

NEWARK BASKETBALL

Since the early 1900's through the 2015-16 season, Newark High's tradition-rich basketball teams have won 1556 games winning 69 percent of their games.

W.J. Livingston, destined to become a legend as a coach at Denison University, piloted the Wildcats to a 14-8 record in the 1910-11 and 1911-12 seasons to set the stage for the future.

In 1913, Lloyd Millisor became Newark's first longtime varsity coach. He led the 'Cats to a 120-84 mark in 16 years (1913-29).

A.B. Long, longtime NHS boys physical education director, fathered a feeder system in Newark junior highs in the early 1930's which sent many outstanding basketball players to Newark High. Long's system had junior high lightweight teams (players could be 7th, 8th or 9th graders, but not over 100 lbs.), reserve teams (8th only) and the varsity teams (7th, 8th or 9th graders) competing against each other.

C.E. (Red) Orr, who took over Millisor's duties in 1929, coached NHS to 199 wins against 79 defeats in 13 years. He won four district championships and two state titles before entering the U.S. Coast Guard after the 1941-42 season.

Newark's emergence as a scholastic basketball power came with lightning-quickness in 1936 when the Orr coached Wildcats surprised even their most loyal fans by winning the state tournament.

The 'Cats, only 8-10 for the regular season, finished a Cinderella story with a string of eight straight tourney triumphs to nail the first of the school's four state crowns. Newark's overall record was 16-10, representing the greatest comeback in Ohio High School Athletic Association basketball history.

That was only the beginning of the Wildcats' glory years. They qualified for the state tourney again in 1937, but lost to Massillon in the first round of the Sweet 16 field. Newark bowed out with a 19-4 mark.

But in 1938, with Orr still calling the signals, the Wildcats roared to another state championship with virtually the same lineup as the '37 club. Newark posted a near perfect 24-1 record. The Wildcats' only loss was to Massillon in a mid-season game at Newark.

Al Marzano, an elusive sophomore forward, and Howard Siegel, a fast moving junior guard, won All-Ohio tournament honors in 1936. Siegel was named the tourney's most valuable player. Dick Reinbold, who later became a Major General, captained the team.

Robert (Buddy) Mercer lead the 1938 state champion team. He set a tournament record with 62 points in four games. Mercer, a senior guard, and Paul (Sparky) Adams, a junior forward, were All-Ohio tourney first team selections. The 'Cats edged New Philadelphia, tutored by Johnny Brickels, a former Newark athlete, 28-27 in a brilliant deffensive title game. Henry (Jabbo) Giles, a legendary all-round Newark High athlete, was a rebounding terror from his center spot in that game. Newark didn't have a starter over six foot.

Newark's third state title came in 1943. It was Max Douglas' first year (he had succeeded Orr) and Max had to start from scratch since he had no letterman returning. The 1942-43 "Cats finished 26-2, both defeats being at the hands of Dover, then a Central Ohio League rival. The 26 wins is an NHS record.

Fred Schaus, later to star in college and professional basketball, and to coach at both levels, served as the 1943 team captain. He was the wildcats' top scorer. Schaus later became general manager of the Los Angeles Lakers when they won the NBA championship in 1972. Douglas, who liked to use a zone defense, had a tall front line in Schaus, Kenton (Dutch) Campbell and Roger Sedgwick in 1943. Schaus, a forward, Campbell, a center, and Jack Bickel, a guard, were named All-State tournament first team players.

In 1944, Newark produced a perfect regular season (20-0) under Douglas. But the 'Cats lost a first round regional tournament game at Denison to Martins Ferry, also undefeated at the time. Paul (Buddy) Jackson led the 25-1 Wildcats in scoring during the season. He was named an All-Ohio basketball player, the only Newark High athlete ever to become All-Ohio in football and basketball the same school year (1943-44).

Douglas' team in 1953 wasn't expected to go very far on the tournament trail. But the 'Cats went all the way to the state finals before losing to a talented Middletown club. Newark finished 21-5.

Douglas coached the Wildcats for 14 years, posting a 240-86 record. Douglas' teams won four district championships, two regional titles and a state crown. He also had a state runner-up team (1953). Max coached from 1942-44 and from 1945-57.

