  
 TP 152, OP 1,091  
 Coach Whitey Aus**

Wadena 70, Varndale 35.  
 Det. Lakes 51, Wadena 40.  
 Walker 46, Wadena 67.  
 Crosby-Ironton 61, Wadena 51.  
 Park Rapids 36, Wadena 40.  
 Wadena 55, Sebeka 31.  
 Wadena 51, Aitkin 40.  
 Staples 67, Wadena 51  
 Brainerd 84, Wadena 59  
 Little Falls 55, Wadena 49  
 Wadena 47, Park Rapids 40 (ovt).  
 Wadena 53, Perham 52.  
 Wadena 53, Aitkin 44.  
 Brainerd 66, Wadena 50.  
 Crosby-Ironton 60, Wadena 51.  
 Little Falls 60, Wadena 53.  
 Wadena 71, Staples 67  
 Wadena 66, Det. Lakes 50

### Wadena Greatly Improved

WADENA'S INDIANS, certainly the District 24 large school quint with the greatest ups and down during the 1964-65 season, can point to reasons for suffering 10 setbacks in 18 games; but Brainerd's opening round District 24 tourney foe Monday is a much-strengthened club at this time.

Evidence to that effect are his 71-62, and 66-50 windup victories over Staples and Detroit Lakes quints which dealt them 51-48 and 67-53 beatings earlier in the season when Coach Whitey Aus was without 6-3 rebounder Tony Schiller (ineligible the first half of the season) and 6-8 senior forward Brent Grangruth missed eight games due to an infection.

Schiller has played the last nine games and has ranged from nine to 19 points in scoring to total 119 points. Grangruth has not regained the scoring touch that saw him tally 83 points in his team's first six games; however, he did score six points against Detroit Lakes.

Moving to the backcourt where the Indians were not too impressive in a 66-50 home floor loss to the Brainerd Warriors has been 6-2 senior Don Stoneman, the club's leading scorer with 321 points in 18 games. He teams there with Dave Campbell (146 points). This pair hit 22 and 21 apiece against Staples and 23 and 12 each against the Lakers. The Schillers, Tony and Larry, added 14 and 11 against the Lakers.

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1964-65 (Cont.)

MID-STATE CONFER (Final Standings)		DISTRICT 24 STANDING (Final)	
W	L	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	9 0	Crosby-Ironton	9 1
Little Falls	4 3	Brainerd	9 1
Staples	4 4	Little Falls	5 5
Wadena	4 4	Staples	4 6
Pack Rapids	2 3	Wadena	3 7
Aitkin	0 9	Aitkin	2 10

### District 24 Scoring

Shimek (LF)	19.3
Longfellow (B)	18.5
<b>Stoneman (W)</b>	<b>17.8</b>
Bothof (S)	16.8
Uglem (C-I)	15.6



### District 24 Tournament:

Wadena Upsets Warriors 65-46 in Tourney Opener

Wadena Upsets Flyers 55-52 in Semis  
C-I, Wadena Clash

**C-I Claims 19th District 24 Cage Crown, 43-42**



17.8 ppg (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
920 career pts  
All Mid-State  
All State Team  
of the Week

### TOURNAMENT BOXES

Wadena (42)	fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Granruth, f	2	4	0	1	6
L. Schiller, f	1	1	2	4	5
T. Schiller, c	7	1	2	4	15
Stoneman, g	1	3	1	4	5
Campbell, g	3	3	1	3	9
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>42</b>
C-I (43)	fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Fabyan, f	3	3	6	1	9
PeCarich, f	2	1	1	4	5
Uglem, c	6	3	1	4	15
Ukura, g	2	0	0	1	4
Christenson, g	2	2	4	3	6
Gaviglio, f	2	0	0	0	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Quarters</b>					
Wadena	13	23	30	42	
C-I	11	23	39	43	
<b>Officials</b>	Lawrence, Kerzie (Evening)				

### Don Stoneman



Stoneman drives on C-I in 43-42 title game loss. March 13, 1965

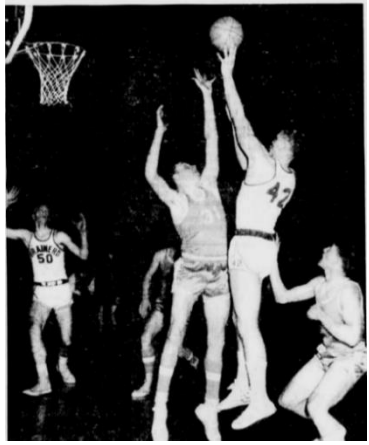


### Tony Schiller

13.3 ppg  
All Mid-State



Don Stoneman (l) and Jerry Fiskum (r) each score close in vs the favored Brainerd Warriors.
















Larry Schiller and Jerry Fiskum defend their basket in a 65-46 upset win over Brainerd in the District 24 quarterfinals.

### 1965 Champions

District 24: C-I  
Region 6: Henning  
State: Minnetonka

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1965-66

Tony Schiller	Jim Fiskum	Larry Schiller	Francis Plautz	Chuck Folkstad	Arlen Damlo				
									
<b>District 24</b> Mid-State  Coach Aus 1964-70		  Dave Campbell			 Steve Nelson		 Rich Pudas	 Jon Weiland	 <b>SPORTS</b>
<h1 style="font-size: 4em;">Wadena</h1>									


### Records

Season: 14-7  
 Mid-State: 6-4  
 District 24: 4-5  
 Tournament: 2-1

Detroit Lakes 46	Wadena	56
Aitkin 46	Wadena	67
Little Falls 35	Wadena	57
Park Rapids 43	Wadena	60
Long Prairie 46	Wadena	47
Crosby-Ironton 56	Wadena	50
East Grand Forks 44	Wadena	58
Perham 49	Wadena	58
Staples 81	Wadena	71
Aitkin 48	Wadena	47
Little Falls 37	Wadena	53
Morris 48	Wadena	47
Verndale 43	Wadena	61
Park Rapids 54	Wadena	65
Crosby-Ironton 47	Wadena	39
Brainerd 68	Wadena	59
Staples 53	Wadena	60
Detroit Lakes 53	Wadena	81

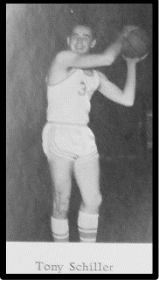
### District 24 Individual Scoring Leaders


	<u>Ave</u>
Bothof (S).....	20.5
Longfellow (B)....	16.1
Pierson (LF).....	15.6
Brady (C-l).....	14.9
Baier (S).....	14.2
<b>T. Schiller (W)....</b>	<b>13.8</b>



<h3>District 2</h3> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Brainerd</td><td style="text-align: center;">W.</td><td style="text-align: center;">17</td></tr> <tr><td>Staples</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>Wadena</td><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td></tr> <tr><td>Crosby-Ironton</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">9</td></tr> <tr><td>Aitkin</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">10</td></tr> <tr><td>Little Falls</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">13</td></tr> </table>	Brainerd	W.	17	Staples	12	6	Wadena	12	6	Crosby-Ironton	8	9	Aitkin	6	10	Little Falls	5	13	<h3>MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)</h3> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td></td><td style="text-align: center;">W</td><td style="text-align: center;">L</td></tr> <tr><td>Crosby-Ironton</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td>Staples</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td>Wadena</td><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>Aitkin</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td>Little Falls</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">7</td></tr> <tr><td>Park Rapids</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">8</td></tr> </table>		W	L	Crosby-Ironton	8	2	Staples	7	3	Wadena	6	4	Aitkin	4	4	Little Falls	3	7	Park Rapids	2	8
Brainerd	W.	17																																						
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Aitkin	4	4																																						
Little Falls	3	7																																						
Park Rapids	2	8																																						

### All Conference

  
**Tony Schiller**  
 All Mid-State  
 13.8 ppg

  
**Dave Campbell**  
 All Mid-State  
 11.5 ppg

### 1966 Champions

District 24: C-1  
 Region 6: Henning  
 State: Edina

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1965-66 (Cont.)

## 24th District Tournament

### Quarterfinals

Wadena 72

Menahga 55

## Warriors in Revenge Match with Wadena

**Note:** In the 1965 District 24 tournament the 8-10 Indians surprised Brainerd (13-5) with a 65-46 quarterfinal victory. In this 1966 tournament the 18-1 Warriors were determined to beat the 13-6 Wadena team. However, Wadena had other plans....

### Indians Spill Brainerd, 50-49

WADENA (50)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
T. Schiller, f	1	2	2	4	3
Fiskum, f	3	4	3	1	10
L. Schiller, c	1	3	1	3	5
Campbell, p	6	7	0	2	14
Pitts, p	4	1	2	2	11
Damlin, g	2	1	0	0	5
Fulkestad, c	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>50</b>
WARRIORS (49)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
Lapinski, f	4	2	0	2	10
Paulsen, f	2	3	1	5	0
Langfellow, c	2	1	3	2	19
Morgen, g	3	2	0	4	8

MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE



Rangers Nudge  
Pine River, 48-47

## Wadena, C-I Clash for District 24 Cage Title Again

### Rebounder Wins, 40-38

BY JIM WALLACE

Hero two nights in a row is the distinction attained by junior forward Tom Middleton, whose two free throws with 20 seconds to go eliminated Pine River 48-47 in the District 24 semifinals Thursday and whose rebound of a last second shot by Jim Gaviglio erased Wadena's bid for a championship Friday, 40-38.

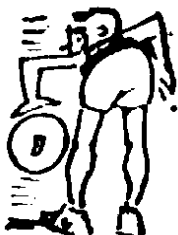
The triumph, third of the season for Coach Clayton Kermeen's Rangers over Wadena, sends the Rangers into next Tuesday's Region Six opening round battle at Moorhead against the District 21 titlist, either Benson or Alberta.

It was the fourth district crown in seven seasons for C-I, which has been a finalist six of those seven campaigns.

### C-I Wins

### Again!

## CHAMPS DISTRICT 24



**Note of Interest:** In the 1966 District 24 Tournament semifinals C-I beat Pine River 48-47 and then won the district title by beating Wadena 40-38. In the Region 6 tournament C-I lost to Henning 61-59. In the MN State Tournament Henning lost to Edina in triple-overtime. Edina won the MN State Championship beating Duluth East in overtime. Edina would go on to win the next two state titles as part of their 69-game winning streak.

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1966-67



Coach Whitey Aus. Players L-R starting back: C Folkstad, R Risvedt, G Willis, T Dovenmuehle, J Johnson, D Oja, K Browne, D Stormoen, A Damlo, J Stoneman, F Plautz, R Dahl. Managers Kneeling: G Sliter and J. Matthiae

### Records

#### District 24 Standings

	W	L	TP	OP	OA	DA	FT	FTM	Ave.
Crosby-Ironton	15	3	1,688	893	80.4	49.6	226	160	.585
Brainerd	12	6	1,101	1,032	61.2	57.3	219	204	.548
Wadena	10	8	1,034	1,028	57.4	57.1	268	172	.609
Aitkin	9	8	1,002	1,089	55.7	61.1	276	202	.577
Little Falls	8	10	1,057	1,020	58.7	58.7	209	178	.540
Staples	6	12	1,049	1,089	58.3	60.5	287	179	.616



8 Brainerd Daily Dispatch (Minn.), Thursday, Feb. 23, 1967

#### MID-STATE CONFERENCE

	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	10	0
Wadena	5	5
Staples	4	5
Little Falls	4	6
Park Rapids	3	4
Aitkin	3	7

Season: 10-9  
 Mid-State: 5-5 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 Dist 24: 5-4 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
 Dist 24 Tourny: 0-1

#### DISTRICT 24 (Final Standings)

	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	10	0
Wadena	5	4
Brainerd	3	2
Staples	4	3
Little Falls	3	6
Aitkin	1	8

Quarterfinals  
 Little Falls 52  
 Wadena 49

### WADENA INDIANS

Coach Whitey Aus

Record: 10-8

Points 1,034; Opponents 1,028

- Def. Lakes 55, Wadena 53
- Wadena 71, Aitkin 60
- Wadena 54, Little Falls 51
- Park Rapids 78, Wadena 47
- Wadena 66, Verndale 52
- C-1 45, Wadena 41
- Perham 56, Wadena 48
- Staples 60, Wadena 54
- Wadena 58, Aitkin 45
- East Grand Forks 58, Wadena 53
- Wadena 59, Brainerd 51
- Wadena 54, Little Falls 48
- Wadena 66, Park Rapids 59
- Wadena 59, Fergus Falls 52
- C-1 70, Wadena 48
- Wadena 55, Pelican Rapids 47
- Staples 83, Wadena 64
- Wadena 64, Def. Lakes 58

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1966-67 (Cont.)

## LEADING SCORERS

### DISTRICT 24 SCORING (Those with 40 or more points)

	g	fg	ft	tr	pts	ave.
Brady (C-I)	14	99	66	41	284	20.3
Moernberg (B)	10	112	116	32	324	18.4
Kazack (LF)	18	118	69	43	301	16.7
Plautz (W)	18	113	42	28	268	14.9
Paulson (B)	18	96	54	53	248	13.8
Tom Middleton (C-I)	18	95	36	24	226	12.6
Damlo (W)	18	71	84	59	224	12.4
Morgan (B)	18	94	37	36	225	12.5
Harler (C-I)	18	80	43	25	203	11.3
Folkestad (W)	18	74	21	21	199	11.1
Rosenbaum (A)	18	71	51	18	193	10.7
Zwingsberg (LF)	18	77	25	30	189	10.5
Molin (B)	18	62	53	21	177	9.8
Ojan (A)	18	68	23	32	169	9.4
Oja (W)	18	35	23	11	93	5.2
Nornberg (LF)	18	72	18	12	162	9.0
Eich (LF)	10	32	26	6	90	9.0

### MID-STATE SCORING (Those with 30 or more points)

	g	fg	ft	tr	pts	ave.
Brady (C-I)	7	49	44	17	142	20.3
Snelling (PR)	10	45	48	22	178	17.8
Moernberg (S)	10	51	50	23	140	14.0
Kazack (LF)	10	58	41	31	157	15.7
Plautz (W)	10	54	27	18	139	13.9
Brown (PR)	10	43	50	14	133	13.3
Tom Middleton (C-I)	10	58	14	11	132	13.2
Mervala (PR)	10	47	31	12	125	12.5
Damlo (W)	10	39	46	22	124	12.4
Oja (W)	5	22	15	6	59	11.8
Harler (C-I)	10	48	18	13	114	11.4
Haler (S)	10	38	25	21	111	11.1
Rosenbaum (A)	10	38	26	8	102	10.2
Zwingsberg (LF)	10	40	22	17	102	10.2
Nornberg (LF)	10	45	9	8	99	9.9
Folkestad (W)	10	32	26	11	99	9.9

## The Starting Five



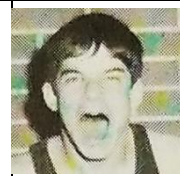
**Frances Plautz**  
14.9 ppg (4<sup>th</sup>)  
All Mid-State



**Arlen Damlo**  
12.6 ppg  
All Mid-State



**Chuck Folkestad**  
11.1 ppg  
13.0 rpg



**Daryl Oja**  
11.8 ppg conf  
assists leader



**Dave Stormoen**  
5.4 ppg

Wadena Pioneer Journal Sports Section  
WADENA, MINNESOTA 56402, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1967

1966-67 Wadena H.S. Basketball Varsity ...



### Week End Cage Scores

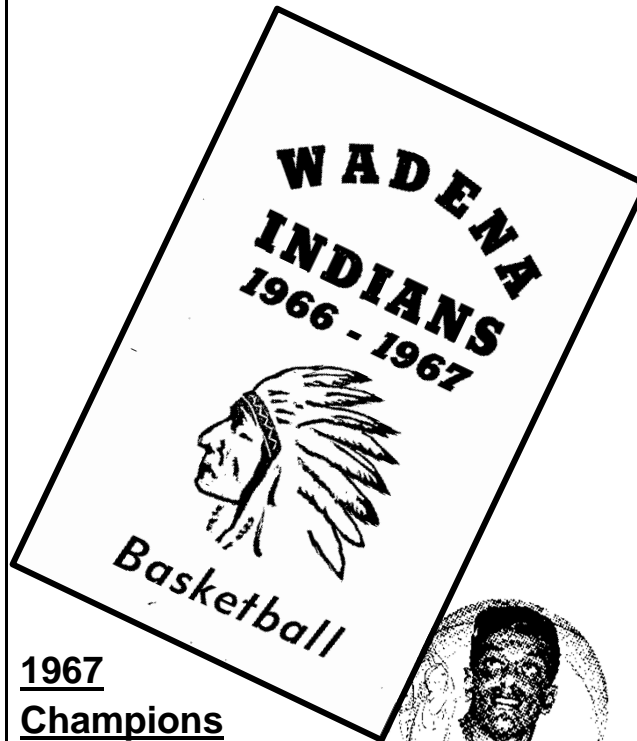
Park Rapids 92, Cass Lake 69  
Little Falls 67, Aitkin 50  
Vermilion 64, Deacon Lakes 49  
Moorhead 72, Ferris Falls 50  
Brainerd 69, St. Cloud Tech  
53  
C-I 70, Wadena 48  
Osakis 47, Parkers Prairie 41  
Pezham 62, Staples 56  
Park Rapids 56, Walker 54  
Fertze 60, Staples 57  
Fertze Falls 53, Waberton 53  
Hibbing 47, Newberg 46  
Pillager 47, Newberg 46

Wadena Pioneer

38 WADENA, MINNESOTA 56402, THURSDAY, DECEMBER

Number 43

Sports Section



## 1967 Champions

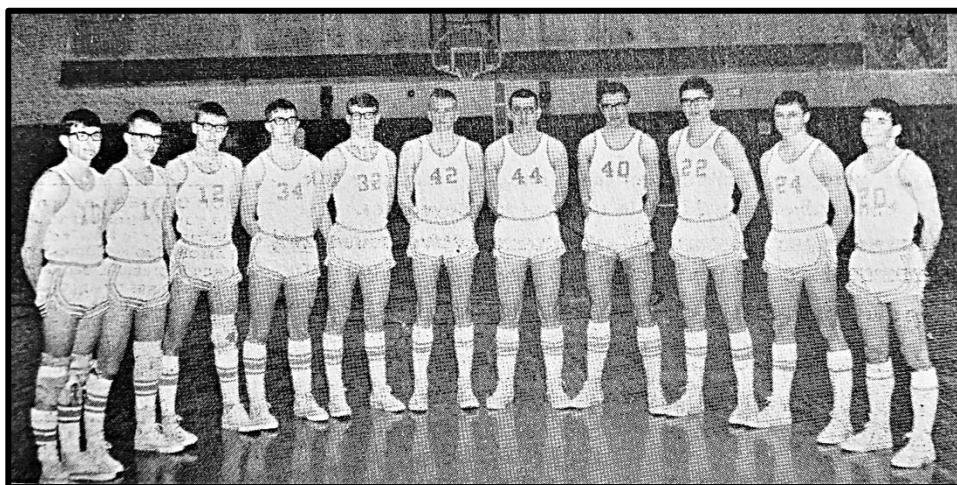
District 24: Brainerd  
Region 6: Moorhead  
State: Edina



Official  
Tournament  
Souvenir Program

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1967-68



L-R  
 Mark Schumacher  
 Jeff Johnson  
 John Flenner  
 Curt Folkstead  
 Dave Stormoen  
 Greg Willis  
 Francis Plautz - capt  
 Perry Matter  
 Ken Anerson  
 Kip Browne  
 Daryl Oja - capt



**Coach Aus**  
1964-1970

**All Mid-State Conference**



**Plautz**

16.6 ppg (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Co-Captain



**Oja**



10.5 ppg  
Co-Captain  
(3.2 assists ppg)

**DISTRICT 24 SCORING**  
(Those with 60 or more points)

	G	Pt	ft	ftm	tp	ave.
J. Anderson (B)	18	157	108	78	422	23.4
F. Plautz (W)	17	107	68	44	282	16.6
R. Eich (LF)	18	108	65	22	281	15.6
G. Rosenbaum (A)	18	107	58	24	272	15.1
M. Heier (S)	17	97	54	56	248	14.6
P. Heglund (C-I)	18	91	78	45	260	14.4
J. Holm (B)	18	94	45	27	233	12.9
J. Austin (LF)	18	87	85	40	226	12.7
T. Anderson (C-I)	18	92	31	15	215	11.9
D. Stormoen (W)	18	76	51	36	203	11.3
S. Jacobsen (A)	18	53	86	54	192	10.7
D. Oja (W)	18	71	47	21	189	10.5
G. Willis (W)	18	68	45	25	181	10.1
D. Miller (S)	18	77	27	24	181	10.1
K. Backstrom (A)	18	44	45	41	177	9.8
G. Polich (C-I)	18	57	55	30	169	9.4
B. Cummings (A)	18	51	38	24	149	7.8
D. Uhrich (S)	18	40	20	22	149	7.8
K. Browne (W)	18	42	22	18	106	7.1

### Records

**Season:** 8-12  
**Mid-State:** 6-4 (t-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
**District 24:** 4-5  
**Dist 24 Tourney:** 1-1

**MID-STATE CONFERENCE**  
(Final Standings)

	W	L
Aitkin	8	2
Staples	7	3
Crosby-Ironton	6	4
Wadena	6	4
Little Falls	2	8
Park Rapids	1	9

### District 24

(All Games)

	W	L	TP	OP
Aitkin	13	5	1,028	998
Brainerd	10	8	1,032	1,020
Staples	10	8	1,002	1,019
CI	8	10	1,034	990
Wadena	7	11	1,006	1,072
Little Falls	5	13	918	1,073

### Schedule

Detroit Lakes	64	...	Wadena	58
Little Falls	44	...	Wadena	57
Park Rapids	45	...	Wadena	59
Crosby-Ironton	57	...	Wadena	56
Staples	68	...	Wadena	52
Verndale	69	...	Wadena	56
Perham	60	...	Wadena	87
Aitkin	48	...	Wadena	72
Little Falls	52	...	Wadena	71
Brainerd	53	...	Wadena	49
Park Rapids	49	...	Wadena	60
Crosby-Ironton	74	...	Wadena	61
Staples	47	...	Wadena	51
Crookston	64	...	Wadena	62
Aitkin	59	...	Wadena	58
Pelican Rapids	68	...	Wadena	59
Fergus Falls	80	...	Wadena	53
Detroit Lakes	69	...	Wadena	64

### Champions

**District 24:** Brainerd  
**Region 6:** Moorhead  
**State:** Edina



**Stormoen**

11.3 ppg



**Willis**

13 reb

10.1 ppg



**Browne**

7.1 ppg



Wadena Indians Basketball  
1967-68 (Cont.)

Wadena Pioneer Journal

Sports Section

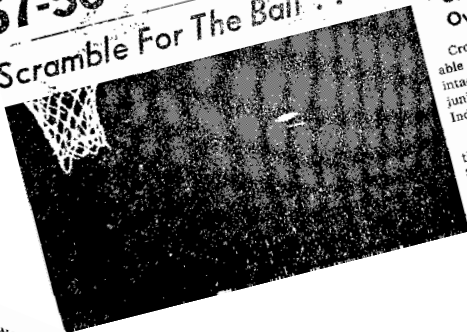
WADENA, MINNESOTA 56482, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1967

Number 43

C-I Rangers Tip Wadena  
57-56 In Final 3 Seconds  
Scramble For The Ball . . .

C-I Wins 20th  
Consecutive Game  
Over WHS Indians

Crosby-Irroman's Rangers were able to keep their victory string intact Friday night at Wadena's junior high gym by handing the Indians a 57-56 defeat.



This was the No. 20 consecutive victory by a C-I team, a string which dates back to 1959. The game, similar to many others during this stretch, was not decided until the final horn.

WADENA (47)		STAPLES (57)	
Name	pts	Name	pts
Willis, f	2	Ulrich, f	14
Stormoen, f	5	Miller, f	19
Plautz, c	10	Heier, c	14
Oja, g	3	Dahl, c	3
Browne, g	2	Roline, g	7
J. Johnson, g	2	Robinson, g	2
Matter, f	1	Gilbertson, f	3
Flenner, g	1	L. Johnson, f	3
Knudson, c	0	Sauer, c	0
Totals	30	Totals	57
Quarters:		Wadena	24
Wadena	9	Staples	9
Staples	15	Officials—M. Retica (Duluth),	15
Officials—M. Retica (Duluth),	23	V. Tre-	57
wick (St. Cloud),	7		31
	11		26
	37		57

Francis Plautz  
To WCCO's Prep  
Parade Team

Francis Plautz, co-captain and one of the sparks of the Wadena (Indians) High school five this season, was named Friday night (Jan. 26) to WCCO Radio's All-State Team of the Week. Sports Director Paul Giel and Sid Hartman announced the honorary squad on "Prep Parade".

WADENA INDIANS		Opposition							
Name	Pos.	Yr.	Ht.	No.	1	2	3	4	5
*Plautz, Francis	C	12	6-1	33					
*Oja, Daryl	C	12	5-8	20	X				
*Stormoen, Dave	G	12	5-11	32	X	X	X	X	X
*Browne, Kip	F	11	5-9	23	X	X	X	X	X
*Johnson, Jeff	G	11	5-8	24	X	X	X	X	X
Willis, Greg	F	11	6-2	25	X	X	X	X	X
Matter, Perry	C	11	6-1	40	X	X	X	X	X
Flenner, John	F	11	5-8	12	X	X	X	X	X
Lund, Pat	F	11	5-9	30	X	X	X	X	X
Forssted, Curt	F	11	5-11	34	X	X	X	X	X
Schmalzer, Mark	G	11	5-8	10	X	X	X	X	X
Anderson, Ken	F	11	6-1	22	X	X	X	X	X

Lettermen  
HEAD COACH: Whitey Aus  
ASSISTANT COACH: Chuck Luna  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: John Consensus

CHEERLEADERS: Jeanne Bottemiller, Sharon  
Brid, Susan Franklin, Connie Komula, Linda  
Maroney, Mayo Fudas, TS: Blue and Gold

1967-68 WHS Indian Cage Facts

Final 1967-68 basketball statistics of the Varsity were released this week by head coach Whitey Aus. Following the completion of district tournaments, the Indians final record was 8W-13L.

In categorizing 1967-68 statistics, the report revealed the following facts. The Wadena Indians average 59 points per game to the opponents' 60 and the Indians led in rebounds 37 to 34 per game.

