

# Sports

## SPORTS AND RECREATION

Ever since the early days of Wheaton sports and leisure time activities have played an important part in the lives of the people who have lived here. In fact, the very first issue of the **Wheaton Gazette**, which was printed March 6, 1885, even before Wheaton officially became a village, carried two separate advertisements of billiard halls among the very earliest of businesses in the new but rapidly growing town.

Billiards, of course, was not the only form of activity, since hunting and fishing for food was a necessity for the early settlers. They probably found many other pastimes to fill their leisure hours. Over the past 100 years many changes have taken place in the lives of Wheatonites, but all who have lived here over the years have enjoyed their share of recreation and sports activity in one form or another.

In this section of the Wheaton history book we hope to make note of every type of athletic endeavor and leisure time activity that has been available to the people of Wheaton over the years.

## HUNTING

The Wheaton area was noted as a "hunter's paradise" many years ago. People from near and far would swarm into town every year for the duck and goose hunting season. This is the reason the area has long been known as the "land of ducks."

Before the turn of the century hunters were known to arrive each year in special railroad cars from the big eastern cities, mainly because of the abundance of ducks and prairie chickens. This great influx of hunters went on well into the 1900's.

Many a distinguished visitor came to Wheaton to try his luck. In 1908 a report tells of one group of hunters that included Tom Marshall, champion wing shot of the world; Louis Hill, president of the Great Northern Railroad; a Mr. Dupont, head of a big powder trust; high moguls of Standard Oil Company; and later in the 1940's, the great major league baseball slugger Ted Williams. All of these and thousands of others made the Wheaton area their headquarters for hunting every fall.



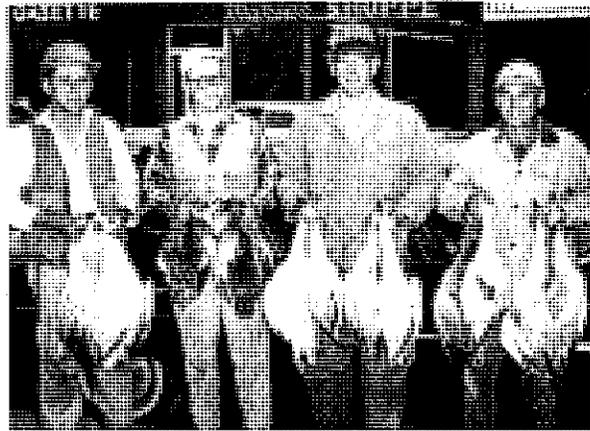
**THIS GROUP OF SUCCESSFUL HUNTERS** show off their bags of pheasants after a big day of stalking the game bird. Pictured are, from left to right, Leo Muel-lenbach, Roland Hausmann, Al Muellenbach, Earl Worner, Ed Worner and Art Rixe.



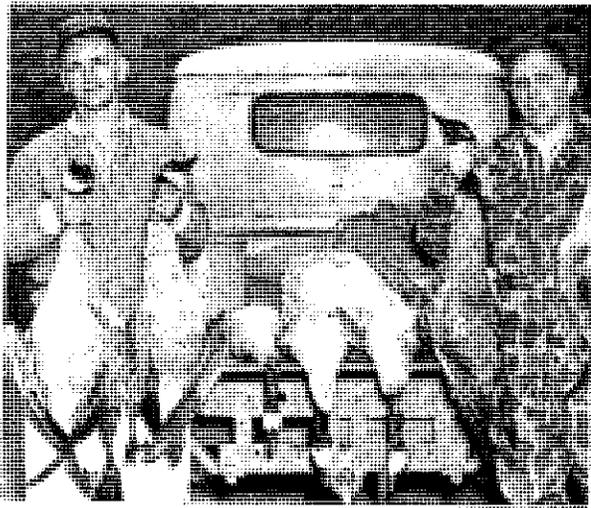
**Duck and goose hunters in the early 1900's found the game plentiful. This photo taken in front of the ice house in the alley back of the present Neumann's Bar shows from left: Stanley Wells, son of A. Wells of A. Wells Co., Oscar Davidson, grandfather of Dave Ranney, George F. Stewart, father of Lyle Stewart.**

Larson's Hunters Resort became quite well known to hunters from all over the country. The resort, located on Mud Lake just a few miles west of Wheaton, was established by Andrew and Bertha Larson in the late 1890's. The Larsons accommodated as many as fifty to sixty hunters at one time in the house and five cabin areas, in the granery and barn, and also in tents which some hunters provided themselves. Hunters were fed breakfast and supper in the house and were provided with lunches to take to the blinds. Larson's Resort continued to serve hunters well into the 1960's with Edward and Mabel Larson taking over after the death of the originators of the facility.

At the same time there were also privately owned duck camps scattered along



**GOOSE HUNTERS** have had their share of success in the Lake Traverse-Mud Lake areas. These four proudly show off their bags of geese. They are, from left to right, Bruce Sherwood, Ray Blank, Neil Anderson and Vern Radel.



**THESE TWO HUNTERS** hit the jackpot with the help of others to bag seven huge Canadian geese in the Wheaton area. The hunters pictured are Wille Bock left, and Tony Walthall of Staples.

the lakeshore which were used by hunting clubs and individuals.

A 1916 report estimated that 100,000 ducks were killed in the Wheaton area that season with between 500 and 1500 being shipped out daily on the evening train.

The days of those big, successful duck and goose hunts are long gone now with the decline of birds in this area. Still hunters come out here each year to try their luck, but the sport certainly is not as it was many years ago.

The ringneck pheasant was also a popular game bird for hunters to pursue, and Wheaton has been well known again as one of the best spots for a hunter to get his limit with not too much difficulty. As early as 1924 the first season was designated as October 15-18 for shooting pheasants; however, in September the State Game and Fish Commissioner closed the season to further propagation. In 1944 the pheasant season brought out the largest number of hunters to Wheaton that it had had to that date. The Palmer House was filled and the proprietors located rooms for nearly one hundred hunters.

This was just the beginning of another era of successful hunting in this part of the state. The pheasant population increased each year and along with it the number of

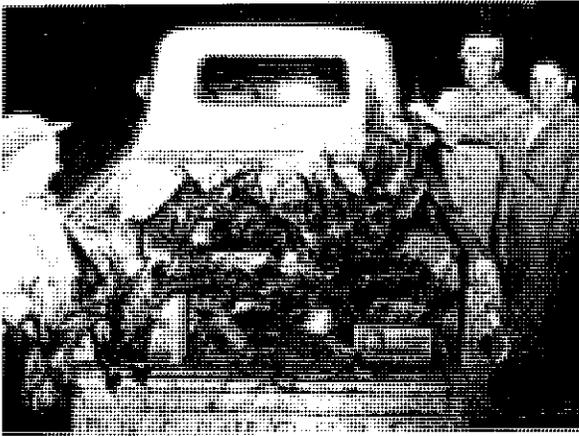
hunters coming here became greater and greater. By 1961 Wheaton was rated the "Pheasant Capital" of the entire state of Minnesota, and the opening day of the season found the streets filled with hunters coming in from all over the state.

Because of the terrific number of pheasants taken by hunters, plus several winters that caused hardships for the young birds, by 1969 the pheasant was virtually extinct in Traverse County. Conservation officer Gordon Peterson reported that he had spotted only two adult pheasants within a fifty mile area. So today there are very few pheasants here, but Wheaton certainly has had its day as a pheasant hunter's paradise. Perhaps efforts of the Pheasants Forever Chapter established in 1985 will aid the restoration of the pheasant population in the future.

Deer hunting is now a sport that finds hunters having a good share of success in the Wheaton area. In recent seasons over 400 deer have been reported to have been killed by hunters each year in these parts. The short hunting season finds sportsmen taking deer with shotgun slugs, but there is also a longer season for bow and arrow hunters.



**TWO MORE HAPPY GOOSE HUNTERS** came in with these four nice honkers during a hunt near Mud Lake. They are Myron Schmidt, left, and Bucky Hoffman.



**THE PHEASANTS FOR VETS DINNER** was the object of this photo as a large number of birds were turned in on the opening day of the season. Pictured loading the birds are game warden Gordon Peterson, left, Glenn Nielson and Bob Bohnenstingl.

The abundance of deer in this area has not always been the case. In the early days deer were plentiful, but with the settlers moving in the deer found their way up to the north woods for more security. In 1923 a report stated that what was believed to be the first live deer seen in Traverse County in nearly twenty-five years was spotted a few miles southwest of Wheaton, but now things are different. Many a deer can be spotted while driving through the countryside, especially near Lake Traverse.



**LEROY ANDERSON** had reason for the smile here after bringing in this huge walleye from Lake Traverse.

## FISHING

Lake Traverse has produced many a big fish for those with the patience to wait for the whoppers to bite. Sportsmen's groups are constantly planting young fingerlings in an attempt to bring up the fish population in the lake.

Walleyed pike seem to grow to very large sizes with a good number caught by the faithful fishermen willing to spend the time. In 1965 Art Graham caught a fifteen pound walleye in Lake Traverse, the state's walleye record for the winter season. An eighteen pound catfish was also caught that same year. Perhaps the biggest fish taken from Lake Traverse was the thirty pound northern pike speared by Fred Sheldon on Christmas Day, 1949.

Fishing is a sport that is popular in both summer and winter. During the winter months the lake is dotted with fish houses, and in the summer months many a boatful of fishermen can be seen as they await the strike of the big ones.

Anglers can also be found along the shores of the Mustinka River. Here they may be catching bullheads or silver bass or crappies, but whatever they bring in, these people are a happy group of patient fishermen.



**DONALD MENGE** caught this beauty in Lake Traverse, which has been known to produce some very large northern and walleyes.



**THIS YOUNG LAD, Douglas Rittenour, who was 11 years old at the time this photo was snapped back in 1967, caught this 16 pound northern in the Mustinka River.**

## **GAME WARDENS**

In connection with the sports of hunting and fishing, it is necessary to have an able game warden to uphold the laws of the state. The Wheaton area has not had a great number of wardens serving here, but those who have held the position have been around a long, long time.

The first game warden was appointed in 1905. He was C. H. Colyer, who was serving as sheriff at the time. Arch Klawon took over the duties in 1919 and served faithfully for thirty-seven years, all of them in the Wheaton area. He retired on July 1, 1956, with the longest service record of any game warden in Minnesota.

Gordon Peterson became game warden here in October, 1956, and served for twenty-seven years, retiring in October, 1983. Robert Marts was named game warden to serve this area on June 1, 1985, after the area had been without a full-time warden for several months.

