

Hilltoppers 4th In 1936 State Cage Tourney

CAGE TEAM MEMBER OF "SWEET 16" AT STATE TOURNEY IN 1936

Made Fine Showing at State; Lost to Danville Cagers.

(March 26, 1936)

The Hilltoppers who made a fine showing in the state finals and were serious contenders for the championship laurels can well feel proud of their accomplishment in not only making the impression they did, but in having the distinction of having advanced farther in state tourney play than any other team in Logan county, ever did.

Mount Pulaski's Purple and Gold did not disappoint 500 local fans in their first appearance at the state tourney in Champaign Thursday morning, when they whipped a favored Joliet team of 6-footers in a workmanlike manner, 22 to 16, that left the fans asking where is this Mount Pulaski, and putting them on their possible championship list.

Play Outstanding

The play of the Hilltoppers was one of the outstanding features of the first day's play. Playing a deliberate and calm brand of ball that looked like a page out of Mark Peterman's book, the Joliet cagers were unable to penetrate the local's zone with any continued success. Joliet did slip in behind the defense for two or three sleeper baskets that made the boys look bad at times, but they proved their calibre by not letting those lapses get them panicky, continuing to play a cool-headed game to the finish and win themselves a lot of new friends.

Got Jump on Joliet

Mount Pulaski got away to a flying start when Stockton sank one of those sweeter than sweet shots from the side. Wilham was fouled but missed and then Hahn fouled Fornago who missed. Martin broke loose with one of his specialties, a dribble into the basket that counted two more and the battle was on. Staley, big and fast, drove in with a beautiful one-hand shot that made it six and Joliet was forced to call time, or the fire department.

The brief rest Joliet gave the Hilltoppers allowed Stockton time enough to figure out that another one from the side at long range wouldn't be a bad idea—so as soon as the whistle tooted he plunked in one after the ball had changed hands only once. It was then that Joliet came to life and the Mount Pulaskians took a brief nap while the opposition went under on a sleeper to end the quarter, 8 to 2.

The second period was a slowly played one with the Hilltoppers still controlling the ball and playing cautiously and deliberately. They were out-scored in this period 4 to 1, Staley sinking the only point on a free toss. Getson slipped in behind the Mt. Pulaski defense to get an easy one and Aschen and Fornango sank two free ones. The second period ended 9 to 6.

The Hilltoppers came back in the second half and gave their opponents two free toss opportunities on Stockton's and Staley's fouls, but they blew them. Martin then sank a pretty one-hander to make the count 11 to 6. Stockton then drove in on a nice tipoff play to score. Getson countered with an out-of-bounds play that caught Pulaski flat-footed. A nice piece of teamwork on short passing with Staley passing to Martin, who passed to Hahn and he sank it. Staley sank his third free throw. Pulaski led 18 to 10.

Game Ended With Sleeper

Joliet came to life with a long shot by Getson who came back a play later to sink another long one from the center, to bring the count to 18-14. The Hilltoppers called time-out and then came back with a wild fight under the Pulaski basket with H. Hahn emerging from the scramble with

the ball to sink it. Endeavoring to protect this 6-point lead, Stockton called time-out with three minutes to go, in order to get the boys to protect their lead rather than pile up a score. Stockton fouled Savich who missed and Winston slipped in with an out-of-bounds basket. Stockton was fouled by Getson but he missed. Stockton came thru with the final points of the game when he slipped under the basket for a sleeper to end the game 22-16, and send the Mount Pulaski fans into a wild frenzy.

Joliet	FG	FT	TP
Getson, f	4	0	8
Macuk, f	1	0	2
Aschenbrener, f	0	1	1
Winston, g	1	0	2
Savich, g	0	0	0
Fornango, g	1	1	3
Totals	7	2	16
Mount Pulaski	FG	FT	TP
Stockton, f	4	0	8
Staley, f	1	4	6
H. Hahn, c	2	0	4
B. Hahn, g	0	0	0
Wilham, g	0	0	0
Martin, g	2	0	4
Totals	9	4	22

FIRST SCHOOL BUS SERVICE OFFERED

(Sept 16, 1937)

Mount Pulaski high school will have the services of a school bus at their beck and call this present school term following a decision by the board of education at a Friday night meeting.

An agreement was reached with Virgil Hooe of Illiopolis, whereby he furnishes and operates the bus in carrying pupils in the rural areas to and from school each day. This will be done at a charge of \$1.00 per week, which is much cheaper than driving one's own car. Grade school pupils will also be hauled on the same basis.

The bus will be used exclusively for extra curriculum activities such as basketball trips, glee club and other group activities which require transportation. This step of the board is a forward looking one and will eliminate the problem of finding suitable transportation to carry out these essential activities.

Special Train Carries Rooters To Champaign

More than a hundred high school students took advantage of the generosity of Mount Pulaski business men and public spirited citizens and went to the opening games of the state high school basketball tournament on Thursday morning. An additional 125 adults also piled aboard to pull for their favorite to come through.