Wadena attempted 58 shots per game to the opposition's 63. The Indians committed an average of 17 fouls per game to the opponent's 18. Wadena averaged 21 field goals made per game and 16 free throws.

The Indians scored their highest point total against Perham with 87 and the lowest against Brainerd in the tourney with 35. The highest point total scored against Wadena was by Ferguson.

With 80.3% of the points scored against the Indians was 44 by Little Falls.

The local cage team shot 52% from the field against Perham for its highest and 79% from the free throw lane against Aitkin.

Junior Greg Willis averaged 13 rebounds per game for team high in one game (Little Falls) 21.

Plautz also led with individual points high per game with 15.5. Stormoen averaged 12.3, Oja 9.9, Willis 9.5 and Browne 9.0.

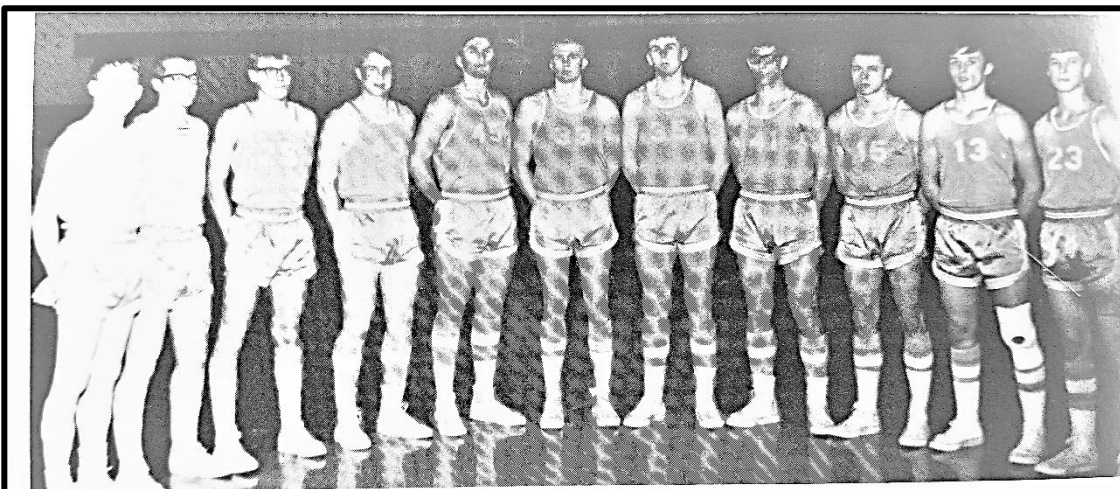
Individual high points a game went to Plautz with 31 against Park Rapids.

Wadena's shooting percentage was 37 compared to 40% last season. The Indians free throw percentage was improved over last year (62.5%). Wadena scored a total of 1,224 points in 1967-68 compared to 1,081 last season.

Plautz led individual scoring with 313 this season and Tony Schiller had a total of 291. Kip Brown compared 263 rebounds to 181 last season who had 251.

Kip Brown had the highest individual shooting percentage this season with 42%. Plautz had 56% for junior year. Co-captain Daryl Oja had highest individual shooting percentage at the Free throw line with 68% compared to 67% last season.

# Wadena Indians Basketball 1968-69



LEFT TO RIGHT: Bob Zosel, Jeff Johnson, John Flenner, Mike Butler, Paul Driggers, Greg Willis, Scott Knutso Paul Schmidt, Kip Browne, Scott Pettit, Don Heins.

## Records ★ ★ ★                      ★ ★ ★ District 24 Standings

	W	L	TP	OP	OA	DA	FT	FTM	Per.
C-I	16	2	1143	999	63.5	50.5	255	204	.556
Little Falls	10	8	1099	1081	61.1	60.1	319	187	.636
Wadena	8	10	1078	1054	59.9	58.6	301	168	.642
Aitkin	7	11	986	1033	54.4	57.4	292	194	.601
Staples	7	11	947	1017	52.6	58.5	193	161	.545
Brainerd	6	12	1084	1142	60.2	63.4	238	147	.618



8 Brainerd Daily Dispatch (Minn.), Friday, Feb. 28, 1969

## MID-STATE CONFERENCE Final Standings

	W	L	TP	OP
Crosby-Ironton	9	1	674	502
Little Falls	8	2	609	542
Wadena	5	5	594	554
Staples	5	5	567	540
Aitkin	3	7	492	545
Park Rapids	0	10	420	653

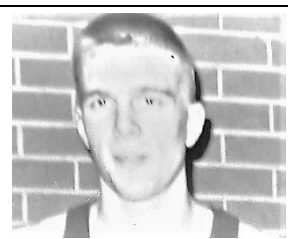

Season: 10-11  
Mid-State: 5-5 (t-3<sup>rd</sup>)  
District 24: 3-6 (4<sup>th</sup>)  
Dist 24 Tourney: 2-1 (3<sup>rd</sup>)



Coach Aus (rt)  
Asst Coach Luna

## \*\*\*                      \*\*\*                      \*\*\*                      \*\*\* Willis, Browne 15.9, 15.8 To Lead District 24 Scorers

All Mid-State

	
<b>Greg Willis</b> 15.9 ppg (11 rpg)	<b>Kip Browne</b> 15.8 ppg (80% FT shooter)

## Champions

District 24: Crosby-Ironton\*

Region 6: Crosby-Ironton\*

State: Rochester John Marshall

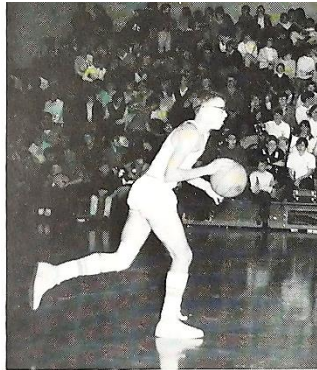
\*During the regular season Wadena defeated C-I on the road, snapping a ten year 21 game losing streak vs the Rangers. C-I went on to beat Little Falls by 2 to win District 24 and beat Pelican Rapids by 1 in double OT to win Region 6. C-I finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1969 State Tournament.

**Wadena Stuns C-I Rangers  
62-55, 1st Indian Victory  
Over Crosby in Ten Years**

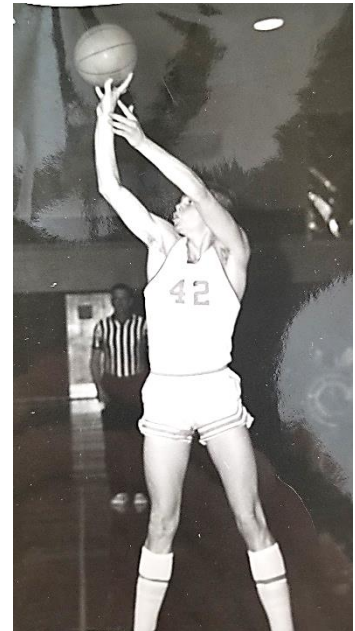
# Wadena Indians Basketball 1968-69 (cont.)



**Kip Browne**



**John Flenner**



**Greg Willis** – 27 pt high game

## Wadena Stuns C-I Rangers 62-55, 1st Indian Victory Over Crosby in Ten Years

**BOX SCORE**

Wadena (62)	FG	FT	PT	TP
Browne	5	10	2	20
Butler	0	0	4	0
Willis	8	4	4	20
Johnson	3	1	3	7
Flenner	2	2	1	6
Schmit	2	0	2	4
Knutson	2	1	2	5

**TOTALS**

<b>C-I (55)</b>				
Rinde	4	0	3	18
Heglund	6	4	5	16
Taylor	4	1	2	9
Zanhar	8	3	1	19
Davis	0	0	5	0
Endrize	0	0	3	0
Saul	0	0	0	0
Flann	0	1	0	1
Anderson	1	0	1	2
Robinson	0	0	0	0
Klun	0	0	1	0

**TOTALS**

	22	18	18	62
--	----	----	----	----



**Jeff Johnson**



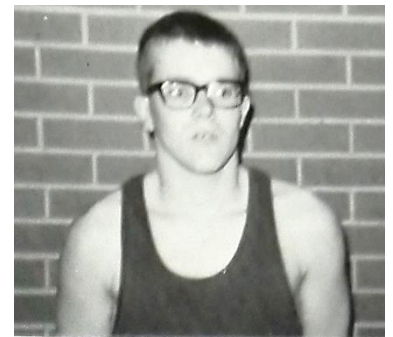
**Kip Browne**  
32 pt high game



**Greg Willis**



**John Flenner**  
16 pt high game



**Jeff Johnson**  
Assist Leader

# The 1970's Seasons

**Wadena Wins First District Since '43**

## Decade Win/Loss Record

109 – 107

**Wadena Goes Overtime  
To Win Mid-State Title**

## The Best of the '70s

### Season Record

20-3 1974

### Mid-State Conference

Champions 1974 (11-1)

### District 24 Tournament

Champions 1974 and 1978

1974 Title Game: Wadena 60 – Crosby-Ironton 52

1978 Title Game: Wadena 50 – Staples 47

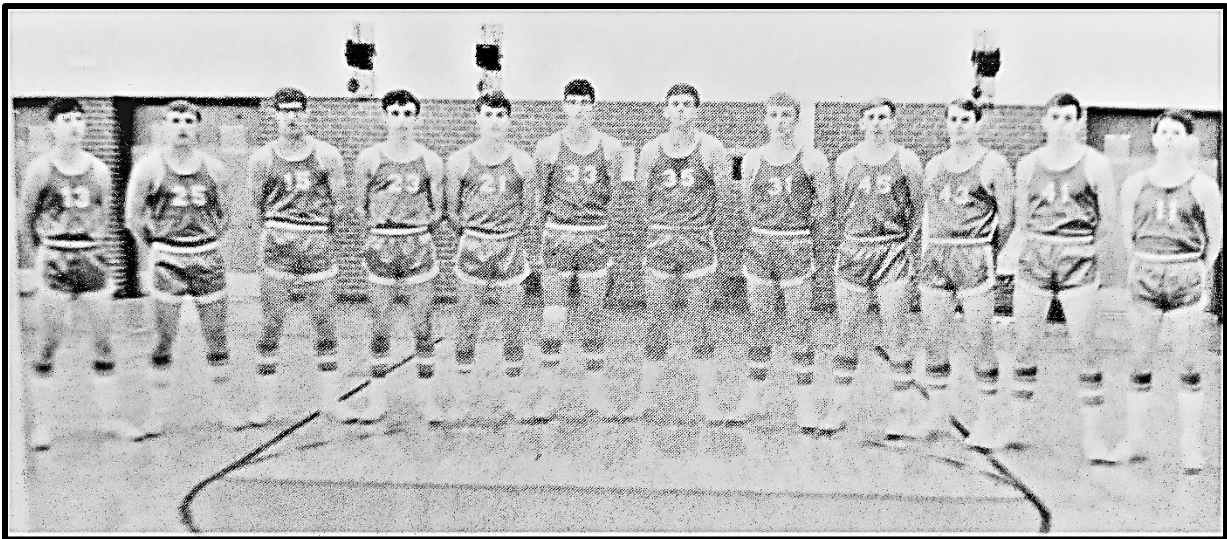


**DISTRICT 24**

**Indians nip Cardinals  
for District 24 title**

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1969-70



L-R: Don Hines, Scott Pettit, Paul Schmit, Scott Nelson, Curt Wussow, Bruce Dovenmuhle, Scott Knutson, Mark Vierkant, Mike Lindberg, Mike Butler, Bob Larson and Bob Zosel  
 (Note: Last year of one-class tournament)

### District 24 Standings

	W	L	TP	OP	OA	DA	FT	FTM
Aitkin	12	6	973	860	51.1	47.8	297	212
Little Falls	10	8	1,196	1,096	66.4	60.9	304	155
Brainerd	9	9	993	991	58.4	58.3	205	148
C-I	8	10	958	960	53.2	53.3	254	169
Staples	4	14	790	1,029	43.9	57.2	208	131
Wadena	2	16	783	979	43.5	54.4	189	178

### Records

Season: 2-17

Mid-State: 1-11 (7<sup>th</sup>)

District 24 Tournament: 0-1

### 1970 Champions

District 24: Aitkin

Region 6: Melrose

State: Sherburn (the final one-class tournament)

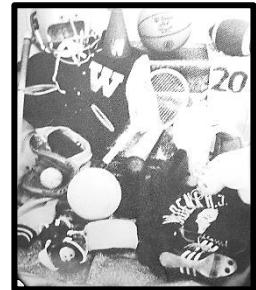


**Coach  
Whitey Aus**  
1964-1970

## Basketball

This Wadena Indians basketball team was comprised of some really good football players. As cagers the top three leading scorers averaged between 7-9 ppg. There were no all-conference selections. The highlight of this season would be a split with arch rival Staples.

This was coach Aus' final year. He continued to teach at Wadena High School until his retirement.



Next season would mark the beginning of a new era with Lowell Roisum leaving Battle Lake to assume the head coaching duties at Wadena.



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1969-70 (cont.)



### District 24

### Top Scorers

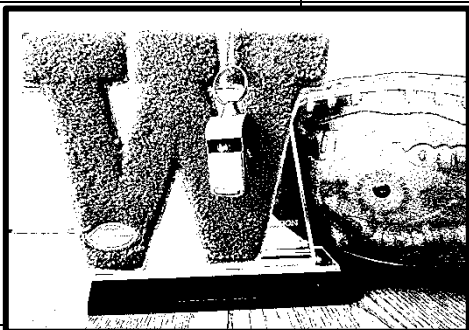
DISTRICT 24 SCORING  
(Those with 70 or more points)

	g	fg	ft	pts	ppg	avg.
Walters (LFI)	18	146	81	32	379	20.7
Cline (A)	17	79	74	46	232	13.6
Klein (B)	17	88	40	25	216	12.7
Harris (B)	17	84	35	19	203	11.9
Straka (B)	15	72	36	27	176	11.7
Jacobson (A)	18	65	49	41	199	11.1

### Wadena

WADENA INDIANS  
Coach Whitey Ays  
Record: 2-14  
TP 783, OP 979

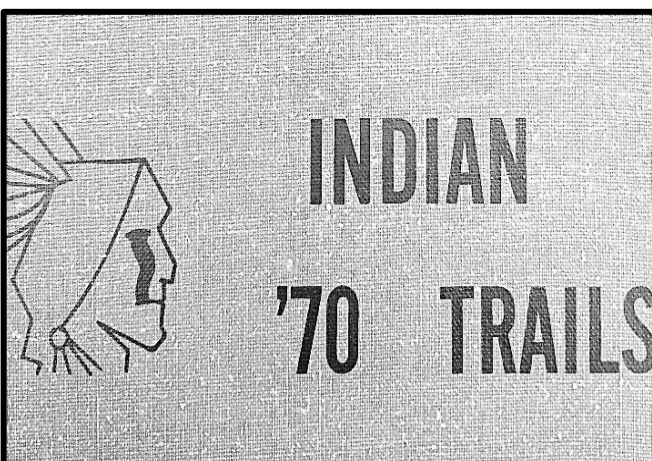
C-1 55, Wadena 45.  
Det. Lakes 69, Wadena 56.  
Aitkin 48, Wadena 30.  
Bemidji 59, Wadena 39.  
Park Rapids 76, Wadena 61.  
Wadena 36, Staples 23.  
Wadena 52, Perham 24.  
Little Falls 58, Wadena 43.  
Det. Lakes 63, Wadena 27.  
C-1 48, Wadena 38.  
Aitkin 57, Wadena 48.  
Park Rapids 70, Wadena 52.  
Alexandria 90, Wadena 55.  
Staples 40, Wadena 27.  
Brainerd 50, Wadena 39.  
Little Falls 48, Wadena 46.  
Torgus Falls 67, Wadena 43.  
Sauk Centre 41, Wadena 28.



### Sports

#### Mid-State Standings

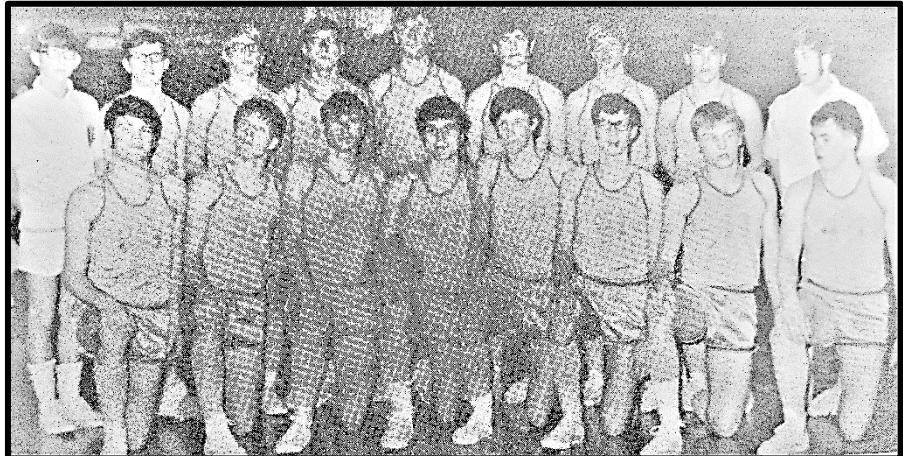
	W	L
Detroit Lakes	10	0
Park Rapids	7	3
Little Falls	6	4
C-1	6	4
Aitkin	5	6
Staples	1	9
Wadena	1	10



### Wadena Wins



# Wadena Indians Basketball 1970-71



**Bottom L-R:** Tom Conzemius, Kevin Berg, Steve Skalisky, Curt Wussow, Dave Bruininga, Alan Schumacher, Mark Vierkant, Bob Larson. **Top L-R:** Roger Dubois, Ricky Schwartz, Arlen Johnson, Frank Kohoutek, Duane Schwartz, Dan Sweere, Harold Johnson, Don Schmidt, Jim Koranda.

## Records

**Season:** 2-16

**Mid-State:** 0-11

**District 24 Tournament:** 1-1

Wadena 100 Backus 48 (play-in game)

Wadena lost to Verndale (quarterfinals)

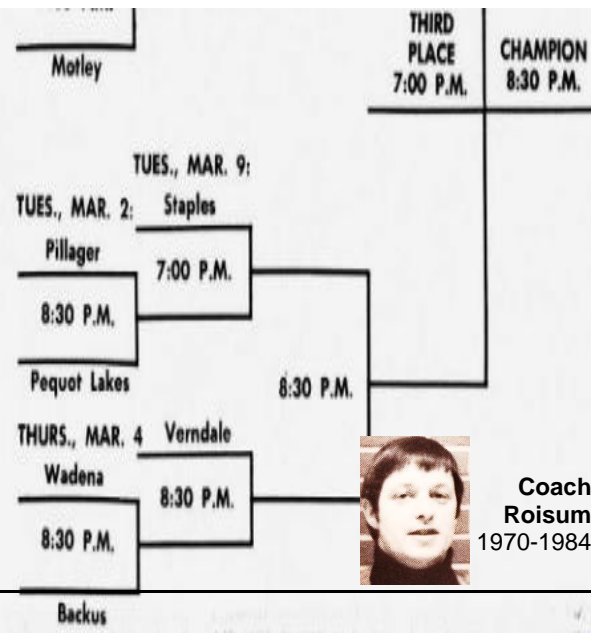
### 1971 Champions

**District 24:** Crosby-Ironton

**Region 6:** Melrose

**Class A:** Melrose 43

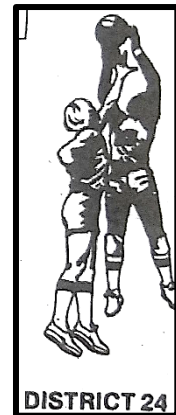
**Class AA:** Duluth Central 54  
(State Champs)



## *P* sports

For the second consecutive year there were no all-conference selections.

However, junior **Kevin Berg** averaged over 10 ppg and sophomore **Frank Kohoutek** saw significant playing time.



### **Note:**

After winning only one regular season game in coach Roisum's first year at the helm, Wadena defeated Backus 100-48 in a District 24 play-in game. Later that spring at the WHS Athletic Banquet Coach Roisum shared a story from the night of that game. His wife, Kathy, did not want to travel to Brainerd to watch Lowell's team lose another game. When Lowell returned home, after the game, he had a huge smile on his face and Kathy asked why? Lowell exclaimed, "We scored 100 points tonight!" Kathy asked, "Who won?"

Effective this season, in the new two-class format, the previous District 24 schools all are in the small school Class "A," except Little Falls and Brainerd are in the large school Class "AA."

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1970-71 (cont.)

Dist 24 play-in game:

**Wadena 100**

**Backus 48**

## WADENA INDIANS Coach Lowell Roisum

Record: 1-15

764 TP, 1,014 OP

Wadena 41, Perham 36.

C-1 76, Wadena 46.

Detroit Lakes 55, Wadena 38.

Aitkin 55, Wadena 47.

Park Rapids 79, Wadena 56.

Staples 61, Wadena 56.

Little Falls 68, Wadena 48.

Brainerd 59, Wadena 40.

Detroit Lakes 71, Wadena 53.

C-1 73, Wadena 54.

Aitkin 50, Wadena 36.

Bemidji 64, Wadena 46.

Park Rapids 58, Wadena 51.

Staples 68, Wadena 64.

Melrose 69, Wadena 34.

Little Falls game cancelled.

Fergus Falls game cancelled.

Sauk Centre 70, Wadena 54.

District 24 Tourney

Wadena 100, Backus 48.

## District 24 Standings

	W	L	TP	OP	OA	DA	FT	FTM	Pct.
Brainerd	15	3	1,179	980	65.9	54.4	271	185	.623
C-1	12	6	1,123	968	82.1	53.7	261	157	.621
Little Falls	11	5	1,027	871	84.2	54.1	231	148	.654
Aitkin	8	10	981	1,010	53.4	56.1	213	205	.542
Staples	6	12	1,022	1,200	56.8	68.7	250	211	.542
Wadena	1	15	764	1,014	47.8	63.4	228	176	.564

# SPORTS

BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH

10 Brainerd Daily Dispatch (Minn.), Monday, March 8, 1971



Dan Sweere-jr.



Kevin Berg-jr.



Mark Vierkant-sr.



Tom Conzemius-jr.

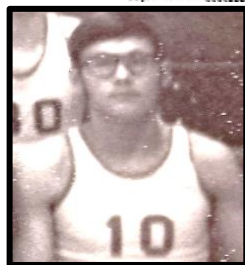
connected in with eight

Wadena raced to a 20-9 lead at the quarter over the Wolverines, who had won only three of 17 games this season; then saw the undersized and out-manned Longbow League club catch fire to climb within eight at 29-21 on a pair of 20-foot jump shots by reserve Larry McAllister.

Wadena regulars returned to action and poured in 12 points to a lone 12-foot jump shot by Russ Reeve to open up a 41-23 edge at intermission time. It was 26-22 at the third period's close and the crowd was in suspense whether Wadena would hit the century mark as it led 38-18 with 10 seconds to go.

A foul of a Backus player at that point virtually assured Wadena of getting another shot at the basket. It missed, but 6-4 junior center Dave Bruininga was there to tip it back and it went in with two seconds remaining. Bruininga was given a big reception by happy Wadena fans after the final horn sounded.

Long-time  
Asst. Coach  
Chuck Luna



F. Kohoutek  
Sophomore

## TOURNAMENT BOXES

WADENA 100	fg	ft	tr	pl	tp
Berg, f	5	0	2	4	10
Vierkant, f	7	7	0	3	21
Skalisky, c	4	0	2	1	8
Sweere, g	5	0	0	0	10
Schmidt, g	1	1	0	2	3
Wussow, f	2	2	1	2	8
Kohoutek, g	2	6	3	0	12
Larson, f	0	0	0	1	0
Nelson, g	5	0	1	2	10
Bruininga, c	4	3	0	4	11
Conzemius, g	0	0	0	2	0
Schwartz, f	1	2	0	1	4
Schwartz, g	0	2	1	1	2
Schumacher, f	0	0	0	1	0
Johnson, f	0	1	2	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

WADENA 66	fg	ft	tr	pl	tp
Berg, f	7	1	3	2	15
Vierkant, f	8	3	0	1	19
Skalisky, c	6	0	0	2	17
Sweere, g	4	2	1	0	10
Schmidt, g	2	2	1	5	5
Wussow, f	2	0	0	0	4
Kohoutek, g	0	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>66</b>

VERDALE 72	fg	ft	tr	pl	tp
G. Carr, f	7	4	2	0	8
Pickard, f	7	3	1	3	15
S. Seaton, c	11	2	0	0	25
Callahan, f	1	5	0	4	11
Edgemo, f	4	5	2	3	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>72</b>

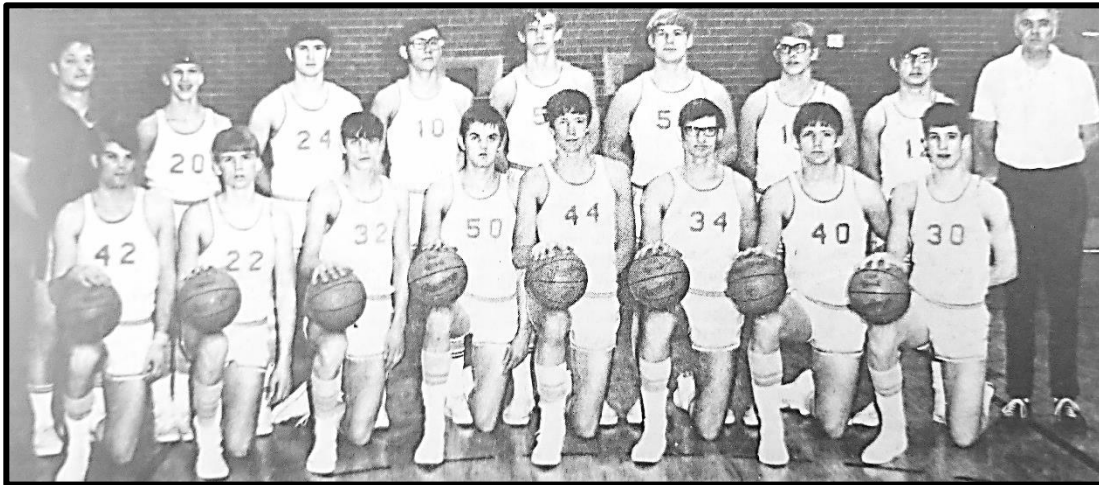
Quarters	Wadena	Verdale
1st	20-36	54-66
2nd	14-33	52-72

Wadena 66 Verndale 72  
(Dist 24 quarterfinal)



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1971-72



Front Row: T Conzemius, J Willis, D Dovenmeuhle, B Brummer, R Bruininga, A Schumacher, K Berg, J Wensman  
 Back Row: Coach L Roisum, G Brown, D Sweere, F Kohoutek, B Messer, J Johnson, A Johnson, R Schwartz, JV Coach H Willis

### Records

**Season 5-17**

**Mid-State: 3-9 (6<sup>th</sup>)**

**District 24 Tournament: 1-1**

Play-in game:

Wadena 72 Backus 38

Quarterfinals:

Wadena 56 Verndale 83

### 1972 Champions

**District 24:** Crosby-Ironton

**Region 6:** Melrose

**Class A:** St James 60 (State Champs)

**Class AA:** Mounds View 52

### **Coach Lowell Roisum**

1970-1984



**Kevin Berg**  
**All Mid-State**  
 12 ppg

Jr. **Frank Kohoutek** and soph. **Jebb Willis** averaged 11 and 10 ppg respectively.

