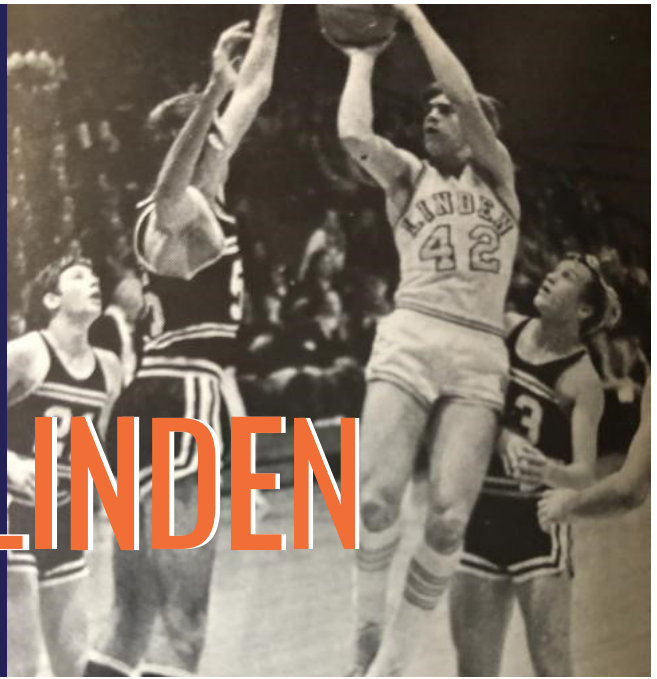


THE LEGEND OF LINDEN

Written by Thomas Speaker



The Story of
Montgomery County's
All-Time Leading
Scorer:
Daryl Warren

Fifty-two years ago, a legend was born. Back in the day, wherever you went in Montgomery County and started talking about basketball, inevitably the name of Daryl Warren would be mentioned. He is the "Legend of Linden." Still today, if you ask those who know Montgomery County basketball, "Who was the Legend of Linden?" Daryl Warren would be their quick answer. After 52 years, he is still the leading scorer in Montgomery County. Here are the top four, their high school, years, and total points:

1. Daryl Warren, Linden 67-71 (2,083 pts.)
2. D.J. Byrd, North Montgomery 05-09 (1,785 pts.)
3. Bill Greve, Waveland 51-55 (1,777 pts.)
4. Matt Petty, Crawfordsville 89-93 (1,608 pts.)

On the way to this scoring record, Daryl averaged 29.3 points, 16 rebounds, 4 assists and 3 steals a game. Although this is impressive, it was not what made Daryl a legend. What made him the "Legend of Linden," was the last

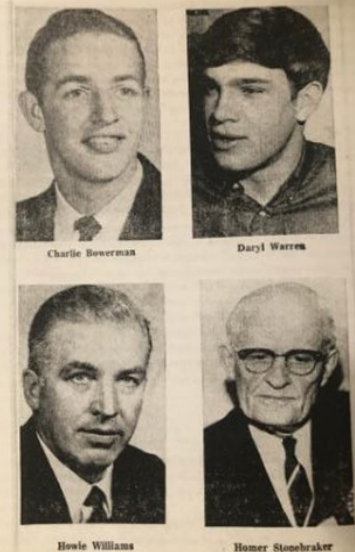
county championship. An article in a Montgomery County newspaper before the tourney of 1971 featured these four players (Picture A).

Today there would be more standouts who would fill in the gaps, but this it is how it looked in 1971.

Montgomery County is the cradle of basketball in Indiana. The game was first introduced in Crawfordsville, which is the largest city in Montgomery County. It was played in a large

attic room above the "Old Terminal Tavern," in the spring of 1893. The person who introduced Indiana to basketball was a preacher, the Reverend Nicolas McKay. What could be more Indiana than a pub and a preacher? The first game was played on Friday, March 16, 1894 in the Crawfordsville YMCA. In this game, Crawfordsville beat Lafayette 45 to 21. The first Indiana High School basketball tournament was won by Craw-

The Legends of Montgomery County Basketball



The four Montgomery county standouts from four different eras

A

fordsville of Montgomery County in 1911. Wingate, also in Montgomery County, won the 1913 and 1914 state championship. The first county basketball tournament was also won by Wingate in 1932; the last county championship was in 1971.