Paul Harlow piloted the 'Cats to a 14-10 recored during the 1944-45 season.

Jimmy Allen, who took over from Douglas in 1957 piloted the 'Cats for four years winning 68 games and losing 22. His winning percentage was .756, tops for all Newark basketball coaches.

Dick Schenk replaced Allen in 1961. Schenk's teams captured three district titles and an unprecedented eight consecutive COL championships. His 1968 and 1969 clubs were regional finalists. Schenk's won-lost record was 179-63 in 11 years (1961-72).

Roger Markle, one of Schenk's hardest working players, was honored as first team All-Ohio for two straight years, 1964 and 1965. He is the Wildcats only All-Ohio repeater.

Gary Walters took over for Schenk in 1972. His '81 Wildcats lost an 83-81 shootout to Dayton Roth, the eventual state champion, in a Class AAA state semifinal game in St. John Arena. It was one of the most exciting games in state tourney history.

Mike Giomi was brilliant in that defeat for the 'Cats. Then a junior, Giomi scored 39 points. That is an all-time high for a Newark player in a single tournament game. He also secured 10 rebounds and blocked six shots. Giomi was named the Ohio Player of the Year as a senior in 1982, the only Newark basketball player to be recognized for that award. Giomi, who went on to play Division I college basketball, broke NHS all-time scoring record with 1,316 points that year. Southpaw Randy Foster, a 1973 NHS graduate, held the previous mark with 1,162 points at that time.

Walters Wildcats were back at it again in 1990. Led by seniors Dwayne Romine and Alsindor Allen, the Wildcats finished 22-3, won the Buckeye Central Conference, and were district champions. They fell to eventual state champion Toledo Scott in the regional semi-finals, 68-61.

In 1991, the Wildcats again won the Buckeye Central Conference. Led by Jeff Quackenbush, the Wildcats knocked off #1 seed Upper Arlington in the first round of the district tournament, 52-49, en route to the district championship. Ultimately, the Wildcats were eliminated by Pickerington in the regional semi-finals, 43-37.

The 1992 Wildcats, led by All-Ohio guard Bobby Sellers, again won Buckeye Central Conference and Central District crowns. In a hard fought regional final game vs. Lima Senior, the Wildcats came back from a 20 point deficit to take the lead at the end of the third quarter. In the end, the Wildcats fell, 78-73, and finished 22-4.

In 1999 Coach Walters retired after 27 years as coach of the Wildcats. During his tenure, the Cats won 407 games against 199 defeats, with 12 league crowns, 7 district crowns, and 1 appearance in the State tournament, in 1981.

Former Wildcat Jeff Quackenbush took over as coach of the Wildcats in 1999 and it did not take him long

to follow in Walters winning ways. The 2003 cagers, led by TJ Johnson and Adam Lesch, finished 20-5, won the district championship before falling to eventual state champion Columbus Brookhaven in the regional semi-final, 52-44.

The 2007 and 2008 Wildcats were two of the most successful teams in Newark history. The 2007 team led by Cory Thomasson and Kendall Stinson compiled a record of 24-2 en route to OCC and district titles. In a hard fought regional final game, the Cats once again lost to an eventual state champion, Cincinnati Moeller 55-44.

The 2008 Wildcats were one for the record books. Finishing the year at 24-4, and led by All-Ohio guard Greg Avery and guard Cody Dennison, the Wildcats caught fire late in the year and surged to a district final showdown against Zanesville. Led by Avery, the Wildcats came from behind in the second half to defeat the Blue Devils, 53-48. The regional semi-final was more of the same, as the Cats came from a double digit deficit to defeat Trotwood Madison, 70-64, behind Dennison's 21 points. The regional final produced the Cats first trip back to the state tournament since 1981, with a 62-57 win over Westerville South.

The state semi-final game pitted the Wildcats against Toledo Whitmer in a game that turned into a route in favor of the Wildcats, 63-44, behind Dennison's 22 points.

The Wildcats rolled into the state finals only to find heavily favored Cleveland St. Edward waiting. In a game that again turned into no contest, the Wildcats dominated early, rolling to a 33-25 half time lead. The second half produced more of the same, and the Wildcats behind Avery's 33 points, won 65-52 to claim their fourth State Championship in school history.