The season highlight may have come in a game at Crookston. The Pirates had a very good team and with 2:30 to play Crookston led 69-57. Wadena came back and with 12 seconds to go, and down by one, here is what happened after **Ralph Bruininga** snared the rebound from a missed one-and-one free-throw by Crookston:

*Crookston with 12 seconds remaining. "Big Ralph" leaped above the backboard and gathered in the rebound on his way down. The outlet pass was to Willis and then after the time line was pass the ball hit Frank on the side. Kohoutek passed the ball to Willis by the free throw circle and there with 3 seconds remaining Jebb cast forth the historic shot (70-69). All "B" team junior varsity and varsity members jumped in unison. Mr. Mead and Mr. Waldahl were shaking with excitement and Harold fainted.*

"Harold" was asst. coach and Jebb's father.

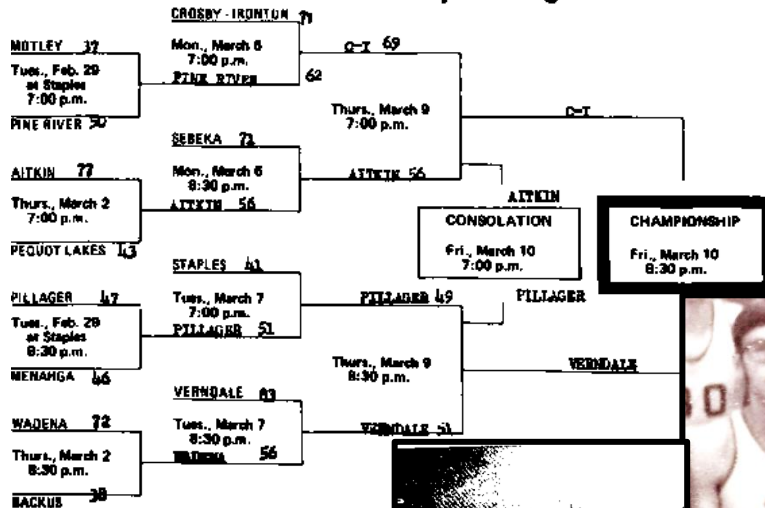
"Baldy" Waldahl wrote this article for the PJ.  
 Baldy had a great sense of humor.



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1971-72 (cont.)

### District 24 Tourney Pairings



★ ★ ★

### District 24 S

(Large Scho)

	W	L	TP	OP
C-I	16	4	1,325	1,124
Brainerd	15	5	1,334	1,030
Little Falls	13	7	1,302	1,171
Staples	13	7	1,168	1,085
Aitkin	9	10	1,129	1,151
Wadena	4	16	1,047	1,265



Kohoutek

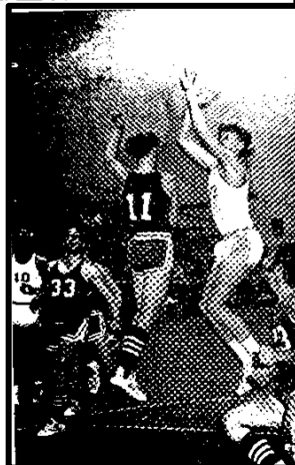
#### DISTRICT 24 SCORING

(Those with 15 or more points)

Name	g	fg	ft	tp	pts	avg.
Strahn (B)	20	153	63	33	373	18.7
Erickson (A)	18	130	54	33	327	18.2
McGrath (LF)	28	147	74	19	358	12.8
Miller (LF)	28	107	92	13	308	11.0
Caughy (B)	28	103	78	16	294	10.5
Valentine (C-I)	18	94	75	41	247	13.7
Bigalke (LF)	28	77	105	46	259	9.3
Heider (A)	18	78	45	16	221	12.3
Berg (W)	17	82	68	41	230	13.5
Nelson (LS)	17	82	68	26	226	13.3
Kohoutek (W)	20	86	58	36	228	11.4
Hendrickson (C-I)	14	59	35	15	153	10.9
Willis (W)	17	68	55	31	193	10.2
Rach (S)	20	68	65	30	202	10.1
Shimcik (LF)	20	67	71	48	195	9.8

### vs Backus

WADENA (72)	fg	ft	tp	pts
Berg, f	3	2	3	12
Conzemius, f	3	0	0	6
Bruninga, c	3	5	2	11
Kohoutek, g	2	2	1	6
Willis, g	2	0	1	4
Dovenmuehle, f	1	0	0	2
Schumacher, c	2	0	1	4
Wensman, f	0	0	1	0
Messer, f	3	0	0	4
J. Johnson, f	0	0	0	0
Sweere, f	1	4	0	4
Brummer, c	1	5	4	7
A. Johnson, g	2	0	0	4
Brown, g	0	2	0	2
Schwartz, g	0	2	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>72</b>

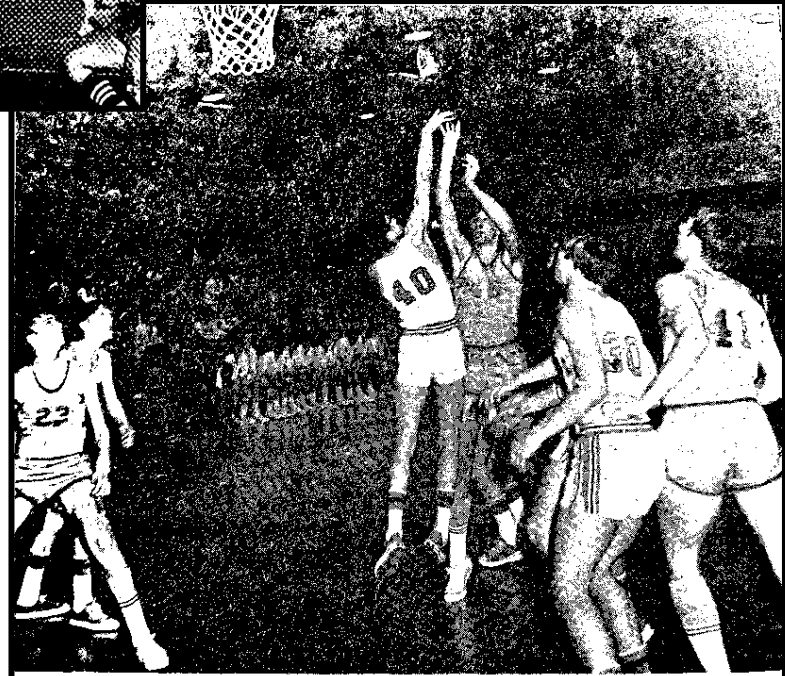


Willis

### vs Verndale

WADENA (56)	fg	ft	tp	pts
Berg, f	4	1	1	14
Schumacher, f	4	1	0	10
Bruninga, c	3	3	2	11
Kohoutek, g	4	1	2	11
Willis, g	1	1	2	5
Conzemius, f	0	0	1	2
Dovenmuehle, f	0	2	1	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>56</b>

Mid-State



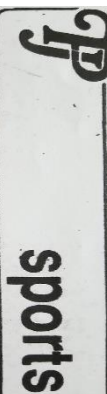
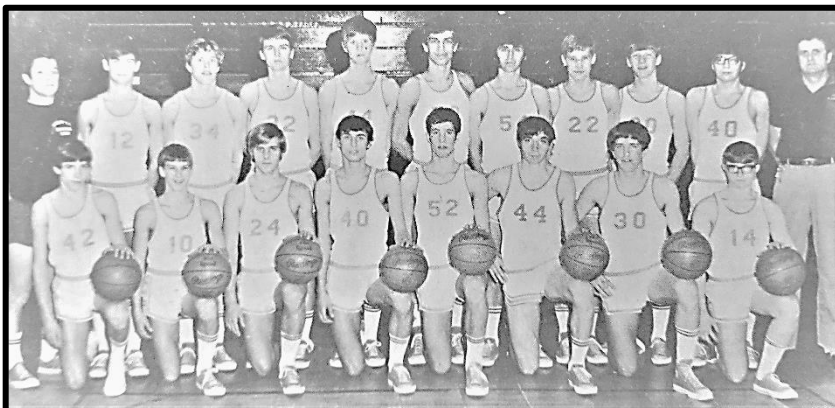
BRUNINGA SHOTS-over the outstretched arms of Panther Paul Carter (No. 40) Friday night at the junior high gym. Positioning for the rebound is Jebb Willis (No. 23), Panther Mark Diede (No. 30) and Kevin Berg of Wadena (No. 41). Wadena won 48-36. (P.J. Sport Photo)

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1972-73



DISTRICT 24



Front: Roger Olson, Greg Brown, Steve Speed, Daryl Dovenmuehle, Jeff Wensman, Kim Wood, Jake Beckel, Duane Steffens  
 Back: Coach Roisum, Tommy Merickel, Mark Beckel, Jebb Willis, Duane Vandenberghe, Tom Hamerlinck, Galen Bayer, Jon Wensman, Rick Grewe, Jon Walker, Coach Luna

### A .500 Team:

Season 12-12  
 Mid-State 6-6  
 District 24 Tourney 2-2  
 (Semifinal loss to CI)

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)	
Little Falls	10
Crosby-Ironton	8
Staples	7
Aitkin	6
Wadena	6
Def. Lakes	5
Park Rapids	0



**Coach Roisum**  
1970-84

### 1973 Champions

District 24: Staples  
 Region 6: Melrose  
 Class A: Chisholm 56  
 Class AA: Anoka 63  
 (State Champs)

### WADENA INDIANS Coach Lowell Roisum

Wadena 60, Perham 50  
 Wadena 47, Def. Lakes 46.  
 Wadena 48, Aitkin 47  
 Wadena 59, Park Rapids 49  
 Staples 66, Wadena 43  
 Redwood Falls 60, Wadena 52  
 Wadena 72, Montevideo 69  
 Little Falls 61, Wadena 56  
 Wadena 58, Bemidji 55 (ovt)  
 Brainerd 71, Wadena 70 (ovt)  
 C-1 59, Wadena 53  
 Def. Lakes 69, Wadena 61  
 Wadena 60, Aitkin 50  
 Wadena 63, Park Rapids 40  
 Staples 70, Wadena 49  
 Crookston 56, Wadena 36  
 Wadena 53, Glenwood 42  
 Little Falls 71, Wadena 55  
 Melrose 61, Wadena 52  
 Wadena 63, C-1 55

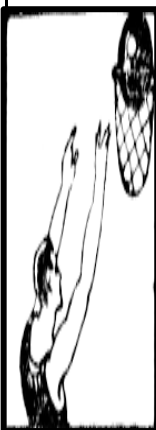
Sub-District Tourney  
 Wadena 81, Backus 32

District 24 Tourney  
 Wadena 63, Molley 51

### District 24

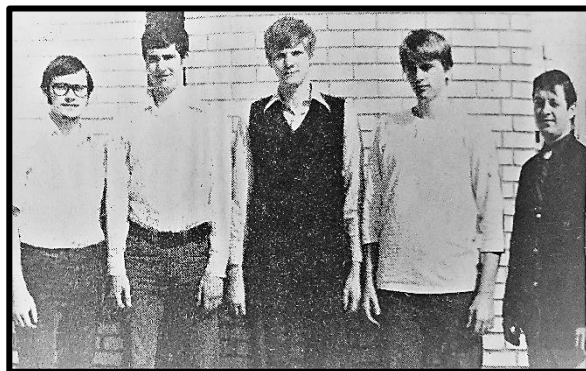
	W	L
Little Falls	14	8
Crosby-Ironton	13	7
Aitkin	12	8
Staples	12	8
Brainerd	11	9
Wadena	10	10

### District 24 Scoring Leaders



#### DISTRICT 24 SCORING (Those with 70 or more points)

Name	g	fg	ftm	tp	ave.	
Morgan (B)	19	127	65	39	219	16.8
Ferguson (C-1)	20	126	40	27	292	14.6
Mertens (S)	20	118	48	21	284	14.2
Willis (W)	37	93	54	23	240	14.1
Holder (A)	20	107	61	25	275	13.8
Hill (LF)	20	107	52	39	266	13.3
Neznik (S)	20	102	55	18	259	12.9
Wachlarowicz (LF)	20	96	51	35	243	12.2
Woid (A)	20	97	48	37	242	12.1
Kohoutek (W)	13	58	46	20	156	12.0
R. Borders (B)	19	92	42	31	226	11.9
Bianke (LF)	20	44	91	47	273	11.7



Kohoutek, Wensman, Vandenberghe, Willis and Coach Roisum

### All Mid-State

Jebb Willis - 14.1 ppg  
 (2X All-State Team of the Week)

### Honorable Mention

Frank Kohoutek - 12.0 ppg  
 Jeff Wensman - 5.3 ppg  
 Duane Vandenberghe - 7.9 ppg



Returning letterman for the '72-'73 season.  
(Willis, Dovenmuehle and Kohoutek)



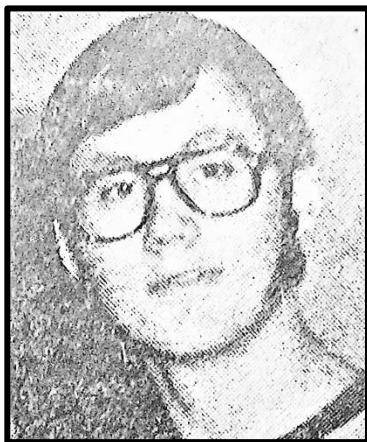
Wadena's Jeff Wensman (sr) battles for a rebound against Motley's Randy Frisk. The Indians (11-10) went on to defeat favored Motley (17-3) to advance to the District 24 semifinals.



Rick Grewe (jr) scores on a layup.



Jeff Dovenmuehle (sr)



Frank Kohoutek (sr)

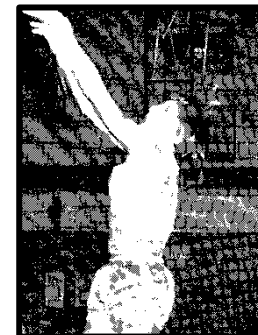
The three-year starter left a huge void when an injury in the 13<sup>th</sup> game of the season ended his high school career.



Thomas Hamerlinck (jr)



Roger Olson (soph)



Duane Vandenberghe (jr)



Jebb Willis (jr)

Dist 24 loss to C-I 59-41

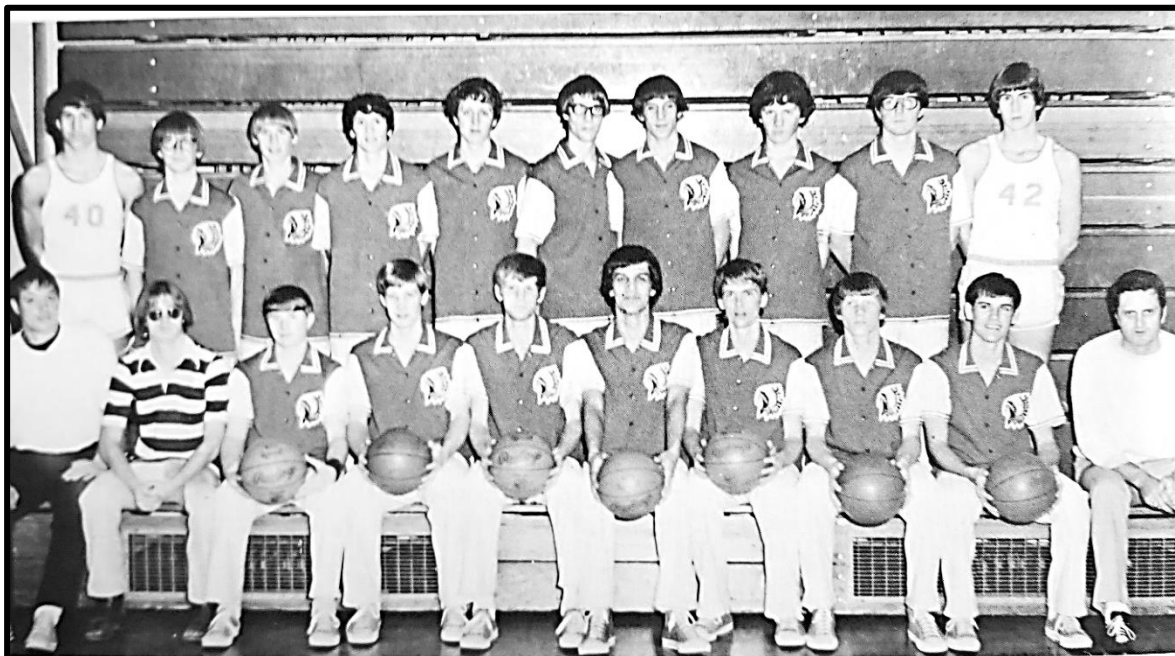
Last night, the Rangers turned in a strong defensive effort that held the Indians to just 28 points in the first three periods and allowed Wadena's leading scorer Jebb Willis to net only three points, all three coming in the final period.

Polch only tallied seven, but complemented C-I's four-man zone defense by chasing Willis throughout the game. Willis had scored 19 and 17 in the first two meetings with C-I.

**NOTE:** The Indians were playing very well by season's end. Their final regular season game was at C-I. The Indians won 63-55. The game prior to that found Wadena at Melrose, the eventual Region 6 champion. Melrose won in a close game. In the District 24 semifinals loss to C-I Wadena ran into a "box and one" that they could not overcome. In the next year's district title game C-I relied on the same defensive strategy, but with different results.

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1973-74



ROW 1 - Head Coach Roisum, Trainer K. Baden, D. Steffens, J. Wensman, D. Vandenberghe, T. Hamerlinck, J. Willis, R. Grewe, T. Merickel, Asst. Coach Luna. ROW 2 - D. Frost, G. Skalman, D. Freer, D. Lindner, K. Luna, B. Ericson, R. Olson, R. Tappe, B. Burns, R. Brune.

### Records

**Season:** 20-3  
**Mid-State:** 11-1 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
**District 24 Tournament:** 3-0 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
 Wadena 60 C-I 52  
**Region 6:** 1-1 (3<sup>rd</sup>)

### Wadena Wins First District Since '43

By JIM WALLACE

Wadena's Indians, champions of the Mid-State conference and now sporting a 19-2 record heading into the Region Six tournament at Moorhead Monday to face unbeaten Melrose, presented the school its first District 24 high school basketball championship in 31 years here Friday night.

Scoring a third victory this season over the Crosby-Ironton Rangers, this time by a 60-52 score, Coach Lowell Roisum's hustling quint brought Wadena its fourth district title of all time and prevented C-I from attaining its 24th.

In records dating back to 1925, Wadena has gained the finals just 10 times. After winning 33-25 over C-I in 1943, the Indians lost the next season to the Rangers, 38-37; fell to Brainerd 50-47 in 1950; lost to Aitkin 73-68 in 1959; and took it on the chin twice from the Rangers in 1965 (43-42) and 1966 (40-38).

Wadena didn't get this win put away until late in the final period despite charging from a 27-23 halftime lead to a 17-point spread of 54-37 at the close of the third stanza as C-I scored nine of the next 11 points to trail by just 10 points at 56-46 with 3:20 to play.

WADENA INDIANS  
 Coach Lowell Roisum  
 16 Wins, Two Losses  
 TP 1,076, OP 937

- Wadena 63, Perham 50.
- Wadena 59, Aitkin 50.
- Wadena 60, Park Rapids 47.
- Wadena 57, Staples 42.
- Little Falls 73, Wadena 57.
- Wadena 61, Morris 54.
- Wadena 48, Crosby-Ironton 38.
- Wadena 64, Brainerd 57.
- Wadena 78, Det. Lakes 52.
- Wadena 50, Aitkin 47.
- Wadena 62, Park Rapids 46.
- Wadena 75, Glenwood 60.
- Wadena 65, Staples 50.
- Wadena 56, Little Falls 52.
- Crookston 65, Wadena 39.
- Wadena 69, Bemidji 61.
- Wadena 57, Crosby-Ironton 41.
- Wadena 56, Det. Lakes 52 (ovt)

### District 24 Standings

(Large Schools)

	W	L
Little Falls	17	1
Wadena	16	2
Crosby-Ironton	10	7
Aitkin	8	10
Staples	6	11
Brainerd	3	15

### Mid-State

Wadena	11	1
L. Falls	10	1
C-I	8	3
Det. Lakes	4	7
Aitkin	4	8
Staples	2	9
Pk. Rapids	1	11

### Coach Roisum



### 1974 Champions

District 24: Wadena  
 Region 6: Melrose  
 Class AA: Bemidji 42  
 Class A: Melrose 58  
 (State Champs)

## Season Highlights

### Season Record: 20-3

Through 2019 this is the only Wadena boy's basketball team to win 20 games in a season or to win the conference and district titles in the same season.

### Indians Surprise Tacks, 69-61

#### Notable "W's"

In a February ten-day stretch Wadena beat #3 ranked "AA" Little Falls at home, lost at #9 ranked "A" Crookston and won at, eventual "AA" state champs, #5 Bemidji.

### Wadena Upsets Flyers, 56-52

#### The three "L's"

The 3 losses: at Little Falls (#3 class "AA") in Dec., at Crookston (#9 class "A") in Feb. and in the Region 6 semis vs Melrose (#1 class "A" and overall state champs (27-0) by defeating class "AA" Bemidji).

#### Mid-State Conference Champions

The Indians won the conference title with an 11-1 record. Two big wins came late in the season when Wadena avenged their only conference loss by beating #3 class "AA" Little Falls 56-52 in Wadena. This would be the Flyers' only conference loss.

### Wadena Goes Overtime To Win Mid-State Title

To win the conference the Indians needed to beat Detroit Lakes, on the road, in the last game of the season. Earlier, at Wadena, the Indians had crushed D.L. 78-52. In the rematch Wadena prevailed, but it was not easy. The final score was 56-52 with Wadena winning in overtime.

Mother nature gets an assist for Wadena's outright Mid-State Conference title. Christmas break 1973 saw all Minnesota public school activities cancelled due to the energy crisis. No makeups were allowed. Wadena was unable to play two non conference games on its Holiday schedule. Little Falls (finished 10-1) was scheduled to play at Crosby-Ironton (finished 8-3) but that game was never played.

#### The District 24 Tournament

Meeting Staples and Crosby-Ironton in the District 24 Tournament allowed the Indians to win for the third time against each team that season. That may have never happened before or since..

## Teamwork

In 23 games, on average, there were three players in double figures for each game. In one game all five starters scored in double figures and in nine games there were four. Each starter led the team in scoring at least once and each of the 4 senior starters led the team in scoring at least twice. This team ended the season with more assists than any team in that decade.

### Five All Mid-State Honors



12.1 ppg  
All Mid-State

Rick Grewe

### Mid-State Title



10.5 ppg  
All Mid-State

Duane Vandenberghe



8.5 ppg  
All Mid-State  
Honorable Mention

Tom Hamerlinck

### The Bench Seniors

Tommy Merickel

Jon Wensman

Duane Steffens



### Juniors



Rick Tappe



David Freer

CHAMPIONSHIP  
Basketball  
TOURNAMENT



14.5 ppg  
All Mid-State  
All-State

Jebb Willis

### District Title



8.8 ppg  
All Mid-State  
Honorable Mention

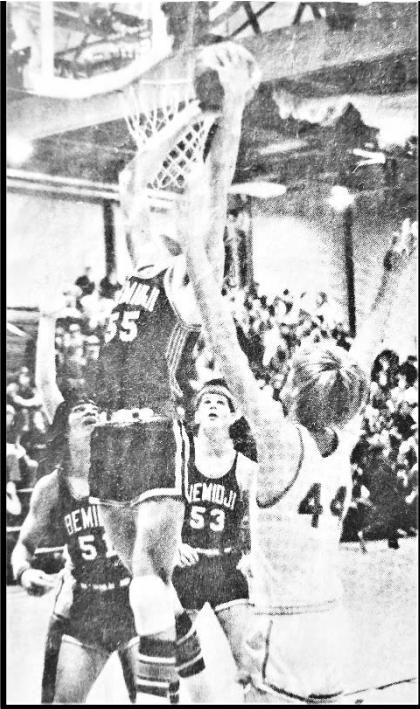
Roger Olson



# Wadena Indians Basketball 1973-74 (cont.)

## Final Season Rankings

### Indians Surprise Tacks, 69-61

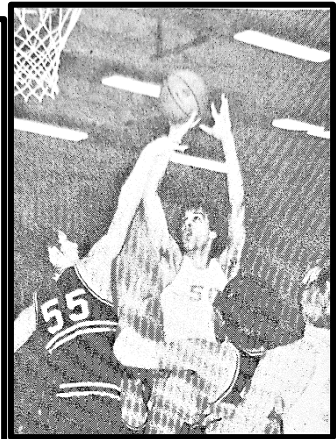


Bemidji's 6'7" Steve Vogel scores over the outstretched arms of Duane Vandenberghe.

