

Wadena Indians Basketball



The Orangemen

“The Scrapbook”

1900-1959

Dual Dedication



My father, **Harold Willis**, was a head basketball coach (1955-64) and a history teacher (1955-1985) at Wadena High School. I grew up loving the game of basketball. He would be happy to know that I eventually grew up to appreciate the importance of documenting the past.



Bob Zosel was, among other things, the great local historian of Wadena. I was lucky enough to have played basketball for Wadena High School in the early 1970's at which time Mr. Zosel was in charge of running the game clock, the scoreboard and "the horn." When coach said to get back in the game one would promptly approach the scorer's table. Once acknowledged by Mr. Zosel the player would sit and wait for a dead ball so the horn could be sounded and the substitution made. While waiting to get back into the game it was typical for Mr. Zosel to offer a few words of encouragement.

I wish they were both still here to have helped me assemble "The Scrapbook."*

It is worth noting that from 1924-56 there were ten Wadena basketball teams that included at least one Zosel, and at least one of those teams competed in each of the four decades represented during that time. This fact, and much of what I discovered, could not have been uncovered without the help of the Wadena County Historical Society.

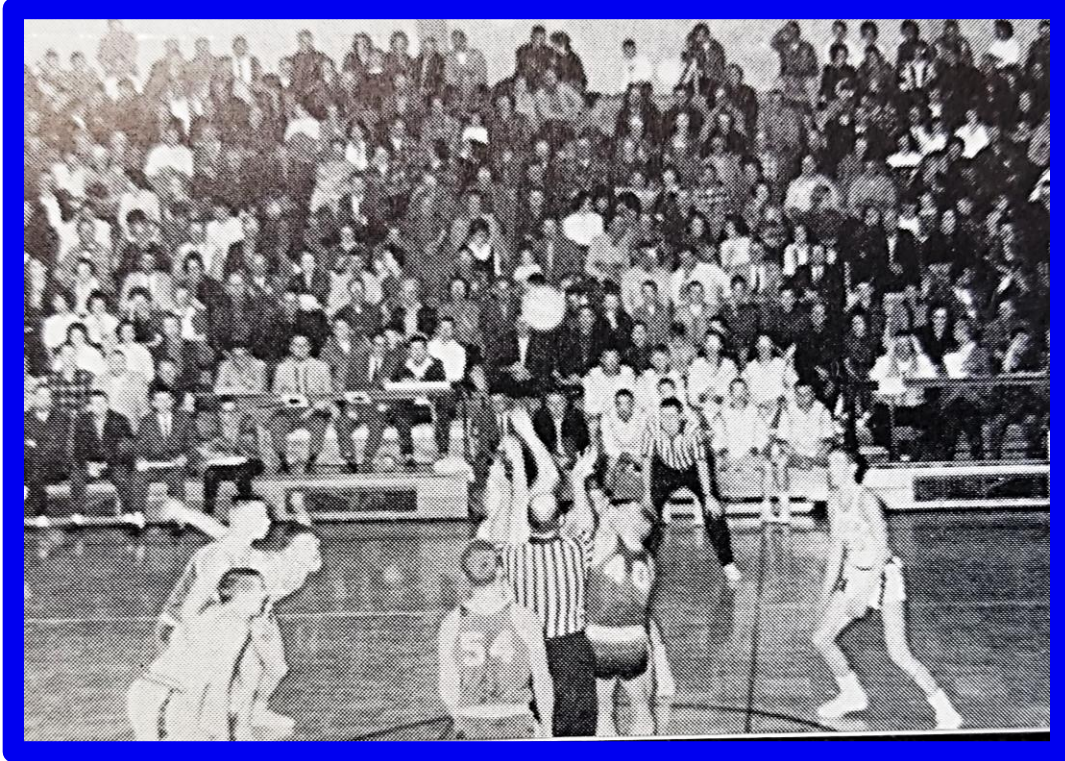
Jebb Willis
Class of 1974

***Information Sources:**

"The Scrapbook" contents came primarily from:

- The Brainerd Daily Dispatch (via: newspapearchives.com)
- Pictures and Wadena PJ articles: The Wadena County Historical Society

Wadena Indians Basketball



“The Scrapbook”

1900-1959

2019

The Beginning

Wadena Indians basketball started around the turn of the century, the exact year was not determined. The Wadena High School 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 1980's when the Wadena and Deer Creek school districts merged the new WDC athletic teams' nickname was changed to the "Wolverines."

Wadena High School Colors

Until the late 1940's the Wadena Indians were often referred to as the "Orangemen." Dating back to 1925 the Wadena school colors were orange and white. However, because of a shortage of dye needed to make the color orange they chose to switch their colors effective the 1948-49 school year. The student body voted and blue and gold were selected as the new school colors. The "Orangemen" ceased to exist.

Out with the Old	1948-49
1947-48	In with the New

The pages that follow are about the history of Wadena basketball, by decade, from the early 1900's through the 1950's. An attempt has been made to identify the coaches, the conferences and other affiliations, and the teams themselves. Rosters, records, team and individual achievements are provided where possible. Accuracy has been a goal but cannot be guaranteed. Feedback to provide missing information, or to point out inaccurate information, is encouraged. Old team, game action and individual player photos would also be appreciated. This document will be updated as needed.

My primary sources of information have been the online archives of the Brainerd Daily Dispatch and resources found at the Wadena County Historical Society.

You may contact me at: jebbwillis1955@gmail.com

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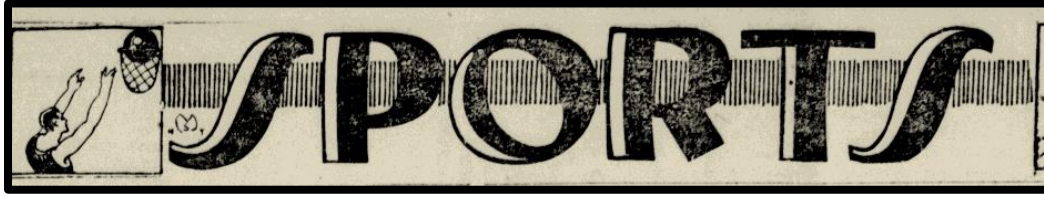
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Bits and Pieces



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1922 and 1923 State Basketball Tournament

1924-25 District 6 becomes District 11

District 11 Tournament Results 1925-29

1927-28 All-District 11 First Team

Coaches (confirmed dates)

-Mr Otte (1919-20)

-Mr Kuefler (1920-23)

-Mr Vos (1924-25)

-Mr Rosenberger (1925-27)

-Mr Chermak (1927-1937)

Pre-1920's

Misc Articles and Notes of Interest

1900-09

1905: Boys and Girls Teams

This was the oldest article I found relating to any high school basketball in central Minnesota. As you can see Little Falls and Staples had both boys' and girls' teams.

The boys' and girls' basketball team of Little Falls high school played the boys' and girls' team of the Staples high school last night the latter winning in both cases. The girls' score was 7 to 9, the boys' score was 16 to 14. Both games were close. Montgomery, center of Staples, played the star game of the evening.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch, January 31st, 1905

It was newsworthy in 1905 that the Aitkin basketball team traveled (presumably by train) through Brainerd on its way to Staples.

The Aitkin basketball team passed through the city this afternoon en route to Staples where they will play this evening.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch, March 11, 1905

This 1912 photo is from the Wadena County Historical Society.



Miller, Pansy basketball team

1910-19

This Feb 24, 1914 article, is the first news I discovered involving Wadena basketball.

Wadena 28 Brainerd 15

Wadena defeated Brainerd in the recent basketball game at the local high school auditorium, the score being 28 to 15. Brainerd was handicapped by the loss of a player and furthermore had undervated the strength of Wadena. Brainerd made 7 points before Wadena scored. This Friday evening Walker will play Brainerd at the local school auditorium.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch, February 24, 1914

1914 District 6 Championship

AITKIN 39, WADENA 8

Basketball Championship of the Sixth District Won by the Aitkin Team Last Night

PLAY A FAST, GLASSY GAME

Aitkin Now Eligible to Enter the State Tournament at Carlton College, Northfield

Playing fast, aggressive basketball, Aitkin defeated Wadena here 39 to 8, winning the championship of the sixth congressional district and qualifying to enter the state tournament at Carlton college, Northfield, March 20 and 21. This makes twelve straight victories for the Aitkin high school team.

Brainerd Daily Dispatch, March 14, 1914

SEE NEXT PAGE - (cont 1)

Misc Articles and Notes of Interest

1910-19 (cont 1)

Roster

The Wadena team consisted of Kennedy right forward, L. Lund left forward, Hutchins center, Stevens left guard, E. Lund right guard. The coach of the Wadena team played three substitutes in the second half, Jmet, Zimmermann and Kingsley, but they could not stem the tide. The

Aitkin 39 vs Wadena 8

1914 District 6 Championship

ROSTER: Hutchins, Kennedy, Lund, E., Lund, L., Kingsley, Stevens, Zimmerman and Joset.

Jan 9, 1915

BRAINERD BEATS WADENA

Triumphs Over Wadena High by 24 to 20 Score on Friday Evening

Brainerd high school triumphed over their rivals from Wadena last night in a game which kept the spectators breathless with suspense. The score was 24 to 20 when the final whistle blew. Wadena was leading Zimmerman is Wadena star in 24-20 loss to Brainerd.

into a good scoring machine. Bert Norquist at stationary guard was the shining light for Brainerd while Zimmerman starred for Wadena. Day sev-

Feb 24, 1915

Wadena defeated Little Falls Friday at Wadena by a score of 25 to 22.

Wadena 25 vs Little Falls 22

(CONTINUE TOP OF NEXT COLUMN - (cont 2))

1910-19 (cont 2)

Jan 10, 1916

BRAINERD 35, WADENA 27

Hard Fought Game of Basketball Won by Local High Quint Saturday Evening

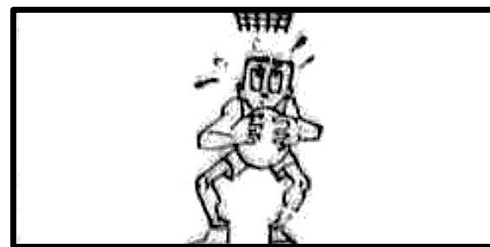
LILJEDAHL WAS THE REFEREE

Brainerd Squad Wears New Uniforms —Also Had New Ball and New Methods

In a fast, hard-fought game played Saturday evening on the floor of the local high school auditorium Brainerd high won 35 to 27 at basketball, defeating the quint from the Wadena high school. Liljedahl, of

Zimmerman leads Wadena - 10 points

O'Brien and Bradenberg distinguished themselves at the guard positions by preventing an overrun of scores by Wadena's crack forwards Zimmermann, the crack forward of Wadena, was only allowed five baskets due to the excellent guarding of the locals.



SEE NEXT PAGE - (cont 3)

Misc Articles and Notes of Interest

1910-19 (cont 3)

1910-19 (cont 4)

Feb 5, 1916

Mar 13, 1916

Talk about "home-court advantage!"

District 6 Champions Wadena lose to Bemidji 63-59.

WADENA 22, BRAINERD 8

First Game Lost by Local Basketball Team Due to Poor Hall at Wadena

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.

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.

Post-game food and dance for visitors.

In the last half the Wadena quint made 16 points to Brainerd's 8. After the game the Brainerd team was served with refreshments by the Sophomore class and afterward entertained at a dance.

(CONTINUE TOP OF NEXT COLUMN - (cont 4))

Zimmerman scores 20.

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 63 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-

NOTES:

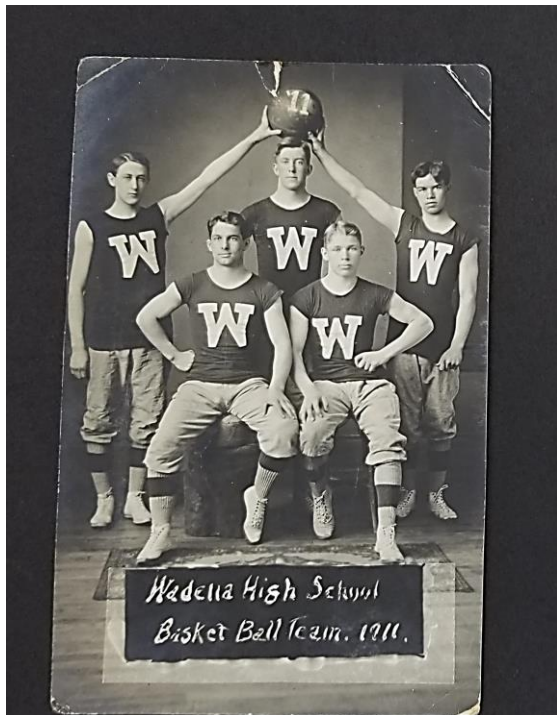
From February of 1914 to March of 1916 it appears that Zimmerman was the star of that era.

I found no other pre-1920's articles relating to Wadena basketball. Perhaps WWI, and the USA's entry in 1917, had something to do with that.

The Minnesota State High School League was first organized in 1916 as the State High School Athletic Association. Its primary purposes were (1) to promote amateur sports and (2) to establish uniform eligibility rules for interscholastic contests.

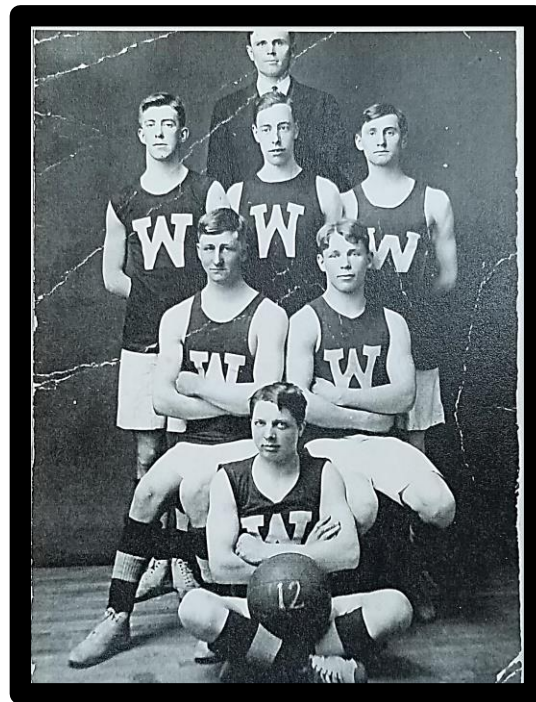
1910's

1910-11



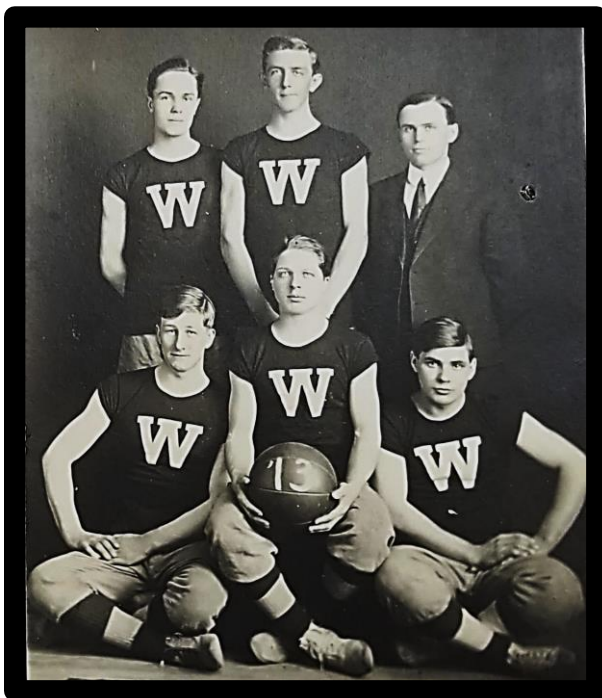
Front: Loyal Zimmerman, Harold Parker
Back: "Fen" Burch, Bob Langenbacher, unknown

1911-12



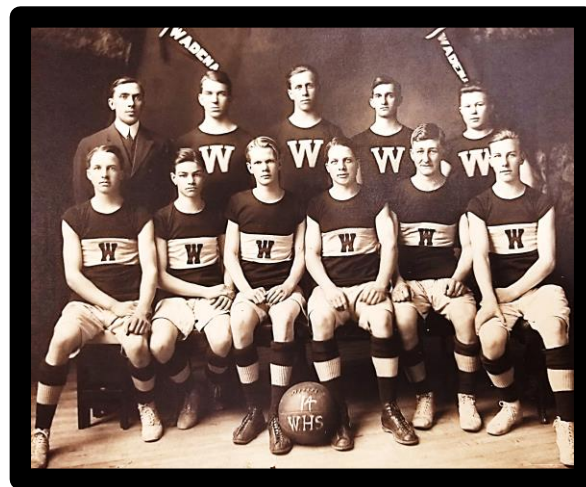
Front: Elmer Lund
Middle: Zeke Kennedy, Harold Parker
Back: Bob Langenbacher, unknown, "Fen" Burch
Coach: Kidder

1912-13



Front: Zeke Kennedy, Elmer Lund, Bill Robb
Back: Rae Carroll, Bob Langenbacher
Coach Kidder

1913-14



Front: 4th from left Elmer Lund, 5th Zeke Kennedy

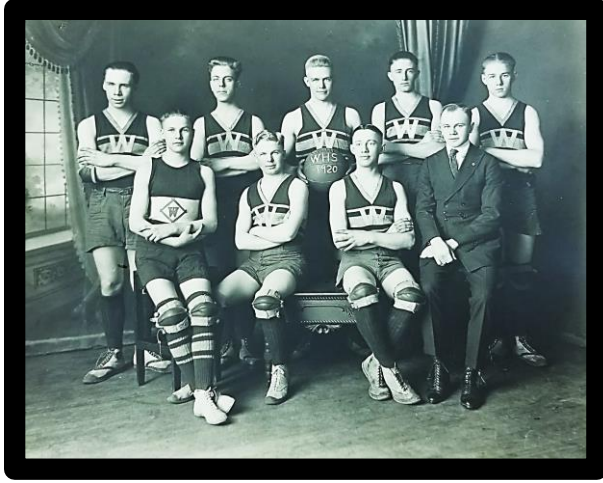
Others (not in order): Carroll Kingsley, Everett Kingsley, Clifford Stevens, Roy Joset, Wayne Zimmerman, Fred Spencer, Arthur Hutchins, J.L. Monson

Coach: unknown

District 6 runner-up to Aitkin

1920's

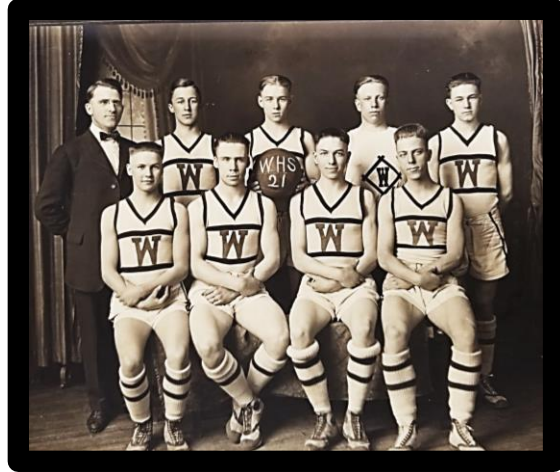
1919-20



Back: Carl McDowell, Bill Stevens, George Welch, Maurice Merickel, Vern Wright

Front: Marion Blaha, Pat Lund, Joe Rice, Coach Otte

1920-21



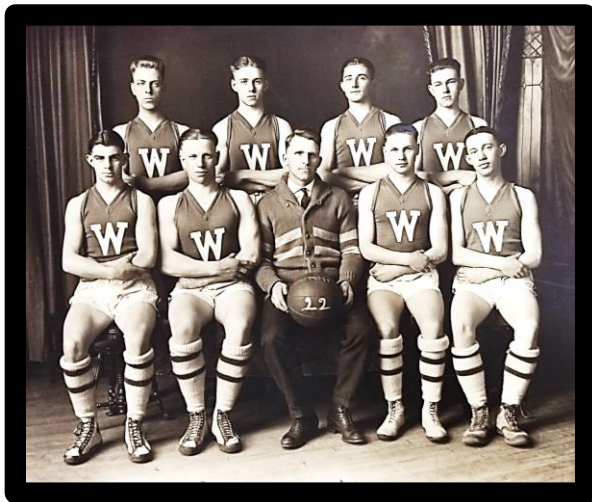
Back: Coach Kuefler, Merritt Dodds, Vern Wright, Clair Walker, Carol Parker

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

Wadena PJ, December 10, 1920:

This was coach Kuefler's first year and this 1920-21 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
(based upon District 6 Championship)



1922

Vern Wright
Marion Blaha



It was trendy to have postcards made.

1921

Vern Wright
Marion Blaha
Merritt Dodds



1920's (cont.)

1922-23

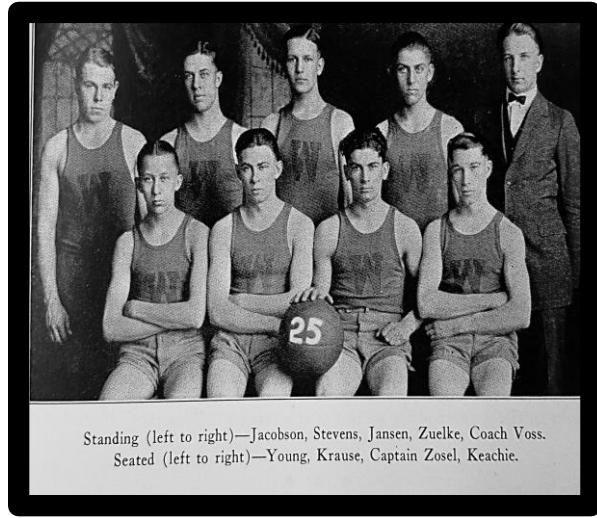


Back: Coach Kuefler, Carol Parker, Milton Gaslin, Carl Spooner

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

1923 State Tournament Participant
(based upon District 6 Championship)

1924-25



Standing (left to right)—Jacobson, Stevens, Jansen, Zuelke, Coach Voss.
Seated (left to right)—Young, Krause, Captain Zosel, Keachie.

