

Great Moments from 100 Years of State Basketball Tournament History

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Since 1912 the Iowa Boys' State Basketball Tournament has offered the state and its fans many exciting moments.

In observance of the first 100 years of the tournament, the IHSAA brought together a blue-ribbon panel consisting of former state tournament coaches; school administrators; veteran fans (some of whom were former players and coaches); members of the media; and game officials to recall "great moments from state tournament games." Independently they arrived at those tournament moments that still burn brightly in their memories.

The Committee was not bound by a set number of moments. All were included with some being grouped by commonalities. We realize that their "great moments" and memories are not inclusive and it was indeed a daunting task. This following is a capitulation of the committee's memories that cover the first 100 years, 219 championships, and over 108,000 minutes of action. It is a legacy that embodies the richness of high school interscholastic athletics. It is intended to represent a cross section of the history of the tournament and is presented in categorical and chronological order. ***As the reader combs through the information and highlights that follow, they are invited to submit other state tournament moments they recall for consideration for inclusion. They need not be in a championship game.*** Additions for consideration can be emailed to Bud Legg (blegg@iahsaa.org).

State tournaments started in 1912 and were run by The Iowa Athletic Council, an auxiliary group operating with the support of the IHSAA until the Association took the sport over, establishing common rules of eligibility, season regulations, and eligibility.

The tournament has been blessed with many story lines. Some of the participants, like many who never played in the tournament, went on to become top professional athletes in basketball, football and baseball. Some of the players went on to outstanding collegiate careers and later the NBA. Other players went on to a bevy of outstanding careers including education and coaching with several having their teams in the tournament. But the majority of participants are those who form the bedrock of our society, practicing the values of education-based athletics in their lives as parents, community citizens and leaders. In total they form a solid cross section of high caliber people who proudly represented their schools and communities.

REVIEWING THE FIRST 100 YEARS

THE STATE TOURNAMENT VENUES

1912-16 – State University of Iowa – University Armory

1917 – Iowa State Teachers College

1918 – State University of Iowa – University Armory

1919 – Iowa State College Gym - Ames

1920-22 – Two tournaments – State University of Iowa – University Armory; Iowa State College – State Gym

1923-25 – Boone High School – (1923-24); Class B-1925

1925-26 – Ottumwa High School - Class A

1926 – Iowa State College - Class B (State Gym); Ottumwa – Class A

1927-29 – State University of Iowa (Field House)

1930-33 – Drake University (Field House)

1934-35 – Cedar Falls (West Gym of Iowa State Teachers' College)

1936-39 – Drake University (Field House)

1940 – State University of Iowa (Field House)

1941-45 – Drake University (Field House)

1946-54 – State University of Iowa (Field House)

1955-59 – Veterans' Auditorium, Des Moines

1960; 1962 – University of Iowa (Field House)

1961; 1963-2005 – Veterans' Auditorium, Des Moines

Since 2006 – Wells Fargo Arena, Des Moines

THE INNOVATIONS

Round Robin: The 1923-26 tournament series were a round robin affair, but was dropped in favor of the more conventional single elimination pairings in 1927.

Sub-state Round: Starting with the 1941 tournament series, the IHSAA introduced a Sub-state Tournament. While for the most part this new tournament started with two games, it eventually became one and was used each year except for 1957-60.

First Round Games Away from State Tourney Site: Another experiment to save fans travel and lodging, the four opening games in the 1957-1960 Class A and B tournaments were played at neutral sites, thus bringing the Final 4 in each class to the State Tournament host.

Classification: The final two years of the round robin format were classed by large and small school. The 1956, 57, 58 and 59 tournaments were also classed – large and small schools. Classification based on school enrollment started permanently in 1967 with two classes, moving to three in 1975 and four in 1985.

3 Pt Field Goal: Iowa was the first state to experiment with the three-point field goal which became a part of regular season and tournament action with the 1982-83 season. The shot, according to many, added to the game and when combined with the work ethic of Iowa kids, has given the state more accomplished shooters.

THE SCHOOLS

Since 1912, 498 schools have played in the State Tournament with 115 taking home championship trophies (through 2011). Given the fact that the highest number of member schools playing in the tournament was 952 in 1947; the 498 qualifiers mean that over 55% of our current membership of 371 schools has a state tournament connection.

THE COACHES

Over 825 coaches have brought teams to the State Tournament and each one brought with them a story and far too many to list in this overview of the first century of hoops. By saluting a few we honor all. But representing the group as a whole some need to be mentioned. Davenport's Paul Moon brought 16 teams (18 if you count the 1912-1922 era) and seven that won championships. Dick Breitbach (four championship teams) of Xavier, Cedar Rapids and Regis of Cedar Rapids along with Mitch Osborn (coach of three title teams started the season with a 557-106 record) of Harlan Community, Pomeroy-Palmer and Elk Horn-Kimballton have also coached 16 state tournament teams, while Western Christian's Jim Eekhoff (started the year with a 570-127 mark) has directed 15 including six title holders.