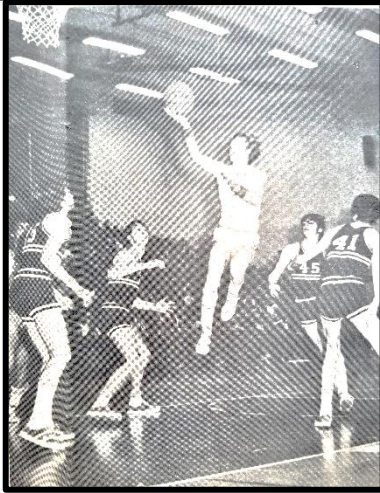
CLASS AA		
1. Richfield	17-0	
2. Minneapolis Washburn	16-0	
3. Little Falls	14-1	
4. Hopkins Lindbergh	16-1	
5. Bemidji	14-2	
6. St. Cloud Apollo	13-4	
7. Mounds View	15-3	
8. Austin	13-4	
9. Duluth East	12-4	
10. Duluth Central	12-4	

CLASS A (Final)		
1. Melrose	18-0	
2. Chisholm	17-0	
3. Silver Bay	16-1	
4. (tie) Fulda	18-0	
(tie) Renville	18-0	
6. Marshall	16-2	
7. Waseca	16-2	
8. Tower-Soudan	15-2	
9. Crooksjon	13-3	
10. Rocori of Cold Spring	16-4	
11. Wadena	15-2	
12. Mechanic Arts	16-1	
13. Simley	16-2	
14. Princeton	15-1	
15. Gaylord	17-1	
16. Nicollet	16-0	
17. Clara City	17-1	
18. Dassel-Cokato	17-1	
19. Wanamingo	15-3	
20. Jasper		



Hamerlinck scores over Staples defender in Dist 24 semifinals.



Grewe drives the lane against Staples in District 24 semifinals. Grewe led all scorers with 21.

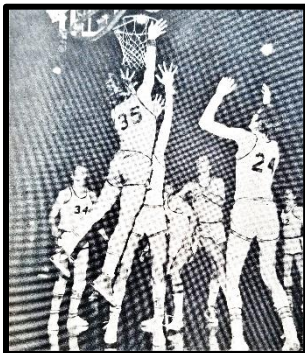
Wadena (60)	fg	ft	tp
Olson	5	2	12
Willis	6	2	14
Grewe	5	3	13
Vandenberghe	4	3	11
Hamerlinck	2	4	8
Wensman	1	0	2

Totals 23 14 60

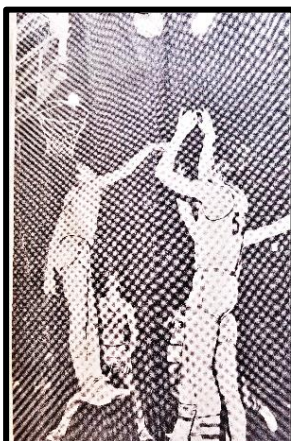
Crosby-Ironton (52)	fg	ft	tp
Opplet	3	4	10
Vranish	3	5	11
Midthun	8	5	21
Bedard	1	0	2
Koop	1	2	4
Finck	1	2	4

Totals 17 18 52

### Wadena Upsets Flyers, 56-52



Grewe scores vs Melrose



Hamerlinck defends against Melroses 6'8" Mark Olberding

*Congratulations*

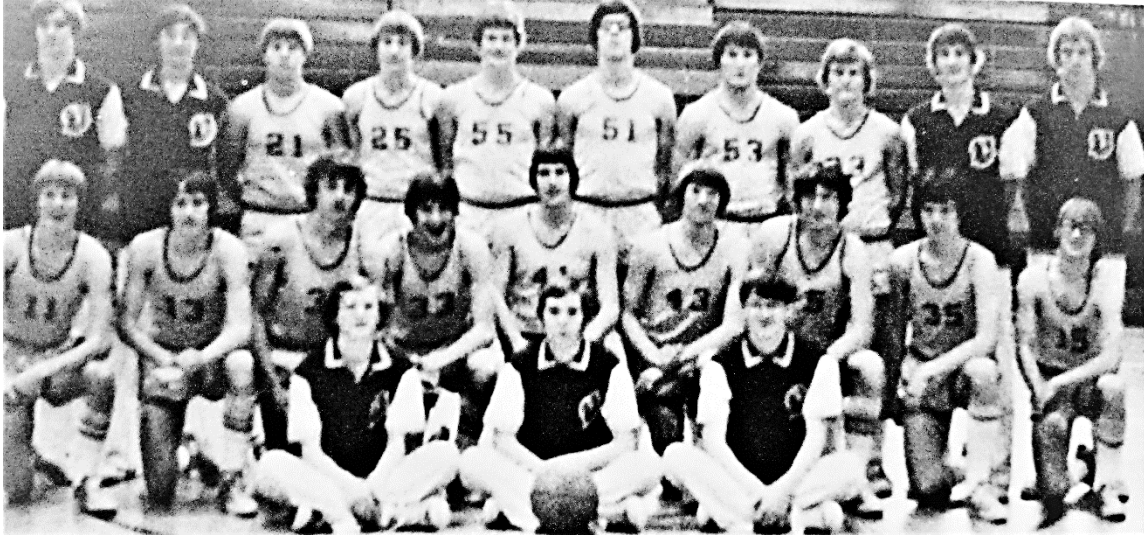
**DIST. 24 CHAMPS!**



### Melrose Ousts Wadena

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1974-75



1st row: B. Skalman, T. Timm, S. Hansen. 2<sup>nd</sup> row: D. Freer, D. Lindner, K. Luna, R. Olson, R. Brune, B. Erickson, B. Burns, R. Tappe, G. Skalman. 3<sup>rd</sup> row: J. Pilgrim, D. Arnoldy, B. Nyberg, B. Messer, J. Wensman, J. Hamerlinck, R. Hooten, M. Condiff, M. Grabrian, D. Engstrom.

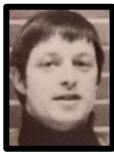
### Records

**Season:** 17-6

**Mid-State:** 9-3 (2<sup>nd</sup>)

**District 24 Tournament:** 2-1 (runner-up)  
Wadena 49 Crosby-Ironton 61

### Coach



Lowell Roisum  
1970-84



### Season's Records

WADENA INDIANS  
Coach Lowell Roisum  
Record: 15-5  
TP 1,206; OP 1,073

Wadena 58, Perham 29  
Wadena 55, Aitkin 30  
Wadena 69, Park Rapids 58  
Wadena 63, Long Prairie 58 (ovt)  
Wadena 63, Staples 40  
Little Falls 68, Wadena 41  
Wadena 69, Pel. Rapids 46  
Wadena 60, Brainerd 56  
Wadena 54, Park Rapids 47  
Def. Lakes 68, Wadena 55  
Wadena 59, Glenwood 44  
Morris 56, Wadena 55  
Wadena 64, C-1 62  
Wadena 64, Aitkin 43  
Wadena 71, Staples 41  
Little Falls 84, Wadena 41  
Wadena 74, Def. Lakes 52  
Wadena 61, Crookston 58  
Bemidji 66, Wadena 59  
Wadena 71, C-1 59

**Roger Olson**  
All-State Team  
All Mid-State  
14.3 ppg (3<sup>rd</sup>)



**Dave Freer**  
All Mid-State  
10.6 ppg



**Rick Tappe**  
All Mid-State  
Honorable Mention  
11.1 ppg



**Reggie Hooten**  
All Mid-State

# Wadena

## Mid-State Conference

# District 24

### 1975 Champions

**District 24:** C-1

**Region 6:** Barnesville

**Class A:** Chisholm 50

**Class AA:** Little Falls 54  
(State Champs)





# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1974-75 (cont.)

### Wadena Pushed Into Overtime

\*\*\* \*\* \*  
 A Backus team that just wouldn't quit gave favorite Wadena all it could handle for four quarters Monday night at Brainerd High School before falling 56-53 in overtime to the defending District 24 champions.

Backus, which won its first post season game in 20 years last week when it edged Sebeka 55-54 in the first round, pushed the Indians all the way while a large crowd of Wolverine fans cheered their favorites on. As they had done against Sebeka, the Wolverines staged a tremendous fourth quarter rally, but this time could not pull out a victory.

### MID STATE CONFERENCE (FINAL STANDINGS)

	W	L
Linton Falls	11	1
Wadena	9	3
Crosby-Intanton	8	4
Park Rapids	4	8
Detroit Lakes	3	7
Aitkin	1	9
Staples	0	12



### Wadena 49, Aitkin 34

WADENA (49)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
Tappe, f	7	8	8	0	17
Olson, f	5	4	1	3	14
Hooten, c	7	0	2	5	4
Lindner, g	2	0	0	2	4
Freer, g	4	3	5	4	11
Wenisman, g	1	0	0	2	2
Brune, f	1	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>49</b>
AITKIN (34)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
Hillman, f	1	0	0	0	2
Hasskamp, f	4	2	4	1	10
DeSutler, c	3	3	5	4	9
Johnson, g	2	0	1	5	4
Went, g	1	1	2	3	3
Wage, g	0	0	1	0	0
Clapp, g	0	0	1	1	0
Pesell, f	3	0	2	1	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Quarters</b>					
Wadena	8	24	30	49	
Aitkin	13	19	27	34	

Skalman



Roger Olson, Rick Tappe and Ross Brune battle for a rebound in semi final action vs Aitkin. Wadena won 49-34.



Brune



Lindner

### District 24 Title Game C-I Wins 61-49

#### TOURNAMENT BOXES

C-I (61)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
Connor, f	4	0	0	3	8
Rocca, f	4	3	1	4	11
Conck, c	6	0	0	3	12
Koop, g	7	4	1	4	18
Selisker, g	4	2	0	3	10
Orn, f	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>61</b>
WADENA (49)	fg	ft	trm	pl	tp
Olson, f	5	0	4	2	10
Tappe, f	4	2	0	5	10
Hooten, c	1	1	1	3	3
Freer, g	5	3	0	2	13
Lindner, g	3	3	1	3	9
Wenisman, c	0	0	0	1	0
Skalman, g	1	0	0	0	2
Brune, f	0	2	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>49</b>
<b>Quarters</b>					
Crosby-Intanton	14	28	46	61	
Wadena	9	29	37	49	



Roger Olson and Reg Hooten defend against C-I in District 24 title game.

Roger Olson, Dave Freer, and their team accept the District 24 runner-up trophy.



# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1975-76



Front row: (l-r) Jeff Browne, Mark Condiff, Bob Nyberg, Bob Messer, Bruce Sweere, Jim Hamerlinck, Jim Pilgrim, Jeff Wensman, Reg Hooten, Steve Hanson, Bob Skalman, Al Steffens. Back row (l-r):

Mark Conzemius, Bill Egan, Bob Iken, Dave Foley, Jim Nehl, Richard Thomson, Don Stover, Mark Hamre, and student trainer Scott Niska.

### Records

Season: 10-12

Mid-State: 5-7 (5<sup>th</sup>)

Sub Region 8-2\*:

Semis: Wadena 54 S/R 53 (16-4 2-seed)

Finals: Wadena 41 LF 79 (20-0 1-seed)

\*Wadena moved from Class "A" to "AA" eff 1975-76 season.  
No. 3 seed Wadena played #2 seed S/R in sub region 8-2 semis (4 teams: #1 seed LF beat #4 seed Brainerd).

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)		
	W	L
Little Falls	8	0
Crosby-Ironton	8	1
Park Rapids	7	1
Det Lakes	6	6
Wadena	5	3
Staples	4	8
Aitkin	0	12

Wadena	54	Perham	58
Wadena	66	Aitkin	49
Wadena	49	Park Rapids	69
Wadena	66	Long Prairie	39
Wadena	52	Staples	49
Wadena	36	Little Falls	66
Wadena	58	Breckenridge	76
Wadena	61	Crosby-Ironton	66
Wadena	49	Brainerd	62
Wadena	60	Detroit Lakes	71
Wadena	69	Aitkin	34
Wadena	66	Park Rapids	56
Wadena	65	Staples	67
Wadena	56	Brainerd	54
Wadena	57	Little Falls	71
Wadena	63	Fergus Falls	61
Wadena	65	Crookston	64
Wadena	52	Bemidji	72
Wadena	59	Crosby-Ironton	50
Wadena	50	Detroit Lakes	54

### 1976 Champions

District 24:  
Deer Creek  
Region 6:  
Breckenridge

### 8AA Sub Sec 2

Little Falls

### Region 8AA:

Little Falls

### Class A:

Marshall U (28-0)

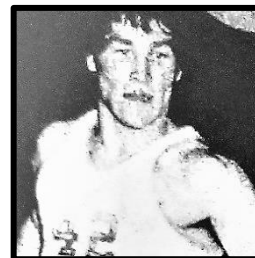
### Class AA:

Bloomington Jefferson  
(27-0)

Effective 1976  
"A" vs "AA" playoff  
discontinued.

### Reggie Hooten

15.0 ppg  
All Mid-State



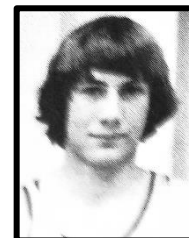
### Jeff Browne

10.1 ppg  
(Honorable Mention  
All Mid-State as soph)



### Bob Messer

(Hon Mention All Mid-State)



### Jim Hamerlinck

(Honorable Mention  
All Mid-State as soph)  
(Moved to St Cloud,  
Jim played for Apollo HS)



Coach  
Lowell Roisum  
1970-84

## Sub Region 8-2 semifinal

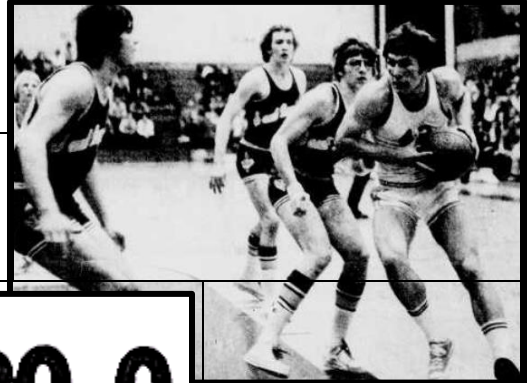
WADENA, entering the tournament with a 9-11 record to Sauk Rapids' gaudy 16-4, had trouble with the Rum River champ's zone defense in the second period after the first canto ended in a 14-14 tie, thanks to three goals apiece by Reggie Hooten and 6-4 1/2 sophomore Jim Hamerlinck.

Sauk Rapids, the Rum River Conference title winner, takes on Wadena in tonight's second sub-regional game at St. Cloud State's Halenbeck Hall, the game slated for an 8:45 start. Sauk Rapids was seeded No. 2 into the tourney, featuring a 16-4 record overall while Wadena, No. 3, ended 9-11.

**Wadena 53**

**Sauk Rapids 52**

Jr Reggie Hooten drives the lane vs favored Sauk Rapids.



## Sub Region 8-2 Title Game:

# Flyers Finish 20-0

**Seniors:**

**LF Rips Wadena, 79-41.**

LITTLE FALLS, in striking contrast to its first round 76-55 win over Brainerd in which it piled up early leads of 17-0 and 23-3 in the first period, trailed Wadena 17-16 after one stanza.

Coach Lowell Rotsum's young Indians worked to a 17-10 lead behind some fine moves to the inside by guards Mark Hamre and Jeff Browne and 6-4 1/2 soph center Jim Hamerlinck.

Cameron got the first goal and a basket by Gary Wolters matched Hamre's hit from the key and drive in goal before Browne drove to give Wadena the lead. Browne fed Hamerlinck for a layup and Bob Messer tallied on the fast break. A three-point play by Reggie Hooten made it 17-10 and things were looking great for the Indians.

L-R:  
Messer  
Wensman  
Condiff



Bob Messer



Jim Wensman



Mark Condiff

L-R:  
Nyberg  
Steffens  
Skalman



Bob Nyberg



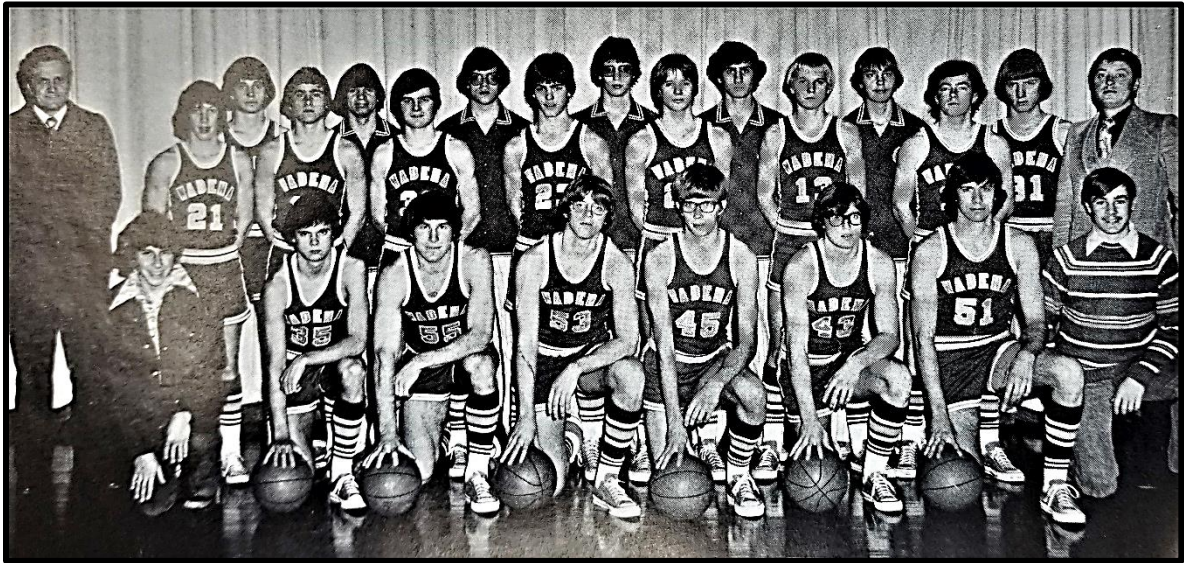
Al Steffens



Bob Skalman

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1976-77



**KNEELING:** Trainer; S.Niska, J. Browne, R. Hooten, B. Sweere, D. Foley, J. Burns, J. Nehl, Trainer; M. Wood  
**STANDING:** Asst. Coach; Mr. Luna, J. Brown, D. Stover, T. Stinar, D. Hammes, M. Conzemius, R. Thomson, R. Hanson, R. Thomson, R. Jackson, J. Dull, M. Hamre, B. Anderson, M. Pierce, R. Tappe, Coach; Mr. Roisum

## Records

Class AA (2<sup>nd</sup>/ final yr)

Season: 10-11

Mid-State: 6-4 (2<sup>nd</sup>)

Sub Region 8AA Sec 2: 0-1  
 (Brainerd 58 Wadena 57)

### 1977 Champions

District 24: Verndale  
 Region 6: Pelican Rapids

8AA Sub Sec 2: Little Falls

Region 8AA: Little Falls

Class A: Winona Cotter (25-2)

Class AA: Prior Lake (24-4)

Effective 1976 "A" vs "AA" playoff discontinued.



**Browne and Foley**  
 battle for the  
 rebound against the  
 Fergus Falls Otters.

## Mid-State All Conference



**Reg Hooten**  
**All Mid-State**  
 15.5 ppg (4<sup>th</sup>)  
 11.6 rpg

**Jeff Browne**  
**All Mid-State**  
 16.3 ppg (3<sup>rd</sup>)  
 6.6 rpg

### Honorable Mention

**Mark Hamre**  
 8.8 ppg

**Tom Stinar (so)**  
 10.1 ppg

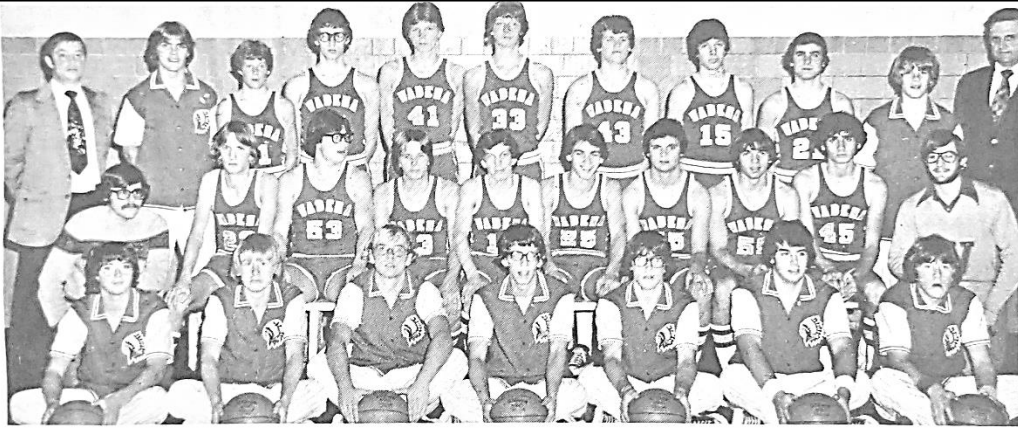


Mark Hamre, Reg Hooten, Jeff  
 Browne and Tom Stinar

**Coach**  
**Roisum**  
 1970-1984



# Wadena Indians Basketball 1977-78



Front (L-R) Tim Wegsehld, Mark Freer, Mark Larson, Craig Wilcox, Jim Heuer, Dan Simmons, Ron Grews.  
Middle: Phil Theisen, scorekeeper; Randy Tappe, John Burns, Bob Jackson, John Brown, Rod Hanson, Jeff Browne, Dean Hammes, Jim Dull, Mark Wood, team manager.  
Back: Lowell Roisum, coach; Craig Walter, Mark McDonald, Russ Thomson, Brad Willis, Ed Christopherson, Jay Olafson, Dave Hunnicut, Tom Stinar, Carmen Walter, Charles Luna, assistant coach.

## Team Achievements

**Season:** 15-7

**Mid-State:** 7-3 (2nd)

Wadena 53 Bemidji 72	Wadena 78 TRF 55
Wadena 61 Little Falls 62 OT	Wadena 83 C-161 OT
Wadena 62 Park Rapids	Wadena 54 Crookston 47
Wadena 74 C-166	Wadena 75 Aitkin 58
Wadena 54 Fergus Falls 44	Wadena 77 Detroit Lakes 68
Wadena 66 Detroit Lakes 52	Wadena 76 E.G. Forks 57
Wadena 46 Staples 50	Wadena 75 Staples 83
Wadena 57 Aitkin 48	Wadena 73 Breckenridge 72
Wadena 57 Park Rapids 58	Wadena 89 Sauk Centre 47

**District 24\*:** 3-0

Wadena 50 Staples 47 (Champions!)

Wadena 81 Backus 44
Wadena 86 Pequot Lakes 66
Wadena 50 Staples 47

\* After a two-year absence Wadena was moved from class "AA" back into class "A."

**Region 6:** 0-1

Breckenridge 70 Wadena 53

### 1978 Champions

**District 24:** Wadena 50 Staples 47

**Region 6:** Breckenridge

**Class A:** Lake City (25-1)

**Class AA:** Prior Lake (24-1)

In 1976 "A" vs "AA" playoff discontinued.

**Coach Roisum**  
1970-1984



### Jeff Browne

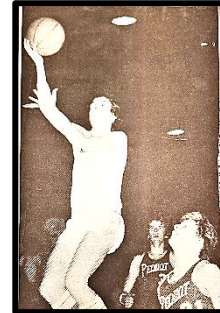
18.2 ppg  
51% FG  
All Mid-State  
WCCO All-State



**Tom Stinar**  
12.2 ppg  
All Mid-State

### David Hunnicutt

9.5 ppg  
82% FT  
(Honorable Mention  
All Mid-State)



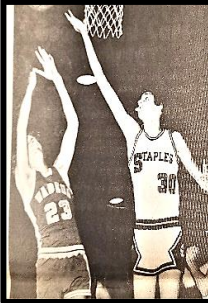
**Brad Willis**  
13.5 ppg  
57% FG  
230 reb  
(Honorable Mention  
All Mid-State as soph)

## Wadena Wins District 24 Crown

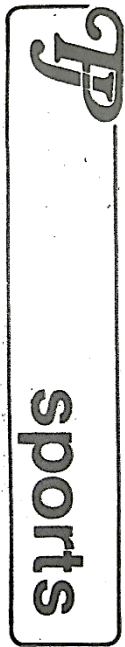
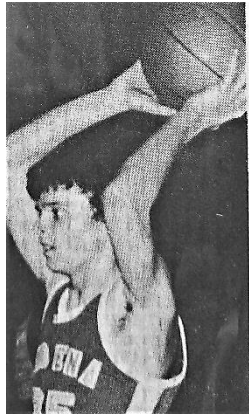
# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1977-78 (cont.)

### Indians nip Cardinals for District 24 title

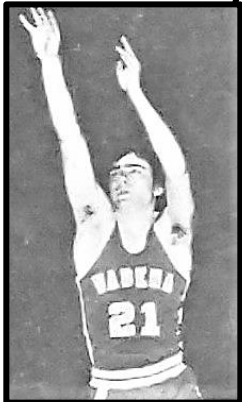
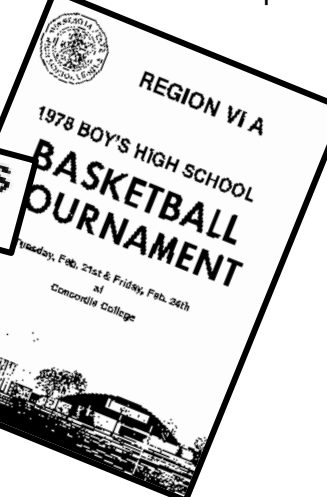


WADENA (50)		fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Tappe, f		3	3	0	2	9
Browne, f		2	8	0	0	12
Willis, c		6	3	1	3	15
Hunnicut, g		2	0	0	2	4
Stinar, g		2	4	1	3	8
Jackson		1	0	0	0	2
Totals		16	18	2	10	50
STAPLES (47)		fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Grossman, f		1	0	0	2	2
Doud, f		5	0	0	3	10
Mergens, c		0	0	0	3	0
Redemske, g		9	1	0	5	19
Miller, g		4	0	0	1	6
Backberg		2	2	0	0	6
Kennedy		1	0	0	1	2
Totals		22	3	1	17	47

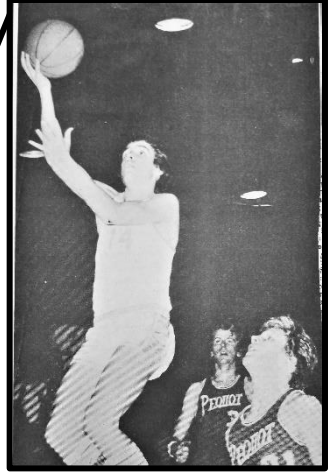


### Wadena wins District 24 title for 8<sup>th</sup> time in school history.

Above, Randy Tappe makes a big basket late in the championship game. Jeff Browne looks to make a pass and he and Tappe battle for a rebound. The Indians win, the nets come and a very proud coach Roisum enjoys the moment with his senior captains Tappe and Browne.



