

YEARS OF THE DRAGONS: ARGOS AND THE SPIRIT OF 76

Written by Rob Hunter



Bruce Grossman drives against a Rochester defender at the 1978 Elkhart Regional. Argos defeated the Zebras, 49-43. Photo courtesy of The South Bend Tribune.

"I've never seen anything like them before, and I've never seen anything like them since." - Gene Snyder ('56), retired coach and athletics director at Argos High School, speaking about the unselfish play of the Spirit of 76 basketball teams.

Of course you remember. How can you ever forget?

You saw them play at the State Finals, many of you in person. The players and coaches have aged, like the rest of us, and some of them no longer live

in Marshall County. But their town remains, as does their school. If you love Indiana basketball, visit the town; see the school. Even if it means an overnight, experience Argos. Broad, tree-lined Michigan Street runs north and south past the kind of large, solid homes one imagines retired farmers living in, where cool, dark cellars house Ball jars of meticulously canned preserves, tomatoes, green beans and sweet corn. (A Model-T chugging in from the north would not look out of place.) Some of the storefronts are empty; one of them housed Grandma's Kitchen, the go-to place in Argos after the basketball Dragons made it famous. It's the kind of town to which heroes - and heroines - return, and they do. This is more than a story about basketball. This is a story about community. It's also a story about brothers, five sets of them: the O'Dells (Bill and Don), the Jenningses (Doug and Scott), the Malones (Mike and Mark), the Davises (Terry and Steve), and the Edmondses (Kip and Kim). Read on. Enjoy what they and their teammates accomplished.

More than forty years have passed, but the Spirit of 76 remains close to the heart, and the ear. A snippet of radio broadcast is preserved on YouTube. One can listen but don't expect to comprehend every word, for Plymouth broadcaster Rick Derf was too excited to enunciate

clearly, and over 9,000 fans at the Allen County Coliseum hooted and roared around him. Remember? The date was Saturday night, March 17, 1979, and the Argos/Marion championship game of the Ft. Wayne Semistate was down to the final eight seconds, Argos with possession and down by a point. What one hears is this: "Don O'Dell in to Mark Malone. . . seven seconds (to go). . . crosses the timeline, five seconds (to go). . . feeds in to Bill O'Dell, . . . the shot is up, . . . he shoots, misses, . . . (unintelligible, Derf's words are drowned out by intense cheering and his own excitement), . . . (Derf says something about a 'tip-in'), . . . Argos wins the semistate!"

Argos center Bill O'Dell followed his errant 10-footer, scored the game winner at the horn, and for the first time since 1975 a small school (enrollment 271) had thumped, bumped and swished its way into the Final Four. "The bounce just went my way," O'Dell told Dave Benner of *The Indianapolis Star*. Repeated viewings of the game's final possession shows great restraint on the part of Giant defenders - arms outstretched but no reach-ins -- and precise timing by O'Dell. He alone of the players beneath the basket went up for the carom at exactly the right time, exactly the right place. "He came out of nowhere," says a post on Facebook ("That's pretty much the view we had!" says O'Dell's brother, Don), and Coach Phil Weybright's Dragons, sporting a classy 28-0 record, had a date in Indianapolis.



Bill O'Dell opens fire against Marion's Morris Ticen at the 1979 Plymouth Sectional.

"This was a band of smart kids to go along with the talented blessings that they possessed" says Derf. "They were sharp and quick to perceive. I had the pleasure of watching them play many times and interviewed their coaches often on my 'Coaches Corner' radio program on Saturday mornings. Coaches Weybright and Zumbaugh had this band of Dragons well conditioned and prepared, and the guards were extremely quick and read passes and dribbles better than most."

You can see them, can't you? Imagine players who are fast and smart, players who have decent if not overpowering size; players who have played together so long that their reactions have evolved into pure instinct.