Lost 20-18 to Pine River
(eventual District 11 Champions)

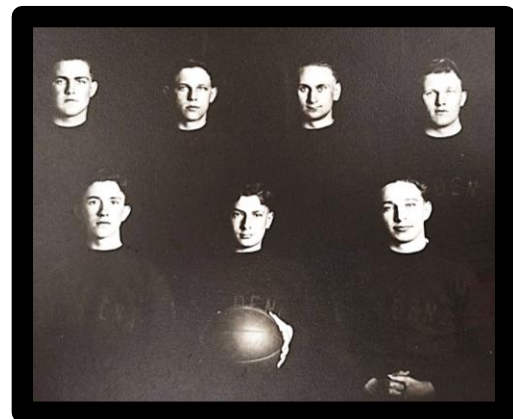
1925-26



Lehman	Zosel	Stevens	Brownsey	Doty	Coach Rosenberger
McBride	Zuehlke	Captain Krause	Zosel	Young	

Lost 19-18 to Staples
(District 11 Tournament)

1928-29



Back: Olin, Anderson, Fischer, Brownsey
Front: Davis, Zosel, Schmidt

Lost 38-32 to Brainerd
(District 11 Tournament)

In the News

1921-22 Season

1922 State Tournament Participant

Regular season
Dec 15, 1921

BASKETBALL NOTES

Little Falls high defeated Long Prairie high 42 to 7. At the end of the first half the score stood 27 to 5.

Wadena defeated Perham in their first game of the season 45 to 5.

Brainerd high's next game is with Crosby at Crosby.

St. Cloud Tech. defeated Mora 25 to 18.

State Tournament First Round

Wadena - 27 New Ulm - 17
March 16, 1922

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.

By a brilliant last minute rush Stillwater high in the second round of the tournament, defeated St. Peter 30 to 23. St. Peter took the lead in the second half, and held it until the last three minutes of play. Holmes made five field baskets. Stillwater will meet Wadena at 5 o'clock this evening.

Johnson high school of St. Paul fell before the husky Mankato five in the third game this morning. Mankato took an early lead, and held it with the exception of a few minutes in the first half, and won 23 to 15.

1921-22 (cont.)

1922 State Tournament Semi-Final

Wadena - 34 Madison - 35 (OT)
March 17, 1922

(By United Press.)

Northfield, March 17.—Red Wing and Madison high school will meet in the finals for the state high school basketball championship tonight. Red Wing defeated Duluth Central in the semi-finals 30 to 25.

Madison eliminated Wadena this morning 35 to 34 in an exciting extra period game.

Red Wing was the favorite over the flashy Madison team this morning.

The Red Wing squad defeated some of the strongest teams in the tournament in the preliminaries, and Duluth Central was not an easy foe in the semi-finals. Red Wing got into the semi-finals last year when Minneapolis Central won the championship of 1921.

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 within 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 State Championship

(19-0) Red Wing 34 Madison 27

1922-23 Season



1923 State Tournament First Round

Wadena - 16 Hopkins - 17
March 27, 1923

BASKETBALL

Last Night's State Tournament Results

Aurora, 38; Marshall, 16.
Rochester, 34; Madison, 10.
St. Peter, 29; St. Paul, 23.
Blue Earth, 18; Crookston, 15.
Austin, 28; South St. Paul, 8.
St. Cloud, 29; Minneapolis, 18.
Hopkins, 17; Wadena, 16.

St. Cloud Wins First Game

St. Cloud defeated Minneapolis Central in a game that required two extra five-minute periods to decide last night. The score was 20 to 18.

The count was 14 to 14 at the end of the regular game. Field goals by Gasser of St. Cloud and Captain More of Minneapolis tied it again at the end of the first extra period, and in the second extra period of play two field goals by Gasser, while Williams of Minneapolis annexed one, gave the game to St. Cloud.

Today's Games

Minneapolis, March 28.—Rochester defeated St. Peter in the second round of the state high school basketball tournament today. The score was 16 to 11.

Austin defeated Blue Earth 14 to 13.
Aurora 23, St. Cloud 9.
Hopkins 7, Hancock 17.

1923 State Championship

(17-2) Aurora 24 Austin 14

1923-24 Season

Feb 7, 1924

Effective for the next year's 1924-25 season Wadena was switched from District 6 to District 11. They were joined in District 11 with Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Eagle Bend, Motley, Pine River and Staples.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1924

HELPS BASKETBALL IN BRAINERD

THE cause of basketball in Brainerd high school will be benefited if the recent proposal of the board of control of the Minnesota State High School Athletic association which has redistricted the state, is adopted for next year's playing. As matters stood in the old days, Brainerd faced the hardest kind of schedule such as St. Cloud, Bemidji and Little Falls. With teams of such caliber, the contest in our old district was one which sapped the strength of even the winner so that the team usually made little showing in the finals.

Under the new arrangement, information of which was transmitted to Supt. W. C. Cobb, the whole state has been redistricted in 82 districts, and in the determination of basketball championships these districts are grouped by fours for eight regional tournaments.

Brainerd, in District 11, will be associated with Aitkin, Crosby-Ironton, Eagle Bend, Motley, Pine River, Staples and Wadena and plays at the regional tournament to be held in St. Cloud. The winner there competes in the finals with the winners of the seven other regional tournaments.

St. Cloud is placed in District 12 and is associated with Annandale, Buffalo, Little Falls, Maple Lake, Monticello, Paynesville, Royalton and Sauk Rapids.

Bemidji is placed in District No. 5 of Regional Tournament No. 2 and is associated with Akeley, Bagley, Blackduck, Cass Lake, Deer River, Park Rapids and Walker.

The new plan if made effective next year meets the hearty approbation of the Dispatch. Every basketball fan when he studies the new districting will undoubtedly concur.

Dec 3, 1924

BASKETBALL

SCHEDULE IS

ARRANGED HERE

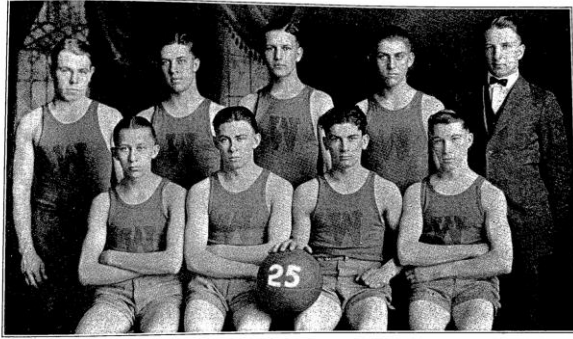
REPRESENTATIVES OF 11TH DISTRICT MET IN CITY
FRIDAY

NOTE

Wadena coach Mr. Vos (1924-25).



1924-25 Season



Standing (left to right)—Jacobson, Stevens, Jansen, Zuelke, Coach Voss.
Seated (left to right)—Young, Krause, Captain Zosel, Keachie.

BASKETBALL, 1924—25
Wadena 5-7
(regular season record)

District 11 Quarterfinal
Wadena 18 - Pine River 20
(Pine River went on to win the District Title)

BASKETBALL, 1924—25

WADENA entered the 1924 season in basketball with prospects for a successful season rather dim. Four regulars of last year's team had been lost through graduation or ineligibility and this necessitated the working in of new men. However, there were quite a few members of last year's squad remaining and some good material was found in the Freshmen class. Under the direction of Coach Voss, the team started work early and played its first game with Sebeka on December 11 at Wadena. Wadena was handicapped by injuries and lost 9 to 7 in a wild game. The next week, on December 15, Wadena played a return game at Sebeka and won 18 to 8. On December 17, Wadena journeyed to Deer Creek and defeated that team 29 to 21. The next game was with the strong Little Falls team at Little Falls on December 24, Wadena losing in a hard fought battle by a score of 31 to 17. In the first game after the Christmas vacation, Wadena journeyed to Crosby-Ironton and lost by the score of 24 to 13, the boys seeming lost on the huge Crosby floor. On January 22, Crosby came to Wadena for a return game and again was victorious, 12 to 7, in a rather uninteresting game. On January 29, Brainerd came to Wadena and won 6 to 5 in a very closely contested game in which Brainerd

Page Twenty-Nine

THE 1925 WADENA

had all the breaks. The next game was with Aitkin here, and Wadena succeeded in coming from behind to win 13 to 9 in a hard fought game. On February 13, Wadena went to Brainerd for a return game and lost 21 to 13. The next game on February 20 was with Little Falls at Wadena. Wadena took the lead at the start of the game and never relinquished it, winning 11 to 7. The next day Wadena traveled to Bertha for a game, and lost 22 to 11, being badly off form. The final game of the regular season was with Long Prairie at Long Prairie on February 27, Wadena winning 10 to 8. On March 6, Wadena traveled to Aitkin for the district tournament. Wadena was eliminated in the first game by Pine River, district champions, by a score of 20 to 18 in the fastest and hardest fought game of the tournament. Wadena won five games and lost eight during the season, and scored 173 points to its opponents 198. Captain Zosel was the leading scorer of the team with 58 points, Keachie followed with 44, Young with 30, Krause with 25, Stevens with 14, and Jacobson with 2. Prospects for a winning team next year seem bright as the greater share of this year's team will return.

1924-25 (cont.)

Jan 17, 1925

CROSBY DEFEATS WADENA HIGH BY SCORE 24-13

WADENA TEAM SEEMED LOST ON THE BIG FLOOR OF CROSBY HIGH SCHOOL

TEAM WORK WAS RAGGED AND SHOTS FAILED BY 10 FEET TO REACH BASKET

The Crosby-Ironton basketball team defeated the Wadena high school at Crosby last night, 24-13. The Wadena team seemed lost on the big floor, their team work was ragged, and their shots for the basket fell short about ten feet on each try. Accustomed to their own floor, small in comparison to the man-sized Crosby floor, they could not get started at their best moment.

Jan 31, 1925

BRAINERD TAKES WADENA'S SCALP IN HARD CONTEST

LOCALS OUT-PLAYED THEIR OPPONENTS THROUGHOUT ENTIRE GAME

TILT SAID TO RESEMBLE FOOTBALL MORE THAN BASKETBALL GAME

Brainerd - 6 (1 FG and 4 FTs)
Wadena - 5 (2 FGs and 1 FT)

Mar 7, 1925

PINE RIVER		Summary	
Do	Sherrwood and	WADENA	0
nd	Riley	Maehle and	0
st	K. Robinson	Roel	0
ed	Williams & Hill	Young	0
ing	O. Robinson	Harvick	0
ing	Christian	Jacobson	0
ing		Scoring—Sherrwood 2, E. Robinson 2,	
ing		Williams 4, Keachie 1, Zosel 2, Krause	
ing		1, Young 1.	
ing		Free throws—E. Robinson 2, Wil-	
ing		liams 1, Christian 1, Roel 4.	
ing		GRIMES WAS BUSIEST	
ing		HURLER ON DEFENSE	

1924-25 (cont.)

March 1925

District 11 Tournament

(This was the first yr of dist 11, then it became dist 25 for 3 yrs effective the 1930-31 season, then dist 24 from 1933-34 and thereafter)

1925 (PINE RIVER)

First Round

Aitkin bye.

Wadena 18, Pine River 20.

Crosby-Ironton 15, Brainerd 8.

Staples 13, Little Falls 3.

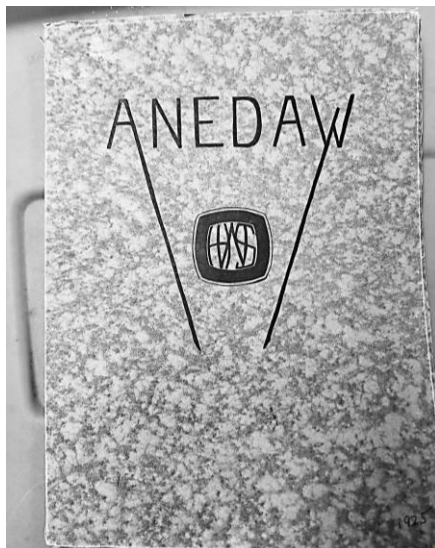
Semi-Finals

Aitkin 11, Crosby-Ironton 18.

Pine River 14, Staples 12.

Championship

Pine River 15, Crosby-Ironton 11



1925 WHS
Yearbook Cover
(Wadena spelled backwards)

1925-26



Lehman Zosel Stevens Brownsey Doty Coach Rosenberger
McBride Zuehlke Captain Krause Zosel Young

LINE UP

Right Forward..... L. Zosel—T. Doty
Left Forward..... W. Krause—H. Zosel
Center..... V. Young—R. Brownsey
Right Guard..... G. Stevens—E. McBride
Left Guard..... A. Zuehlke

SCHEDULE AND SCORES

Wadena vs. Menagha	23-0
Wadena vs. Brainerd	10-14
Wadena vs. Bertha	20-8
Wadena vs. Sebeka	16-15
Wadena vs. Staples	7-13
Wadena vs. Sebeka	19-10
Wadena vs. Henning	9-27
Wadena vs. Henning	28-7
Wadena vs. Brainerd	6-8
Wadena vs. Aitkin	15-19
Wadena vs. Staples	9-18
Wadena vs. Staples	18-19

Wadena 5-7
(regular season record)

District 11 Quarterfinal

Wadena 18 - Staples 19

(Brainerd went on to win the District Title)

Note

Head coach Mr. Rosenberger (1925-27)



1925-26 (cont.)

Dec 12, 1925

**BRAINERD HIGH
DEFEATS WADENA,
14-10, LAST NIGHT**

SCORE 10 TO 10 AT END OF THE
REGULAR PLAYING
PERIOD

IN OVERTIME PERIOD BRAINERD
AMASSED FOUR
POINTS

Brainerd high school basketball team won last night from the Wadena high in an overtime contest, 14 to 10. It was played at the Wadena high school.

At the end of the regular playing period the score was 10 to 10. At the end of the first overtime period Brainerd amassed four more points, winning the game. This is the first conference game of the season for Brainerd.

Whitlock, center, played exceptionally well for the locals. Adams of St. Cloud was referee and his decisions were well made, working under the difficulties of a poor gymnasium which materially slowed up the game.

The ceiling of the Wadena gym is only two feet from the baskets. The next game of the locals will be at Brainerd with Pine River high as contestants. This is a conference game and it is hoped the team will be well supported, as they give promise of playing creditable basketball this season.

1926 District 11 Tournament

1926 (BRAINERD)

First Round

Pine River 21, Aitkin 16.

Brainerd 20, Motley 18.

Crosby-Ironton 34, Little Falls

Staples 19, Wadena 18.

Semi-Finals

Crosby-Ironton 21, Staples 18.

Brainerd 30, Pine River 6.

Championship

Brainerd 18, Crosby-Ironton 13.

1926-27

Jan 22, 1927

**B. H. S. VS.
WADENA HERE
THIS EVENING**

**WADENA CAGERS OF STAR REPUTATIONS ARE OPPONENTS
IN CONFERENCE BATTLE**

**BRAINERD HIGH IN GOOD CONDITION, HOPES TO CONTINUE
WINNING STREAK**

Two fast basketball teams, each with an enviable reputation and a determination of being a superior team to the other, will be seen in action tonight at the high school gymnasium in the Wadena quint and the Brainerd boys who will line up in another conference battle.

Wadena will bring to Brainerd its star veteran team and with its stirring ace, Harold Zosel will endeavor to subdue the locals. Wadena players have worked together on basketball courts for the last two and three years and have perfected a very good squad in the following: Harold Zosel, Verl Young, Edwin McBride, Ralph Browning, Arthur Zuehlke.

Wadena has put the blanket on the following teams this year, Long Prairie, Motley, 33-1, Staples at Staples, 14-13; Pine River, 29-6, and last night downed Aitkin, so far undefeated, 29-10.

1926-27 Roster

Browning, Ralph

McBride, Edwin

Young, Verl

Zosel, Harold

Zuehlke, Arthur

1926-27 (cont.)

Jan 24, 1927

WADENA BEATS BRAINERD

**GAME CALLS
DOWN MUCH
RAZZING OF FANS**

**VISITING GAGERS WIN FROM
BRAINERD 10
TO 8 SCORE**

**WADENAS' CENTER, YOUNG,
SHOT 4 FIELD GOALS IN
FIRST 4 MINUTES**

Wadena by conquering Brainerd, Saturday night 10-8, was able to return to its home camp, still, the one and only undefeated team in the district. Brockway, of Staples refereed.



1926-27 (cont.)

Jan 27, 1927

WADENA HIGH WINS AGAIN

**BRAINERD LED
6 TO 1 AT END
OF THE HALF**

LOCALS THEN GIVE WAY COMPLETELY IN LAST TWO QUARTERS

UNUSUAL GOALS MADE BY THE WADENA BOYS LAST NIGHT

Wadena high school defeated Brainerd high at Wadena, 17 to 8, last night.

Brainerd led 6-1 at the end of the half but gave way completely in the last two quarters while Wadena piled up score after score.

Wadena was held goalless in the first 15 minutes of play, after which Dowd, in falling to the floor gave the ball an upward shove landing it in the basket. Wadena fans went wild over both the unusual goal and the fact that they had two points on the scoreboard to their credit. Young, the sensational center dribbled down the right side of the court and with a right handed shot made another basket. From this time on the Brainerd guards were completely bewildered and the team was out shot and outplayed for the rest of the period. Grinhols of St. Cloud refereed.

March 1927

District 11 Tournament Results

1927 (CROSBY-IRONTON)

First Round

- Little Falls 31, Wadena 9.
- Crosby-Ironton 40, Pine River 15.
- Brainerd 17, Staples 11.
- Aitkin 28, Motley 14.

Semi-Finals

- Brainerd 14, Little Falls 11.
- Crosby-Ironton 21, Aitkin 17.

Championship

- Crosby-Ironton 21, Brainerd 20.

1927-28

Feb 7, 1928

**BRAINERD FORCES VICTORY FROM
WADENA IN BIG GAME OF WEEK-END**

The line-up for the Wadena game was as follows:

Player	Fg.	Pt.	Tot.
Brainerd			
Wise	4	1	9
LaCourse	2	1	5
Gula	2	0	4
Welliver	0	1	1
Faller	1	0	2
Gablou	0	0	0
Totals	9	3	21

Player	Fg.	Pt.	Tot.
Wadens			
Schmidt	2	0	4
Nutting	0	1	1
Browsey	4	2	10
Young	1	1	3
Kuckike	0	0	0
Totals	7	3	17

1927-28 Roster
(see above box score)

DISPATCH SELECTS MYTHICAL ALL DISTRICT CAGE QUINTS

Young All-District 11

**WISE, GUIN GET
THE UNCHALLENGED
CHOICE ON SQUAD 1**

YOUNG, WADENA GUARD, SHIFT-
ED TO LEFT FORWARD POSI-
TION AND CAPTAIN

11TH DIST. CAGE BALL STACKS
UP FAVORABLY WITH BEST
IN STATE THIS YEAR

DISTRICT SELECTIONS

First Team

- Right forward—Wise, Brainerd.
- Left forward—Young, Wadena.
- Captain,
- Center—Guin, Brainerd.
- Right guard—Sadovich, Crosby-Ironton.
- Left guard—Greeno, Staples.

1927-28 (cont.)

1928 District 11 Tournament

1928 (BRAINERD)

First Round

- Wadena 17, Aitkin 14.
- Motley bye.
- Menahga 9, Crosby-Ironton 35.
- Brainerd 31, Little Falls 13.
- Pine River 8, Staples 20.

Second Round

- Wadena 38, Motley 12.
- Crosby-Ironton bye.
- Brainerd 11, Staples 10.

Semi-Finals

- Wadena 17, Crosby-Ironton 22.
- Brainerd bye.

Championship

- Brainerd 20, Crosby-Ironton 14.



1928-29

Basketball



First Row: Olin, Anderson, Fischer, Brownsey.
Second Row: Davis, Zosel, Schmidt.

Wadena 4-1
(conference record)

District 11 Quarterfinal

Wadena 32 - Brainerd 38
(C-I won the District Title)

1928-29 (cont.)

1929 District 11 Tournament

1929 (CROSBY-IRONTON)

First Round

Aitkin 19, Motley 9.

Crosby-Ironton bye.

Little Falls 29, Menahga 16.

Brainerd 38, Wadena 32.

Staples 41, Pine River 14.

Second Round

Aitkin 14, Crosby-Ironton 21.

Little Falls bye.

Brainerd 24, Staples 21.

Semi-Finals

Crosby-Ironton 29, Little Falls 16

Brainerd bye.

Championship

Crosby-Ironton 32, Brainerd 20.

Note:

Head coach Tony Chermak (1927-1937)



The history of basketball began with its invention in 1891 in Springfield, Massachusetts by Canadian physical education instructor **James Naismith** as a less injury-prone sport than football.

Decade Highlights

The 1930's (6 pgs)

-Achievement Highlights of the 1930's - Teams/Players

Team Highlights including:

1934 District 24 Champs

1936 District 24 and Region 6 Champs, Minnesota State Runner-up

Player Highlights: Askew, Miller, Schiller, Garr and Browne

-The Coaches of the 1930's

Coaches: Chermak and Schunert

-Affiliations with Conferences and Districts in the 1930's

Conference: Central Eight

Districts: Districts 11, 25 and 24

The 1940's (5 pgs)

-Achievement Highlights of the 1940's - Teams/Players

Team Highlights including:

1943 District 24 Champs

Player Highlights: Frost, Schmitz, Wilcox and Hedstrom

-The Coaches of the 1940's

Coaches: Schunert, Wolverton, Sand, Mower and Held

-Affiliations with Conferences and District

Conferences: Central Eight and Central Ten

District: District 24

The 1950's (6 pgs)

-Achievement Highlights of the 1950's - Teams/Players

Team Highlights including:

1959 Mid-State Conference Champs

Player Highlights: Hedstrom, Merickel, Shearer, Gaslin and Phillips

-The Coaches of the 1950's

Coaches: Held, Hadden, Gray, Hasbrouck and Willis

-Affiliations with Conferences and District 24

Conferences: Lake Region and Mid-State

District: District 24

1930's

Achievement Highlights

Teams

1934 Team

District 24

Record: 9-1 (1st)

Tournament: **Champions!**

(35-20 win vs Brainerd)

THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH, BRAINERD, MINNESOTA
Wadena's Superior Team Routs Warriors
BRAINERD CAGE FANS GIRD TO SUPPORT WADENA IN REGIONAL

Region 6

20-17 loss vs Alexandria

1935 Team

District 24 Record: 5-5 (T-3rd)

District Championship Game

Crosby-Ironton - 33

Wadena - 9

(NOTE: On Feb 23rd, at C-I, Wadena won 30-27)

1936 Team

Central Eight Conference (Only Yr)

Record: 9-1 (2nd)

District 24

Record: 8-1 (T-1st)

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1936
Wadena Dethrones C-I

Tournament: **Champions!**

Wadena beat C-I 22-19

Region 6 - Champions!

