



50 YEARS AGO TONIGHT...

**Notes on Wright City Wildcat Basketball
1970-71 and 1971-72**



1970 -1971 SEASON

OCTOBER 1, 1970

The Wright City Wildcats under coach George Ritchie assembled for their first practice in preparation for the 1970-71 basketball season. Hoping to build on their injury-plagued 15-13 record from a year ago, the Wildcats will have to replace the graduated senior front line of 6'6" Eugene Williams, 6'4" Mike Schloemann, and 6'1" David Eversmeyer.

Returning starters Joe Bradshaw (10.8 ppg, 2.4 rpg), Dale Martin (11.6 ppg), and Gordon Ring (12.2 ppg, 3 rpg) are expected to lead this year's team after each missed multiple games last season. Senior leadership will come from Wendell Meyer (4.1) and Rodney Martin (0.5). Other juniors expected to be strong contributors are Brad North, Dale Perkins, David Perkins (5.9), Brian North, Roger Held, Nathan Lockett, and Greg Smith.

Coach Ritchie set three goals for the team this season:

1. Win all home games
2. Win 20 games overall
3. Finish at least second in all tournaments.

If those goals are met it would indeed be a successful season.

ROSTER

NAME	YEAR	LT	DK	HEIGHT
Dale Martin	11	10	11	5'11"
Rodney Martin	12	12	13	5'10"
Brad North	11	14	15	6'2"
Nathan Lockett	11	20	21	5'9"
Dale Perkins	11	22	23	6'1"
Joe Bradshaw	12	24	25	6'1"
David Perkins	11	30	31	6'1"
Brian North	11	32	33	5'10"
Gordon Ring	11	34	35	6'1"
Wendell Meyer	12	40	41	6'2"
Roger Held	11	42	43	6'2"
Greg Smith	11	44	45	5'9"

TEAM MANAGERS - Roger Nierman, Larry Zuhone

November 10, 1970

The Wright City Wildcats opened their 1970-71 season with a fast paced 106-74 victory over the visiting Silex Owls. The Wildcats scored 63 points in the first half and never looked back. Joe Bradshaw led a balanced scoring attack with 23 points followed by Dale Martin with 19, David Perkins 17, Wendell Meyer 13, Brad North 12, Gordon Ring 9, Dale Perkins 8, Roger Held 3, and Rodney Martin 2. David Shepherd and Lonnie Jennings led Silex with 23 points each.

Next game - November 17 at Valley Park

November 17, 1970

Joe Bradshaw pumped in 22 points and four other of his teammates hit for double figures as Wright City won its second straight game, 92-73 at Valley Park. Dale Martin had 21, followed by Wendell Meyer 17, Gordon Ring 12, Brad North 10, David Perkins 6, and Roger Held and Dale Perkins 2 each. The Wildcats jumped out to a 44-23 lead at halftime. Dave Williams led Valley Park with 20 points.

Next game - November 20 at Orchard Farm

November 20, 1970

With most of the members of the Duchesne Pioneers team in the crowd, Joe Bradshaw scored a career high 39 points as the Wright City Wildcats defeated the homestanding Orchard Farm Eagles 91-63. Duchesne was seeded #1 and Wright City #2 in the upcoming Wentzville Tournament.

Next game - November 24 at Ft. Zumwalt

November. 24, 1970

The Wright City Wildcats suffered a disappointing first loss of the season, falling 69-62 at Ft. Zumwalt. The Wildcats led by one at half, but were outscored by the Panthers 23-12 in the third quarter. Joe Bradshaw led Wright City with 24 points, followed by Wendell Meyer 12, Gordon Ring 10, Dale Martin 8, David Perkins 6,

and Brad North 2. Dave Peters led Ft. Zumwalt with 20. The Wildcats are now 3-1 on the season. It was the season opener for the Panthers.

Next game - Wright City takes off for Thanksgiving break before traveling to Winfield on December 1.

December 1, 1970

The Wright City Wildcats celebrated Dale Martin's 17th birthday at Winfield with an easy 86-64 victory over the Warriors. Record for the season is now 4-1.

Next games - Two home games, December 4 vs. Valley Park and December 5 vs. Wentzville. Next week, St. Dominic at home and the Wentzville Tournament.

December 4, 1970

The Wright City Wildcats held off a fourth-quarter comeback by the Valley Park Hawks to run their record to 5-1 on the season with a 97-86 victory over the visitors. Wright City led by 22 points after three quarters, but they allowed Valley Park to score 37 fourth-quarter points to make the game interesting in the end. Joe Bradshaw again led the Wildcats with 28 points, followed by Gordon Ring with 25, Brad North 18, Dale Martin 11, David Perkins 10, and Wendell Meyer 5. Dave Williams took game-high honors with 36 points for the Hawks. An interesting stat on the night was that Wright City hit 31 free throws off 26 Valley Park fouls, while WC committed only 9 fouls resulting in only 4 VP free throw points. Thanks, referees!

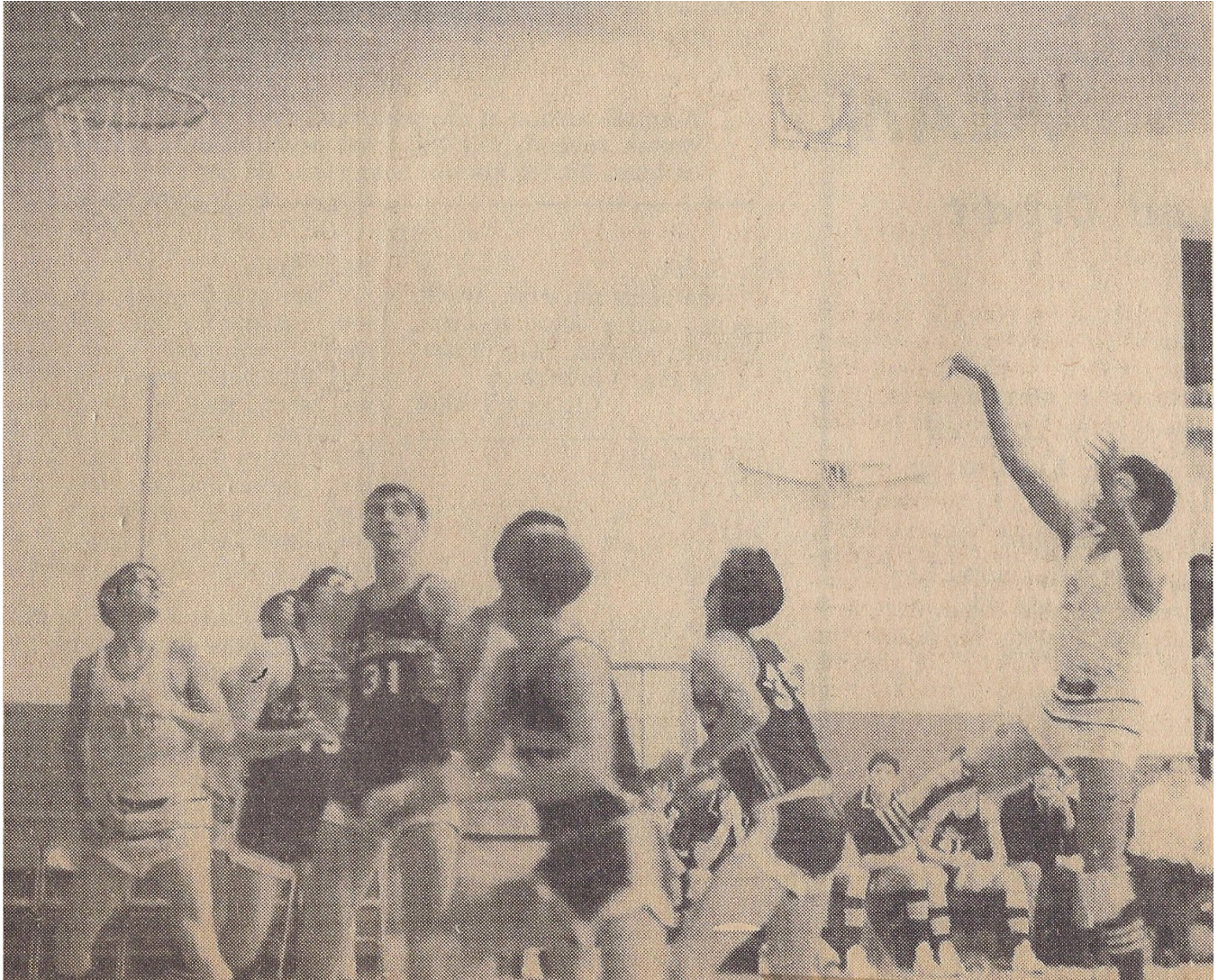
Next game - Tomorrow night, December 5, Wentzville visits Wright City

December 5, 1970

The Wentzville Indians battled the Wright City Wildcats to a 32-32 tie at halftime, but Wright City pulled away in the second half, outscoring Wentzville 24-11 in the final quarter on the way to a 74-56 victory. Joe Bradshaw led the Wildcats with 21 points while Jerry Wethington led Wentzville with a game-high 23.

Next week - St. Dominic (4-2) travels to Wright City on Dec. 8 and the Wentzville Tournament opens on Dec. 9. Duchesne (4-0) is seeded #1, Wright City #2, Ft. Zumwalt (3-3) #3, and Jennings #4.

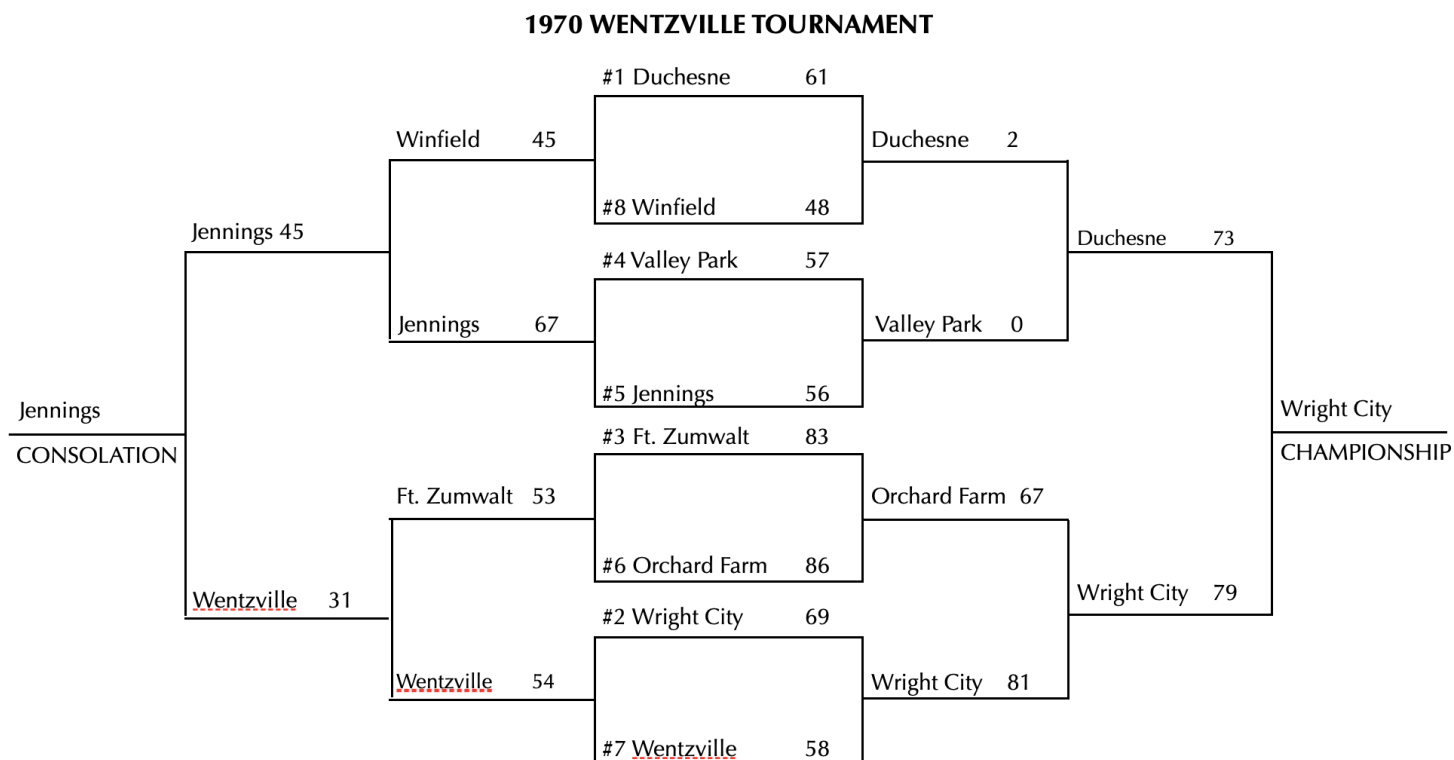
December 8, 1970



For the first time in 6 years the Wright City Wildcats defeated the St. Dominic Crusaders 76-72 in an exciting game at home. The Crusaders were without head coach Ed Crenshaw, as he was away attending his father's funeral. Wright City jumped out to a big halftime lead, but then went cold in the second half as Joe Bradshaw, David Perkins, and Dale Martin all fouled out in the fourth quarter. Joe

