

1966 CLASS "S" STATE CHAMPIONS







The  
**WRIGHT CITY**

# EDITORIAL

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LOCAL

## WILDCATS TAKE STATE



Front Row, L. to R; Lashley, R. Sydnor, Cox, Oberlag, Niernan, M. Sydnor, Wright, Coach Cain. Back Row, Thiehaus, Williams, Gerdeman, Linnenbringer, Cappel, Niernan, Blanks, Owens, Luckett, Coach Barnes.

BY ROLAND NIEMAN

One of the greatest honors to come to Wright City was the Wright City Wildcats winning the State Class 'S' Basketball Championship, and along with it the Good Sportsmanship Award of the State Tournament. This, of course, speaks well of our players, coaches and fans.

This all began on Feb. 21, at Hannibal, Mo., in the Regional Tournament as the Wildcats took on The Sherwood Day School team from St. Louis. Sherwood Day, one of the smallest schools in the state, was no match for the Wildcats as Wright City got away to a 19-0 lead.

The reserves played the 2nd and 4th quarters, with the final score, Wright City 116 Sherwood Day 39. Scoring honors went to Steve Oberlag with 21 points.

On Wednesday night, Feb. 23, the Wildcats played Williamstown. At the end of the 1st quarter the score was 30-9 in favor of Wright City. The reserves again played the 2nd and 4th quarters. The final score was Wright City 86, Williamstown 60. Scoring honors went to Florence Blanks with 17 points.

On Friday, Feb. 25, the Wildcats met The Providence Prophets from St. Louis, who

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## TOWN COUNCIL PASSES 2 ORDINANCES

The Wright City Town Council met in regular session March 10 at 7:30 PM. Those present were Mayor Emory Chaney; Aldermen Hutchison, Bueneman, Ambuehl, and Rand; City Attorney McQuey; and City Engineer Twiehaus.

Judges for the election to be held April 5 were appointed and levies to be presented were fixed. The special levies to be voted on are as follows: Street lights, 20¢; Park Fund, 10¢; and Fire Dept., 10¢. The total tax levy for this year will be the same as last year.

Farmers and Merchants Bank was re-appointed as depository for City funds.

Ordinance No. 41 was passed, which provides for the annexation of property to extend the city limits. This ordinance will be presented at a special election to be held concurrent with the regular election, April 5. The proposition to be voted on is as follows:

'Shall consent be given by the legal voters of the City of Wright City, Warren County, Mo., to annexation of certain unincorporated areas of Warren County adjacent to said city as more particularly set out in Ordinance No. 41 of the City of Wright City enacted and approved March 10, 1966, and extension of the corporate limits of said City to include same therein?'

The Circuit Court will hold hearings on this ordinance March 28 at the Court House in Warrenton.

Ordinance No. 42 establishing a Planning Commission for the City of Wright City was passed. This commission is to consist of 7 members, 3 of which will be members of the Town Council, and 4 who will be appointed from non-office holding residents. Names of these members will be announced in the future.

Routine bills were allowed and the meeting was adjourned.

## ATHLETIC ASSOC.

The Wright City Athletic Association will meet on Friday evening, March 18 at 7:30 P.M. in the high school gym. All boys and girls who wish to play ball this summer should register at this meeting. Parents are requested to be present. There will be no 'sign-up' unless dues are paid.

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were figured to be really strong contenders. Wright City, however, started the game with a press that really upset the Prophets. At halftime, the score was Wright City 35, Providence 21. The trend of the game never changed as the final score was Wright City 78, Providence 51. High point man was Tim Cappel with 18 points.

Then came the final game of the regional on Saturday night against Hannibal McCooey, the host school. The Wildcats had their eyes on a victory and that's exactly what they got! At halftime the score was 42 to 19 in favor of Wright City. Greg Nieman had a big night scoring 31 points.

This regional victory sent the Wildcats to the opening round of the state tournament in Kirksville on Feb. 28. This marked the 2nd year in a row that the Wildcats won the regional tournament.

The first game of the State Tournament was against Brunswick, Mo., winner of their regional. Brunswick had a good team, including a 6 foot-6 inch boy, but Wright City handled the situation really well. It was a good game all the way through and the final score was Wright City 77, Brunswick 70. Greg Nieman again came up with 31 big points at a time when the Wildcats really needed them. He was followed by Florence Blanks with 20 points.