Tom Stinar

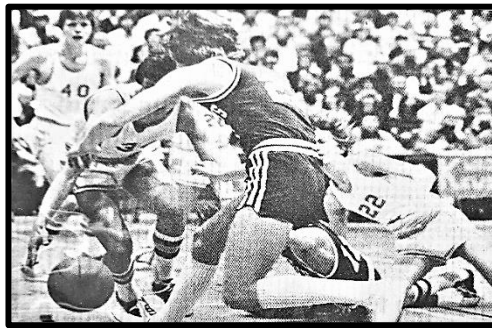


David Hunnicutt

### Breckenridge Defeats Wadena In Region 6A Cowboys Repeat 70-53 Over Indians

BRECKENRIDGE (70)		fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Wessels, f		8	2	0	4	18
Ehren, f		2	0	0	2	4
Ness, c		7	1	1	0	15
Lipp, g		7	0	0	3	14
Yaggle, g		5	0	0	1	10
Burth, f		0	0	0	3	8
Maack, f		0	1	5	0	1
Smith, g		0	0	0	1	0
Tolbert, c		1	0	0	0	2
Totals		31	8	1	12	70
WADENA (53)		fg	ft	ftm	pf	tp
Tappe, f		1	0	0	0	2
Browne, f		7	1	0	3	15
Willis, c		4	0	0	3	8
Stinar, g		4	3	1	2	11
Hunnicut, g		4	2	0	0	7
Walter		2	3	1	0	0
Anderson		0	0	0	1	0
Burns		0	0	0	1	0
Totals		22	9	3	12	53

Browne (34) and Tappe (22) scramble as Willis (40) looks on.



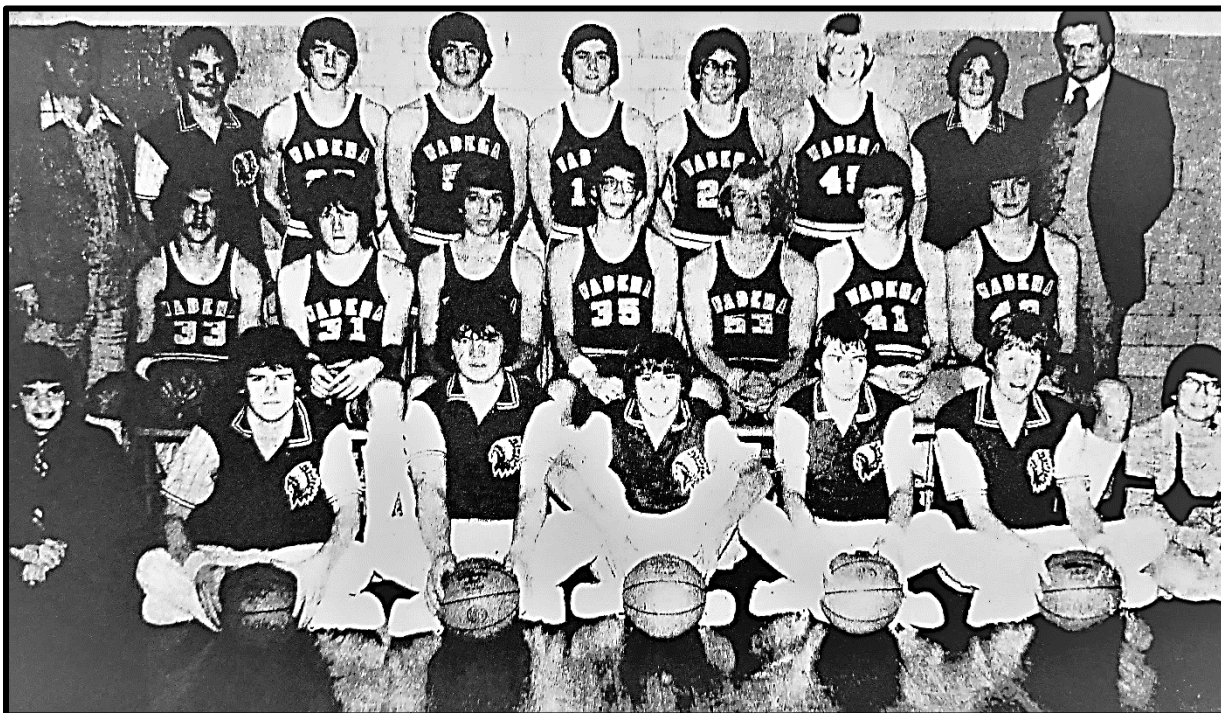
### REGION VI CHAMPIONS

- |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1931 - Moorhead       | 1946 - Crosby-Ironton | 1962 - Crosby-Ironton |
| 1932 - Crosby-Ironton | 1947 - Crosby-Ironton | 1963 - Sauk Centre    |
| 1933 - Brainerd       | 1948 - Crosby-Ironton | 1964 - Benson         |
| 1934 - Moorhead       | 1949 - Brainerd       | 1965 - Henning        |
| 1935 - Crosby-Ironton | 1950 - Alexandria     | 1966 - Henning        |
| 1936 - Wadena         | 1951 - Brainerd       | 1967 - Moorhead       |
| 1937 - Crosby-Ironton | 1952 - Crosby-Ironton | 1968 - Moorhead       |
| 1938 - Crosby-Ironton | 1953 - Moorhead       | 1969 - Crosby-Ironton |
| 1939 - Breckenridge   | 1954 - Brainerd       | 1970 - Melrose        |
| 1940 - Breckenridge   | 1955 - Morris         | 1971 - Melrose        |
| 1941 - Moorhead       | 1956 - Glenwood       | 1972 - Melrose        |
| 1942 - Moorhead       | 1957 - Fergus Falls   | 1973 - Melrose        |
| 1943 - Alexandria     | 1958 - Brainerd       | 1974 - Melrose        |
| 1944 - Crosby-Ironton | 1959 - Hawley         | 1975 - Barnesville    |
| 1945 - Crosby-Ironton | 1960 - Melrose        | 1976 - Breckenridge   |
|                       |                       | 1977 - Pelican Rapids |

Wadena lost 70-53 to eventual Region 6 champion Breckenridge.

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1978-79



Front row (L to R): Mgr. Tim Edinger, Jay Olafson, Ross Tappe, Brett Smith, Kent Visher, Dean Ellingson, Mgr. Gary Umland; middle row: Craig Walter, Ron Grewe, Dave Hunnicutt, Craig Wilcox, Mark Larson, Brad Willis, Ed Christopherson; back row: Coach Lowell Roisum, Paul Schumacher, Brian Becker, Dan Simmons, Tom Stinar, Jim Heuer, Mark Freer, Carman Walter, Ass't. Coach Charles Luna.

## Team Achievements

Season: 15-6

Mid-State: 8-2

Season Record: 13-5  
Mid-State Mark: 8-2

District: 2-1

Wadena 52 Henning 55 (2-OT)

(It is noteworthy that during most of the contest a pail was on the floor near the center jump circle to catch the drops of water falling from the leaky roof of the Brainerd gym.)

### 1979 Champions

District 24: Henning

Region 6: Breckenridge

Class A: Lake City (26-0)

Class AA: Duluth Central (22-3)

Effective 1976 "A" vs "AA" play-off discontinued.

Mid-State Conference	
Boys' Final Standings	
	W L
Crooby-Ironton	10 0
Wadean	8 2
Det. Lakes	6 4
Staples	3 7
Park Rapids	2 8
Aitkin	1 9

**Coach  
Roisum**  
1970-1984



## TEAM Season Records:

48% FG and 68 ppg

## Player Achievements

**Brad Willis**

17.2 ppg (#1 M-S)

60.8% FG (school record)

10.5 rpg

All Mid-State



**Tom Stinar**

12.4 ppg – 3.0 asst/gm

All Mid-State



**David Hunnicutt**

12.1 ppg – 3.8 asst/gm

78% FT

All Mid-State



**Craig Walters**

10.6 ppg – 4.5 asst/gm

(All Mid-State Honorable Mention)



**Ed Christopherson**

7.7 ppg – 8 rpg

# Boys Basketball



Dave Hunnicutt

Date	Team	Place	We	They
Dec. 1	Staples	Home	64	54
Dec. 5	Little Falls	Home	51	55
Dec. 8	Park Rapids	Away	71	48
Dec. 15	Crosby-Ironton	Home	74	77
Dec. 16	Bemidji	Home	77	61
Dec. 19	Sauk Centre	Away	94	72
Dec. 22	Detroit Lakes	Away	66	60
Jan. 5	Aitkin	Home	67	51
Jan. 12	Staples	Away	66	46
Jan. 16	Crosby-Ironton	Away	44	48
Jan. 19	Park Rapids	Home	83	47
Jan. 23	Fergus Falls	Home	72	66
Jan. 28	Thief River Falls	Away	82	57
Jan. 27	E. Grand Forks	Away	48	52
Feb. 2	Detroit Lakes	Home	75	58
Feb. 6	Breckenridge	Away	52	58
Feb. 9	Aitkin	Away	78	81
Feb. 13	Crookston	Home	56	42
Season Record: 13-5				
Mid-State Mark: 8-2				



Brad Willis



Craig Walter



Tom Stinar



**Henning district champion in double overtime win over Wadena**



Alright boys, now or never!



Championship		fg	ft	tp
Wadena (52)		1	1	3
Craig, Walter, f		6	1	13
Christopherson, f		7	2	18
Willis, c		2	0	4
Hunnicutt, g		8	0	16
Stinar, g		0	0	0
Becker, g		0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>52</b>
Totals		fg	ft	tp
Henning (55)		2	4	8
Kawlewski, f		6	2	14
G. Johnson, f		3	1	7
Formanek, c		11	0	22
Greenwaldt, g		0	4	4
Ellenson, g		0	0	0
Thalman, f		0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>		<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>57</b>



**David Hunnicutt**, class of 1979, asked to include a note sharing his thoughts when reflecting on the “evolution” of Wadena High School basketball in the 1970’s. Below are his comments.



*For every aspiring athlete at every level—in every town, everywhere—there is inevitably THE MOMENT. The “moment” is that point in time where everything clicks. There’s a sense of absolute clarity. It all just makes perfect sense.*

*For the WHS basketball teams of that late 70’s, there is no question that our “moment” was when the 73-74 hoops team took the floor for the first time. Seeing that group of guys perform at a very high-level—against some of the best teams in the state—was indeed a turning point for all of us.*

*In a continually-packed gymnasium, we watched Jebb Willis, Rick Grewe, Roger Olson, Duane Vandenberg and Tom Hamerlinck—and all the others—wage war against some of our most-hated rivals (Staples and Crosby-Ironton, you know we’re talking about you).*

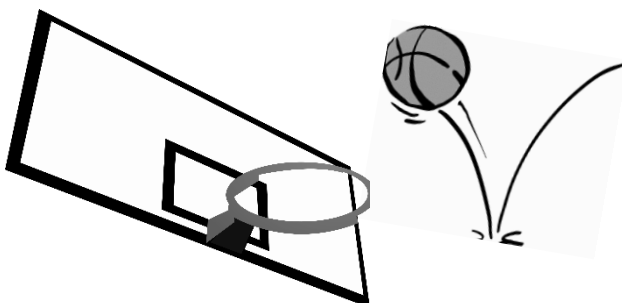
*And epic victories over highly-ranked teams like Little Falls and Bemidji—not to mention Mid-State Conference and District 24 Championships—only help to further solidify the notion that this is what we, as younger athletes, wanted to experience for ourselves.*

*Undoubtedly, for us it was THE MOMENT.*

*Suddenly, playing hoops in the summer-time made perfect sense. Saving your lawn-mowing money for basketball camp was a no-brainer. Shoveling the courts in the dead of winter—awesome idea.*

*As young, aspiring athletes, all you can really ask for is an example and an opportunity. We found that in the 73-74 team. The way they played the game, the way they carried themselves on and off the court, the way they delivered in the big moments—it’s what set the stage for the rest of the decade.*

*To this day, my teammates and I still talk fondly about that 73-74 team. And although it’s never been said, every single one of us are grateful for those guys and that team. No doubt, it’s what lit the fire in us. And because of that team—and their hard-work and leading by example—we were able to make some great memories our own...one’s that have lasted us a lifetime.*



# The 1980 Season

**Congratulations Wadena Boys  
Mid-State Conference 1979-80  
Co-Champions**

**Wadena Mid-State  
Conference  
Record 7-3**



**Willis scores record 43  
in overtime win over SC**

**Boys Basketball**

Team	Place	W	L	OT
Little Falls	Away	44	75	
Park Rapids	Home	49	48	OT
Sauk Centre	Home	73	87	OT
Crosby-Ironton	Away	45	64	
Detroit Lakes	Home	81	53	
Bemidji	Away	65	61	
Aitkin	Away	61	63	OT
Staples	Home	57	54	
Breckenridge	Home	54	68	
Park Rapids	Away	63	39	
Crosby-Ironton	Home	60	49	
Fergus Falls	Away	53	82	
Detroit Lakes	Away	55	57	
Aitkin	Home	48	41	
Crookston	Away	51	53	
Staples	Away	69	64	
Wheaton	Home	52	49	

**Willis wins 1980 M-S boys scoring title**

**Boys Basketball  
Standings**

(final)

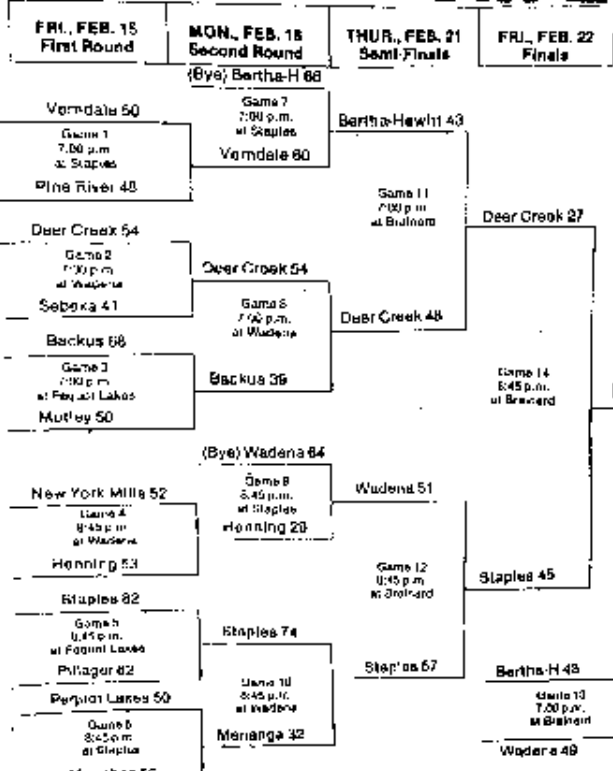
School	W	L	Overall
C-I	7	3	11-7
Wadena	7	3	10-7
Aitkin	6	4	12-6
DL	5	5	9-8
Staples	5	5	12-6
PR	0	10	1-16



**Coach  
Lowell Roisum  
1970-1984**

*Pioneer Journal*  
Wadena, Minn.  
Feb. 27, 1980

## DISTRICT 24 1980 BOYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

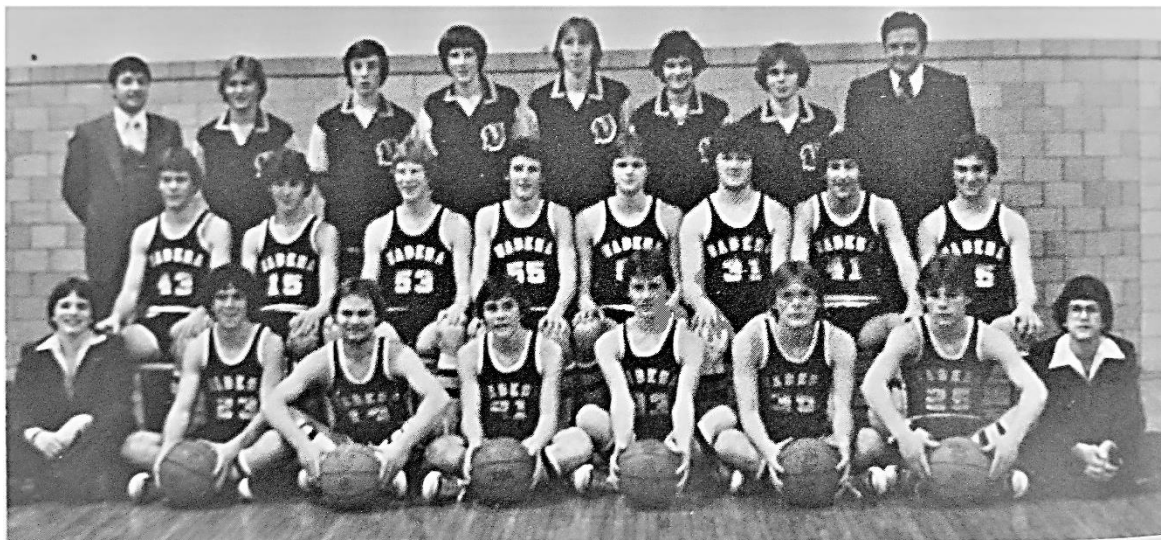


**DISTRICT 24  
Champion  
Staples**

**CONSOLATION  
WINNER  
Wadena**

# Wadena Indians Basketball

## 1979-80



Row 1: Tim Edinger, John Miles, Paul Schumacher, Carey Heuer, Ron Tappe, Paul Freer, Greg Carlson, Gary Umland. Row 2: Kent Visher, John Paulson, Dean Ellingson, Tim Walther, Brad Willis, Ross Tappe, Tim Pavek, Steve Strombert. Row 3: Coach Mr. Lowell Roisum, Bob Pudas, Mark Langer, Mark Foley, Dan Savaloja, Dean Evans, Terry Piepkorn, Ass't. Coach Mr. Chuck Luna.

### Team Achievements

Season: 12-9

Mid-State: 7-3

Co-Champions!

District 24: 2-1

Semifinals:

Staples 57

Wadena 51

(Wadena defeated Henning 10-7, Bertha-Hewitt 41-33, and Bertha-Hewitt 41-33. Wadena defeated Bertha-Hewitt for third place)

School	(final)		Overall
	W	L	
C-1	7	3	11-7
Wadena	7	3	10-7
Aitkin	6	4	12-6
DL	5	5	9-8
Staples	5	5	12-6
PR	9	10	1-18

### Boys Basketball

Team	Place	We	They	
Little Falls	Away	44	75	
Park Rapids	Home	49	48	OT
Sauk Centre	Home	73	67	OT
Crosby-Ironton	Away	45	64	
Detroit Lakes	Home	61	53	
Bemidji	Away	65	61	
Aitkin	Away	61	63	OT
Staples	Home	57	54	
Breckenridge	Home	54	66	
Park Rapids	Away	63	39	
Crosby-Ironton	Home	60	49	
Fergus Falls	Away	53	62	
Detroit Lakes	Away	55	57	
Aitkin	Home	48	41	
Crookston	Away	51	53	
Staples	Away	69	64	
Wheaton	Home	52	49	
Perham	Home			

#### 1980 Champions

District 24: Staples

Region 6: Morris

Class A: Bird Island-Lake Lillian (22-3)

Class AA: Mpls North (23-2)

Effective 1976 "A" vs "AA" playoff discontinued.

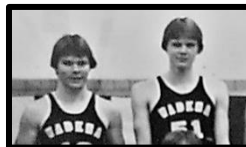
### Congratulations Wadena Boys' Mid-State Conference 1979-80 Co-Champions

Wadena topped Staples 69-64 in the last conference game of the season. Willis had 27 and Visher, Ellingson, Walther and Paulson each added 10.

Brad Willis, who won the individual scoring championship for a second straight year, led Wadena's Indians past Staples as Coach Lowell Roisum's team gained a tie for the title. Wadena had quarter leads of 17-15, 35-33 and 50-49 and Willis scored 27 points to lead the way.

Four of his teammates, Kent Visher, Dean Ellingson, Tim Walther and John Paulson, finished with 10 points apiece in the game which found the lead changing hands 20 times. Scott

#### All Mid-State



**Willis**  
22.7 ppg  
13.0 rpg

**Kent Visher / Brad Willis - WCCO All State and  
MN Select All Star Team**



**Willis scores record 43**

# Wadena Indians Basketball

1979-80 (cont.)



## Wadena rips Henning 64-29 in District 24 quarterfinal. Staples next.

**INDIAN SCORES.** Wadena senior center Brad Willis (50) scored a jumper in the first quarter Monday night at Staples in the quarterfinals of District 24 boys tournament play. He finished with 19 tallies. In on the action are Henning's Perry Peloquin (45), Glen Johnson (35) and Gary Kawlewski (33). The Indians triumphed over the Hornets 64-29 and will play Staples Thursday night at 8:45 at Brainerd in the district semis.

# P

# sports

## Staples eliminates Wadena 57-51 in tourney semis

Staples' Cardinals and the Wadena Indians battled to the wire Thursday in the District 24 boys cage tourney semifinals with the Cardinals winning 57-51.

Staples' Craig Wolhowe proved the difference for the Cards as the win reversed the result of two earlier Indian triumphs.

Wolhowe scored a game-high 18 points and grabbed nine key rebounds to help in the win.

Staples led at all quarter stops: 18-14, 32-29 and 42-37.

The Indians moved to within one point twice in the final session but could not get the basket that would give them the lead.

Wadena's scoring was paced by Brad Willis with 17. John Paulson and Steve Stromberg added 12 and 10, respectively. Staples John Riewer added 14 points for the Cardinals.

**Box Score:**

Wadena (51)	fg	ft	tp
Walther, I	4	0	8

Ellingson, I	0	0	0
Willis, C	8	1	17
Paulson, G	5	2	12
Visher, G	1	0	2
Pavek, I	1	0	2
Stromberg, I	5	0	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>51</b>

Staples (57)	fg	ft	tp
Riewer, I	5	4	14
Wolhowe, I	6	6	18
Marden, C	2	2	6
Miller, G	2	0	4
Phelps, G	4	0	8
Denning, G	0	1	1
Kennedy, I	1	4	6
<b>Totals</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>57</b>

The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat . . .

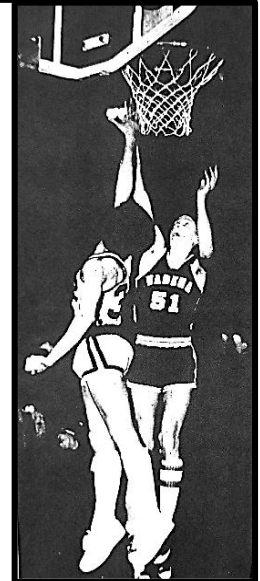


Wadena boys' basketball coach Lowell Roisum

## Willis wins 1980 M-S boys scoring title

# Willis scores record 43 to lead 73-67 overtime win

NAME	HEIGHT
* David Gilreath Marshall U High	6'0"
Brian Hansen Duluth East	6'4"
† Jim Petersen St. Louis Park	6'10"
Chad Sheets Moorhead	6'5"
Ricky Suggs St. Paul Central	6'2"
Doug Kraay Owatonna	6'8"
John Alt Columbia Heights	6'7"
Brad Willis Wadena	6'6"
Paul Voight Woodbury	6'6"
Scott Nelson Kenyon	6'2"
Chuck Walton Fridley Grace	6'6"
Jay Donlin Edina West	6'4"



## MINNESOTA ALL STARS

Willis was one of twelve seniors picked for the 1980 Minnesota Select All Star team. Other selections included future Gopher, and Houston Rockets NBA All-Pro, Jim Peterson and Kansas City Chiefs NFL All-Pro John Alt. The coach was Flip Saunders, former Gopher great and future Gophers' and Timberwolves' head coach.

<b>Head Coach</b>	<b>Flip Saunders, Golden Valley Luthern College</b>
<b>Ass't. Coach</b>	<b>George Palke, Bethel College</b>
<b>Ass't. Coach</b>	<b>Dennis Keihn, Macalester College</b>

# Bonus

## A Look Back (pg 62)

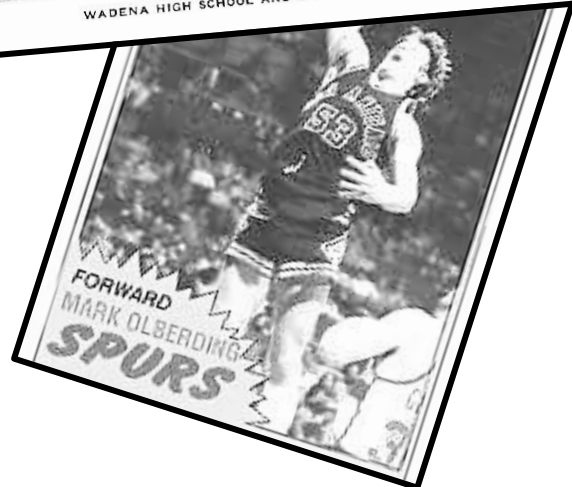
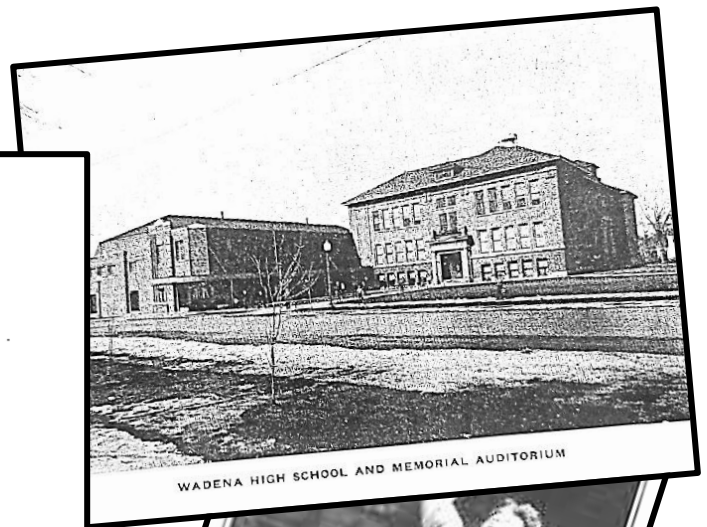
Highlights from "The Scrapbook 1900-59."