## **GUN CLUBS**

Over the years there have been several organized gun clubs in Wheaton. The first was started back in 1899 when the Wheaton Gun Club was formed for a shoot with Graceville.

In 1920 a new Wheaton Gun Club was organized with seventy-five members. Carl Saterbak was its first president. In 1921 the Wheaton team was making the best record of any gun club in this part of the state as the twelfth annual tournament was being held at the local trap grounds. In 1940 Dr. C. F. Ewing took top honors with a perfect score of twenty-five at a Wheaton Gun Club merchandise shoot.

There was an active Traverse County Rifle Club in 1924 and a year later the club erected a 10 by 16 foot range house on the gun club site at the Richard Hill farm. Hill at that time was one of the best shooters in the state. He placed third high gun at the tryouts for the Olympic Rifle Team, where marksmen from four states competed.

The Wheaton Gun Club was organized in 1934 with Vance Erickson its president and Ashley Vye the secretary-treasurer.



**WHEATON RIFLE CLUB:** In the late 1950's and early 1960's Wheaton had a very active club of sharpshooters. Pictured are, from left to right, Les Hill, who won many trophies as one of the top marksmen in the state, Roland Hausman, Ed Mosher, Earl Nelson and Ervin Simpson. Other active marksmen not pictured were Lyle Goodnough and Murrel Carpenter.

In 1935 Ashley Vye was rated as a new trap shooting star, getting a big writeup in the Minneapolis paper when he broke 95 out of 100 targets to win the Class B tournament. The Wheaton Trap Shooting Club was very active through the 1930's and into the 1940's.

In the 1950's Les Hill, the son of Richard Hill, emerged as one of the best shooters around these parts. In 1956 Les, along with Murrel Carpenter and Ervin Simpson of the Wheaton Rifle Club, won ten trophies at a state tournament. At a later meet Hill won the state "Expert" championship.

In 1961 Les Hill continued his fine shooting when he won the Lake Region Gallery Rifle league tournament for the sixth year in a row. Shortly after that he also won the NRA National Indoor Sectional rifle championship at Fargo, the second time he had won that event.

When the Wheaton Golf Club built its new clubhouse at the course, it also included the facilities for trapshooting and for a time that kept some of the members and non-members as well busy sharpening up their shooting eyes.

At the present time there is no organized gun club here in Wheaton, but some of the locals do their shooting at the Graceville Gun Club.

## AMATEUR BASEBALL

Ever since before the turn of the century baseball has played an important part in the lives of Wheatonites during their leisure-time hours. In June, 1894, a baseball team called the Puzzlers was organized with sufficient funds donated to purchase equipment and fix up the playing grounds.

Scheduling of games and travel was, of course, a problem and most baseball activity was mainly pickup games between businessmen and fire department teams in those early days. Games between single men and married men were popular as well as games against teams from nearby townships.

It was not until 1912 that a number of local players organized a team which was ready to take on any other area town they could schedule. In 1913 Wheaton, according to a Gazette report, finally got itself on the baseball map when a liberal fund was subscribed to finance a team, mostly of home players, but strengthened with one or two players from outside the area.

The Wheaton team played a schedule of eighteen games in 1913 against Morris, Herman, Peever, Hankinson, White Rock, Elbow Lake, Great Bend, Wahpeton, Montevideo and Donnelly. The local team posted a 13-5 record and baseball was well on its way to a very successful future in Wheaton.

In 1919 the Wheaton team joined the Twin Lakes Baseball League with other league teams from Graceville, Clinton, Beardsley, Ortonville and Sisseton. In June of that season pitcher James E. Watts, whom Wheaton had secured from Fairmont, Minnesota, pitched a great game, a no-hitter in a 2-0 win over Graceville.

Other area towns had many salaried players in those days, so Wheaton joined in the semi-professional baseball ranks in 1920 when they joined the Interlake Baseball League. Salaries could be paid to any players, but only three on a team could be non-residents. League members included Browns Valley, Ortonville, Beardsley, Graceville, Clinton and Wheaton. The Wheaton team, which had a payroll amounting to about \$1500 a month, found out quickly that professionalism was not in the cards for them. By the end of June, 1920, the league disbanded without finishing the season because of financial reasons.

After a year without baseball, another team was organized in 1922, this time with only local players and no salaries to be paid. The Minnesota & Dakota League was formed with teams from White Rock, Foxhome, Fairmount, Tenney, Campbell, Elbow Lake, Tintah and Wheaton taking part in the action. The 1922 season turned out to be a very successful one for the Wheaton team as they finished with an 11-3 record and managed to make enough money to pay off the debts incurred by the salaried team of 1920.

Baseball continued in Wheaton through the 1920's and in 1928 a new baseball diamond was completed at the fairgrounds. The new ball grounds were said to be among the best in this part of the state.

The Wheaton team of 1935 joined a new league, the Minnkota League consisting of Graceville, Clinton, Beardsley, Browns Valley, Sisseton, Wilmot, Peever and Wheaton. L. E. "Brownie" Peterson was the manager of the Wheaton crew. The team posted an impressive 13-9 record for the year and was 10-2 in the league.

On June 17, 1935, the Minneapolis Millers and Saint Paul Saints of the American Association came to Wheaton to play an exhibition game with the Millers taking a 4-3 victory before about 2,000 fans.

In 1940 the Wheaton town team joined the Pomme de Terre League with Starbuck, Glenwood, Cyrus, Chokio and Hancock the other teams in the "loop". Harold Anderson was named coach and Gordon Oscarson manager and president of the club. The team was third in the league with a 5-3 record. They still competed in the Pomme de Terre in 1941, but then the war took amateur baseball away from the local scene for a few years.

In 1943 Wheaton's Stanley Kaess pitched for the University of Minnesota and was instrumental in the Gophers' bid for the Big Ten championship.

After the war another baseball team was organized in 1946 with Ben Fortune as the manager. The team won three, lost five and tied one game while playing an independent schedule against area towns.

In May, 1947, the Land O' Ducks baseball league was organized at a meeting in Whea-



**JERRY SCHULTZ**, a product of the Wheaton amateur and high school baseball teams, signed a contract with the New York Yankee system in 1967 after starring in baseball and basketball during his four years at the University of North Dakota. Jerry played his rookie season with Johnson City, Tennessee. In 1968 he was assigned to Kinston in the Carolina League, then played for two seasons at Manchester, New Hampshire in the Eastern League. He returned to his home town after four seasons of professional baseball and now is a successful insurance agent with Farm Bureau.

ton, with Beardsley, Dumont, Herman, Clinton and Big Stone City joining Wheaton as charter members of the league. Wheaton teams enjoyed twenty-five very successful seasons in the Land O' Ducks league. They won a total of 12 championships during their stay in the league, captured one Minnesota

State American Baseball Congress championship in 1954, two Region 9B titles in 1955 and 1956, and went all the way to the state semifinals in the 1956 state tournament.

In 1947, the first year in the league, Wheaton won the Land O' Ducks title with an 11-2 record, but then lost to Raymond in the regional tournament. Wheaton repeated as league champion in 1948, but again lost in the regional, this time to Hancock.

It was in 1953 when the Wheaton team came up with their next league championship and that started a string of seven straight title-winning years, through 1959. After missing the title in 1960, Wheaton again won it in 1961, 1962 and their final time in 1964.

The 1964 season became very special for Wheaton baseball fans as they were the recipients of baseball lights on their diamond at the athletic field, a donation from a most generous baseball fan, Joe Norsen.

Baseball interests began to die out, however, in the next few years and the Wheaton teams struggled through the 1969 season with very little success. In fact, in 1967 there was no amateur team at all in Wheaton except for American Legion Junior League teams. Wheaton returned to the Land O' Ducks for the 1968 and 1969 seasons, but then folded again. For four years there was no Wheaton team represented in the Land O' Ducks league.

In 1974 there was another attempt to reorganize a baseball team and for three seasons, through the 1976 season, Wheaton was again represented in the LOD, but they never could regain their championship form and in 1977 the team folded for the third and final time. Since then Wheaton has not had a team in amateur baseball.

The American Legion post here has sponsored a junior baseball program in the past, but has not had a team for several years. The best team was probably in 1963 when they advanced all the way to the 7th District finals only to lose out to Willmar 2-0, only one game away from a state tournament berth.

In 1971 the Merton-Dale American Legion Post of Wheaton organized their Little League program for youngsters in the 9-12 year old group. This program has proven to

be very successful and is still flourishing today. Annually there are about seventy or eighty young boys and girls taking part in this program during the summer months.

Wheaton has also had a VFW baseball team from time to time for the youngsters in the 12-16 year age bracket. For those younger, the little tots, there is T-ball in the summer recreation program. But amateur baseball for Wheatonites has faded into oblivion as interests seemed to turn to other activities.

## SOFTBALL

The game of softball has been played in Wheaton over the years, but in the most recent years it has really blossomed into a sport that has seen a great deal of participation, not only for the men, but for women as well.

Back in 1959 Bob Bruns, then a teacher at Wheaton High School, was the instigator of a church softball league. Six teams took part in that first year of action. Each team was allowed from 10 to 15 players so the entire league had between 60 and 90 players involved.

In 1962 a new league was formed. This time the churches were not involved, but four teams were entered in league play, three from Wheaton and one from White Rock. The league was increased to six teams in 1964.

On May 31, 1967, the Traverse Softball League was organized. This league is still around today. The first season saw six teams taking part, but in most recent seasons of the mid-1980's there have been from ten to twelve teams in action, each having up to 16 players, so there could be nearly 200 players participating today.

The biggest change came in about 1977. That is when the Traverse Softball League switched from a fast-pitch league to a slow-pitch style of play. This gives more people the opportunity to play, since it may be a bit easier for the older players to compete with the youngsters. This change brought about an increase in teams entered in the league as well as an addition in the number of players involved.

Women's teams also take part in softball action during the summer months, compet-

ing against other area towns. On many a summer night the lights at the softball field are lighted for hours with two or three games played by men or women, amid the mosquitoes, the heat, the wind, or rain, but they all seem to be having a lot of fun amongst themselves.