The next game was against Cainsville on Wed. night. The Wildcats got off to a very slow start in the 1st half. At halftime, Cainsville was leading 42 to 28. When the Wildcats came out the 2nd half, things were quite different! They employed a really good press and scored 11 points in 1 minute and 27 seconds of

play and stopped Cainsville from getting the ball across mid-court 5 straight times! Irvin Owens came off the bench and scored 13 points, 10 of them in the last quarter. The final score was Wright City 83, Cainsville 76. Scoring honors for the game went to Florence Blanks with 24 points, followed by Greg Nieman with 17 points.

The Wildcat's next game was Friday afternoon at Brewer Field House in Columbia in the State Semi-Finals. Their opponents were St. Joseph of Farmington, with a record of 26 wins and 7 losses. This was a really close game, and the score at halftime was 26 to 20 in favor of Wright City. It remained close until the closing minutes when the Wildcats opened up, making the final score Wright City 62, St. Joseph of Farmington 52. Scoring honors went to Florence Blanks with 18 points, followed by Tim Cappel with 16 points. Florence also pulled down 14 big rebounds.

Then came Saturday night and the final game against Springfield Greenwood, the tournament favorite. The Field House was packed to capacity, and believe me, Wright City fans really turned out to see this game, as they also did on Friday. The game was really close the first half, with the score at halftime being Wright City 18, Greenwood 17. The Wildcats continued to widen the margin and the score at the end of the 3rd quarter was, Wildcats 35 Greenwood 29. With 1 minute remaining in the game, Greenwood had closed to within 2 points to make the score 47-45. The Wildcats scored 8 points in the last minute to make the final score 55 to 45 in favor of the Wright City Wildcats, who are the Class 'S' State Champions of 1966!

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During this final game, the Wildcats got in a little foul trouble early, but once again Irvin Owens came off the bench when he was needed and did a very good job defensively while scoring 11 points. Scoring honors went to Greg Nieman with 17 points, followed by Florence Blanks with 15 points.

The Field Goal Percentage for Wright City was 41%; for Greenwood 29%. Free Throw Percentage: Wright City 64%, Greenwood 53%.

This final game was a

most thrilling experience for the players as well as the fans. It might be interesting to note that some of the former coaches of Wright City High School attended, and followed the team all the way through the State Tournament.

The Wildcat team returned home on Sunday afternoon and was greeted at the school cafeteria by a large group of fans and followers. They were introduced by Superintendent Fraser Small who spoke a few words of congratulations to the

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players and the coaches. Mr. Emory Chaney, Mayor of Wright City, Dr. Beckmeyer, president of the school board, and coach Terry Cain, offered congratulations to the players and thanks to the fans. Then everyone had a chance to talk to the players and coaches and congratulate them.

On Monday afternoon I spoke to each of the players and coaches and got their comment on winning the championship with a record of 27 wins and 7 losses.

Coach Cain said 'I consider myself very lucky and honored that the Lord granted me the privilege of coaching a State Championship Team. I have especially enjoyed working with the team the past four years and sincerely believe that the Wildcats, with more hard work and determination, can win the State Championship next year. I wish to thank all the fans who supported the team throughout the year, especially Coach Barnes, my assistant.'

Coach Barnes said, 'Since many people are involved in winning any team sport, all I can say is that 'It took a great team effort,' with very good leadership off the floor by Coach Cain and on the floor by Dave and Billy.'

Greg Niemann, a 6-5 Junior who averaged 16.1 points per game this year said 'I thought the last game was a tough one, especially when Bill fouled out. I thought it was a real team effort all year long. We had our ups and downs, but we came out on top and that's what counts. I was glad we could win, so Florence and Bill, two of the greatest guys I've ever played or associated with, could bow out of their high school career with a State Championship. I only hope we can do as

well next year as we did this year. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.'

Florence Blanks, a 6-1 Senior, who averaged 15.1 points per game said 'I would like to start by congratulating the other players on the team. I think it was a real team effort and a lot of hustle. I would also like to congratulate Coach Cain and Coach Barnes for a job well done. It was a nice way to end a career of Basketball. I hope the team does as well next year as we did this year. I hope they have as much fun as we did. It's been a long season.'