Twelve years ago in 2011, a book for the Linden 40th reunion was titled, "The Last County Championship." It was written about the 1971 championship, won by the Linden Bulldogs. However, it was not just about Linden, but all 8 county schools, their coaches, and some of the players on each team.

The book, written by Tom Speaker and Dave White, gained popularity not only in Montgomery County but throughout surrounding counties. Eventually, it was brought to the attention of the Hall of Fame board by Larry Randall, an associate volunteer, and Chris May, former Hall of Fame director. Today, it's nestled someplace in the Hall of Fame.

One newspaper article featured in, "The Last County Championship", summed up the feelings of many. It was written by Dick Ham, sportswriter for the Lafayette Journal Courier right before the start of the 1971 Montgomery County Tournament.

FINAL TOURNEY IN MONTGOMERY
(Relevant parts from the article)

The consolidation influx, which has invaded every nook and cranny of the Indiana high school sports scene, is about to strike its most severe blow in Montgomery County by next year and bring an end to another fine old basketball tradition.

Before all this happens, though, Montgomery County fans will have one last tournament and it will be viewed with mixed emotions by the old-timers and youngsters.

Welcome to the fold Montgomery fans. You were one of the last in the business to hold out as a hotbed of county basketball, but now progress has relegated you to the also-rans with Tippecanoe, Newton, Benton, White and all other to whom county tourney was a January watchword.

Invitationals and Holiday events just can't fill the void...the old rivalries die and with them go the greatest of Indiana hardwood traditions.

Headed for those mothballs are a host of memories and a flock of jerseys bearing the names of Darlington Indians, Coal Creek Bearcats, Ladoga Cannons, Linden Bulldogs, New Ross Blue Jays, New Market Flyers, Waveland Hornets and Waynetown Gladiators.

Then came the tournament. Let's go back to Thursday, January 20, 1971, and follow the descriptions in the book and the Linden Bulldogs in their path to winning the "Last County Championship." The authors of the book were able to get tapes of the live broadcasts of the last two games of the tournament and portions of these will be replayed.

THE LAST COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP
"The story of the Linden Bulldogs winning the last Montgomery County Championship in 1971"
Written by Thomas Speaker and David White

"The Last County Championship"
by Thomas Speaker and Dave White

GAME 1: LINDEN 80 - NEW ROSS 71

Every team in the county was competitive. No team could be taken for granted; in this tournament, like most, one loss and you're a spectator. New Ross was not an exception. However, they were a fine team coached by a fiery and personal competitor, Mike Mitchell...

In the final quarter, it was a free throw shooting contest, with neither team hitting their free throws consistently. Although not hitting his free throws, Daryl Warren, the most valuable player in the county, scored 38 points to lead the way.

Now it was on to the second round on Saturday morning and Linden's fiercest rival, Darlington. Linden and Darlington are nine miles apart, and it was not unusual for cousin to play against cousin. In fact, Linden's leading player matched up with his cousin Charlie Warren, one of the leading players for the Darlington Indians. It was time for the "Civil War."

GAME TWO: JANUARY 23, 1971 LINDEN 73 - DARLINGTON 70

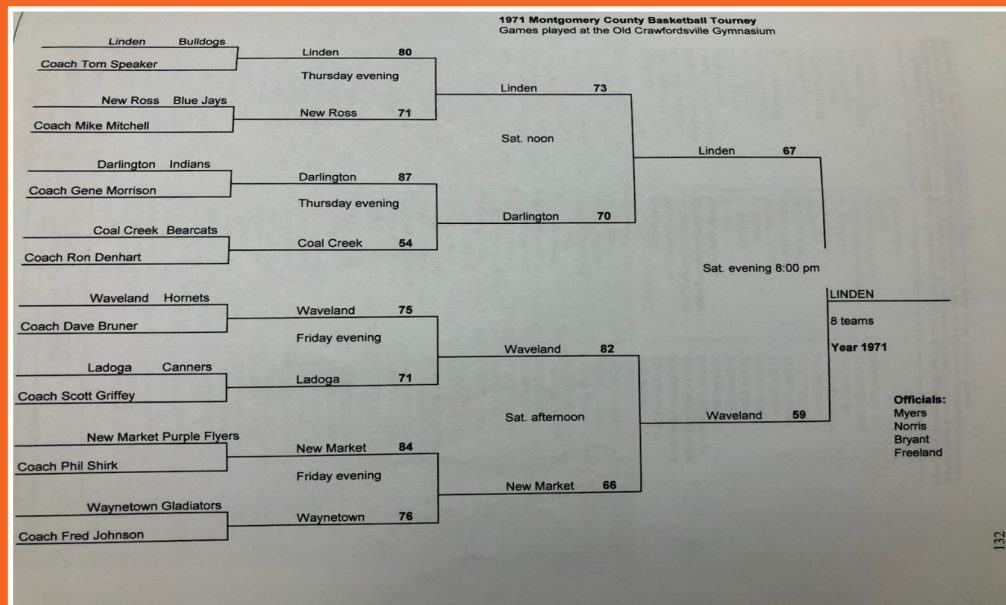
(Live radio commentary in italics)

