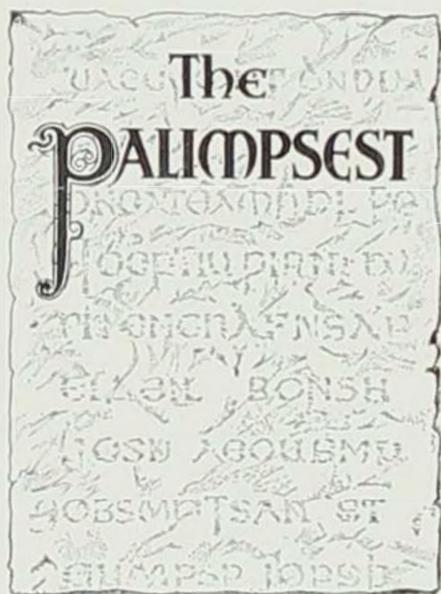


*The*  
**PALIMPSEST**



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**FEBRUARY 1950**



## The Meaning of Palimpsest

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the records of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

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## Cover

*Front* — Ottumwa High School Team of 1906.

*Back — Top:* Seymour state champions receive congratulations in hotel room following 59 to 33 victory over Numa in 1947.

*Bottom:* Kamrar state champions honored in home gymnasium following 65 to 40 triumph over Wilton Junction in 1948.

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# THE PALIMPSEST

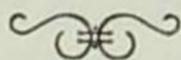
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

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## Beginnings of Girls' Basketball

Iowa is an enthusiastic basketball state. In high school and in college, in city industrial league and in professional circles, citizens of the Hawkeye State have demonstrated unbounded interest in this colorful sport. Crowds have packed the University of Iowa field house in numbers rivaling Madison Square Garden. On a lesser scale in size (but not in enthusiasm), high school and college gyms have resounded to the cheers and groans of frenzied fans. Nowhere has this excitement reached a higher pitch than in girls' basketball as it has been played in the Drake field house in Des Moines.

Basketball was invented by James Naismith in 1892 as a boys' and men's game. Several women coaches quickly saw possibilities of adapting it for girls. After trying for several years to play by modified boys' rules, the women held a meeting in 1899, and appointed a committee to draw up appropriate rules for girls. An outgrowth of this committee was the National Committee on Wo-

men's Basketball, a sub-committee of the Women's Athletic Section of the American Physical Education Association.

Dubuque was probably the earliest Iowa high school to introduce girls' basketball. In its initial issue in 1898 the Dubuque High School *Echo* recorded the first known girls' basketball played in Dubuque, and probably in Iowa. According to the *Echo*: "Miss Helen McKinnon, '99 and Miss Agnes Martin, '99 were participants in the only basket ball game played in Dubuque in which both teams were composed exclusively of young ladies. Miss McKinnon made several fine plays during the evening, but it fell to Miss Martin to make scores. She threw three baskets from the field during the progress of the game, and was heartily applauded by the spectators for the cleverness with which she threw them. The baskets thrown by her were the only ones thrown by her team. Although the opposite team was composed of five players and theirs of but four, they won the game."

In January, 1901, the *Echo* declared that the girls' athletic class was meeting at the Y.M.C.A. every Saturday afternoon. There were four organized basketball teams and two games were being played each week.

Both the *Echo* and the Dubuque *Telegraph-Herald* felt the girls were making good progress. On December 12, 1901, the *Telegraph-Herald* declared:

Romp and Shout and Cry "O Dear"  
When the Ball Goes Into the Basket

Basket ball, a rollicking game that upbuilds the sinews and gives health and grace is the latest pastime of a number of Dubuque young women. Once or twice a week they assemble in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium and romp and run and jump and shout in their pursuit of the inflated sphere. The game is as healthful as it is enjoyable and the many peals of laughter may be heard afar as the feminine onslaughts are made up and down the "gym" floor.

The members of the basket ball team are selected from Prof. Pierson's young women's physical culture class. They have been indulging in the sport for several weeks and they enjoy it immensely, not to say anything about the benefit they derive physically. Speaking of the work of the young women at basket ball play, Prof. Pierson says that they catch the spirit of the game more easily than their masculine friends. They are quick on their feet, are not inclined to scrimmages, and depend much on strategy. When they began to play the game first, says Prof. Pierson, the young women were easily exhausted — they couldn't run and they became "winded" in a few minutes. Now they "hold out" almost as well as men. . . . The teams (there are several of them) are composed of Dubuque's most prominent young women. Each team meets several times a week and spends an hour or so in the rare sport. When the players come forth from the "gym" there is a flush of health upon their cheeks and brightness in their eyes.

The young women have costumes for the game. They are of the bloomer pattern and are made to reckon with harshest treatment for the distance between basket ball and foot ball is not so very great. Basket ball is of course much the gentler game, but it is still a dangerous play for persons who are not athletic and dislike to be bumped.

For the next several years neither girls' nor boys' basketball seems to have been played at Dubuque high school due to the lack of a gymnasium and equipment. Then, in 1910, the *Echo* records:

"For a number of seasons the girls have tried to interest the school in basket ball. Teams have been well organized but the student body failed to give sufficient support. This year the fever seemed to be catching, and a bright foundation has been laid for future basket ball. In their games the girls proved themselves to be of superior mettle. Perhaps the most prominent feature in their playing was team support. Their fast, skillful work, and brilliant plays told on their less formidable opponents."

The Dubuque girls beat Manchester in 1910 by a score of 50 to 6 and crushed the Dubuque Alumni 44 to 4. Only one game was played in 1911 because there was no gymnasium. Genuine regret was expressed that the girls were able to play only one game in which the Blues defeated the Reds 5 to 3.

In 1914 the Dubuque girls beat East Dubuque decisively twice but lost both their games to Manchester by scores of 32 to 4 and 16 to 12. Thereafter girls' basketball was confined to interclass games.

Ottumwa appears to have started girls' basketball soon after Dubuque. Its high school magazine, the *Argus*, frequently carried pictures of all

the class teams as well as of the school team. Ottumwa was active in basketball from 1900 to 1923, playing surrounding towns, some of which, according to Superintendent Frank Douma, were mining communities that have since disappeared. A great deal of interclass rivalry was generated in those early days. The *Argus* records that the Junior girls defeated the Seniors in a "well fought basket ball game" on March 9, 1906. Pauline Messenger, Captain Jessie Graham, and Wanda Gee played the "fastest for the '06's" while Captain Leta Sutton and Emma Lewis "starred for the '07's."

In November, 1907, the *Argus* noted that the Ottumwa Girls' Basket Ball Association was entering its second year and needed student support to insure a successful season. "The girls are practicing steadily in the attic preparing for interclass basketball games, and for the team to represent the High School this year. There is plenty of good material and the indications are that we shall have a championship girls' team this year."

Over forty members were enrolled, about twenty-five of whom played on either the class teams or school team. Thus, on February 12, 1908, the Seniors defeated the Sophomores 15 to 3 and the Juniors humbled the Freshmen 32 to 3. Meanwhile, the high school team was praised for its "do-or-die spirit," considering the poor floor on which they played. Several games had been

scheduled by Coach Kelley. On February 8th twenty-five rooters accompanied the team to Washington. Although Ottumwa was defeated 31 to 9, everybody had a fine time, and both team and rooters were "quite royally entertained after the game." When the Washington girls came to Ottumwa they were trounced 26 to 14.

In 1909 the *Argus* hailed as an "overwhelming success" the first interscholastic game "played under girls' rules." Both class games and a regular schedule were arranged.

The first game after the Albia game was played out of town, at the "city" of Mystic. Handicapped by the low ceiling and not being able to bank the ball against the wall as the Mystic girls were, the Ottumwa team lost their first game of the season by the very close score of 16 to 15. Resolved to wipe out this defeat Ottumwa arranged a return game with Mystic to be played at Ottumwa. This game was decidedly a reverse of that played at the "city" of Mystic. The Ottumwa girls poured in the baskets until Mystic had no possible chance of winning.