Timmy Cappel, a 6-2 Junior who averaged 10.2 points per game said 'This is one of the greatest honors I've had in high school and probably will be the greatest. I played with a swell bunch of guys. Without the guidance of our two coaches, Coach Cain and Coach Barnes throughout the year, we would never have won the State Championship. Thanks to all the people of Wright City who supported us during the year. Thanks to everyone.'

Dave Gerdemann, a 6 foot Junior, who averaged 9.7 points per game and played real good defensive ball said 'This has been a great team effort all year, if it hadn't been, we wouldn't have won the State Championship. I think the coaches deserve most of the credit. This tournament is something I'll always remember about high school. It's a great way to end the year and I'd like to make it two in a row next year. Thanks to everyone who made it possible.'

Bill Linnenbringer, a 6-1 Senior who averaged 8.8 points per game and played great defensive ball, said, 'I think we had good teamwork and played pretty good all through the State Tour-

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nament. The help from the reserves was also good. I think what probably helped the most during the Regional and State Tournament was the good support of the Wright City fans. Our big men came through when we needed them. Coach Cain and Coach Barnes did a real good job all year long in bringing the team to the State Championship. It's a great way to end.'

Irvin Owens, a 6 foot Junior who averaged 6.6 points per game said, 'I think the players showed good team effort all year. I think the coaches did a fine job of working with the players and getting the best out of them at the most important time. I am happy to be a member of the state championship team and hope to be again next year.'

Steve Oberlag, a 5-8 Junior, who averaged 6.4 points per game, had this comment,

'I think it's quite an honor, and something that doesn't happen every year'

and it's something Wright

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City will never forget. I don't believe it could have happened to a finer bunch of fellows, because I know I'll never play with a nicer bunch of guys. I think the coaches did a fine job and I would like to congratulate them.'

Roger Sydnor, a 5-5 Sophomore averaged 4 points a game, said, 'I think the toughest game we had during the state tournament was against Cainsville, but the boys came through like champions. It was a great honor to be on a championship team.'

Nike Sydnor, a 5-7 Junior who averaged 2.8 points per game during the season was not available for comment.

Glenn Niermann, a 5-9 Sophomore who scored 2.6 points per game with the varsity squad had this to say, 'I think Dave Gerdeman deserves recognition for his play during the state tournament. It was a good all around team effort. It's great.'

Butch Wright, a 5-11 sophomore, who averaged 2.1 points per game with the varsity said, 'I think the whole team played hard all year. It was a real good effort by the starting 5 and good reserve help when needed. I believe we can win the state again next year. It was an honor to be part of a championship team.'

Glen Luckett, a 6 foot Junior who averaged 1.8 points per game said, 'It was a tough game all the way through, even though I was on the bench it was a great honor to be on the state championship team. I hope

next year we'll be able to go back and win it again.'

Richard Cox, a 5-11 Junior who scored 1 point per game during the season commented, 'I think it was a good team effort all year. The guys showed a lot of hustle and I thought from the beginning that we had a good chance to go all the way.'

The school gave 3 trophies to outstanding basketball players this year and the winners have been announced. The best offensive rebounder was Florence Blanks. Florence was also the best defensive rebounder. Dave Gerdeman was the best free throw shooter on the team hitting 80% of his free throws during the year. Congratulations to these winners.

I think we should also mention the team manager, Randy Lashley whose job it was to see that the ball, and first aid equipment were at the games. Our 2 broadcasters Larry Twiehaus and Buddy Williams who did a wonderful job of bringing the play-by-play description of the regional final as well as the state final back to our fans in the Wright City area who could not attend the games.

The sportsmanship award which the team received at Columbia is a great honor for the community. The players, coaches, and fans are to be congratulated on this accomplishment which speaks well of the community as a whole.

The Wildcats have certainly appreciated the fine support the Wright City fans have given them during the year and hope they will

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continue to do the same next year.

Congratulations to all!

### MRS. ED HAAKE

The children of the late Mr. & Mrs. Otto Held attended the funeral of their Aunt, Mrs. Ed Haake, nee Krone. Mrs. Haake was 92 years of age and was a resident of Hopewell. Funeral services were held March 8 at the E. & R. Church in Holsstein. Interment was in the Lipstand Cemetery, Warrenton, Missouri.