Imagine that the tallest player is also a good perimeter shooter, and that the team blazes away from the field at better than 50 percent. (Don't even think about putting them on the line.) Imagine that an opponent can shoot 60 percent from the field, outrebound them by 12, and still lose by 14. (Yes, that really happened, versus Tippecanoe Valley in '79.) When you run with them, they beat you. When you reduce tempo it's the same result. You say you lost to them by 20? Cheer up. Their average winning margin was 24. Finally, imagine that individual glory matters less to them than team success. If you can process all of that, well, you're getting warm.

Hoosiers who knew high school hoops knew Argos after 1979. Indeed, the heroics of that year threatens to run away with the story. But that team represented just the first of three consecutive unbeaten seasons - the first school in Indiana history to do that, incidentally - less than one third of a five-season steamroller that included 4 Bi-County championships, 4 sectional championships, 1 regional championship, 1 semistate championship, and set an IHSAA record of 76 consecutive regular season wins. At the dawn of the 1980's, Argos was the perennial People's Choice, the ultimate Cinderella. Statewide attention? Bigger. They drew national attention.

"We had good players," Weybright says modestly, indeed, dozens of them, commencing in the mid-70's.

One of them, Dave Calhoun ('80), remarks, "A lot of times we played better competition in practice than we did in the games. We were that deep." Just as Putnam County seemed the epicenter of basketball in 1966 and '67, Marshall County - with the consecutive successes of Argos and Plymouth - had the magic touch more than a decade later. "Those Argos teams were not flukes. They were that good," says Earl Mishler, retired sportswriter for The South Bend Tribune. "I think I enjoyed watching them play as much as any teams in my career, along with the '82 Plymouth club."

And seventy-nine wasn't the first time Dragon athletics made headlines. An Argos girls' team - yes, the girls' team - was state basketball runner-up in 1929, and the school was one of Indiana's first to field a soccer team, a multiple champion of the day so far ahead of the parade that they were practically marching alone. The in-

terrelationship of the sports was clear to the athletes. As Mike Scheetz ('81) observed, pointing to a soccer banner on the wall of Weybright Gym, "It all began right there." To say that the players were well-conditioned for basketball is an understatement.

"I hope my teammates told you that we began the soccer season Monday morning, running 20 miles per day, for 5 days, plus wind sprints," Mark Malone ('79) recalls. "We didn't even see a soccer ball until we completed 100 miles on Friday afternoon. We were undefeated, state soccer champions that (1978) season. We all returned from Indianapolis that fall Saturday night and started basketball practice the next Monday."



Mark Malone (23) gathers in a loose ball at the 1979 Plymouth Sectional versus Bremen. Dave Calhoun is in the foreground, along with Don O'Dell (45) and Bill O'Dell. Photo by Ron Ryback

The win streak had begun the previous winter, specifically on February 4, when the Dragons edged LaVille at home, 58-57. (The Lancers were dangerous adversaries, as we shall see.) Prior to that, Argos fans had been, in Mishler's words, "long suffering." But that began to change when coach and physical education teacher Phil Weybright assumed the varsity job in 1972. Weybright was used to winning: The three New Paris (Elkhart County) teams he played for won 60 games against 9 defeats, going undefeated on a home court that looked like Knightstown's Hoosier Gym. His assistant was social studies teacher Lee Zumbaugh, a fortuitous choice: Weybright specialized in of-

fense, Zumbaugh was in charge of D. Says Doug Jennings ('80), "Coach Zumbaugh was an excellent defensive coach. We had an active 2-3 zone and our team quickness was good, and we were very fundamentally sound in our man-to-man defense. Plus we mixed up our defenses a lot with full court and half court traps, which helped to make up for our lack of size on defense." He adds, "Our Logansport girl's basketball team used Coach Weybright's offense quite a bit. We even called it 'Argos.'"

The 1977-78 starting lineup evolved into a hodgepodge of established and up-and-coming talent. After the third game, Weybright went with a forward-looking lineup that included seniors Bruce Grossman and Dale Prochno, junior Bill O'Dell, and sophomores Doug Jennings and Don O'Dell. Seniors Tim Castle and Mike Malone were first off the bench. "I thought we would



have a good team in 77-78 because we had the ball handler in Bruce, and Bill was coming back after a good sophomore season," Weybright recalls. "But Prochno was not a scorer and we needed some more scorers. Fortunately, Don O'Dell and Doug Jennings just kept getting better and better as the year went on. Dale Prochno became a rebounding and defensive whiz and we were tough to stop. Nobody could press us as Bruce was so elusive and good at getting the ball where it needed to go."