Bradshaw led the Wildcats with 27 points, followed by Dale Martin 17, Gordon Ring 10, David Perkins 8, Wendell Meyer 7, Brad North 6, and Dale Perkins 1.

Next game - December 10. The #2-seeded Wildcats will attempt to defend their Wentzville Tournament championship with an opening game against the #7-seeded Wentzville Indians, who they easily defeated last Saturday.



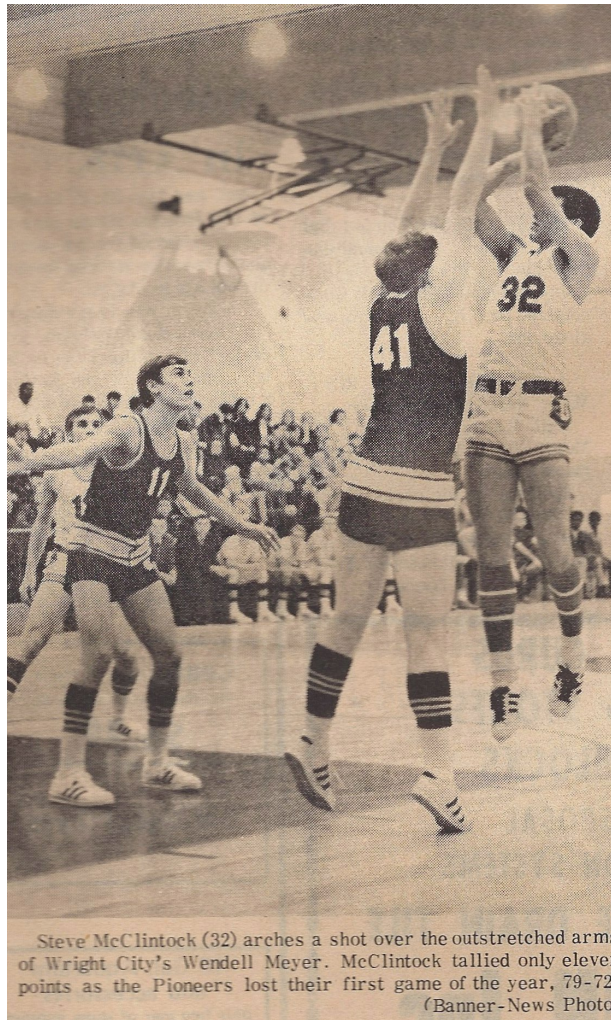
December 10, 1970 - Wentzville Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats opened defense of their Wentzville Tournament title with a fairly easy 69-58 win over the host Indians. Wright City led 38-24 at half and 56-32 after three quarters to cruise to the victory. Dale Martin pumped in 19 points for the Wildcats as they won their 8th game in 9 starts, followed by Joe Bradshaw's 18 and Gordon Ring scored 14. Wright City advances to the semifinal game tomorrow against Orchard Farm, who defeated Ft. Zumwalt 86-83. In the other first round games Duchesne defeated Winfield 61-48 and Valley Park nipped Jennings 57-56.

December 11, 1970 - Wentzville Tournament

The Orchard Farm Eagles stayed close for three quarters, but the Wright City Wildcats used hot shooting (29 of 58 from the field) to pull away in the fourth quarter for an 81-67 victory in the semifinal game of the Wentzville Tournament. The Wildcats will now face the the top-seeded Duchesne Pioneers in the final tomorrow night. Duchesne advanced to the final when the Valley Park Hawks dropped out of the tournament because of "discipline issues." The area's two leading scorers, Bob Weber of Orchard Farm (28 points a game) and Joe Bradshaw of Wright City (26 a game) were both held below their season averages. Dale Martin led the Wildcats with a season high 27 points, followed by Gordon Ring with 18, David Perkins 15, Joe Bradshaw 15, Brad North 4, and Wendell Meyer 3. Dave Daller led Orchard Farm with 23 and Bob Weber added 20.

December 12, 1970 - Wentzville Tournament



Steve McClintock (32) arches a shot over the outstretched arms of Wright City's Wendell Meyer. McClintock tallied only eleven points as the Pioneers lost their first game of the year, 79-72. (Banner-News Photo)

Playing in front of a noisy, pro-Wright City crowd, the Wildcats successfully defended their Wentzville Tournament title with an exciting 79-73 victory over the top-seeded Duchesne Pioneers. For the first time this season they trailed at halftime, but the Wildcats went on a 10-0 run early in the second half capped by 3 consecutive buckets by Brad North to tie the score. Wright City used their pressing defense and hot shooting to pull away to make their record 10-1 on the season. The Wildcats were led in scoring by Gordon Ring with a career-high 37 points (on 17-25 shooting from the field), followed by Joe Bradshaw with 18, Brad North 9, Dale Martin 6, Wendell Meyer 5, and David Perkins 4. The Pioneers were led by Tim Genz with 20 points. Two interesting stats on the night - Wright City shot 36-68 from the field (53%) while holding Duchesne to 29-79 (37%), but the Pioneers outrebounded the Wildcats 50-22!

Next game - December 18 at Silex

December 18, 1970

In a completely unmemorable game the Wright City Wildcats closed out the 1970 portion of their season with an 85-72 victory at Silex. Their record now stands at 11-1 as they break for Christmas.

Next game - 1971 opens with a big game at St. Dominic on January 5.

January 5, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats resumed play after the Christmas break by traveling to St. Dominic, where they were defeated by the Crusaders by a score of 77-61. The Wildcats had beaten the Crusaders at home, but St. Dominic's home court advantage was too much to overcome. WC's record now stands at 11-2 on the season.

Next game - Wright City hosts the Winfield Warriors for their Homecoming game on January 8.



January 8, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats posted an easy 86-49 victory over the Winfield Warriors. Wright City led by 9 at half and outscored Winfield 26-8 in the third quarter to put the game out of reach. The Wildcats were again led in scoring by Joe Bradshaw with 24 points, followed by Gordon Ring with 20, Brad North 18, Dale Martin 14, Wendell Meyer 4, and 2 each from David Perkins, Roger Held, and Nathan Lockett. Their record on the season is now 12-2. In halftime ceremonies Vickie Berry was crowned Homecoming Queen, and after the game music for the Homecoming Dance was provided by Joe and David Bradshaw's band.

Next games - January 15, Ft. Zumwalt and January 16, Orchard Farm, both at home.

January 15, 1971

Before the season started Coach Ritchie's Goal #1 was not to lose at home. That goal was not achieved, as the Wright City Wildcats lost to the visiting Ft. Zumwalt Panthers 78-77. Their record is now 12-3. It was the second loss to Ft. Zumwalt this season.

Next game - Tomorrow night the Orchard Farm Eagles visit Wright City.

January 16, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats responded to their loss the night before by erupting for 38 first quarter points on the way to a 111-83 victory over the visiting Orchard Farm Eagles, their highest point total of the season. The Wildcat press forced 41 Eagle turnovers. Five Wildcats scored in double figures - Dale Martin 23, Brad North 19, Gordon Ring 17, Joe Bradshaw 17 and David Perkins 16. Bobby Weber led Orchard Farm in scoring with 40 points, the highest total allowed by Wright City this season. The record is now 13-3.

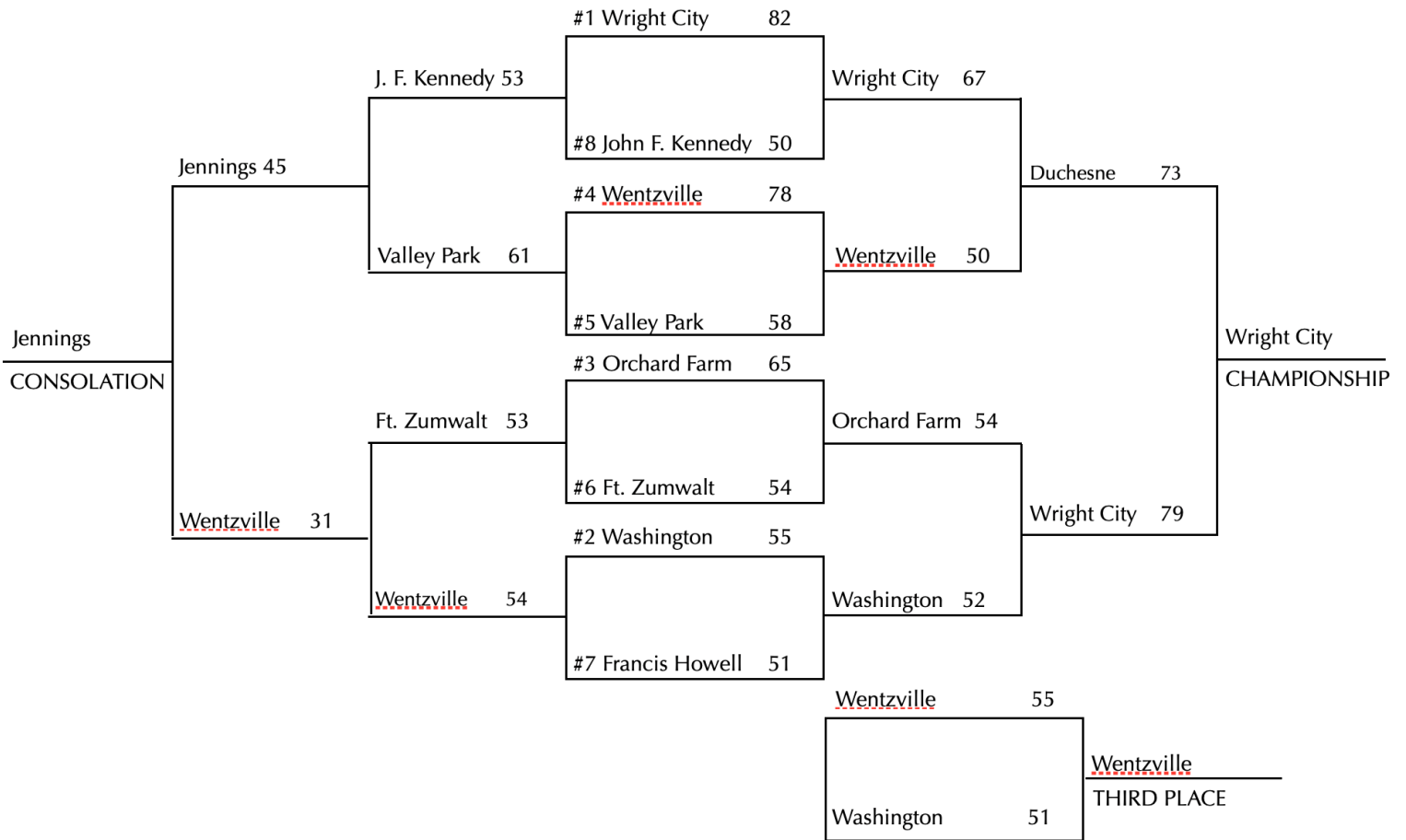
Next game - January 22 at home against North Callaway.