For two years, Darlington had dominated Montgomery County with two undefeated regular season games under Coach Dave Nicholson. They lost several good players but still had a strong, tall, and talented team and an excellent new coach in Gene Morrison.

If you're listening, we're happy to have you but you probably wish you were here. However, you might not be able to find a seat as this is a packed house in the Crawfordsville basketball arena. The arena seats 2,300 plus people, and we see people standing every place without a seat. It does not get any better than this.

The teams are gathered behind their respective coaches, and they are eager to get the game underway. Here are the starting lineups. First for the Darlington Indians, at forward, Gerry Hole, 6'3" and Terry Cain, 6'3", at center, Charlie Warren, 6'2" and the guards are Steve

The final Montgomery County Tournament Bracket



Apple, 5'11" and Jim Tribbett, at 6'0". ... Darlington is big and strong and has dominated the boards against every team this year.

Now for the Linden Bulldogs, at forward, Carl Binford. A 6'0" junior and 6'2" Daryl Warren, the leading scorer in the county and one of the leading scorers in the state with a 29.3 average. At center is Clay Cunningham, also at 6'2" and a junior, at the guard positions are two seniors, Keith Airey, 5'9," is one of the captains and leaders of the team. The other guard is considered by many as the county's leading defensive player, 5'11", Mike Klinker.

It's interesting to see the reactions as the players greet their opponents. You see Daryl Warren and his cousin Charlie Warren, not even look at each other. After the game, they'll be best friends again, but at this moment, competitor ignores competitor. Keith Airey, as always, has a shy grin on his face as he shakes hands with Steve Apple and Jim Tribbett. The most interesting reaction is from Mike Klinker as he initially ignores Apple and Tribbett and then shakes hands with disdain. This, my friends, is going to be a battle that will be remembered 50 years from now.

Darlington was ahead early, as they out-rebounded Linden about 2 to 1 and led at half by 9 points. However, at halftime, Daryl decided he did not want to end his high school basketball career getting de-

feated by Darlington and his cousin Charlie. Finally, Linden got its first lead, 72 to 70, late in the game.

Darlington was called for a technical foul. Now for more of the live broadcast,

Linden will have one shot and the ball out of bounds. Warren will shoot the technical and this might seal the deal. Warren shoots—and misses again. Daryl has now missed seven free throws, but still has 27 points. I guess we expect Daryl Warren to be Superman, but he's been very human today on his free throws and, believe me, he is exhausted. Daryl plays hard every second and never comes out of the game. Daryl has no clue how it feels to sit on the bench. The only person who sits less than Daryl is Coach Speaker, as he has yet to find the bench this year.

That leaves the score at 72 to 70, and Darlington still can tie with a basket. Linden takes the ball out of bounds, a pass from Warren to Cunningham, who quickly gets it back to Warren. Daryl is dribbling all over the court, hoping to get fouled as he's confident he won't miss again. Warren gives the ball up to Airey who gets it back to him like a hot potato. Tribbett has no recourse but to foul Daryl. There's seven seconds left and if Warren hits one, giving the Bulldogs a three-point lead, it's all over. Daryl hits the first free throw and that's the game except for a last second fling. It's over and here come the Linden

fans. There's joy in Linden, but as they say in "Casey at the bat," there's no joy in Darlington. But how does Linden turn around and play in less than five hours as Darlington has taken them to the limit?

THE FINAL GAME: LINDEN 67 - WAVELAND 59

Well, this is it, basketball fans, the last game of the last Montgomery County tournament. There has been no more exciting basketball than we have seen in the last 40 years. This is a sad day for all Montgomery County basketball fans and teams. What will next year bring?