### MRS. FRED BACKS

Mrs. Fred Backs of Marthasville, Mo. passed away, Feb. 27th at the St. Francis Hospital Washington, Mo. in her 75th year.

She is survived by her husband, Fred Backs; a son Dennis Backs of Marthasville; a daughter, Mrs. Oliver Bruning of Wright City; a daughter-in-law, Lucille Backs; a son-in-law Oliver Bruning. Also six grandchildren; Patay, Jeny, & Beverly, and Jack Backs; Linda and Greg Bruning.

Funeral services were held March 1 at the Smith Creek Methodist Church with burial in the church cemetery. Rev. Wm. Haub of Washington officiating.

### E. & R. EVENING CIRCLE

The Evening Circle of the Immanuel United Church of Christ met Feb. 24 with 14 members and 3 visitors present. The program was presented by Mrs. Otto Höllebeck, who used as her topic, 'We Are His People.' Mrs. Ruth Stevenson read the scripture lesson.

The business meeting was in charge of the President, Mrs. Jan Bueneman. She reminded the Circle of the Leadership Meeting at Moscow Mills on March 9 and the Lenten Quiet Hour at Wentzville on March 3. We voted to give \$10.00 to the St. Charles Regional Fellowship. It was decided to collect materials for Vietnam - 4 yard pieces of white, black, and print material. You are asked to bring any or all of the above to the next meeting. The meeting was closed with a prayer by Rev. Ring.

Refreshments were served by Mrs. Ruth Stevenson and Mrs. Hazel Stegmann.

Always be tolerant with those who disagree with you. They have a right to their ridiculous opinions.

## DANCE MARCH 19

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# Wright City Wildcats Win State Basketball Championship Saturday

Defeat Springfield By a Score of 55 To 45—Win Over Farmington 62 to 52—  
Interesting Statistics of the Final Game

By Bob Lloyd

Coach Terry Cain led his Wildcats to the State Championship in the Class S Division last Saturday night at Missouri University.

I was well aware of the fact that Wright City had a fine team this year, but not having seen them play this year, I did not know how good they really were.

My first impression when they came on the floor for the Farmington game was that as big as they were, they had to be slow. Their size fooled me as well as it did most of the people that hadn't been following the team. The team moved easily and amazingly fast for big men.

The team was well coached. They handled every defense with skill and confidence. Their own defense switched to take care of every situation. Not once did I see Coach Terry Cain jump off the bench to shout instructions to his team or to complain about a call by the referee.

The Farmington game saw the Wildcats jump out in front at the start and never fall behind. The score at the end of the 1st quarter was Wright City 13, Farmington 8.

Greg Nieman led the scoring in the 1st quarter with 6 points, Tim Cappel had 5, and Florence Blanks 2.

The 2nd quarter saw Cappel drop in 6, Nieman had 5, and Dave Gerdeman donated 2 points. The end of the first half saw the Wildcats in front 26 to 20.

The second half started with Big Blanks coming to life and the beginning of the end for Farmington. Blanks is an outstanding basketball player and fine sportsman. Big Blanks scored 8 big ones, Cappel had 3, Gerdeman 2, Linnenberger had 1 point. The end of the 3rd quarter brought the score to Wright City 40, Farmington 34.

The fourth quarter saw the Wildcats make 22 points to Farmington 18 and win the game 62 to 52. The final quarter had Owens dropping in 3 points, Blanks had 8, and Gerdeman, Nieman, and Cappel 2 each. Blanks fouled out late in the 4th quarter and left a large opening on the Wildcat team. Coach Terry Cain had a real ace in the hole in Irv Owens. A team really has to be strong when a player like Owens doesn't start.

The championship game was a real thriller. The consensus of opinion among the coaches I was sitting with, was that the team from Springfield would be too fast for the Wildcats. The Greenwood team was fast and it was also tall. Their starting five averaged over 6 foot 2 inches tall.

The 1st quarter saw the Wildcats take a 14 to 12 lead. Blanks laid in 5, Nieman had 4, Cappel 2, Owens 2, and Gerdeman had 1 point.

The 2nd quarter turned out to be a defensive duel. The Wildcats scored 4 points and their opponents 5 to bring the score to 18 to 17. Blanks and Tim Cappel divided the scoring with 2 each.

The second half saw the Wildcats lay in 17 and Springfield had 12. This made the score 35 to 29.