The two leading active win coaches Bob Hilmer (started this year at 754-285) and Fred Parsons (began at 671-434) have directed teams to the tournament with Hilmer's 1976 Forest City team winning a title. In addition Osborn has joined the late Denny Thiessen, John LaBonia and Bob Landis as the only coaches to have won championships at two different schools. Tom Goodman directed four different teams to the State Tournament – HLV, Victor; Sioux City North, Fort Dodge and Saydel – for another all-time best.

Regardless of the names, thousands of other coaches have enjoyed great success in the communities they serve. They are often judged falsely on their win-loss record rather than the positive impact and guidance they have on the lives of their athletes, their families and their communities. It is this pride that endures and explains why so many coaches are held in high esteem

ALL IN THE FAMILY

The State Tournament has numerous brother combinations and fathers who coached and sons who played on their teams. The IHSAA Hall of Fame has four brother combinations: Don and Otto Madsen of Spirit Lake; Lawrence and Loran Day of Davenport and Mason City; Bob and Don Ziegler from Laurens; and Tommy and Jay Goodman from Fort Dodge and Sioux City North. Three fathers who were Hall of Fame players also have sons in the players' Hall of Fame – Tom Goodman and sons Tommy and Jay; Bud Bergman of Grundy Center and son Mike from Waverly-Shell Rock; and Sam Long of Ottumwa and son Mark from Des Moines Lincoln.

The following fathers are in the coaches' Hall of Fame with their son being in the players' Hall of Fame – Connie and son Tom of Fort Dodge; Bill and Jeff Fleming of Maquoketa; Alden and Troy Skinner of Palmer; Alden and Todd Berkenpas of Maple Valley; Bob and Randy Norton of Regina, Iowa City; Larry and Matt Shaeffer of Ballard; and Tom Goodman and sons Tommy (Sioux City North) and Jay (Fort Dodge)

THE OFFICIALS

During the first century of the sport 520 officials have been invited to make the calls at the state tournament with 122 logging seven years or more. The list includes former players, coaches, school administrators and teachers, business people and those who simply enjoy the sport and young people. Randy Blum of Ankeny has worked the tournament 31 years with 14 championships. Gary Christiansen of Mason City worked the tournament 26 years with 15 championship games. Four other officials have worked 24 or more State Tournaments including Waverly's Randy Bruns (27), Rock Valley's Marlowe Van Ginkel (26), Sioux City's Richard Larson (25) and Bettendorf's Rod Hill (24).

Other notable Iowa figures who have officiated in the tournament include Bernie Saggau, Richard Wulkow, E. Wayne Cooley, Bob Smiley, and Everett and Roger Barr of Algona and Storm Lake one of the few father-son combinations to work the finals.

The thrill of being chosen to officiate in the IHSAAA tournament series is a goal in itself which is enhanced when the call comes that you have been chosen for the State Tournament and/or a championship game.

THE FANS

Through the first 100 years, Iowa high school state tournament fan can be described in one word – amazing. Each year, the young and the old, students and adults back their team at the tournament. Proudly displaying team t-shirts, cars and busses being painted they are there because of what 14-17 year students have accomplished on the floor. These robust fans help create an atmosphere that lets their team know that they are appreciated and that they have definitely arrived at a memorable moment. In the first 100 years of the tournament over 450 teams representing 500 plus high schools have qualified for the tournament and 121 have taken home the title trophy, and all including the fans have taken home a memorable moment.

The largest number of schools that entered the boys' basketball tournament series was 952 in 1947. Many of those schools, as the result of consolidations and sharing programs, are now folded into today's 385 programs. Fifty-eight percent of our current schools have a state tournament connection in their history. At the 2011 tournament the IHSAA honored long-time fan Kenny Bern of Cherokee who has attended 68 tournaments and the last 65 in succession.

THE WEATHER

Folklore would have you believe that bad winter weather often accompanies the State Tournament. But the reality is that bad weather tends to be the exception at Tournament Time. No matter how cold or mild it is outside the competition is always great. Only once in the first 100 years has there been a postponement of state tourney games. In 1959 when four teams in each of two classes advanced to Des Moines for the semifinals, the tourney was set back one day due to a winter blizzard that stymied travel for one day. As plows cleared the roads and streets, the tournament became a Saturday-Monday format (no Sunday games) instead of the scheduled Friday-Saturday conclusion. See 1959 for title highlights.

THREE-PEATS

Five teams in the history of the tournament have recorded three straight titles. Davenport in 1950-52 started the three-peats followed by Paullina, 1968-70; Cedar Rapids Regis, 1982-84; Palmer 1986-88; and Bishop Heelan, Sioux City, 2009-11, who could re-write Iowa history if they repeat in 2012 for the fourth time.

OVERTIMES

Some interesting facts on overtimes in the first 100 years of the tournament follow.