Muscatine was equally enthusiastic about competitive athletics — for girls as well as for boys. On February 21, 1903, the *Muscatine Journal* lamented the poor facilities afforded its teams, which were actually no worse off than Dubuque or Ottumwa. Despite these handicaps, Muscatine amateur athletes had made "great progress" and by playing with the "very best teams" they had learned the "very best principles of athletics,

rather than to have been victors over inferior teams."

The following January a reorganization took place, and four teams were organized from the twenty-five girls who aspired to gain honors on the 1904 Muscatine high school girls' basketball team. The girls practiced in the new armory. According to the *Journal*:

"It is planned to have two series of games during the season. One of these will be 'behind closed doors,' and the other will be public. The series will constitute the regular contests for the championship of the school, and will determine over which aggregation the official colors shall be allowed to fly."

On February 16, 1904, the *Muscatine Journal* announced the girls would "dedicate" their new suits which were of a "different style" and "more attractive" in the game with Rock Island. The new suits, maroon colored and worn with white sweaters, did not, however, prevent a superior Rock Island team from winning by a score of 14 to 5 before a packed house at the Armory. Muscatine lost the return match at Rock Island by a score of 17 to 8.

The Company C girls won the first basketball contest ever won by a Muscatine girls' team when they defeated Washington Academy 11 to 8 at Muscatine. They then traveled to Washington and won by a score of 6 to 1.

Muscatine was not so fortunate in their contest with the Davenport alumnae girls, losing a "faultlessly" played game by a score of 10 to 5. Smarting at this defeat, the Company C girls prepared to "annihilate" the Davenport high school alumnae in a "fierce game" to be played at Davenport. According to the Muscatine editor:

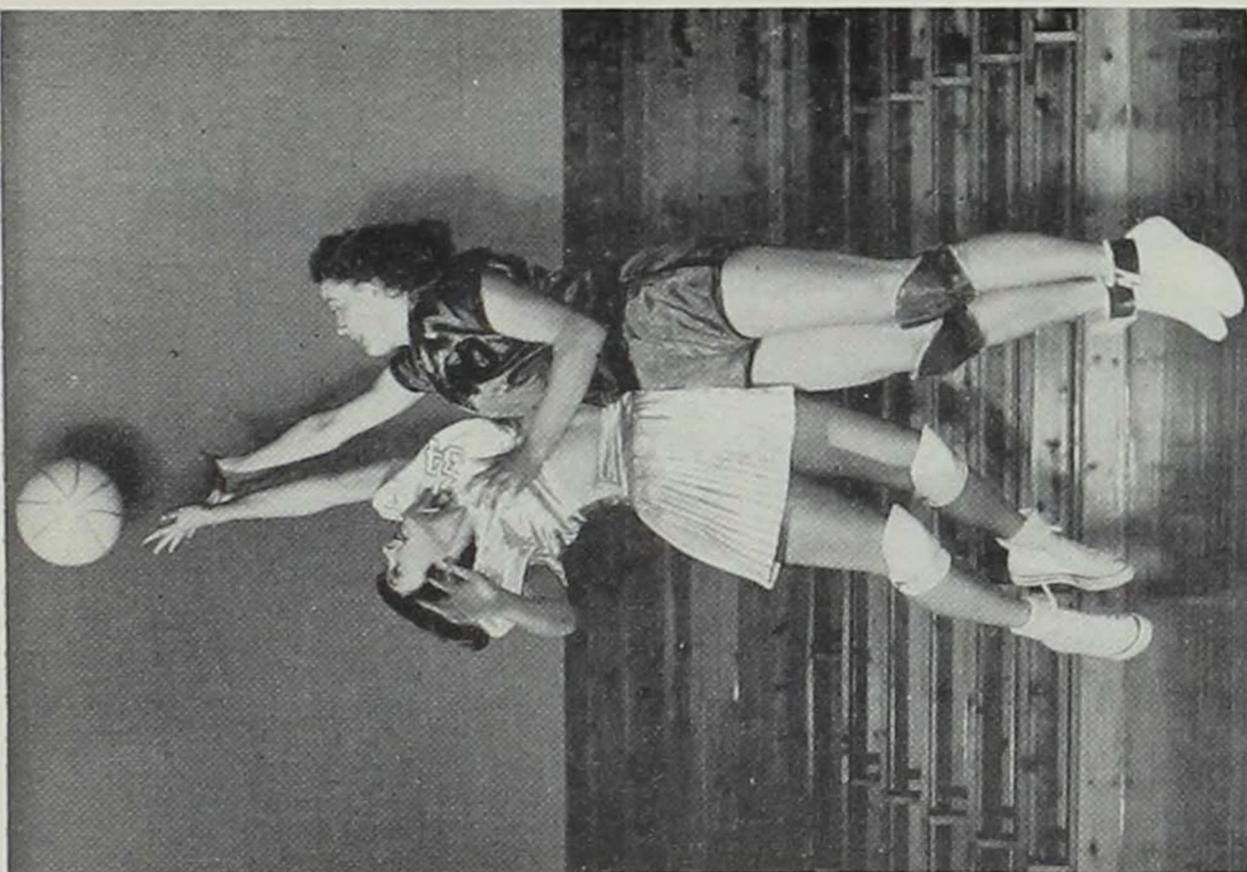
The fair soldiers of this city, veterans of two battles this year, are studying the basket ball manual of arms with grim earnestness. Flank movements galore will be studied out, and the plan of battle thoroughly gone over, before advancing in force to the pitched battle which is scheduled for them.

The laws of nations will be strictly observed during this coming conflict, all scratching and slugging will be barred. All other teams in Davenport are expected to declare strict neutrality during the contest.

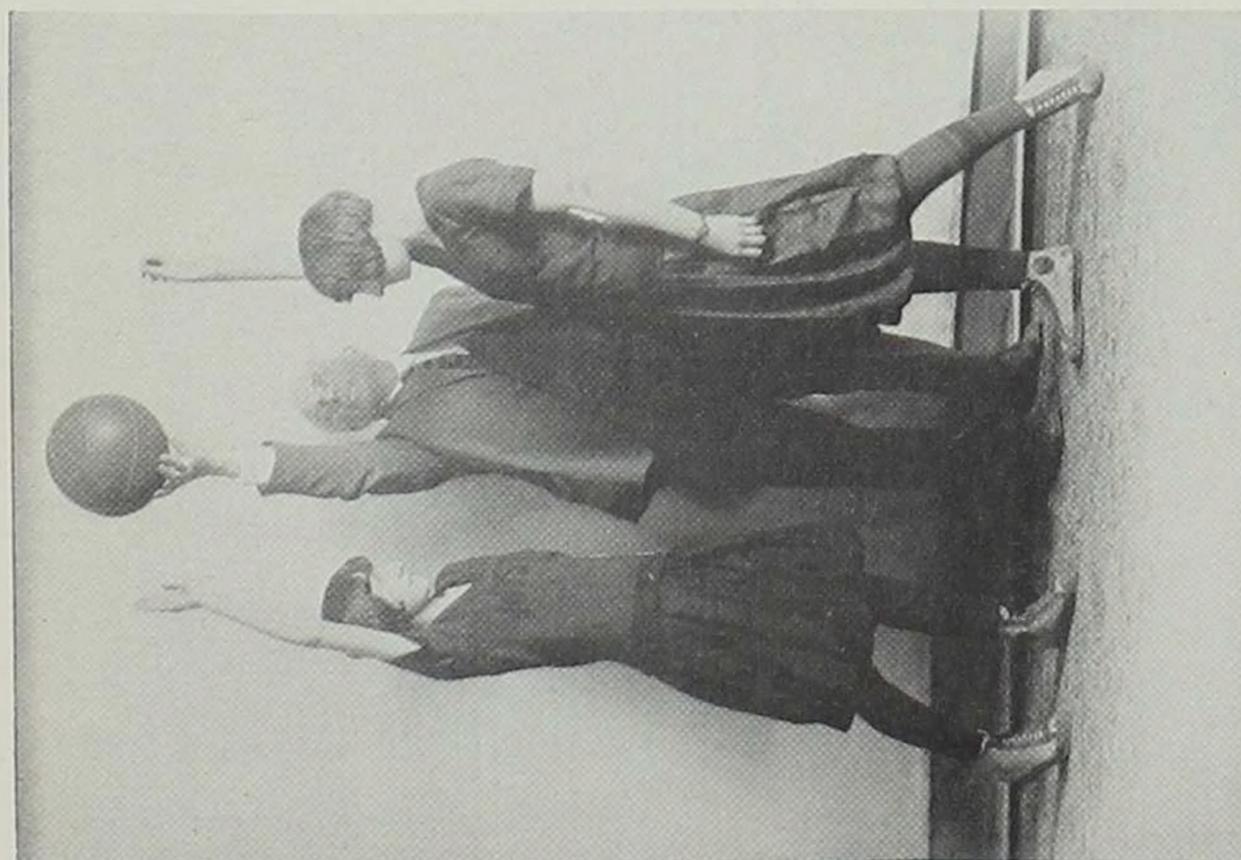
Although the year the first girls' basketball game was played in Davenport is not known, the same pattern of interclass games and contests with outside teams was followed as at Dubuque or Ottumwa. The following schedule was recorded by the Davenport High School *Blackhawk* in 1908:

Davenport 14	West Liberty	25
Davenport 13	Lyons	19
Davenport 17	Augustana College	3
Davenport 27	Lyons	6
Davenport 14	West Liberty	12

The enthusiasm for girls' basketball at Davenport by 1909 is revealed by the fifty candidates

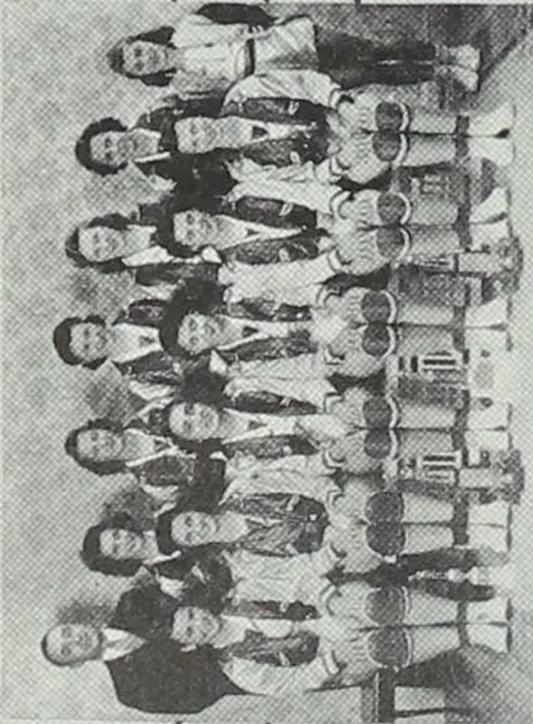


1950 UNIFORMS AND JUMP  
Eleanor Mencke (Hartley)  
Mona Van Steenberg (Prairie City)



OLD TIME JUMP BALL  
John W. Agans, Referee  
Mystic Girls Jump

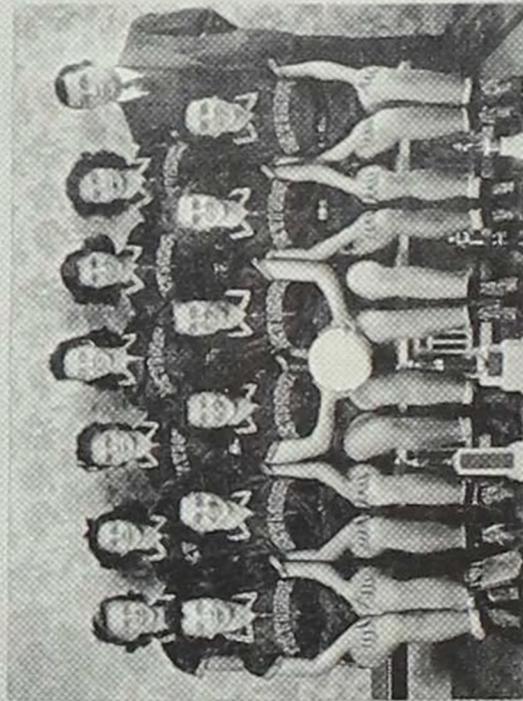
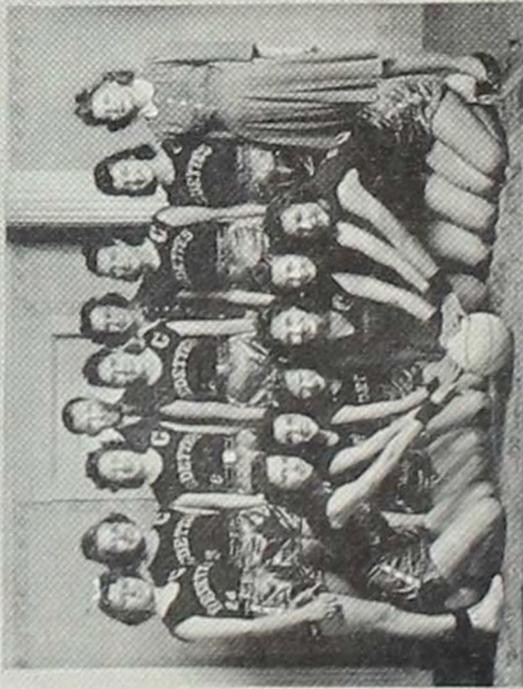
NUMA - 1941 STATE CHAMPIONS



GIRL'S BASKETBALL BANQUET, CENTERVILLE IOWA, MARCH 24, 1941.

Presented to *Mr. & Mrs. P. H. Jarman*  
SEYMOUR - CONSOLATION

CENTERVILLE - QUARTERFINALS



FAMOUS TEAMS AND THEIR FAMOUS COACHES

John King (Numa); Lauren Ewing (Centerville); P. H. Jarman (Seymour)

who presented themselves for interclass teams. In 1920 the *Blackhawk* noted that the girls had gone in heavily for basketball and had exhibited "unusually brilliant" playing. "It is interesting to notice that the girls are becoming more enthusiastic over sports every year. This denotes the versatility of the American girl. She is such an all around sport, good in athletics and good in her studies, that no matter when or what the 'acid test' proves to be, her resourceful mind usually finds the right way out of the difficulty. We give our heartiest congratulations to the Girls' Basketball Team."

Little was known about basketball in those early days. When Oscar Longstreth was asked to coach girls' basketball at Muscatine he lined the girls up in football formation. Longstreth soon learned his mistake and he and the girls then "faithfully" studied boys' basketball rules. Then a set of girls' rules was received which had been adopted by the National Committee on Women's Basketball. However, when Muscatine challenged Rock Island to play basketball by girls' rules, the Rock Island coach wired that they were unable to do so and the teams consequently played boys' rules with shorter halves. Muscatine played well in the first half, but the girls tired during the second half and Rock Island won 11 to 5.

The uniforms in vogue prior to 1926 were pleated black bloomers with white or colored mid-

dies and long dark ties. Full length black stockings were always worn. The Ottumwa girls wore black tennis slippers in 1905 but heavier tennis shoes gradually came into use. The girls' suits were generally homemade and there was frequently a wide variety in color and style. Thus, in 1910, the eight girls on the Ottumwa high school team had completely different outfits. The Allerton team of 1925 wore different shoes and stockings but they all had one thing in common — bright colored stocking caps with white pompoms. Mrs. A. R. Tipton, who played on the Muscatine high school team in 1904, recalls that the "first official uniforms were of maroon wool, long sleeves and high neck with turn over collar and a flowing black tie. The bloomers were made as full as it was possible to pleat and stitch the material — and further than that some of the parents insisted on a full skirt over the bloomers. Long black cotton stockings and tennis shoes completed the costume." Dressed in white middies, the Earlville girls in 1917 beat such teams as Epworth, Manchester, Independence, Monticello, Delhi, and Greeley.

In 1920 the first annual Iowa high school girls' basketball tournament was held in Des Moines. Twenty-seven Iowa teams accepted Drake University's invitation and entered the tournament and twenty-four actually sent their teams — Afton, Albia, Attica, Audubon, Churdan, College

Springs, Correctionville, Dallas Center, Fertile, Fonda, Garner, Hampton, Hiteman, Linn Grove, Lohrville, Mingo, Mount Ayr, Nevada, Norwalk, Radcliffe, Renwick, Sheffield, Valley Junction, and Waukee.