The contribution of the O'Dell brothers was huge. Says Weybright, "When it comes to talking about the O'Dell boys, I have nothing but good things to say about them. Bill was loaded with athletic talent in all sports. He was just a natural. He would practice well, but things came fairly easy to him. Don was a very good athlete also, but he was feisty and would not back down to anyone. He did not have the physical skills of Bill, but he would compete with anyone from basketball practice to PE class to games. It made no difference, he was going to win, or if not, he would battle until the end. He and Bruce were probably my fiercest competitors, and it was in all sports, not just basketball."

This chemistry won eight of the season's first nine games, including a 73-54 thumping of South Bend Clay, one of the few instances of over-scheduling that occurred during the period. Grossman remembers that game. "This was the first time, to my knowledge, that Argos played a South Bend team," he says. "They came to Argos and we were going to go up there the next year. After we beat them by 19 points they wanted nothing to do with us. That win was a big boost to our confidence." Big enough to carry them to four more wins before senior-laden Bremen sidelined them by a deuce. But the Dragons picked themselves up and earned the school's first Bi-County Tourney championship, three straight wins including a satisfying 57-49 victory over Bremen in the championship. They took an 18-3 record into the Plymouth Sectional and emerged with the school's first title, again versus Bremen.

"Constantly penetrating against the Bremen man-to-man defense," Mishler wrote, "Grossman fed off time and again to the open man, usually 6-0 sophomore Doug Jennings, whose 20 points led all scorers. And it

was the little senior whose ball handling repeatedly thwarted the Lions' press."

It was a state tournament with an odd hiccup caused by a coal strike, delaying results in some locations and postponing the State Finals until the second weekend in April. Faced with these circumstances the IHSAA allowed member schools to play a non-regular season, mid-tournament game if they chose. Argos opted to play South Bend LaSalle at Notre Dame's Athletic and Convocation Center. It was a preview of coming attractions, a battle of the Dave's according to *The South Bend Tribune*: Grossman of Argos, and Magley of LaSalle, chosen Mr.



Dave Calhoun drives around a Plymouth defender at the 1979 Plymouth Sectional. Photo by Joe Richmond

Basketball the following month. LaSalle prevailed, the margin coming from two Magley free throws with five seconds remaining. When tournament play resumed at Elkhart's Northside Gym, Argos beat Rochester in the first round, 49-43, then faced State Finals-bound Elkhart Central in the nightcap, losing by 13. "The regional was something special," Grossman continues. "After winning the first sectional ever, we won the first game of the regional. It was a costly win, I dove for a ball and for my effort I got a blister the size of a silver dollar on the palm of my right hand, and Prochno twisted his knee. Our starting line up was 5'11, 6'1, 6'0, 5'10 and 5'6.

Their (Elkhart Central's) starting line up was 6'11, 6'7, 6'5, 6'3, and 6'1. It was a great experience, and great experience for those returning. I like to think we paved the way for the teams that followed."

"Replacing floor leader Grossman may be difficult next year," Mishler wrote. (Weybright agreed.) "But by any standard the Dragons should be even better."

Mishler was prophetic. The 1978-79 team again featured the O'Dell brothers with Mark Malone, Doug Jennings, and lightning-quick Dave Calhoun rounding out the starting five. (Sophomores Mike Scheetz and big Rich Tuttle, 6'4", 220 lbs., were first off the bench.) "Dave Calhoun was a true Argos Dragon and still is," says Weybright. "He probably goes to more athletic events at Argos than anyone else of all the athletes we had during that stretch of success. Dave was very quick and had excellent hands. He was a very good passer and ball handler. His strong point may have been his



ability to get steals on defense. He was always stealing or at least getting his hands in the passing lanes to interrupt the opponent's offense." The Dragons were aptly compared to Indiana State's surprising Sycamores, another unbeaten team that made its way through tournament brackets in March. Practice had the Dragons well prepared.