25-20 win vs Moorhead

26-18 win vs Morris

WINS REGION SIX CHAMPIONSHIP

State Tournament - Runner-up

20-18 win vs Sleepy Eye

28-27 win vs Buhl

26-20 loss vs Bemidji

Meets Bemidji for State Title

1937 Team

Overall Record 15-8

District 24 Championship Game

Crosby-Ironton - 42

Wadena - 36

Players

*Askew 1930-34

(maybe 1929-1930 also)

Four-year starter (maybe five-year)

1934 All-Dist 24 ("Honorable Mention" 1931)



*An Askew had been the starting center since the 1929-30 season. If the same person, then he was on varsity since 8th grade.

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

2X All-District 24



All-Region 6

The Sleepy Eye-Wadena game, won by Wadena, 20 to 18, in the final second of play when Jimmy Browne dropped in a long shot was, of course, the most thrilling of the day.

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

NOTE: Bill (not Jimmy) Browne

Wadena Indians Basketball Coaches of the 1930's

Coaches	Comments
<p>1926-37 Tony Chermak</p> 	<p><u>Hometown</u> Manitowoc, Wisconsin</p> <p><u>College</u> Stout University, 1926</p> <p><u>Notes</u> Upon leaving Wadena Anton "Tony" and Agnes Chermak returned to his hometown of Manitowoc, Wisconsin to coach and teach industrial arts until his retirement.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Wadena High School Coaching Achievements:</p> <p><u>Minnesota State Tournament</u> -1936 Runner-up (26-20 vs Bemidji)</p> <p><u>Region 6 Tournament</u> -1934 semi final loss to Alexandria 20-17 -1936 Champions</p> <p><u>District 24 Tournament</u> -1934 and 1936 Champions -1935 and 1937 Runners-up</p>
<p>1937-41 James Schunert</p> 	<p>Schunert was the assistant coach under Tony Chermak for the 1936-37 team and became the head coach for the next four seasons.</p>


Wadena Basketball

1930's Team Affiliation

In the 1930's, collectively, Wadena, Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Little Falls and Staples were members of three different districts at various times. The district member schools were constant but not their assigned district number.

During the 1930's Wadena had no conference affiliation except in 1935-36 when they joined the new Central Eight conference. After that one year they inexplicably dropped out.

Conference Affiliation

<p style="text-align: center;">Central Eight Conference (1935-36)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aitkin, Alexandria, Brainerd, C-I, Little Falls, St Cloud, Staples and Wadena.</p> <hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">The Standings:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 60%;"></th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">W.</th> <th style="width: 10%; text-align: center;">L.</th> <th style="width: 20%; text-align: center;">Pct.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Crosby-Ironton</td> <td style="text-align: center;">11</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.918</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wadena</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staples</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.571</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alexandria</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Cloud</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brainerd</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.308</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Falls</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.250</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aitkin</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.111</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="margin-top: 10px;">Crosby-Ironton today rested on the crest of the first basketball championship in the recently formed Central Eight conference.</p>		W.	L.	Pct.	Crosby-Ironton	11	1	.918	Wadena	9	1	.900	Staples	8	6	.571	Alexandria	4	4	.500	St. Cloud	4	4	.500	Brainerd	4	9	.308	Little Falls	3	9	.250	Aitkin	1	8	.111	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="font-size: small;">MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)</p> <table style="font-size: x-small; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 0 auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct.</th> <th>TP</th> <th>OP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Crosby-Ironton</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.625</td> <td style="text-align: center;">394</td> <td style="text-align: center;">414</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Park Rapids</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.625</td> <td style="text-align: center;">343</td> <td style="text-align: center;">329</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wadena</td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.625</td> <td style="text-align: center;">529</td> <td style="text-align: center;">499</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Staples</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.500</td> <td style="text-align: center;">449</td> <td style="text-align: center;">449</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aitkin</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.125</td> <td style="text-align: center;">386</td> <td style="text-align: center;">410</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">WADENA MAY DROP OUT OF CENTRAL EIGHT H. S. CONFERENCE</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;">SURPRISE ACTION WILL NOT AFFECT CAGE SCHEDULE</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 5px 0;">The newly organized Central Eight high school conference today faced the first break in its compact make-up with Wadena serving notice that it will drop out of conference competition.</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">The notification came as a surprise to other teams of the conference.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">December 9, 1935 Brainerd Daily Dispatch</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>		W	L	Pct.	TP	OP	Crosby-Ironton	5	3	.625	394	414	Park Rapids	5	3	.625	343	329	Wadena	5	3	.625	529	499	Staples	4	4	.500	449	449	Aitkin	1	7	.125	386	410
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Central Eight Champion	Season	Wadena Place - Record
Crosby-Ironton (11-1)	1935-36	2nd (9-1)

Wadena Basketball 1930's Team Affiliation

District Affiliation

District affiliation for Wadena basketball as a "large school" member, along with Aitkin, Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Little Falls and Staples, changed frequently in the early years. Wadena went from District 6 to District 11 effective the 1924-25 season. For the 1930-31 season these "large schools" were reassigned as District 25. Effective 1933-34 they all became members of District 24. Their large school district colleagues had remained the same regardless of their district number.

District 24

1936-37

FINAL DISTRICT STANDINGS			
	W	L	Pct
Crosby-Ironton	9	1	.900
Brainerd	7	3	.700
Staples	6	4	.600
Wadena	5	4	.556
Little Falls	2	8	.200
Aitkin	0	11	.000

District 24 Tournament Format (Dist 11 / Dist 25)

Through the 1930 District 11 tournament there was no sub-district. In the 1930 district tournament Crosby-Ironton and New York Mills received first-round byes. The remaining 12 teams (five large and seven small schools) reduced their numbers to six after the first round, leaving the tournament with eight teams. After District 11 became District 25, and with the creation of a sub-district, the format of the District 25 (1931-1933) and District 24 (post 1933) tournaments had two components. First, the small schools competed in the sub-district tournament. The champion and runner-up (usually) would then be seeded in the district tournament with the six large schools. The top four large schools would be seeded accordingly and their first-round opponents would be assigned or randomly picked.

Wadena Basketball 1930's Team Affiliation

District 11 - District 25 - District 24

Large Schools

Aitkin
Brainerd
Crosby-Ironton
Little Falls
Staples
Wadena



Small Schools*

Backus
Menahga
Motley
New York Mills
Pequot Lakes
Pine River
Sebeka
Verndale

*By 1940 Hewitt and Pillager joined the dist 24 small schools.

District 24

(See "***Note" next page)

**

* Brackets for District No. 24 Tourney Eliminations *				
Crosby-Ironton	vs.	7:15 P. M.	} —————) Friday 9:15 P. M.	} —————) Championship Saturday 8:30 P. M.
Pine River				
Aitkin	vs.	9:30 P. M.	} —————)	
Brainerd				
Wadena	vs.	8:30 P. M.	} —————) Friday 8:00 P. M.	} —————) 1935 District Champion
Little Falls				
New York Mills	vs.	6:00 P. M.	} —————)	
Staples				

Wadena Basketball 1930's Team Affiliation

District 24 Champions

District 24			Sub-District 24		
1930	C-I Brainerd	27 (Dist 11) 24	1930	No sub-district (until 1930-31) (just 14-team District 11 tournament)	
1931	Brainerd C-I	19 (Dist 25) 18	1931	Pine River Pequot Lakes	winner (score unknown)
1932	C-I Staples	26 (Dist 25) 22	1932	Verndale NYM	30 28
1933	Brainerd Little Falls	25 (Dist 25) 19	1933	Sebeka Motley	2 (default) 0
1934	Wadena Brainerd	35 20	1934	Sebeka NYM	winner (score unknown)
1935	C-I Wadena	33 9	1935	NYM Pine River	32 25
1936	Wadena C-I	22 19	1936	Verndale Pine River	25 18
1937	C-I Wadena	42 36	1937	Verndale Pequot Lakes	40 17
1938	C-I Staples	29 26	1938	Verndale Pequot Lakes	37 20
1939	Brainerd Staples	27 19	1939	Sebeka Pequot Lakes	15 9

**Note in the above 1935 tournament brackets on the previous page that the sub-district champion (New York Mills) and the runner-up (Pine River) are seeded in the District 24 Tournament brackets.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1936 THE BRAINERD DAILY DISPATCH, BRAINERD, MINNESOTA PAGE SEVEN

Wadena Goes to State Taking Regional Title



1940's

Achievement Highlights

Teams

Players

1940 Team

Regular Season

Record: 15-8

District 24

Record: 7-4 (3rd)

District 24 Quarterfinal

32-26 loss vs Little Falls

1943 Team

Wadena Wins District 24 Cage Title

Regular Season

Record: unknown

District 24

Record: unknown

District 24 Championship

33-25 win vs Crosby-Ironton

1944 Team

Regular Season

Record: 17-5

Central Eight Conference (1st Yr)

Record: 6-3 (2nd-T)

District 24

Record: 8-2 (1st-T)

District 24 Championship

38-27 loss vs Crosby-Ironton

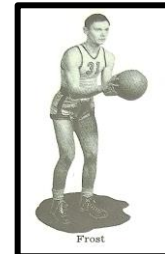
Dist 24 Runner-up (2nd)



Duane Frost 1937-40

Three-year starter

2X All-District 24 team

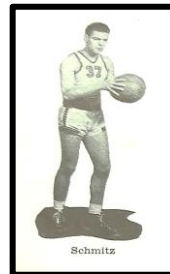


Dick Schmitz 1941-44

Three-year starter

2X All-District 24

All-Conf Central 8

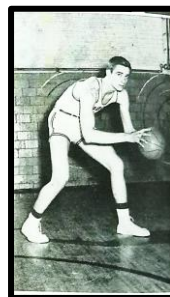
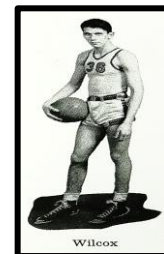


Bruce Wilcox 1942-45

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

**Wadena Indians Basketball
Coaches of the 1940's**

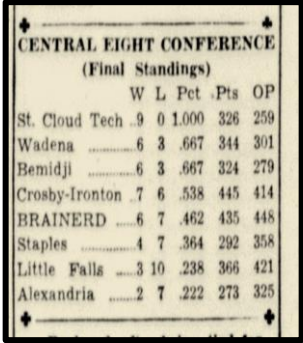
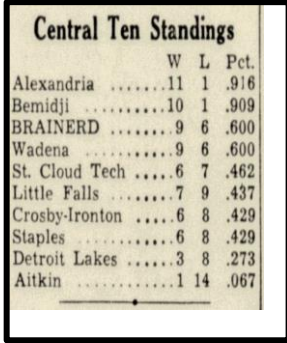
Coaches	Comments
<p>1937-41 James Schunert</p> 	<p>Schunert was the assistant coach under Tony Chermak for the 1936-37 team and became the head coach for the next four seasons.</p>
<p>1941-42 Mr. Wolverton</p> 	
<p>1942-43 Arthur Sand</p> 	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Wadena Wins</p> </div> <div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 5px;"> <p>District 24 Cage Title</p> </div>
<p>1943-45 Robert Mower</p> 	
<p>1945-50 Shirley (S.L.) Held</p> 	<p>Hometown Kenyon, Minnesota</p> <p>College Macalester College - Class of 1940 Moorhead Teacher's College</p> <p>Notes -WWII Captain U.S. Air Force -Superintendent Worthington Schools 1962-1982 -Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame - 1994 -Earned 8 letters in basketball, football and golf</p>

Wadena Basketball

1940's Team Affiliation

The one constant affiliation for Wadena basketball was being a "large school" member of District 24. They had no conference affiliation during the 1939-43 seasons. Wadena joined the Central Eight conference for the 1943-44 season. They competed in the Central Eight conference through the 1947-48 season. After that year the conference expanded its membership, adding Aitkin and Detroit Lakes, and became the Central Ten conference. Wadena basketball competed in the Central Ten conference for only one season, 1948-49.

Conference Affiliations

Central Eight Conference (seasons 1943-48)	Central Ten Conference (season 1948-49)
Alexandria Bemidji Brainerd Crosby-Ironton Little Falls St Cloud Tech Staples Wadena	 
	Aitkin Alexandria Bemidji Brainerd Crosby-Ironton Detroit Lakes Little Falls St Cloud Tech Staples Wadena

Central 8/10 Champions	Conf.	Wadena Place - Record
1944 St Cloud Tech (9-0)	C-8	2nd (6-3)
1945 unknown	C-8	unknown
1946 Crosby-Ironton (11-1)	C-8	8th (0-12)
1947 Crosby-Ironton (7-1) (as of Feb 11)	C-8	8th (1-11)
1948 unknown	C-8	8th (0-7 on Jan 24)
1949 Alexandria (11-1)	C-10	3rd (9-6)

Wadena Basketball 1940's Team Affiliation

District 24

As was true in the 1930's, district affiliation was 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.

1948-49

District 24 Standings			
(Final)			
	W	L	Pet.
BRAINERD	8	2	.800
Wadena	7	3	.700
Crosby-Ironton	6	4	.700
Staples	5	5	.500
Little Falls	4	6	.400
Aitkin	0	10	.000

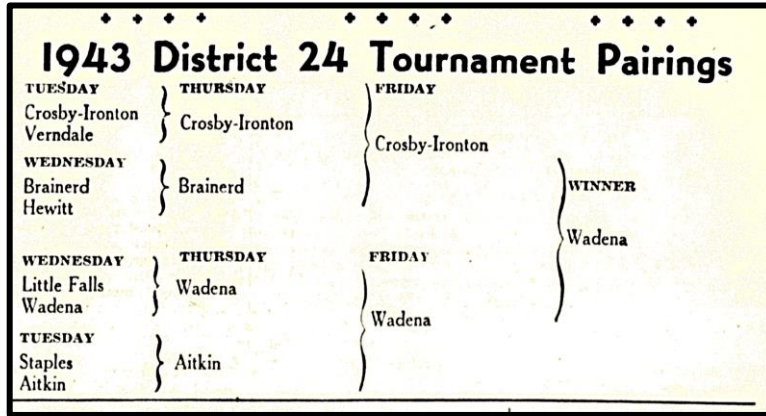
District 24 Tournament Format

The format of the district 24 tournament in the 1940's continued to have two components. First the small schools competed in the sub-district 24 tournament. The champion and runner-up (usually) would then be seeded in the district 24 tournament with the six large schools. The top four large schools would be seeded accordingly and their first-round opponents would be assigned or randomly picked.

<h2 style="margin: 0;">District 24</h2>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Large Schools</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Aitkin Brainerd Crosby-Ironton Little Falls Staples Wadena</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Small Schools</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Backus Hewitt Menahga Motley New York Mills Pequot Lakes Pillager Pine River Sebeka Verndale</p>



*



District 24 Champions				
District 24			Sub-District 24	
1940	C-I	28	1940	Pine River 37
	Staples	23		Sebeka 24
1941	C-I	32	1941	Pequot Lakes 21
	Staples	28		Verndaler 19
1942	C-I	20	1942	Pine River 22
	Little Falls	17		Hewitt 14
1943	Wadena	33	1943	Verndale 28
	C-I	25		Hewitt 22
1944	C-I	38	1944	Verndale 38
	Wadena	27		Sebeka 24
1945	C-I	38	1945	NYM 24
	Brainerd	25		Verndale 15
1946	C-I	47	1946	NYM 24
	Staples	45		Verndale 18
1947	C-I	34	1947	Sebeka 34
	Staples	29		Verndale 29
1948	C-I	39	1948	Verndale 34
	Staples	38		NYM 26
1949	Brainerd	33	1949	Verndale 35
	Little Falls	28		Backus 25

*Note in the above 1943 tournament brackets that sub-district champion (Verndale) and runner-up (Hewitt) are seeded in the District 24 Tournament brackets.

1950's

Achievement Highlights

Teams

1950 Team

Regular Season

December 6, 1949 win
61-54 vs Brainerd (22-1)

Record: 17-6

District 24

Season record: 8-2 (2nd)
Tournament: Runner-up (2nd)
50-47 loss vs Brainerd

1959 Team

Regular Season

Opened season 12-0
Season Record: 16-5

Mid-State Conference

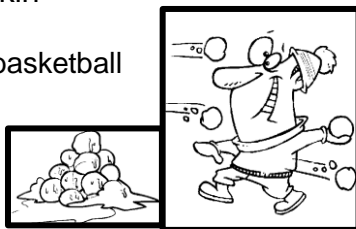
Record: 5-3 (1st-T)

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)				
	W	L	Pct.	TP OP
Crosby-Ironton	5	3	.625	394 414
Park Rapids	5	3	.625	343 329
Wadena	5	3	.625	529 499
Staples	4	4	.500	449 449
Aitkin	1	7	.125	388 410

District 24

Season Record: 7-3 (1st)
Tournament: Runner-up (2nd)
73-68 loss vs Aitkin

A day away from basketball



Players

Bob Hedstrom 1947-50

37 pts vs Brainerd 12/6/49
31 pts in Dist 24 semifinals
Three-year starter
2x All-District 24 Team
All-Conf Central 10



Pat Merickel 1948-50

2nd leading scorer two years
24 pts 1950 Dist 24 title game
59 pts 1950 Dist 24 tourney



Dick Shearer 1953-56

Three-year starter
2x Mid-State scoring leader
2x All-Conference - Mid-State
District 24 scoring leader
2x All-District 24



Bill Gaslin 1956-59

Three-year starter
Mid State scoring leader
2x All-Conference Mid-State
District 24 scoring leader
All-Region 6
3x All-State Team of the Week
1959 MN All-State Team of the Year






Sam Phillips 1956-59

Three-year starter
2x All-Conf Mid-State
All-Region 6
2x All-State Team of the Week





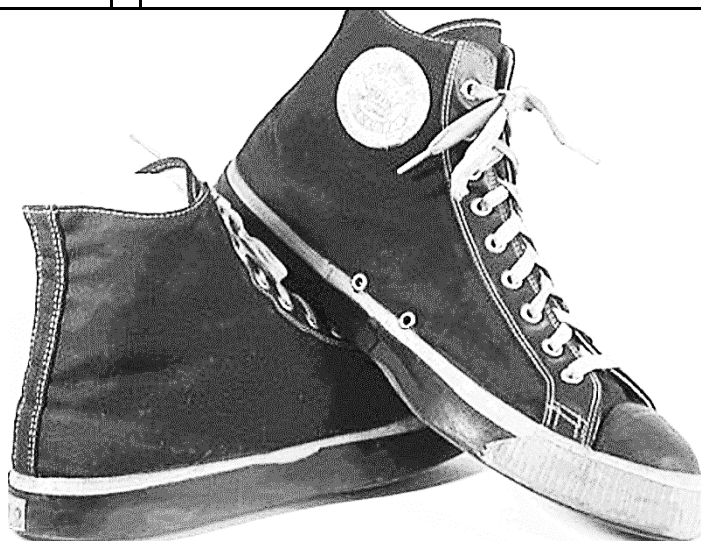
Wadena Indians Basketball

Coaches of the 1950's

Coaches	Comments
<p style="text-align: center;">1945-50 S.L. (Shirley) Held</p> 	<p><u>Hometown</u> Kenyon, Minnesota</p> <p><u>College</u> Macalester College - Class of 1940 Moorhead Teacher's College</p> <p><u>Notes</u> -WWII Captain U.S. Air Force -Superintendent Worthington Schools 1962-1982 -Macalester Athletic Hall of Fame - 1994 -Earned 8 letters in basketball, football and golf</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1950-52 Russell Hadden</p> 	<p><u>Hometown</u> Unknown</p> <p><u>College</u> Unknown</p> <p><u>Notes</u> -Hadden taught math and coached football and basketball in Mound Westonka Schools for 19 years before retiring.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1952-53 Weldon "Buzz" Gray</p> 	<p><u>Hometown</u> Cass Lake, Minnesota</p> <p><u>College</u> Hamline University Moorhead Teacher's College</p> <p><u>Notes</u> -1934 Minnesota All-State Basketball Team -1934 Minnesota High School State Tournament -Hamline University All-Conference Basketball & Baseball -Hamline Athletic Hall of Fame 1982 -Coached Appleton High School to 1952 State Tournament -U.S. Navy 4 years -20 years President of Earls Bakery, Inc. Grand Forks, ND</p>


Wadena Indians Basketball Coaches of the 1950's

Coaches	Comments
<p>1953-55</p>  <p>Edward Hasbrouck</p>	<p><u>Hometown</u> Marshall, Minnesota</p> <p><u>College</u> St John's University</p> <p><u>Notes</u> -Played basketball at St John's -Coached Albany to 2 region tournaments in three years</p>
<p>1955-64</p>  <p>Harold L. Willis</p>	<p><u>Hometown</u> Hendricks, Minnesota</p> <p><u>College</u> South Dakota State University</p> <p><u>Notes</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</p>



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 . The conference affiliation with other teams was a different story. Wadena basketball left the Central Ten* conference after the 1948-49 season. After that year that conference membership changed often and was different for different sports. For basketball the Central Ten became the Central Seven and then the Central Six (Wadena was not a member of either) and football still had a Central Ten Conference (Wadena was a member). It is known Wadena basketball was a member of the **Lake Region Conference** in the 1950-51 season. It is possible they were also members in the year prior and likely members through the 1953-54 season, after which Wadena joined the new **Mid-State Conference** effective the 1954-55 school year.

