

A Last Championship Season
in Indiana High School
Basketball

Where the Game Matters Most

William Gildea



Little, Brown and Company

Boston New York Toronto London

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453. William Gildea
Where the Game Matters Most
Taped: 1/9/98
Aired: 2/22/98
Tape #: 81,224

P81 James Dean
P33 James Whitcomb Riley
John Wooden
Abraham Lincoln
Internet
Shakespeare

Steve Witty of Ben Davis
"greedy"
P12

Alexandria coach
Gary Cone - quote
on Society P 172
Alec Robertson - P 149
Newcastle - 9314 seats

Muncie (Middletown)
(2 French journalists - came
to Ft. Wayne in 1996-1997
report on a quintessential
midwestern city)

Picture of the ^{Gang} Weatherford - adoption/arrest
Hoosier Hoptens / 382 teams

Merillville - Jamaal Davis
Gangs - wore a pager

McKall - Luke Recker
Parents divorce

Anderson - Eric Bush / Coach Ron ^{the liver} ~~Heiklin~~ Heiklin
The Wigwam - the ceremony - politically correct
Mother dies Father in prison

Batesville - Michael Meuser

Milau - Bobby Blump

Alice - p 52 Vincennes
about a woman who aided a Revolutionary soldier

Larry Bird - father committed suicide, later
like Lincoln - lost a parent to death p 50

Public address announcer at Anderson p 56

Where the Game
Matters Most

For Brian,
Cheers for the Bronchos,
And thanks for being the best
proposed mentor for Max.
Brend G.

BOOKNOTES
1998-02-22

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First Edition

Map by Brad Wye

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Gildea, William.

Where the game matters most : a last championship season in
Indiana high school basketball / William Gildea. — 1st ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-316-51967-7

1. Basketball — Indiana. 2. School sports — Indiana. I. Title.

GV885.72.I6G55 1997

796.323'63'09772—dc21

97-27491

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

MV-NY

Published simultaneously in Canada by Little, Brown & Company (Canada) Limited

Printed in the United States of America

Over the course of my coaching career, I visualize myself using the example of Michael Menser and the Batesville Bulldogs as a model to emulate. Today in Batesville and in other southeastern Indiana communities, there is a young guard working on his game in his backyard so he can someday play like Michael Menser.

Parts of Indiana seem fixed in time: a solitary farmboy with a buzz haircut shooting a basketball at a milk carton affixed to a pole, a South Side Indy kid lifting high off the macadam in a serious pickup game. Many days, near dusk, a CSX freight still rumbles slowly through Milan, past the water tower painted in tribute to the 1954 state high school basketball champions. And yet many Hoosiers say their game may never be the same.

Change has swept through Indiana and taken with it one of the state's best-loved traditions. The realization that single-class basketball and its tournament have vanished is a truth better known after spending a season in Indiana. Batesville coach Melvin Siefert says, "I hope that somehow we can get back to the old way."

Until then, Hoosiers still will fill the gyms and Indiana kids will keep shooting basketballs, and ultimately some still will become legends. Unswervingly positive, Hoosiers may be content knowing they're on the side of the angels and their sainted spokesman for basketball, John Wooden, Martinsville High, class of '28. In Indiana he's still called Johnny.

"Although there is no progress without change, all change is not progress," Wooden said. "A change to class basketball in Indiana high school tournament play would not be progress. More doesn't mean better. Nor does bigger. The Indiana state basketball tournament is easily the equivalent of the NCAA tournament and is more highly regarded than the tournaments in any other state. As Cervantes said, 'The journey is better than the inn.'"

Cervantes

The journey is better than the inn

Cervantes - The journey is better than the inn

Alfred Lord Tennyson - I did the best I could and I'll keep on doing it up to the end

C.S. Lewis For broken dreams the cure is Dream again
and deeper

183 Carl Sandburg wrote of the peace and glory of the drums

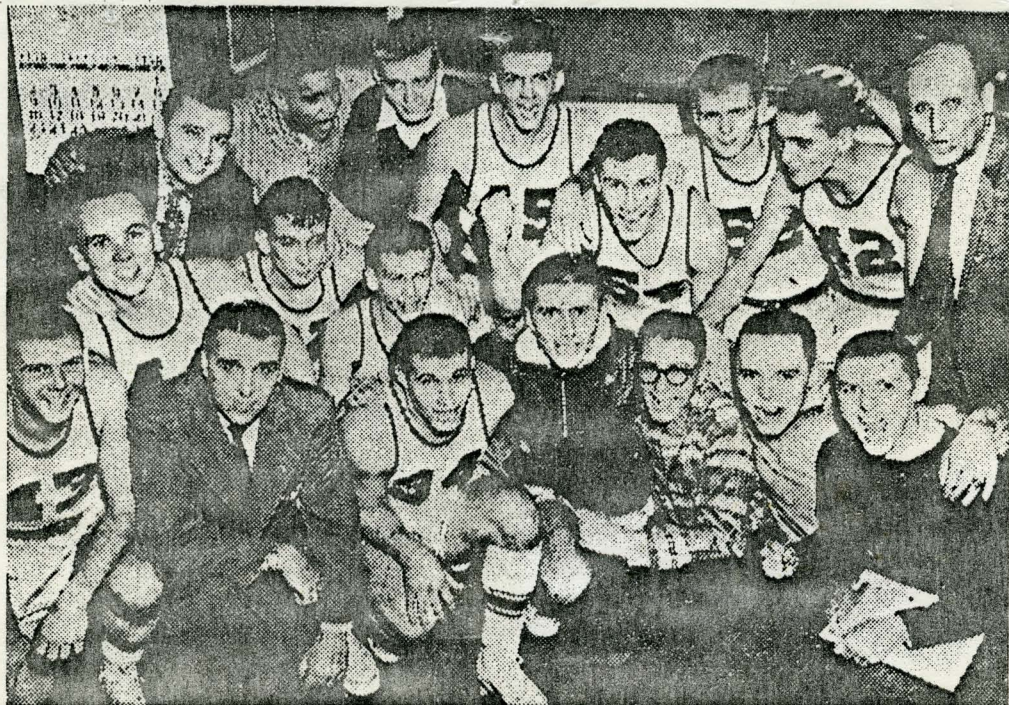
179 Bob Seger Runnin' against the wind we're runnin'
CD against the wind.

154 ^{Kobomo} Memorial to John E. Turner and others killed in WWII
This memorial conceived in loving memory and enduring gratitude
is dedicated to those promising young men who grew to young
manhood in our homes and schools of Howard County
and who mindful only of duty to their country and
loved ones, offered their lives and all else they
possessed that liberty, justice and unbridled freedom
might be enjoyed by future generations

140 William Herschell - Ain't God good to Indiana?

33 James Whitcomb Riley

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DEFENDING CHAMPIONS of the Lafayette Semi-state are Jefferson's Bronchos who have put in many a victory celebration like this. Front row, left to right, are Dave Price, Coach Marion Crawley, Byron Broome, Larry Butz, and managers Dave Ebner, Brian Lamb and Gary Metcalf. Sec-

ond row—George Lucus, Larry Ford, Mike Crawley, John Danaher, Jerry Acheson, Jerry Bussell and assistant coach Sammy Lyboult. Back row—Trainer Harold Cordell, Bill Evans, Len Rhoda, and Fran Behler.