First-1927, Vinton 20, Oskaloosa 14 in consolation;

First in a Championship – 1967-Cedar Rapids Jefferson 72, Ames 71;

Most in a Game – 6 in 1985 Class 1A quarterfinals – Maple Valley 87, Northwood-Kensett 81;

Most in a Championship Game – 3 in 1980 Class 1A – Dike 72, South Hamilton 71;

Year with the Most Overtime Games – 1984 (6);

Total Number of Overtime Games in the Tournament History – 113

UP FRONT AND BEHIND THE SCENES

Each State Tournament becomes a story in itself, with the capable bench workers – scorers, timers, public address announcers, bench officials, supervisor of officials, team doctors/sports medicine personnel and cheer squad coordinators all contributing to the “experience” of being in the Tournament. Many are 20+ year veterans. In addition, the staff of the IHSAA enjoys the experience of being able to work with the staff of the host site to help make the covering media and the fans experience a memorable one. To all these people, we owe a huge thank you.

SOME NOTABLE FIRSTS

1912 – First Champion – Ottumwa defeated Sioux City, 38-31 in the inaugural tournament that had only four teams at the State University of Iowa. The tournament was run by the Iowa Athletic Council operating with consent of the IHSAA. They invited teams they considered deserving to compete for the state title. Walter Shafer led Ottumwa in scoring but Bob Hasbrook's 41 for Grundy Center in the two games led tournament scorers. Shafer came back in 1913 to lead the tournament with 53 points in an eight-team meet. Ottumwa was third after losing to eventual champion Davenport in the semifinals. It was the first of three titles for the Blue Devils in the early years as they added 1920 and 1921 before the Association assumed total control of the tourney in 1923.

1914-15 – Clinton's Merv Kline became the first individual to lead the tournament scoring in back-to-back seasons with 46 and 55 points (which was not bettered until 1921). Clinton finished second both seasons.

1917-1918 – Mount Pleasant becomes the first back-to-back State Champions. In the 1918 tournament the Panthers' R.H. (Pinky) Green became the first player from a championship team to also lead the tournament in scoring (39 points). Green returned to the tournament coaching Council Bluffs to the runner-up spot in 1923 and

Sioux City to the title in 1924. Both were round robin tournaments. Green is believed to be the first of a long list of state tournament players to return as a tournament coach.

1953 – Radio stations broadcasted tournament games as early as 1927. But this was the first year the tournament was televised from the University of Iowa Field House giving the sport a larger presence in Iowa's sports scene. The 2012 tournament will be the 60th consecutive year the finals have been televised

1953 – Clinton St. Mary's became the first private school to win a State Basketball Championship with a 61-44 triumph over Ottumwa in the single class tournament. Private schools were invited to be a part of the IHSAA and the tournament series starting in 1936 with St. Mary's, Iowa City and Holy Name, Mason City, both in 1941, being the first non-public schools to qualify for the State Tournament.

1957-60 – For the first time, the four opening round games of the Class A and B State Tournament were held at member school sites around the state with the four winners advancing to the State Tournament site for the remainder of the tournament. These games were not sub-state contests, which were dropped for this period, but actually were the opening round of the State Tournament.

1969 – Presented at the tournament was the IHSAA's first ever Basketball Hall of Fame, which continues today honoring players and coaches with superlative credentials. The charter members were former players Bill Evans of Nevada; Buzz Hogan of Osage; Dick Ives from Diagonal; Gary Thompson of Roland; Murray Weir from Muscatine; and Coaches Paul Moon from Davenport and O.E. "Pop" Varner of Diagonal.

Other Great Moments

1922 – Cedar Rapids, who opted for the 1921 national tournament in Chicago which they won rather than play in one of the Iowa tournaments tried to make up for their absence by entering both the Ames and Iowa City tournaments. They lost to Jesup in the quarterfinals of the single class tournament in Ames and won the Class A tournament in Iowa City with wins over Spirit Lake and Osage.

1923 – Osage's Buzz Hogan led his team to the State Championship, which was administered for the first time by the administration of the IHSAA who initiated a qualifying format, codified playing rules and reconciled eligibility questions. The tournament was the first of three years of an experimental round robin format and Hogan's team defeated three larger schools to win the title and finish a 33-1 season. He went on to earn All American honors at the Stagg National Tournament in Chicago and later helped Iowa to a Big 10 title in 1926.

1928 – Ottumwa's Dick Davis was the catalyst in the Bulldogs' championship charge. He scored his team's last five points in the overtime for a 32-30 win over Dysart. In the semifinals his free throw and defense in the last 47 seconds earned a 29-28 victory over Cedar Falls and he set a then championship game record of 23 points with 18 in the second half in a 38-20 win over Spirit Lake.

1929 – Davenport launched its record-setting total of 9 State Championships (12 when you consider the 1912-1922 era). The Blue Devils featured Mike Layden, brother of Notre Dame football standout Elmer, as they ousted Ottumwa in overtime, 22-20; edged Sioux City, 23-21 and defeated Des Moines Roosevelt, 26-21 in the championship.