Conference Affiliations

<div style="text-align: center;"> <h4>Lake Region Conference</h4> <p>1950-51</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p style="font-size: small;">LAKE REGION CONFERENCE STANDINGS</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: x-small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>TEAM</th> <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Melrose</td><td>8</td><td>1</td><td>.888</td></tr> <tr><td>Detroit Lakes</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>.750</td></tr> <tr><td>Alexandria</td><td>6</td><td>2</td><td>.750</td></tr> <tr><td>Wadena</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>.375</td></tr> <tr><td>Osakis</td><td>3</td><td>6</td><td>.333</td></tr> <tr><td>Park Rapids</td><td>2</td><td>6</td><td>.250</td></tr> <tr><td>Long Prairie</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>.125</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin-top: 5px;">Credit to the team and the student body for Wadena being awarded the Sportsmanship Trophy for 1950-1951.</p> </div> </div> <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 10px;">Melrose won the Lake Region Conference title for the 1950-51 season. No other information was available.</p>	TEAM	W	L	Pct.	Melrose	8	1	.888	Detroit Lakes	6	2	.750	Alexandria	6	2	.750	Wadena	3	5	.375	Osakis	3	6	.333	Park Rapids	2	6	.250	Long Prairie	1	7	.125	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <h4>Mid-State Conference</h4> <p>(Effective 1954-55 season)</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Aitkin*</p> <p>Crosby-Ironton*</p> <p>Park Rapids</p> <p>Staples*</p> <p>Wadena</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <h4>MID-STATE CONFERENCE</h4> <p>(Final Standings)</p> <table border="1" style="font-size: x-small; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>W</th> <th>L</th> <th>Pct.</th> <th>TP</th> <th>OP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>Crosby-Ironton</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>.625</td><td>394</td><td>414</td></tr> <tr><td>Park Rapids</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>.625</td><td>343</td><td>329</td></tr> <tr><td>Wadena</td><td>5</td><td>3</td><td>.625</td><td>529</td><td>499</td></tr> <tr><td>Staples</td><td>4</td><td>4</td><td>.500</td><td>449</td><td>449</td></tr> <tr><td>Aitkin</td><td>1</td><td>7</td><td>.125</td><td>386</td><td>410</td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>		W	L	Pct.	TP	OP	Crosby-Ironton	5	3	.625	394	414	Park Rapids	5	3	.625	343	329	Wadena	5	3	.625	529	499	Staples	4	4	.500	449	449	Aitkin	1	7	.125	386	410
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<p style="font-size: x-small;">*For the 1949-50 season the Central Ten had become the Central Seven after Wadena, Alexandria and Detroit Lakes left the conference. After one season the Central Seven became the Central Six with the departure of Bemidji. The Central Six Conference existed intact for the remainder of the 1950's and once the Mid-State Conference was formed for the 1954-55 season Aitkin, Crosby-Ironton and Staples competed in both the Central Six and Mid-State conferences.</p>																																																																					

Mid-State Champions	Wadena Place - Record
1955 Staples, C-I (record unknown)	3rd - (4-4)
1956 Aitkin (7-1)	4th - (3-5)
1957 Aitkin (6-1)	5th - (0-8)
1958 C-I (7-1)	5th - (2-6)
1959 Wadena , Park Rapids, C-I (5-3)	1st - (5-3)

Wadena Basketball 1950's Team Affiliation

District 24

As was true in the 1930's and 40'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

With some exceptions the general format of the District 24 tournament in the 1950's had two components as in the past. First the small schools competed in the Sub-District 24 tournament. The champion and runner-up would then be seeded in the District 24 tournament with the six large schools.

District 24 Schools

Large Schools

Aitkin
Brainerd
Crosby-Ironton
Little Falls
Staples
Wadena



Wadena at Brainerd - 1958

Small Schools

Backus
Hewitt*
Menahga
Motley
New York Mills
Pequot Lakes
Pillager
Pine River
Sebeka
Verndale

*Consolidated with Bertha effective 1953-54 season and left District 24.

Wadena Basketball 1950's Team Affiliation

District 24 Champions					
District 24			Sub-District 24		
1950	Brainerd	50	1950	Pillager	53
	Wadena	47		Verndale	45
1951	Brainerd	34	1951	Backus 43	
	C-I	33		Pine River	39
1952	C-I	44	1952	Verndale	59
	Staples	28		New York Mills	52
1953	Brainerd	54	1953	Verndale	63
	C-I	45		Menahga	48
1954	Brainerd	63	1954	Verndale	61
	C-I	42		Sebeka	40
1955	Staples	52	1955	Backus	43
	Brainerd	47		Menahga	41
1956	Little Falls	63	1956	Verndale	51
	Aitkin	51		Sebeka	48
1957	Brainerd	61	1957	Pequot Lakes	68
	Aitkin	59		Pine River	38
1958	Brainerd	63	1958	Pine River	44
	C-I	52		Pequot Lakes	31
1959	Aitkin	73	1959	Verndale	56
	Wadena	68		Pine River	44

Note in these 1950 tournament brackets that sub-district champion Pillager and runner-up Verndale are seeded in the District 24 tournament brackets. In the quarterfinals Verndale was beat by Brainerd and Pillager was victorious over Staples. Pillager ended up losing to **Wadena** in the semifinals and Wadena lost to Brainerd in the championship game 50-47.

S P O R T S
Brainerd Daily Dispatch, Thursday, March 9, 1950

District 24 Tourney Schedule March 8, 9, 10

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
At Aitkin	At Aitkin	At Brainerd
Brainerd (43) Verndale (26)	Verndale Crosby-Ironton (7:00 P. M.)	
Aitkin (40) C-I (28)	Brainerd Aitkin (8:30 P. M.)	CONSOLATION (7:00 P. M.)
At Wadena	At Wadena	
Pillager (48) Staples (45)	Staples Little Falls (7:00 P. M.)	CHAMPIONSHIP (8:30 P. M.)
Wadena (62) Little Falls (59)	Pillager Wadena (8:30 P. M.)	

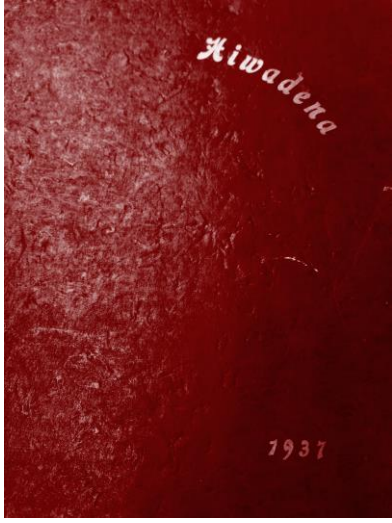
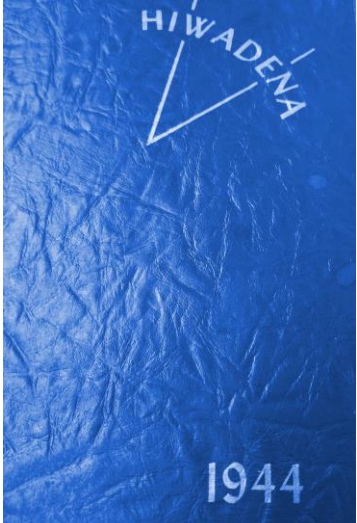
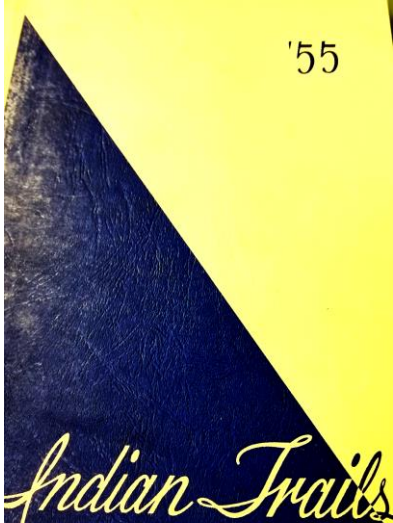
Teams by Year

1930-39 Teams (11 pgs)	Rosters, Records and Results
1940-49 Teams (11 pgs)	
1950-59 Teams (11 pgs)	

For each decade listed there is a one page (maybe two) summary for each season.

Three decades
Thirty seasons
Thirty-three pages

There are many team pictures and news clippings with team and personal awards and stats. Much of what you will find comes straight out of old WHS year books.



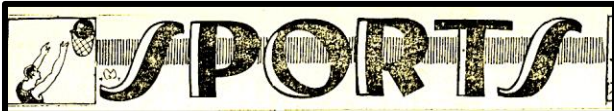
Wadena High School Year Books		
1930's	1940's	1950's
		

The 1930's Seasons



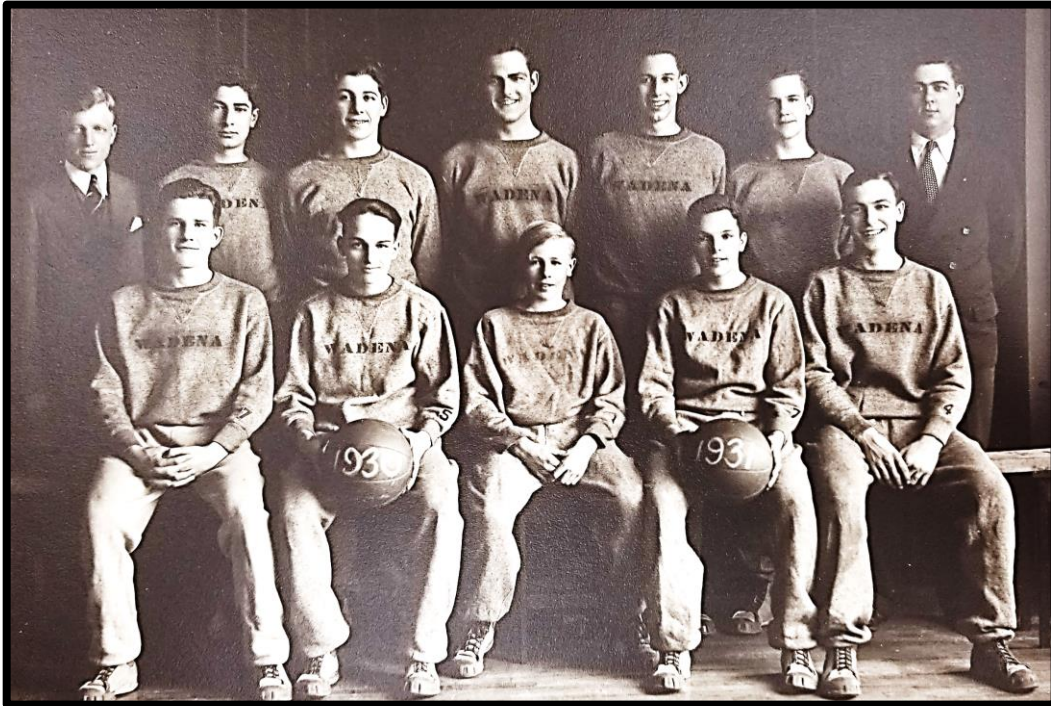
Wadena Indians Basketball

1929-30

Roster / Records	Results
<p>Anderson Askew Flenner Hanson Johnson, C Johnson, R Koch Olin Zosel</p> <div data-bbox="522 411 792 722" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Wadena Zozel, f. Hanson, f. Askew, c. Anderson, g. Olin, g. Flinner, f. Johnson, f. Koop, g. C. Johnson, g.</p> </div> <p>No team records for 1929-30 are known, only the results of the District 11 tournament games. In addition to the scores below, Wadena defeated Verndale 33-26 for the right to compete in the 8-team District 11 tournament.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Team</p> <p>The 1930 District 11 tournament had no sub-district tournament and included 14 schools (six large and eight small). Crosby-Ironton and New York Mills each received a bye while the remaining 12 teams reduced their numbers to six after a "play-in" round, leaving the tournament with eight teams. Wadena defeated Verndale 33-26 in their "play-in" game to qualify for the District 11 tournament.</p> <p>Wadena went on to crush New York Mills 36-17 in the first round quarterfinal and their season ended with a 31-9 drubbing by Crosby-Ironton in the semifinals.</p> <div data-bbox="873 926 1390 1272" style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">  </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">1930 (CROSBY-IRONTON)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Round</p> <p>Brainerd 19, Little Falls 18. Crosby-Ironton 40, Aitkin 24. Wadena 36, New York Mills 17. Staples 37, Menahga 12.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Semi-Finals</p> <p>Crosby-Ironton 31, Wadena 9. Brainerd 24, Staples 23.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Championship</p> <p>Crosby-Ironton 27, Brainerd 24.</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Individual</p> <p>R. Johnson of the Wadena was named to the</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">1927-37 Coach Tony Chermak</p> <div data-bbox="513 1520 691 1852" style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">  </div>	<div data-bbox="841 1478 1419 1587" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>Honorable Mention: Forwards, John Perpleh, Tom Perpleh, Crosby-Ironton; Hoffmeyer, Schuety, E. Foster, Brainerd; Sullivan, Aitkin; R. Johnson, Wadena; Cavanaugh, Staples. Centers, Drellack, Little Falls; Joe Perpleh.</p> </div> <p>District 11 "Honorable Mention" team.</p> <div data-bbox="831 1713 1442 1822" style="border: 1px solid black; text-align: center;">  </div>

Wadena Indians Basketball

1930-31



Back Row: R.K. Rue asst. Coach, Zosel, Koch, Olin, Askew, Hanson, Coach Anton Chermak
 Front Row: Jung, R. Johnson, Flenner, C. Johnson, Hack

District 25 Tournament

1931 (BRAINERD)

First Round

Little Falls 32, Pine River 26.
 Aitkin 20, Pequot 13.
 Crosby-Ironton 38, Wadena 15.
 Brainerd 23, Staples 21.

Semi-Finals

Brainerd 38, Little Falls 18.

Brainerd defeated C-I 19-18
 in title game

1927-37

Coach

Tony Chermak



The District 11 teams of last season were all re-assigned to be the District 25 teams effective this 1930-31 season. The reason for the change is not known.

Prairie and Sauk Centre, and District 25, which includes Brainerd, Crosby-Ironton, Little Falls, Aitkin, Staples, Wadena.

Askew named to District 25 all-conference team, "Honorable Mention."

District Has Many Good Guards, Some Fair Forwards, While Centers are Rather Weak


THE ALL-DISTRICT TEAM

Position	Player	School
FORWARD	NICKANDER	AITKIN
FORWARD	POSTER	BRAINERD
CENTER	PERPICH	CROSBY-IRONTON
GUARD	MARSHALL (C)	BRAINERD
GUARD	OLSON	CROSBY-IRONTON

HONORABLE MENTION—FORWARDS: Brown and Peterson of Aitkin, Newman of Little Falls, Crockett of Pequot, Bob Wylie of Brainerd and Zaubar of Crosby-Ironton. **CENTERS:** G. Wylie of Brainerd, Christensen of Pine River and Askew of Wadena. **GUARDS:** Schuety of Brainerd, Dobravich of Crosby-Ironton, Froebtle and A. Peterson of Staples, Sullivan of Aitkin and Isensee of Pine River.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1931-32

Roster / Records	Results																																																																												
<div data-bbox="228 384 716 877" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>A. Anderson, F. Zosel, F. Askew, C. Jung, G. Koch, G. Power, F. R. Johnson, F. C. Johnson, F.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">District 25 Tournament</p> <div data-bbox="228 955 816 1444" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">1932 (CROSBY-IRONTON)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">First Round</p> <p>Little Falls 36, New York Mills 24. Staples 32, Verndale 7. Brainerd 22, Aitkin 14. Crosby-Ironton defeated Wadena.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Semi-Finals</p> <p>Crosby-Ironton 28, Little Falls 27. Staples 19, Brainerd 17.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Championship</p> <p>Crosby-Ironton 26, Staples 22.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">District 25 Quarterfinal Crosby-Ironton - 21 Wadena - 18</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(C-I won the District 25 title with an 8 point margin in three games)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Team</p> <p>1931-32 marked the second season of competing as a District 25 team. This would continue until the 1933-34 season at which time it would become District 24. The reason for the change is not known.</p> <div data-bbox="836 556 1315 1102" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Crosby-Ironton (21)—</td> <td>FG.</td> <td>FT.</td> <td>PF.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lekatz, F.</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sernett, F.</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Perpich, C.</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dobervich, G.</td> <td>1</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kosonen, G.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turk, G.</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erkkila, G.</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wadena (18)—</td> <td>FG.</td> <td>FT.</td> <td>PF.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A. Anderson, F.</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Zosel, F.</td> <td>1</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Askew, C.</td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jung, G.</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Koch, G.</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Power, F.</td> <td>0</td> <td>2</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R. Johnson, F.</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C. Johnson, F.</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Totals</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table> <p>Referees—Frank Cleve, Al Westgard.</p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Individual</p> <p>Zosel named All-District 25 second team.</p> <div data-bbox="922 1224 1344 1795" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>The Brainerd Daily Dispatch's all-district selections are herewith listed:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FIRST TEAM</p> <p>Forwards—Lekatz, Crosby-Ironton; Peterson, Staples. Center—Perpich, Crosby-Ironton. Guards—Dobervich, Crosby-Ironton; Probstle, Staples.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SECOND TEAM</p> <p>Forwards—Beveridge, Little Falls; Zosel, Wadena. Center—Sentry, Little Falls. Guards—Kosonen, Crosby-Ironton; Larson, Brainerd.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THIRD TEAM</p> <p>Forwards—Sernett, Crosby-Ironton; Swanson, Brainerd. Center—Atkinson, New York Mills. Guards—Nickander, Aitkin; Riddle, Little Falls.</p> <p>Honorable mention: Forwards—Foster, Brainerd; Halladay, Staples; Spurrier, Aitkin; Centers—Card, Staples; Gerry Wygle, Brainerd; Guards—Walker, Staples; Brown, Aitkin.</p> </div>	Crosby-Ironton (21)—	FG.	FT.	PF.	Lekatz, F.	1	2	0	Sernett, F.	1	1	0	Perpich, C.	3	2	1	Dobervich, G.	1	0	4	Kosonen, G.	1	3	4	Turk, G.	0	0	0	Erkkila, G.	0	0	0	Totals	7	8	9	Wadena (18)—	FG.	FT.	PF.	A. Anderson, F.	0	0	0	Zosel, F.	1	3	2	Askew, C.	1	2	4	Jung, G.	0	1	1	Koch, G.	2	2	3	Power, F.	0	2	0	R. Johnson, F.	0	0	1	C. Johnson, F.	0	0	0	Totals	4	10	11
Crosby-Ironton (21)—	FG.	FT.	PF.																																																																										
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<p>1927-37 Coach Tony Chermak</p>																																																																													

Wadena Indians Basketball

1932-33

Roster / Records

Wadena
C. Johnson, F
R. Johnson, F
Askew, C
West, G
Gung, G
Fleener F
P. Johnson, G

*

* Jung

District 25 Tournament

1933 (BRAINERD)	
First Round	
Little Falls 51, Sebeka 14.	
Crosby-Ironton 30, Pine River 17	
Brainerd 35, Aitkin 10.	
Wadena 24, Staples 23.	
Semi-Finals	
Little Falls 33, Wadena 25.	
Brainerd 27, Crosby-Ironton 24.	
Championship	
Brainerd 25, Little Falls 19.	

1927-37
Coach
Tony Chermak



Results

Team

1932-33 marked the third and final season of competing as a District 25 team.

Standing of major teams close playing schedule: 1. Staples; 2. Crosby-Ironton; 3. Brainerd; 4. Little Falls.
--

District 25 top four seeds

Staples (23)	FG	FT	PF	TP
Halliday, f.	3	3	2	9
Thorn, f.	0	0	0	0
Card, c.	3	1	3	7
Probetle, g.	1	1	1	3
Walker, g.	1	0	2	2
Johnson, f.	1	0	0	2
<hr/>				
	9	5	8	23
Wadena (24)	FG	FT	PF	TP
C. Johnson, f.	1	0	0	2
R. Johnson, f.	3	3	3	9
Askew, c.	0	0	1	0
West, g.	1	0	1	2
Jung, g.	0	0	2	0
Fleener, f.	5	1	4	11
<hr/>				
	10	4	11	24

Wadena upset the #1 seed Staples 24-23 in the quarterfinals.

Little Falls	Fg	Ft	F	Tp
P. Beveridge, F.....	6	2	3	14
Johnson, F.....	3	2	2	8
Senty, C.....	4	1	4	9
Schulthels, G.....	0	0	3	0
Larson, G.....	0	0	2	0
Wetzel, G.....	1	0	0	2
<hr/>				
	14	5	14	33
Wadena	Fg	Ft	F	Tp
C. Johnson, F.....	2	1	0	5
R. Johnson, F.....	3	0	1	6
Askew, C.....	1	1	2	3
West, G.....	1	2	2	4
Gung, G.....	0	2	2	2
Fleener, F.....	1	0	1	2
P. Johnson, G.....	1	1	0	3
<hr/>				
	9	7	8	25

Little Falls, #4 seed, defeated Wadena 33-25 in the semi-finals.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1933-34



Back Row: Sam Pierce, Phil Schiller, Glen "Red" Garr, Warren Johnson (mgr), John Grogan, Bill Prettyman, Frank (Wiener) Merickel

Front Row: Leland "Squeak" Johnson, Harry "Swede" West, Russ Askew, Wallace "Red" Smith, Eddie "Skip" Miller



**1927-37
Coach
Tony Chermak**

Teamwork Makes Them Great

From Wadena PJ
Date unknown



Favorites to win Region 6. Success due to teamwork.
Leland "Squeek" Johnson, Harry "Swede" West, Russ Askew, Wallace "Red" Smith, Eddie "Skip" Miller

District Season Record 9-1 District 24 Champions!

1934 (WADENA)
First Round
Brainerd 37, Little Falls 13.
Crosby-Ironton 48, New York Mills 19.
Wadena 34, Aitkin 19.
Staples 49, Sebeka 12.
Semi-Finals
Wadena 19, Crosby-Ironton 12.
Brainerd 25, Staples 17.
Championship
Wadena 35, Brainerd 20.

District 24 Champions

Wadena - 35
Brainerd - 20

Region 6 Tournament

Alexandria - 20
Wadena - 17

Wadena's Superior Team Routs Warriors
BRAINERD CAGE FANS GIRD TO SUPPORT WADENA IN REGIONAL

**ASKEW, WEST AND
SMITH HONORED
BY SELECTIONS**

First Team
Forward - Smith, Wadena
Forward - Smith, Brainerd
Center - Askew, Wadena
Guard - Casvey, Brainerd
Guard - West, Wadena.