The Illinois Central Special scheduled to pull out of Mount Pulaski at 7:30 was loaded and ready to go long before pulling out time. The last of the student tickets were issued 15 minutes before train time and the student body was raring to go. Everyone was also on board after the afternoon game, in plenty of time to meet the 5:30 schedule.

On the return trip the celebration was a tremendously happy one and the trip will remain in the minds of youngsters as long as they live. It was a grand treat and folks who saw those happy kids can retain that happy moment with just as much pleasure.

RAY ELLIOTT HELD COACHING SCHOOL AT MILLARD'S FIELD

(July 29, 1937)

The first session of Mount Pulaski's county-wide baseball school, got under way this morning when about a dozen prospects showed up for instruction at Kratzer's Park.

The afternoon session saw the number almost doubled and there will be still more on hand for tomorrow's two sessions. "Butch" Nusspickle, assistant baseball coach at the University of Illinois, and Jack Rossiter, Scout for the Cincinnati Reds, are putting the players thru their paces and giving them much valuable instruction.

Nusspickle, speaking before the Rotary Club at their luncheon today, gave an inspiring talk that was full of baseball technique and illustrations of the mental skill of a major league player.

(Editor's Note — Butch Nusspickle later changed his name to Ray Elliott, and he was football coach at the University of Illinois for many years.)

Defeated Lincoln In Sectional To Win Trip to State

Won Regional Eight Consecutive Years—1932 - 39.

(March 19, 1936)

Sensing their first trip to the State as the third quarter got under way, with Mount Pulaski leading 21-8, the huge crowd of fans from the "Hill" became wilder and wilder, and when the game ended let out a roar heard twice around the world (or it should have been). Professor Handlin of Lincoln, had difficulty getting attention to present the trophies. After a short speech on the sportsmanship displayed in the game, Earl Stockton went forward and received the first place trophy. Kavelman, Lincoln guard, accepted the second place trophy for his team.

After the ceremonies the fans rushed for home to participate in a long awaited celebration. Coming into town they were greeted by the blowing of the fire siren and the ringing of the bell on the old courthouse. Crowds lined the west side of the public square and amid revolver and shotgun blasts, sirens and bells and much yelling, awaited the coming of Coach Dolph Stanley, and his team. A huge bonfire was touched off at the southwest corner of the square and when the team made their appearance they were pushed out in the middle of a complete circle of humanity around the fire. Coach Stanley arrived a few minutes later, but shared the same treatment. The high school cheerleaders then led yells and 15 rahs for each team member and the coach were given. Then yells of "speech, speech", were hurled in the direction of Coach Stanley, and he accommodated with a few well chosen words, ending with a hope that a good following crowd go with the boys to Champaign on Thursday. Loud cheering followed his talk and more yells were given. Then a snake-dance was formed, the participants worming their way thru the crowds and around the Victory Fire. Following this, the crowd started to disperse, but many continued celebrating into the wee hours. All in all, it was

Times-News Got Out "Extra" When Whipping Lincoln

(Jan. 11, 1951)

The Times-News published its first "EXTRA" about 10 o'clock last Friday night. It didn't take a storm disaster or anything tragic — or was it tragic? At least, it wasn't tragic for Mount Pulaskians. It was a Basketball Extras, called into existence by the Hilltoppers upsetting Lincoln's mighty Railsplitters, who had one of their finest teams, going to the state that year and making a fine showing.

We modestly admit that we had the headlines all set before we went to the game, but we had "our tongue in our cheek". When the Hilltoppers were only 3 points behind at the half and going good, we decided to continue our gamble. We left the game, got "Jinks" Leckbee out of his easy chair at home, and started putting the first half of the game into type. Then when the game ended and our gamble became a reality, "Bud" Passmore, who covered the last half, rushed up with the hilarious details and we soon had the Extras ready to put to bed.

Thirty minutes after the game we had the Extra on the street and from then on we were kept busy printing and giving them away. Many found their way to Lincoln the next day to adorn bulletin boards where Pulaskians worked. It was their moment of triumph, too.

It was back in the 30's that a number of folks thought that basketball was being overemphasized in Mount Pulaski. That was the period when the Hilltoppers were rated state contenders each year.

a big night on the Hill and the team is determined to make it even bigger next Saturday night.

Town Goes Wild

Editor's Note—Mount Pulaski's Hilltoppers won the finals of the sectional on Saturday night, Mar. 14, 1936, crushing Lincoln by a 32 to 17 score. The Hilltoppers defeated Rushville and University High to fight their way into the finals. Other entries were Havana, Bloomington, Lewistown.



FOURTH PLACE 1936 STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM representing Mount Pulaski Township High School, made a very fine showing at Champaign as a member of the "Sweet Sixteen." **Front Row**, left to right—George Connelly, Harry Milner, Darraid Staley, Frank-

lin Conolley, Merle Wilham. **Middle Row**—Junior Scroggin, manager; Earl Stockton, Merle Wilham, Dolph Stanley, Coach. **Back Row**—Harry Martin, Jr., Herschel Hahn, Boyd Hahn.