## After the Fact (pg 67)

Treasures found post-Scrapbook 1900-59, with recollections by Joe Krause, Class of 1955.

FIELD GOAL SHOOTING		WADENA INDIVIDUAL BASKETBALL RECORDS	
<b>ATTEMPTS</b>		<b>POINTS</b>	
Brown	380 '76-77	Brown	401 '77-78
Brown	325 '77-78	Willis, B	361 '78-79
Willis, J.	324 '77-78	Willis, J	352 '72-73
Olson	312 '74-75	Olson	331 '74-75
<b>Field Goals Made</b>		Horten	331 '75-76
Olson	169 '77-78	Horten	321 '76-77
Willis, B.	155 '78-79	<b>FREE THROW SHOOTING</b>	
Brown	147 '76-77	<b>ATTEMPTS</b>	
Olson	138 '75-76	Horten 120 '75-76	
Willis, J	130 '73-74		
Horten	130 '76-77		
Horten	124 '75-76		
Brown	123 '73-74		



## Stats of Interest (pg 76)

For the number crunchers.

## Fun Stuff (pg 86)

Meaningless matters and reader input.

# A Look Back

Highlights from  
"The Scrapbook" 1900-59

## 1915-16

District 6 Champions

Loses to Bemidji Challenge

Right here it might be stated that Wadena, after defeating Brainerd once on their undersized floor and then defeating Frazee, Battle Lake, Alexandria and some of the small teams of the district, claimed the championship of the Sixth district. Immediately Bemidji challenged them to a game on some neutral floor. The St. Cloud floor was decided on. The game was staged last Saturday night but Wadena had no chance at all. When the time-keepers sounded "time up" the score was counted and Wadena was rather "mussed up" so to speak, the score being 53 to 59 in Bemidji's favor. Tanner made 16 field baskets, all unguarded field shots. His guard, the famed Spencer, was unable to locate him at all. Wadena's forward, Zimmer, made 10 field goals. Johnson of Be-

## 1920-21



Back: Coach Kuefler, Merritt Dodds, Vern Wright, Clair Walker, Carol Parker

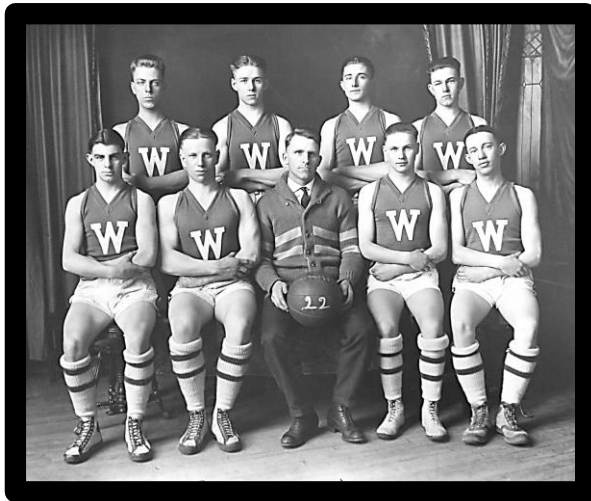
Front: Marion Blaha, Carl McDowell, Harold Kruger, Bill Stevens

Wadena PJ, December 10, 1920

Coach Kuefler's first year

This team was undefeated.

## 1921-22



Back: Bill Stevens, Vern Wright, Maurice Merickel, Carol Parker

Front: Donald McKinnon, Clair Walker, Coach Kuefler, Marion Blaha, Joe Rice

1922 State Tournament Participant  
(Invitation based upon District 6 Championship)

## STATE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL GAMES

WADENA DEFEATS NEW ULM,  
STILLWATER BEAT ST. PETER  
MANKATO JOHNSON HIGH

(By United Press.)  
Northfield, March 16.—Wadena defeated New Ulm in the first game of the state high school basketball tournament early today. The score was 27 to 17. At the end of the first half, the teams were tied, 10 to 10.

1922 State Tournament  
Quarterfinals

Wadena - 27 New Ulm - 17

## 1922 State Tournament Semi-Final

Wadena - 34 Madison - 35 (OT)

Unerring shooting of Hendrickson and the driving game of the Madison five put them into the finals.

At the end of the half, Madison held a 16 to 8 lead over Wadena. Wadena began a smashing attack in the third quarter, and at the end of that period held the lead 26 to 21.

Madison rallied and with one minute to go, the score was Wadena 30, Madison 29. Merickel made a free throw and Tosto dropped in a field basket tying the score at the final gun, 31 to 31. In the extra period Tosto and Merickel, the opposing centers, each scored from the field again, tying the score.

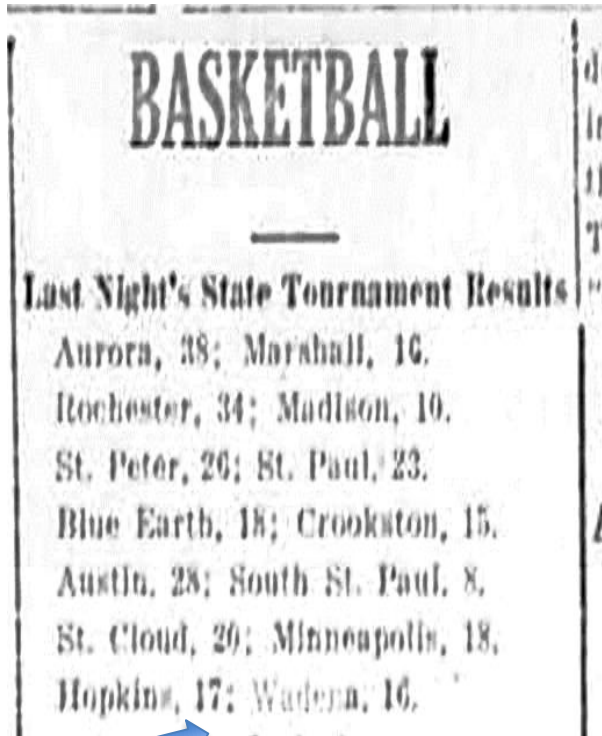
Johnson, Madison substitute, dropped in a long shot from the side line. Merickel made a free throw for Wadena. Final score, Madison 35, Wadena 34.

It was the best game of the tournament, and Hendrickson was easily the best man in the game, and the outstanding star of the tournament.

1922-23

## 1923 State Tournament Quarterfinals

Wadena - 16 Hopkins - 17



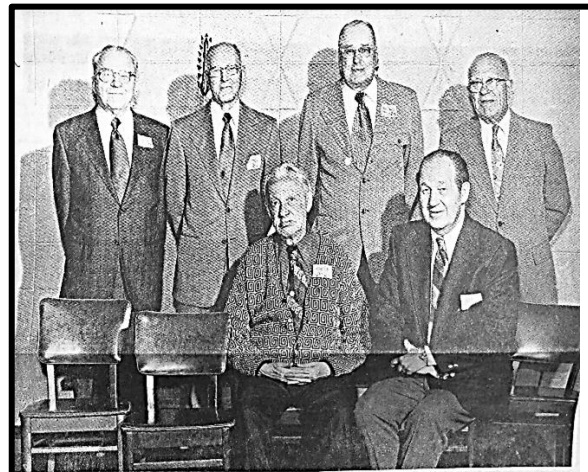
## 1923 Team in 1973



1922-23

## 1923 State Tournament Quarterfinals

Wadena - 16 Hopkins - 17



BASKETBALL TEAM- in 1973. Shown here are Coach Kuefler, Rice and Gus Lehman. Absent was Kenneth Hazzeewood. Carroll Parker, Mill Gaslin, Carl Spooner (standing); seated, Joe McKinnon and Dodds are deceased. (Rex McDonald Photos)

## 1923 State Tournament Participant (Invitation based upon District 6 Championship)

Back: Coach Kuefler, Carol Parker, Milton Gaslin, Carl Spooner

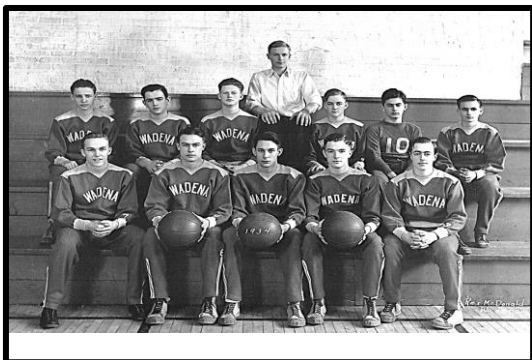
Front: Donald McKinnon, Kenneth Hezzelwood, Joe Rice, Ed Lehman, Merritt Dodds

# The 1930's

## Achievement Highlights

### Teams

#### 1934 Team



District 24  
 Season Record: 9-1 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
 Post Season Tournament: **Champions!**  
 35-20 win vs Brainerd

#### 1936 Team



Central Eight Conference  
 Record: 9-1 (2<sup>nd</sup>)

District 24  
 Season Record: 8-1 (1<sup>st</sup>)  
 Post Season Tournament: **Champions!**  
 Wadena beat C-I 22-19

Region 6 - Champions!  
 25-20 win vs Moorhead  
 26-18 win vs Morris

State Tournament - Runner-up  
 20-18 win vs Sleepy Eye  
 28-27 win vs Buhl  
 26-20 loss vs Bemidji

### Players/Coach

#### Askew 1930-34

Four-year starter  
 1934 All-Dist 24  
 ("Honorable Mention" 1931)

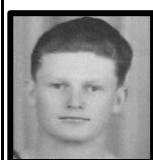


#### Eddie Miller 1933-36

Three-year starter  
 2X All-District 24  
 All-Region 6  
**All-State**

#### Philip Schiller 1933-37

Three-year starter  
 All-District 24  
 All-Region 6



#### Glenn Garr 1933-36

All-District 24  
 All-Region 6

#### Bill Browne

1934-36  
 All-District 24  
 All-Region 6



#### **Coach Anton Chermak 1926-37**

#### Minnesota State Tournament

-1936 Runner-up (26-20 vs Bemidji)

#### Region 6 Tournament

-1934 semi-final loss to Alexandria 20-17

-1936 Champions

#### District 24 Tournament

-1934 and 1936 Champions  
 -1935 and 1937 Runners-up





# 1940's

## Achievement Highlights

### Teams

#### 1943 Team

Regular Season  
Record: unknown

District 24  
Season Record: unknown  
Post Season Tournament: **Champions!**  
33-25 win vs Crosby-Ironton

Coach  
**Arthur Sand**  
1942-43



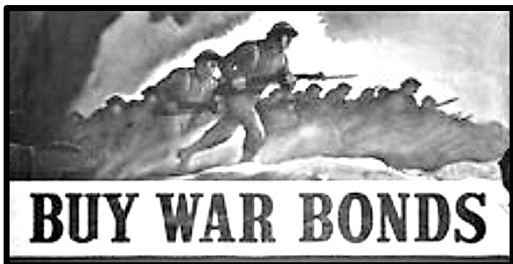
**Wadena Wins  
District 24 Cage Title**

#### 1944 Team

Regular Season  
Record: 17-5

Central Eight Conference (1st Yr)  
Record: 6-3 (2nd-T)

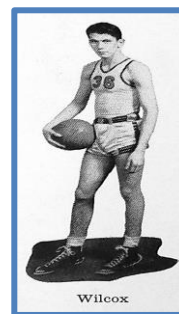
District 24  
Season Record: 8-2 (1st-T)  
Post Season Tournament: Runner-up  
38-27 loss vs Crosby-Ironton



### Players



**Dick Schmitz 1941-44**  
Three-year starter  
2X All-District 24  
All-Conference Central 8



**Bruce Wilcox 1942-45**  
Three-year starter  
2X All-District 24  
All-Conference Central 8



**Bob Hedstrom 1947-50**  
Three-year starter  
2x All-District 24  
All-Conference Central 10

### All-Central Ten Conference 1st Team

Name	Position	School	Year
Chuck Grover	Forward	Bemidji	Senior
Bob Hedstrom	Forward	Wadena	Junior
Jim Smith	Center	Brainerd	Sophomore
Paul Ostovich	Guard	Crosby-Ironton	Senior
Jim Hill	Guard	Alexandria	Senior





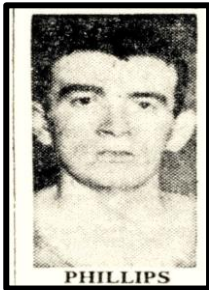
Bob Hedstrom, as a Junior, made the 5-man Central 10 all-conf team. He averaged over 15 ppg. Look at the 10-member schools. Tough competition!

#### Central Ten Standings

	W	L	Pct.
Alexandria	11	1	.916
Bemidji	10	1	.909
BRAINERD	9	6	.600
Wadena	9	6	.600
St. Cloud Tech	6	7	.462
Little Falls	7	9	.437
Crosby-Ironton	6	8	.429
Staples	6	8	.429
Detroit Lakes	3	8	.273
Aitkin	1	14	.067

Read what has been written about Hedstrom in the "After the Fact" section, "The 1950's" by Joe Krause, who saw Hedstrom play.

# 1950's

Achievement Highlights	
Teams	Players
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1950 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Regular Season</u> December 6, 1949 win 61-54 vs Brainerd (22-1 eventual season record)</p> <p>Record: 17-6</p> <p><u>District 24</u> Season record: 8-2 (2nd) Tournament: Runner-up (2nd) 50-47 loss vs Brainerd (Hedstrom missed half of the game due to foul trouble)</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>1959 Team</u></b></p> <p><u>Regular Season</u> Season Record: 16-5</p> <p><u>Mid-State Conference</u> Record: <b>5-3 (1st-T)</b></p> <p><u>District 24</u> Season Record: 7-3 (1st) Tournament: Runner-up (2nd) 73-68 loss vs Aitkin</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Bob Hedstrom 1947-50</u></b></p> <p>37 pts vs Brainerd 12/6/49 (Wadena won that game, it was Brainerd's only loss that season)</p>  <p>Three-year starter 2x All-District 24 Team</p> <p>All-Conf Central 10 (jr yr) (Wadena was in no conference in 1949-50)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Dick Shearer 1953-56</u></b></p>  <p>Three-year starter 2x Mid-State scoring leader 2x All-Conf Mid-State District 24 scoring leader 2x All-District 24</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Bill Gaslin 1956-59</u></b></p>  <p>Three-year starter Mid-State scoring leader 2x All-Conf Mid-State District 24 scoring leader All-Region 6 <b>1959 MN All-State Team</b></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Sam Phillips 1956-59</u></b></p> <p>Three-year starter 2x All-Conf Mid-State All-Region 6</p>

# After the Fact

**"After the Fact"** includes pictures and articles discovered after the **"Scrapbook 1900-59"** was printed. Also included are recollections **"From Joe Krause,"** WHS Class of 1955. My path crossed Joe's when a book was recommended to me, "Life in the Slow Lane" by Wadena native Joe Krause. I loved it and shortly thereafter I connected with Joe. Since we have known each other, Joe has reviewed **"The Scrapbook 1900-59"** and I have read his sequel, "More Memories from the Slow Lane." Another excellent read.

Joe has been an avid sports fan since his youth. He provided me with his thoughts and recollections as he has paged through **"The Scrapbook 1900-59."** Hearing of his first-hand knowledge and experience has been of great interest to me.

## From the Intro and Pre 1930's

February 5, 1916

### From Joe Krause:

So far, I have read the introduction and pre-1920's and the 1920's. Several of the players from that era were people that I knew quite well in the community when I was a young boy but never aware that they were athletes. That includes Harold Parker, Maurice Merickel, Milt Gaslin, Harold Zosel, and Joe Rice.

When I was in the 5th and 6th grades, I played on The Eager Beavers. We practiced in what was called the "Little Gym" or sometimes called the "Old Gym". We had a hard time believing that the varsity team actually played home games against other towns in that gym. The "Old Gym" is described perfectly in the article dated Feb 5, 1916 "talk about home-court advantage!" (NOTE: For those familiar with the old Wadena HS, and later the junior high, it was the band room in the lower level that was the "Little Gym.")

I was going to games with my dad during the years when the school colors were changed (effective 1948-49) from orange and white to blue and gold. I actually remember that the orange numbers were faded and hard to distinguish on the white uniforms.

<b>Wadena to Get New Colors for Next Season</b>	<p>For 24 years Wadena has played under orange and white, but now they have to change. It seems there is a shortage of the color orange. Getting the school out of the dilemma, the student body voted last January to change the school colors to blue and gold.</p>
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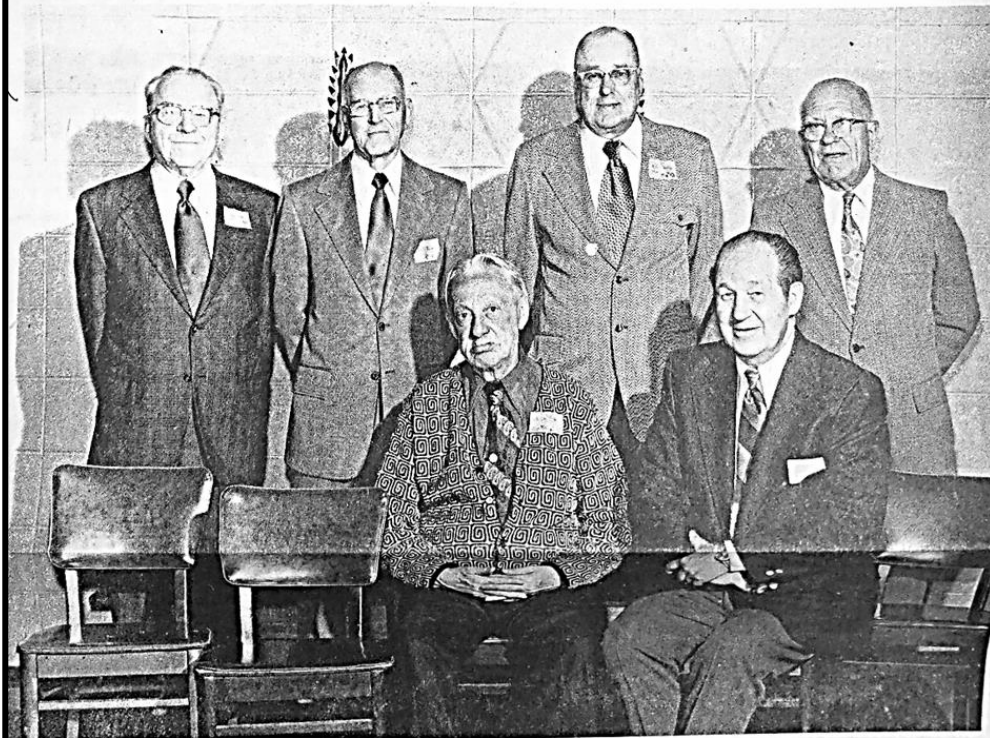
<p><b>WADENA 22, BRAINERD 8</b></p> <p><b>First Game Lost by Local Basketball Team Due to Poor Hall at Wadena</b></p> <p>In a fast, exciting game Friday night at Wadena, the locals were defeated by a good margin, 22 to 8. Wadena enthusiasts say it was the best game ever played at Wadena.</p> <p>The locals' defeat was due to the fact that the Wadena floor is very small and exceedingly low. The baskets were only about two feet below the ceiling and is intercepted by two cross beams and eight lights with guards which protrude about a foot below the ceiling. The seats are on three sides and only about two feet from the court. Thus the long shots which are the feature of the Brainerd team, were impossible. All shots that were made had to be shot from the immediate vicinity of the baskets.</p>
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**After the Fact:** This 1923 Minnesota State Tournament team picture is replicated 50 years later at a 1973 WHS class reunion. Coach Kuefler and the surviving players are positioned as they were in 1923. Empty chairs represent their deceased teammates.



CHAMPION BASKETBALL- WHS team of 1923 is shown in this photo. They are, from left, back row: Coach Kuefler, Carroll Parker, Milton Gaslin, Karl Spooner; 2nd row: Donald McKinnon,

Joe Rice, Merrit Dodds; front row: Kenneth Hezzlewood and Bus Lehman. They met during the Class of 1923's Fiftieth reunion Saturday, June 2.



BASKETBALL TEAM- in 1973. Shown here are Coach Kuefler, Carroll Parker, Milt Gaslin, Karl Spooner (standing); seated, Joe

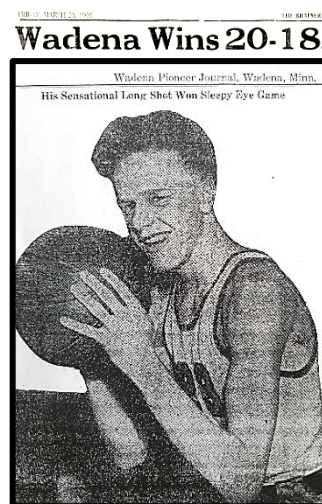
Rice and Bus Lehman. Absent was Kenneth Hazzlewood. McKinnon and Dodds are deceased. (Rex McDonald Photos)

## From the 1930's

### From Joe Krause:

It was probably in 1947 when I was 11 years old and in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade that I looked at the trophy case in the high school. The large trophy for the 1936 state runner-up Wadena Indians was displayed. I studied the team picture and recognized many of the names from families still in the community. Bill Browne was one of them. He had established a restaurant downtown called the Dairy Bar. I actually became a friend of Bill's shortly after I was out of high school. It was somewhat earlier that I learned of his heroics in the opening game of the state tournament.

No one seemed to talk about any of the other years or teams or individuals from the 1930's. Yet, the next four years they were 15-8, 13-7, 11-7, and 15-8 for a combined 54-30. Pretty darn good.

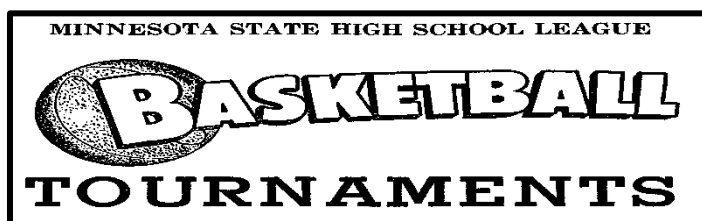


Bill Browne

Ironically, my autobiography, "Life In the Slow Lane," begins with my birth on March 19, 1936 (NOTE: the same date as Bill Browne's infamous shot) and the 1936 State Tournament. The first pages recall events of the tournament and how it tied into my birth.

### After the Fact:

Let's take a stroll down Wadena's great 1936 run towards the Minnesota State High School Basketball Championship game.



MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1936 THE BRADFIELD DAILY DISPATCH, BRainerd, MINNESOTA PAGE SEVEN

## Wadena Dethrones C-I Winning District Title

### DISTRICT CHAMPIONS PAIRED AGAINST MOORHEAD IN REGIONAL

Wadena will enter the Region 6 tournament at Moorhead Thursday and Friday of this week and are conceded an excellent chance of going to the state tournament, barring an off-form night this week end.

The box score:

Wadena	FG	FT	PF	TP
Grogan .....	4	0	4	8
Garr .....	0	0	3	0
Merickel .....	0	1	0	1
Schiller .....	2	0	2	4
Miller .....	0	2	1	2
Browne .....	3	1	1	7
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>22</b>

**Wadena 22**

**Crosby-Ironton 19**

Player	FG	FT	PF	TP
Crosby-Ironton	3	1	3	7
Odonovich	2	1	3	5
Johnson	0	1	2	1
Boel	0	0	1	0
Martin	1	2	0	4
Ruspino	0	0	2	0
Petrich	1	0	1	2
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>

### On to Region 6:

Bertha, Moorhead, Morris and Wadena

### Wadena Pioneer Journal

**Wadena and Bertha Cage Fans Turn Toward Moorhead**

*Three Parties Issue Calls for Conventions In Wadena County*

F.L. Group Will Pioneer, Set To Leave Moorhead

# SPUDS ELIMINATED, 25-20, BY POTENTIAL CHAMPIONS

Moorhead Plays Bertha, Victimized 15-14 in Hair-Raiser, For Consolation Honors In First Game Tonight.

By DICK HACKENBERG  
Moorhead high school's Spuds, eliminated from the Region Six championship race by Wadena, 25-20, last night, take the floor in the State Teachers college gymnasium at 8 p. m. today odds-on favorites to defeat Bertha's scrappy little combination and retain the consolation title they won a year ago at Alexandria.

Wadena's smooth functioning quint plays Morris, victors over Bertha, 15-14, in a hair-raising semi-final Thursday, in the regional final at 9 p. m. Wadena is conceded a distinct edge over Morris in the game which will decide Region Six's representative in the state playoff at Minneapolis next week.

**Silky Passing**  
Wadena last appeared in the state tournament in 1923. Morris never has been an entrant in the Minnesota classic. Tonight's championship battle is expected to be hotly contested but Wadena's silky passing attack should return Coach Tony Chermak's charges the victors by a 10-point margin.

## Tournament Summaries

Wadena 25; Moorhead 20

WADENA	FG	FT	FTM	PF	TP
Miller, f	0	2	0	1	2
Grogan, f	1	0	1	0	2
Schiller, c	1	1	1	0	2
Merickel, c	1	0	0	0	2
Browne, g	4	0	1	1	3
Garr, g	3	2	1	1	3
Totals	10	5	4	3	20

MOORHEAD	FG	FT	FTM	PF	TP
Thompson, f	3	0	0	1	6
Holsen, f	1	0	0	0	2
Gosslee, c, f	2	0	1	4	4
Streich, c	1	0	0	0	2
Sturgeon, g	0	0	0	1	0
Rush, g	3	0	2	3	6
Holzer, g	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	10	0	3	9	20

Score by quarters:  
Wadena 5 14 17 25  
Moorhead 2 8 16 20  
Officials: E. R. Siminski, Long Prairie; Henry Holman, St. Paul

## Region 6

### Semifinals

Wadena 25  
Moorhead 20

Morris 15  
Bertha 14

(If memory serves me correctly, I recall reading that after a bad snowstorm the Bertha players had to "shovel their way out of town" on the day they departed for Moorhead to play Morris.)

