

BASKETBALL AND IOWA – A TRADITION FOR MILLIONS

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Note: When rule changes are listed below they are listed when they were approved. Often this was in the spring/summer following the previous season and the application of the change followed in the next school year.

BOYS' BASKETBALL TIMELINE

- 1891 Game invented by Dr. James Naismith in Springfield, MA
- 1893 First "game" played in Iowa between State University of Iowa Y.M.C.A. and Cedar Rapids Y.M.C.A. with University winning 12-2. Three points were awarded for a made field goal and one point for each foul by the opponent.
- 1895 Free throw line moved to 15' from the basket
- 1896 Points for a made field goal were reduced from three (1895 from 1) to two and instead of being awarded a point for an opponent foul, the offended team was awarded a free throw – one point if made.
- 1897 Iowa high schools start out with "Y" teams in larger cities with West Waterloo and Ottumwa being among the first, followed by Boone, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, et al
- 1899 Dribbler could alternate hands
- 1903 Iowa High School Principals' Club organized a rules committee to draft a uniform code for basketball. This action led to one set of rules for all interscholastic sports and eventually the IHSAA
- 1908 Double dribble prohibited; dribbler could not shoot
- 1909 Glass backboards were first used, though not required.
- 1910 Player with four fouls was disqualified; traveling violations were counted as fouls
- 1912 Rims could have nylon netting with an opening at the bottom so the ball could go through as opposed to the old peach baskets
- 1912 The Iowa High School Athletic Council organized its first "State Tournament" (1912). These first tournaments were invitational with usually four or eight teams being invited by the council to play, usually at Iowa City or Ames.
- 1920-22 Two "Invitational State Tournaments" held – one at Iowa City; one at Ames
- 1922 Game shortened from two 20 minute halves to four eight minute quarters.
- 1923 IHSAA assumed control of the sport and initiated a tournament qualifying structure leading to the State Tournament. A total of 830 schools had teams; 777 belonged to the I.H.S.A.A.
- 1923 Osage defeated Council Bluffs, 21-14 in the finals of round robin tournament at Boone High School in first ever IHSAA State Tournament. Oskaloosa and Spirit Lake also qualified for the tournament. Round robin tournaments continued through 1926 with class A and B tournaments being played in 1925 and 1926.
- 1927-29 State Tournament at Iowa City, University Field House featured eight qualifying teams in one class.
- 1930-1940 Start of the "Sweet 16" qualifiers for the State Tournament, held at Drake Field House and Iowa State Teachers' College, Cedar Falls.
- 1932 New rule adoptions: (1) Ten second backcourt rule; (2) numbering on the front and back of the uniform; (3) free throw lane spacings set; and (4) three-second lane restriction.
- 1933 Dunkerton becomes the first ever small school state champion, defeating Des Moines Roosevelt, 22-20, in a single class tournament
- 1935 Fumble not considered part of the dribble
- 1937 Center jump after each made field goal is eliminated; end-line to backboard could be four feet
- 1938 Sudden death in overtime to determine the winner of tie game
- 1940 Fan-shaped backboard were legalized
- 1941 Three-seconds in lane made to apply to all offensive players; Sub-state Tr. started
- 1941-44 Due to World War II, State Tournament reduced to eight qualifiers. Games played at Drake Field House.
- 1944 Players permitted five fouls before disqualification
- 1944 Due to gas rationing, State Tournament was abbreviated to four teams and returned to University Field House, Iowa City.
- 1945-1955 State Tournament returned to 16 qualifiers and one class.

1946	Transparent backboards were legalized.
1947	Rectangular target on backboard was required
1947	High-tide for member schools playing basketball – 952
1948	Fouling player to raise his hand above his head
1949	Dribble rule re-written
1951	Roland, one of the smallest teams in the tournament, led by Gary Thompson captures the crowd with their play despite losing to Davenport, 50-40 in the championship.
1953	All State Tournament Games Televised statewide for the first time
1955	Veterans Auditorium Des Moines hosts State Tournament for first time. Due to unavailability of Vets, the tournament returned to Iowa City in 1960 and 1962
1956-1961	State Tournament is divided into two classes of 8 qualifiers each.
1957-60	First round of the Class A and B state tournaments were played at satellite sites around the state, with 8 winners advancing to the quarterfinals in Des Moines or Iowa City
1957	Free-throw lane expanded from 6 feet to 12 feet in width
1961	Sudden death (first team with a two point advantage) in second overtime eliminated
1961-66	State Tournament goes back to a single class with 8 qualifiers.
1964	Iowa adopts “bench decorum” rule for coaches
1967	Dunking during the game made illegal
1967-1974	State Tournament returns to two classes of 8 qualifiers each.
1971	Sportsmanship winner initiated among teams competing in the tournament.
1973	First year that an all-tournament team in each class was chosen by the media
1974	Fouling player no longer required to raise his hand.
1976	Dunking legalized except in pre-game and intermission warm-ups
1975-1984	State Tournament moves to three classes of eight qualifiers each.
1982	Iowa becomes the first state to adopt the use of the three-point field goal from beyond an arc of 19’9” for 1982-83 season.
1983-84	Seeding method used in all classes for the State Tournament
1985	Current four classes with eight team each format starts.
1985	Alternating possession rule for jump balls adopted except at the start of the game and each extra period.
1988	Palmer wins a third straight state championship, just the third time it had been done, and with an all-time best scoring average of 103.9 points per game.
1994	The length of overtime periods increased from three minutes to four minutes
2002	Three former Iowa preps (Nick Collison, Kirk Hinrich and Kyle Korver) win All American honors and are drafted by the NBA, swelling the number of active Iowans in the NBA to seven – more than any other state in the Midwest
2006	State Tournament moves into the new Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, adjacent to Veterans Auditorium
2010	Ames High School becomes the first large school to win back-to-back state titles and be unbeaten each season.
2010	Board of Control approves a seeding formula for tournaments based on the class of the opponent
2011	Linn-Mar wins Class 4A with a perfect 26-0 record making it a the third straight year an undefeated team has won the big school class – a first. Bishop Heelan, Sioux City won the 3A title for the third straight time becoming the fifth school to reach that achievement. In 1A and 2A St. Mary’s, Storm Lake and West Fork, Sheffield captured titles in their first ever trip to the Elite Eight.
2012	The IHSAA salutes 100 years of Boys’ State Basketball Tournaments, by featuring some of the Great Moments in State Tournament history