January 22, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats led 51-25 at halftime and cruised to an easy 83-71 victory over the visiting North Callaway Thunderbirds. Coach Ritchie was not pleased with their second half performance which allowed North Callaway to make the score as close as it was. The Wildcats were led in scoring by Joe Bradshaw with 23 points, followed by Gordon Ring with 22, Wendell Meyer 17, Brad North 9, Dale Martin 8, David Perkins 5, and Dale Perkins 2. Season record is now 14-3.

Next games - Wright City is the top seeded team in next week's Ft. Zumwalt Tournament, followed by #2 Washington Blue Jays, #3 Orchard Farm, and #4 Wentzville. The Wildcats play the John F. Kennedy Celts in the first round game on January 27.

1971 FT. ZUMWALT TOURNAMENT



January 27, 1971 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

Joe Bradshaw tied his career high with 39 points to lead the Wright City Wildcats to an easy 82-50 victory over the John F. Kennedy Celts in their first round matchup at the Ft. Zumwalt tournament. Joe's 39 points tied the Ft. Zumwalt all-time tournament single game scoring record. Wendell Meyer was the only other player to score double figures with 11, followed by Dale Martin with 8, Gordon Ring 6, David Perkins 6, Brad North 4, Roger Held 4, Dale Perkins 2, and Nathan Lockett 2.

Next game - Wright City (15-3) will meet the Wentzville Indians in the semifinal game on January 29. Wentzville, led by Jerry Wethington's 36 points, advanced to the semis with a 78-58 victory over Valley Park. The Wildcats have already defeated the Indians twice this season.

January 29, 1971 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

Wendell Meyer fulfilled his pre-game locker room prediction and led the Wright City Wildcats in scoring with 18 points as the Wildcats held off the Wentzville Indians 67-60 in the semifinal game of the Ft. Zumwalt Tournament. Meyer also pulled down 7 rebounds. Joe Bradshaw was held out of double figures for the first time this season with 9 points. Gordon Ring added 17, Dale Martin 11, Brad North 8, and David Perkins 4.

Next game - Wright City will take on Orchard Farm in tomorrow night's championship game. The #3 seeded Eagles upset the #2 seeded Washington Bluejays by a 54-52 score with the area's leading scorer Bobby Weber leading the way with 28 points, more than half of his team's total.

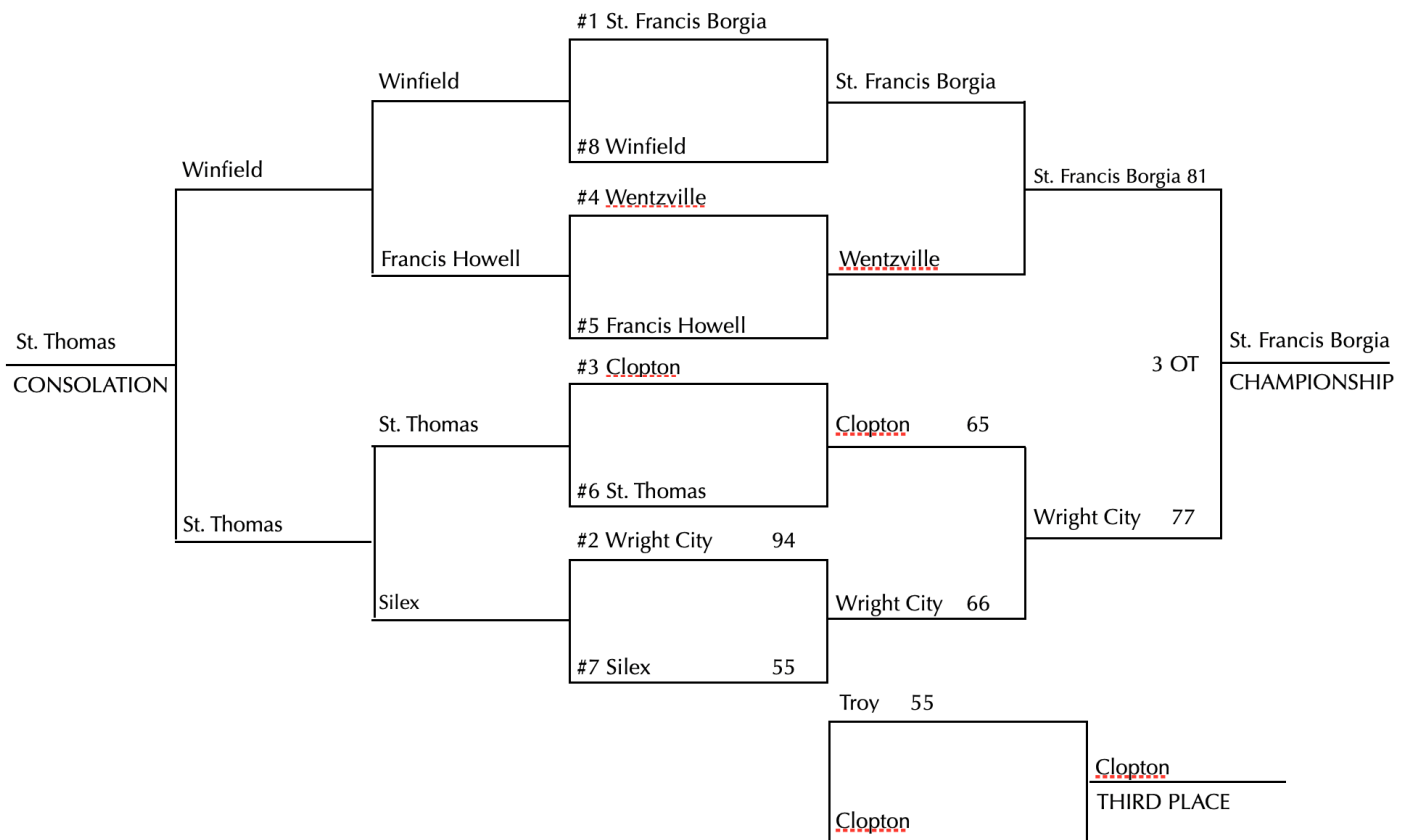
January 30, 1971 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats used a full court pressing defense to lead to a come-from-behind 80-75 victory over the Orchard Farm Eagles to claim the championship of the Ft. Zumwalt Tournament. The Wildcats trailed 40-29 at the half but rallied to the victory. Gordon Ring led a balanced scoring attack with 23 points. Dale Martin added 22, including 10-10 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter alone (and 21-21 in the three games of the tournament), and Joe Bradshaw had 21, David Perkins 9, and Wendell Meyer 5. Orchard Farm's Bobby Weber led all scorers with 36 points.

Next game - The Wildcats have a week off before they meet the Silex Owls in the opening round game of the 1st annual Troy Tournament on February 9. Wright City is the #2 seed behind the #1 St. Francis Borgia Knights. Clopton is seeded #3 and Troy #4.



1971 TROY TOURNAMENT



February 9, 1971 - Troy Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats took an easy 93-54 victory over the Silex Owls in the first round of the Troy Tournament. Joe Bradshaw led the balanced scoring with 23 points, followed by Brad North 18, Dale Martin 15, Gordon Ring 10, Wendell Meyer 9, Dale Perkins 7, Rodney Martin 6, Nathan Luckett 6, and Roger Held 2. Wright City led by 15 at half and widened the lead to as much as 39 in the second half. Coach Ritchie thinks that Silex might be trying to lull the Wildcats into a "false sense of security," because the two teams meet again in two weeks in the first round game of the Blair Oaks regional.

Next game - Up next is a semifinal matchup against Clopton on February 12.

February 12, 1971 - Troy Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats came from behind to score an exciting 66-65 victory over the Clopton Hawks in the semifinal game of the Troy Tournament. Wright City lead by 3 at half and there were numerous lead changes in the second half. With 6 seconds left and the Wildcats trailing by one, Brad North hit a a turn-around, fall-away, off-balance, line-drive jumper from the corner, which at its peak reached a height of 10'1"! Joe Bradshaw celebrated his birthday by leading the Wildcats with 23 points, followed by Dale Martin with 14, Wendell Meyer 12, Gordon Ring 10, Brad North 5 and David Perkins 2.

Next game - Tomorrow, February 13, 1971. The Wildcats will meet the top-seeded St. Francis Borgia Knights in the championship game. The Knights are led by forward Dave Piontek and point guard (and still current Borgia coach) Dave Neier.

February 13, 1971 - Troy Tournament

It took 41 minutes in front of a large, pro-WC crowd, but the St. Francis Borgia Knights finally defeated the Wildcats 81-77 in 3 overtimes to claim the first Troy Tourney title. Wright City used a man-to-man defense to lead 28-21 at half, but it got the Wildcats in foul trouble with Wendell Meyer with 4 fouls in the half and Joe Bradshaw and Brad North 3 each. They switched to a zone which allowed Borgia to get back into the game. Bradshaw and North both fouled out in the 4th quarter and regulation ended 63-63. Borgia scored in the final seconds of both the first and second overtimes to force another period where they went 8-8 from the line to

claim the victory. Bradshaw led the Wildcats with 25 points, followed by Dale Martin with 18, Gordon Ring 16, Meyer 9, North 7, and David Perkins 2. Bradshaw was the leading scorer in the tournament with 71 points over the three games.

Next game - Pre-season goal #3 can be reached on February 16 when they try for their 20th win at Wentzville.

February 16, 1971

Preseason goal #3 was reached when the Wright City Wildcats won their 20th game of the season, a fairly easy 71-56 victory at Wentzville. The Wildcats jumped to a 17-7 first quarter lead and held it throughout the game. Gordon Ring led Wright City with 19 points, Joe Bradshaw 18, Brad North 14 and Dale Martin 10. The Wildcats are #3 in the latest state Class S rankings.