Second Team
Forward - Miller, Wadena.
Forward - Thorn, Staples.
Center - Odanovich, Crosby-Ironton.
Guard - Johnson, Wadena.
Guard - Heikkinen, Brainerd.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1934-35



Back Row: Coach Tony Chermak, Bill Prettyman, Sam Pierce, Chester Krause, John Grogan, Bill Browne and Bill Breid
 Front Row: Glen Garr, Ed Miller, Lee Johnson, Phil Schiller and Frank Merickel

Conference Record

Wadena 28, Little Falls 15.
 Wadena 39, Little Falls 25.
 Wadena 15, Aitkin 17.
 Wadena 14, C.-I. 18.
 Wadena 22, Staples 21.
 Wadena 26, Aitkin 23.
 Wadena 16, Brainerd 32.
 Wadena 18, Brainerd 33.
 Wadena 23, Staples 26.
 Wadena 30, C.-I. 27.

District 24 Season
 5-5 (T-3rd)

District 24*
Championship
 Crosby-Ironton - 33
 Wadena - 9

1927-37
Coach
 Tony Chermak



* Just before the District 24 tournament on Feb 23, 1935, at Crosby-Ironton, Wadena defeated a tough C-I squad 30-27. Two weeks later in the District 24 championship game Wadena lost 33-9 scoring just two baskets and five free throws.

**WADENA SUBDUES
 RANGERS 30 TO 27**

**Pick All-District
 Team With Two C-I
 Players Selected**

Wadena team captain L. "Squeak" Johnson was named to the All-District 24 team.

**Forwards — Smith, Brainerd,
 and Popek, Crosby-Ironton.
 Center — Andberg, Crosby-Ironton.
 Guards — Thorn, Staples, and
 Johnson, Wadena.**

Wadena Indians Basketball

1935-36



Back Row: Ass't Coach Schunert, Glen Garr, John Grogan, Eddie Miller, Bill Browne, Phil Schiller and Head Coach Chermak
 Front Row: Frank Merickel, Bill Prettyman, and Bill Breid

Central Eight Conference

9-1 (2nd)

District 24 Season

8-1 (T-1st)

District 24 Tournament

1936 (WADENA)

First Round

Crosby-Ironton 51, Pine River 16.

Wadena 37, Verndale 17.

Brainerd 36, Aitkin 11.

Staples 21, Little Falls 16.

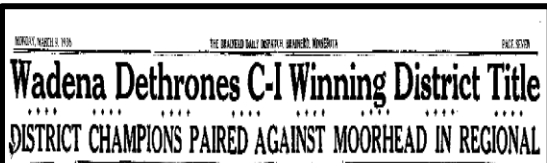
Semi-Finals

Wadena 27, Staples 20.

Crosby-Ironton 31, Brainerd 26.

Championship

Wadena 22, Crosby-Ironton 19.



All-District 24 Team

Schiller and Miller on first team

Garr and Browne on second team

First Team

Forwards — Odonovich, C-I ;
 Skinner, Staples.

Center—Schiller, Wadena.

Guards—Martin, C-I; Miller
 Wadena.

Second Team

Forwards—Doshan, C-I; Garr,
 Wadena.

Center—Huxtable, Little Falls.

Guards—L y s c i o, Brainerd;
 Browne, Wadena.

REGION SIX

Semifinals:

**WINNERS TROUNCE
SPUDS 25-20 SCORE**

REGION SIX CHAMPIONSHIP

Wadena - 26
Morris - 18

Four On All-Regional Team

Miller, Browne, Schiller and Garr
make All-Region 6 Team

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1936

THE BRAINER DAILY DISPATCH

Wadena Goes to State State Quarterfinals

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

The Sleepy Eye-Wadena game, won by Wadena, 20 to 18, in the final second of play when Jimmy Browne dropped in a long shot was, of course, the most thrilling of the day.

Brown's Shot Honey

Wadena never had the lead until the game was over. The

NOTE: Browne's first name was Bill, not Jimmy

Semifinals

Results Friday

Championship Round

Wadena, 28; Buhl, 27.

Bemidji, 34; Red Wing, 23.

Championship

THE BRAINER DAILY DISPATCH, BRAINER, MINNESOTA

Meets Bemidji for State Title

Bemidji (Region 8) 26

Wadena (Region 6) 20

HUTTON PICKS MILLER

WADENA GUARD

FOR ALL - STATE

Ed Miller

All-District 24

All-Region 6

All-State



Browne

Garr

Schiller



All-District 24 & All-Region 6

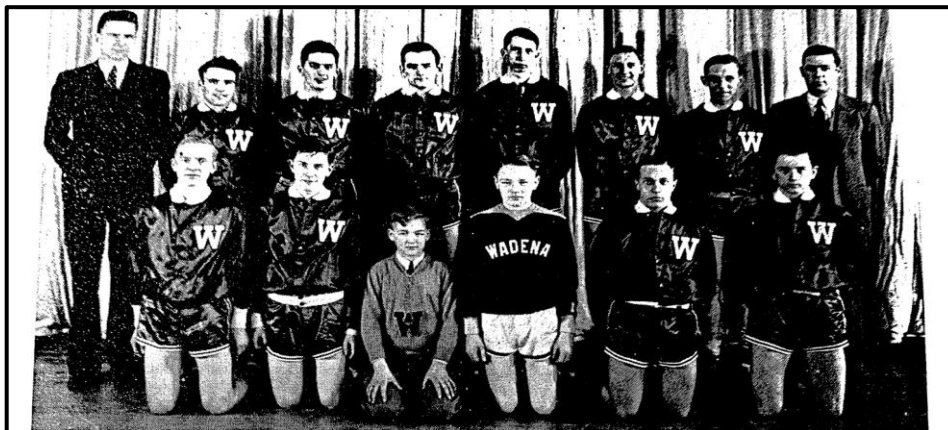
Wadena Thanks Its Lucky Star; Buhl Band Blasts



Wadena Indians Basketball

1936-37

(This was the last year having a jump ball at center court after each basket.)



BASKET BALL "A" TEAM

Left to right, First row: Nestor Engh, Henry Colson, student manager, Raymond Bennett, Duane Frost, Gene Hotz, Paul Schiller. Second row, Assistant coach, Mr. James Schunert, Harry Walker, William Prettyman, Philip Schiller, Richard Stark, William Askew, William Breid, Coach Mr. Anton Chermak.

This is the last Wadena team coached by Tony Chermak (1927-37)

Season Record

15-8

THE SEASON

Crosby	19	Wadena	31	Detroit Lakes	19	Wadena	30
Detroit Lakes	29	Wadena	24	Crosby	30	Wadena	19
Little Falls	13	Wadena	25	Park Rapids	12	Wadena	19
Bemidji	26	Wadena	25	Moorhead	22	Wadena	23
Park Rapids	26	Wadena	31	Staples	30	Wadena	27
Little Falls	16	Wadena	31	Aitkin	26	Wadena	36
Fergus Falls	30	Wadena	25	Brainerd	28	Wadena	25
Brainerd	28	Wadena	26	Long Prairie	23	Wadena	42
Aitkin	17	Wadena	34	Fergus Falls	34	Wadena	25
Staples	11	Wadena	28	Staples Falls	25	Wadena	26

TOURNAMENT

Wadena	30	Little Falls	19
Wadena	29	Verndale	17
Wadena	36	Crosby	42

District 24 Season

FINAL DISTRICT STANDINGS

	W	L	Pct
Crosby-Ironton	9	1	.900
Brainerd	7	3	.700
Staples	6	4	.600
Wadena	5	4	.556
Little Falls	2	8	.200
Aitkin	0	11	.000

District 24 Tournament

1937 (CROSBY-IRONTON)

First Round

Verndale 36, Brainerd 35.

Crosby-Ironton 47, Pequot 20.

Staples 36, Aitkin 15.

Wadena 36, Little Falls 23.

Semi-Finals

Crosby-Ironton 47, Staples 17.

Wadena 29, Verndale 17.

Championship

Crosby-Ironton 42, Wadena 36.



Wadena High School Coaching Achievements

1927-37

Anton Chermak

Minnesota State Tournament

1936 Runner-up (26-20 vs Bemidji)

Region 6 Tournament

1934 (first round loss to Alexandria 20-17)

1936 Champions (wins over Moorhead and Morris)

District 24 Tournament

1934 and 1936 Champions

1935 and 1937 Runners-up

Wadena Indians Basketball

1937-38



Left to right, back row: Kermit Anderson (assistant coach), Duane Frost, Paul Schiller, Richard Boyer, Bill Askew, Nestor Engh and Jim Schunert (coach). Second row: Harry Walker, Gene Hotz, Richard Stark, Henry Colson, George Lewis. Fourth row: Leo Goche, student manager.

Season Record 13-7

Opponents	Wadena	Opponents	Wadena
Crosby-Ironton	27 30	Detroit Lakes	16 27
Aitkin	14 11	Long Prairie	20 60
Brainerd	22 26	Crosby-Ironton	55 26
Detroit Lakes	19 33	Park Rapids	9 41
Aitkin	25 33	Fergus Falls	23 27
Brainerd	34 28	Staples	26 32
Staples	29 25	Little Falls	18 36
Little Falls	25 28		
Staples	35 30	Tournament	
Moorhead	34 27	Brainerd	28 22

District 24 Season 5-5 (4th)

FINAL STANDINGS	
24th DISTRICT	
Staples	2 1
Crosby-Ironton	7 3
Brainerd	6 4
Wadena	5 5
Aitkin	5 7
Little Falls	1 9

District 24 Quarterfinals Brainerd - 28 Wadena - 22

1938 (CROSBY-IRONTON)
First Round
Aitkin 24, Little Falls 21.
Crosby-Ironton 44, Pequot 20.
Brainerd 28, Wadena 22.
Staples 39, Verndale 31.
Semi-Finals
Staples 28, Brainerd 21.
Crosby-Ironton 33, Aitkin 22.
Championship
Crosby-Ironton 29, Staples 26.

Effective 1937-38:

BAN CENTER JUMP
AFTER FIELD GOALS

Hotz makes All-District 24 First Team
Walker makes All-District 24 Second Team

BRAINERD HIGH SCHOOL TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1938

ALL STAR SELECTIONS

All-District

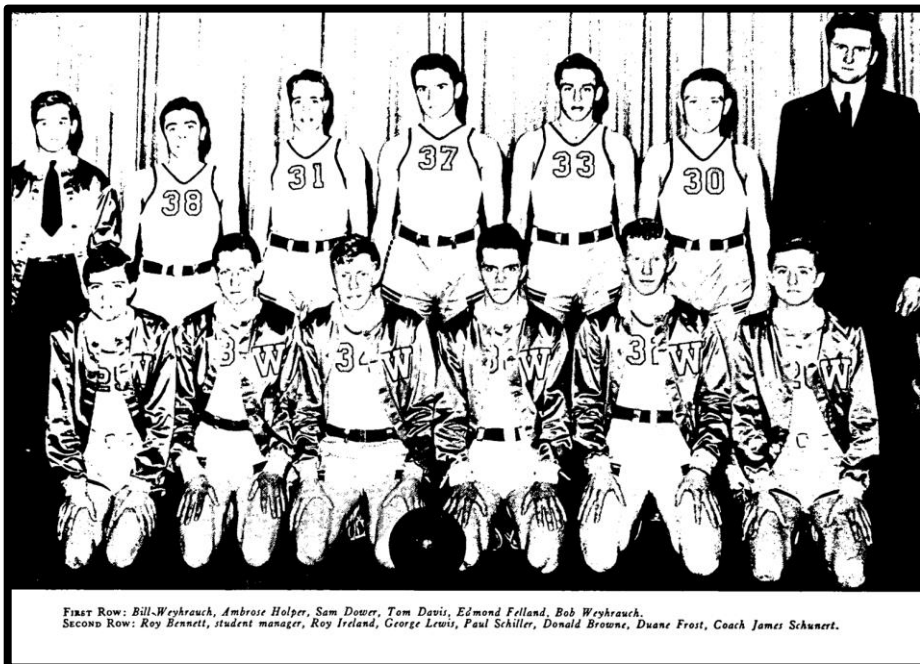
First Team	All-District	Second Team
Gumbel, C-I	F.	Connolly, Verndale
Robinson, Staples	F.	Walker, Wadena
Marlin, C-I	C.	G. Bierhaus, Brainerd
Fitzbarria, Brainerd	G.	Dobersvich, C-I
Hotz, Wadena	G.	Butler, Staples

1937-41
Coach
Jim Schunert



Wadena Indians Basketball

1938-39



First Row: Bill Weyhrauch, Ambrose Holper, Sam Dower, Tom Davis, Edmond Felland, Bob Weyhrauch.
 Second Row: Roy Bennett, student manager, Roy Ireland, George Lewis, Paul Schiller, Donald Browne, Duane Frost, Coach James Schunert.

Season Record 11-7

The season's record is as follows:

SEASON'S RECORD				
	Wadena	Opponents		
Crosby-Ironton	24	31	Moorhead	26
Little Falls	19	17	Detroit Lakes	21
Park Rapids	24	18	Brainerd	23
Aitkin	26	17	Little Falls	43
Minneapolis Marshall	15	29	Sauk Center	26
Brainerd	25	42	Park Rapids	19
Long Prairie	33	19	Staples	19
Staples	24	22	Fergus Falls	29
Aitkin	29	21	Crosby-Ironton	23

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT				
	Wadena	Opponents		
Verndale	32	32	Wadena	39
Brainerd	26	26	Wadena	16
Crosby-Ironton	28	28	Wadena	26

BRAINERD AND STAPLES PLACE TWO MEN ON ALL-TOURNEY HONOR TEAM

DISPATCH ALL-TOURNAMENT SELECTIONS

FIRST TEAM	Pos.	SECOND TEAM
Duane Frost, Wadena	F	Rayol, C-E
Gene Holman, Brainerd	F	J. Conley, Verndale
Gordon Nelson, Staples	C	W. Conley, Verndale
Tony Mullis, Staples	G	Gus Novotny, Brainerd
Carl Engert, Brainerd	G	Forjich, C-E

Honorable Mention

Forwards—Rayol, Brainerd; W. Seaton, Verndale; Billier, Staples; T. Cline, Aitkin.
 Centers—Hruszavich, C-E; Lewis, Wadena; Johnson, Sebeka.
 Guards—Schiller, Wadena; Dahler, Staples; Tork, C-E.

District 24 Season 5-5

District 24 Tournament

1939 (BRAINERD)
First Round
 Brainerd 36, Little Falls 22.
 Crosby-Ironton 43, Sebeka 25.
 Wadena 39, Verndale 32.
 Staples 39, Aitkin 15.
Semi-Finals
 Brainerd 26, Wadena 16.
 Staples 31, Crosby-Ironton 26.
Championship
 Brainerd 27, Staples 19.

Wadena loses 26-16 in semi-final round

Duane Frost All-District 24 First Team Schiller and Lewis Honorable Mention

1937-41
Coach
 Jim Schunert



The 1940's Seasons



Wadena Indians Basketball

1939-40

Anderson	Frost, Duane	Lowrey
Bergeson	Ireland	Weyhrauch, Bill
Felland	Lewis	Weyhrauch, Bob

Wadena—26	FG	FT	PF	TP
B. Weyhrauch	2	4-5	1	8
Ireland	2	1-2	3	5
Lewis	2	0-1	4	4
Frost	1	1-2	0	3
Felland	1	2-2	4	4
Lowery	0	0-2	0	0
Anderson	1	0-0	0	2
	9	8-14	12	26

Score by quarters:

Wadena	5	16	21	26
Little Falls	6	13	25	32

Season Record
15-8

District 24 Season
7-4 (3rd)

District 24 Quarterfinals
Little Falls 32
Wadena 26

1937-41
Coach
Jim Schunert



This Wadena team had some impressive wins. They defeated eventual District 24 and Central 8 Conference Champions C-1 twice, 30-28 in the season opener and 36-28 in the season finale. But, while they defeated Little Falls twice, 25-18 and 47-21, they lost to them in the District 24 quarterfinals.

24th District Tournament Results			
STAPLES	STAPLES, 41-19		
SEBEKA		STAPLES, 29-20	
BRAINERD	BRAINERD, 23-18		
AITKIN			CROSBY-IRONTON, 28-23
WADENA	LITTLE FALLS, 32-26	9 p. m. Thursday	Champion
LITTLE FALLS		C-1, 33-17	
PINE RIVER	C-1, 43-29		
CROSBY-IRONTON			

Consolation Finals—Brainerd 23, Little Falls 21.

Other notable wins:

Fergus Falls 32-15, Alexandria 42-23,
Moorhead 51-40

No individual accomplishments were discovered for this 1940 Wadena team. A five-man All-District 24 first team and a five-man second team were named. No Wadena players on either. However, in 1939 as a junior, **Duane Frost** was selected to the District 24 five-man first team and called a "hot shot forward" by the Brainerd Daily Dispatch. The paper also pointed out that Wadena would be returning three starters for the 1940 season. This 1940 team finished with a good record that included some impressive wins. Perhaps this was possible because they were well balanced and their success was a true team effort.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1940-41



Back: Ass't coach Kermit Anderson, Duane Ames, Howard Erickson, Roger Robb, Ervin Blair Thos. Ames, Don Perkinns, head coach Jim Schunert

Front: Paul Bergland, Gerald Highum, Jack Nutting, Vernon Wirkkinen, Clyde Kelsey

Season Record 5-17

Jack Nutting was Captain and high point man for the Indians and was very ably assisted by Kelsey, Wirkkinen, Robb, Highum, and Berglund.

"W"	Opp.	"W"	Opp.
23 Park Rapids	19	27 Little Falls	32
20 Crosby-Ironton	34	15 Moorhead	44
21 Fergus Falls	42	28 Detroit Lakes	43
23 Little Falls	28	24 Brainerd	20
17 Staples	28	21 Breckinridge	24
31 Brainerd	38	16 Staples	42
21 Alexandria	27	18 Aitken	37
23 St. Louis Park	37	26 Fargo	36
48 Long Prairie	30	20 Crosby-Ironton	41
25 Aitken	23	31 Staples	33
38 Park Rapids	21	517	679
Tournament			
22 Staples	30		

Final standings in the district
schedule race:

	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	9	1
BRAINERD	7	3
Staples	7	3
Aitkin	3	7
Little Falls	2	8
Wadena	2	8

District 24 Final Standings (2-8)

1937-41
Coach
Jim Schunert



After an impressive record in the 1939-40 season this campaign would be the first of two that would struggle to win games. However, the foundation was being laid for the 1943 and 1944 teams that were the most successful teams of the decade.

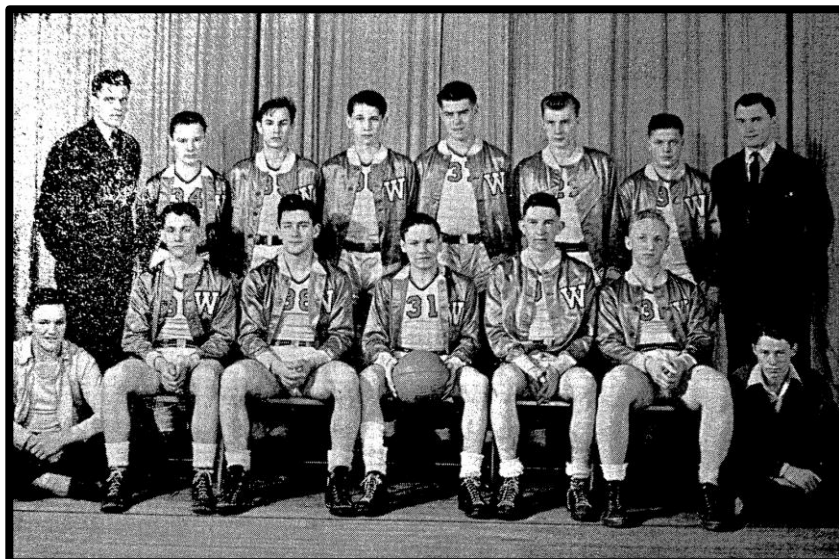
Junior **Jack Nutting** and sophomore **Vern Wirkunen** provided a nucleus upon which to build for the future.

Very few statistics were uncovered but enough praise for **Nutting**, from the Brainerd Daily Dispatch, and some game results show how dominating he could be. In two losses to archrival Staples, 30-22 and 33-31, **Nutting** scored 16 and 21 points respectively. In the first game the paper said he scored from all positions on the court and played aggressive defense.

Wirkunen appears to be the second leading scorer on the team. As a sophomore starter he was getting valuable experience that would help the 1943 team win the District 24 title.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1941-42



Seated—Ted Roberg, Tom Ames, Clyde Kelsey, Jack Nutting, Paul Berglund, Chuck Engh, Lindy Williams. Standing—Mr. Anderson, Pat Frost, LeRoy Kresien, Bruce Wilcox, Dick Schmitz, Vernon Wirkunnen, Jack Browne, Mr. Wolverton.

Season Record

5-16

District 24

record unknown (6th)

District 24 Tournament

4th place



1941-42

Coach

Mr. Wolverton

This 1942 team could be described as talented, but young and inexperienced. Led by senior gunner **Jack Nutting**, his supporting cast included juniors **Vern Wirkunnen** and **Jack Browne**, sophomore **Dick Schmitz** and freshman **Bruce Wilcox**.

Like the previous season few statistics were uncovered. However, in the District 24 tournament Wadena met #2 seeded Brainerd in the quarterfinals and upset them 25-22.

Wadena lost to Little Falls in the semifinals and to Staples in the 3rd place game. For the tournament, in addition to **Nutting**, **Wirkunnen**, **Schmitz** and **Browne** were the top scorers and the freshman **Wilcox** played in all three games.