The 3rd quarter scoring went like this: Nieman, Blanks and Gerdeman had 4 points each, Linnenberger and Owens had 2 each and Cappel had 1 point.

The final quarter saw the Wildcats go 14 points ahead, stave off a Springfield drive that cut their lead to 4 and then rush on to win 55 to 45. Nieman had 9 points, Blanks 4, Owens 5, and Cappel 2.

There are a lot of interesting statistics in the final game. Here are some of the statistics I'm talking about.

Greg Nieman made 7 field goals out of 9 attempts. 3 out of 4 free throws, and had 5 rebounds and scored 17 points.

Tim Cappel had 2 field goals out of 5 tries. One free throw out of one, had six rebounds and scored 5 points. Big Blanks made 7 out of 17 from the field one out of three from the foul line and scored 15 points. Dave Gerdeman had 2 out of 4 field goals, 1 out of 2 free throws and 4 rebounds. Gerdeman scored 5 points. Linnenberger had 1 out of 3 from the floor, 5 rebounds and scored 2. Irv Owens had 4 field goals out of 6 attempts, 3 out of 4 free throws, 7 rebounds and scored 11 points. Steve Oberlag was in the game for a short time and had 1 field goal chance.

The Wildcats averaged 41.8 percent of their field goal tries and had a 64.3 average from the foul line.

Notes and comments on the tournament. There are some things I'll remember a long time about these games. Big Blanks under the basket, you let him score or you fouled him, another thing was the fact that he did not commit a foul until the final minutes in the championship game.

Coach Terry Cain's secret weapon named Irv Owens. Every time the team slowed down Owens went in to renew them.

The steady play of every boy on the team. The great turnout of the Wright City fans.

The sad feeling I had that my favorite Warriors were not in the tournament.

Almost as important as winning the championship was the fact that the team and their fans and their coach was given the trophy for sportsmanship.

In winding up this article I want to congratulate a great team, some great fans and above all a fine coach. Terry Cain has done a great

job with this team.

Championships come seldom to some teams, almost never to most teams, and when it comes it is always deserved. Congratulations again and good luck in the future to the Wright City Wildcats.





### Missouri Class S

WRIGHT CITY (62)			ST. JOSEPH (Farmington) (52)		
	FG	FT		FG	FT
Cappel	6	4	Klinkhardt	5	3
Nieman	5	3	Johnson	4	0
Blanks	7	4	Thurman	1	0
Lun'bringer	0	1	Moran	4	0
Gerdeman	1	4	Isenman	5	1
Owens	2	4	Boyd	4	2
			Wilson	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>6</b>

Score at half: Wright City 26, St. Joseph 20.  
Officials: Arment and Gilmore.

### Class S Final

WRIGHT CITY (55)			GREENWOOD (45)		
	FG	FT		FG	FT
Nieman	7	3-4	Luna	1	0-1
Cappel	2	1-1	Dustman	2	0-0
Blanks	7	1-3	Thompson	4	1-4
Gerdeman	2	1-2	Williams	8	3-4
Linnenbringer	1	0-0	Sanford	4	3-4
Bringer	1	0-0	Stom'ugh	0	0-0
Owens	4	3-4	Millsap	0	0-0
Oberlag	0	0-0			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>9-14</b>	<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7-13</b>

Wright City 14, Greenwood 12.  
Field goal percentage: Wright City .418, Greenwood .294. Free throw percentage: Wright City .643, Greenwood .538. Officials: Eugene Garrison, Russell Gilmore.

STATE CHAMPS in the small school division are members of the Wright City Wildcats shown with the trophies they have picked up this school year. Front row, left to right, David Gerdeman, Richard Cox, Steve Oberlag, Greg Nieman, Irvin Owens and Glen Luckett; second row, No. 22 Roger Sydnor; No. 34 Butch Wright and No. 20 Mike Sydnor. In the back row, team managers Buddy Williams and Larry Twiehaus, Bill Linnenbringer, Tim Cappel, Klen Nieman and Florence Blanks. At the far right are Coaches Rex Barnes and Terry Cain. Blanks has been named to the honorary 1965-66 all-star team of the north central district. The 225-lb., 6-ft. 1-in. senior had a season's average of 18 points per game and 13 rebounds.



1946 Class "S" State Champs