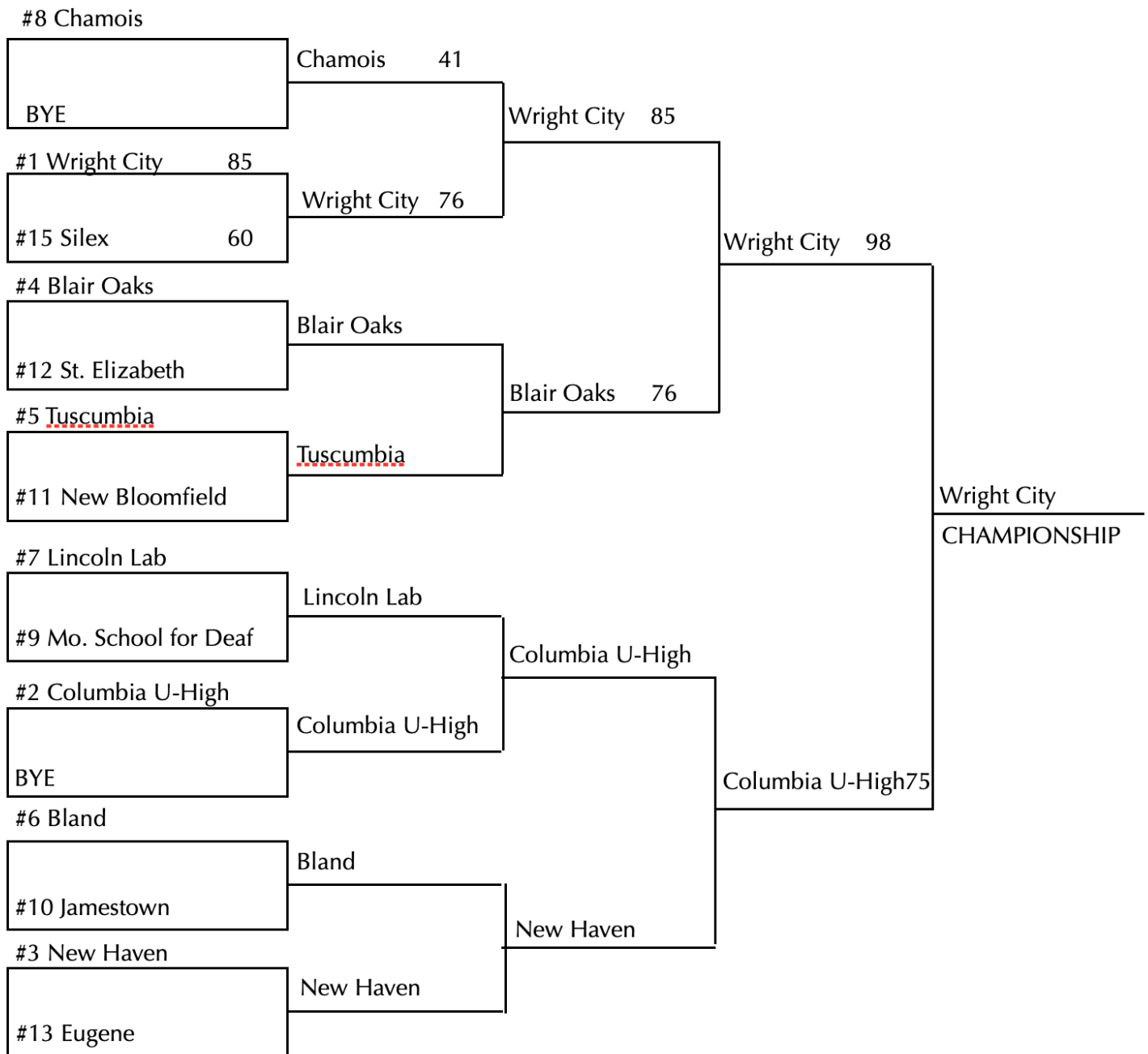
Next game - The regular season ends February 19 at Francis Howell.

February 19, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats jumped out to a 12-point first quarter lead, then held it the entire game as they took a 71-59 victory at Francis Howell. Gordon Ring led the Wildcats with 20 points. Joe Bradshaw, Wendell Meyer, and Rodney Martin played in their final home games on Senior Night. Their record at the end of the regular season stands at 21-4.

Next game - Wright City begins play as the top seed in the Blair Oaks regional on Monday against the Silex Owls. The game is a 6:00 pm start, so the team will leave school at 1:00 pm to make the 105 mile (each way) trip to the tournament site.

1971 BLAIR OAKS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT



February 22, 1971 - Blair Oaks Regional Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats took an easy 85-60 victory over the Silex Owls in the first round game of the Blair Oaks Regional Tournament. It was WC's fourth victory over Silex this season. The game tipped off at 6:00 pm, so the team left school at 1:00 pm for the 105 mile trip and stopped to eat at Gaspar's Truck Stop in Kingdom City before the game. Their record is now 22-4.

Next game - Quarterfinal matchup against Chamois on Feb. 24.

February 24, 1971 - Blair Oaks Regional Tournament

In a totally unmemorable game, the Wright City Wildcats defeated the Chamois Pirates 76-41 to advance to the semifinal game of the Blair Oaks regional. WC led 35-14 at half and cruised to the victory. Joe Bradshaw again led the Wildcats with 26 points, while Dale Martin was the only other player in double figures with 12. Wendell Meyer, Gordon Ring, and Brad North each added 8, David Perkins and Rodney Martin both had 6, and Dale Perkins 2. Wright City's record is now 23-4.

Next game - The Wildcats will meet the host Blair Oaks Falcons on Feb. 26. Led by 6'4" twin brothers Dan and Dennis Sandbothe, the #4 seeded Falcons have a record of 20-7 and defeated St. Elizabeth and Tuscumbia to reach the semis. Their coach, Chris Arands, is quoted in the newspaper saying, "To win we'll have to play a near perfect game for us. I don't think we can stop (Joe) Bradshaw. We'll just have to stop everybody else."

February 26, 1971 - Blair Oaks Regional Tournament

Despite Joe Bradshaw being held out of double figures for only the second time all season, the Wright City Wildcats held off the host Blair Oaks Falcons 85-76 to advance to the regional final. Wright City jumped out to a 20-12 lead after one quarter and held that lead throughout the game. Gordon Ring led the Wildcats with 30 points, followed by Dale Martin with 20, Wendell Meyer 16, Joe Bradshaw 9, Brad North 4, Roger Held 4, and David Perkins 2. Wright City shot 25-32 (78%) to hold onto the lead.

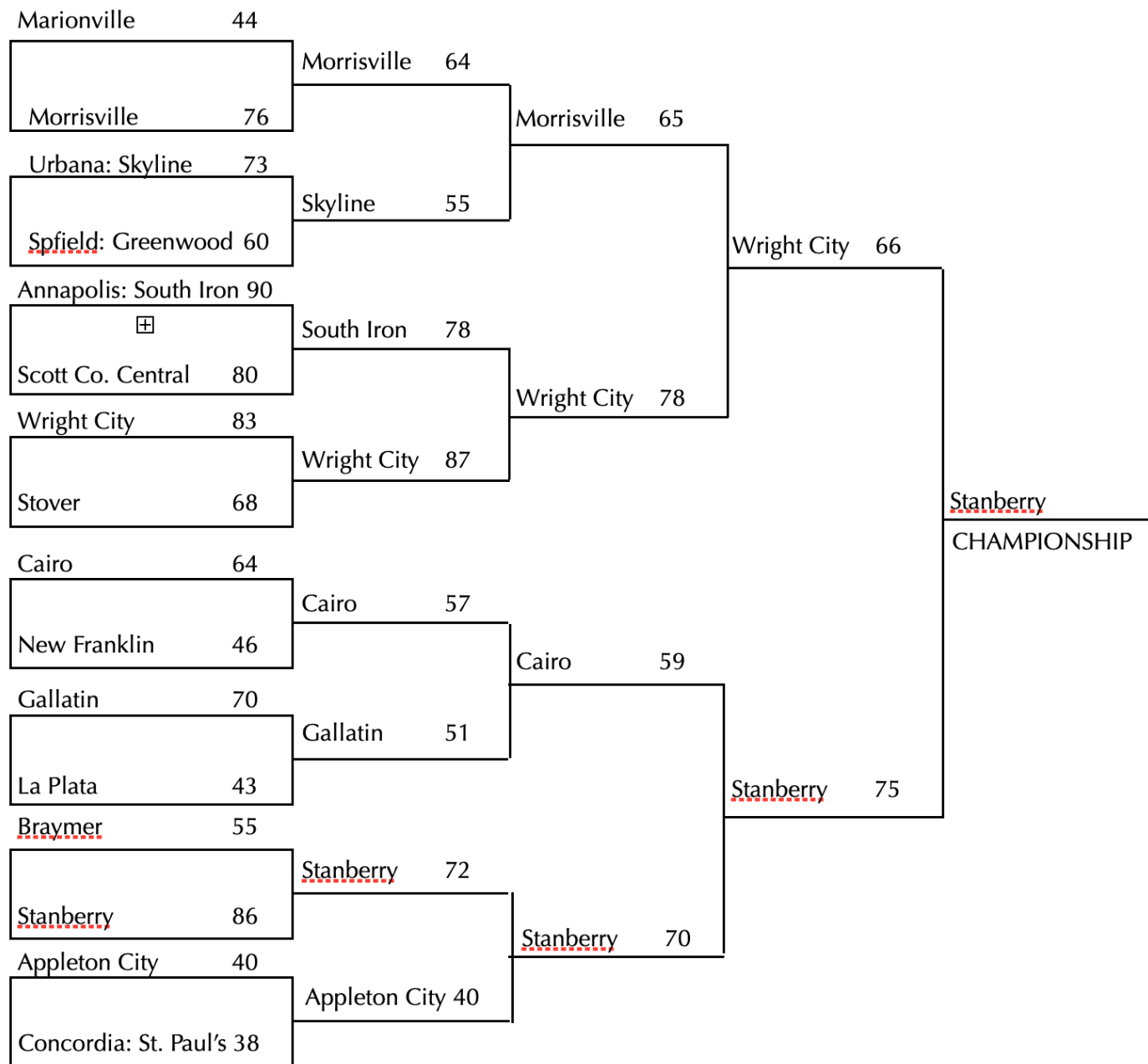
Next game - There will be a new Class S state champion as the defending champs, the New Haven Shamrocks, were upset by University High of Columbia 60-59. Wright City will meet U-High for the championship. Rather than making the 105 mile trip home, the Wildcats will stay in Jefferson City and tour the state capitol tomorrow.

February 27, 1971 - Blair Oaks Regional Tournament

Playing an almost perfect game the Wright City Wildcats cruised to a 98-75 victory over University High to claim the Blair Oaks regional title. The Wildcats entered the gym to a standing ovation from WC fans who had arrived 90 minutes before the game. The team heard radio reports all day saying that if U-High stopped Bradshaw, they would win. That plan did not work, as Joe scored 29 points including 13-13 from the line. Brad North, Dale Martin and Gordon Ring each added 18, Wendell Meyer 9, David Perkins 4, and Nathan Lockett 2. WC led 25-19 after one quarter and increased their lead at every quarter. The Wildcats committed only 5 turnovers despite being pressed most of the game. They shot 54% from the field and 35-40 (88%) from the line. Teams with those stats don't lose very often! Record is now 25-4, and they have moved up to the #2 spot in the state Class S rankings

Next game - The Wildcats travel to Tipton High School on March 1 to play the Stover Bulldogs (21-7), winners of the Lincoln regional

1971 CLASS S STATE TOURNAMENT



March 1 - State Tournament First Round

As has been their pattern all season, the Wright City Wildcats jumped out to a 27-11 first quarter lead and then cruised to a victory of the Stover Bulldogs in a first round state tournament game played at Tipton High School. Joe Bradshaw led the Wildcats with a double-double of 30 points and 11 rebounds. Gordon Ring and Dale Martin each added 14 points, Brad North 17, and Wendell Meyer 8 points and 8 rebounds. They continued their hot shooting from the free throw line with

26-30 (87%). Season record is now 26-4. Rick Stephens, a returning All-Stater from last season, led Stover with 27 points.

Next game - Wright City will travel down Highway 47 to Washington High School on March 3 to meet South Iron of Annapolis (20-8), who defeated Scott County Central 90-89 in their first round matchup. WC defeated South Iron in the state quarterfinals in 1966 on their way to their first state championship.