1931 – This year marked the debut of Marcellus (Mike) McMichael of third place Des Moines Roosevelt. The freshman sensation is the only four-time first team all-state player in the first 100 years of the sport. He brought the Riders back to first in 1932 and runner-up in 1933, as well as qualifying in 1934. He set a tourney scoring record of 58 in 1931 and a single game total of 28 in 1933, which would stand for 17 years.

1933, 37, 38 – The Giant Killers from Dunkerton (1933), Melrose (1937) and Diagonal (1938) were the first small schools to win state titles by defeating large schools in the finals, Wally Gaddis' winning shot took Dunkerton to the pinnacle over Des Moines Roosevelt, 22-20, while Melrose capped a perfect 33-0 season led by Jim Thynne and Walt O'Connor stunned Marshalltown 35-17 in what was then a title game record margin; while Diagonal defeated Cedar Rapids Franklin in the quarterfinals and Ames in the semifinals before nipping Rolfe, 31-29 for the title. Each of these three small school one class titles occurred before Indiana's 1954 champion Milan High School (Hickory in the move "Hoosiers").

1939 – Diagonal missed a chance to be the first small school to win back-to-back titles when the Maroons lost to neighboring Creston, 25-20 in the title game. Diagonal defeated Dike, Cedar Rapids Roosevelt, and Ames to gain the finals. The leading scorer in the tournament was Rolfe's Al Budolfson whose 62 points set a new standard.

1940-41 – Although Holstein was unable to secure a championship, brothers Roy and Ray Wehde made an indelible impression with their aggressive defense and scoring. In 1940 they advanced to the semifinals only to lose to Ames but bounced back to take third with a victory over Muscatine. The following year they advanced to the championship and lost to Davenport, 31-26. The two went on to Iowa State and in 1944 were the starting forwards on the only Cyclone team to reach the NCAA Final Four.

1942 – Ottumwa claimed the championship with wins over Chariton (28-26), Spirit Lake (25-20) that set the stage for dealing a 37-30 setback to defending champion Davenport Central. The Bulldogs roared to a 23-10 halftime lead behind the scoring of Al Farrington and the defense of Bob Cocherell. The player of the tournament was scoring leader Bill Evans of third place Nevada. He led the tourney scoring with 45 points. The eventual Drake University All-American was later one of college's top rebounders and noted for perfecting the "behind the back dribble."

1943 – Mason City's imposing juggernaut sailed through the season unbeaten in 30 games on the heels of a 32-0 campaign in 1940. The '43 outfit won the 8-team tourney (condensed to 8 qualifiers in 1941-45 due to WW II). Their closest win was a 50-36 triumph over perennial power Davenport, The Mohawks won out with winning margins of 16.7 ppg in Coach Judge Grimsely's tournament farewell that included 9 trips, three titles, six top four finishes. Two of the balanced scoring champions were Pee Wee and Fats Day who played on the 1941 and 1942 Davenport clubs that won a title and a runner-up respectively.

1944 – Waverly's 30-21 win over Cedar Rapids Franklin in the championship following a 33-25 triumph over Harlan was not unexpected. Because of the rationing of gas during World War II, the tournament structure was changed and the State Tournament had just four qualifiers. What was the key to Waverly's wins? As history has it, Waverly Coach Mart Brandes did not think the water in Des Moines was good enough for his team, so they brought a cream can of Waverly water with them.

1945 – In a first round thriller between two once beaten teams, Charley Mason's desperation running hook shot as time expired allowed Muscatine to sneak past a talented Ottumwa team, 29-27. The thrills continued thru the championship when "Buck Fever" took over Drake Field House. Ames overcame several early deficits to catch Muscatine in the closing seconds on clutch play by Jim Buck, who scored six points in the final minutes to erase a five point Muscatine lead. His free throw in the final 30 seconds and another with one second remaining sealed the 35-33 victory against the favored Muskies. A starter and all-state player for Ames, George Duvall later coached Ames to the state tournament five times including the 1973 title.

1946 – More last second tournament magic was featured in the title game by Iowa City High's Bob Freeman. He rescued his team from a 40-35 deficit in the final 65 seconds with six points to edge LeMars. It started with a long shot, then after a missed free throw and long pass from Sonny Dean it became a one-point game. Ten seconds remained when Freeman stole the ball from a defender and launched another long basket at the buzzer for the win before an estimated crowd of 16,000 in the Iowa Field House. Freeman's final six points gave him the tourney scoring title over LeMars star Sy Wilhelmi. Freeman also had last second heroics against upstart Danbury. His last second shooting pulled out a 25-24 win in the semifinals against a school that only had 15 boys. The Little Maroons took fourth that year and finished third in 1947 with key players Dick Riecks, Elton Tuttle and Skip Sexton. The small northwest Iowa community posted a sparkling 70-3 mark during those two seasons.

1948 – Manning's first appearance in the tournament provided tournament goers with another "expect the unexpected moment." The southwest team finished 29-2 started with wins over Livermore and Galva before dropping Sioux Center in the semifinals and bouncing defending champion Davenport, 43-36 behind the play of Merlin Rostermundt, Jim Farrell, Bob Koch and Dick Geith. Those four opponents had a combined record of 103-10.