Senior **Jack Nutting** was named to the 10-man All-District 24 team.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1942-43



Front Row Kneeling—*Wallace Mattock, Frank Jung, William Hoffman, Chuck Pierce, Paul Meckel, Dale Besett, Kelly Baden.*

Back Row Standing—*Assistant Coach Robert Mower, Frank Burch, team manager; Vernon Wirkkunen, Dick Schmitz, Bruce Wilcox, Jack Browne, Leroy Kresien, Coach Art Sand.*

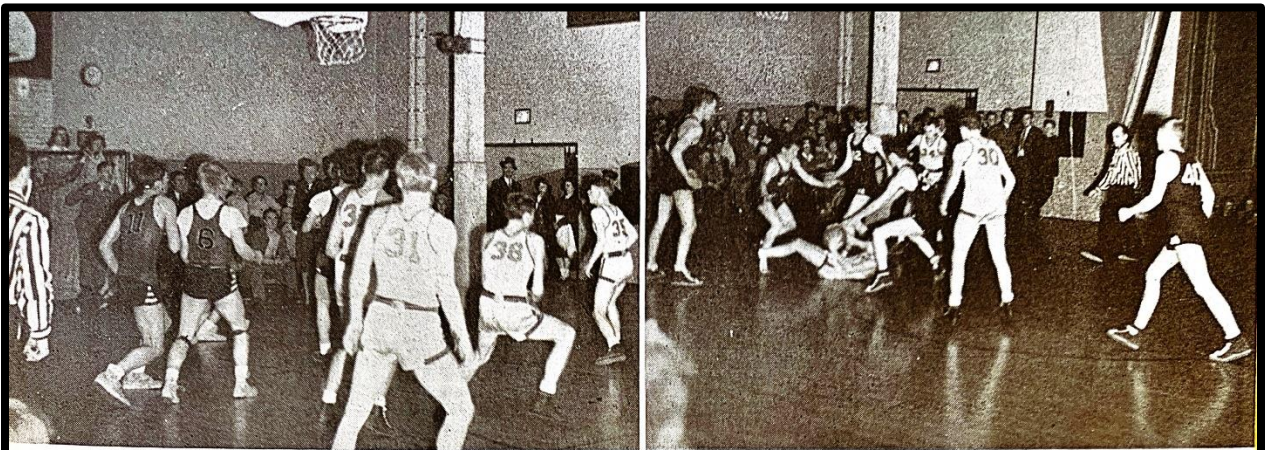
THE Wadena basketball team, encountering tough competition in seasonal play, reached its peak to win the district 24 tournament. Wadena took the title from the top-ceded Crosby-Ironton quintet 33-24, in the Wadena Memorial Auditorium.

Under a new coach, Art Sand, a team was developed which was noted for its teamwork and wholehearted cooperation. The Indians ended the season with a record of 12 wins and 8 losses.

The team suffered a loss when their captain, Chuck Engh, enlisted in the V-1 program at Brainerd Junior College. His rugged defensive play was greatly missed by the team throughout the remaining season.

The seniors lost from the "A" squad through graduation are Jack Browne, Captain; Wallace Mattock, and William Hoffman. Vernon Wirkkunen, who recently joined the Marines, will also be gone next season. The remaining "A" squad members are Wilcox, Baden, Meckel, and Pierce, sophomores, Schmitz and Kresien, juniors.

DISTRICT 24 CHAMPIONS!



Wadena's Braves battle Crosby-Ironton (right) and Aitkin (left) in the 24th district tournament held at Wadena

BASKETBALL LETTERMEN

The lettermen are: Jack Browne, Leroy Kresien, Dick Schmitz, Bruce Wilcox, Vernon Wirkkunen, Kelly Baden, Wallace Mattock, Chuck Engh.

SEASON'S RECORD

Opponents		W. H. S.	Opponents		W. H. S.
Crosby-Ironton	..... 28	16	Detroit Lakes	..... 28	25
Brainerd	..... 25	23	Verndale	..... 19	31
Aitkin	..... 16	35	Staples	..... 52	50
Park Rapids	..... 19	64	Aitkin	..... 29	24
Staples	..... 18	21	Crosby-Ironton	..... 25	29
Little Falls	..... 23	30	Hewitt	..... 31	53
Park Rapids	..... 28	61	Little Falls	..... 22	30
Brainerd		..... 42			39

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Wadena	..... 34	Little Falls	..... 32
Wadena	..... 12	Aitkin	..... 8
Wadena	..... 33	Crosby-Ironton	..... 24

REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

Wadena	..... 25	Alexandria	..... 34
Wadena	..... 24	Detroit Lakes	..... 45

Rangers Play Erratic Ball as---

Wadena Wins District 24 Cage Title, 33 to 25

Season Record

9-6

District 24

3-0

Region 6

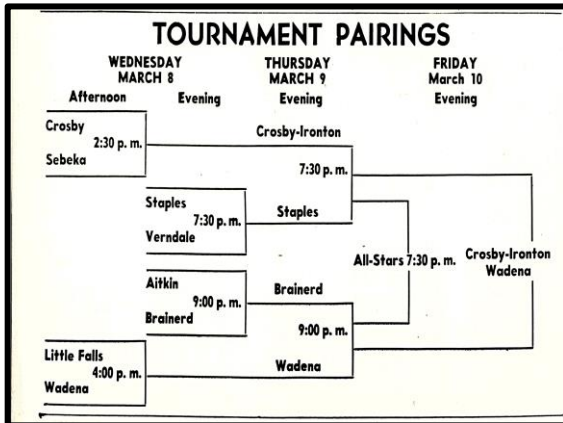
0-2

Wadena--
Browne, f
Hoffman, f
Krisen, f
Baden, f
Schmitz, c
Pierce, g
Wirkkunen, g
Wilcox, g

Tournament Championship

Wadena - 33

Crosby-Ironton - 25



Dick Schmitz (jr-center) - All-District 24
Bruce Wilcox (so-guard) All-District 24
Vern Wirkunen (sr-fwd) Honorable Mention

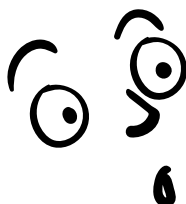
In the **Region 6** tournament Wadena lost in their semifinal game to Alexandria 35-25. Alexandria went on to win the Region 6 tournament and in the state tournament lost in the title game to St. Paul, 52-33.



**1942-43
Coach
Arthur Sand**

CHAMPS

DISTRICT 24 TOURNEY RECORD



Not many details were available about Wadena's 1942-43 season. Like the previous year they were young, but this year they were no longer inexperienced. An assumption can be made that as the season progressed this young team kept improving. The District 24 tournament results support this assumption.

It appears the Indians were the #3 seed in the District 24 tournament, with C-I and Aitkin #1 and #2 respectively. The "Orangemen" opened the tournament against Little Falls and won that quarterfinal matchup 34-32.

Wadenans Upset Aitkin in Weird Tilt 12-8

In the semifinal against the #2 seed Aitkin, for some unknown reason Aitkin chose to stall. Perhaps Wadena had developed into the best team in the tournament and Aitkin knew it. The first points of the game came 4 minutes into the 2nd half. Wadena won 12-8. **Dick Schmitz** led all scorers with 6 points and was described by the Brainerd Daily Dispatch, "...as impenetrable as the Rock of Gibraltar on defense and rebounds."

In the District 24 championship game, held in the Wadena Auditorium, the Indians took on the #1 seed Crosby-Ironton Rangers. C-I had won the District title the previous 3 years running. This year Wadena won 33-25, led by **Dick Schmitz**, the leading point getter with 10 and top rebounder. Sophomore **Bruce Wilcox, Jr.** added 8 points and **Jack Browne** had 7.

- 1943--Wadena 33, C-I 25.
- 1942--C-I 20, Little Falls 17.
- 1941--C-I 32, Staples 28.
- 1940--C-I 28, Staples 23.
- 1939--Brainerd 27, Staples 19.
- 1938--C-I 29, Staples 26.
- 1937--C-I 42, Wadena 36.
- 1936--Wadena 22, C-I 19.
- 1935--C-I 33, Wadena 9.
- 1934--Wadena 35, Brainerd 20.
- 1933--Brainerd 25, Little Falls 19.
- 1932--C-I 26, Staples 22.
- 1931--Brainerd 19, C-I 18.
- 1930--C-I 27, Brainerd 24.
- 1929--C-I 32, Brainerd 20.
- 1928--Brainerd 20, C-I 14.
- 1927--C-I 21, Brainerd 20.
- 1926--Brainerd 18, C-I 13.
- 1925--Pine River 15, C-I 10.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1943-44



Back Row—Mr. Kermit Anderson, Franklin Burch, student manager; Kelly Baden, Franklin Jung, Lovell Piepkorn, Donald Imgrund, William Blair, Mr. Robert Mower. Front Row—Charles Pierce, Pat Frost, Bruce Wilcox, Dick Schmitz, Leroy Kresien, Dale Besett, Paul Meckel.

SEASON'S RECORD

Opponents	W.H.S.	Opponents	W.H.S.
Crosby-Ironton	30 36	Brainerd	47 56
Brainerd	38 31	Park Rapids	28 54
Aitkin	23 31	Aitkin	25 39
Sebeka	19 33	Crosby-Ironton	49 33
Alexandria	37 36	Verndale	33 24
Staples	17 35	Park Rapids	31 61
Little Falls	31 38	Little Falls	32 37
Detroit Lakes	36 38	Staples	29 42
Verndale	31 39	Alexandria	28 39

DISTRICT TORUNAMENT

Wadena	45	Little Falls	41
Wadena	45	Brainerd	36
Wadena	27	Crosby-Ironton	38

Season Record

15-6

Central Eight Conference

6-3 (2nd)

CENTRAL EIGHT CONFERENCE (Final Standings)

	W	L	Pct	Pts	OP
St. Cloud Tech	9	0	1.000	328	259
Wadena	6	3	.667	344	301
Bemidji	6	3	.667	324	279
Crosby-Ironton	7	6	.538	445	414
BRAINERD	6	7	.462	435	448
Staples	4	7	.364	292	358
Little Falls	3	10	.238	366	421
Alexandria	2	7	.222	273	325

(Wadena's inaugural season)

For the 1943-44 season defending District 24 champion Wadena was a new member of the **Central Eight Conference**. In their inaugural season they finished 6-3 and tied for 2nd place with Bemidji and behind St Cloud Tech. In district 24 play the Indians were tied with Crosby-Ironton for 1st place, their district records unknown. See standings to left.

In the District 24 tournament defending champion Wadena beat Little Falls in the **quarterfinals** 45-41 led by **Dick Schmitz's** 16 points. In the semifinals Wadena defeated Brainerd 45-36. **Bruce Wilcox** led Wadena's balanced scoring with 10.

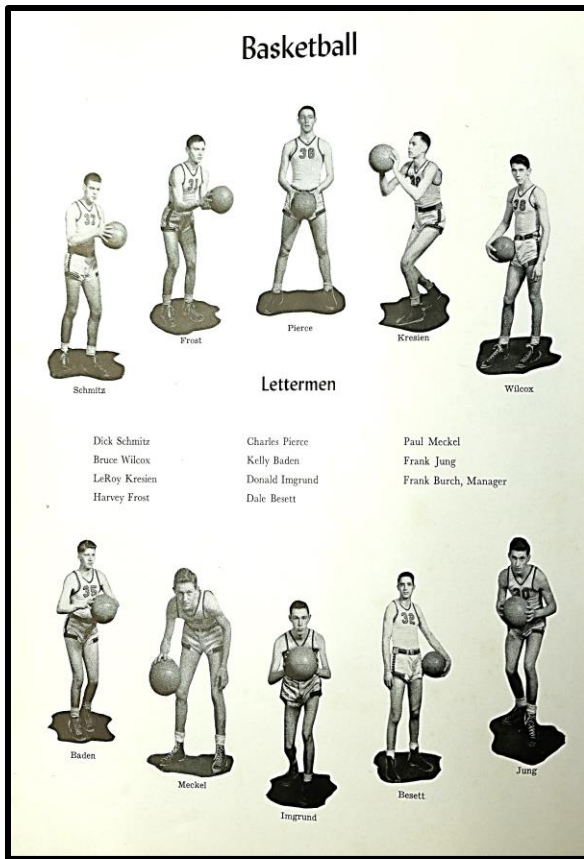
The 1944 District 24 championship game was a repeat of the previous year. Defending champion Wadena and C-I were preseason favorites, they tied for first in district play and now they faced each other once again in the title game. Brainerd's Washington High School gymnasium was reportedly packed with nearly 3,300*, mostly partisan, fans. In the end, the Rangers of C-I proved too much for Wadena. The final score was 38-27.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1943-44 (cont.)

District 24 Season
8-2 (1st)

District 24 Championship
Crosby-Ironton - 38
Wadena - 27



1943-45
Coach
Robert Mower

With the win C-I had their 6th title in the last twelve years, their 4th in the last five.

Relinquishes District Title
BY PAT KEITH
A well-balanced and fighting Crosby-Ironton team rose to the peak of their season's playing and gained "sweet revenge" over a tired and outmanned Wadena quint as they relentlessly blasted their way to the 1944 District 24 championship Friday night by beating the Indians, 38-27 before nearly 3,300 rabid and roaring fans, the most ever to attend a District 24 tournament, or for that matter, the largest crowd ever to assemble in the Washington gym.

* (more than one person has questioned the claim of 3,300 fans, for lack of capacity, in the Washington gym)

For the 2nd consecutive year senior center **Dick Schmitz** and junior guard **Bruce Wilcox**, made the All-District 24 ten-man team selected by the coaches.

District All-Stars

Brilliant Myer Skoog, co-captain and center of the Brainerd Warriors was given what is considered the top individual honor awarded a district basketball player—that of being named the most "valuable player" in the 24th district during the past season.

Mighty Myer was the only player among the 10 chosen to receive the vote of all coaches taking part in the poll.

The team includes:

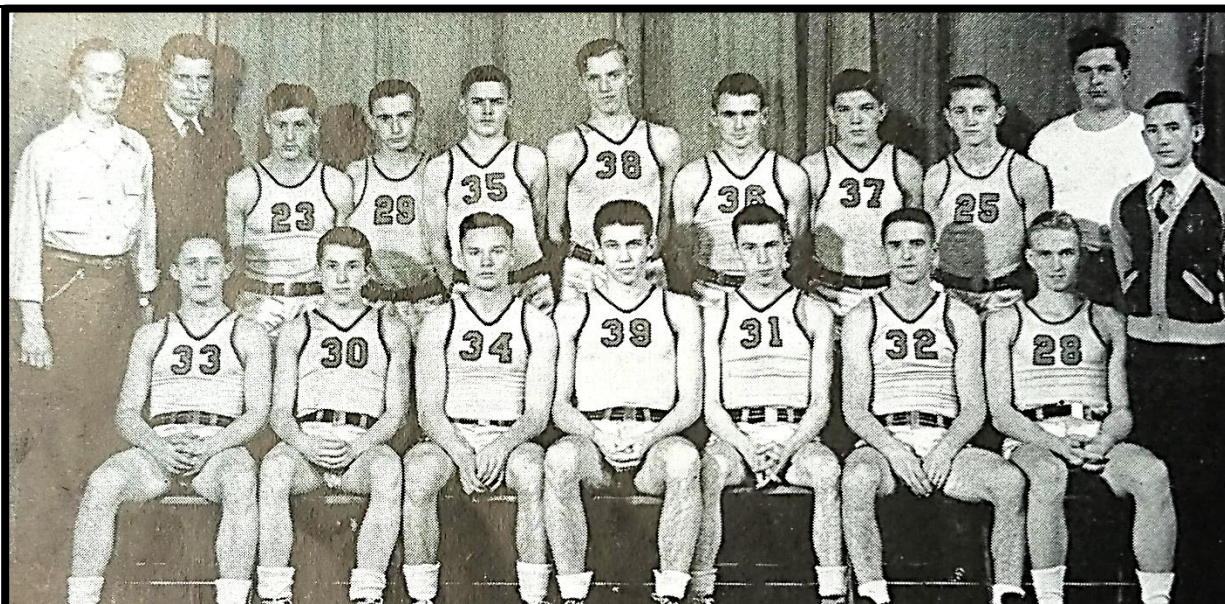
Player	School	Position
Jerry Malmgren	Aitkin	Forward
Ed Jacobson	Crosby-Ironton	Forward
Louie Perpich	Crosby-Ironton	Forward
Pete Steigal	Little Falls	Forward
MYER SKOOG	BRAINERD	CENTER
Wilford Webber	Verndale	Center
Tommy Reagen	Crosby-Ironton	Guard
Dick Schmitz	Wadena	Guard
Bruce Wilcox	Wadena	Guard
Pat Kidder	Little Falls	Guard

Position	Player	School
Forward	Walt Grodhal	Alexandria
Forward	Bob Brown	Bemidji
Forward	Jerry Landsberger	St. Cloud Tech
Center	Myer Skoog	Brainerd
Center	Phil Feir	Bemidji
Guard	Dick Schmitz	Wadena
Guard	Tommy Reagen	Crosby-Ironton
Guard	Dennis Long	St. Cloud Tech

The Brainerd Daily Dispatch also picked an All-Central Eight team of eight athletes and identified their top five which included **Dick Schmitz**. The paper also stated had they selected ten athletes, **Bruce Wilcox** would have been included.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1944-45



SITTING, (left to right)—Cleon Erckenbrack, Frank Jung, Pat Frost, Bruce Wilcox, Don Imgrund, Dale Besett, Warren Blood
STANDING (left to right)—Frank Burch, Mr. Kermit Anderson, Ed Bretz, Kenneth Imgrund, Bill Blair, Tom Nyberg, Lovell Piepkorn, Willis Goedel, Wayne Maroney, Mr. Robert Mower, Verle Blaha

SEASON'S RECORD

Opponents	W.H.S.	Opponents	W.H.S.
Crosby-Ironton	46 30	Staples	44 29
Little Falls	42 35	Brainerd	44 35
Verndale	40 45	St. Cloud Tech.	27 25
Bemidji	35 18	Bertha	54 56
Park Rapids	35 32	Bemidji	37 23
Alexandria	43 49	Little Falls	42 33
Fergus Falls	31 34	Brainerd	45 31
Aitkin	20 21	Aitkin	49 31
Crosby-Ironton	42 29	Detroit Lakes	31 45
Perham	11 38	Staples	41 38

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Wadena - 30 Brainerd - 39

Season Record

7-14

Central Eight Conference

1-11

District 24

1-9

District 24 Quarterfinals

Wadena - 30

Brainerd - 39

1943-45
Coach
Robert Mower



In March of 1945 the Brainerd Daily Dispatch stated that, "Wadena had one of its poorest seasons on record." They lost in the District 24 quarterfinals 39-30 against Brainerd. The one bright spot was the play of 3rd year starter **Bruce (Timmy) Wilcox, Jr.**

Wilcox was named to the Central 8 eight-man all-conference first team.

Wadena's Timmy Wilcox, playing his last game after a brilliant four-year career, made 10 points and was about all the defense or offense that Coach Bob Mower's lads had.

Pat Frost and **Dale Besset** were given honorable mention recognition.

DAILY DISPATCH 44-45 CENTRAL EIGHT HONOR TEAM

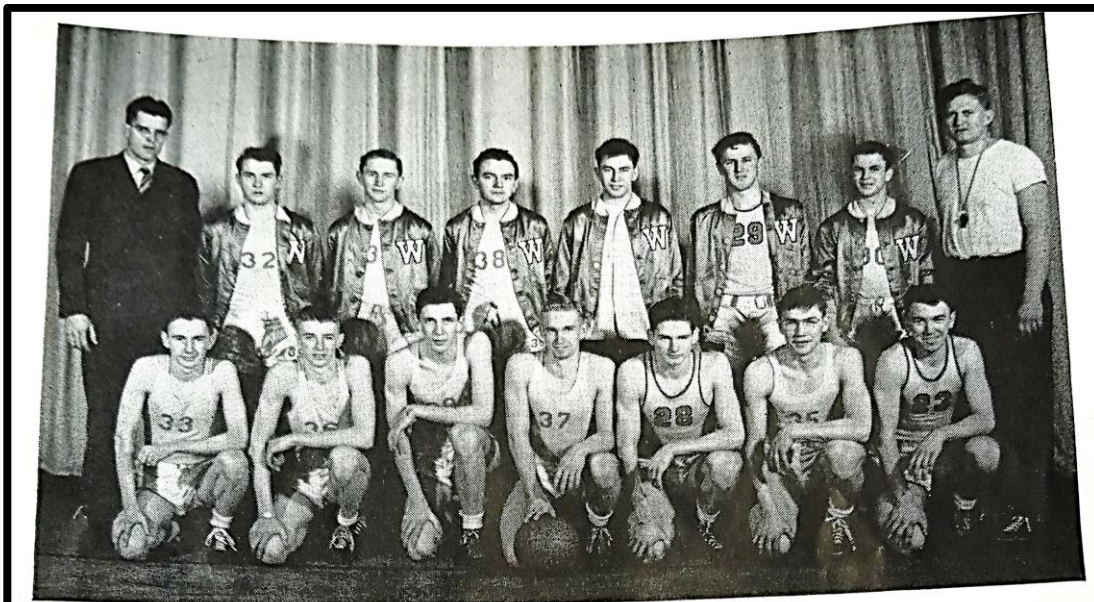
Position	Player	School
Forward	CHUCK WARNBERG (Co-Capt.)	Brainerd
Forward	John Novak	Crosby-Ironton
Forward	Elmo Marx	St. Cloud Tech
Center	Dick Lawrence (Co-Capt.)	Bemidji
Center	Timmy Wilcox	Wadena
Guard	Jim Malosky	Crosby-Ironton
Guard	John Dougherty	Little Falls
Guard	John Longley	Little Falls

HONORABLE MENTION

Justin Moe, Bemidji, Bill Behang and Doc Carlson, Alexandria, Blake Garske and Lamont Lenarz, St. Cloud Tech, Pat Frost and Dale Besset, Wadena, Gene Zervas and Dick Elch, Little Falls, DICK MARTINSON, BRAINERD, Jerome Kovatovich, Crosby-Ironton and Lefty Cameron, Staples.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1945-46



FIRST ROW (left to right)—Kenneth Imgrund, Bob Hall, Harold Wilcox, Warren Blood, Oliver Adams, David Storvick, and Douglas Beehner. SECOND ROW—Kermit Anderson, Tom Robb, Wayne Maroney, Bob Schiller, Ray Krause, Lowell Voegt, Jim Ireland, and Shirley Held.

