

# LHS 1959 Basketball

## Season Opener

Revised 1/4/2015

### County's EIAC Net Clubs Look Tough Wampus Cats Open Tuesday, 1959 Sectional Champs Following Week

By Kerry Yencer

The Cambridge City Wampus Cats and Hagerstown Tigers will join the majority of the area basketball teams on successive Tuesdays.

The Wampus Cats will open their season Tuesday while the Tigers start things rolling the following Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Cambridge City crew will consist of six returning lettermen, including Jerry Thompson (6-1 ½) and Jim Raby (6-3). Thompson was a regular guard in his sophomore year last season while Raby was the pivot man as a Junlor.

Thurman Wright returns as head coach with four other award winners, all of them seniors.

#### **Battling For Position**

At the present, three of those lettermen, Charles Carlson (5-8), Brent Bundy (5-9) and Paul Close (5-6) are battling for the two starting guard posts.

The other boy, Larry Stanley (6-0), is battling with junior Bill Swigart (6-1 ½) for the other forward spot. Thompson will be his mate at the front position.

Wright has two juniors and a senior that could start Tuesday. The juniors are Paul Schneider (5-8) and Phil Newhouse (5-5), while the senior is Steve Carroll (5-10).

Last year's edition of the Wampus Cats came up with a respectful 15-5 season record and got to the semi-final game of the sectional before losing to host Richmond, 41-33, in a tough battle.

The Tigers are minus a number of their boys that captured the sectional title at Richmond last year, but things are looking good for Coach Dick Hunter as he has two 6-5 players plus a whole host of boys over the 6-0 mark.

#### **No Set Lineup**

Hunter indicated that no set lineup could be named and he also pointed out that he has a good number of candidates who could be in there when they open against Cambridge City.

Senior Ed Hunnicutt and junior Gary LaMar are the two big lads and could fit in the picture on opening night.

Senior letterman Larry Jester (6-1) may be one of the forwards with two juniors, Don Harvey (6-0) and David White (6-1), pressing Jester hard for the spot. Hunnicutt is, a likely candidate for the pivot while LaMar is looked on as a forward.

Two senior lettermen, Jerry Hays (5-11) and Jerry Davis (5-7), were mentioned as possible guards along with another senior letter winner, Bill Murray (5-10), and two juniors, David Kutter (5-8) and Steve Davis (5-8).

#### **Also possible Starter**

Junior Roger Davis (5-8), high scorer on the reserve team last year, also is a possible starter at the backcourt position.

Hunter has five other boys who are 6-0 or over and two "little" lads that were mentioned as possible varsity material. One of the boys, senior Wendall Dale (5-8) was a member of last year's team. The remainder of the players are juniors and only one, Max Brown (5-7), is small.

Two boys, Alan Merchanthouse and Chris Murray, stand 6-2, one Doug Moore is 6-2, and the other two, Darryl Pass and Gerald Gentry, measure in at the 6-0 mark.

The Hagerstown schedule runs the same as last year's with Eastern Indiana Athletic conference (EIAC) member Cambridge City being the first foe and North Central conference (NCC) "toughie" Muncie Central the second opponent. The Muncie series will be discontinued after this season.

Cambridge City, as usual, will open at home against Wayne county favorite Milton.

Both squads should prove tough and could come out with good ratings in the EIAC.

# Cambridge, Milton Clash Tuesday

## As Cage Season Opens

Basketball interest for the 1959-60 season in western Wayne county will start on a high pitch this week as Cambridge City hosts Milton in the local opening game on Tuesday night in the Lincoln high school gymnasium.

The Wampus Cats will have their hands full to keep the visitors from spoiling their season opener. The Sharpshooters are tagged "the team to beat" in the county net circles.

The Sharpshooters who finished second in the county conference last year. have a veteran team to take into the current campaign. Coach Jim Howell has three of 1<sup>st</sup> year's starting five back.

Bohlender, after having a remarkable sophomore year and a good year last season, will he be out to make this, his senior year, his best. He averaged 20 points-per-game as a sophomore and capped that with a 17.5 average last year.