1949 – Ottumwa returned to championship form with an outstanding defense that held Forest City to just seven second half points in a 39-27 decision. The balanced Bulldogs, unbeaten by Iowa teams in a 24-1 campaign, featured Jerry Davis, Joe Ferguson, Bill Hamersley and Sam Long. Forest City's Herb Thompson scored all seven of his team's second half points and finished the tourney with a new record of 69 points. He would return to the tournament as a coach two more times – 1958 with runner-up Waverly and 1961 with fourth place Mason City.

1950-51-52– Davenport starts a run of three straight titles and championships six, seven and eight, with what is still the largest championship margin, 67-28 over Ankeny. The Blue Devils edged upstart and tournament darling Roland, 50-40 in 1951 and Keokuk, 48-45 in 1952. Coach Paul Moon's 1950 team is still considered one of the best all-time as their team play, fast breaking offense and tenacious defense relied on Ken Buckles, Bill Steneger, Bob McKee, Rob LeBuhn, Willie Newman, and Ed Lindsey. Ankeny, in its first ever championship game, was paced by

the tournament's leading scorer, the talented Ray Fontana who scored 81 points including a single game record of 36 against Melrose in the opening round. That effort shattered a 17-year old record of 28 set by Marcellus McMichael of Des Moines Roosevelt. In 1951, Davenport nipped tiny Roland, 50-40 in the championship game and in 1952 the Blue Devils nudged Keokuk, 48-45 having to overcome the tournament's scoring leader Bill Logan who established a new mark of 104 points.

1953 – Prep career of Iowa's first 2,000 point scorer, Roland's Gary Thompson ended with a fourth place finish and 2,043 points. The 2K club now has 30 members. The bulk of Thompson's points came after scoring 44 as a freshman. No overview of Iowa first century of basketball is complete without some mention of the "Roland Rocket." He became the first Iowa State College player to score 1,000 points in a career and 40 in a game, beating out Wilt Chamberlain for player of the year in the Big Seven Conference as a senior in 1957. He was also a star shortstop on the Cyclones' baseball team that reached the College World Series.

1956-60 – Iowa City, St. Mary's won back-to-back championships in the Class B tournaments fashioning a 58-game win streak that lasted into 1959. Dennis Walljasper, the tournament's leading scorer each year, teamed with Dave Mahar to lead the Ramblers by Tracy and Calumet (Liberty Township). Mahar wound up with 2,015 career points. Calumet, with only 14 boys in the school, captured the hearts of tourney goers and followed by a third place finish in 1958, a title in 1959 and another runner-up in 1960, being led most years by a crafty southpaw guard Delmer Dau, who set a Class B and a new all-time tourney scoring mark of 203 points. Calumet returned to the single class tourney in 1961, knocking off Ames and Assumption, Davenport, before bowing in the finals to Marshalltown.

1959 – In a tournament where the semifinals and finals were delayed a day because of heavy snows and drifting, Sioux Center's run to the Class A title was highlighted by Jim Vermeer's last second jump shot that delivered a 50-49 championship triumph over powerful and defending Davenport. Coach Paul Muyskens' Warriors were the smallest school in the Class A tourney with nearly 1,900 fewer students than Davenport. The Class B crown went to Calumet who topped Lowden, 77-56.

1963-64 – Newton posted back-to-back titles as Coach Buzz Levick's team put together 26-0 and 23-3 seasons behind the all around play of Tom Altemeier, Larry Lust, Fred George, and Dennis Williams. The Cardinals defeated Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln and Cedar Rapids Jefferson respectively for the crowns.

1966 – Marshalltown defeated Cedar Rapids Washington in the final single class tournament, 77-63. The Bobcats outmanned Shenandoah 100-54 and edged Bishop Heelan, Sioux City, 68-67 to make the finals. Coach George Funk's 26-1 senior dominated team scored 87 points or more nine times and had all five starters averaging in double figures, led by John Moore and Jim Abrahamson.

1967 – This year the tourney went to two classes with Sioux Center defeating Carroll, 71-62 for the Class B crown and in one of the amazing comebacks in tourney history Cedar Rapids Jefferson knocked off Ames, 72-71 in overtime to win Class A. The J-Hawks were down 15 points in the second half and staged a furious rally to put the game into extra minutes. They grabbed a lead in the overtime and Larry Lawrence's dribbling exhibition monopolized 43 seconds of the final minute and clutch free throws denied Ames.

1968-69-70 – Paullina duplicated Davenport's 1950-52 trifecta with crowning wins over Ottumwa Walsh (72-66 and 74-58) and Mid-Prairie, Wellman 78-70. The Panthers of Coach Marlo Griebel were led by Neil Fegebank, Brian Pauling and Mike Fiddelke and recorded their 76th straight win with the 1970 championship. The streak would later grow to 80. Fegebank scored a state tourney all-time record of 246 points in the nine game set including a record 42 in the 1970 title game, a year when he set the single tournament scoring record at 112 points. 1969 was the final year for Ottumwa Walsh standout Tim Dieters who had the highest scoring average in the state at 33.3 ppg and closed his senior season with 887 points and a three-year career total of 1,712.