Many of these schools had financial difficulties in making the trip. Among these was Correctionville, a team that had gone undefeated for three years, playing as many as 23 games a season, including tournament games. Naturally Correctionville wanted to enter the tournament but the school would not finance the trip, so the businessmen and fans gave donations enough to send the team to Des Moines.

Their faith was well founded. On March 14, 1920, the Des Moines *Sunday Register* announced that Correctionville defeated Nevada 11 to 4 to make the Woodbury County girls state champions. Tournament play had begun Friday morning and by Saturday noon only Audubon, Correctionville, and Nevada remained undefeated. Nevada drew the bye thus forcing Audubon to play Correctionville at 2:30 P. M. Correctionville beat Audubon and after a half-hour rest defeated Nevada for the girls' championship.

The second annual Drake University high school girls' basketball tournament at Des Moines saw Audubon trounce the Ottumwa sextet 21 to 11. After 1921 the state meeting was moved from town to town. Audubon defeated Cresco 10 to 3

at Iowa Falls in 1922 and vanquished Mallard 18 to 11 on their own home floor at Audubon in 1923. Audubon won its fourth straight state championship in 1924 when they beat Iowa Falls 21 to 20 in three extra periods at Iowa Falls.

Just as girls' basketball seemed to be well entrenched in Iowa high school athletic curriculums, the Iowa High School Athletic Association dropped the game from its program. The growing popularity of boys' basketball with its attendant crowded gymnasium facilities was one important factor in ejecting girls' basketball. The ever-recurring arguments as to whether such a strenuous competitive game might be harmful to the girls from the standpoint of health, as well as morals, was also debated with considerable heat. The whole gamut of arguments involving intramural versus interscholastic competitive sports was discussed by citizens, educators, and students.

The big city schools led the movement to restrict girls' basketball to interclass games. The smaller towns (and they were the ones who had participated in the invitational tournaments between 1920 and 1926) determined to follow the interscholastic program in vogue before 1926. It would take real leadership and drive to do this, but subsequent events proved that such leadership was available.

WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

## Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union

Most states do not have organized basketball for girls. The growth of strong state high school groups for boys has advanced rapidly since the middle 1920's. With the increase in organized boys' sports we find a decrease in the strength of girls' athletics — except in Iowa.

Iowa's prep organization began in 1923 as the Iowa High School Athletic Association with George A. Brown as secretary. This body conducted both girls' and boys' activities until 1925, when it decided at a meeting in the old Central Presbyterian Church in Des Moines that competitive sports before crowds that paid admission was good only for the boys of Iowa, not for the girls.

Two well-remembered speeches were delivered at this momentous meeting. Speaking against the girls' sport, one opponent said in effect: "I coached girls' basketball once, and my conscience has bothered me ever since for the harm I might have done the girls." For continuance of the girls' game, John W. Agans, then superintendent at Mystic, shouted: "Gentlemen, if you attempt to do away with girls' basketball in Iowa, you'll be standing in the center of the track when the train runs over you!"

John W. Agans' remark proved prophetic. His statement was colored with strong emotion, for those who supported boys' athletics to the exclusion of girls' cannot be considered as "run over." Their program has grown proportionately as well or better than the girls'. Happily, where bitter rivalry once prevailed harmony and cooperation now exist between the two groups. For the first time since the rift in 1925, the boards of both the Iowa High School Athletic Association and the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union were able to work out a complete tournament program for 1950 with no conflict existing between the two series of tournaments.

After the meeting in Central Presbyterian Church, about twenty-five school men, the majority from small towns, met in a corner of the church and decided to begin the new girls' organization. The pioneer board members appointed at this time were M. M. McIntire of Audubon, Claude W. Sankey of Ida Grove, and the fiery John W. Agans of Mystic. Since no one from northeast Iowa was present, A. W. Clevenger of Waverly was later appointed to the board to round out the four-man committee.

The fifteen men who have served as directors on the board of the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union between 1926 and 1950 from the four districts into which Iowa was divided are shown on the accompanying table.

# DIRECTORS OF THE IOWA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC UNION

## 1926-1950

### NORTHEAST

Name	A. W. Clevenger	A. E. Rankin	Clair Ellis	K. E. Amsberry	Lovell Diddy
Towns	Waverly	Hampton	New Providence	Steamboat Rock	Meservey
Years	1926-1928	1928-1944	1944-1946	1946-1948	1948-1950

### NORTHWEST

Name	Claude W. Sankey	G. L. Sanders	M. O. Moe
Towns	Ida Grove	Plover, Rodney, Gruver	Lake Park
Years	1926-1932	1932-1944	1944-1950

### SOUTHWEST

Name	M. M. McIntire	Ray McIntire	R. H. Chisholm	O. H. Rutenbeck
Towns	Audubon	Gray, Oakland	Exira	Avoca
Years	1926-1934	1934-1941	1941-1947	1947-1950

### SOUTHEAST

Name	John W. Agans	Forrest P. Hagan	John H. King
Towns	Mystic	Allerton	Numa, Allerton
Years	1926-1934	1934-1946	1946-1950

The men who have served on the Union's board have been unusually able in their leadership. Girls' basketball was not yet well established in 1926 and a catastrophic depression was soon to add to their woes. As superintendents and principals, they were leaders in their communities and they found their home towns solidly and enthusiastically in favor of continuation of the sport.

Many were distinguished coaches. M. M. McIntire had coached Audubon to four state championships from 1921 to 1924 inclusive. Agans also coached good teams, and is today, at 75, the oldest active coach in the state. Ray McIntire coached at Gray; Hagan — for a period during the war — at Allerton; Moe at Lake Park; Diddy at Minburn, West Bend, and De Soto; and Chisholm at Gray. Agans coached teams to the state tournament from Hiteman and Mystic, Chisholm from Manilla and Exira, Sanders from Plover and Gruver. Board members who have coached state champions, since tournaments were sponsored by the Union in 1926, are: O. H. Ruttenbeck, from Avoca, 1931; Lovell Diddy, from West Bend, 1939; John H. King, past chairman, from Numa, 1941; and Kenneth E. Amsberry, from Steamboat Rock, 1943.

During 1930-1931 a movement gained some headway to combine again the boys' and girls' organizations. The proposal failed because of the solid alignment of larger high schools and colleges