In the center spot will be Richard Powell (6-4) who saw limited action last year. He is a junior, as is Parker.

### **Richardson Out**

Howell faces a small handicap at the start of the year as Richardson will have to wait out a few games as the result of a recent appendectomy. But Howell plans to shift Parker to center, the position he learned to play so well last year, and reach to his bench for support from senior Duane Rea (6-3) , another of Milton's big boys who also saw some action in the past year.

While Coach Thurman Wright of the Wampus Cats has six returning lettermen, the Lincoln high team will sorely miss its two all-conference guards of last year, Ron Matney and Jim Miller. They ended the season as

the team's top scorers, racking up an average in excess of 15 points per game.

Another starter lost by graduation was Jim Clark, forward.

This season's team will be built around senior center. Jim Raby. and Junior forward Jerry Thompson, the two remaining starters from the 1958-59 club which plied up a 17-6 record and captured the conference championship.

### **Starters Compete**

Charles Carlson, senior letterman, will be a likely starter at one of the guard positions, while Paul Close and Brent Bundy, returning senior lettermen, are contending for the other guard spot, along with Phil Newhouse, Junior. who has moved up from the B team.

Larry Stanley, senior, is being pushed for a starting forward position by Bill Swigart, another Junior up from the reserve squad.

Others on the first ten are Steve Carroll, senior forward-guard, and Paul Schneider, junior guard.

In the first few games the Cat s will also be fighting the obstacle of fewer practice sessions, due to the fact of the football season closed slightly more than a week ago. By the time of the game with Milton they will have had 10 workouts.

### **No Injuries**

However. Coach Wright reports the boys are coming along nicely and no injuries have developed.

Wright begins his third year as head of the Wampus Cat net coaching staff. Lee Felton, who last year was head coach of the Union township team at Modoc, is the new assistant coach. He succeeds Gordon Samuels who is taking graduate work at Ball state college.

# Wampus Cats Netters Meet

## Tough Milton In Season Opener

### Here Tuesday Night

By Paul Seffrin

Coach Thurman Wright will unveil his 1959-60 edition of the Lincoln high school Wampus Cats basketball team next Tuesday night, November 10, at

Lincoln gym against coach Jim Howell's tough veteran Milton Sharpshooters.

But Tuesday's opener will not be a true Wampus Cats picture – what with eight of the 10 man squad less than two weeks out of football toggery. However, Wright beginning his third year at Lincoln reports his lads are working hard and have a lot of enthusiasm and apparently have the needed desire.

They have some talent, some height and some speed but just don't have enough time to get everything coordinated before the opener. After three or four more weeks practice, and game's, a prediction on the future of this Wampus Cats team should be clearer.

On paper, the Cats look to be toughies as the season progresses, depending upon how quickly they 'jell.'

Graduated are the fine guard duo of Jim Miller and Ron Matney of last season. The guard spots are wide open; with the probability of letterman Chuck Carlson a senior, 5'8", 150, having the inside track for one position because of previous experience. The other is wide open at this writing.

Veteran Jim Raby, 6'3 ½" senior center, is expected to have a big year. Weighing 20'0 pounds, Big Jim appears to be faster and nimbler. Another versatile veteran, junior forward Jerry Thompson, 6'3," 154, can be counted upon to bear his share of the scoring load. Larry Stanley, senior forward, 6'0," 174, is as tough as they come on the boards. Bill Swigart, junior, 6'2," 155, is pressing for a starting berth as is Steve Carroll, senior, 5'11," 165.

Fighting just as hard and determination are guard candidates Brent Bundy, senior, 5'8 ½," 155; Paul Close, senior, 5'5", 121; Paul Schneider, junior, 5'9," 150; Phil Newhouse, junior, 5'6," 145. Alan Golliher, junior,

promising B team center and good rebounder of last season dropped out of basketball this year because of weak arches which caused extreme pain on the hardwood.