Early Background

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

From 1912 through 1922 the IHSAA did not officially conduct a State Tournament series. A group of educators operating with the approval of the IHSAA and known as the Iowa High School Athletic Council reviewed the records of teams and held “invitational state tournaments” usually in Iowa City and/or Ames. These college communities offered playing facilities and lodging for the

teams. In 1920 continuing through the 1922 season two invitational state tournaments, one in each city, were held.

At the 2012 State Tournament the IHSAA celebrated the first 100 years of State Tournaments. During the 1912-1922 era, the Iowa Athletic Council operated with the permission of the IHSAA Board of Control to have a State Tournament. With limited travel (mostly by rail), the State Tournaments were held at Iowa State College or the State University of Iowa with teams invited to play. As part of the 100 Year Celebration, the IHSAA posted on its website "A Great Moments from State Tournament History." The work in large was through the efforts of a committee, but also incorporated "great moments" and memories of the fans.

IHSAA Takes Over

Starting in 1923 the IHSAA assumed full control of the sport as member schools started to add basketball to their athletic programs. Several changes were implemented by the Board of Control including a qualifying system of tournaments, the length of the season, codification of playing rules, maximum age of players, and academic rules were crafted to place all teams on the same structure. The IHSAA registered and licensed officials to work tournament games as well as regular season contests of member schools.

The first two IHSAA state tournaments were held at Boone High School. From that humble beginning, the sport became increasingly popular with more schools participating and an expanding fan base.

The tournament was divided into two classes, based on enrollment, in 1925 and 1926, before returning to a single class structure in 1927, when a sectional and district qualifying format was put in place. From 1927 to 1955 the State Tournament was usually played at the State University of Iowa Field House or Drake Field House. In 1955, the tournament for the first time was contested in the new Veterans Auditorium (a.k.a. "The Barn") in Des Moines before moving across the street to the modern Wells Fargo Arena in 2006

In 1930, the magic of the "Sweet 16" was created to respect the 16 State Tournament qualifiers. With the exception of 1941-45 when the tourney returned to eight qualifiers, the 16 commanded widespread coverage from newspapers and the electronic media. The period of classification from 1956-1960 resulted in a two class structure but from 1961-1966 there was only one class of eight qualifiers. As competition became more intense, classification was the tool used to equalize competition among schools of like size. Since 1967 the tournament has stayed in multiple classes, increasing to three in 1976 and to four in 1985.

State championship games at the University Field House in Iowa City and Veteran's Auditorium in Des Moines (first in 1955) drew approximately 14,000-15,000 fans during the period of 1946-1980 even with a larger television audience. In era of 1920 through 1939 the semifinals and finals were often played on the same day.

Perhaps unique to Iowa, starting in 1950 when the tournament stayed as a single champion, schools were classed AA, A and B by enrollment, the schools played within their own class through the sectional, district and sub-state tournaments then were paired for the State Tournament.

Television & Attendance

While radio started broadcasting tournament games as early as 1927, it was in 1953 that the first to be televised and it has continued to the present. In some early years all games were televised. In recent years both Friday and Saturday sessions have been aired on a network that covers Iowa and parts of six surrounding states.

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

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

Part of the love affair with basketball stemmed from the fact that nearly ever school in the state had a team. From the 33 member schools that competed in 1906 to 775 in 1923, the first year the IHSAA conducted the State Tournament, the number of schools providing basketball increased to an all-time high of 952 in 1947. As school consolidation became more vogue starting in the 1950s and

later with sharing programs coming on the scene the number of teams diminished to approximately 385 by the start of the 21st century. With over 11,500 participants, grades 9-12, the sport is second only to football in student participation.

