

# East Chicago Washington Snaps Muncie's Winning String To Capture Title

By KURT FREUDENTHAL  
United Press International

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — They had East Chicago Washington's brand-new Indiana high school basketball champions today as the comeback team of the golden anniversary tourney.

The Calumet finally had its first winner in 20 years.

Never before in half a century of the "March madness" has this hardwood spectacle witnessed an about-face as in the four-team finals here Saturday, with Johnny Baratto's suddenly sensational Senators upending highly favored Muncie Central in the title clash, 75-59.

East Chicago's fourth-ranked West NHSC titlists, beaten twice during the season, barely got into the title match with a 62-61 win over Fort Wayne Central, thanks to Phil Dawkins' three points in the final 23 seconds, including the winning free throws with 7 seconds left.

It looked dim, indeed, for the upstarts, who expended a lot of energy against Fort Wayne, as they took the floor against Muncie's unbeaten powerhouse, which rolled to a record 102-66 rout over Bloomington in the first afternoon clash to extend its winning string to 28.

**Muncie Highly Favored**

Muncie, the experts figured, was fresh for the finale. The Bearcats tossed a red-hot 500 shooting average at Bloomington as Ron Bonham poured in a record 40 points in the devastating opener. Muncie, most sideline observers believed, would sweep the East Chicagoans off the Butler Fieldhouse boards to rack up an unprecedented fifth state title. But this wasn't the same, East

Chicago club that faced Fort Wayne only five hours earlier. This was a hungry, fired-up, smooth-clicking machine that didn't know when to quit.

A signpost in their dressing room saying "When the going gets tough, the toughest get going" was their cue and the tough men from Lake County's steel mills took it to their hearts.

They took command from the outset and led at the first stop, 17-16. They withstood Muncie's furious second-period assault, with the lead changing hands 16 times, and they took charge for good late in the third period when Dawkins broke the final tie at 46-all.

**Solid Senators**

They scented victory when 6-8 Jim Davis, Muncie's marvelous rebounder, fouled out with 3:20 left and they had it in their pockets when the great Bonham left with 3:07 to go. It was the first time in 85 games that the blond bomber had fouled out.

They were awkward in the afternoon, but they were solid Senators at night. And all were heroes—Dawkins, Jim Bakos, Ron Divjak, Darryl Williams, Trester medal winner Bobby Cantrell and Ruben Rodriguez.

Cantrell, who fouled out late in the game, led East Chicago's scoring with 21 points. Bakos, whose rebounding sparked in the second half, pitched in 17.

"This was certainly their finest game," Baratto praised his boys. "They did everything well, especially when it came to working the boards. This was a great team effort."

Baratto, whose Senators lost in the state finals 13 years ago, said he thought his players could defend against Muncie.

"We thought they had a couple of weaknesses in their defense, and we concentrated on that," he said.

Bonham-led the scoring with 29 points, including a record 15 free throws that bettered the previous title game mark of 13 by Willie Merriweather of Indianapolis Attucks against Gary Roosevelt five years ago. But, even Bonham wasn't the same as in the afternoon, when he and John Dampier were looping one-handers from 25 and 30 feet out.

**A Bitter Loss For Muncie**

It was a bitter pill for losing coach John Longfellow, in the finals the second time in three years only to be turned back.

"When you lose your tallest man and top scorer," he said, "there just isn't much you can do. We just never seemed to be able to find that spark to get rolling. We didn't play good basketball, they did, and that's the answer. They deserved to win."

Bloomington's fifth-rated Panthers stayed within hailing distance of Muncie for half a game. Then Bonham and Dampier, who tallied 27 points and their classmates made a runaway of it. Their 102 points erased the 97 by Attucks, also against Roosevelt, in 1955.

Dick Sparks, with 23 points, and Mickey Reeves with 19, were Bloomington's only effective weapons as their 22-game winning

streak was clipped.

"Even at our best we would not be able to beat that Muncie team," said Bloomington coach Keith Rhoades. "Our boys played a good ball game... but it was like trying to blow your breath into a hurricane to stop it."

For Fort Wayne, which battled East Chicago tooth and toenail, things might have been different, said coach Herb Banet, "if some of those shots had dropped." The two teams were never more than four points apart.

Cantrall, at 5-10 the smallest player on the floor, became only the second Trester medal winner in history from the winning team. The other was Bobby Plump whose jumpshot in the final seconds gave Milan a 32-30 win over Muncie in 1954 in another classy tourney upset.

**College Basketball**

NIT Tourney

Utah State 99, St. Bonaventure 83 (consolation).

Bradley 88, Providence 72 (championship).

**NCAA Tourney**

Cincinnati 95, New York U. 71 (consolation).

Ohio State 75, California 55 (championship).

**Pro Basketball**

SEMI-FINAL PLAYOFFS

Eastern Division

Boston 120, Philadelphia 90 (Saturday).

Boston 112, Philadelphia 104 (Boston leads best of seven series, 3-1).

**Western Division**

St. Louis 93, Minneapolis 89 (Saturday).

Minneapolis 103, St. Louis 101 (Best of seven series tied, 2-2).

**Hockey Results**

Saturday's Scores

National League

Toronto 1, Chicago 0.

Montreal 5, Boston 1.

Detroit 6, New York 3.

**International League**

Louisville 9, Fort Wayne 4.

Milwaukee 5, Minneapolis 4.

Toledo 12, Indianapolis 2.