ALLERTON 1926 TEAM COACHED BY P. H. JARMAN



ALLERTON 1925 TEAM COACHED BY P. H. JARMAN



COON RAPIDS GIRLS' TEAM OF 1922



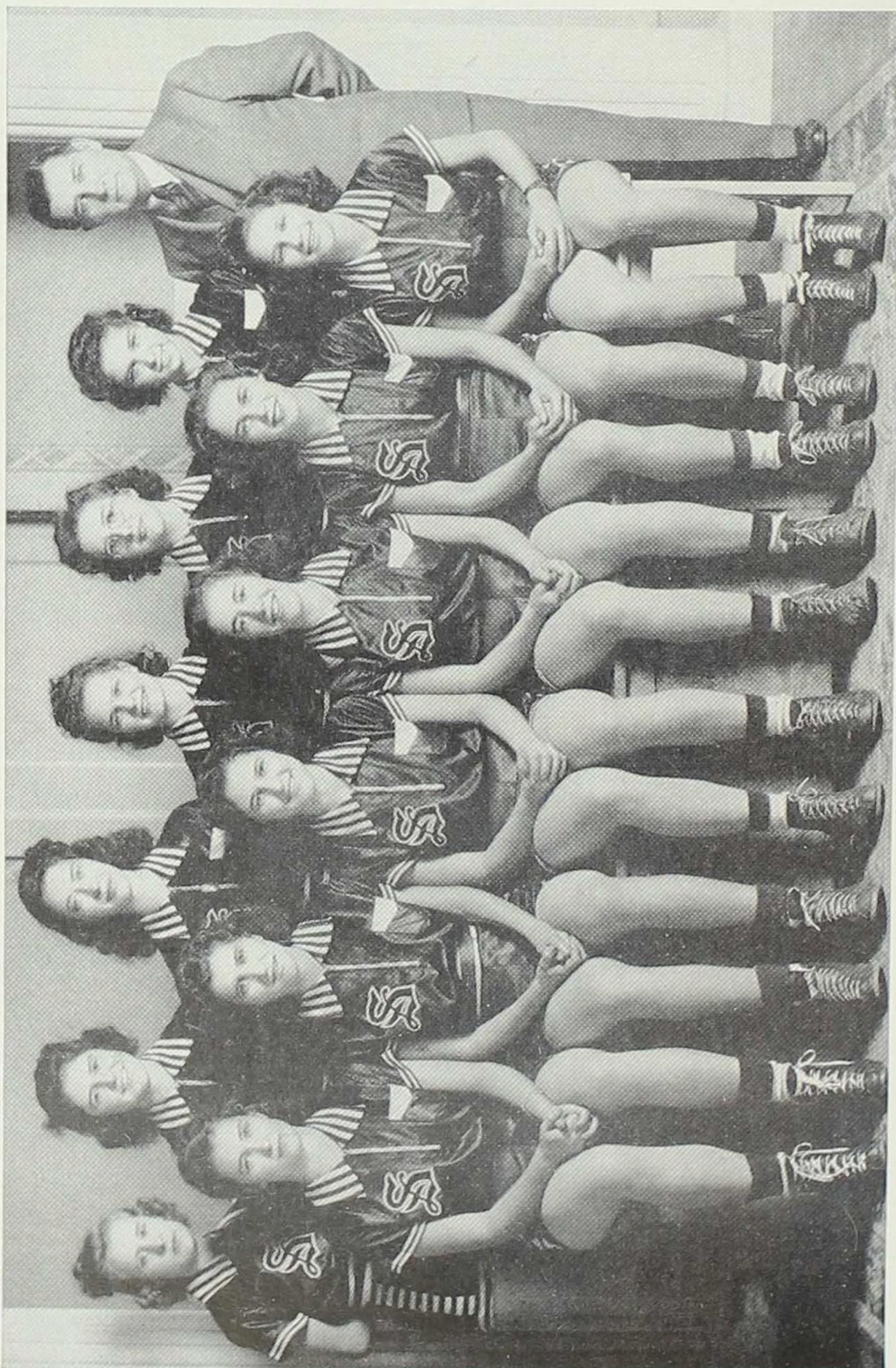
AVOCA STATE CHAMPIONS OF 1931



KAMRAR STATE CHAMPIONS OF 1948



WELLSBURG STATE CHAMPIONS OF 1949



SEYMOUR LOST CONSOLATION TO HAVELOCK IN 1942

against competitive girls' basketball. The girls' association was in no financial position to hire a full-time secretary and George A. Brown meanwhile had resigned to give all his efforts to the boys' association. The Girls' Union then decided that each of the four board members would serve as part-time secretary every four years.

By 1947 the association had grown to such an extent they found it necessary to employ a full-time executive secretary. Then it was that R. H. Chisholm of Exira, board member from Southwest Iowa, was appointed to the post. Iowa is the only state whose volume of business necessitates the employment of a full-time person, with office staff, to conduct the affairs of girls' athletics. The office has been in Des Moines since its inception in 1947.

The men who have directed the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union have exhibited unusual ability and initiative. In 1939, as an outgrowth of a conversation held at the national women's A. A. U. basketball tournament, the first complete rule book was published for girls' high school interscholastic basketball. Sam Nuzum, a sporting goods salesman, wrote the first rule book. A revised edition was published each year with Nuzum as editor and rules interpreter. In 1941 the Girls' Union bought Nuzum's copyright but retained him as editor until 1947, when the Union bought Nuzum's rights and appointed R. H. Chisholm as editor and interpreter.

Previous to 1939, Iowa girls followed the A. A. U. rule book supplemented by a single sheet of differences, published each year. Until 1934 the game was played in three courts; two forwards, two guards, and a running or "side" and jumping center. Perhaps the greatest major change was made when the game went to two courts with three forwards and three guards. This eliminated center jumping and started play with the referee throwing the ball to a girl in the center circle in what is known as the "center toss."

In 1941, another major change developed in the guarding rule. Previously, a player was not permitted to tie up the ball or knock it from an opponent's grasp under any circumstances. The change permitted a guard to secure the ball or strike it from the opponent when the latter was in the act of shooting. Many opponents of this revolutionary rule argued that scoring would be lowered, but since passage of the change, forwards have developed more finesse in avoiding their guards and the average scores for games within the past few years have mounted.

The 1950 rule book attempts to coordinate boys' rules and girls' regulations in every respect in which a phase of the game not peculiar to girls' basketball is not involved. The reasoning behind this is that most Iowa officials referee both a boys' and a girls' game on the same program. The plan makes for more uniformity of officiating. In spite

of this, we find listed in the 1950 rule book about thirty differences in the boys' and the girls' game.

In 1943 a Girls' Basketball Yearbook (then named "Scrapbook") was started by R. H. Chisholm at Exira. This was a record book of past years; it also featured the current season in picture and news story. The publication was absorbed by the Girls' Union as an official publication in 1949. Within six years it has grown from 18 to 148 pages. In 1945, the Yearbook editor also started a column devoted exclusively to the girls' sport. Since then thirty Iowa newspapers have subscribed to "With the Queens of the Court."

The Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union has developed and improved other services. A scholarship loan fund has been established. Schools of instruction for coaches and officials are financed; a library of books on all sports is available to coaches; official rules examinations are conducted; and a clearing house for officials, coaches, and teachers is maintained. In addition to the publication of the rule book and Yearbook, the Union publishes brochures on basketball, books on play-situations of the game, and semi-annual bulletins of official business which are sent to each member school and registered official. It also furnishes sound movies on basketball and on physical education which are available to all schools. The members of the executive committee are always

available for talks at athletic events; the editor of the rule book is conducting seventeen rules talks during the 1949-1950 season; while three extra rules clinics and coaching schools have been approved in addition to the five already sponsored.

The Union subsidizes the sectional and district tournaments; pays all expenses of the teams participating in the state tournament; provides all insurance and supplies for the tournaments; and furnishes 128 trophies in the sectionals, 48 trophies in the districts, and 4 large trophies in the state tournaments. Each girl receives an emblem and identification bracelet from the Union. Free-throw tournaments give some 1,300 girls on losing teams an opportunity for recognition.

Other states — Tennessee, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, New Mexico, South Dakota, and Wyoming — have received help from the Iowa Union. For the first time in any state, the Union, through the newspapers and radio stations, is conducting a bi-weekly poll of the girls' coaches to select the outstanding teams in each district. With all these services, the Union is probably the only school organization in the state which has not raised its dues since its formation in 1926. Member schools pay \$1.00 annual dues plus a \$2.00 entry fee.

R. H. CHISHOLM

## State Tournament

The first state tournament sponsored by the Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union was held at Hampton in 1926. Twenty-three tournaments have been held since then and the 1950 meeting will mark the Silver Anniversary of the holding of the colorful event under the auspices of the Union. Few sporting events in Iowa history can match in growth and popularity this dazzling spectacle.

The five matches held between 1926 and 1930 inclusive were not much unlike those that had just preceded them. They were held in small towns with limited tournament facilities and in an era when dirt and gravel roads still prevailed. Hampton won the round robin final (which incidentally was held at Hampton) by defeating Mystic 57 to 27. The won and lost record for the top teams at the end of the 1926 tournament was as follows: Hampton won 3 and lost 0; Audubon won 2 and lost 1; Ida Grove won 1 and lost 2; and Mystic won 0 and lost 3. The following year Newhall beat Sioux Center 38 to 37 for the championship. Ida Grove won in 1928 and 1929; Perry beat Ida Grove in the 1930 finals by a score of 26 to 18.

The next tournament in Des Moines, following Audubon's win over Ottumwa in 1921, came in

1931. Bert McGrane, nationally known sports writer for the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune*, was employed as manager. L. C. (Clarence) Kurtz, Jr., capital city hardware merchant, immediately took an interest in the girls' fortunes, and he and McGrane have taken an active part since that time. In 1950, Bert McGrane still manages the get-together, and Kurtz serves as chairman of the Des Moines committee.