## GOLF

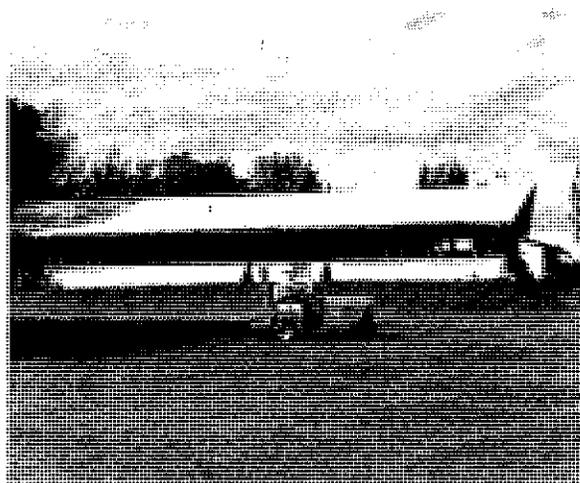
The sport of golf has been enjoyed by many a Wheatonite for more than half a century. In 1925 an organizational meeting of the Wheaton Golf Club was held with the fee for joining set at \$15 per couple. Enthusiasm was very high and a committee of S. C. Odenborg, Reuben Ringdahl and Dr. A. L. Lindberg was appointed to select a course. They chose a 50 acre tract of land seven miles southwest of Wheaton overlooking both Traverse and Mud Lakes, near the site of Maudada, with beautiful greens being finished on the course in May of 1925.

In 1926 the Golf Club rented forty acres of pasture land east of Wheaton and began preparing playing grounds. In July of that year a decision was made to hold a tournament, which was completed in September. T. K. Burges defeated Oscar Anderson for the first championship of the Wheaton Golf Club.

In 1929 the club leased forty acres of land from Albert Hill, which promised to develop into an ideal golf course. The club built a clubhouse near the first tee (now ninth tee) in



**THE PUTTING GREEN** near the clubhouse at the Wheaton Country Club gets a workout from these three ladies who hope to improve their putting game. The clubhouse was built in 1959.



**THE MOTORIZED GOLF CART** is a familiar sight at the golf course today with many, many golfers using this means to tour the course.

1932, a building 16 by 20 feet, with plans to attach a porch the next year. Membership at that time was fifty-seven, including seven ladies.

In 1931 the Wheaton Golf Club was admitted to a league along with other area clubs to promote interest in the popular game. In addition to Wheaton, other members of the league were Browns Valley, Pomme de Terre, Ortonville, Milbank, Graceville, Appleton and Benson.

The Wheaton Golf Club purchased the forty-three acre tract then occupied by the golf course in 1933. The course still stands today on the same plot of land with more acres added to it in later years.

George Schmitz scored the first hole-in-one on the Wheaton course in 1935. There have been many others who turned the trick since that time, far too many to list and not all the names are recorded, so too many would be missed. In 1959 Glenn Hagen toured the golf course in thirty strokes, six under par. This was recorded on the sand green course.

On July 17, 1981 Craig Bihrlle set the course record on grass greens when he scored a six-under-par 30, matching Hagen's mark.



**CRAIG BIHRLE** set the course record for grass greens on July 17, 1981 when he shot a score of 30, which tied him with Glenn Hagen for low honors over the Wheaton golf course in its many years of existence.

In 1959 the foundation slab for the Wheaton Country Club's new clubhouse was poured at its present location. With the help of much volunteer labor, the clubhouse dreams finally became a reality. The club was very active with members playing on sand greens and enjoying it immensely. It was in October of 1964 that a gift of \$5,000 was donated by Dr. H. N. Weickert and the late Mrs. Weickert to the Wheaton Country Club for the installation of grass greens. Early in 1965 the club let contracts for the greens watering system, and grass greens as we see them today became a reality at the course.

The Wheaton Golf Club, now called Country Club, has come a long way since its inception back in 1925. With those first dues at \$15 a couple, we find that in 1952 the dues were still at the same rate for a family membership, but in 1969, after the grass greens were installed, it was found necessary to increase the dues to \$45 for a resident family, \$30 for a non-resident, and \$17.50 for a social membership. Today the cost of a family membership is just a bit over \$100 for a season.

A very active Golf Club Auxiliary, which has been in existence for over thirty years, has helped spark interest and raise funds for improvements in and around the clubhouse.

In 1985 the total membership list included 280 adult family memberships, 63 high school students, 19 college students and nine social members. There were 198 shares of stock held by club members.

## TENNIS

Tennis has been a popular sport for many a Wheatonite over the years. An early report of a tennis team came in 1914 when a Wheaton team traveled to Graceville to compete against the team there.

In May, 1924, the local tennis club completed courts located east of the bakery. Those courts did get some use, but over the years interest seemed to fade, then came back once again. In 1940 the Wheaton City Council appropriated the sum of \$35 to the tennis club to restore the courts to playing condition.

It was in the spring of 1965 that new tennis courts became a part of the athletic field complex located on the west edge of town. They are still in use today with recent improvements bringing about more extensive use and more interest by tennis buffs.

In 1971 Eric Narvaez, who at the time was an instructor at Wheaton High School, started a team of high schoolers. That Warrior team competed in the district tournament, but lost all of its matches. When Narvaez left the school system, tennis was dropped and Wheaton High has not had a tennis team since.

Today the tennis courts at the athletic field see quite a bit of play from those who enjoy the game. In 1983 the Wheaton Community Education held a tennis tournament that drew a field of five women and eight men.



**THE WHEATON MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL** is perhaps the most popular spot in town for youngsters during the summer months. When the weather gets hot, they invade the pool in droves. Even adults like to take a dip in the pool now and then.

### **SWIMMING**

In the early days Wheatonites who liked to take a dip found their pleasure either at the "old swimming hole" on the Mustinka River or at Shady Dell or some other beach on Lake Traverse.

The Minn-Kota Swimming Pool was a fine addition to the city of Wheaton in June of 1965. Youngsters especially, but also old-timers, get much enjoyment out of the pool on hot summer days.

In 1980 an AAU swim team was organized here to compete against other area towns. This team entered into competition for two or three years with youngsters competing against other area youth in many different swim events.

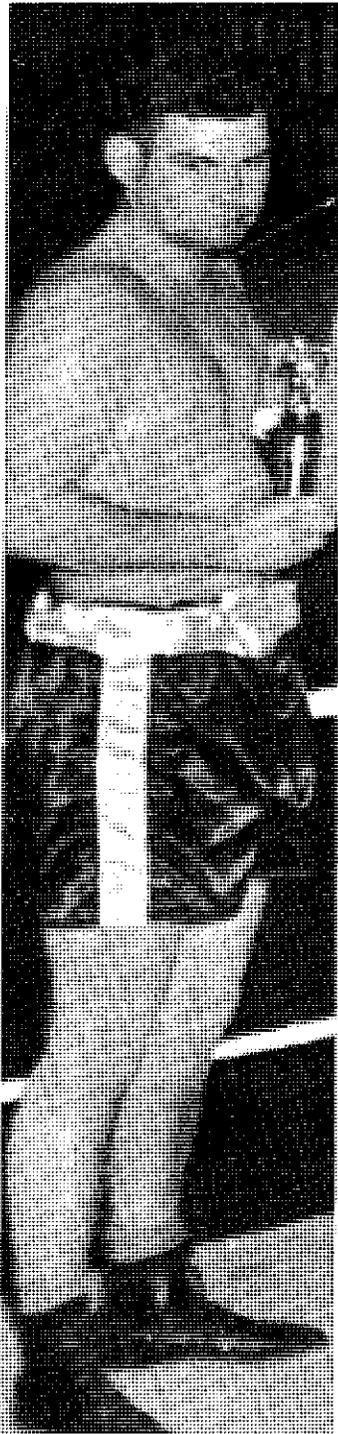
### **HORSESHOE**

The sport of horseshoe has long been a pastime for some, perhaps mainly in the back yard or possibly the barn yard, but today there is a horseshoe league to keep local enthusiasts in good pitching form.

In 1965 the Wheaton Jaycees installed two horseshoe courts on the State Bank lot at the corner of Tenth Street and Broadway. Today the courts are located at the city park near the fairgrounds.

In 1972 the Interstate Horseshoe League was organized with teams from Dumont, Rosholt and Wheaton. In 1976 they joined the Tri-County League, which included teams from Traverse, Stevens and Grant counties.

The Wheaton team is still in existence today, competing each summer against teams from Donnelly, Morris and Rosholt.



**FRANK BORSHEIM** was an outstanding boxer in the Golden Gloves program, winning the middleweight championship at the Wahpeton tournament in 1950. He later went on to a few professional boxing bouts in the Twin Cities area.

## **BOXING**

Boxing was rather popular for some Wheaton fans of pugilism back in the early 1950's, and indeed for some young fighters as well. Jack Robison started up the local team and sent boxers to the Golden Gloves tournament each year in Wahpeton.

Frank Borsheim won the middleweight championship at the Wahpeton Golden Gloves tournament in 1950. He later turned professional and had several bouts as a pro in the Twin Cities area.

## **INDEPENDENT BASKETBALL**

After high school graduation, basketball has often been available to many a Wheatonite. As far back as the 1920's the American Legion sponsored independent basketball for those interested and the Wheaton teams competed against other area town teams.

Back in the early 1950's Wheaton had a team represented in an area league and competed against White Rock, Herman, Norcross, Graceville, Chokio, Campbell and Beardsley.

Through the 1960's, 70's and into the 80's there have been independent teams off and on in Wheaton whenever there was enough interest to form a team.

The Wheaton Community Education now sponsors teen and also adult basketball each winter for both men and women.

## **HORSE RACING**

One of the highlights each year at the Traverse County Fair is the horse racing program. This seems to be very popular, especially for the old-timers. In 1909 thirteen race horses participated at the third annual county fair in Wheaton; in 1940 seventy horses were entered in the harness races.

There was a time, back in 1901 to be exact, when Wheaton was the home of one of the fastest pacing horses in the northwest, the brown gelding "Ole Munson". The horse was purchased by liveryman Wentworth and Judge Burton.

In 1912 H. B. Cory was training a fast pacer named "Paderiski" and said it was the best racehorse in the northwest and expected it to make a good record that year.

## BOWLING

As far back as 1901 there were reports of bowling activity in Wheaton, and today the sport is one of the most popular pastimes with the largest number of participants taking part.

The early day bowling was done in the Benno building, now housing Neumann's Bar, and also in the Jastram Recreation building. It was a different game in those days with only five pins and a five-inch diameter ball used.

In 1940 a four-lane bowling establishment was constructed in downtown Wheaton, built by Kenneth Jahnig. These lanes kept bowlers busy until 1953 when the alleys were moved to Sisseton.

Ray Blank installed two alleys in his bar business, Ray's Tavern, in 1958 and increased them to four alleys in 1960. These lanes were in operation until 1972 when the tavern was closed.