March 3, 1971 - State Tournament Quarterfinal

Once again, the Wright City Wildcats jumped out to a 13-2 lead, 25-15 at the quarter, then hung on the rest of the way to take an 87-78 victory over South Iron in the state quarterfinal game played at Washington High School. Gordon Ring led Wright City with 27 points, and Joe Bradshaw, despite spraining his wrist in practice the day before, added 19, Wendell Meyer 18, Dale Martin 11, Brad North 8, and David Perkins 6. The season record is now 27-4, including 15 wins in the last 16 games.

Next game - The Wildcats now head to University of Missouri-Rolla on March 5 for the Class S state semifinals, where they will take on #7 ranked Marion C. Early High School of Morrisville, who have a 26-5 record. The other two finalists are #1 Northeast High School of Cairo and #5 Stanberry.

March 5, 1971 - State Tournament Semifinal

Joe Bradshaw scored Wright City's first 11 points on his way to 27 for the game as the Wildcats defeated Morrisville by a 78-65 score in the state Class S semifinal matchup. Wright City led 16-9 after a quarter and 39-21 at half and cruised to the victory. Gordon Ring followed with 18 points, and Wendell Meyer added a double-double of 13 points, 11 rebounds. Dale Martin had 12, David Perkins 6, and Brad North 2. Their record now stands at 28-4. Coach Ritchie's goal #2 for the season has now been met, as the Wildcats are guaranteed to finish at least second in all tournaments.

Next game - Wright City will meet Stanberry in tomorrow's championship game. Stanberry upset top-ranked Cairo 70-59 in the other semifinal.

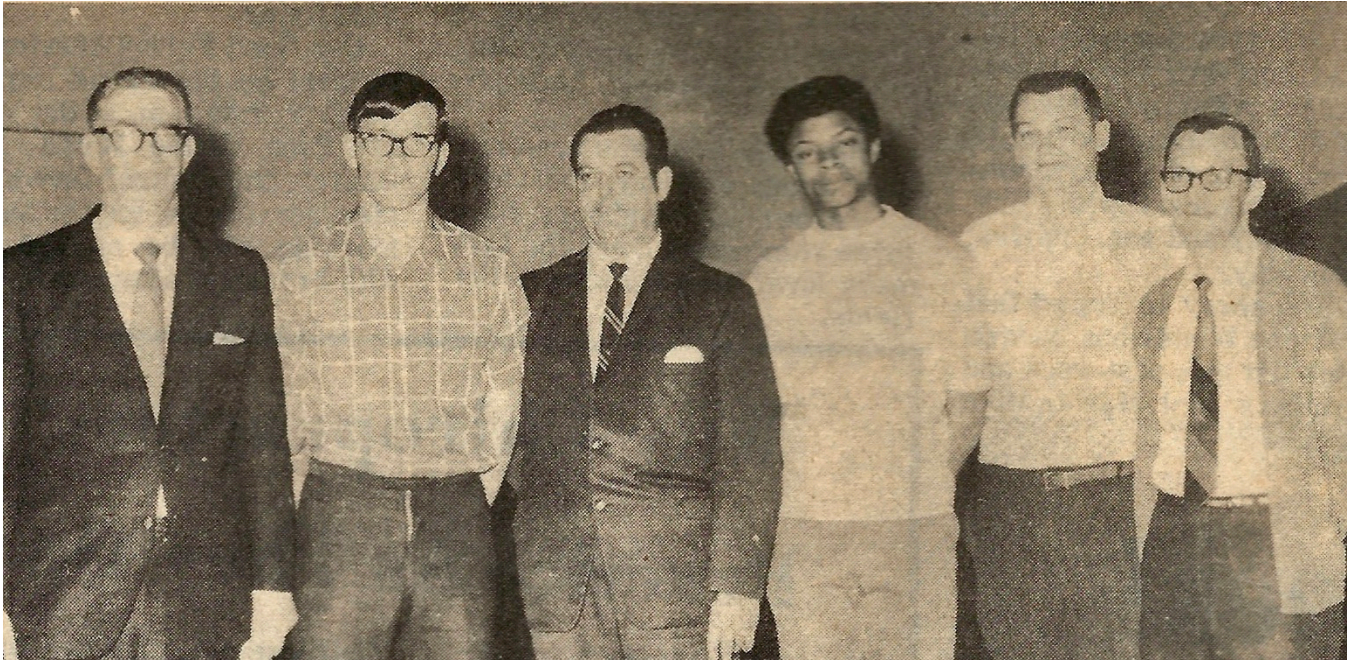
March 6, 1971 - State Tournament Final

The Wright City Wildcats, who relied on high scoring and hot shooting all season, saw their chance at a state title fall to a cold shooting first half, and were defeated 75-66 by Stanberry. WC shot only 16.4% in the first half, but still trailed only 26-22. Stanberry pulled away in the third quarter and held off a fourth quarter WC rally for the win. The Wildcats were led by Gordon Ring with 18 points and Wendell Meyer with 12 points, 10 rebounds. Joe Bradshaw, limited by a wrist injury, was held to 8 points, 12 rebounds. Dale Martin added 11, David Perkins 10, and Brad North 7. The Wildcats also received the Sportsmanship Award. WC ended the season with 2683 points in 33 games, an 81.3 average, which at the time was the 10th most points ever scored in a season in Missouri HS history, and the other 9 teams played more games. The final record was 28-5. Jerry James, who would be named to the All-State team, headed the Stanberry offense with 20 points, followed by Jim Donovan with 17.

Next game - The 1971-72 season opens November 12 at Silex.

March 7, 1971

The team arrived back at the school after fire and police trucks led a caravan from Warrenton back to Wright City. In a brief ceremony Superintendent Small, Mayor Cheney, and Coach Ritchie spoke to congratulate the team on their accomplishments on the court and for winning the Sportsmanship Trophy.



March 31, 1971

Albert (Squeaky) Marquart of the Missouri State Sports Writers Association made the announcement at an assembly at the high school that Joe Bradshaw had been named to the Class S All-State Basketball Team. The team is composed of ten players representing the more than 230 schools and over 2000 players in Class S. Gordon Ring received Honorable Mention on the All-State team.

April 12, 1971

The basketball players, managers, cheerleaders, scorekeeper, and coaches were honored with a banquet given by the Wright City Lions Club. 210 people attended the banquet celebrating the Wildcats successful season. The guest speaker was Ben Pitney, head coach at Hannibal-LaGrange College. Each player received an award from the Lions. Coach Ritchie presented three individual awards:

Most rebounds (230) - Joe Bradshaw

Best free throw percentage (80%) - Gordon Ring

Battling Wildcat Hustle Award - Dale Martin

1971-72 SEASON

October 1, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats opened practice today for the 1971-72 season where they hope to continue the winning ways from last season when they finished 28-5 and second place in Class S.

The Wildcats will miss the play of graduated seniors Joe Bradshaw (23 points, 7 rebounds a game) and Wendell Meyer (9 pts, 7 reb), but they return three starters in senior guards Dale Martin and Gordon Ring and forward Brad North. Three other seniors, Dale Perkins, David Perkins, and Roger Held return with two years of varsity experience each. Seniors Greg Smith and Nathan Lockett, juniors Don Copling and Gary Brandes, and freshman Max Mittler complete the roster.

The season opening game will be November 12 on the road against the Silex Owls.

ROSTER

NAME	YEAR	LT	DK	HEIGHT
Dale Martin	12	10	11	5'11"
Gary Brandes	11	12	13	5'10"
Brad North	12	14	15	6'2"
Nathan Lockett	12	20	21	5'9"
Dale Perkins	12	22	23	6'1"
Max Mittler	9	24	25	6'2"
David Perkins	12	30	31	6'1"
Brian North	12	32	33	5'10"
Gordon Ring	12	34	35	6'1"
Don Copling	11	40	41	6'4"
Roger Held	12	42	43	6'2"
Greg Smith	12	44	45	5'9"

MANAGER - Mark Warren

November 12, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats opened their 71-72 season with a convincing 71-34 victory on the road over the Silex Owls. The Wildcats jumped out to a 24-6 lead after one quarter and continued to build the lead all night. Gordon Ring led Wright City in scoring with 22 points, followed by Dale Martin with 20, Brad North 8, Dale Perkins 6, David Perkins 5, Max Mittler 5, Brian North 2, Gary Brandes 2, Nathan Lockett 2, and Roger Held 1.

Next game - November 16 at Valley Park

November 16, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats traveled to Valley Park for an easy 99-49 victory over the Hawks. WC led 20-11 after one quarter and doubled up on WP 46-23 at half. The Wildcats added a 53 point second half to cruise to the final score. Brad North led the way with 23 points and Dale Martin added 21. Gordon Ring with 18 and Roger Held with 12 both reached double figures, followed by David Perkins 7, Brian North 6, Nathan Lockett 6, Max Mittler 4, Don Copling 2, and Dale Perkins and Gary Brandes 1 each. The season record is now 2-0.

Next game - November 19 home opener against the Orchard Farm Eagles.

November 19, 1971

In front of a loud, enthusiastic home crowd the Wright City Wildcats jumped out to a 37-9 first quarter lead, expanded it to 61-24 at half, then coasted to a 96-59 victory over the Orchard Farm Eagles. Gordon Ring shot 10-10 from the floor for 20 points in the first quarter alone and finished with 28 on the night. Roger Held added 16, David Perkins 15, Dale Martin 14, Max Mittler 10, Dale Perkins 5, Brad North 3, and Nathan Lockett and Don Copling 2 each. The Wildcats are now 3-0 on the season and averaging 89 points a game.

Next game - November 23, Ft. Zumwalt Panthers come to town.

November 21, 1971

Remembering the two losses handed to them by Ft. Zumwalt last season, the Wright City Wildcats responded with a hard earned 59-55 victory over the Panthers. The Wildcats held a seemingly comfortable 34-21 lead at half, only to have the Panthers come back to make it close. Roger Held led Wright City with 17 points. Dale Martin added 16, David Perkins 14, Gordon Ring 6, Brad North 4, and Max Mittler 2. Don Nichols led Ft. Zumwalt with 15. Season record is now 4-0.

Next game - After the Thanksgiving break the Winfield Warriors visit on November 30.

November 30, 1971

The Winfield Warriors visited Wright City, where after a close first half the Wildcats exploded in the second half to take a 75-53 victory to run their record to 5-0 for the season. Gordon Ring led W.C. with 22 points, followed by Dale Martin with 17, Brad North 14, David Perkins 9, Roger Held 9, and Max Mittler 4. Tony Runge led the Warriors with 22 points.