Small School Success in One Class Format

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

Melrose (1937) and Diagonal (1938) were also small schools who won the single class championship by defeating larger schools, Melrose was a perfect 33-0 in winning it all and in Diagonal's golden year the Maroons were 24-9, winning their final 13 games. Both communities had populations with less than 700. The three "Giant Killers" were highlighted in the 2011 State Tournament program.

In 1951 tiny Roland thrilled tournament goers and a state-wide media audience and became the tournament darling, by defeating larger opponents -- Hull, Waterloo West, and Des Moines East to gain a title match-up with legendary Davenport, the largest populated school in the state who prevailed 50-40. Roland was led by 5'8" Gary Thompson who was the first Iowa prep to score over 2,000 career points. He was a three-time All-State player, a collegiate All-American, and remains as the only Iowa prep basketball player to be inducted into the National Federation's Hall of Fame. Davenport was coached by Paul Moon whose teams had 16 tournament appearances and seven state championships, each among Iowa's all-time bests. Moon began his career in Illinois where he was an assistant coach for the eventual legendary University of Kentucky coach Adolph Rupp.

Palmer's Dominance

Yet another fabled tale of small school basketball belongs to Palmer, only the third and last team to win three straight championships – 1986, 1987, and 1988, within the smallest class. The Panthers in 1988 also established an Iowa all-time team scoring average of 103.9 points per game for the season and through the tournaments. Coach Alden Skinner's team topped the 100-point mark 15 times during that season and continued to win in 1989, eventually losing in the semifinals of the state tournament and breaking a 103-game winning streak, which commanded national television and magazine coverage. Their 3-point shooting accuracy, led by Troy Skinner and Brian Pearson, helped revolutionize offensive strategies in the years to come.

Like former small school giant killers and state champions Dunkerton (1933), Melrose (1936), and Diagonal (1938) and an epic run by Roland (in the early 1950s) before them, Palmer played before packed in crowds during regular season games at home or on the road. Their 103 consecutive victories an Iowa all-time best is also the fifth longest streak all time in the United States. Other notable win-streaks also include Paullina with 80 and Aplington-Parkersburg with 74 straight (52 by Aplington alone), and 53 by Ames (2009 and 2010), a large school Iowa mark.

The larger high schools dominate many of the "team bests" in State Tournament competition. Like their smaller counterparts, they also have great community pride and strong followings. After the 2008 tournament, Wahlert, Dubuque and Marshalltown each have made 24 state tournament appearances, followed by Davenport Central, Mason City and Waterloo East each with 22. Davenport leads with nine state championship trophies with seven under Paul Moon, who was the first coach to direct a school to three consecutive titles (1950-53), a feat equaled only by Paullina (1968-1970) Cedar Rapids Regis (1982-84), Palmer (1986-88), and Bishop Heelan, Sioux City (2009-11). From 1951-53 Moon's teams never lost to an Iowa team as they won 60 straight.

The Success Continues

Coaches and players, many of whom are featured in the Hall of Pride, achieved a level of excellence that dreams are made of. After the 2011 season over 80 coaches had accumulated 400 or

more varsity victories and 50 athletes had scored 1,900 career points or more. More than 40 athletes have scored 700 or more points in a season. Other statistics are just as impressive. As of 2009 over 300 coaches and players have been inducted into the IHSAA Basketball Hall of Fame, which was started in 1969.

The State Tournament has seen 498 schools qualify through 2011. Each school has its own story, but shares with all a common pride in representing their community and the citizens who without fail have supported them. In the process a virtual litany of local folk heroes are made from youngsters in sneakers and shorts each with the same dream.

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

In 2002 three former Iowa preps -- Nick Collison (Iowa Falls) and Kirk Hinrich (Sioux City West) at Kansas and Kyle Korver (Pella) at Creighton -- won All American honors and were drafted into the National Basketball Association. The trio came on the heels of a litany of others who distinguished themselves in the 1990s, namely Ames' Fred Hoiberg at Iowa State who won numerous Big 8 honors and had a 10 year NBA career; MFL, MarMac's Raef LaFrentz who went to Kansas and became a two-time consensus First Team All American and an 11-year NBA player; and Ryan Bowen of Fort Madison who excelled at the University of Iowa and played nine seasons in the NBA. By 2003 the number of active Iowans in the NBA was seven - more than any other state in the Midwest. And those seven players hailed from each of the four classes of high school competition and are among over 30 Iowans who have played in the NBA.

Innovations

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

The school administrators of Iowa have favored the current number of classes (4) since 1985, and Iowa has led other states in broadening opportunities for students regardless of the size of school they attend. Iowa pioneered the three-point field goal starting with the 1982-83 season, five years before it became a national rule. And Iowa, the recognized leader in advocating good sportsmanship, has made it a center piece of the State Tournament.

A Final Comment

Boys' basketball in Iowa is truly a remarkable story dispelling the myth that more games and sports specialization is essential. To the contrary, many of the modern day Iowa basketball "stars" are multi-sport stars in their high school. Iowans have respected the rules and limitations that govern the sport and perhaps that is the secret why our kids are balanced as adults. Often times the students who play basketball are not only in other sports but take part in numerous other school educational-based activities. IHSAA's rules allow a strong percentage of students to represent their schools and communities while enjoying a wide variety of school activities.