In 1960 an eight-lane bowling establishment was constructed on Highway 75 and this is still in operation today. There are a total of eleven leagues, four for men consisting of thirty-two teams, five leagues for women with thirty-five teams, and two mixed doubles leagues of eight teams each. That makes for a grand total of eighty-three bowling teams taking part in this popular sport in the mid-1980's.

Wheaton does have one claim to fame as far as bowling is concerned. In April of 1969 a team of Rebekahs from Wheaton won the state bowling championship for women. Members of that team were Irene Johnson, Marvyl Anderson, Beth Laddusaw, Alma Hagen and Arlene Dobbs.

Owners of the present bowling alley have included Gabby Petrick, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holms, the Larry Swerre's, and Larry and Carol Giroux.

## GO-KART RACING

In the early 1960's a new fad took over as go-kart racing came onto the scene. The Wheaton Kart Club was organized in 1961 and local racers garnered several trophies at a big meet in Minneapolis.

The Wheaton City Council leased four acres at \$1 for five years to the Kart Club in April of 1961 where a .2 mile course was built with bituminous surfacing near the Wheaton airport.

In 1962 Don Whaley won the state championship go-kart races. Races were also held here in 1963 with about 40 go-karts entered in the competition.

Go-karting was another fad that passed on as other interests developed in the years ahead.

## SNOWMOBILING

Snowmobilers have had their days in the Wheaton area, especially in the 1960's and on into the early 1970's. The Minn-Kota Snow Riders was a newly-formed snowmobile association in 1969.

In 1971 the first snowmobile races were held despite bad weather. The races were on the Mustinka River, starting near LeRita's Steak House.

In 1973 the Moonlight Riders, another local snowmobile club, disbanded and turned over its assets to a hockey fund as snowmobiling in organized form began to fade away. There are still snowmobiles around today, but not nearly as many, and there are no organized snowmobile clubs as there were in past years.



**SNOWMOBILING** has been a very popular winter past-time for many a Wheatonite



**MOTOCROSS RACING** was popular at Indian Hills course in 1974. Here Clarence "Skippy" Skifstrom gives the checkered flag to one of the cyclers entered in a race.

**MOTORCYCLING**

The Wheaton Jaycees sponsored motorcycle races in 1973 with 75 cyclists entered from as far as Minneapolis, Winnipeg, and Dickinson, ND. The races were held at the fairgrounds race track.

Motocross racing then became very popular in 1974 when a course was constructed on the Fibranz hills six miles west of Wheaton for motorcycle racing competition over rugged terrain. The course was named Indian Hills Motocross.

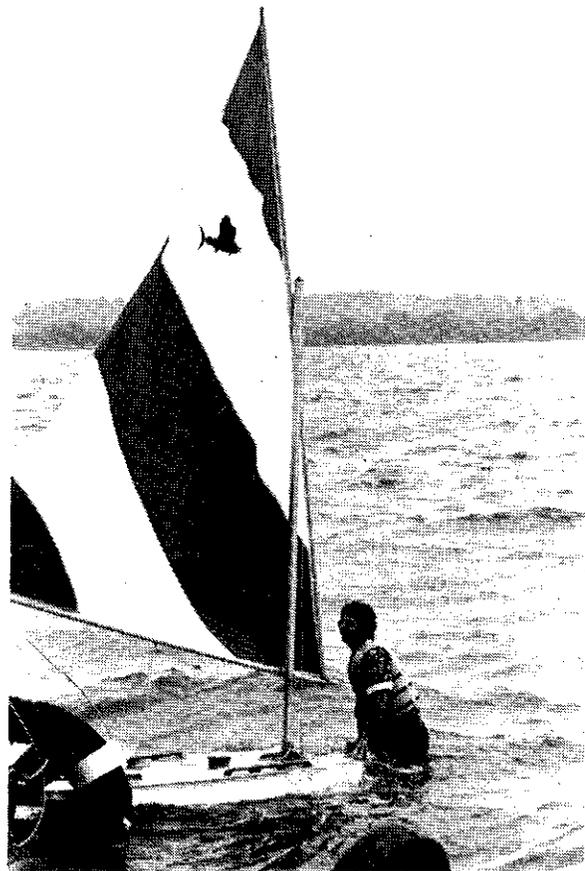
Races at Indian Hills drew motocross enthusiasts from near and far as several races were held on the course for a couple of years. Then the fad died out and there is no longer motocross racing at Indian Hills.

**CARDS**

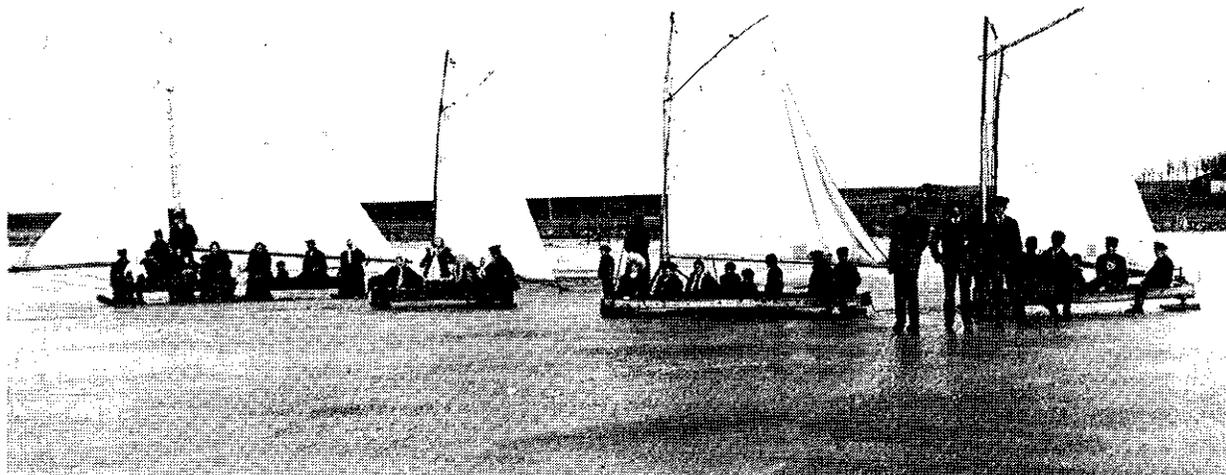
Card playing is as old as Wheaton itself. Over the years many a leisure hour has been spent by Wheatonites in such games as whist, smear, merry widow, bridge, buck euchre, pinochle and many others. There are several local bridge clubs for the women today, while many card games are played at local taverns and recreation parlors.

In the 1940's and 1950's there were the very popular whist tournaments between town and country men.

In 1973 a Wheaton cribbage team from the Masonic Lodge won the state championship as they took first place honors in the Grand Lodge cribbage tournament held in Minneapolis. Members of that team were Larry Armbrust, Milton Cole, Larry Smith, and Ole Johnson.



**LAKE TRAVERSE** provides many a Wheatonite with spare time fun and excitement. The photo above shows some sailing enthusiasts, Greg Anderson and Earl Cole testing the winds. Many others enjoy water skiing or just roaming over the waters in their speedboats.



**ICE BOATING ON LAKE TRAVERSE** was a popular pastime for old timers around the turn of the century. All of the ice boats were homemade and rigged with huge sails to propel them at a speedy clip across the ice on the lake.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITY**

Many other less familiar activities are taking up the leisure hours of Wheatonites. For instance, one can see people out jogging or walking for exercise just about any day of the week. There were 140 participants in Wheaton's first annual 10K, or 10,000 meter, walk-run held in 1983. Winner was Kevin Osborn, Wahpeton, who crossed the finish line in 37 minutes, 58 seconds.

There has been a local archery club for those so inclined, and many people enjoy camping out in the wilds or by the lakes or rivers. There may even be some star gazers or bird watchers around, too.

Water skiing has been a very popular summertime activity out on Lake Traverse, and in the winter some Wheatonites enjoy skiing on the slopes or perhaps cross-country skiing.

Photography, painting, music, reading, movies, aerobics, square dancing, ballroom dancing, sewing, ceramics . . . these are but a few of the other activities that interest Whea-

tonites. There may be many more forms of activity that are not too well known except to those who enjoy them the most.



**SQUARE DANCING** is another form of entertainment many Wheatonites enjoy. If they're not square dancing, they also enjoy ball room dancing.



**WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST FOOTBALL TEAM.** The printing on the football tells that this 1902 contingent had defeated Milbank 10 to 5. Members of the team included: front row left to right, Carl Hormon, Clarence Thorson, Oliver Torgerson, Albert Peterson; second row from left: Levi Anderson, Ward Williams, Lawrence Nelson, Frank Cunningham; back row from left: Alvin Swenson, Bob Wheeler, Coach R. L. Kemple, Ernest Swanke, Ed Anderson, Clarence Peterson, Steve Hopkins.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

### FOOTBALL

Ever since the early 1900's Wheaton High School has competed on the gridiron against competition from near and far. The earliest of Warrior teams seem to have had the greatest amount of success, as a 1902 report tells of the team that won many a game. Their exploits were almost legendary. They played in the heyday of the fabulous Jim Thorpe and were known for their strength and stamina.

In 1903 the Warriors claimed the undisputed championship of northwestern Minne-

sota. The 1904 team gained even wider recognition. They were labeled "giants" of the area when they went through an undefeated season with their goal line never being crossed all season long. The Warrior team, following their regular season, went into North Dakota and defeated a Lisbon team that had claimed the championship of that state.

The gridiron success continued in 1905 when Wheaton claimed superiority over western and northern counties of Minnesota, then took on Minneapolis Central, champions of the eastern and southern sections of the state. Wheaton won that game by a score of 9-8.

That style of success has never quite been repeated, but in 1922 the Wheaton High team ended the season with four wins and a scoreless tie for a near perfect record. The 1928 Warrior gridders were named 13th best among 74 teams in west central Minnesota after posting a 4-2 record.