## Region 6

### Champions!

Wadena 26  
Morris 18



DISTRICT 24

# Wadena Goes to State Taking Regional Title

The box score:

Wadena—	FG	FT	PF
Grogan, f	2	0	1
Miller, f	2	1	1
Schiller, c	3	1	3
Browne, g	1	2	3
Garr, g	2	2	1
Merickel, f	0	0	1
Totals	10	6	10

Morris—	FG	FT	PF
Veneman, f	1	4	1
Zahl, f, c	1	0	0
Gilbertson, c	1	0	1
Goldberg, g	1	4	3
Haskins, g	1	0	0
Jordan, f	0	0	1
Totals	5	8	6

Free throws missed—Zahl, Goldberg 3, Haskins, Miller 2.

Referee, E. R. Siminski, Long Prairie; umpire, Henry Holman, St. Paul

## Wadena Pioneer Journal

Special Train To Carry Fans To Basketball Tournament

On to the State Tournament!

# CHAMPIONSHIP

# MINNESOTA STATE Basketball TOURNAMENT

**SPORTS**  
St. Paul Dispatch

14 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1936

**MEETS SLEEPY EYE IN FIRST ROUND**

Upset in the regional tournament a year ago, the Wadena high (left to right) are, standing, Assistant Coach Schomer, Gen. Cogan school court made certain of its place in the state basketball. Miller, Browne, Hehler, and Coach A. S. Charnak; kneeling tournament this year and drew a first-round assignment against Merickel, Prettyman and Price. Hats, now shown in the picture the high scoring Sleepy Eye basketekers. On the Wadena squad, will replace Hines on the tourney squad.

## Round 1 March 19, 1936

### STATE BASKETBALL TOURNEY SCORES

**Thursday's Scores**  
Buhl, 41; Edison (Minneapolis), 32.  
Wadena, 20; Sleepy Eye, 18.  
Red Wing, 29; Luverne, 27.  
Bemidji, 36; Albert Lea, 32.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1936

THE BRAINER

## Wadena Wins 20-18

Wadena's Bill Browne (23) nailed one from mid-court, at the buzzer, to give the Indians their only lead at 20-18.



**Browne's Shot Honey**  
Wadena never had the lead until the game was over. The



# Round 2

## March 20, 1936

**MINNEAPOLIS STAR**  
 MARCH 21, 1936  
**WADENA SURPRISE**  
 . . . . . THIS AFTER TONIGHT'S FINALS?



Minnesota Star Photo.  
 Wadena celebrated, too, and the conquerors of the favored Buhl team by a 28 to 27 score insisted on boosting their good-luck token, little Ray Bennett, in victory. Helping with the boosting, are, left to right: Eugene Holtz, William Browne, Franklin Merickel, William Prettyman, Edward Miller, John Grogan, Philip Schiller and Glen Garr. In the front, left to right, are: Jim Schunert, assistant coach and former Edison high player; Ray Zosel, chief trainer, and Coach A. E. Chevrolet.

**St. Paul Sunday Pioneer Press**  
 News of Sports  
 Call of the Open  
 ST. PAUL, MINN., SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1936.  
 Second City Edition  
**QUINT CONQUERS WADENA**  
*Waders Quell Saints for 9 to 4 Victory*  
**MEET BEMIDJI FOR MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL CAGE CROWN**



**Results Friday  
 Championship Round**  
**Wadena, 28; Buhl, 27.**  
**Bemidji, 34; Red Wing, 23.**

These headlines were in the Minneapolis Star and the St. Paul Pioneer Press after Wadena upset Buhl 28-27.

## March 21, 1936

### Minnesota High School State Championship

**Bemidji 26**  
**Wadena 20**

**Wadena Loses Championship To Bemidji High In Close Battle; 8,000 Fans At Thrilling Contest**

**HUTTON PICKS MILLER, WADENA GUARD, FOR ALL-STATE**

Joe Hutton was the legendary basketball coach at Hamline University. In this 1936 State Tournament he was on the radio assisting with the broadcast of the tournament. At the end of the tournament he selected the All-State Tournament team. Wadena's Eddie Miller (28) was selected as one of the five best players in the tournament.






# “The Center of Attention”



The 1936 season was the most successful run of any Wadena basketball team in school history. In fact, the 1930's decade was full of success. The other District 24 Championship of the decade came two years earlier in 1934. One of the senior leaders on that team was center **Russ Askew**. When compiling “The Scrapbook 1900-59” I discovered there was an Askew starting at center for five consecutive seasons from 1929-34. I could not determine if it was Russ Askew alone or not. During those five seasons an Askew (first name unknown) was named to the 1931 All-District 25 Honorable Mention Team and Russ Askew was named to the 1934 All-District 24 First Team. While I tried to determine if Russ Askew was possibly a five-year starter, I looked at a number of factors including box scores. I was focused on points scored. It seemed Russ was only an average scorer. Eventually I noticed a statistic that I was not in the habit of thinking about. See the “evidence” below that may explain the primary value Russ Askew brought to his team in 1934, and perhaps in a number of previous seasons.

<u>March 3, 1934</u>	<u>March 9, 1934</u>	<u>March 12, 1934</u>																		
<p>Brainerd 31 Wadena 28</p> <p>Field goals missed—Brainerd 34, Wadena 35. Jump balls controlled—Brainerd 11, Wadena 20. Free throws converted—Brainerd 5 of 11, Wadena 4 of 15. Substitutions—Brainerd 5, Wadena 5. Time-outs—Brainerd 4, Wadena 3. Technical—One on Brainerd for fourth time out. Points by quarters:  <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>Final</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brainerd</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>10</td> <td>6</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wadena</td> <td>6</td> <td>10</td> <td>3</td> <td>15</td> <td>28</td> </tr> </table> Referee—Higgins of Minneapolis.</p>		1	2	3	4	Final	Brainerd	7	8	10	6	31	Wadena	6	10	3	15	28	<p>Aitkin 19 Wadena 34</p> <p>Score by quarters: Aitkin ..... 4 7 12 19 Wadena ..... 14 25 29 34 Baskets missed—Aitkin 23, Wadena 45. Tip-offs controlled—Aitkin 5, Wadena 36. Substitutions—Aitkin 5, Wadena 5.</p> 	<p>Brainerd 20 Wadena 35</p> <p>Score by quarters: Brainerd ..... 6 9 13 20 Wadena ..... 12 19 24 35 Time-outs—Brainerd 3, Wadena 2. Substitutions—Brainerd 7, Wadena 1. Shots missed—Brainerd 38, Wadena 32. Tip-offs controlled—Brainerd 6, Wadena 27.</p>
	1	2	3	4	Final															
Brainerd	7	8	10	6	31															
Wadena	6	10	3	15	28															
<p><b>Jump balls controlled:</b> <b>Brainerd 11, Wadena 20</b></p> <p>With 9 more possessions than Brainerd, Wadena still lost by 3 points.</p>	<p><b>Tip-offs controlled:</b> <b>Aitkin 5, Wadena 36</b></p> <p>With 31 more possessions than Aitkin, Wadena won by 15 points.</p>	<p><b>Jump balls controlled:</b> <b>Brainerd 6, Wadena 27</b></p> <p>With 21 more possessions than Brainerd Wadena won by 15 points.</p>																		

In the above three games Russ Askew gave his team 61 more possessions than their opponents. Russ Askew looked tall and lanky and I would bet he had great timing and an impressive vertical jump. He was surely a top rebounder as well. I never was able to confirm if he was the center for five years, however, I did discover that his brothers could not have played in the years just before him. Based on that discovery I do believe Russ Askew was likely a five-year starter.



**Russ Askew**

The “center jump” after every basket was eliminated after the 1937 season.

## From the 1940's

### From Joe Krause:

I was just 7 years old when Wadena won their last District Championship (1943). No memory at all of the event itself. In 'More Memories from the Slow Lane', I said "The first game that stands out in my memory would have been in 1945 when I was 9 years old. It was a District 24 tournament game over in Brainerd with Wadena playing the host school." Brainerd won 39-30.

I was in the 4th and 5th grades respectfully in the 1946 and 1947 seasons where they won a combined total of 3 games. I was in the 6th grade in 1948 and old enough to make the short walk over to the high school gymnasium. I remember the optimism about future seasons although they won only 4 games. Bob Hedstrom and Pat Merickel were sophomore starters and often leading scorers. Other contributors included sophomores Ken Jordahl, Chuck Garr and freshman, John Nyberg. The next year, I remember the disappointment in the community when the 1949 team lost the opening game in the District Tournament to Little Falls by 2 points

### After the Fact:



John Fenner, Class of 1969, found his dad's orange WHS letter. Willard Fenner, Class of 1929, lettered in football. Effective 1948-49 the school colors changed to blue and gold as a result of a dye shortage and a student body vote. The blue and gold "W" pictured is from the 1970's.



## From the 1950's

### From Joe Krause:

I remember the enthusiasm in anticipation of the 1949-1950 season. The Wadena vs. Brainerd game is included with 'The Fifteen Most Memorable Events' in the Sports Chapter in my second book, "More Memories from the Slow Lane". NOTE: Below is an excerpt from Joe's book:

were packed with fans. As I recall, Wadena started slowly and trailed at halftime by something like 33-26. Wadena had several three-year starters headed by a 6 foot 3 inch center named Bob Hedstrom. That was a tall player in those years. Hedstrom was a complete basketball player who would dribble the ball up the court against a press, and could take the ball inside, or shoot jump shots from 10-20 feet from the basket. Hedstrom took over in the second half and did all of those things. I remember leaping to my feet on those bleachers with every basket. Hedstrom finished with a school record 37 points that held for many years, as Wadena rallied to win like 63-57. The Sunday *Minneapolis Tribune* followed that Friday game with a headline on the high school sports page proclaiming "Wadena Rises as Region Six Threat". They

NOTE: In that December 16, 1949, game both teams were undefeated. Brainerd ended their season at 22-1. Wadena finished 17-6.

The 50-47 loss to Brainerd in the District 24 championship game that year was a heartbreaker since they had made a great comeback late in the game. I was returning from a game in Little Falls with the St. Ann's basketball team when we heard that they lost the game. There was one other huge win that year and that was a home win over a strong Bemidji team.

The cupboard was left bare for the 1950-1951 season. These next four seasons were the years when I was in high school. Did it bother me that the basketball teams were that bad each and every year? Not that much! As for my freshman year, I recalled in 'Life in the Slow Lane' that "I was satisfied with my playing time". In my sophomore season, I recalled that " My longtime friend, Buzz Gouldin and I usually started together as guards on the jr. varsity team." I hung around in my junior season without contributing because I enjoyed the comradely of being with the teammates and just being on a team.

I followed the progress of the teams after graduation and when I was a student at the 'U'. Of course, I was well acquainted with the players. The 1955 winning streak (NOTE: after starting 0-5 Wadena rattled off 10 straight wins) was amazing and the upset win over Brainerd was a big deal. I did see my first game in the new gym in December of 1955. I was still dating Cathy Campbell and her brother, John (NOTE: John Campbell, the eventual Minnesota Gopher All-Big Ten and All-American football player, and NFL All-Pro in his 8-year career with the Vikings, Steelers and Colts), was a senior forward. The 1957, 1958, and 1959 seasons were similar to the earlier seasons of 1948, 1949 and 1950 that culminated with outstanding seasons that came up just short.

I totally agree that Bob Hedstrom, Pat Merickel, Dick Shearer, Bill Gaslin and Sam Phillips were clearly the outstanding players of the 1950's.

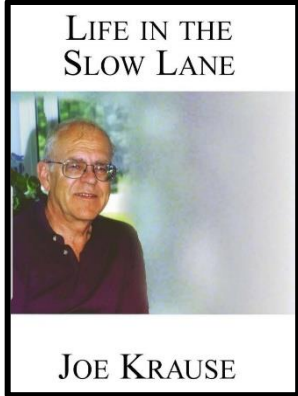
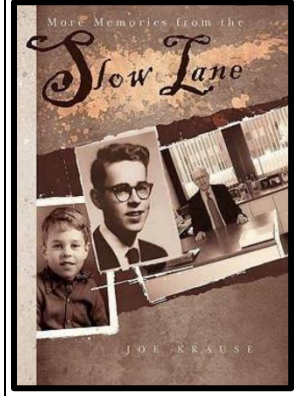
Obviously, I thoroughly enjoyed reviewing and commenting on "The Scrapbook 1900-59".

Sincerely,

Joe

**NOTE:**

My sincere thanks to Joe Krause, Class of '55, for sharing his memories with us. I would encourage any Wadena native to read Joe's books, where the names are not changed to protect the innocent!

	<p><b>Life in the Slow Lane</b></p>		<p><b>More Memories from the Slow Lane</b></p>
<p><b>ISBN: 978-1-4134-4750-7</b></p>			<p><b>ISBN: 978-1-4415-0705-1</b></p>

# Statistics of Interest

I have always been interested in numbers, statistics, spreadsheets and the like. Not everyone is interested in those things but sports fans in general share some degree of interest in “sports stats.” The only real sports statistic that matters is wins and losses. Significant change in any sport makes individual and team statistical comparisons inconclusive. In the sport of basketball significant changes include:

- eliminating the center jump after each made basket.
- widening the lane.
- implementing the three-point shot.
- adopting a shot clock.
- other rule changes.
- change in level of competition.
- etc....



As stated, these and other changes make it difficult to draw any meaningful conclusions about individual player and team statistics from one era to the next. However, it is still fun to look at the numbers from one team to another. And toward that end, I have included some player and team statistics.

Let it be known that my documentation is incomplete and therefore these statistics are not intended to be any official declaration of school records. These statistics are just included for the fun of it. My data are from my compilation of information reflected in “The Scrapbook: 1900-59” and “The Scrapbook: 1960-80,” raw data sheets compiled by coaches Whitey Aus (1964-70) and Lowell Roisum (1970-84), a few player scrapbooks from the 1960’s and 1970’s, and newspaper archives.

Below are team facts and “stats.” Behind them are the coaches’ “Raw Data” sheets.



**Coach to team statistician:**

“What’s my career record here?”

**Team statistician:**

“In your seven years as head coach you have won 32 and lost 119.”

**Coach:**

“All the damn school board cares about is winning percentage! What’s my winning percentage?”

**Team statistician:**

“What do you want it to be coach?”

**“Figures lie and liars figure!”**

**Remember, 5 out of 4 people have trouble with math!**



(think about it)

# Wadena High School Basketball Team Accomplishments








Yr (W-L)	TEAM TITLES			State
	Conference	District	Region	
<b>1916</b> (unknown)		District 6		
<b>1922</b> (unknown)		District 6	State Tourney by invitation only	State Tourney <b>Semifinal</b> Madison 35 (OT) Wadena 34
<b>1923</b> (unknown)		District 6	State Tourney by invitation only	State Tourney <b>Quarterfinal</b> Hopkins 17 Wadena 16
<b>1934</b> (14-2)* known games		District 24	<b>Semifinal</b> Alexandria 20 Wadena 17	
<b>1936</b> (16-2)* known games		District 24	Region 6	State Tourney <b>Final</b> Bemidji 26 Wadena 20
<b>1943</b> (unknown)		District 24	<b>Semifinal</b> Alexandria 35 Wadena 25	
<b>1959</b> (16-5)	Mid-State (t)			
<b>1974</b> (20-3)	Mid-State	District 24	<b>Semifinal</b> Melrose 52 Wadena 36	
<b>1978</b> (15-6)		District 24	<b>Semifinal</b> Breckenridge 70 Wadena 53	
<b>1980</b> (12-9)	Mid-State (t)			
<b>Note:</b>	From the 1930s-50's Wadena participated, on and off, in the Central 8, Central 10 and Lake Region conferences before becoming a charter member of the Mid-State Conference in 1955. Prior to 1955, at times, Wadena belonged to no conference.			

# Individual and Team Stats of Interest

<p><b>1970's Team Bests:</b></p> <p>Record 20-3 1974 FG% 48% 1979 FT % 67% 1978 Reb Off 331 1974 Reb Def 559 1978 Asst 330 1974</p>	<p><b>1900-1980 PPG Scoring Leaders:</b></p> <p>22.7 Willis, B 1980 21.8 Gaslin, B 1959 20.2 Shearer, D 1956 18.2 Browne, J 1978 18.2 Stoneman, D 1964</p>	<p><b>1960-80 FG Pct</b></p> <p>61% Willis, B 1979 57% Willis, B 1978 56% Willis, B 1980 56% Plautz, F 1967 53% Hooten, R 1976 51% Hamerlinck, T 1973</p>	<p><b>1900-80 FT Pct</b></p> <p>82% Hunnicutt, D 1978 80% Browne, K 1969 78% Hunnicutt, D 1979 77% Shearer, D *1956 75% Hamre, M 1976 75% Willis, B 1980</p>	<p><b>*Dick Shearer 1956 FT Streak</b></p> <p>Feb 1 vs LF 18/21 Feb 13 vs CI <b>19/20</b> Feb 15 vs Brd 8/8 Feb 2 vs Stp 6/9 Mar 6 vs LF 16/19</p> <p><b>*Final 5 games: 67/77 - 87%</b></p>
	<p><b>1900-80 30-Point Club</b></p> <p>43 Willis, B 1980 37 Hedstrom, B 1949 35 Gaslin, B 1959 34 Browne, J 1977 34 Shearer, D 1956 32 Shearer, D 1956 32 Phillips, S 1958 32 Browne, K 1969 31 Plautz, F 1968 31 Hedstrom, B 1950 30 Phillips, S 1958</p>	<p><b>1960-80 RPG</b></p> <p>16 Gaslin, B 1959 13 Folkstead, C 1967 13 Willis, G 1968 12 Willis, B 1980 12 Schiller, T 1966 12 Hooten, R 1977 11 Willis, G 1969 10 Willis, B 1979 10 Willis, B 1978</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Rebounding</b></p>	<p><b>1960-80 APG</b></p> <p>4.5 Walter, C 1979 4.2 Olson, R 1975 4.0 Olson, R 1974 3.8 Hunnicutt, D 1979 3.6 Freer, D 1975 3.4 Willis, J 1973 3.2 Oja, D 1968 3.0 Stinar, T 1979</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assists</b></p>	

## Statistical Leaders

				
<b>Scoring</b>	<b>Rebounds</b>	<b>Assists</b>	<b>Free Throw Pct (season)</b>	<b>Free Throw (single game)</b>
22.7 ppg 1980 61% fg 1979 43 pts hi game 1980	16 rpg 1959	4.5 apg 1979	82% 1978	19 / 20 1956
<b>Brad Willis</b>	<b>Bill Gaslin</b>	<b>Craig Walter</b>	<b>Dave Hunnicutt</b>	<b>Dick Shearer</b>
1977-80	1956-59	1977-79	1977-79	1953-56

# "RAW DATA"

From coach Aus and coach Roisum.

## 1964-68 Player/Team Stats

(coach Whitey Aus)

WISCONSIN BASKETBALL STATISTICS					
FOUR YEAR COMPARISON - 64-68					
<u>SHOOTING PERCENTAGE</u>			<u>FREE THROW PERCENTAGE</u>		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WAD</u>	<u>OPP</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WAD</u>	<u>OPP.</u>
64-65	37	39	64-65	57	56
65-66	42	36	65-66	63	61
66-67	40	40	66-67	58	57
67-68	37	37	67-68	62	59
<u>POINTS PER GAME</u>			<u>TOTAL POINTS PER SEASON</u>		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WAD</u>	<u>OPP.</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>WAD</u>	<u>OPP.</u>
64-65	53	55	64-65	1132	1159
65-66	57	50	65-66	1196	1041
66-67	57	57	66-67	1083	1080
67-68	59	60	67-68	1224	1340
<u>HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL POINTS PER SEASON</u>			<u>HIGHEST TOTAL OF REBOUNDS PER SEASON</u>		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>POINTS</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>R.B.</u>
64-65	D. STONEMAN	354	64-65	D. STONEMAN	156
65-66	T. SCHILLER	281	65-66	T. SCHILLER	255
66-67	F. PLAUTZ	281	66-67	C. FOLKESTAD	261
67-68	F. PLAUTZ	313	67-68	B. WILLIS	263
<u>HIGHEST INDIVIDUAL SHOOTING PERCENTAGE</u>			<u>HIGHEST IND. REBOUNDS PER GAME</u>		
<u>YEAR -</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>R.B.</u>
64-65	D. STONEMAN	46.90	64-65	D. STONEMAN	7
65-66	J. FISKUM	48.90	65-66	T. SCHILLER	12
66-67	F. PLAUTZ	56.90	66-67	C. FOLKESTAD	13
67-68	K. BROWNE	42.90	67-68	B. WILLIS	13
<u>HIGHEST IND. F.T. SHOOTING PERCENTAGE</u>			<u>INDIVIDUAL HIGH POINTS PER GAME</u>		
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>PERCENT</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>IND.</u>	<u>POINTS</u>
64-65	T. SCHILLER	65.90	64-65	D. STONEMAN	25
65-66	M. PULJU	72.90	65-66	T. SCHILLER	20
66-67	C. FOLKESTAD	67.90	66-67	F. PLAUTZ	21
67-68	D. OJA	68.90	67-68	A. DAMLO	
			67-68	F. PLAUTZ	31

# 1965-66 Team/Player Stats

(coach Whitey Aus)

WADENA BASKETBALL STATISTICS  
FINAL TOTALS - 1965-66 SEASON

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>WADENA</u>	<u>OPPONENTS</u>
POINTS PER GAME	57	50
REBOUNDS PER GAME	35	27
FOULS PER GAME	17	15
HIGHEST SCORING GAME	81 (D.L.)	71 (STAPLES)
LOWEST SCORING GAME	38 (C.F.)	35 (L.F.)
HIGHEST SHOOTING PERCENTAGE	53% (NEMAGA)	53% (C.F.)
LOWEST SHOOTING PERCENTAGE	31% (C.F.)	23% (L.P.)
HIGHEST F.T. PERCENTAGE	72% (STAPLES)	76% (BRINNO)
LOWEST F.T. PERCENTAGE	39% (L.F.)	42% (P.R.)
TURNOVERS OR MISTAKES PER GAME	14	
BAD PASSES + FUMBLES	9	
VIOLATIONS PER GAME	5	
INDIVIDUAL REBOUNDS PER GAME	12 - TONY SCHILLER	
	8 - LARRY SCHILLER	
INDIVIDUAL POINTS PER GAME		
T. SCHILLER - 13	HIGHEST IND GAME - POINTS	
CAMPBELL - 12	WADENA - T. SCHILLER	
L. SCHILLER - 8	20 - P.R.	
DAMLO - 8	OPPONENTS - BOTHOF	
FIKUM - 7	23 - STAPLES	
PULTU - 7		
FOLKESTAD - 3		

# 1968 Final Player Stats

(coach Whitey Aus)

FINAL BASKETBALL STATISTICS - 67-68

PLAYERS	SHOTS		FREE THROWS			TOTAL POINTS	REBOUNDS		FOULS	BAD PASSES	VIOL.	FUMB. PASSES	FIE UPS	PER. LOSS	ASSISTS	TURN OVERS	GAMES	
	SA	MADE	FA	MADE	REB		OFF	DEF										
WILLIS	187	74	39	79	52	66	200	77	186	75	27	19	11	27	17	46	54	21
STORMOEN	262	92	35	110	69	63	260	52	68	61	16	17	7	24	23	37	40	21
PLANTZ	282	117	41	130	79	61	315	87	118	52	19	16	19	24	13	42	50	20
BRONNE	119	50	42	47	27	57	117	29	45	59	16	17	10	12	15	40	40	18
OJA	238	76	32	79	54	68	208	6	14	41	16	20	11	8	9	67	45	21
JOHANSON	44	12	27	28	14	50	38	7	19	32	9	16	2	12	17	21	25	14
MATTER	37	11	30	32	19	60	44	20	20	14	3	10	6	7	0	4	14	18
FLENNER	37	10	27	9	1	11	21	3	7	13	9	9	4	1	3	11	20	16
ANDERSON	7	3	43	8	5	63	11	2	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	2	8	
FOLKESTAD	7	3	43	5	2	40	8	1	3	1	1	2	0	-	-	-	2	7



# 1972-73 Player/Team Reg Season Stats

(coach Lowell Roisum)

## Varsity Cage Results 72-73

GAMES	REGULAR SEASON FINAL TOTALS 20 GAMES			F. T.'s			(AVE) PTS	10 WINS 10 LOSSES		MINUS			REB BALL	REB	ASSTS	
	SA	SM	%	SA	SM	%		OFF	DEF	5 S	BAD PASS	Viol				FUMB
13 Kshoutek	138	55	40	68	46	68	18.2	21	34	39	12	10	12	11	12	36
17 Willis	238	93	40	79	54	68	18.2	18	63	45	37	15	11	17	16	57
19 HAMERLANK	76	39	51	66	41	62	11.9	40	87	62	13	15	15	34	14	19
20 VANDENBERGHE	158	63	40	79	33	42	15.2	53	80	52	25	15	10	32	9	25
21 GREWE	137	49	36	42	25	59	12.2	23	41	48	31	10	16	29	9	40
17 MERICKEL	16	8	50	8	6	75	2.7	2	9	15	15	6	6	2	2	12
18 VONENMUEHL	113	53	47	44	22	50	12.8	28	66	31	9	8	4	14	8	25
17 WAXMAN JEFF	93	44	48	24	14	58	12.8	15	40	42	7	6	10	11	5	16
15 BROWN	21	6	27	14	7	50	1.9	2	4	6	2	0	0	1	1	12
Beckel Jake	4	2	50	2	2	100	6	1	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
CAYER	2	1	50	0	0	-	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0
Walker	1	1	100	0	0	-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Speed	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
8 Olson	35	11	31	19	5	26	2.7	7	9	9	9	11	3	5	5	16
STEFFENS	2	1	50	3	2	67	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Beckel Mark	0	0	-	0	0	-	0	0	1	2	1	2	0	0	0	0
Waxman Jon	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Wood	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Drummer	1	0	0	3	1	33	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TURNSOVERS - WAONA OPPONENTS - 352 (17.6) - 337 (16.85)																
WAONA	1038	426	41.0%	448	258	57.6%	1110	207	442	354	162	98	91	160	89	263
OPPONENTS	1083	432	39.9%	450	273	60.7%	1131	210	390	370	-	-	-	-	-	-

## 1977-78 Player Stats

(coach Lowell Roisum)

MIDSTATE CONF. 7-3 (2ND)  
DISTRICT 24 CHAMPIONS  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TEAM \_\_\_\_\_ VS \_\_\_\_\_ 1977-78 AT \_\_\_\_\_