"I remember the difficult part was the end of every practice," Mark Malone recalls. "Weybright/Zumbaugh made us run wind sprints (set of lines) that would bring us to our knees, ending every practice. Sometimes we would assist each other to the locker room, due to exhaustion. No opponent was in better shape."

But one opponent nearly beat them on January 20. After relatively easy Bi-County wins over Bremen (87-51) and Culver Military (64-55), the Dragons faced tourney host LaVille in the championship. What transpired was a nail-biter when the team with the 78.2 scoring average started 3 for 10 from the field and was held to 54. Seniors Bill O'Dell and Mark Malone stepped up with a 20-point performance (O'Dell) and six clutch free throws (Malone) down the stretch. The Dragons finished the season unbeaten, ranked 11th, with an average winning margin of 22.3. They repeated as Plymouth Sectional champions.

Doubters hit the brakes on Saturday, March 10, when Argos eliminated once-beaten Whitko, 70-54, then throttled defending regional champion Elkhart Central - featuring the state's tallest front line - 84-68 at Northside Gym, a venue so loud, says Zumbaugh, that players and coaches had to huddle closer than usual to make themselves heard. (As the Blazers starting five was introduced, he overheard Bill O'Dell say, "Gosh, they're big.") O'Dell himself adds, "There was no way, just looking at us on paper, that we should have beaten them." But beat them they did. Handily.

"The Argos guards had four steals before the Blazers scored," Derf recalls, "and called a time out just moments into the game trailing 8-0 thanks to easy Argos lay-ups after the defensive swipes. Any doubts were quickly erased from the (Argos) players' minds and they went on to win."

"I still wish I could see the regional final," says Malone.

"My father says it was a complete basketball clinic by the Argos Dragons."

Mishler agreed. He wrote, "The new regional champions, looking diminutive alongside the towering Blazers, rammed in 34 shots in 52 tries, hitting the open man with precision passing and seldom missing the open shot." Five players - Jennings, Malone, Scheetz, Calhoun, and Bill O'Dell - scored in double figures. Don O'Dell chipped in with six. Brother Bill adds, "I always thought Mark really upped his performance from his junior year to his senior year. He was so much more confident."

The win was the first in a trio of tournament games that constituted a peak hoops experience. Nearly lost in the shadow of the Marion win was a 66-64 semistate victory over Ft. Wayne Harding in the day's second game, a contest that kept fans from both schools on the edge of their seats and the tips of their toes. The winning margin came from two Malone free throws, the product of a foul preceded by some non-verbal communication between him and Bill O'Dell. Says Mark, "I think I am most-qualified to speak about that long pass from Bill to me, that put me on that foul line with 8 seconds remaining. With Jim Master at the free throw line, ready to tie the game, I was just-behind Master. I noticed that the Harding coach called his guard over for a sideline discussion,

leaving no one back. I was able to get Bill's attention, under the basket, and by eye and head motions, told him that no one was back. (Bill nodded). I took-off during the Master free throw, and Bill threw the bomb, slightly short to be safe, and Jim Master was able to grab my trailing hand, at the basket. Master apologized to me for the hard foul on his way to the bench, for his 5th foul. I'm glad I was coherent enough to hit the 2 free throws."

The 1979-80 team returned enough lettermen to make Argos formidable once again. Seniors Doug Jennings, Don O'Dell, and Dave Calhoun began their third year of varsity play in the company of Mike Scheetz and Rich Tuttle. They delivered mightily, a 25-1 season record with an average winning margin of 27 points. Fans came from all over, extra bleachers were installed, and sellouts became routine.