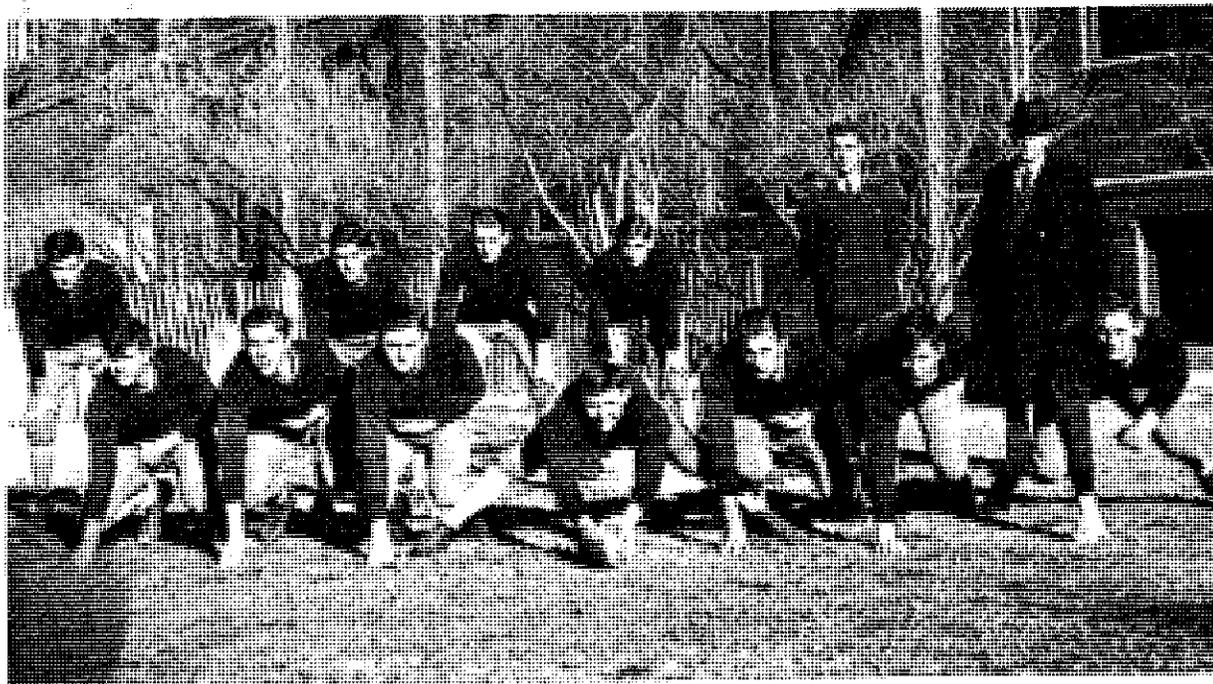
The 1934 team turned in a record of 5-2, the best posted by a Warrior grid squad in 15 years. During that season they played their first night game against Starbuck, using a white ball so it could be seen better under the lights. The 1936 team won six games out of the nine they played.

After a few down years, the Warriors came up with a fine 6-2 record in 1948 and were contenders for the Heart O' Lakes Conference championship. The team was 5-1-2 the following year under coach Martin Kranz, who rejuvenated the football program at Wheaton High following the war years.

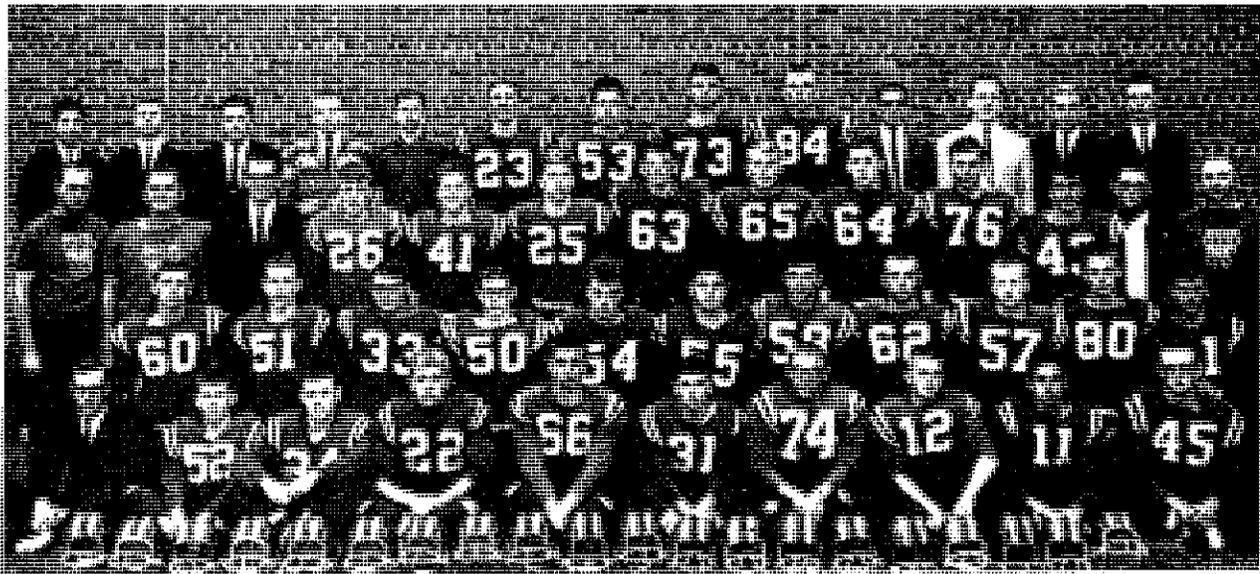
In 1955 the Warrior gridders under coach Don Schlattman posted a 6-3 record and cap-

tured Wheaton's first conference championship as they won the newly formed Prairie and Lakes Conference title. The league included Starbuck, Osakis, the Morris Ag School and Wheaton. This was only the first title as the Warriors went on to win three more undisputed championships and shared another in the six year existence of the conference.

In 1961 Jim Henkes took over as coach of the Warrior gridiron fortunes and served here for 14 seasons, the longest tenure of any Wheaton football coach. He came up with many a fine football team, including his first one which posted a 6-3 mark. The Warriors were 6-2-1 in 1962 and it was in 1964 that they really made a mark for themselves as they earned a share of the championship in the tough Resort Region Conference, which included the schools of Moorhead, Fergus Falls, Detroit Lakes, Alexandria and Breckenridge.



**WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM OF 1939: Front row from left, John Lundberg, Raymond Berneking, Bud Siltman, Leo Deal, Marvin Marten, Milton Kurth, Wesley Peterson; back row, from left: John Pearson, Eddie Drinkwitz, Vilroy Schmitz, Arllis Schmits, W. W. Thompson, Supt. J. E. Pearson.**



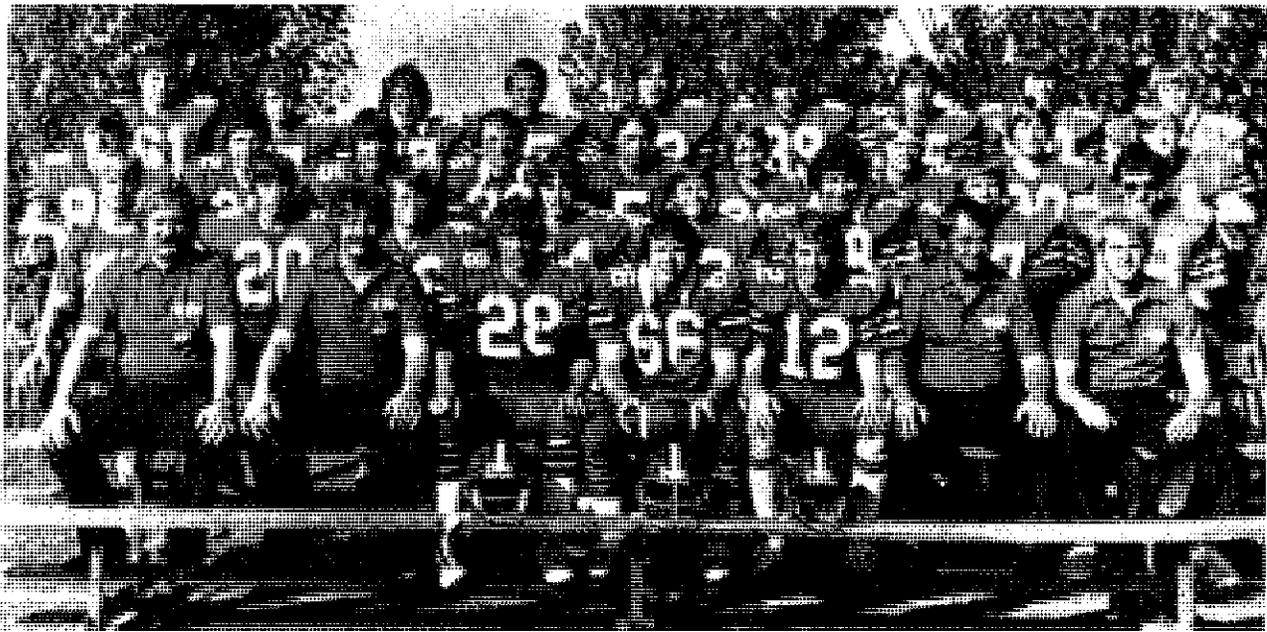
**RESORT REGION CONFERENCE CO-CHAMPIONS:** The 1964 Wheaton Warrior football team tied with Moorhead for the RRC title with a 4-1 record. Team members pictured are, front row, left to right, George Sagissor, Harlan Anderson, Jack Johnson, Mike Gail, Dorry Larson, Norman Jarrells, Larry Birch, Dave Ranney, Bruce Grohn, Doyle Moeller. Second row, Dean McClellan, Jim Conroy, Jeff Norton, Doug Dyer, Vic Rabel, Len Zimmel, Dean Jorschumb, Mike Muellenbach, Bruce Petterson, Ted Yeats, Barry Gaulrapp. Third row, assistant coach Jerry Folstrom, head coach Jim Henkes, Billy Jarrells, Lee Hausmann, Tom Olson, Mike Swanke, Arvid Anderson, Bob Barlage, David Larson, John Hennen, Doug Jorschumb, Allen Carrigan, assistant coach George Sawyer. Back row, Ken Wagner, Jim Worner, Lonnie Anderson, Ron Conroy, Larry Issendorf, Tom Wieser, Craig Anderson, Don Schultz, Darrell Moerer, Jim Kochie, Ed Carpenter, Larry Lubben, Dewayne Novak.

That 1964 team finished with a 6-3 record, but the next season was even a bit better when the Warriors came up with a 7-2 mark. However, they did not repeat as conference champions since both losses came in league play.