That 1931 tournament was a gala affair. It was the first time the finals had been staged in a field house or gymnasium with large seating capacity. In fact, the Drake field house was so "adequate" that the 2,500 people who saw the Thursday night session, and the 3,000 who came to the Saturday finals, were almost lost in the grandstand seats.

Most of those 1931 teams appeared in uniforms with quarter-length sleeves and bloomers. Avoca, coached by O. H. Rutenbeck, probably pioneered the modern suit at this conclave. The Avoca girls wore sleeveless, form-fitting, wool jerseys with straight shorts — the latter not as abbreviated as those worn today. Whitemore also showed the trend of the times. Its striped knit blouses were a breakaway, but they paired with old style bloomers and long stockings. After one game the girls discarded the stockings. The Lamont girls wore stylish, 2½-inch webbed belts with their outfits.

The pre-tourney favorite chosen by the Des Moines *Register* and *Tribune* was Audubon. But

Bert McGrane expressed his doubts after watching Avoca's first contest. "Avoca loomed as a powerful combination in its 27-9 victory over Lamont, and the fans were inclined to favor Avoca for a place in the finals. The ability of Kathleen Ferguson and Della Brammann, co-captains of the Avoca team, to out-maneuver the Lamont guards, was a big factor in the Avoca victory Thursday."

Avoca came out of the second round with flying colors, taking the measure of strong Aplington, 28-23. Frank Brody, another Des Moines sports writer, wrote: "Avoca . . . plays a cool and calculated type of game. Its offense is very methodical and it works block plays in fine style."

But a dark horse was making itself known. Centerville beat Whittemore (with its famed Langerman twins, Geneva and Josephine, making their first appearance in state tourney play) after Whittemore had upset favored Audubon, 13-10. "Centerville has shown the most fight during the tournament," Brody wrote, "the entire team risking arm and limb to drive after loose balls. Nothing seems impossible for these misses from downstate."

Similar to the tournaments of today, those of yesteryear sometimes were hampered — especially from a crowd standpoint — by the weather. Attendance at the semi-finals and finals in 1931 was cut by a heavy snowstorm that blew out of the northwest and caused cancellation of special trains

that had been arranged to come from Centerville, via Albia, to Des Moines, and from Avoca to Des Moines. Many Avoca fans, undaunted, battled snowdrifts all day Saturday in an effort to reach Des Moines for the finals. For Avoca did get to the finals, along with Centerville.

That was one of the tussles of the century. At the end of the first quarter, the score was 3-all. At the half, Avoca led, 9 to 6, and increased the margin during the third quarter to 14 to 10. Then Centerville came on. A substitute forward named Agnesson entered the game in the fourth period, and promptly scored two baskets to tie up the ball game. A free throw put Centerville ahead for the second time that night (they had scored first). Down to the wire, the two teams came. Thirty seconds to go! Then Centerville committed a foul. Della Brammann stepped up to the free throw line, and coolly and calmly dropped in the point that tied things again at 15 to 15. That's the way the game ended.

In the overtime, each team fouled — and missed the free throw. Then Brammann turned up again, this time with a deadly pass to Ferguson, driving in — even in those days. Ferguson scored, neatly.

Centerville never had a chance after that. Avoca's center court intercepted or broke up attempt after attempt of the Centerville guards to get the ball into the forecourt. Anna Kuhr, Avoca side-center, was outstanding — as she had been