Jennings, like Don O'Dell, began his third season as a starter. "He still holds the school career scoring record,"



1978-79 Team
Record 28-1

Coach P. Weybright, M. Scheetz, B. O'Dell, R. Tuttle, S. Davis, D. Jennings, B. Daugherty, Coach L. Zumbaugh
K. Heuer, C. Evans, D. Calhoun, M. Malone, D. O'Dell, T. Montgomery



says Weybright, “and was an unbelievable shooter. We did not have the 3-point shot yet, so I would say he shot most shots in the 12 to 18 foot range. He was deadly. We usually had several other scorers, so they could not focus only on him. One-on-one, he was tough to beat. He got better through the years at driving to the basket, and if they tried to take that away, he just hit the open jumper. Probably my best pure shooter, he went on to Indiana Central, now University of Indianapolis.”

For Tim Montgomery ('80) the 1980 Bi-County left a lasting impression and ushered him into a larger role. “My basketball life changed in the Bi-County tournament in January of 1980,” he says. “Calhoun hurt his knee in the game leading up to the championship. You could hear a collective sigh in the town of Argos as they saw their point guard go down. I was chosen to take his spot in the starting lineup during the championship game against LaVille. Although they did not defeat us during this undefeated run, they were our nemesis. Coach Larry Radecki ran a vicious man-to-man defense that was anchored by superstar Tim Dykstra.

As we took the court that night, Don O'Dell assumed the point guard position. Another collective sigh was heard that night in the first half as Don hit his head. He came back out after half-time and played the rest of the game with a concussion. (This was well before concussions were considered serious in high school sports). Don was amazing! We returned to Argos and were greeted with a town-wide celebration in the gym. I remember talking with Don on the ride back and in the gym. He remembered nothing about the game at that time. To this day, I've never met anyone tougher than him.”

In an ironic twist of scheduling, the Dragons faced LaVille at home a week later. The Lancers had a plan to handle Montgomery.

“My chance to do something that I felt worthwhile in this long string of games was a rematch with LaVille at Argos,” says Montgomery. “Coach Radecki decided that he would not guard me. He saw that I never shot the ball

outside of a layup. They brought my defender into the lane and allowed me to have the ball. With all defenders loaded on my side of the court, there was no opportunity to get the ball into our forwards or center. As I stood in front of the Argos cheer block holding the ball, the crowd began chanting, “shoot the ball Muttly,” my nickname since I was younger. I looked at my best friend in the crowd (Curt Feece) who again shouted those words loudly, then to coach Weybright who was giving me the ‘don't shoot’ with his hands out in front of him. After what seemed like a lifetime, I took aim and let the ball go. My heart sunk as I could swear the ball was going to miss by 15 feet. It went in! I couldn't believe it. This happened 8 times that night. To this day, I don't like talking about it and never thought I would put it in writing. It was divine intervention. It wasn't me.

“I stayed in the starting lineup through our regional loss to Warsaw in Northside Gym in Elkhart. I did shoot the ball sparingly after that night, but never thought it was my fate to keep chucking the ball. Doug Jennings told me on the bus one night that he thought I held the state record for the most consecutive shots without a miss. With only shooting layups prior to that night, I may have made up to 15 shots without a miss. He was a geek when it came to statistics, and that is what I loved about him.”

Attrition through graduation may have made another unbeaten season seem doubtful to some. But Scott Jennings ('82) was confident. “We were still pretty deep that year,” he says. “We still had a couple starters returning and had good size. I really thought we should have gone farther in the tournament that year. We could have beaten Whitko in the regional. And, really, the '82 team was strong as well and could have continued the streak had it not been for injuries.”

If 1980 saw the emergence of Tim Montgomery, 1981 featured the transition of senior Mike Scheetz: a transition from low post to high, and a most successful one. By March, he led all scorers with an 18.6 ppg average, closely followed by the 17.5 of fellow senior Rich Tuttle,



the only player who dressed on four of the five teams involved in the run.

"Well, as I remember it I did really enjoy it," says Scheetz. "It was what was best for our team with the offense we ran, and I was still able to play under the basket but with smaller opponents trying to guard me. We had 3 other players, Rich Tuttle and Steve and Terry Davis, who were all taller than I was, so it was a pretty easy decision for coaches. And the Davis boys could guard anyone anywhere on the floor. So, yes, it was very fun!