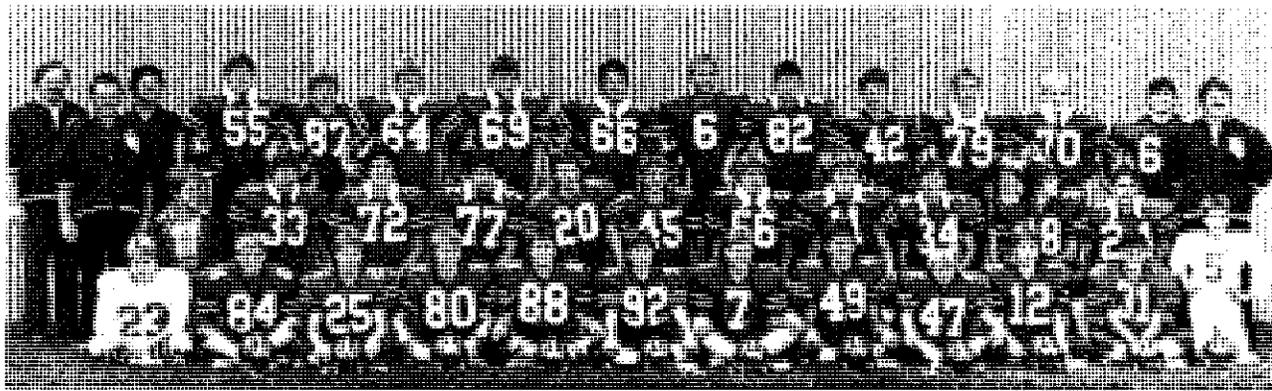
It was not until the 1980 season that another Warrior grid team could equal that 7-2 record. They were then coached by Earl Steffens, who was a former Wheaton Warrior athlete himself in his high school days. Steffens coached the Warriors for six seasons, his last being in 1984 when his team earned their first post season playoff berth in the newly formed system to determine state championships in five different classes, according to school enrollment. The Warriors won their first playoff game, but then

lost out by only three points to Clarkfield in the next Class C Section 5 contest to end the season.

Over the many years of football competition for Wheaton High School, the Warrior teams have always been very competitive, even though many, many times they had to go up against much larger schools. Someday, perhaps, Wheaton football fortunes may return to what they were back in those earliest days, when the Warriors were among the best teams in the state. Now, with the 5-class system, they only have to compete against schools of similar enrollment in post season action. That may someday lead to a state championship game for the Warriors in the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis.



**THE 1980 WHEATON WARRIOR FOOTBALL TEAM** posted a fine 7-2 record, the best by any team in 15 years. Team members pictured are, front row, left to right, assistant coach Jim Milne, coach Earl Steffens, Alan Schmidt, Mike Sweere, Dave Currens, assistant coach Al Kuvaas, assistant coach Karl Baldry. Second row, from left, manager Peder Naatz, Jim Kremer, Tom Fridgen, Phillip Mitteness, Jeff Sawyer, Mark Schoephoerster, Bryan Johnson, Don Bartholome. Third row, from left, Brian Hoffman, Dave Bartholome, Kevin Leininger, Mike Fahleen, Craig Sawyer, Dave Przymus, Bill Schmidt, Brian Montonye, Jack Ahrens. Fourth row, from left, Larry Hiedeman, David Doll, Mike Conroy, Chris Braun, Duane Naatz, Larry Vipond, Joel Holum, Bobby Wirtz, Alan Berneking.



**THE 1984 WHEATON WARRIOR FOOTBALL TEAM** was the first to make it into the post-season playoffs where they won one game over Hector before being stopped by Clarkfield. Team members pictured are, front row, left to right, manager Brian Schultz, Kelly Raguse, Kirk Morrow, Marshal Alsaker, Shawn Goracke, Darin Rinke, Brad Kohls, Darin Krenz, Billy Doll, Marc Rinke, Chad Bohnenstingl, manager Tim Gail. Second row, left to right, manager Darin Berger, Dean Lampe, Jason Ernst, Dennis Zabell, Randy Lamb, Dale Przymus, Chad Goracke, Scott Schmitz, Tom Bock, Chris Conroy, Eric Naatz. Back row, left to right, assistant coaches Jim Milne and Scott Fuhrman, Curt Hormann, Jeff Peterson, Kit Johnson, Matt Aker, David Hiedeman, Clayton Ernst, Peder Naatz, Brad Krenz, D. J. Conroy, Philip Deal, Matt Benson, Mark Sperr, head coach Earl Steffens.

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The first mention of boys basketball came in the school notes of a 1900 **Wheaton Gazette** stating that a basketball had been ordered and the boys would soon be "displaying their skill in locating the basket." An article in 1905 stated, "Prospects appear good for girls' and boys' basketball as an outdoor court was to be used." No more information about those very early teams is available, but it was in 1916 when the Wheaton Warriors really got into action against other area schools after a new gymnasium had been built.

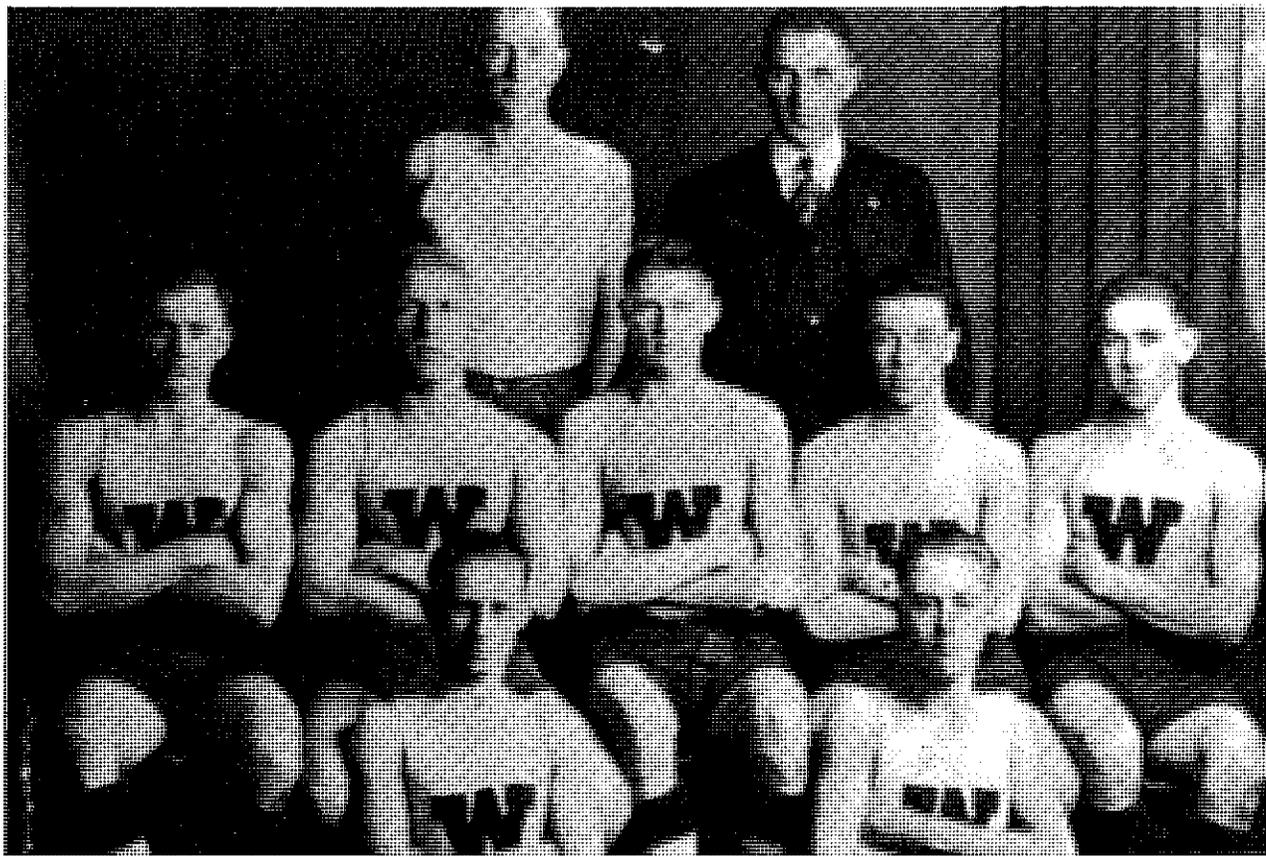
The first available score was a 27-7 victory over Clinton noted in the **Gazette** dated February 18, 1916. The Wheaton High team was eventually built into a winner with the biggest years coming in 1919, 1920 and 1921 when the Warriors played in the

Minnesota state high school basketball tournament. No boys team since then has ever made it back to the state tourney.

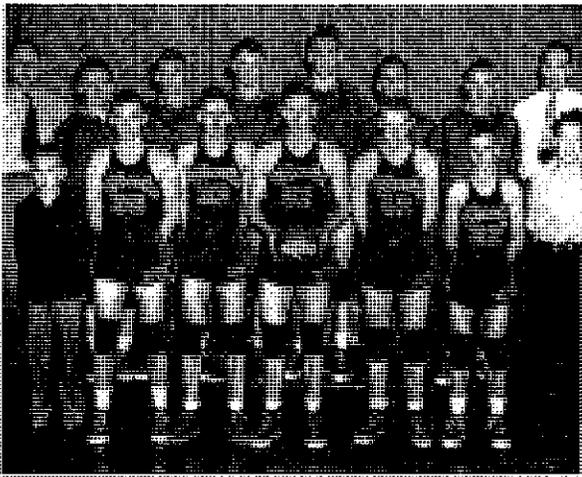
The state tournament in those days was an invitational affair with the best teams from all over the state being chosen to participate on the basis of their season records. It was held at Carleton College in Northfield.

Wheaton's three state tournament teams, although they had very fine records during the season, never found the winning formula at the state tourney, losing in their first outing each time they played at Carleton College. It was a great three seasons for the Warrior boys basketball teams nonetheless.

After some lean years the Warriors put together several fine winning seasons in the 1930's, starting with a 14-6 record in 1935



**THE 1921 STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM:** This was the last Wheaton Warrior boys basketball team ever to make it into the state tournament. Members of the team pictured are, front, Leonard Jensen, left, and L. Thomas. Seated, from left, Everett Bender, Herbert Faedtke, Weaver Saterbak, John Johnson and Edmund Lundquist. Back, Ernie Lindlg, left, and coach Roach.



**WHEATON'S FIRST DISTRICT 21** basketball championship team was in 1950. Team members pictured are, front row, left to right, student manager Peter Hofstedt, Norman Opp, Orval Hess, Cyril Wieser, Evan Olson, Horace Janke, manager John Elmer Nelson. Back row, left to right, coach Martin Kranz, Don Holm, Sidney Storm, Harry Nash, Arden Hull, Robert Vollbrecht, Kenneth Wenker, assistant coach Bob Bruns.

when the team went to the district finals. The 1936 season found the Warriors under coach "Bump" Gabrielson posting an undefeated 14-0 season, but the team was upset by Barrett in the semi-final round of the district tournament and finished with an 18-1 mark. Francis Noreen was the star of that team and earned all-district honors for his outstanding play.