1971 – Davenport West, coached by Dave Wessel appeared in the tournament for the first time for the school and the coach. The Falcons started the tourney drive with a record of 7-11 and proved that dreams do come true as they won two district contests and two sub-state games to make the large school field. At The Show they defeated Waterloo West, Mason City and Ottumwa in order for the title to wind up 14-11 and with the biggest trophy in the state. The 14 wins is the lowest number of any championship team but pale in comparison to the grit, determination and resilience they demonstrated.

1972 – After finishing second in 1971, Alta rallied to win over Treynor in the title game, 57-55 on Tom Huseman's buzzer beating jumper from the right wing. Central Elkader in the same field lost to Alta in the semifinals 85-81 but the Warriors led by the Class A scoring leader Dave Kuehl posted a 105-89 opening win against Regina, Iowa City

and a 108-95 consolation triumph over Mid-Prairie, Wellman to become the only team to go over the century mark twice in one tournament. The Mid-Prairie win remains as a State Tournament record for the most points by two teams in a game.

1975 – The Class 3A Championship went to Des Moines Lincoln, 56-51 over Ames. The Railsplitters, in their first ever State Tournament, were paced by all-state players Chris Kern, Ron Lemons and Mark Long. They became the fifth Des Moines high school to make the tournament and the first to win a championship since Des Moines Roosevelt in 1965. They also became the tenth school to win the championship on their first appearance. St. Albert, Council Bluffs (2A) led by Marti Wolever also won a title on their first try.

1976 – In the bicentennial year of the nation, Regina, Iowa City (A), Forest City (2A) and Ames (3A) won titles. Rock Valley's 111-65 victory over Central Webster in the Class A consolation game established the State Tournament record for the most points by one team in a state tournament game.

1977 – Clinton St. Mary's, first time champions Roland-Story and Iowa City West recorded championships while the Palmer story was born with a fourth place finish keyed by 2,092 career point scorer Norman Wiemers.

1979 – A Bobby Hanson led Dowling Catholic team had a flair for the dramatic with fourth quarter heroics that produced wins over Cedar Rapids Kennedy, 52-49, Ankeny 66-55, and a 60-57 title clincher over Davenport Central. Hanson, who later would star at Iowa and in the NBA, led the Class 3A field in scoring with 66 points

1980 – Dike topped South Hamilton, 72-71 in three extra periods – the most ever in a championship. The Bobcats got 32 points from Kevin Graves in a nip and tuck battle and a winning base line jumper from Kevin Graham with six seconds to play. Todd Peterson led South Hamilton's scoring with 23 points and the tournament with 86.

1981 – Central Clinton, DeWitt edged Maple Valley, 61-57 in overtime in win Class 2A. Maple Valley's Todd Berkenpas led the field in scoring with 88 points to wind up a stellar career with a new Iowa all-time total of 2,536 points shattering the previous record of 2,213 by Jim Goodrich, United Community 10 years earlier.

1981-82 – Paullina returns to the tournament and wins back-to-back championships led by Randy Kraayenbrink and Daryl Schnoes. The Panthers with five titles in seven trips ran their State Tournament win-loss record to 17-3. Notably, Schnoes scored 75 and pulled down 43 rebounds to lead the tourney in 1981 and Kraayenbrink shredded the nets for 114 in the 1982 meet, in a record that has yet to be surpassed. It was just the fifth time a player had exceeded the century mark and it broke the record of 112 by Neil Fegebank of Paullina in 1970. His 47 points against Waukee ranks third all-time for a single state tourney game, trailing Western Christian's Curt Hofman (56 in 1991) and Iowa Falls' Art Sathoff (53 in 1984).

1982-84 – Not to be lost in the high powered 80s is a three-peat by Cedar Rapids Regis. Coach Dick Breitbach's clan won the nine straight tournament games by 190 points (21.1 ppg) including a 25.7 ppg margin in 1982. Helping key the triumphs was two-time all-tourney player Dick Breitbach Jr.

1983 – In the tournament that witnessed the debut of the 3-point field goal, the honor of making the first in state competition went LeMars' Kris Anderson. Palmer, Cedar Rapids Regis and Linn-Mar each took home championship trophies.

1983-84 – Art Sathoff of Iowa Falls helped the Cadets to back-to-back third place finishes and in doing so established a rebounding record for a tournament – 59 in 1983 and for an all-time career – 115 in six games. His efforts broke the previous marks of 55 and 100 by Mark Faber of Rock Valley in 1977 and 1976-77.

1984 – For the first time in the history of the tournament, one community claims two titles - Cedar Rapids Kennedy (3A) and Cedar Rapids Regis (2A).