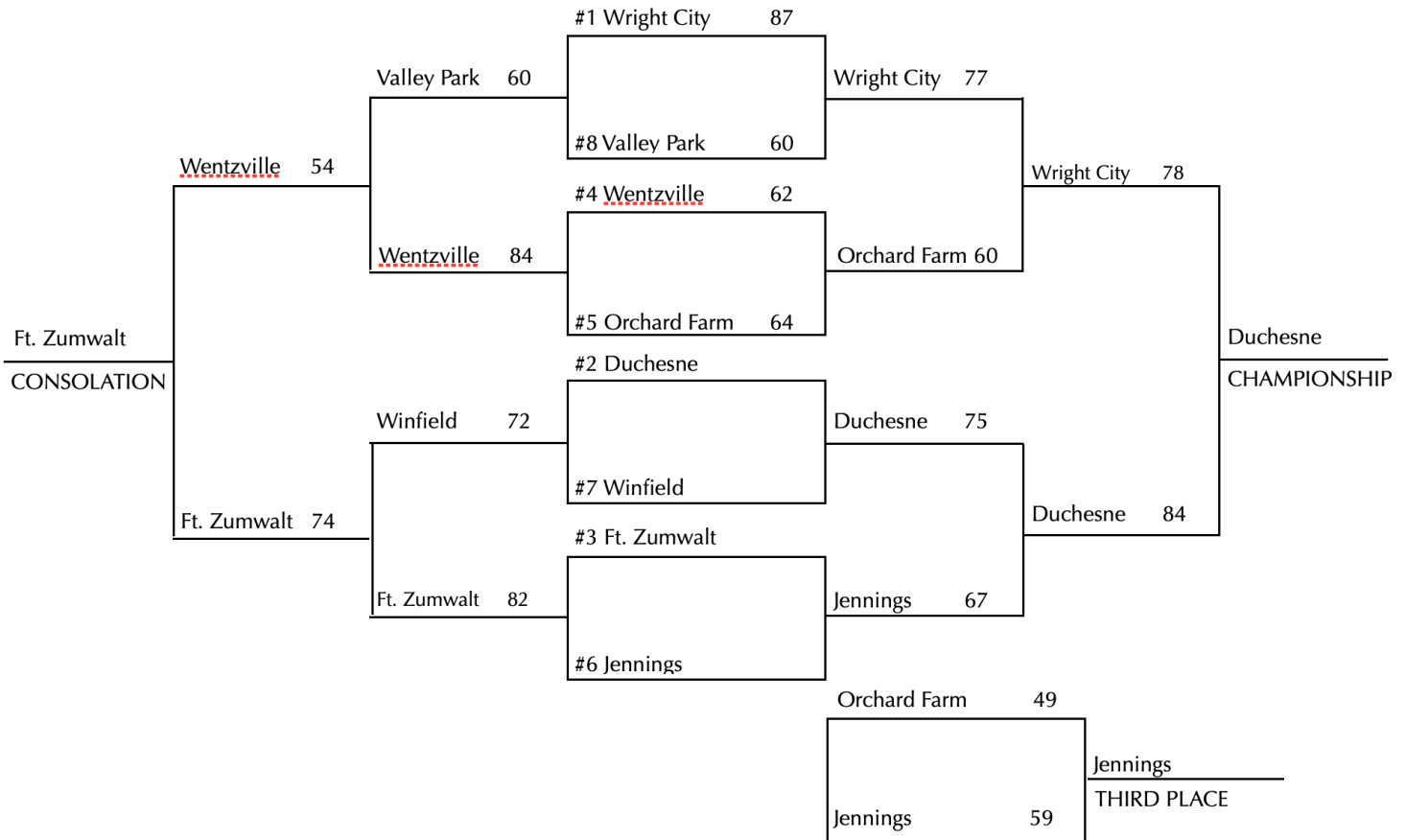
Next game - December 3. If you were to hear that the Wildcats went on the road for a game and had six players foul out, where would you guess that game was played??

December 3, 1971

In an exciting, well played game the Wildcats trailed St. Dominic 29-27 after one quarter, 57-51 at half, and 74-72 after three quarters, only to have 6 players foul out in the fourth. The Crusaders outscored Wright City 30-11 in that quarter leading to a 104-83 St. Dominic victory. Dale Martin led five Wildcats in double figures with 23 points. Gordon Ring had 14, Roger Held 12, Dale Perkins 11, David Perkins 10, Brad North 8, Max Mittler 4, and Gary Brandes 1. Marvin Kiel led St. Dominic with 31. It was the Wildcats first loss of the season with 5 wins.

Next game - The Wildcats are the #1 seed and will try to take their third straight Wentzville Tournament title. They play Valley Park in the first round on December 8.

1971 WENTZVILLE TOURNAMENT



December 8, 1971 - Wentzville Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats started their attempts toward a third straight Wentzville Tournament championship with an easy 87-60 victory over the Valley Park Hawks. WC placed five players in double figures as Gordon Ring had 17, Dale Martin, Roger Held, and Brad North each with 16, and Dale Perkins 10, Max Mittler 6, and Brian North 2. They will play the #5 seed Orchard Farm Eagles on Dec. 10. The Eagles upset #4 Wentzville 64-62 to reach the semifinals. Season record is now 6-1.

December 10, 1971 - Wentzville Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats moved one step closer to a third consecutive Wentzville Tournament title with a 77-60 victory over the Orchard Farm Eagles. Gordon Ring led the scoring with 31 points. Dale Martin added 18, David Perkins 13, Dale Perkins 6, Roger Held 4, Max Mittler 4, and Nathan Luckett 1. Season record is now 7-1. The Duchesne Pioneers defeated Jennings in the other semifinal game to set up a rematch of last year's championship game.

December 11, 1971 - Wentzville Tournament

A fourth quarter comeback fell short and the Wright City Wildcats' bid for a third straight Wentzville Tournament title was lost to the Duchesne Pioneers by a 84-78 score. The Wildcats trailed by 12 heading into the final quarter, but the rally was not enough. Dale Martin led 5 Wildcats in double figures with 16 points. Dale Perkins added 15, David Perkins 12, Brad North 11, Roger Held 10 and Max Mittler 8. Gordon Ring had 6, but left the game with an ankle injury in the third quarter. 6'8" center Tom Thoele led six Pioneers in double figures with 19. Duchesne outrebounded WC 60-33. The season record drops to 7-2.

Next game - The Silex Owls visit WC on December 17.

December 17, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats scored an easy victory over the visiting Silex Owls by a score of 96-72. Dale Martin again led five double figure scorers with 26 points, Brad North 20, Max Mittler 13, Dale Perkins 11, Brian North 10, and Roger Held 9, Nathan Luckett 4, and Greg Smith 3, to move the season record to 8-2.

Next game - Tomorrow night, December 18, Wright City travel to Troy to play the Buchanan Trojans.

December 18, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats suffered a loss to a tough Troy Trojan team by a score of 72-67. The Trojans led at every quarter break. Top scorer was Brad North with 21. Dale Perkins added 13, Dale Martin 10, Roger Held 9, David Perkins 8, Max Mittler 6, and Brian North 1. Their record for the season fell to 8-3.

Next game - The Wildcats close out the first half of their season on December 21 when the Valley Park Hawks visit.

December 21, 1971

The Wright City Wildcats led 28-10 after one quarter and used a 33 point third quarter to cruise to an easy 103-56 victory over the visiting Valley Park Hawks, their first 100 point game since January 16, 1971. Top scorer was Roger Held with 25 points, followed by Brad North with 18, David Perkins 13, Max Mittler 13, Dale Martin 12, Nathan Luckett 9, Dale Perkins 6, Brian North 2, Gary Brandes 2, and Greg Smith 1. The first half of the season closes out with a team record of 9-3.

Next game - The St. Dominic Crusaders visit on January 7 for the Homecoming Game.

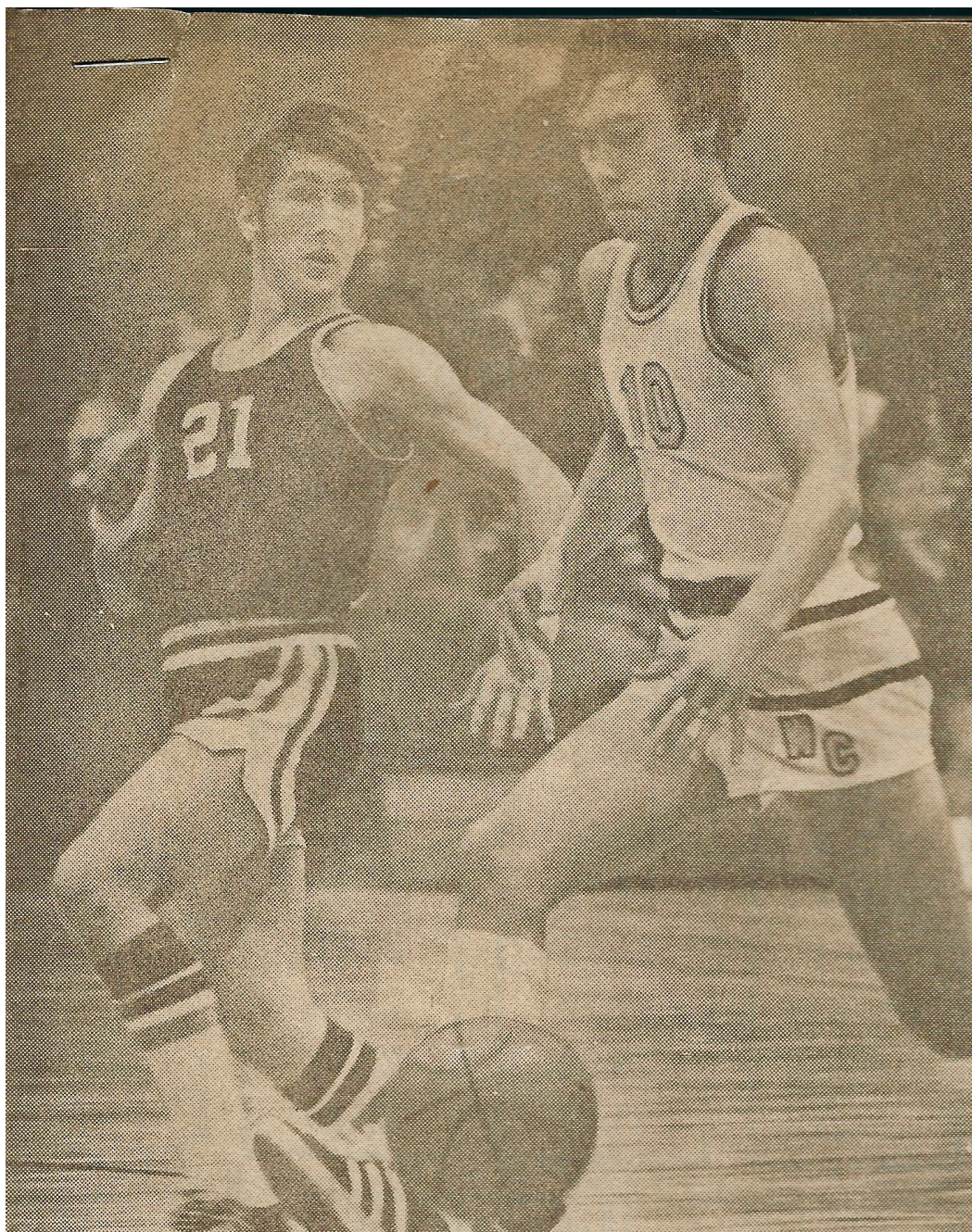
January 7, 1972



A hot shooting first half give the Wright City Wildcats a 36-30 halftime lead over St. Dominic, but the Crusaders rallied in the second half to take a 74-58 win in the Wildcats Homecoming game. Gordon Ring scored 26 for WC including his 1000th career point. Dale Martin added 17, David Perkins 7, Roger Held 6, and Brad North 2. At halftime Elaine Rose was crowned Homecoming queen. After the game,

music for the Homecoming dance was provided by the band "Us" featuring Randy Wright, Mike Herndon, Elaine Rose, Gordon Ring, Gary Brandes and Dale Martin.

Next game - January 11 at Orchard Farm



January 11, 1972

The Wright City Wildcats improved their season record to 10-4 with an easy 91-57 victory at Orchard Farm. Dale Martin led WC with 30 points, and Gordon Ring 20, Max Mittler 15, and Roger Held all reached double figures. David Perkins and Gary Brandes each added 6, and Dale Perkins 3 and Brian North 2. After the game the team bus broke down, forcing everyone - players, coaches, managers, cheerleaders, pep club to cram into one bus for the ride home - boys on one side of the aisle, girls on the other.