The Wampus Cats are defending Eastern Indiana. Athletic Conference champions (5-0) but can expect real battles from Brookville, Aurora and Lawrenceburg, and rival Hagerstown again this season.

Here is the Wampus Cats roster, Capsule form; name, height, weight, class - as they ready for the hardwood sport:

Brent Bundy	5' 8 ½"	155	Senior
Charles Carlson	5' 8"	150	Senior
Paul Close	5' 5"	121	Senior
Steve Carroll	5' 11"	165	Senior
Phil Newhouse	5' 6"	145	Junior
Jim Raby	6' 3 ½"	200	Senior
Paul Schneider	5' 9"	150	Junior
Larry Stanley	6' 0"	174	Senior
Bill Swigart	6' 2"	155	Junior
Jerry Thompson	6' 3"	154	Junior

Junior Varsity team members under the guidance of new coach Lee Felton, are Les Bryant, Dave Dunavent, Jim Eckart, Dave Ervin, Warren Fields, Larry Hughes, Eddie Hauk, Charley Irvin, Ray Mohler, DeWayne Montgomery. All are sophomores.

The Lincoln Junior Varsity and the Milton reserves will tangle at 7 p. m. in the preliminary to the Cats-Sharpshooters main go.

John Patterson, Sylvan Schwegman, Frank Schwegman and Ronnie Holbert are student managers for the Cats and Kittens squads.

## seffrin says:

By Paul Seffrin

In all things success depends on previous preparation. We would say coach Thurman Wright did a remarkable feat in preparing his Wampus Cats netters for the tough, opener with Milton. Just 10 school days earlier the same lads doffed football uniforms for the hardwood sport. A few more practices and games should give a truer picture - just how tough this Wampus Cats team could be. They sure opened a few eyes Tuesday night . . . Fountain City will be another toughie for the Cats here Friday, then they bang head-on into the arch-rival Tigers at Hagerstown next Tuesday night.

They'll test two 6' 5" Tigers, namely, Hunnicutt and LaMar – to see what they're made of. It's a tough schedule early - but the tougher they come, the more

you should learn . . . High school football players of Cambridge City, Hagerstown and Richmond will be guests tonight at the annual Sports night dinner at the Richmond YMCA. It is sponsored by the Industrial Management club of Wayne County. Dutch Struck, Hanover college athletic director is the principal speaker . . . When ya' have a 'long' football season (a losing one, 3-5) you grasp for all the good points in your own locale in efforts to soothe your own nerves and the readers. The likes is what Tiger booster Floyd Lacy of the Hagerstown Exponent writes nowadays. Due credit to Bruce Hamman, grid mentor - he just didn't have the 'horses' - and chief scout Bob Showalter's reports couldn't be exploited fully, so Lacy boasts of the Tigers Cory field as "one of the best lighted and sodded

gridirons in eastern Indiana." Then Mr. Lacy says:  
"There's nothing wrong with the gridiron about eight miles south of here that a little grass seed, care and twice as many lights wouldn't cure. Fortunately, they'll be playing on a new field the next time the Tigers visit there."

Yes, Floyd, the Wampus Cats wore that grass off scoring touchdowns - 105 points in four home games - and 34 against Hagerstown October 27. But, we are sorry, the dust and mud deposited on the light reflectors by the cleats of our fast backs was not cleaned off before the Tigers visit. Fortunately, we will have a new gridiron the next time you come here (1961.) - and we hope it, please . . . Now we have

received word from competent sources that the new Union City-Wayne gym will be ready for the four team basketball tourney January 9. We had been informed previously that its completion was doubtful by that date. However, a final decision will not be forthcoming until early or mid-December . . . The Madison Cubs; expected to be tough this year didn't disappoint their followers Tuesday night. They hammered Salem 101-43 . . . An estimated 1,800 persons were at the Cats-Milton game and if some didn't enjoy the outcome of the contest we know they did enjoy the new acoustical gym ceiling. No more 'ringin' in the ears for hours afterwards . . .