1986-1989 – Palmer was the story in Iowa basketball as the tiny northwest Iowa school under Coach Alden Skinner won three straight championships in convincing style and was headed for a third when Keota upset them, 60-56 in the semifinals in 1989. That ended a 103-game winning streak that gained national television appearances and made their players household names. Troy Skinner, who wound up with 2,497 career points and 997 in 1988, and Brian Pearson were the outside architects of the "raiders of the arc" with their three point field goals, Skinner led the 1987 field with 13 treys and 90 points, while Pearson scored 91 with 17 threes in the 1988 meet. Pearson also shares the mark of 44 made threes in all-time tournament play with Craig Douma of Maurice-Orange City, 1988-90.

1988-89 – Maurice-Orange City romped to back-to-back championships with a winning margin of nearly 15 ppg in 1988 and a record thundering 31-point margin in 1989. The Dutch returned in 1990 to take home third. Kevin Vander Zwagg and Joel Boomgaars teamed with Craig Douma to provide the highlight reels. Douma drained state records of 11 treys in a 1990 tourney game and 20 for the three-game meet to boost him into an all-time tie with Palmer's Brian Pearson with 44 in state action.

1990 – First time champions Colo-NESCO and Pella Christian joined Montezuma and Waterloo East in the winners' circle and another 2,000 career point scorer closed the book on his career. Elk Horn-Kimballton's Josh Nelsen led the tourney scoring with 73 points and wound up with 2,076 points in pacing his team to third.

1991 – This tournament featured some high profile scoring starting with Ames' Fred Hoiberg, who went on to star at Iowa State University and in the NBA. He scored 108 points in leading the balanced Little Cyclones to the championship and their first appearance since 1976. Ames rolled past three foes, including defending champion Waterloo East, by a total of 78 points. Only one player since (Jordan Eglseider of Marquette, Bellevue in 2006) has eclipsed the century mark. Curt Hofman of Western Christian set a single game record of 56 points (including 10 threes) in the opening game. He led the tournament with 98 points and 19 treys as Jim Eekhoff's team stormed Cedar Rapids Regis 90-57 in the finals. Aplington won the first of two straight titles and was led by Darian DeVries in starting a 52-game win streak by stopping Iowa Mennonite School, Kalona in the title game. The string later grew to 74 when they consolidated with Parkersburg. Newell-Fonda averaged 80 ppg in winning the 1A championship in their first ever appearance as their top gun Jim Calkins closed his career with 2,034 points. Diagonal's Terry Anderson closed out his career in the tournament with 2,506 points

1992 – Aplington rolled to the Class 1A championship and their 53rd consecutive win by scoring 282 points in their three tourney games (94 ppg). It was not an uncommon occurrence for the Panthers who averaged 98.4 coming into the State Tournament. Counting the 102 points the first round, Aplington scored 100 or more points 12 times during the season and 90-99 points seven other times.

1993 – Three of the top college prospects in the nation were showcased in this tournament even though each wound up in consolation games. MFL, Mar Mac with Kansas recruit and future NBA star Raef LaFrentz took third in Class 2A while future Hawkeye standout Jess Settles, 6-8 with the agility of a guard, led Winfield-Mount-Union to a 69-67 consy win over Pomeroy-Palmer and 7-foot Greg Helmers. Settles closed a brilliant career with 2,167 points.

1994-95 – Johnston's back-to-back title raid was part and parcel of a 58-game winning streak that did not end until 1996. The Dragons beat New Hampton for the gold in 1994 and outscored tournament opponents by 77 points in 1995 when they brushed past MOC-Floyd Valley, 95-78 in the finals, the most total points by two teams in a championship. Matt Sundblad, who starred at Lamar University, and Chris Danner were the catalysts to the titles. The 1994 meet also saw the final prep games for MFL's Raef LaFrentz, who closed his career with 2,148 points.

1996-97 – Mason City led by highly talented Dean Oliver, an Iowa Hawkeye recruit, helped the Mohawks to back-to-back titles dashing Iowa City West, 58-50 in 1996 and Sioux City West, 85-74 in 1994. Oliver led the tournament scoring each year with 81 and 87 points. The tourney was also the final prep games for Cary Cochran of Tri-Center, a Nebraska recruit, who bowed out as the state's number two scorer all-time with 2,650 points.

1998 – Rock Valley, Iowa Falls, Prairie, Cedar Rapids and Iowa City West won titles. The tourney featured future NBA scorer Kyle Korver of Pella who helped his team to fourth and back to the tourney the following year.

1999 – Yes, Dorothy Iowa does play very good high school basketball. Kansas Coach Roy Williams was on hand to see two more prized recruits -- Co-Mr. Basketball winners Sioux City West's Kirk Hinrich and Iowa Falls' Nick Collison led their teams to State Championships. It was the first title for a Sioux City public school in 65 years and Iowa Falls' second title after winning in 1998. The duo went on to star later for the J-Hawks and became NBA lottery picks in a class that included LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony and Dwayne Wade. The tournament also had an electric moment in the Class 1A Championship. Newell-Fonda's Justin Lyman's three-point field goal from 23' with 1.3 seconds remaining delivered the Mustangs' their third state title and a perfect 26-0 season.