SEASON'S RECORD

Opponents	W.H.S.	Opponents	W.H.S.	Opponents	W.H.S.
Crosby-Ironton	59 18	Perham	39 26	Bemidji	44 27
Little Falls	47 26	Sebeka	30 16	St. Cloud	66 22
Verndale	28 33	Aitkin	37 25	Little Falls	66 33
Park Rapids	40 23	Staples	58 19	Brainerd	40 28
Bemidji	43 21	Brainerd	38 17	Aitkin	52 38
Alexandria	35 31	Park Rapids	46 23	Crosby-Ironton	48 25
				Staples	48 15

District Tournament

Wadena 21 — Little Falls 58

Season Record 1-19

**Central Eight
Conference**
0-12

District 24 Season
0-10

District 24 Quarterfinals
Wadena - 21
Little Falls - 58

Team	W	L
Crosby-Ironton	10	1
Staples	10	2
Bemidji	7	3
Little Falls	6	8
Alexandria	4	6
Brainerd	5	8
St. Cloud	2	6
Wadena	0	10

1945-50
Coach
S. L. Held



With only one returning player from last year's dismal team it comes as no surprise the 1945-46 season was not any better. They were eliminated in the District 24 quarterfinals by Little Falls, 58-21.

District 24 Tournament Schedule

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Little Falls 58 Wadena 21	Crosby-Ironton 50 Little Falls 37	Consolation Little Falls Aitkin
Crosby-Ironton 50 New York Mills 27	Staples 49 Aitkin 40	Championship Crosby-Ironton Staples
Aitkin 42 Verndale 33	Staples 49 Aitkin 40	
Staples 40 Brainerd 31		

CENTRAL EIGHT CONFERENCE

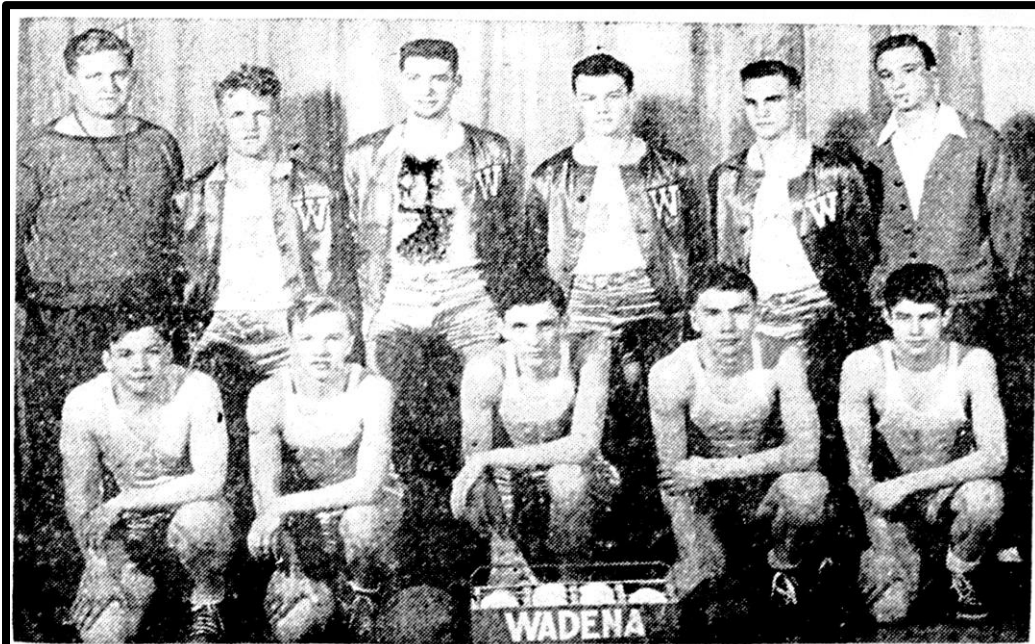
Baden made the eight-man Central Eight All-Conference 2nd team.

SECOND TEAM

S—Flolid, Little Falls; Lenarz, St. Cloud; Grant, Staples.
—Oothoudt, Little Falls; Pawlicki, Bemidji.
Baden, Wadena; R. Dahl, Staples; Jacobson, Crosby-Ironton

Wadena Indians Basketball

1946-47



WADENA HIGH SCHOOL—The Orangemen finished the season with a record of two games won and 17 lost for the season and in district play won one and lost nine. Standing, left to right: Coach Held, Jordahl, Robb, Larson and Schmidt. Front row: Aaberg, Engh, Wilcox, Storvick and Zosel.

Season Record

2-19

Central Eight Conference

1-11

District 24

1-9 (6th)

The standings:			
	W	L	Pct
C.-I.	7	1	.875
Staples	7	2	.777
Bemidji	7	3	.700
St. Cloud			
Tech	4	4	.500
Brainerd	4	6	.400
Alexandria	3	6	.333
Little Falls	3	7	.300
Wadena	1	8	.111

District 24 Quarterfinals

Little Falls - 43

Wadena - 23

1945-50
Coach
S. L. Held



This team started the season with a car wreck on its way to play against conference foe, the Bemidji Lumberjacks. They collided with a lumber truck just south of Bemidji.

Wadena Cagers Injured in Wreck

BEMIDJI, Minn. — **P** — Two Wadena basketball players were injured and three others shaken

The "wreck" was the start of a 2-17 season. A fitting end to the season occurred in a game at Staples when, "...a rough and tumble game developed into a fist fight..."

Staples 38 Wadena 15

court as they trounced the Wadena Orangemen 38-15 in a rough and tumble game developing into a fist fight in the third period.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1947-48



WADENA HIGH SCHOOL—First row, left to right: Don Jordahl, Pat Merickel, Harry Wilcox, Bob Hedstrom, Keith Engh. Second row: Manager Bob Boyer, Ken Jordahl, John Nyberg, Chuck Garr, Gordon Blair, Coach S. L. Held.

Season's Record

Wadena 40; Aitkin 41
 Wadena 20; St. Cloud Tech 42
 Wadena 30; Park Rapids 37
 Wadena 38; Bemidji 48
 Wadena 43; Alexandria 50
 Wadena 41; Brainerd 55
 Wadena 33; Little Falls 37
 Wadena 30; Park Rapids 35

Wadena 41; Alexandria 51
 Wadena 45; Detroit Lakes 35
 Wadena 40; Little Falls 41
 Wadena 41; Staples 59
 Wadena 43; Aitkin 32
 Wadena 28; Crosby-Ironton 52
 Wadena 41; Bemidji 62
 Wadena 33; Brainerd 37

Wadena 42; Crosby-Ironton 53
 Wadena 34; Detroit Lakes 37
 Wadena 16; Staples 48

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

Wadena 53; Verndale 33
 Wadena 27; Staples 60
 Wadena 50; Little Falls 45

Season Record

4-18

Central Eight Conference

1-11

District 24 Season

1-9

District 24 Tournament Consolation

Wadena - 50
 Little Falls - 45

1945-50
Coach
 S. L. Held



Like the previous three seasons Wadena Indian basketball struggled in 1947-48. But this year had a different feel to it. In hindsight it shared many of the same characteristics as the 1941-42 team. This 1948 team could also be described as talented, but young and inexperienced. Led by senior **Harry Wilcox** his supporting cast included junior **Keith Engh** and sophomores **Bob Hedstrom** and **Pat Merickel**.

Dist 24 Quarterfinal win vs Verndale 53-33:
Engh 15, Hedstrom 14, Wilcox 12

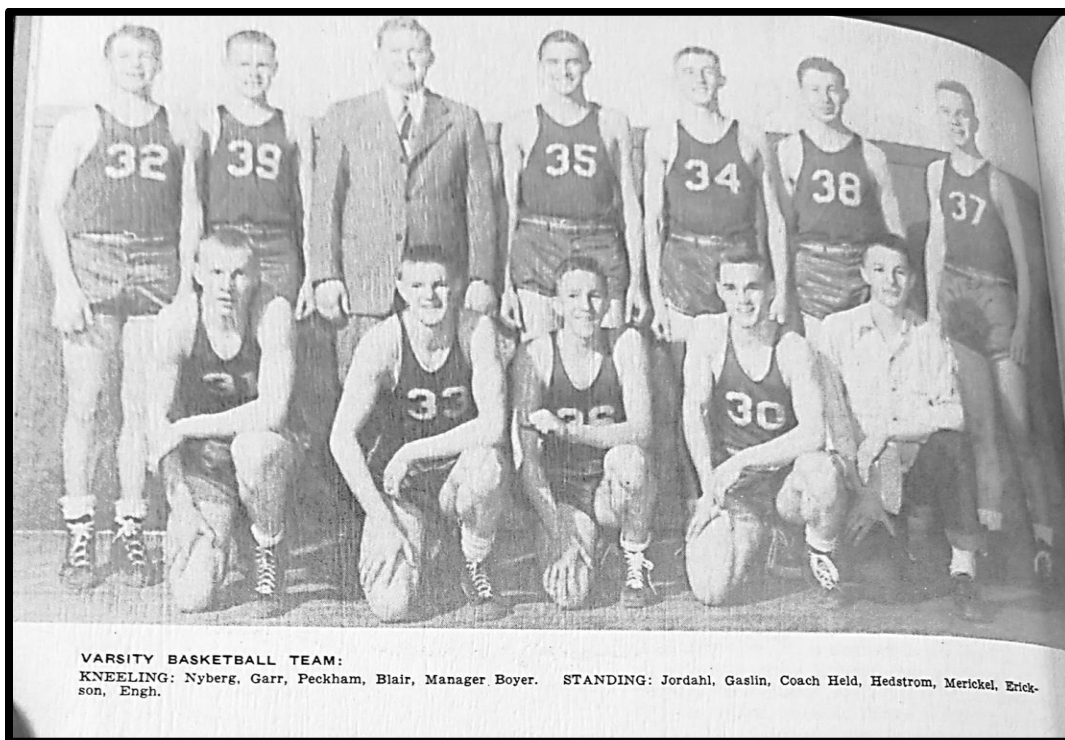
Dist 24 Consolation win vs Little Falls 50-45:
Hedstrom 16, Engh 13, Wilcox 13

Engh and **Hedstrom** would lead next year's team out of the cellar. **Merickel** would also be a significant contributor.

**Wadena to Get
 New Colors for
 Next Season**

Wadena Indians Basketball

1948-49



VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM:
KNEELING: Nyberg, Garr, Peckham, Blair, Manager Boyer. **STANDING:** Jordahl, Gaslin, Coach Held, Hedstrom, Merickel, Erickson, Engh.

Season Record

12-8

Central Ten Standings

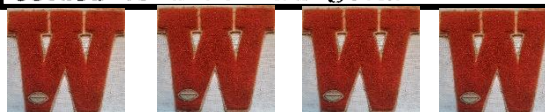
	W	L	Pct.
Alexandria	11	1	.916
Bemidji	10	1	.909
BRAINERD	9	6	.600
Wadena	9	6	.600
St. Cloud Tech	6	7	.462
Little Falls	7	9	.437
Crosby-Ironton	6	8	.429
Staples	6	8	.429
Detroit Lakes	3	8	.273
Aitkin	1	14	.067

District 24 Standings

	W	L
(Final)		
BRAINERD	8	2
Wadena	7	3
Crosby-Ironton	6	4
Staples	5	5
Little Falls	4	6
Aitkin	0	10

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.



A NEW YEAR, A NEW ERA!

In spite of four recent years of futility Wadena was picked to finish 2nd in the competitive Central Ten.

Wadena tied for 3rd place (9-6) with Brainerd and behind Alexandria and Bemidji. In District 24 Wadena (7-3) finished 2nd behind Brainerd. Unfortunately a quite successful season ended abruptly in the District 24 tournament when the #5 Flyers defeated the #2 Indians 42-40.

Bob Hedstrom was named to the five-man All-Central Ten Conference team and finished 2nd in conference scoring with a 15.7 average just behind Brainerd's Jim Smith at 15.9.

District 24 Quarterfinals

Wadena - 40
 Little Falls - 42

1945-1950

Coach

S.L. Held



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

The 1950's Teams

'55

Indian Trails

Wadena Indians Basketball

1949-50



"A" SQUAD, KNEELING: Marquardt, Garr, Jordahl, Sweere, Peckham, Boyer.
STANDING: Coach Held, Nyberg, Merickel, Hedstrom, Gaslin, Erickson, Imgrund.

Overall
17-6

District 24
8-2 (2nd)

	W	L
Brainerd	7	1
Wadena	7	1
Crosby-Ironton	6	3
Little Falls	4	5
Staples	2	7
Aitkin	1	9

District 24 Championship
Brainerd - 50 Wadena - 47

Coach
S.L. Held
1945-50



On **December 16, 1949** Wadena (4-0) hosted Brainerd (6-0). The Indians won 61-54 behind the 37 point performance of their 6'3" pivot man **Bob Hedstrom**. **Pat Merickel** added 15. Brainerd finished the regular season with a 22-1 record.

Wadena finished the **regular season** with a 15-5 overall record and finished 2nd in the District 24 standings (8-2) just behind Brainerd (9-1).

BASKETBALL

SEASON'S RECORD

Wadena 65	Ferham 40	Wadena 52	Bemidji 43
Wadena 53	Alexandria 45	Wadena 51	Aitkin 48
Wadena 54	Aitkin 45	Wadena 52	Little Falls 38
Wadena 65	Park Rapids 45	Wadena 40	Crosby Ironton 42
Wadena 61	Brainerd 54	Wadena 59	Staples 35
Wadena 50	Staples 40	Wadena 41	Bemidji 60
Wadena 38	Malrose 42	Wadena 48	Crosby Ironton 41
Wadena 54	Kenyon 60	Wadena 74	St. Cloud Tech 67
Wadena 72	Little Falls 55	Wadena 49	Brainerd 67
Wadena 75	Detroit Lakes 43	Wadena 70	Park Rapids 34
Wadena 56	Alexandria 51		

DISTRICT TOURNAMENT:		Wadena 67	Pillager 59
Wadena 62	Little Falls 59	Wadena 47	Brainerd 50



Wadena Indians Basketball

1949-50 (Cont.)

Bob Hedstrom

37 pts in Brainerd's only season loss
 31 pts vs Pillager dist 24 record
 64 pts in three District 24 tourney
 games, old record 54 pts
Two-time All-District 24 Team
Central 10 All-Conference (Jr Yr)



Bob Hedstrom



Pat Merickel

24 pts (District 24 title game 50-47
 loss to Brainerd)
 59 pts (in three District 24 tourney
 games, old record 54 pts)

Wadena Tops Flyers, 62-59

In the **District 24 tournament** Wadena defeated Little Falls 62-59 in the quarterfinals with **Hedstrom and Merickel** each scoring 18.

In the semifinals the Indians beat Pillager 67-57 behind Hedstrom's 31 points. That broke the scoring record of 28 points for a single game in District 24 tournament history. Merickel added 17.

Wadena Edges Pillager Five In Semi-Finals

Warriors Shade Wadena, 50-47 For Berth in Region Six Tilts

In the **District 24 Championship** game Brainerd defeated Wadena 50-47. **Bob Hedstrom** was held to 15 points and played only half of the game due to foul trouble. **Pat Merickel** led Wadena with 24 points. Wadena finished the season at 17-6 and was the District 24 tournament runner-up.

Totals	.....	20	10	20	50
Wadena (47)	fg	ft	f	pts	
Merickel	.....	7	10	2	24
Peckham	.....	0	0	2	0
Gaslin	.....	0	0	2	0
Sweere	.....	0	0	1	0
Hedstrom	.....	7	1	5	15
Jordahl	.....	1	0	1	2
Garr	.....	1	3	5	5
Nyberg	.....	0	1	5	1
Erickson	.....	0	0	1	0
Totals	.....	16	15	24	47
Score by quarters:					
Brainerd	.....	22	34	45	50
Wadena	.....	10	20	35	47

Wadena Indians Basketball

1950-51



Seated: Newell, Falldorf, Freeman, Utermarck, Maroney, Harrison, Ousley
 Standing: Schmith, Nyberg, Kurz, Tappe, Imgrund, Hanson, Coach Hadden

Season Record

5-16

LAKE REGION CONFERENCE STANDINGS			
TEAM	W	L	PCT.
Melrose	8	1	.888
Detroit Lakes	6	2	.750
Alexandria	6	2	.750
Wadena	3	5	.375
Osakis	3	6	.333
Park Rapids	2	6	.250
Long Prairie	1	7	.125

Lake Region Conference

3-5 (4th)

District 24

1-9 (6th)

District 24 Semifinals

C-I over Wadena 49-41

1950-52
Coach
 Russ Hadden



With no returning starters from the 1949-50 team, and only three returning underclassmen, this squad was very inexperienced.

After finishing in sixth place in the District 24 regular season standings Wadena was competitive in the postseason. In the opening round quarterfinals of the District 24 tournament the Indians were able to upend Backus, the sub-district 24 champions, 34-31.

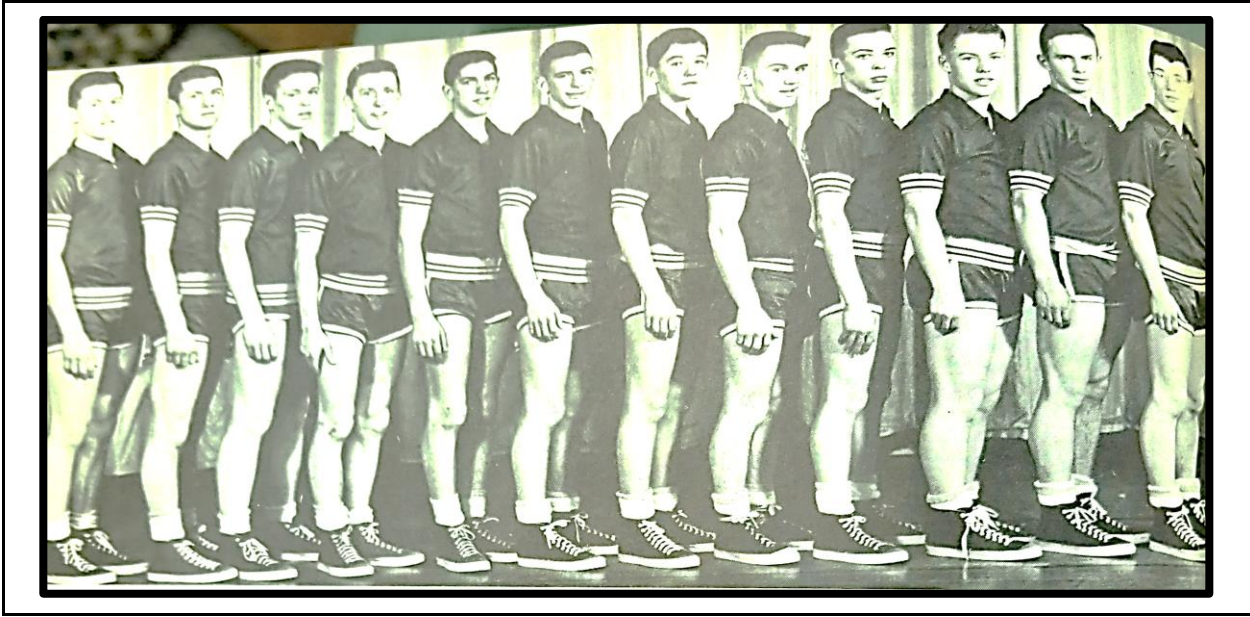
FINAL DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS

Team--	Won	Lost	Pct.
Brainerd	10	0	1.000
Aitkin	7	3	.700
Little Falls	5	5	.500
Crosby-Ironton	4	6	.400
Staples	3	7	.300
Wadena	1	9	.100

The top point getter throughout the season was Doug Imgrund however on any given night significant scoring could come from Darold Falldorf, Jim Kurz, Lloyd Tappe or Harold Harrison.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1951-52



Kurz, Tappe, Peavey, Ratcliff, Goedel, Phillips, Schmith, Campbell, Harrison, Wallevand, Freeman, Davis.

Season Record

2-19

WB	OPPONENT	THEY
	Aitkin	47
52	Crosby Ironton	51
42	Little Falls	63
37	Park Rapids	49
46	Perham	21
59	Melrose	48
35	Alexandria	48
30	Brainerd	65
30	Detroit Lakes	65
35	Staples	29
26		

WB	OPPONENT	THEY
17	Detroit Lakes	38
33	Osakis	38
41	Brainerd	62
40	Aitkin	56
40	Little Falls	44
36	Staples	53
44	Long Prairie	50
36	Crosby Ironton	52
33	Park Rapids	46

Conference

Lake Region 0-8

District 24
1-9 (6th)

District 24
Quarterfinals
Verndale - 47
Wadena - 40

DISTRICT 24			
Final Standings			
	W	L	Pct
Brainerd	8	2	.800
Little Falls	7	3	.700
C-I	6	4	.600
Aitkin	4	6	.400
Staples	4	6	.400
Wadena	1	8	.100

Wadena Turns Back Aitkin In Home Opener by 52-47

After starting the season with a win over Aitkin it looked like this year's team would improve on last year's 1-9 District 24 record.

However, the District 24 1952 season record was again 1-9. In the tournament the Indians lost to Verndale 47-40 in the quarterfinals..

As with the 1951 team their were a number of players that led the team in scoring for one or more games. The most notable were **Harold Harrison, Fred Freeman, Lloyd Tappe** and **Jim Kurz**.

1950-52
Coach
Russ Hadden



Wadena Indians Basketball

1952-53



L--R: D. Halliwell, D. Newell, G. Davis, D. Campbell, F. Freeman, J. Rice,
C. Phillips, D. Skalisky, J. Schmith, D. Sweere, J. Ratcliff, M. Goedel, E. Haight

SEASON'S RECORD		
We	Opponent	They
46	Frazee	37
34	Aitkin	38
49	Detroit Lakes	56
35	Crosby-Ironton	47
49	Osakis	46
33	Little Falls	37
24	Alexandria	53
45	Brainerd	55
39	Park Rapids	44

We	Opponent	They
44	Staples	54
54	Little Falls	60
47	Detroit Lakes	73
66	Perham	50
33	Melrose	66
50	Long Prairie	64
48	Aitkin	74
49	Staples	59
43	Crosby-Ironton	73
44	Brainerd	71

Season Record

3-17

Lake Region Conference

1-6

District 24

0-10 (6th)

DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS			
	W	L	Pct.
Brainerd	7	2	.778
Crosby-Ironton	7	2	.778
Aitkin	6	3	.667
Little Falls	4	5	.444
Staples	4	6	.400
Wadena	0	10	.000

The 1952-53 season was another difficult one but it provided opportunities for some underclassmen that would contribute significantly to more success in the future. These underclassmen included freshman **Dick Shearer** and sophomores **Dale Skalisky**, **Gene Haight** and **Jim Rice**.