Next game - At Wentzville on January 14. The Wildcats are the #1 seed in next week's Ft. Zumwalt tournament where they will attempt to defend their title.

January 14, 1972

It was ugly!! With 2 starters, Roger Held and David Perkins, out with the flu, Wright City was trounced by the Wentzville Indians 81-48, the Wildcats' lowest point total since January 1970. WC could not get anything going offensively, trailing 36-21 at half, and allowed Wentzville to shoot 60% from the field. Gordon Ring led WC with 13 points. Dale Martin and Brad North each added 11 and Max Mittler 6 in his first varsity start. Dale Perkins and Brian North each had 4, and Greg Smith 1. Neal Menscher led the Indians with 27 points. The season record is now 10-5.

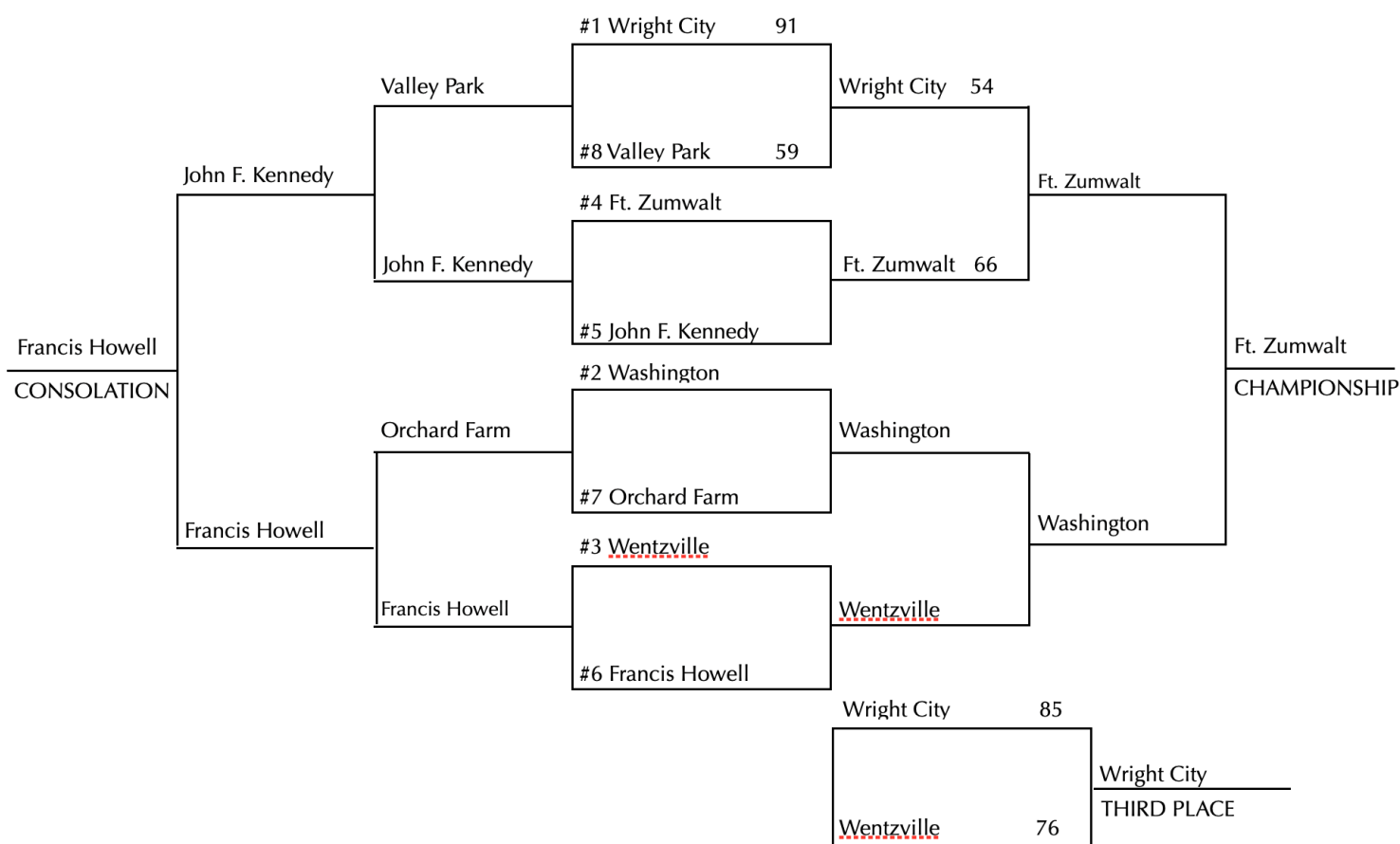
Next game - January 18 at Winfield.

January 18, 1972

The Wright City Wildcats used some strong fourth-quarter free throw shooting to defeat an improved Winfield team 79-77, as several Warriors fouled out in the game. Dale Martin led the Wildcats with 28 points followed by Gordon Ring with 20, David Perkins 10, Brad North 8, Roger Held 6, Max Mittler 4, and Dale Perkins 3. Season record is now 11-5.

Next game - January 26, WC is the #1 seed in the Ft. Zumwalt tournament and meet Valley Park in the first round.

1972 FT. ZUMWALT TOURNAMENT



January 26, 1972 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

Opening the defense of their Ft. Zumwalt tournament championship, the Wright City Wildcats began with an easy 91-59 victory over Valley Park. WC led 42-14 at half and cruised from there. High scorer was Dale Martin with 21 points. Gordon Ring had 18, Brad North 12, David Perkins 10, Max Mittler 8, Dale Perkins 5, Gary Brandes 4, and Greg Smith, Don Copling, and Nathan Luckett 2 each. The season record is now 12-5. The Wildcats will meet #4 seed Ft. Zumwalt in the semifinals.

January 29, 1972 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

In a game delayed a night by a snow storm, the Wright City Wildcats suffered a disappointing 66-54 defeat at the hands of the Ft. Zumwalt Panthers in the semifinal of the Zumwalt tournament. WC could only manage to score 19 first half points, trailing by 8, and could not rally in the second half. Dale Martin led the Wildcats

with 17 points. David Perkins added 14, Gordon Ring 7 (and fouled out in the third quarter), Max Mittler 6, Dale Perkins 5, Brad North 3, and Roger Held 2. Their record fell to 12-6 on the season. Wright City will now face Wentzville in the third place game tomorrow night.

January 31, 1972 - Ft. Zumwalt Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats responded to their semifinal loss with a strong performance to defeat the Wentzville Indians in the third place game of the Ft. Zumwalt tournament by a 85-76 score. Wentzville led 44-43 at half, but WC outscored them 27-12 in the third quarter to pull ahead. Gordon Ring led all scorers with 28 points, followed by Roger Held with 18, Dale Martin 16, Brad North 6, David Perkins 10, Dale Perkins 5, and Max Mittler 2. WC had lost to Wentzville by 33 points just 2 weeks ago! The season record is now 13-6.

Next game - Due to the tournament delay because of the snow storm, the Wildcats return to Ft. Zumwalt tomorrow night for a regular season game. WC hopes to avenge their semifinal loss to the Panthers also.

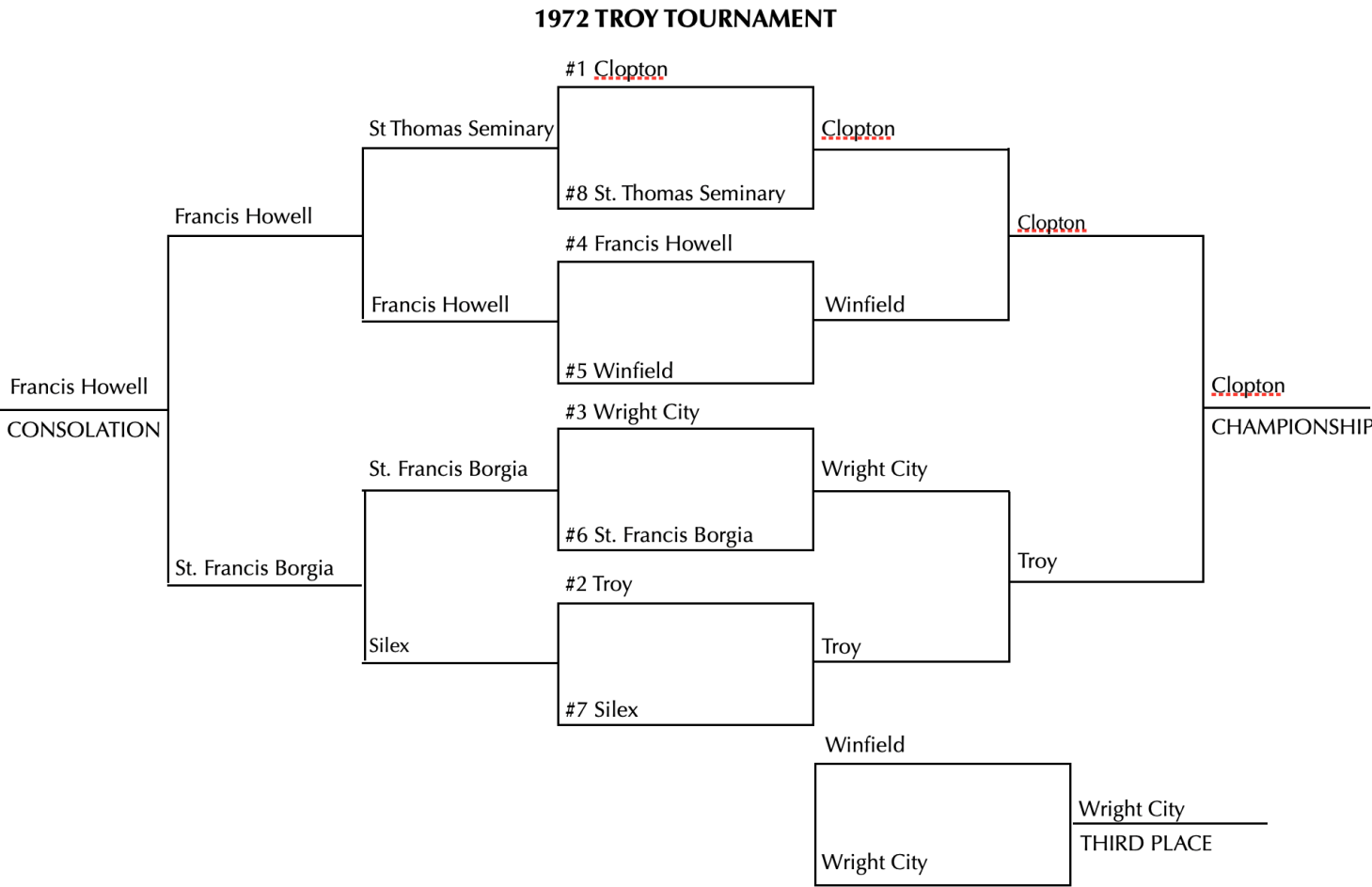


Brad North holds the third place trophy.

February 1, 1972

Wright City and Ft. Zumwalt met for the second time in 4 days as the Panthers had easily defeated the Wildcats in the first game. This time was different, as WC jumped out to a 25-9 first quarter lead and held on for a 90-73 victory. Dale Martin 22, Gordon Ring 22, and Roger Held 20 combined for 64 points to lead the Wildcats. Brad North added 9, David Perkins 7, Max Mittler 6, and Dale Perkins 4. The season record is now 14-6. An article appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch noting that WC was ranked 8th in the state in Class S and had been very competitive playing against the tough competition of Class M and L schools. Coach Ritchie was quoted, "We're starting to play pretty well."