2000 – In tight tournament games for the eventual champions, Newell-Fonda won in double overtime against Boyden-Hull after winning games by nine and four points; St. Edmond, Fort Dodge led by Jack Brownlee recorded three and four point victories before stopping Pella Christian, 64-61 in the championship for the school's first title; Assumption, Davenport survived two close class before defeating West Delaware, 77-63 in the Class 3A championship; and Iowa City West also with one and 11 point triumphs defeated Johnston, 58-45 in Class 4A. The tourney also bid farewell to Elk Horn-Kimballton's talented Brett Watson who ended his career with 2,355 points.

2002 – Pomeroy-Palmer notched its 54th straight win with a 67-62 championship victory over Fredericksburg. Danville repeated in Class 2A by virtue of a four point overtime win against Grundy Center, a one point triumph over PCM, Monroe and Jake Wenig's dramatic three-point basket seconds before the final buzzer in a 52-51 win over Garner-Hayfield. Wenig's half court three-pointer forced the overtime with Grundy Center. Pella claimed its first title by topping Bishop Heelan, Sioux City in the finals of Class 3A and Sioux City East claimed its first championship since 1934 with a 55-52 win over Waterloo East. Mason City's Jeff Horner, a University of Iowa recruit, closed his career with 2,194 career points after a first round loss.

2003 – With Boyden-Hull, Sioux Center, Pella and Waterloo East winning championships, the tourney marked the final game for Wapsie Valley's Brooks McKowen. The UNI recruit led the tournament scoring with 91 points and finished as Iowa's first (and to date) only player to score over 1,000 points in a season (1,002) and as the state's all-time scorer with 2,831.

2004 – The four champions each had a piece of their school's history. In Class 1A Dunkerton defeated Manning 68-41 for their second title but first since winning the one class crown over Des Moines Roosevelt in 1933. In Class 2A PCM, Monroe copped their first championship with a two overtime win over St. Edmond, Fort Dodge, 58-57. The Mustangs were led by tourney scoring and rebounding leader Brandon Myers (90-42) who had two monster dunks and 36 points, Myers went on to star in football at Iowa and in the NFL with Oakland. Harlan won Class 3A edging Crestwood, Cresco, 60-54, for the school's first ever hardwood championship and in Class 4A, Linn-Mar knocked off Waterloo East, 56-51. It was the Lions first title since 1983 and set in a motion a string of state tournament trips that is a record eight with a chance to go to nine in 2012.

2005 – Orange City carts home two of the four championship trophies with Unity Christian winning Class 2A and MOC-Floyd Valley prevailing in Class 3A. The feat was only the second time in the history of the tourney with Cedar Rapids Kennedy (3A) and Cedar Rapids Regis (2A) being the first in 1984.

2006 – In the inaugural games in Wells Fargo Arena, each of the four championships was a heart stopper. George-Little Rock bumped Marquette Catholic, Bellevue, 49-47 in Class 1A, while Nodaway Valley stopped St. Edmond, Fort Dodge, 46-39 for the Class 2A crown. Harlan Community used an overtime to defeated MOC-Floyd Valley, 86-79 to win Class 3A and Des Moines Hoover edged Pleasant Valley, 33-28 in Class 4A. Proof that consolation games are worthwhile came in Class 4A where Sioux City East nipped Linn-Mar, Marion, 84-83 in overtime. East got 42 points from Roman Gentry while Jason Bohannon buried 43 for the Lions. Bondurant-Farrar's Kerwin Dunham and Battle Creek-Ida Grove's Casey Harriman ended their careers with an appearance in the Elite Meet. Dunham, a UNI recruit, wound up with 2,285 points and Harriman, a Creighton recruit, closed with 2,243 to wind up among the top ten all-time.

2008 – Eric May, a University of Iowa recruit, hit a dramatic 40-foot off balanced jump shot to allow Wahlert, Dubuque to escape with the Class 3A title in a 70-67 win over Harlan Community.

2009-10 – Ames High School won back-to-back championships behind Division I recruits Harrison Barnes (North Carolina) and Doug McDermott (Creighton). The Little Cyclones, who many say could be one of the all-time best teams, defeated Linn-Mar, 55-45 in 2009 and Southeast Polk 47-37 in 2010.

2011 – History was made for the champions. St. Mary's, Storm Lake halted Danville, 74-59 in Class 1A in the Panthers' State Tournament debut. West Fork, led by UNI recruit Seth Tuttle, earned a 60-57 overtime win over Western Christian in the Warhawks first trip in Class 2A. Bishop Heelan, Sioux City edged Waverly-Shell Rock, 62-60 to tie a tourney mark with their third straight title in Class 3A. Class 4A champion Linn-Mar, Marion, in a record eighth straight appearance, prevailed 56-42 over Des Moines Hoover behind the efforts of North Carolina recruit Marcus Paige and UNI recruit Matt Bohannon.