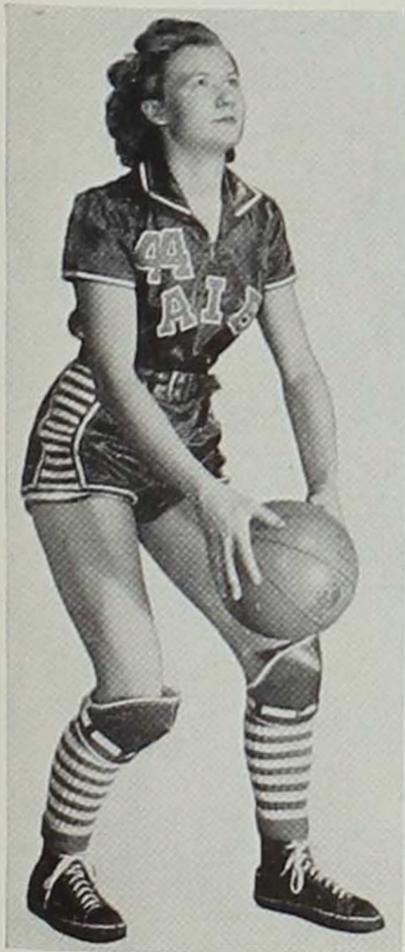
Verdelle Schuneman  
*Steamboat Rock*



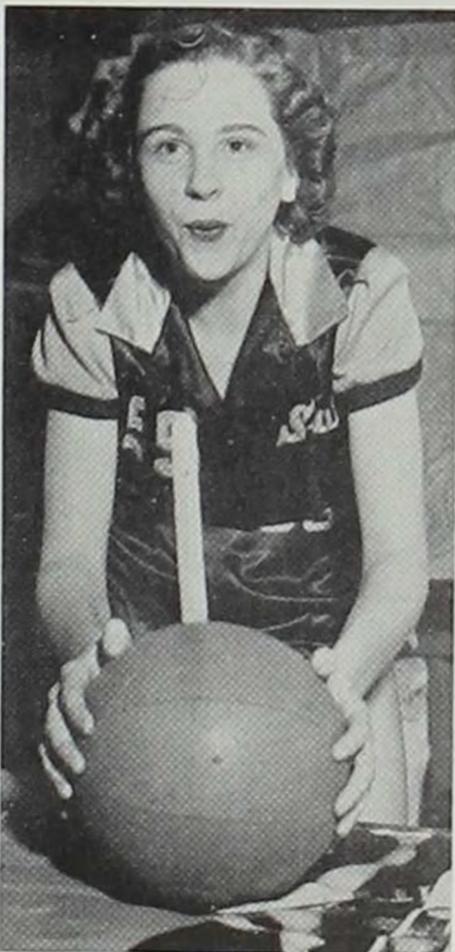
Arlys Van Langen  
*Kamrar*



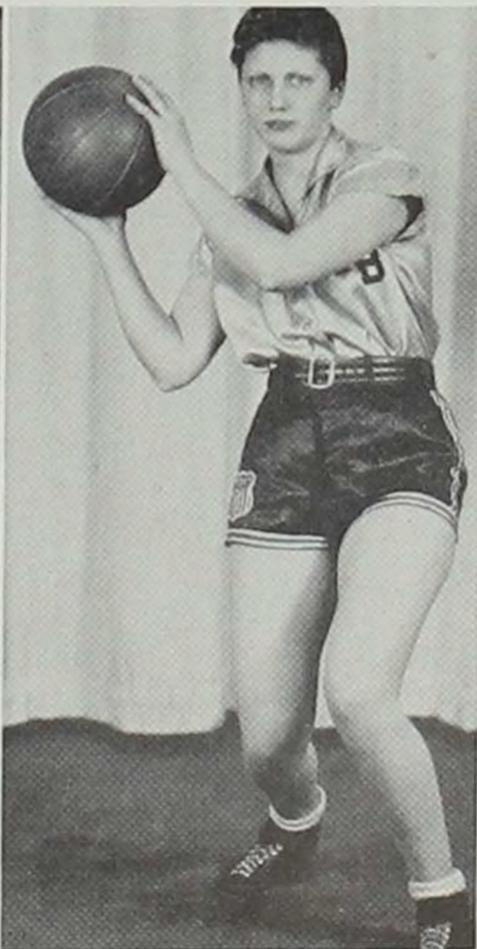
Helen Corrick  
*Keswick*



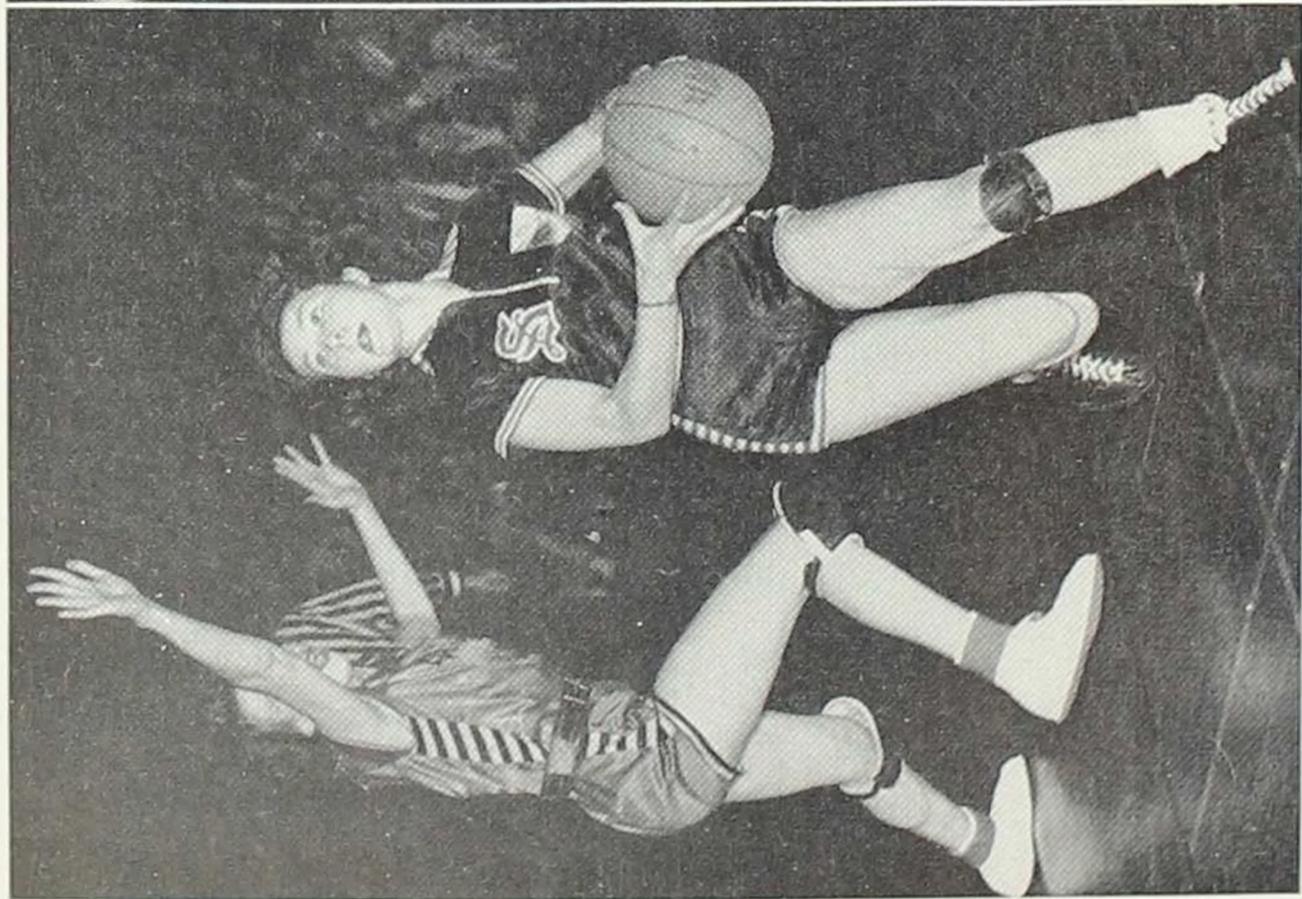
Lorraine Phillips  
*Hartley*



Margaret Middents  
*Slater*



Mildred Moore  
*Hillsboro*



SHIRLEY JARMAN SHOOTS  
Seymour v. Coon Rapids (1945)



FRANCES PETERSON SHOOTS  
Rippey v. Waukee at District Meet

all season. When the ball did get through, Margaret Plahn, Avoca guard, clamped down so hard that the Centerville forwards couldn't get off a shot.

Plahn is a good example of Avoca's spirit. After Avoca's first game in the tournament, Margaret received word of her grandmother's death at Anita. She left Des Moines immediately to attend the funeral; then hurried back to her team. She left Anita Saturday morning at 8:30, and for nearly nine hours bucked snowdrifts in an automobile, arriving in Des Moines at 5 P. M., ready to play. Although her coach refused to permit her to play the entire game because of the strain it would be on a tired girl, Margaret did get in long enough to help clinch the championship.

Avoca won, 17 to 15. The team triumphed over such Centerville standouts as Bentzinger, a forward, and Randolph, a guard. Three of the Avoca girls made the *Register's* all-tourney team, and a fourth, Margaret Olsen, guard, was added in the *Tribune's* selection. Here is the *Register's* pick:

Forward.....	Kathleen Ferguson, Avoca
Forward.....	Della Brammann, Avoca
Side Center.....	Anna Kuhr, Avoca
Jumping Center..	Geneva Langerman, Whittemore
Guard.....	Claudia Groteluschen, Audubon
Guard.....	Pauline Randolph, Centerville

After the excitement of victory had died down

a bit, the Avoca fans who had so valiantly battled the snowdrifts to support their team, came up with a noble idea to commemorate the event. They selected one of the snow shovels used to whip the Dallas County highways, decorated it with the school colors of blue and white, and presented it to the champions, properly emblazoned with the words, "Champs, 1931."

State tournament crowds continued to be disappointing until 1934, when Valley Junction (now West Des Moines) earned its way to the classic. The following year Johnston Station, a virtual suburb of Des Moines, won the right to compete. From that year the crowds have shown an increase gratifying to girls' basketball fans. The 1949 tourney played to capacity houses throughout the eight sessions. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights saw late comers being turned away.

Since 1926 a total of 129 different schools have competed in the girls' state basketball championship tournaments. These schools have been represented by 271 teams and 3,252 players have seen action. While some schools seem to be perennial visitors to the state tournament, Iowans from sixty-six counties have watched their sextets battle their way into the state championship tournament. Seymour has sent 11 teams to the tournament, Wellsburg 10, Centerville 9, Waterville and Wiota 8, and Mallard 7. Clutier, Coon Rapids, Hansell, and Steamboat Rock have made 6 trips

to the tournament, while Audubon, Numa, Ida Grove, Olin, and West Bend have been represented by 5 tournament teams.

County, sectional, and district battles are always very competitive — and many fine teams are left behind. Thus, in 1933, Hillsboro, Cincinnati, and Laurel were tied at the end of their district round robin at Richland. The coaches refused to let the elimination contest go further and agreed to draw to see which school should represent the district in the state finals. Hillsboro won the draw and placed second in the state finals — losing to Hampton 33 to 22. It was in this contest that Geneva Langerman scored all 33 points for victorious Hampton. It is interesting to speculate as to whether Cincinnati or Laurel would have done as well as or better than Hillsboro and won the title.

It is one thing to make the tournament; it is another to reach the championship finals. For example, Waterville has sent 8 teams to the state tournament and never won the championship. The girls from Allamakee County did get into the finals twice — losing to Hansell 59 to 20 in the most lopsided championship score, and getting nosed out by Guthrie Center in 1937 by a score of 30 to 26. Mallard has gone to the tournament 7 times and never won, although it did reach the finals in 1941 when it lost to Numa 43 to 39. Parkersburg, on the other hand, has been to the tournament only once (1932) when it won the cham-

pionship. Parkersburg beat Centerville that year 40 to 18, with the aid of the brilliant Langerman twins, whose family had moved from Whittemore to Parkersburg before settling in their senior year at Hampton. Six teams — Centerville, Hampton, Ida Grove, Wellsburg, West Bend, and Wiota — have won the championship twice since 1926.

The Des Moines *Register* and the Des Moines *Tribune* were the first major newspapers to recognize girls' basketball as a big sport in Iowa. For eleven years Jack North has selected a girls' all-state team, in addition to his boys' football and basketball groups.