**Bowling Scores**

Rural League

Schrock Builders 19 11 27

McConnells 19 11 25

Blackstone 18 12 25

Community Oil 16 14 22

Sheets Furniture 18 12 22

Shaffer's Restaurant 16 14 21

Steckley's 15 15 21

Stucky & Co. 13 17 18

Pioneer Drive-In 10 20 13

Klenks 6 24 6

200 games: L. Chrisman 209, D.

Mies 213, H. Meyers 211, E.

Thieme 205.

500 series: B. Baxter 513, H.

Miller 533, D. Mies 541, E. Fuell-

ing 502, E. Thieme 513, M. Affold-

er 513.

## Adams County Rural Youth State Champ

The Adams county rural youth basketball team won the state rural youth championship crown Sunday evening by defeating Clark County in the final game of the state rural youth tournament by a score of 71-56. The local team won the right to play in the final of the tournament by eliminating three rural youth teams in the tournament played this weekend in Indianapolis.

The local team, basketball champions in district IV, had defeated Grant, Huntington and Tippecanoe counties in the district tournament and ousted Cass county in the first game of the state tournament Saturday night by a score of 57-49. Hamilton county was defeated in the semi-final game, 65-56.

All ten districts in the state were represented by teams in the state tournament played at the Purdue-Marshall Center in the capital city.

The Cass county game was a see-saw affair with Cass county leading at the half, 35-28. The local rural youthers led throughout the Hamilton and Clark county games even though the score was tied a number of times. The championship trophy will be presented to Adams county at the district rural youth meeting April 18 in Wells county.

Ray Miller, local rural youth advisor, coached the following rural youthers to the state championship: Delbert McCune, Larry G. Dubach, John Meshberger, John Kirchofer, Jerry Springer, Darryl Pharr, Dailey Bixler, Alan Habegger, Ron Gerber and Larry Myers.

Other rural youthers attending the weekend tournament were: Martha Brewster, Joan Fleming, Legora Markle, Sally McCullough and Gloria Koeneman.

Scoring in the Cass county game was: McCune, 16; Dubach, 10; Springer, 3; Pharr, 2, and Bixler, 11; Meshberger, 13; Kirchofer, 11; 2. The Hamilton county scoring was: McCune, 17; Dubach, 16; Meshberger, 15; Kirchofer, 11; Bixler, 4; and Pharr, 2. The Clark county scoring was done by: McCune, 4; Dubach, 24; Meshberger, 20; Kirchofer, 13, and Pharr, 8.

**Leland Smith Team In National Meet**

The Leland Smith bowling team of Decatur is competing in the ABC bowling tournament in Toledo, O., today and Tuesday.

Bil Tufteieler, Jim Parent, Dick Mies, Rolly Ladd, Gary Schultz, and Fred Hoffman are the team members. They will bowl in the 5-man event today, and in the singles and doubles Tuesday afternoon.

## Decatur CYA Wins Way To Final Round

The Decatur CYA pummeled the Fort Wayne CYA, 82-32, gaining the final round of the C.Y.O. CYA basketball tourney. Glen Wilder with 26 and Dale Hake with 23 led the winners.

Schultz with 13, Wiseman with 10 and Heimann with 8 rounded out the awesome attack for the local shooters. Hartman of Fort Wayne topped the losers with 16, half of their total. Decatur led at the half by a comfortable 38-16 score.

## Special Entertainment Thursday At Legion

A special entertainment for Legionnaires and children will be held at Adams Post 43, American Legion, Thursday evening, it was announced this morning.

The special event will open with a fish fry, with serving starting at 5:30 o'clock. Special feature will be the appearance of Pat Henry and his "golden horse," which has twice been featured in Ripley's "Believe It or Not." Admission fee for the party will be \$1, and one child will be admitted without charge with one adult. Legionnaires are urged to attend and bring their children.

## Final Box Score

INDIANAPOLIS (UPI) — Box score of Saturday night's championship game in the Indiana high school basketball tourney:

### EAST CHICAGO (75)

	G	F	P	T
Dawkins	9	3-5	5	21
Divjak	3	1-3	4	7
Williams	0	8-14	4	8
Rodriguez	2	4-7	1	8
Cantrall	8	1-2	3	17
Bakos	0	0-0	1	0
Turpin	0	0-0	0	0
Johnson	0	1-2	0	1
Smith	1	0-0	0	1
Lamar	1	0-0	0	1
Totals	27	21-37	21	75

### MUNCIE CENTRAL (59)

	G	F	P	T
Bonham	7	15-19	5	29
Dampier	5	1-3	3	11
Davis	1	0-3	5	8
Jolley	3	2-2	4	8
Nettles	3	3-3	4	9
Williams	0	0-0	1	0
Ervin	0	0-0	0	0
Dinwiddie	0	0-0	0	0
Daniel	0	0-1	1	0
Dick	0	0-0	1	0
Totals	19	21-31	24	59

### SCORE by periods:

East Chicago 17-21-14-23-75

Muncie 16-21-10-12-59

## Ohio State Is Easy Winner In NCAA's Finals

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — The Buckeye buzz-saw, so powerful

that it crushed favored California in a matter of minutes to give Ohio State the NCAA basketball championship, turned its sights today on a trip to Rome.

Coach Fred Taylor will lead his

towering youngsters into the Olympic play-off at Denver

March 31-April 2 — where they

will run into such seasoned

performers as the Phillips Oilers

and others from the AAU.

"We have three sophomores,

one junior