"The summer before my senior year, somehow I was able to get into the gym on Sundays, if I recall things right. My father, David, worked me out. He played for Tony Hinkle at Butler from 52 'til 56, and was his starting guard 3 years and MVP his senior season. His running mate his senior year was Bobby Plump. . . With the

type of offense we ran, the transition was not too difficult. Defensively we all played together as a team and I always liked playing against the other team's best guard. Usually, I was bigger and stronger, so I was able to use that to my advantage. Regardless of what position I played, basketball was always fun playing with the guys I played with and the coaches who coached us. I say all this as a 57 year old, not as a 16 year old. You learn to appreciate those days the older you grow!"

Scott Jennings joined Scheetz, Tuttle, and the Davis brothers in the starting five, with identical twins Kip and Kim Edmonds first off the bench. Their 24-1 performance included the win that eclipsed Madison's record of 61 consecutive regular season victories. It happened at the semifinals of the Bi-County on the evening of January 16, 1981, when Argos defeated Culver Military, 77-39. "It's another great accomplishment for the community," Weybright told Misher. (The date also happened to be Weybright's 35th birthday.) "I didn't want to let the people of Argos down. This has been a community effort."

Argos was ranked 10th in February of 1981. The season featured three meetings with LaVille, the last two with a combined margin of 9 points. They beat the Lancers 47-41, to take their fourth consecutive Plymouth Sectional title.

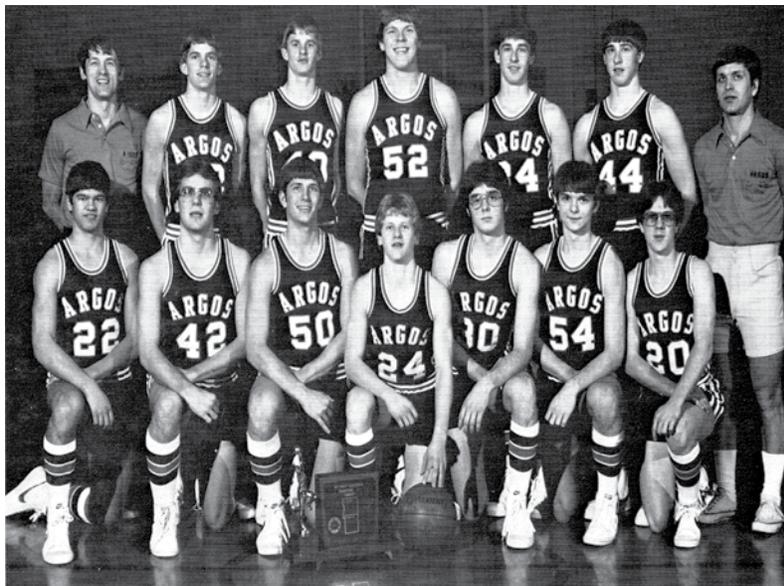
The record-setting, regular season win-streak ground to a halt the following season at the 1981 Culver Holiday Tourney when John Glenn defeated the 6-0 Dragons, 58-50. Weybright was not surprised. "Our schedule is a lot tougher than it has been for a long time," he told Bob Williams of *The Indianapolis Star*. "We'll be competitive but we could lose some others because our opponents are much stronger."

"Today, you will find some gloom and maybe a few tears in Argos," the late Forrest Miller wrote in *The South*

Bend Tribune. "But the Spirit of 76 will live forever in southern Marshall County." The Dragons would take on Plymouth in the finals of the 1982 sectional and play them evenly for three quarters before falling, 55-48.

Argos lost only 5 games out of 97 played between February 4, 1978 and December 12, 1981, a gargantuan winning average of 94.8 percent. What did the five losses have in common? Scoring, for one. The Dragons scored an average of 75.9

points per game in their 92 victories, none of which included the 3-point field goal. In the five they lost, they scored an average of 60. Teams that held them to less than that - a tall order - increased their chances of winning. Upset-minded LaVille did it five times and, though never successful, had had the right idea. Argos was also plagued on rare occasions with a slow start. Though not at all evident in the 1979 wins over Elkhart Central, Ft. Wayne Harding, and Marion, it contributed to their loss to Anderson the following weekend. Fouls hurt them in 1981's three-point loss to Whitko. The largest losing margin was 13 points (80-67, versus Elkhart Central in 1978), the smallest was 1 point (52-51, versus Warsaw



1980-81 Team
Record 24-1

Coach P. Weybright, T. Davis, S. Davis, R. Tuttle, D. Edmonds, D. Edmonds Coach L. Zumbaugh
S. Jennings, K. Heuer, M. Scheetz, M. McCay, S. Friar, R. Roberts, B. Rowe



in 1980, one of the period's most exciting contests).