### "BASKETBALL PROFILE" STATISTICS CHART

PLAYERS NUMBER	NAME	SHOTS			FREE THROWS			TOTAL POINTS	REBOUNDS	
		SA	SM	PCT.	SA	SM	PCT.		OFF.	DEF.
1.7	JACKSON	29	12	41.5	12	6	50	30	6	15
9.5	HUNWICHT	223	93	41.7	27	22	81.5	208	12	51
12.2	STIGAR	258	110	42.6	65	48	73.8	268	20	33
5.0	TAPPE	96	48	50.0	11	8	72.7	104	16	35
	HANSON	13	1	8	0	0	-	2	2	2
2.5	WALTER	58	16	27.9	16	10	62.5	42	18	28
	FREER	1	0	0	0	0	-	0	0	0
18.2	BROWNE	335	169	50.5	87	63	72.4	401	60	120
13.5	Willis	227	129	56.8	65	39	60.0	297	85	145
2.0	BURNS	30	10	33.3	12	6	50	26	25	45
1.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

# 1978-79 Player/Team Stats

(coach Lowell Roisum)

BASKETBALL PROFILE STATISTICS CHART SUMMARY

DATE: 12/15/78 VS: WARRIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCORE: 62-55

PLAYER	SHOTS			FREE THROWS			TOTAL POINTS	REBOUNDS		P.P.	MINUS			PLUS			
	SA	SM	PCT.	SA	SM	PCT.		OFF.	DEF.		Bad Pass	Viol.	Fumb.	Field Ball	Rebo.	Assists	
VISHNES, KEVIN	1	0	0	3	1	33	1	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0		
WATSON, PAUL	2	0	0	3	2	67	2	0	4	2	0	0	1	0	2		
STINEBAUGH, TOM	247	117	47.8	48	26	60.4	260	17	32	57	41	14	15	7	22	62	
GREEN, JIM	9	1	11	2	2	100	4	3	3	2	1	1	1	0	1	0	
HUNTER, DAVE	232	113	49.7	36	20	55.6	254	13	46	48	43	12	11	3	52	79	
BOWEN, BRUCE	60	25	41.7	20	1	30	51	14	28	14	11	4	2	2	20	19	
GREEN, RON	45	18	27	3	2	67	26	7	17	9	2	6	4	2	17	2	
WATSON, BOB	190	78	41.6	47	26	55.3	222	39	58	89	24	20	11	12	50	94	
WILSON, CHRIS	20	5	25	12	9	53	19	17	21	15	7	1	3	5	5	8	
WILSON, BOB	255	145	56.8	81	51	62.9	361	83	137	44	14	21	20	10	25	27	
CHRISTENSEN, ED	118	70	59.3	30	21	70.0	167	36	111	45	10	14	11	10	12	7	
SEAR, HANK	31	6	20	15	7	47	17	7	7	13	3	7	1	2	4	3	
SANDERS, DAN	14	3	21	11	9	82	15	3	7	6	5	4	0	0	10	1	
LEWIS, MARK	32	8	25	8	3	38	12	11	14	12	9	3	2	1	4	4	
ROBERTSON, JAY	4	1	25	4	3	75	5	3	2	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	
SMITH, BOB	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
FRANKLIN, DEAN	4	2	50	0	0	0	14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TROTT, BOB	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SCHWARTZ, PAUL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>36</b>	<b>63</b>									
SCHOOL	WARRIOR	252	146	47.9	329	200	62.0	1750	309	550	327	170	108	81	62	218	318
SCHOOL	WARRIOR	220	142	64.5	321	182	56.7	1166	277	454	131						

# 1970's Team Stats & Records

(coach Lowell Roisum)

INDIVIDUAL, TEAM AND BASKETBALL RECORDS

BASKETBALL PROFILE STATISTICS CHART SUMMARY (TEAM TOTALS)

DATE: VS: WARRIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCORE: OBSERVER:

YEAR	PLAYERS	SHOTS			FREE THROWS			TOTAL POINTS	REBOUNDS		P.P.	MINUS			PLUS			TURNOVERS
		SA	SM	PCT.	SA	SM	PCT.		OFF.	DEF.		Bad Pass	Viol.	Fumb.	Field Ball	Rebo.	Assists	
1969-70	916	312	34%	407	217	53	836	201	350	354	169	115	90	79	138	153	383	
OPPTS	916	370	40%	483	285	59	1036	192	310	281								
1971-72	1103	373	33.8	477	301	63	1049	240	385	349	161	104	114	116	214	208	348*	
OPPTS	1143	485	42.4	526	296	56.3	1255	235	418	358								
1972-73	1038	426	41.0	448	258	57.6	1110	207	442	354	162	98	91	160	89	263	352	
OPPTS	1083	432	39.9	450	273	60.7	1131	210	390	390								
1973-74	1247	542	43.4	504	281	55.7	1385	275	466	387	142	82	107	169	212	330*	401	
OPPTS	1246	460	36.9	427	248	57.8	1174	228	707	462								
1974-75	1379	568	41.2	413	224	54.2	1360	331*	413	388	153	144	109	136	261*	306	443	
OPPTS	1303	491	37.6	393	233	59.3	1215	282	483	345								
1975-76	1189	500	42.0	444	248	56.0	1248	237	442	411	187	127	129	97	195	145		
OPPTS	1226	57	42.0	455	295	64.0	1329	221	361	394								
1976-77	1219	489	40.1	383	245	64.0	1223	328	482	385	155	96*	100	56	37	166	372	
OPPTS	1132	487	43.0	450	294	65.3	1268	279	375	364								
1977-78	1310	604	46.1	316	210	66.5*	1418	299	559*	353	167	89	87	84	155	171	392	
OPPTS	1304	531	40.7	370	219	59.2	1579	308	467	322								
1978-79	1291	616*	47.7	327	200	62.0	1432*	309	550	327*	170	108	81*	62	218	318	398	
OPPTS	1238	492	39.7	324	182	56.2	1166	294	454	331								

# 1970's Player Stats & Records

(Coach Lowell Roisum)

Pg 1 of 2

## WACANA INDIVIDUAL BASKETBALL RECORDS

### FIELD GOAL SHOOTING

ATTEMPTS			
Browne	340	'76-77	
Browne	385	'77-78	
Willis, J.	324	'73-74	
Olson	312	'74-75	

### FIELD GOALS MADE

Browne	169	'77-78
Willis, B.	155	'78-79
Browne	149	'76-77
Olson	138	'74-75
Willis, J.	132	'73-74
Hooten	130	'76-77
Hooten	129	'75-76
Grewie	123	'73-74

### FIELD GOAL %

Willis, B.	60.8	'78-79
CHRISTOPHERSON	57.3	'78-79
Willis, B.	57.3	'77-78
Hooten	53.0	'75-76
Walter	51.6	'73-74
Browne	50.5	'77-78
TAPPE	50.0	'77-78
Hammelbach	49.9	'72-73
Olson	49.9	'73-74

### ASSISTS

Olson	96	'74-75
Walter	94	'78-79
Olson	71	'73-74
Willis - J.	73	'73-74
Falkner	53	'74-75
Hammelbach	79	'78-79

### POINTS

Browne	401	'77-78
Willis, B.	361	'78-79
Willis, J.	332	'73-74
Olson	331	'74-75
Hooten	331	'75-76
Hooten	321	'76-77

### FREE THROW SHOOTING

#### ATTEMPTS

Hooten	122	'75-76
VANDENBERGHE	121	'73-74
Bell	106	'71-72
Willis, J.	105	'72-73
Olson	105	'74-75

#### F.T. MADE

Hooten	73	'75-76
Willis, J.	68	'72-73
Willis J.	66	'73-74
Bell	61	'71-72

#### F.T. %

HUNNIBUTT	81.5	'77-78
HUNNIBUTT	77.8	'78-79
HARRIS	75.0	'75-76
STINAK	73.8	'77-78
STINAK	72.9	'76-77
TAPPE, R.	72.7	'77-78
HARRIS	72.7	'76-77
Browne	72.4	'74-75
CHRISTOPHERSON	70.0	'78-79

# 1970's Player Stats & Records

Pg 2 of 2

<u>REBOUNDING</u>		
<u>OFFENSIVE</u>		
Hooten	95	'76-77
Hooten	90	'74-75
Willis, B.	85	'77-78
Willis, B.	83	'78-79
Hooten	76	'75-76
Vanderburgh	63	'73-74
<u>DEFENSIVE</u>		
Hooten	149	'76-77
Willis, B.	139	'77-78
Willis, B.	137	'78-79
Hooten	124	'75-76
Browne	114	'77-78
CHRISTOPHERSON	111	'78-79
OLSON	109	'74-75
Willis, J.	108	'73-74
<u>TOTAL OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE</u>		
Hooten	244	'75-77
Willis, B.	221	'77-78
Willis, B.	220	'78-79
Hooten	200	'75-76
Browne	172	'77-78
CHRISTOPHERSON	167	'78-79
Hooten	160	'74-75
Olson	158	'74-75
Vanderburgh	156	'72-73
HAMERLINCX, T.	151	'73-74
<u>FOULS COMMITTED</u>		
HAMERLINCX, J.	82	'75-76
Hooten	79	'74-75
HAMERLINCX, T.	74	'73-74
BRUNINGA	73	'71-72
HAMERLINCX, T.	70	'72-73
WALTER	69	'78-79
<u>BAD PASSES</u>		
FREER, D.	46	'74-75
STINAR	43	'77-78
HUNNIEUTH	43	'78-79
Willis, J.	43	'73-74
STINAR	41	'78-79
<u>VIOLATIONS</u>		
OLSON	41	'74-75
Hooten	31	'75-76
BERG	27	'71-72
<u>FUMBLER</u>		
Hooten	30	'74-75
BERG	27	'71-72
<u>RECOVERIES</u>		
OLSON	81	'74-75
OLSON	76	'73-74
Willis	60	'71-72
FREER	57	'74-75
HUNNIEUTH	52	'78-79
Walter	50	'78-79

**1979-80 Season Stats**  
**MID-STATE CO-CHAMPS 7-3**  
Coach Roisan  
**Final Statistics 1979-1980**  
 12 wins - 9 losses

Qtrs. Played	Shots			Free Throws			Rebounds			Minus			Plus			
	SA	SM	PCT	SA	SM	PCT	Total Points	Off.	Def.	P.F.	Bad Pass	Viol.	Fumb.	Held Ball	Recov.	Assists
24-Pudas*	31	7	23.0	12	6	50.0	20	3	1	16	11	6	6	2	9	6
16-Schumacher	11	3	27.0	5	6	50.0	10	3	5	4	5	1	5	2	5	7
2-Smith	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
4-Miles	3	1	33.0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-Heuer	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
11-Carlson	8	4	50.0	2	1	50.0	9	0	7	5	3	1	1	0	1	1
2-Foley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
22-Tappe, Ron*	17	7	41.0	6	3	50.0	17	1	7	9	7	4	0	0	6	0
13-Freer	16	6	38.0	4	2	50.0	14	1	4	8	4	0	4	1	3	2
54-Paulson*	89	36	40.0	29	19	66.0	91	9	46	39	29	12	13	3	15	52
71-Visher*	42	13	31.0	26	19	73.0	45	7	20	29	30	9	3	1	12	29
57-Stromberg*	80	29	36.0	32	17	53.0	75	26	33	30	9	8	7	9	10	12
84-Willis*	348	194	56.0	120	90	75.0	478	70	184	58	14	19	27	13	42	44
77-Walther*	204	78	38.0	44	30	68.0	186	35	66	51	26	19	11	8	19	33
9-Tappe, Ross*	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0	0	2	0
73-Ellingson*	108	42	39.0	28	18	64.0	102	32	44	51	26	18	12	10	12	51
75-Pavek*	103	46	45.0	77	36	46.0	128	51	47	40	12	5	15	5	14	43
<b>TOTALS</b>																
WADENA	1066	464	43.5	385	245	63.6	1173	284	536	343	169	102	105	55	150	282
Opponents	1230	456	37.1	397	247	62.2	1159	335	413	339						

\* Letter winners

Point Percentage: Wadena, 55.9; Opponents, 55.1

Team Rebounds: Offense, 33; Defense, 67

Turnovers: Wadena, 443 (21.1%); Opponents, 313 (14.9%)

# Fun Stuff

## Opponents of Interest

### Mark Olberding 6'8"

Melrose High School 1971-74

Minnesota Gophers 1974-75

NBA 1975-87

-San Antonio Spurs

-Chicago Bulls

-KC/Sacramento Kings



#### December 1971

Mark Olberding played against Wadena in each of his three seasons as a regular for "The Dutchman." In early 1971 the 6'4" sophomore, Mark Olberding, led the Dutchmen with 21 points beating the Indians easily on the road. At the time no one knew much about him.

## Melrose's Rally Tips Wadena 61-52

★ ★  
Little Falls  
Shades Wadena

Wadena bowed to Little Falls in a Mid-State battle on the Flyers hardwood Friday night 71-55 and played one of its most outstanding games of the season Tuesday night at Melrose losing to the Dutchmen in the final three minutes 61-52.

Coach Lowell Roisum's charges were in the Melrose battle all the way and were ahead of the Dutchmen 52-51 with three minutes remaining.

Mark Olberding, a Melrose junior who stands at 6'7", sparked his team's victory with 39 points and 17 rebounds. Mark canned the first nine shots he took from the field and finished with 18 of 21.

#### February, 1973

The next year Wadena traveled to Melrose late in the season. Olberding was now 6'7" and every basketball fan in the state knew of him. The Indians put up a good fight. With Wadena leading 52-51 with 3 minutes remaining, Olberding (39 points, on 18/21 FG, and 17 rebounds) and the Dutchman scored the last 10 points of the game.

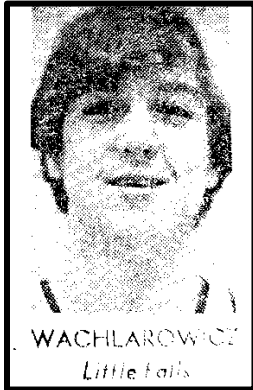
#### March, 1974

In the Region 6 semifinals Wadena (19-2) drew #1 Class "A" Melrose (21-0). Olberding got into early foul trouble, but Wadena was unable to capitalize. The Dutchmen won 52-36 behind Olberding's 18 points. Melrose went on to claim the state title and finish 27-0.

# Frank Wachlarowicz 6'5"

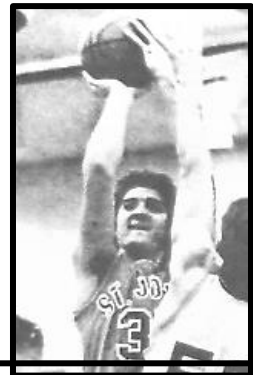
Little Falls 1973-75

St. John's University 1975-79



Frank Wachlarowicz, aka "Frankie Alphabet," was 6'5" and built like a lineman. He competed against Mid-State Conference opponent Wadena four times in two years. He and his team were 3-1 against the Indians. His best effort in those games was in the first 1974 encounter when he dropped in 35 points. The lone loss was in meeting #2 of 1974 when Wadena won the game and the Mid-State Conference, with the Flyers finishing second. In 1975 Little Falls won twice as Wadena finished second and Little Falls not only won the conference, but they won the state championship as well.

The above facts are impressive, but not the reason Mr. Wachlarowicz is included in this "Opponents of Interest" section. The main reason is because after his four years as a star on the Division III St. John's University basketball team, he had accumulated more points than any other Minnesota collegiate basketball player ever. At any level, Division I, II or III. He amassed 2,357 points. His scoring record stood for 39 years, from 1979-2018. Division II St. Cloud State player Gage Davis is the new record holder with 2,599 points.



## **Frank Wachlarowicz** **The leading scorer in the history of** **Minnesota collegiate basketball**

A native of Little Falls, Minn., Frank Wachlarowicz rewrote the record books at Saint John's including most career rebounds and free throws. Wachlarowicz had stunning career numbers for the Johnnies with 2,357 points, a Minnesota collegiate record at all divisions. His impressive play on offense and defense led Saint John's to four straight berths into the NAIA

# Brady Lipp

Breckenridge 1975-78

North Dakota State University 1978-81

Brady Lipp comes from a basketball family. His dad, Steve Lipp, was the head coach in Breckenridge for many years and enjoyed much success with Region 6 titles in 1976, 1978 and 1979. The Cowboys played Wadena in a few games over the years but the biggest for Wadena was in the 1978 Region 6 semifinals.



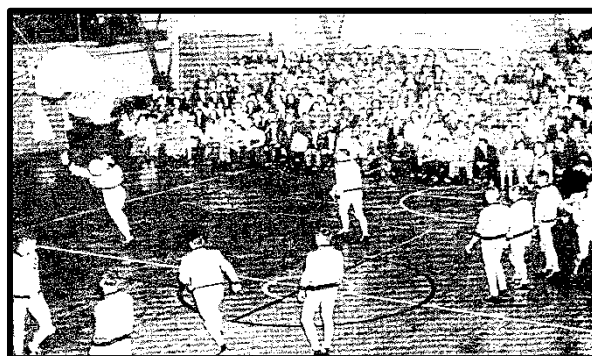
Lipp's collegiate career was very successful at NDSU where he was a member of the 1,000-point club and is a 2005 "Bison Hall of Fame" inductee. He earned numerous awards and set many records, but I will only mention one. In his junior year he set the school and North Central Conference record for free-throw accuracy. He made over 97% of his free-throw attempts! To any knowledgeable basketball fan that is an unheard-of number. And so it is, this skill set of Brady Lipp that earns him inclusion into the "Opponents of Interest" section.

In 2003 Mr. Lipp attended the "NCAA Final Four" tournament. In addition to the college basketball games at night there are many activities going on during the daytime. One such activity that year was the **NCAA Final Four Fans' Hoop Shoot Free-Throw Contest**. Brady Lipp entered the contest. He won. He made 266 free throws in a row before finally missing. Impressive!

## The Last Word

I am sure there are other worthy "opponents of interest" that should have been included here but these three are the only ones I could think of based on my first-hand knowledge and research.

Add the names of any other "Opponents of Interest" that you would include. For example:



### Opponents of Interest:

**Dick Bremer** - Staples Class of '74, Minnesota Twins TV announcer 1983 to present (2020).





# FAMILY FOOTPRINT

For the “Family Footprint” section I will most certainly overlook Wadena families whose “footprint” on Wadena High School boys’ basketball should have been included. I have tried to identify families whose members have contributed to WHS boys’ basketball for periods of time spanning multiple decades. I have relied on the research I have done, going back to “The Scrapbook 1900-59” and continuing with “The Scrapbook 1960-80.” To allow for my oversight I have left an area at the end of this section for you to add any families whom have left their footprint on Wadena basketball.

## The Zosel Footprint

It is worth noting that from 1924-70 there were sixteen Wadena basketball teams that included at least one Zosel, and at least one of those teams competed in each of the six decades represented during that time. Additionally, **Robert Zosel** was the official scorer at the boys’ basketball games, replacing his uncle **Ray Zosel\*** in 1948. His tenure covered four decades, ending in the late 1970’s.

Many of the Zosels participated in the early years of the 1900’s. First names, stats and records were sparse. The Zosel footprint was huge.

<u>1920-30’s 8 teams</u>	<u>1940-70’s 8 teams</u>
1924-25 Zosel, Harold 1925-26 Zosel, Harold & Leland 1926-27 Zosel, Harold 1928-29 Zosel 1929-30 Zosel (2) 1930-31 Zosel 1931-32 Zosel	1946-47 Zosel 1954-55 Zosel, Tom 1955-56 Zosel, Tom 1959-60 Zosel, John & Dave 1960-61 Zosel, John & Dave 1961-62 Zosel, Dave 1968-69 Zosel, Bobby 1960-70 Zosel, Bobby
<div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="margin-top: 10px;"><b>Wadena High School Basketball Official Timekeeper 1948-1976</b></p> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p style="margin: 0;"><b>Robert Zosel</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;"><b>Intramural Champ!</b></p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;">  </div> </div>

\*Ray Zosel was listed as the “Chief Trainer” on the 1935-36 State Tournament runner-up team.

### **The Browne Footprint**

From 1933-78 Wadena High School basketball saw five Brownes play on eleven teams in four different decades. **Bill** (1933-36) hit a mid-court game winning basket against Sleepy Eye in the quarterfinals of the 1936 Minnesota High School State Tournament. The Indians went on to lose to Bemidji in the championship game. Read more about that tournament in the “After the Fact” section, on page 69.

The other Brownes included Bill’s brothers **Don** (1938-39) and **Jack** (1941-43) as well as Jack’s sons **Kip** (1967-69) and **Jeff** (1975-78). Team accomplishments during their participation include:

- 1936 District 24 title (Bill)
- 1936 Region 6 title (Bill)
- 1936 State Runner-up (Bill)
- 1943 District 24 title (Jack)
- 1978 District 24 title (Jeff)

### **The Merickel Footprint**

Thirteen teams from 1919-1974 included a Merickel. **Maurice Sr.** (1919-22), **Franklin** (1933-36), **Pat** (Maurice Jr.) (1947-50), **Ted** (1953-55), and **Tommy** (1972-74). That is five Merickels playing in six decades. Team accomplishments during their participation include:

- 1922 State Tournament (Maurice)
- 1934 District 24 title (Franklin)
- 1936 District 24 title (Franklin)
- 1936 Region 6 titles (Franklin)
- 1936 State Runner-up (Franklin)
- 1974 Mid-State Conference title (Tommy)
- 1974 District 24 title (Tommy)

### **The Schiller Footprint**

Ten teams in three decades included one or more of the five Schillers that played from 1933-66. **Phil** (1933-36), **Paul** (1936-39), **Bob** (1945-46) and Phil’s sons Tony (1963-66) and twin brother **Larry** (1964-66). Team accomplishments during their participation include:

- 1934 District 24 title (Phil)
- 1936 District 24 title (Phil)
- 1936 Region 6 title (Phil)
- 1936 State Runner-up (Phil)

### **The Willis Footprint**

**Harold Willis** came to Wadena in 1955 and was the head basketball coach through 1964. Harold had three sons, **Greg** (1967-69), **Jebb** (1971-74) and **Brad** (1977-80) that all played for the Indians. Counting coach Willis this family was represented on eighteen teams covering four decades. Team accomplishments during their participation include:

- 1959 Mid-State Conference title (Harold)
- 1974 Mid-State Conference title (Jebb)
- 1974 District 24 title (Jebb)
- 1978 District 24 title (Brad)
- 1980 Mid-State Conference title (Brad)

# The Last Word

The space below is for you the reader to add any families and details that you feel should be included, based on your own criteria. For example:

## Family Footprints:

### **The Tappe Footprint**

Lloyd Tappe (1950-52) and brother George (1955-57) played in the 1950's. Lloyd's sons Rick (1973-75), Randy (1976-78), Ross (1978-80) and Ron (1979-80) placed at least one Tappe on the Wadena Indians basketball teams for seven consecutive seasons through 1980.

1974 Mid-State Conference title (Rick)

1974 District 24 title (Rick)

1978 District 24 title (Randy)

1980 Mid-State Conference title (Ross and Ron)

### **The Gaslin Footprint**





Milt Gaslin (1921-23) and sons Ted (1948-50) and Bill (1956-59) played on seven teams spanning a period of almost four decades.

1923 State Tournament (Milt)

1959 Mid-State Conference title (Bill)


# Cream of the Crop


One last meaningless but fun thing to do. If I had to pick an all-star team of Wadena High School players that played between 1900-1980, I know who four of the five would be. I have listed those four and left the 5<sup>th</sup> spot open for you to fill in. I offer possible choices to consider but you might have someone else in mind. Or you may want to start from scratch and pick your own five, or ten, or whatever number you want.

 <p><b>Bob Hedstrom</b> 6'3" Class of 1950</p>	 <p><b>Bill Gaslin</b> 6'2" Class of 1959</p>
 <p><b>Jeff Browne</b> 6'0" Class of 1978</p>	 <p><b>Brad Willis</b> 6'5" Class of 1980</p>


## The Last Word

Pick the 5<sup>th</sup> player or start from scratch:






**1930's**



**1940-50's**



**1960-70's**

Below are some possible selections for that 5<sup>th</sup> spot:

<p><b>1930's</b> Russ Askew Eddie Miller Bill Browne Phil Schiller Glen Garr</p> <p><b>1940's</b> Dick Schmitz Bruce Wilcox</p> <p><b>1950's</b> Dick Shearer Sam Phillips</p>	<p><b>1960's</b> Don Stoneman Tony Schiller Francis Plautz Greg Willis Kip Browne</p> <p><b>1970's</b> Jebb Willis Roger Olson Reggie Hooten</p>	<p><b>Or make your own list:</b></p> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> <hr style="border: 0; border-top: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/>
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January 7, 2020

Researching the first eighty years of Wadena High School basketball has truly been a labor of love. This "Scrapbook 1960-80" will conclude my efforts to document its past. The primary reason for this is because online research was not an option for the years of the late 1970's and beyond. The convenience of conducting research from the comfort of my recliner is what made this project possible.

In addition to the online research conducted for the past two years I was also able to connect with WHS alums from four decades covering the 1950's-80's. Some have provided their memories while others provided access to their own scrapbooks and some have provided financial assistance toward the cost of producing this scrapbook. I thank them all for their unconditional generosity.

Before I bring this project to a close I would like address one last issue, and that is moving from a one-class to a two-class state tournament and currently a four-class format. Speaking as a fan of high school basketball (and not as a coach or a parent), at the end of a season I would like to know who has the best team in the state. In the last five years of the 1960-80 seasons basketball fans were denied knowing who had the best team. The sixteen seasons from 1960-75 saw the best teams in the state to include Edgerton (1960), Marshall (1963), Luverne (1964), Sherburn (1970), St. James (1972), Melrose (1974) and Little Falls (1975).

To increase interest and excitement for Minnesota high school basketball at tournament time consider this simple proposal. "The Minnesota High School Basketball Final Four." Keep the four-class format, but one week after those champions are crowned have a tournament with the class A vs 2A winner taking on the class 3A vs 4A winner in a "Final Four" title game. This would guarantee a "David vs Goliath" matchup in the championship game. Plus, we find out who has the best team. If you doubt my proposal re-read the previous paragraph. Seven smaller schools were the state champs in a sixteen-year stretch. My guess is the kids from each team would jump at the opportunity to participate.

I know my idea will never come to be, but I think it would be great fun. I would attend.

The defense rests.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jebb Willis". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jebb Willis