Through the remainder of the 30's the Warriors had fine winning records, but the District 21 championship continued to elude them as they were runner-up to Breckenridge in both 1939 and 1940. The Breckenridge team in 1940 went on to win the Minnesota state championship.

It wasn't until the 1950 season that the Warriors under coach Martin Kranz won their first District 21 championship. Then the team went on to beat Fergus Falls in the Region 6 tournament at Fargo before losing to Alexandria in the finals, just one game shy of gaining a state tournament berth.

Another fine team in 1954 was knocked out of tournament action in the district finals, but finished with a 20-5 record, the first Warrior team to win twenty games in one



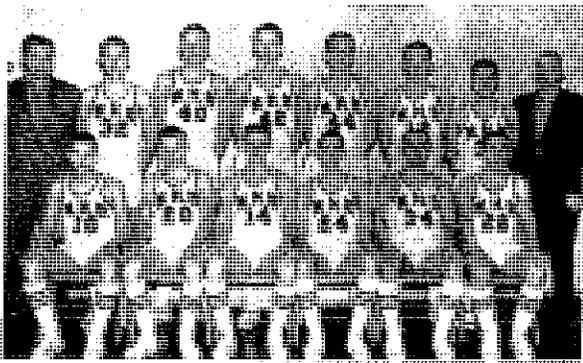
**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1959:** Team members pictured, front row, left to right, Fred Lundstrom, Joe Spafford, Richard Jacobson, Lee Hennen, Lynn Nelson, Dennis Bemis. Second row, left to right, assistant coach George Sawyer, Charle Krumwiede, Gene Lundquist, David Rinke, Simon Zeller, Jon Alsaker, Alfred Peterson, coach Wally Simonson.

season. Clarence Fauskin was the coach. Marvin Miller, a 1954 graduate, became the first WHS player to score more than 1000 points in his career, finishing with 1,063 total points scored in four seasons.

Wally Simonson took over as WHS coach of the Warriors in the 1957-58 season. His first team earned a share of the Resort Region Conference championship with an 8-2 league record, but they, too, were upset by Breckenridge in the district semi-finals. That team finished with an impressive 19-4 record, while playing the toughest schedule of any Wheaton team, as they had joined a very strong conference for the first time.

Wheaton's second District 21 championship came in 1959. That team went into regional competition against an undefeated Hawley team, lost out in a close battle, but came back to take third place in the tournament played at Concordia College in Moorhead.

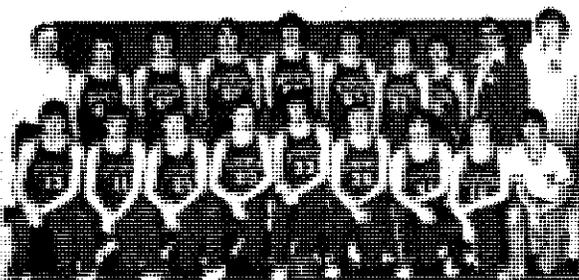
A young man by the name of Jerry Schultz became a starter for the Warriors in the 1960-61 season; and for three years in which he played a total of 66 games, he poured in a total of 1,218 points, an average of 18.5 points per game. His career was climaxed in 1963 when the Warriors won their third district championship. That team



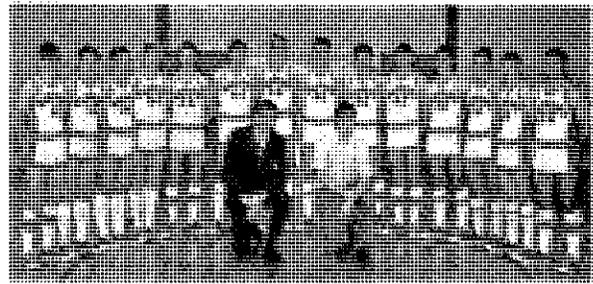
**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1963:** Team members pictured, front row, left to right, Bob Lund, Ken Boe, Jerry Schultz, Jim Hennen, Jim Satter, Jerry Drinkwitz. Back row, left to right, coach Wally Simonson, Vern Riddle, David Moerer, Curt Fabel, Ron Kaess, Doug Rinke, Henry Hoffman, assistant coach George Sawyer.

defeated Brainerd in the first regional tournament contest, but was stopped a game short of the state tournament by Sauk Centre, finishing with an 18-5 record. Schultz went on to excel in college basketball and baseball at the University of North Dakota, and in 1984 he was named to that school's Hall of Fame.

Wheaton High was not to win another district championship until the 1971 season when coach Neil Johnson, in his second season here, led the team to the district title. The Warriors defeated Detroit Lakes in the first round of regional action played at St. Cloud,



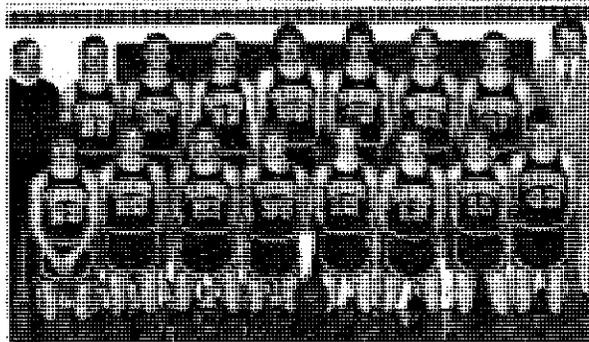
**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1981:** Front row, left to right, Jon Johnson, Scott Hess, Dave Bartholome, Craig Sawyer, Larry Vipond, Mike Fahteen, Mike Sweere, Brian Ketterling, manager Mike Gerner. Back row, left to right, assistant coach John Tauber, Dave Currens, Shawn Dobberstein, Duane Naatz, Ron Zibell, Brian Montonye, Joel Holum, Bill Fridgen, coach Neil Johnson, assistant coach Derry Peterson.



**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1971:** From left to right, Orin Behrens, Argel Laddusaw, Ritchie Sellden, Kyle Petterson, Gary Braness, Kevin Deal, David Reineke, Gary Wahl, Bob Kennedy, Gene Frost, Rick Schultz, Greg Toso, Roy Steffens, Mark Klindworth. Front, coach Neil Johnson and student manager Gary Wendlant.

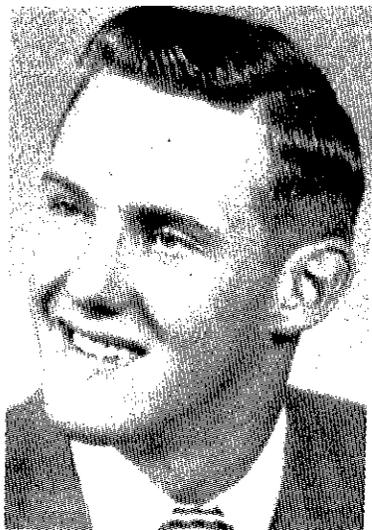
but were victimized by some bad breaks and bad officiating when they lost to Melrose 46-40 in the finals. The Melrose team then went on to capture the state Class A championship in the first year of the two-class system.

The next season another outstanding Wheaton Warrior ball club breezed through the regular season with a 19-1 record and advanced to the district finals before falling victim in another shocking upset at the hands of Elbow Lake. Their 21-2 record was, however, a very fine season indeed.



**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1986:** Front row, left to right, Scott Tobeck, Dale Przymus, Eric Naatz, Chad Goracke, Marc Rinke, Ross Kopperud, Marshal Alsaker, Larry Sperr. Back row, left to right, coach John Tauber, D. J. Conroy, Phillip Deal, Matt Aker, Mike Hormann, David Kuhat, Peder Naatz, Matt Benson, assistant coach Derry Peterson. Not pictured, Kirk Morrow.

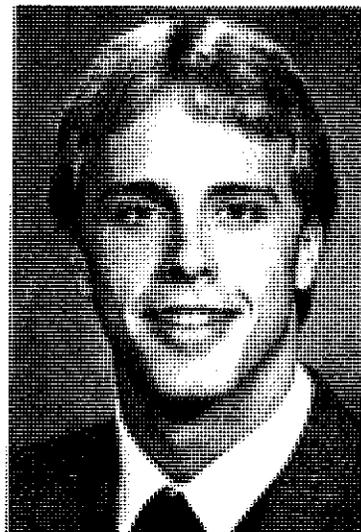
## 1,000 POINT SCORERS



**MARVIN MILLER**  
1954 graduate  
1,063 career points



**JERRY SCHULTZ**  
1963 graduate  
1,218 career points  
Single game record - 42 points



**PEDER NAATZ**  
1986 graduate  
1,242 career points

The 1972-73 season proved to be a most interesting experience for coach Neil Johnson and his Warrior team. Since the Warriors had lost their home court when the high school burned down on April 1, 1972, the team found themselves without a place to play their games or a gym to practice in here in Wheaton. They discovered that the small town of Peever, South Dakota, about 35 miles from Wheaton, had a new gymnasium that was not in use. Each day after school the players were loaded into a school bus and transported to Peever for their practice sessions. This went on all season long and all of the games on the schedule were played away from home. The Warriors managed to win 8 of 20 games during the season, then scored a pair of sub-district tournament victories before being stopped by Morris in the district. With a 10-13 record for the season, plus something like 4,000 miles of traveling, it was a year for all players to remember.

In the 1981 season the Warriors won their fifth District 21 championship, but this team was beaten by Staples in the regional tourna-

ment and finished with a 17-5 record.

The year of 1985-86 proved to be another very successful season for the Warriors as they captured their sixth District 21 championship. They then went on to meet an undefeated Hawley team in the first round of the Region 6A tournament in Moorhead and won a thrilling double overtime contest over the Nuggets to move into the finals, but once again the Warriors were stopped a game short of a state tournament berth as they lost to Staples. John Tauber was in his first year as coach of the Warriors.

Coach Neil Johnson, after serving 16 seasons at the helm of the Warriors, stepped down at the end of the 1985 season. His teams racked up a total of 214 victories and had 129 losses with two district championships and five runner-up finishes to their credit.

Peder Naatz, a 1986 graduate of Wheaton High School, became the third Warrior boy to reach the 1,000 point mark during his career, finishing with 1,242 points in four seasons on the varsity team.

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Girls basketball at Wheaton High School dates as far back as the 1916 season and continued through the 1920's and 30's before being dropped as an interscholastic sport for several years.

One of the best records posted by a Wheaton team came in 1930 when the Warriors won ten, lost one and tied one. In 1937 the Wheaton girls were named what was then called the progressive champions. The 1938 team won the first district championship, but in those days there apparently was no further advancement into regional or state competition for the girls.