The Wildcats again claimed the OCC and District championship in 2015. Led by Central District Player of the Year and All-State guard Jordan Dartis, the Cats defeated Tri Valley, 51-41, to win the district before falling to Westerville South 73-64 in the regional semi-final game. Dartis ended his career as the Wildcats most prolific scorer, totaling 1567 points during his time as a Wildcat.

The 'Cats have compiled a 270-131 record since Coach Quackenbush took over in 1999.

Newark basketball stands near the top of the storied programs in the history of Ohio High school basketball amassing 1556 victories, putting them behind only Canton McKinley and Archbold for most wins. Those wins are proudly displayed at the west end of Gary Walters Court in the Jim Allen Gymnasium and changed by the team after each victory.

State Championships

1936 1938 1943 2008

District Championships

1936 1937 1941 1943 1944 1946
 1953 1960 1962 1968 1969 1973
 1975 1981 1982 1990 1991 1992
 2003 2007 2008 2015

COL Championships

1937 1938 1941 1942 1943 1944
 1946 1947 1948 1952 1956 1963
 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970
 1971 1976 1980 1981 1982 1983
 1985

BCC Championships

1988 1989 1990 1991 1992

OCC Championships

1999 2007 2009 2013 2014 2015

GAMES PLAYED

NAME	YEARS	GAMES
Jordan Dartis	2012-15	99
Cody Dennison	2005-09	91
Bob Sellers	1989-92	85
Rahlin Watson	2005-09	80
Greg Avery	2005-08	75

ASSOCIATED PRESS/UPI ALL-OHIO

NAME	YEAR	AP	UPI
Buddy Mercer	1938	2nd	
Dee Snelling	1942	1st	
Fred Schaus	1943	2nd	
Don Smith	1946	3rd	
Don Smith	1947	1st	
Dick Retherford	1948	3rd	
Charles Deeds (UP)	1951	2nd	
Paul Horkey	1953	2nd	
Roger Markle	1964	1st	
Roger Markle	1965	1st	
Craig Barclay	1966	3rd	
Denny Odle	1969	2nd	
Randy Foster	1973	3rd	
Roy Stutz	1975	3rd	2nd
Chris Ash	1977	2nd	3rd
Mike Peddicord	1978	3rd	
Vince Wollenburg	1980		3rd
Mike Giomi	1981	1st	2nd
Mike Giomi	1982	1st	1st
Bruce Allen	1983	1st	2nd
Jeff Brown	1989	1st	
Bob Sellers	1992	1st	
Greg Avery	2008	3rd	
Jordan Dartis	2015	1st	

CAREER SCORING

NAME	YEAR	POINTS
Jordan Dartis	2012-15	1567
Mike Giomi	1980-82	1316
Bob Sellers	1989-92	1288
Randy Foster	1971-73	1162
Greg Avery	2005-08	1131

SEASON SCORING

NAME	YEAR	POINTS
Mike Giomi	1980-81	567
Mike Giomi	1981-82	541
Greg Avery	2007-08	540
Jordan Dartis	2014-15	516
Bob Sellers	1991-92	505

3 POINT FIELD GOAL/CAREER

NAME	YEAR	3 PT FG
Jordan Dartis	2012-15	178
Cody Dennison	2005-09	146
Jalen Dartis	2010-12	120
Jeff Brown	1987-89	109
Ryan Dierks	2008-10	107

REBOUNDS/CAREER

NAME	YEAR	REBOUNDS
Randy Foster	1971-73	789
Mike Giomi	1980-82	739
Roger Markle	1963-65	698
John Daniels	1967-69	656
Jeff Quackenbush	1989-91	573

REBOUNDS/SEASON

NAME	YEAR	REBOUNDS
Mike Giomi	1981-82	312
Jeff Quackenbush	1990-91	308
Mike Giomi	1980-81	285
Dwayne Romine	1989-90	285
Roger Markle	1963-64	278



TRADITION

NEVER

GRADUATES

**Four Time State
Champions**

**22 Central District
Titles**