Here's your lineup. First, for the visitors on the scoreboard, the Linden Bulldogs. Being visitors is no stranger to Linden, who has not played a home game in 10 years. The Linden gym is too small for the crowd that Montgomery County basketball brings. At one forward is Carl Binford, who had the game of his life this afternoon with 9 field goals and 18 points. He was the difference-maker. The other forward is Daryl Warren, the Montgomery MVP for the 2nd straight year. At the center is Clay Cunningham, who although slender, has strong hands and is one of the top rebounders in the county. The guards are Keith Airey, one of the best ball-handlers in the county, as well as captain along with Warren. At the other guard is the tenacious Mike Klinker, who opponents hate to face. Now for the Waveland Hornets under the

tutelage of veteran coach Dick Bruner. At one forward is the coach's son, Ron Bruner, considered by many as the 2nd best player in the county. Next, Steve Shelby, who may be under-rated, as you can't leave him alone as he is a fine shooter. Paul Fowler is at center and now the two guards. First is Roger Gooding, one of the top guards in the county, and his running mate Rick Petry, a good ball-handler and defensive player.

The officials are Bryant and Myers, who referee many games in Montgomery County. Although they say they enjoy refereeing for Coach Speaker, they do get tired of him being in their ear and his advice is always one-sided. When the call is in Linden's favor, Coach Speaker, says, "That's a great call. You guys are the best." When the calls go against his Bulldogs, he says, "Don't worry about making a mistake. You'll get it right the next time."

The game looked like an easy victory for Linden, as they led at half 42 to 26, but Waveland came back in the second half and got as close as four points when the final horn sounded. Here's the final broadcast of the last county tournament.

With a minute left to go and the Bulldogs holding the ball, Daryl Warren is fouled to stop the clock. *There's a nice pass to Warren, who takes it to the basket as if to say, "Let's get this over with."* He is fouled by Roger Gooding. Daryl will have two shots. Here's the first shot and it's good. Daryl takes little time after receiving the bounce pass from the referee and this is good, also. That's just 33 points for the county MVP. The Linden fans and cheerleaders are already celebrating, but the Linden coaches will not have any of that on the bench. They have too much respect for Coach Bruner and the Waveland Hornets who played their hearts out.

Coach Speaker is sending Winger, Jorgensen, and Rodgers into the game. These are three seniors who didn't play much, but all season in games and practice they contributed to the Bulldog success and the Linden coaches want them to be recognized in this last victory,...

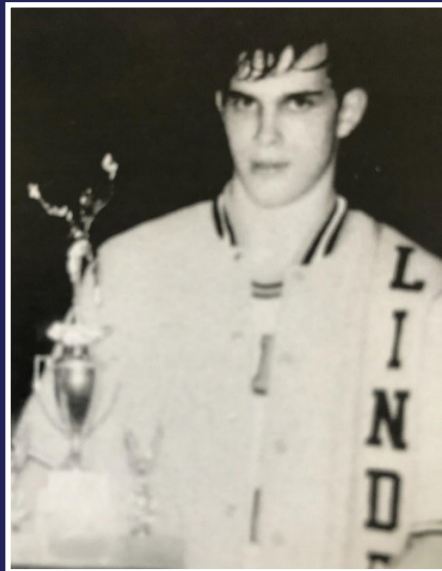
The final buzzer sounded. Linden has it all. Linden has it all. The floor is packed with Linden fans and the public address announcer is beside himself and he keeps announcing, 'You must clear the floor, you are not allowed on the floor. Ah, the hell with it.'

Although Daryl had a wonderful career in Indiana High basketball and an outstanding career in college, it was the Last County Championship where he became the "Legend of Linden." Linden won the first game over New Ross 80-71 and Daryl had 38 points. The second game was 73-70 over Darlington, with Warren having 28 points, In the final, Linden won 67-59 and Daryl had 33 points.

Although basketball ended for Linden, Daryl was not finished. He was recruited by a host of colleges outside Indiana, but he chose to stay close to home and played for Angus Nicoson at Indiana Central. He is the 10th leading scorer for what is now the University of Indianapolis and was the Most Valuable Player and team captain his junior and senior years.

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I'd like to thank Mr. Basketball Historian of Montgomery County, Bill Boone, for his help with the details of this article.



"The Legend of Linden," Daryl Warren