**Gobblers
Stall Out
38-30 Win**

District 24
"play-in"
game
vs Aitkin



1952-53
Coach

Weldon "Buzz" Gray

Third year varsity player **Fred Freeman** was the leading scorer.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1953-54



'A' SQUAD: l-r. Ted Merickel, Gene Haight, Jim Rice, Gene Goedel, Bill Erdman, Dale Skalisky, Chuck Kennedy, Wally Kresien, Dick Shearer, Gary Davis, Bob Clark. Malcolm McDonald, John Fox—Managers.

Season Record

1-11 (partial)

Lake Region Conference

unknown

District 24

1-9 (6th)

DISTRICT 24 STA		
	W	L
Warriors	9	1
Aitkin	6	3
C-I	6	3
Little Falls	4	5
Staples	2	7
Wadena	1	9

District 24 Quarterfinal

Little Falls 44

Wadena 42

1953-55

Coach

Ed Hasbrouck



At the beginning of the 1953-54 season, in a December 15 article in the Brainerd Daily Dispatch, Wadena basketball was referred to as a "weakling" and a "doormat" in District 24 competition. At the end of that season Wadena had a four year combined record of 3-37 in District 24 competition.

The good news was that there would be a strong nucleus of returning players that could turn things around.

Sophomore Dick Shearer and junior Jim Rice led Wadena to an impressive upset victory at Staples, 53-52, knocking the Cards out of contention for the #2 seed in the District 24 Tournament.

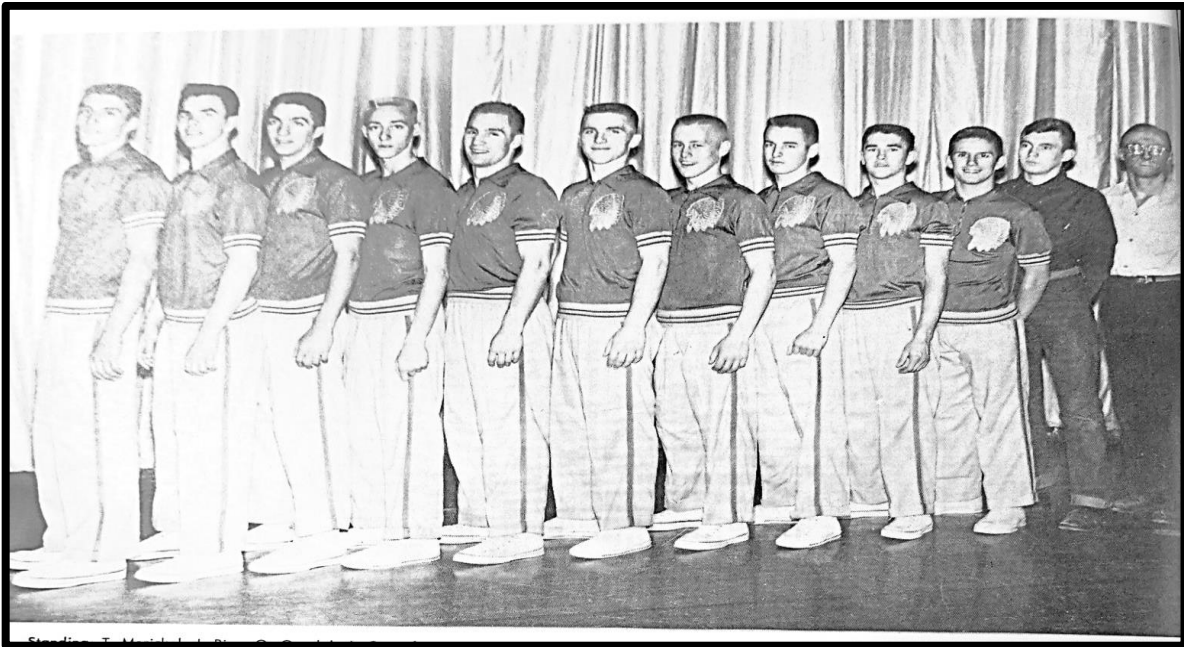
the visitors, whose guard Dick Shearer hit six long shots in a row, five of them in the final period.

Wadena caught up with about two minutes to go and took a 48-47 lead. Gary Davis put in a free throw and Jim Rice a fielder in the closing minute and a bucket by Jerry Pattison pulled the Cardinals up within a point.

Rice was the top scorer of the game, collecting 22 points on six field goals and 10 of 12 free throws attempted. Shearer, with eight goals and two free throws, was next high with 18. Best for

Wadena Indians Basketball

1954-55



T. Merickel, J. Rice, G. Goedel, J. Gustafson, D. Skalisky, C. Kennedy, G. Ryti, R. Shearer, T. Zosel, B. Clark, J. Proctor, B. Tapley

Indians' Trail

Wadena 52;	Aitkin	57
Wadena 60;	Park Rapids	47
Wadena 60;	Detroit Lakes	53
Wadena 73;	Sebeka	39
Wadena 55;	Little Falls	62
Wadena 54;	Verndale	52
Wadena 70;	New York Mills	36
Wadena 54;	Staples	56
Wadena 45;	Crosby-Ironton	56
Wadena 51;	Brainerd	79
Wadena 57;	Detroit Lakes	52
Wadena 78;	Perham	48
Wadena 69;	Long Prairie	49
Wadena 94;	Little Falls	77
Wadena 61;	Aitkin	55
Wadena 57;	Staples	32
Wadena 93;	Park Rapids	54
Wadena 78;	Brainerd	70
Wadena 77;	Crosby-Ironton	66
Wadena 92;	Henning	52
District 24 Tournament Game:		69
Wadena 67;	Little Falls	

Season Record

14-7

Mid-State Conference

4-4 (3rd)

District 24 Season

5-5 (3rd)

District 24 Quarterfinals:

Little Falls 69
Wadena 67

After a slow start (0-5 in Dist 24) Wadena finished the regular season with a ten-game winning streak and gave Brainerd their only District 24 defeat of the season.

DISTRICT 24 (Final Standings)			
	W.	L.	Pct.
Warrjors	9	1	.900
C-I	6	4	.600
Wadena	5	5	.500
Little Falls	4	6	.400
Staples	4	6	.400
Aitkin	2	8	.200

Wadena Pair Leads Scoring In Mid-State Conference

Dick Shearer

Mid-State All-Conference (13.9 ppg - 1st)
All-District 24 Team (15.0 ppg - 3rd)
74% season FT

Dale Skalisky

13.8 ppg (2nd in Mid-State scoring)

Senior **Jim Rice** was 5th in Mid-State scoring.



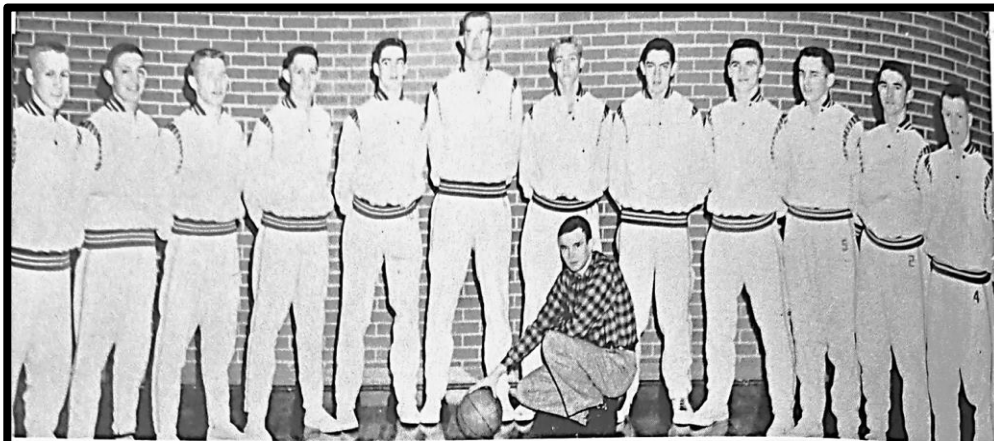
1953-55
Coach
Ed Hasbrouck

Dick Shearer



Wadena Indians Basketball

1955-56



Row one: J. Proctor. Row two: G. Rytli, G. Tappe, J. Ehlen, F. Braun, J. Campbell, B. Johnson, E. Gustafson, R. Walz, C. Kennedy, D. Shearer, T. Zosel, D. Burrows.

Season Record

10-11

Mid-State
Conference
3-5 (4th)

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)			
	W	L	Pct.
Aitkin	7	1	.875
Staples	6	2	.750
C-I	4	4	.500
Wadena	3	5	.375
Park Rapids	0	8	.000

DISTRICT 24 (Final Standings)			
	W	L	Pct.
Little Falls	8	2	.800
Brainerd	6	4	.600
Staples	5	5	.500
Aitkin	5	5	.500
Wadena	3	7	.300
C-I	3	7	.300

District 24
3-7 (5th-T)

District 24 Quarterfinal
Little Falls 94
Wadena - 77

1955-64
Coach
Harold Willis



Dick Shearer 19.1 ppg
Mid-State Conference

Brainerd Daily Dispatch (Minn.), Friday, March 3, 1956
**Shearer Leading
Mid-State Scorer**

(Players with 30 or more points)

	G	FG	FT	TP	Ave.
Shearer (W)	8	46	61	153	19.1
Hegland (C-I)	7	42	25	109	15.6
A. Haugen (S)	8	42	36	120	15.0
Johnson (W)	8	40	36	116	14.5
Park (A)	8	44	20	108	13.5

**Shearer Leading
'A' School Scorer**

Dick Shearer 20.2 ppg
Dist 24 Large Schools

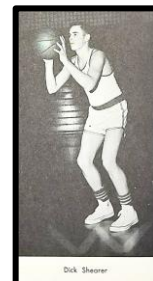
SCORING STATISTICS (All Players with 45 or More Points)

	G	FG	FT	TP	Ave.
Shearer (W)	10	55	92	202	20.2
Adair (B)	10	70	44	184	18.4
Emerson (B)	9	51	51	153	17.0
A. Haugen (S)	10	61	48	170	17.0

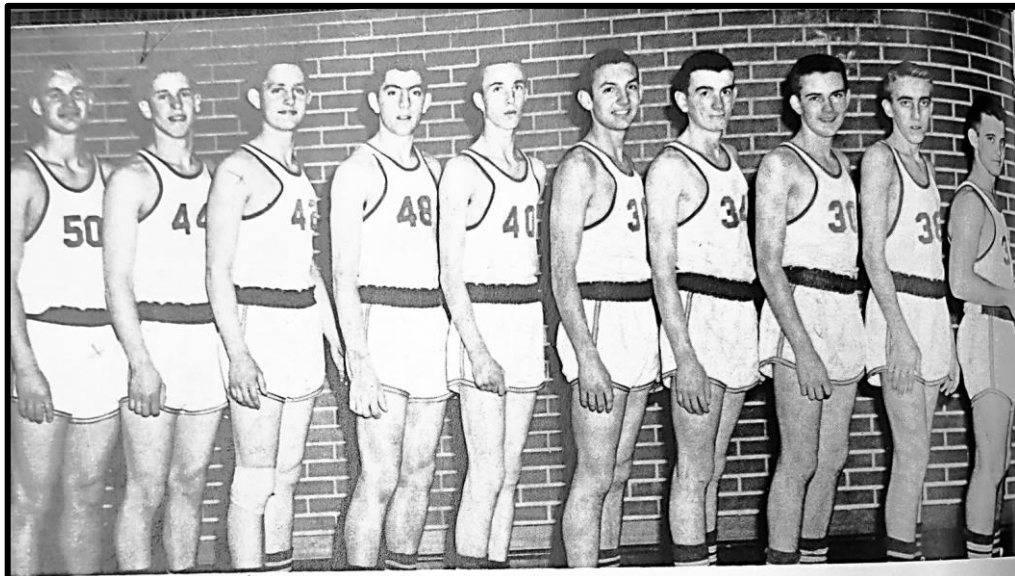
2 x All-Conference Mid State
2 x All-District 24

"All-district guard Dick Shearer is one of the ablest backcourt men in the state and his record proves it."
Brainerd Daily Dispatch
February 14, 1956

In Shearer's last five high school games he averaged 26 ppg and made 87% of his free throws on 77 attempts. In one of those games Shearer was 19/20 from the line.



Wadena Indians Basketball 1956-57



'A' TEAM: J. Orloff, W. Gaslin, F. Braun, R. Walz, R. Ames, G. Tappe, S. Phillips,
V. Brust, R. Gustafson, J. St. Clair.

Season Record

3-18

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)			
	W	L	Pct.
Aitkin	5	1	.833
Staples	6	2	.750
Crosby-Ironton	4	3	.571
Park Rapids	2	4	.333
Wadena	0	8	.000

Mid State (0-8)

District 24 (0-10)

DISTRICT 24 (Final Standings)			
	W	L	Pct.
Warriors	10	0	1.000
Aitkin	7	3	.700
Little Falls	8	4	.667
Staples	4	6	.400
Crosby-Ironton	3	7	.300
Wadena	0	10	.000

**District 24
Quarterfinal**
Aitkin - 20
Wadena - 8

*See note
regarding
low score.

Coach
Harold Willis
1955-64



Every player on the 1956-57 roster was new except for Roman Walz who saw little, if any, varsity playing time the year before as a sophomore. It is difficult to find "team accomplishments" in a 3-18 season. However, this season did give a group of very promising underclassmen the opportunity to gain varsity experience that would pay off nicely in the two years that followed.

Individual



Sophomore **Sam Phillips** led the team in scoring at almost 10 ppg. His best outings were 25 points vs Perham and 22 points vs Brainerd.

Another sophomore, **Bill Gaslin**, averaged 7 ppg. His high point effort was 19 vs Brainerd.

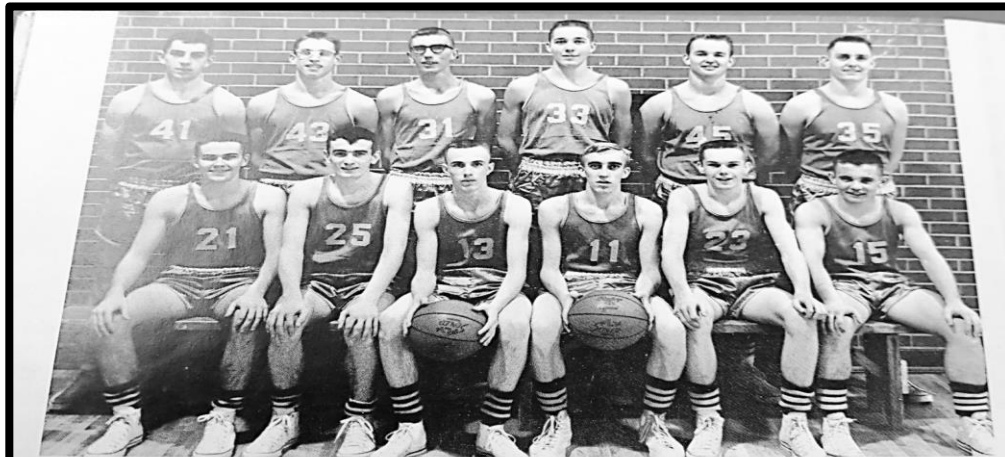
*Low Score

The Wadena coach must have felt his team (0-10 in District 24 games) could not compete with the Aitkin squad in a conventional game so Wadena "held the ball" until late in the game.

Ironically in the 1943 District 24 Tournament the #2 seed Aitkin team held the ball against the #4 seed Wadena team. See the 1943 season information for more details.

Wadena Indians Basketball

1957-58



"A" TEAM

ROW ONE: V. Brust, S. Phillips, D. Ames, B. Gustafson, J. Erickson, J. St. Clair. ROW TWO: R. Walz, B. Gaslin, J. Uselman, H. Kutson, J. Ortloff, F. Braun.

Season Record
10-9
Conference
2-6
District 24
3-7

MID-STATE CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct.	TP
Park Rapids	5	0	1.000	232
Crosby-Ironton	5	1	.833	430
Aitkin	3	5	.429	392
Staples	2	4	.333	315
Wadena	1	6	.143	414

DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS				
	W	L	Pct.	TP
Brainerd	9	0	1.000	738
Crosby-Ironton	6	4	.600	711
Little Falls	4	4	.500	479
Aitkin	4	5	.444	544
Staples	2	6	.250	430
Wadena	1	7	.125	509

District 24 Quarterfinal
Wadena - 71
Brainerd - 88

Coach
Harold Willis
1955-64



The Indians finished the regular season strong by beating Crosby Ironton, Staples, Verndale and Little Falls. For Mid-State Conference champions C-I, it was their only conference loss.

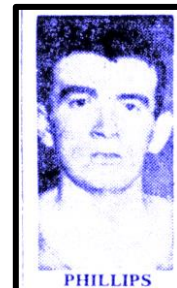
Mid-State All-Conference
Bill Gaslin

Conf. scoring 2nd @ 17.9 ppg
Overall scoring 5th @ 15.8 ppg

Sam Phillips

Conf. scoring 3rd @ 16.0 ppg
Overall scoring 4th @ 16.6 ppg

Sam Phillips
On All-State
This Week



(Those with 100 or more points)

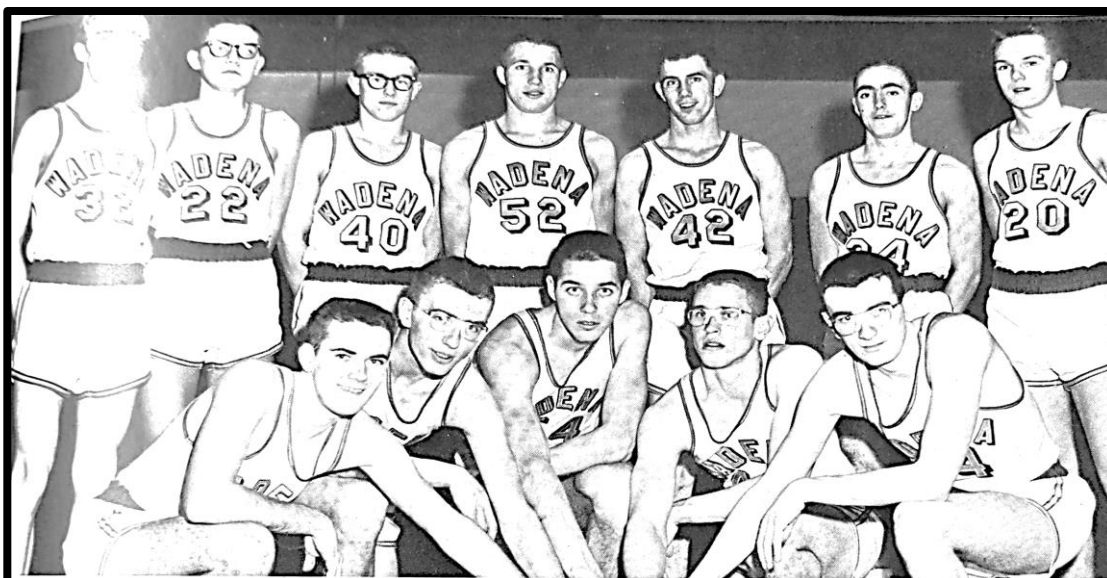
	#	fg	ft	ftm	tp	Ave
Richardson (C-I)	20	170	87	40	427	21.4
Eich (C-I)	10	94	115	46	303	18.0
Egerson (B)	10	133	61	49	325	18.0
Phillips (W)	10	135	40	30	315	16.6
Gaslin (W)	10	129	62	31	300	15.8
...	10	118	62	29	260	14.8

MID-STATE CONFERENCE
(Those with 35 or more points)

	#	fg	ft	ftm	tp	Ave
Richardson (C-I)	7	58	25	14	141	20.0
Gaslin (W)	8	56	31	19	143	17.9
Phillips (W)	8	56	16	19	128	16.0

Wadena Indians Basketball

1958-59



"A" Team ROW ONE: Brust, Uselman, Knutson, Gaslin, Phillips. ROW TWO: Gustafson, Anderson, McKellep, Stofer, Miller, Miller, Erickson.

Season Record

16-5

Mid-State Conference

5-3

(1st-T)

MID-STATE CONFERENCE (Final Standings)			
	W	L	Pct.
Crosby-Ironton	5	3	.625
Park Rapids	5	3	.625
Wadena	5	3	.625
Staples	4	4	.500
Aitkin	1	7	.125

District 24

7-3

(1st-T)

DISTRICT 24 STANDINGS (Final)				
	W	L	Pct.	TP
Crosby-Ironton	7	3	.700	593
Little Falls	7	3	.700	602
Wadena	7	3	.700	674
Aitkin	3	7	.300	571
Brainerd	3	7	.300	598
Staples	3	7	.300	580

District 24 Championship

Aitkin - 73

Wadena - 68



1955-63

Coach

Harold Willis

This Wadena team had a talented core of returning starters including Sam Phillips, Bill Gaslin and Vern Brust. The Indians started the season among the favorites to win District 24 and Region 6. They began with a twelve-game winning streak, however they were unable to sustain that momentum for the balance of the season. Not even a day off from practice to have a snowball fight helped. They did end up in a tie for the Mid-State Conference title. In the District 24 title game Wadena lost to Aitkin, a team they had beaten twice in the regular season.

Bill Gaslin

WCCO All-State (12 player team)



- Three-time WCCO All-State Team of Week
- All-Region 6 Team
- Mid-State All-Conference (20.6 ppg - leader) - District 24 Scoring (21.8 ppg - leader)

Sam Phillips

WCCO All-State Team of Week



- All-Region 6 Team
- Mid-State All-Conference (16.9 ppg - 3rd)
- District 24 Scoring (16.9 ppg - 5th)

The End

I expect the interest level in this document to be low, however I do believe there are people who would like it for various reasons. I am making this document available on a thumb drive, **free of charge**, to any interested party. I will provide a hard copy for the cost of printing. This Scrapbook 1900-1959 is also available at the WCHS:

Donations to the **Wadena County Historical Society** are encouraged:

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Jebb Willis
Class of 1974