These are the numbers. But behind them is the experience, and to grasp that we may rely upon testimony.

Tim Castle: "When I was a young man in my yard, I had put up an old rabbit cage and cut out the bottom to match the top. I nailed it to an electric pole in my yard. I was shooting baskets one day when coach Eugene Snyder and his family rode by. About an hour later, he drove up in my driveway with a basketball goal and pole in the back of his truck. He was the high school basketball coach and I had dreamed of playing for him, but I didn't know that he was stepping down as head coach. To my surprise, he took the freshmen coaching job, and as it turns out, I was his starting guard. This was the kind of coaches we had to mentor and guide us."

Bruce Grossman: "I believe the key to all the success was the concept of team. Everyone played multiple sports and we were used to each other and we worked together, always. There were no egos; we just wanted to win and would do whatever was needed to help each other and to win."

Doug Jennings: "We had outstanding fans, the whole community supported us, our gym was packed every game and they followed us on the road. The fans, parents, players, and coaches were all positive and no one complained about playing time; everyone knew their role. You don't see this as often in teams today and it was a big reason our team was so successful. Not only did our coaches do an excellent job of preparing us for games, but they were also a calming influence during the games."

Their influence continues. In 2016, the Argos girls' team, 6th ranked and coached by Gary Teel, advanced to the finals of the Class A semistate at Crown Point. Last year's boys' team, coached by Gordon Mosson, was a regional finalist.

The echo of the Model-T that chugged down Michigan Street has blended in memory with the sound of crowds roaring their approval for the players who sprinted up and down the court- sweating, blocking, shoes squeaking - seeking the open teammate, scoring almost at will. It is the sound of community, not just in Argos but wherever generations gather to watch their youth. They gather this evening. Buy a ticket. Come and watch. Tune in and listen, . . . and remember.

"I am very thankful to have been a part of that magic time in Argos basketball history," says Weybright. "I was a young coach with a lot of enthusiasm and it happened at a time when there was a wealth of talent coming through the system. The fact that the athletes were willing to take direction from me was, and still is, remarkable to me. Everything just seemed to be in place for a very successful run of basketball for the small town of Argos. I was blessed with an athletic director (Snyder) who was like a mentor to me. He allowed me to do things my way, and if he thought there was a problem, he would sit down and discuss it with me. He never told me what to do but was a great friend, and a person I respected, and still do.

"My assistant coach, Lee Zumbaugh, taught in the elementary school, so he helped many of our future players get their start by encouraging and coaching them at a young age. Lee was very helpful to me by emphasizing defense, while my main focus had always been offense. He gave our players the defensive principles and we just kept getting better as we learned together. I do want to say that the many athletes I had in my 14 years as the Argos varsity basketball coach were very special to me. As the years go by, I realize how lucky I was to have had the opportunity to coach so many great individuals. There were many who sacrificed in order for Argos to have the success it had. I got more than my share of the credit, but without willing players, none of that would have happened.

"Finally, I have to give a lot of credit to my wife, Cindy. She allowed me to put Argos first and she did most of the raising of our family. My two children were young when we were having the big run at the state record (children born in '77 and '81). She passed away in February of 2017, and she was a big factor in my being able to have the time to concentrate on the job of winning basketball games at Argos. She was an Argos graduate and was proud of her Dragons. I miss her every day."

- Rob Hunter

The author wishes to thank the interviewees, especially coaches Weybright, Zumbaugh, and Snyder. This article is dedicated in memory of Mrs. Cynthia L. Weybright, Argos High School class of 1969.