In 1946 the Iowa Daily Press Association, whose newspapers throughout the state had gradually increased their coverage of girls' basketball, began to select all-state teams. Of late years as many as nine radio stations have covered part or all of the play. Probably the pioneer announcer of the sport is Gene Shumate of KSO, while Brad Wilson of the *Register* wrote tournament stories when, in his own words, he suffered from loneliness while covering the affair from the east balcony of the Drake field house. At present with the enlarged facilities at the Des Moines university, even standing room is at a premium for the final games.

In 1934, sixteen teams were brought to the finals. With the exception of 1943 — the strictest gas rationing war year — this practice has contin-

ued. Only eight teams were allowed in 1943.

Excellent officiating has marked tournament play. Henry Hasbrouck, then director of the Y. M. C. A. in Des Moines, was one of the first officials who refereed the games alone. Later four officials were brought in; in 1945 eight were selected. Since then, a bench of officials has been added. Referees who are veterans of state tournaments are M. M. Rogers of Lytton (now superintendent at Sumner), Melvin Walker of Ottumwa, and Ben Beckerman of Des Moines. Walker is officiating his eighth consecutive state classic in 1950 — a tournament record.

The transitions through which the state tournament has gone since its beginning have been many and varied. The attendance has jumped from around 3,000 for all games in 1926 to 40,000 in 1949. Spectators saw the advent of two-court ball in 1935, the season climaxed by Centerville's first championship. Throughout the years there has been a constant re-designing of uniforms, to insure more freedom — and the glamorizing of them. During O. E. Lester's coaching career (Hillsboro, Van Meter, Hartley, and Oakland), Mrs. Lester has made nine sets of suits for his various teams, initiating the midriff style while at Hartley. Hollywood has nothing on Iowa girls' basketball.

The game has developed from a contest where girls posed and shot, to a contest replete with fast-breaking forwards who can lay the ball in the bas-

ket with their eyes shut — the development brought about by the rule, passed in 1941, permitting guards to tie up the ball when an opponent is in the act of shooting.

In retrospect, the game has developed from one of almost stationary players, to one with the accent on short, fast passes, thence to domination by agile pivot posters, and the defensive guarders of the pivot posters. Passing before the eyes of state tournament supporters have been the baseball passes and double screens of Wiota; the improvement in shooting eyes from 1934, when Anna Meyer of Aplington won the scoring championship with 90 points, to the 1948 mark of Arlys Van Langen of Kamrar, who pounded the hoop for a record of 142. The day of the low-scoring forwards is past. Currently girls are vying to beat the record hung up a year ago by Helen Corrick of Keswick — 1,323 points in a single season, 3,271 in a three-year career. Then, too, these supporters have seen the methodical sagacity of the Slater team and the tenacity of Seymour.

The buildup to the state tournament attracts more interest; now fans find it difficult to get seats at the sectional tournaments, and it has been found necessary to hold the district meets in large towns, in order to provide for the crowds.

Running the gauntlet in this tournament that has mushroomed into one of the foremost spectator sports in Iowa have been a veritable galaxy of

girl basketball stars. Instead of Ardella Knoop of Clutier, expert basketeer, we have an entire army of Knoops of Clutier. It is as if Ardella, by her adeptness, epitomizes a development in the game. In the same fields, we see parades of poised Rosses and Etjens of Wellsburg, Armstrongs of Wiota, Randolphs of Centerville, Menckes of Hartley, Tometichs of Numa, Moores of Hillsboro, Gearharts of West Bend, Killingers of Wales-Lincoln, Jarmans of Seymour on down to the present-day stars on parade that resemble the Dorothy Welps and the Arlys Van Langens of Kamrar and the Mona Van Steenbergens of Prairie City.

It is this type of Iowa girl — clean, healthy, vibrant, sportsmanlike, that has on three different occasions faced the champions of Texas. Fine coaching and excellent team play have allowed the teams representing the Hawkeye State to win two out of three games from the girls from the Lone Star State. In 1948, the Mesquite girls came up from Dallas County and played Kamrar, losing by a score of 36 to 33 before 7,200 rabid fans — the largest crowd ever to jam the Drake field house.

In 1949 the Seagoville, Texas, team came up from Dallas County to play Wellsburg two games, one at Des Moines and the other at the Waterloo Civic Auditorium. Seagoville won the first game 39 to 35, playing under Texas rules. The next night, at Waterloo, Wellsburg tri-

umphed by a score of 35 to 19. Many fans hope the series will be continued with the winner of the Iowa High School Girls' Basket Ball Union tournament facing the champions of Texas, or perhaps some other state champion.

It is a far cry from the day when girls' basketball was first played at Dubuque, Ottumwa, or Davenport. The growth in popularity during the next half-century may be equally great, but it is doubtful if the future champions will eclipse those of our own day.

R. H. CHISHOLM

# GIRLS' STATE CHAMPIONSHIP HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS 1920-1949

Year	CHAMPIONSHIP		CONSOLATION	
	Winner	Runnerup	Winner	Runnerup
1949	Wellsburg 56	Oakland 40	Keswick 55	Hartley 48
1948	Kamrar 65	Wilton Junction 40	Slater 40	Hartley 39
1947	Seymour 59	Numa 33	Wiota 40	Steamboat Rock 35
1946	Coon Rapids 48	New Providence 40	Steamboat Rock 60	Guthrie Center 53
1945	Wiota 30	Coon Rapids 25	Steamboat Rock 45	Seymour 39
1944	Wiota 44	Gowrie 25	Coon Rapids 39	Hartley 38
1943	Steamboat Rock 32	Havelock 24	Wiota 38	Clutier 19
1942	Clutier 40	Wiota 26	Havelock 42	Seymour 32
1941	Numa 43	Mallard 39	Seymour 40 (Tie)	Lenox 40
1940	Hansell 59	Waterville 20	Numa 63	De Soto 41
1939	West Bend 53	Lenox 36	Lynnville 30	Wellsburg 22
1938	West Bend 44	Lenox 41	Olin 16	Centerville 15
1937	Guthrie Center 30	Waterville 26	Farragut 27	Centerville 26
1936	Centerville 37	Cumberland 24	Hansell 38	Gilman 37
1935	Centerville 25	Hillsboro 16	Grundy Center 34	Wellsburg 29
1934	Wellsburg 30	Aplington 22	Johnston 19	Bonaparte 11
1933	Hampton 33	Hillsboro 22	Wellsburg 27	Mystic 19
1932	Parkersburg 40	Centerville 18	Cumberland 30	Grand Meadow 15
1931	Avoca 17	Centerville 15	Whittemore 27	Lamont 12
1930	Perry 32	Mingo 21	Wellsburg 27	Ida Grove 11
1929	Ida Grove 18	Perry 17	Pleasant Plain 28	Iowa Falls 21
1928	Ida Grove 32	Pleasant Plain 30	Wellsburg 22	Audubon 18
1927	Newhall 38	Sioux Center 37	a Mystic (Tie)	Perry
1926	Hampton	Audubon	a Ida Grove	Mystic
1925	Aplington (Tie)	Ida Grove	a Muscatine (Tie)	Perry
1924	Audubon 21	Iowa Falls 20	b Nevada	Hull
1923	Audubon 15	Mallard 11	b Cresco	South English
1922	Audubon 10	Cresco 3	b Newell	Stanton
1921	Audubon 21	Ottumwa 11	Denison 19	Hiteman 12
1920	Correctionville 11	Nevada 4	Correctionville 10	Audubon 5

a The team standings after playing round robins were as follows:

	1925			1926			1927	
	W	L		W	L		W	L
Aplington	2	1	Hampton	3	0	Newhall	2	1
Ida Grove	2	1	Audubon	2	1	Sioux Center	2	1
Muscatine	1	2	Ida Grove	1	2	Perry	1	2
Perry	1	2	Mystic	0	3	Mystic	1	2

The teams did not play off their ties but shared 1st and 3rd places.

Newhall and Sioux Center played off the tie, but Perry and Mystic did not.

b The teams listed under consolation were defeated in the semi-finals and did not play consolation games. The first consolation game after 1921 was in 1928. For explanation of 1920 games see p. 55.