Next game - WC meets St Francis Borgia in the first round of the Troy Tournament on February 8, a game that will be a rematch of last year's Troy Tournament final. The Wildcats are the #3 seed behind Clopton and Troy.



February 8, 1972 - Troy Tournament

In a rematch of the 1971 Troy Tournament championship game, the Wright City Wildcats defeated the St. Francis Borgia Knights 53-51 in a tight defensive battle. The game was close throughout as WC led 27-26 at half and 44-43 after 3 quarters. Dale Martin led the scoring with 21. Brad North added 11, Gordon Ring 10, Max Mittler 7, and Roger Held 4. The season record is now 15-6. WC will now meet the #2 seed Troy Trojans in semifinal game on Feb. 11.

February 11, 1972 - Troy Tournament

For the second time this season the Wright City Wildcats fell to the Troy Trojans, this time by a 61-56 score in the semifinal of the Troy tournament. WC led 30-25 at half but couldn't hang on. Roger Held led the scoring with 14, Dale Martin 13, David Perkins 12, Gordon Ring 8, Brad North 6, Max Mittler 2, and Dale Perkins 1. The season record is now 14-7. They will now meet the Winfield Warriors in the third place game tomorrow night. WC has not lost to Winfield since 1969.

February 12, 1972 - Troy Tournament

The Wright City Wildcats held off the Winfield Warriors to take a 76-71 victory and the third place trophy in the Troy Tournament. Max Mittler came off the bench to lead the Wildcats with his season-high 25 points. Roger Held had 21 and Dale Martin added 16, Brad North 6, David Perkins 5, and Gordon Ring had more fouls (5) than points (3). The season record is now 15-7.

Next game - The regular season ends with home games against Wentzville on February 15 and Francis Howell on February 18. The following week WC is the #2 seed in the Chamois regional behind #1 seed Tuscumbia.

February 15, 1972

David Perkins equalled his career high of 30 points to lead the Wright City Wildcats to a 81-68 victory over the Wentzville Indians. WC trailed 39-37 at half but rallied to outscore the Indians 26-15 in the fourth quarter to take the victory. Roger Held added 20 points, Gordon Ring 14, Dale Martin 10, Brad North 5, Max Mittler 4, and Dale Perkins 2. The Wildcats record is 11-1 against Wentzville over the last 3 seasons, and the season record is now 16-7.

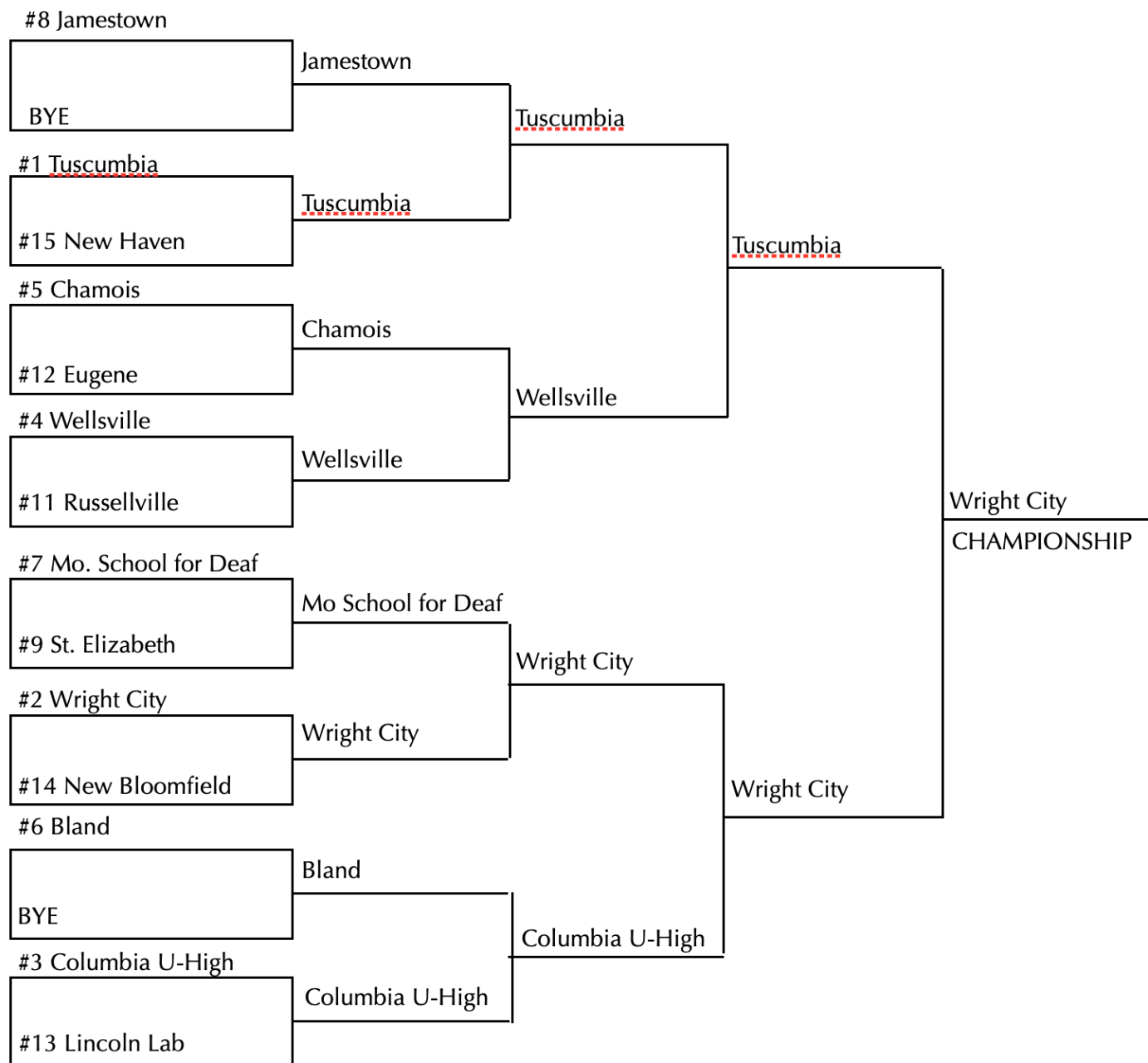
Next game - The regular season ends Feb. 18 when Francis Howell visits WC for Senior Night.

February 18, 1972

Eight seniors - Roger Held, Nathan Lockett, Dale Martin, Brad North, Dale Perkins, David Perkins, Gordon Ring, and Greg Smith - played their last home game as the Wright City Wildcats easily defeated the Francis Howell Vikings 76-57. WC outscored FH in every quarter to take the victory. Dale Martin led the Wildcats with 24 points. Roger Held added 18, Gordon Ring 16, Brad North 9, David Perkins 7, and Max Mittler 2. Alfredia Cohen and Diane Groeper cheered their last home game and Karen Schriener scored what turned out to be the last home game in the "old" gym.

Next game - WC is seeded #2 behind Tuscumbia and starts play in the Chamois regional February 21. Admission is \$1.00 for adults and \$0.75 for students.

1972 CHAMOIS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT



February 21, 1972 - Chamois Regional

The Wright City Wildcats opened the Chamois regional with an easy, 100-43 victory over New Bloomfield in which every player on the roster scored. Dale Martin led with 18 points, followed by David Perkins with 13, Gordon Ring 12, Dale Perkins 11, Brad North 10, Max Mittler 9, Roger Held 8, Greg Smith 6, Nathan Luckett 5, Don Copling 4, Sam Park 3, and Gary Brandes 1. WC led 25-10 after a quarter, 53-19 at half, and were never challenged. WC has now on a 4 game winning streak and the season record is 19-7.

Next game - A quarter-final matchup against Missouri School for the Deaf on February 23.

Feb. 23, 1972 - Chamois Regional

The Wright City Wildcats' full court press overcame the height advantage of Missouri School for the Deaf as WC took a 86-59 victory for their 20th win of the season. The Wildcats led 47-19 at half and cruised to the win. Dale Martin led the way with 21 points. Brad North added 20, Max Mittler 12, David Perkins 10, Roger Held 10, Dale Perkins 7, and Gordon Ring 6. Wright City now faces the University High Cubs in the regional semifinal game on February 25. WC dominated the Cubs in the 1971 regional final, so U-High will be out to even the score.

February 25, 1972 - Chamois Regional

The Wright City Wildcats used a tough full court press to blow open a tight game (41-39 at half) and advance to the final of the Chamois regional with a 91-72 victory over the University High Cubs. Dale Martin led WC with a career high 34 points. Gordon Ring added 18, Brad North 17, Roger Held 12, David Perkins 9, and Dale Perkins 2. Tres Mitchell of U High scored 46, the most points allowed to an opponent this season. The seeds have gone as predicted, as WC now meets #1 Tuscumbia in tomorrow night's final.

February 26, 1972 - Chamois Regional

Dale Martin's 27 points, 15-18 from the free throw line, led a balanced Wright City scoring attack as the Wildcats captured the Chamois regional championship with a 78-73 upset victory over the top seeded Tuscumbia Lions. Four other Wildcats scored in double figures with Roger Held adding 15, Brad North 14, David Perkins 12, and Gordon Ring 10. Dale Perkins had 1 point. WC led by 11 at half and held off the Lions in a very tight game. Midway through the fourth quarter Tuscumbia's Kenny Wyrick gave Dale Martin a two-hand shove into the wall padding behind the basket, adding even more tension to the already tense atmosphere, but the Wildcats were able to hang on for the victory. The WC season record now stands at 22-7 while Tuscumbia ended at 24-5.

Next game - The Wildcats now move on to the state tournament for the second straight year on February 28 when they travel to Tipton High School to meet the LaMonte Vikings.

February 28, 1972 - State Tournament First Round

The Wright City Wildcats used a height advantage and balanced scoring to take a 70-64 victory over a short, quick Lamonte Vikings team in the state tournament first round game played at Tipton High School. Dale Martin led the way with 26 points, while Roger Held added 19, Gordon Ring 15, Brad North 4, Dale Perkins 4, and David Perkins 2. Buggar Bennett led Lamonte with 17 points. Their record on the season is now 23-7 and they have won 8 in a row. The Wildcats are ranked #7 in the state in the latest poll.

Next game - Their next opponent will be the #8 ranked Advance Hornets who come in with a 24-5 record. The game will be played at New Haven High School.

March 1, 1972 - State Tournament Quarterfinal

"They were the best team we played all year," said Coach Ritchie after Wright City fell to Advance 84-78 in the state quarterfinal game. Advance threatened to blow out WC leading 49-36 at half, but the Wildcats rallied and had 3 chances to tie the game in the final 30 seconds, only to fall short. Advance went on to win the state Class S championship.

WC ended the season with a 23-8 record, 51-13 over the past 2 seasons. Gordon Ring led with 28 points, giving him 1310 for his career, #4 all-time at WCHS, and was a Honorable Mention All-State selection. Dale Martin ended his career at #8 all-time with 1191, and was a unanimous All-State selection. Max Mittler went on to score 2043, #1 on the all-time list.



April 3, 1972

Again this season the Wildcats were honored by the Wright City Lions Club with a banquet and awards ceremony. After a dinner provided by the cafeteria personnel, the guest speaker was Mr. Gene Hall, head basketball coach at Hannibal High School. Each player received a trophy marking their season and advancing to the season tournament quarterfinals. Coach Ritchie presented the individual awards:

Most rebounds - Roger Held

Best free throw percentage - Gordon Ring (3rd consecutive year)

Battling Wildcat Hustle award - Dale Martin (2nd consecutive year)

It was a great run! Thanks for reading all of these posts.

SOURCES

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