Girls basketball did not return to Wheaton High School until the fall of 1973 when it was resumed. The first team under coach Lynette Johnson finished with an 0-6 record, but that was just the start of some exciting girls basketball to come in the next few years. It became a winter sport in the 1975-76 season with the Wheaton team being coached by Allen Grohn for two seasons. Neither team was able to come up with a winning season, however.

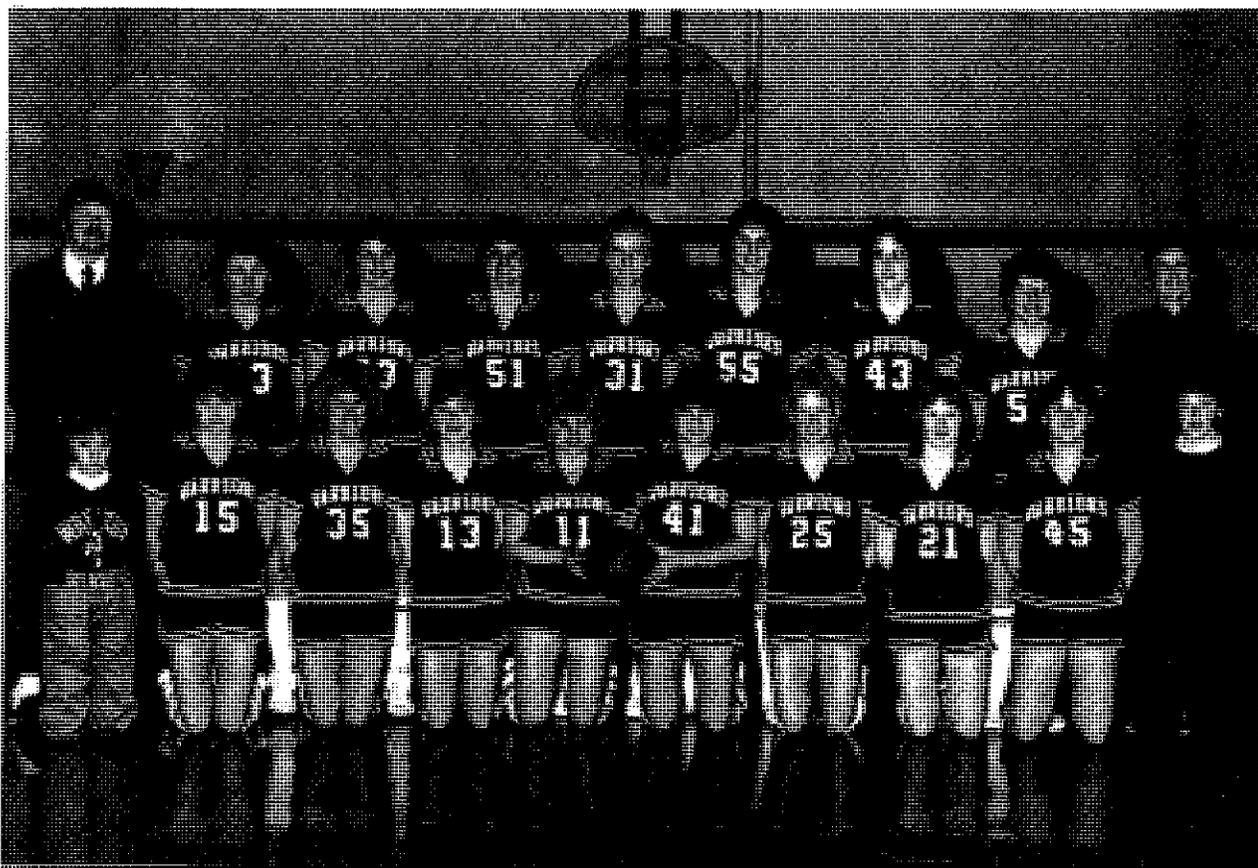
## 1,000 POINT SCORER



**HOLLY BRASETH**  
1983 graduate  
1,155 career points



**FANS IN THE WHEATON CHEERING SECTION** rooted loudly for their favorites, the Wheaton Warrior girls, when they played in the 1983 Minnesota state basketball tournament at the Metropolitan Sports Center in Bloomington. This section was a virtual "sea of red" as the Wheaton rooters turned out in full force to cheer the Warriors on.



**STATE TOURNAMENT TEAM IN 1983: Front row, left to right, student manager Kristi Schultz, Carrie Bihrie, Sandy Grohs, Kristi Warholm, Suzanne Ringdahl, Holly Braseth, Nancy Henkes, Julie Fahleen, Sue Ahrens, student manager Michelle Rinke. Back row, left to right, coach Earl Steffens, Lori Johnson, Keri Buchholz, Rhonda Larson, Kristi Kremer, Karmen Sager, Kristi Behrens, Tracy Buchholz, assistant coach Lynette Johnson.**

Earl Steffens took over as coach of the team for the 1977-78 season and, after two straight years with 9-10 records, the Wheaton girls finally had a winning year with an 11-8 mark in the 1979-80 season.

The 1980-81 team put together a 15-3 regular season mark, but lost out in the second round of district tournament action. Then the Warriors really hit the big time the next season, winning the District 21 championship in 1982 and going all the way to the Region 6 finals before losing out to the defending regional champion New York Mills. The Warriors finished with a 19-4 record that year.

In the 1982-83 season the Warrior girls breezed through their entire season schedule

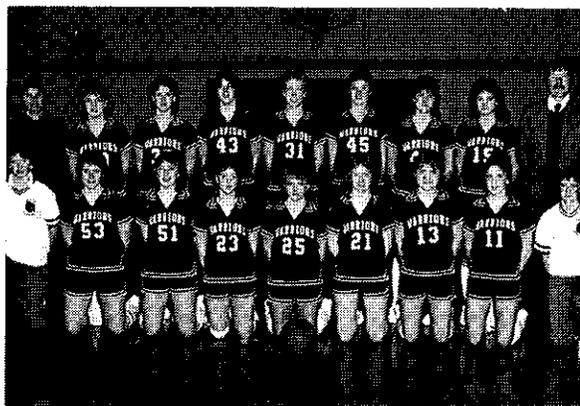
without a loss, captured another district title and this time walked off with the regional championship to take a perfect 23-0 record into the state tournament at the Metropolitan Sports Center in Bloomington.

In the first round of state tourney play the Warriors dominated the action against the team from Janesville for almost three periods. They held a 15 point lead with 11 minutes to go, but could not continue their fine play, and Janesville rallied to knock the Warriors out of it by a 53-48 score. The Warriors then lost to Benson in the consolation round the next day, but finished with a fine 23-2 season record.

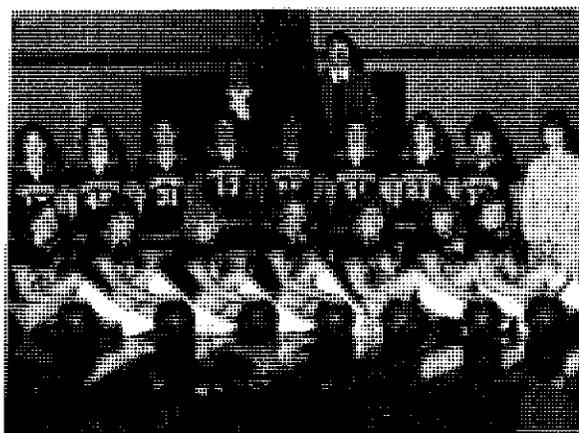


**WHEATON'S FIRST DISTRICT CHAMPION GIRLS** basketball team was in 1938. Team members pictured are, from left to right, Vera Schneider, Kitty McClellan, Ruby Lindquist, coach Lois Hanley, Virginia Opp, Eunlce Mulvanney and Dorothy Pakenham. In those days there were no regionals or state tournaments for girls.

Wheaton repeated as district champions the next two seasons, but both times the Warriors were stopped in the regional tournament. In 1984 they lost to Staples in the first regional contest, but wound up the year with a 19-3 record. In 1985 the team went through another undefeated season, took three more games to win their fourth consecutive district championship, but then lost



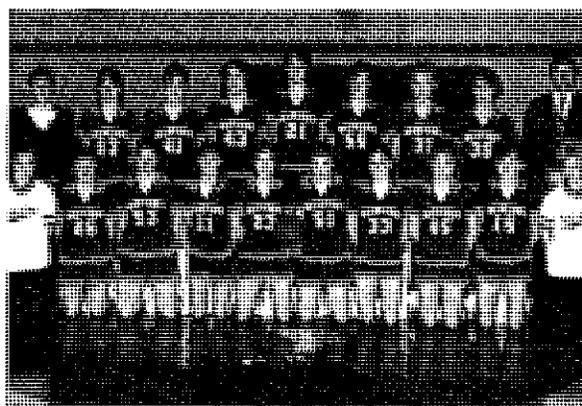
**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1984:** Front row, left to right, student manager Michelle Rinke, Tracy Buchholz, Amy Satter, Mary Benson, Carrie Schmidt, Julie Fahleen, Sara Bihrlie, Elizabeth Deal, student manager Kristi Schultz. Back row, left to right, assistant coach Lynette Johnson, Tara Johnson, Sondra Weick, Kristi Behrens, Kristi Kremer, Nicolle Braaten, Stefanle Bihrlie, Carrie Bihrlie, coach Earl Steffens.



**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1982:** Front row, left to right, Nancy Schmidt, Holly Braseth, Suzanne Ringdahl, Nancy Henkes, Tracy Buchholz, Sandy Grohs, Debby Fahleen. Back row, left to right, Carrie Bihrlie, Lisa Cook, Kristi Kremer, Kristi Behrens, Karmen Sager, Rhonda Larson, Keri Buchholz, Lori Johnson, student manager Michelle Rinke. Standing, assistant coach Lynette Johnson, head coach Earl Steffens.

their first game of the year to Starbuck in the regional, finishing with a 22-1 record.

Holly Braseth, a 1983 graduate of Wheaton High School, became the first female player for the Warriors to reach the 1,000 point plateau. She scored a total of 1,155 points in her four seasons as a varsity performer.



**DISTRICT BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1985:** Front row, left to right, student manager Klara Conroy, Carrie Schmidt, Tracy Buchholz, Karyn Schultz, Mary Benson, Amy Satter, Elizabeth Deal, Sara Bihrlie, Carrie Bihrlie, student manager Brenda Bjornson. Back row, left to right, assistant coach Lynette Johnson, Lisa Arens, Stefanle Bihrlie, Kristi Behrens, Mary Lampe, Nicolle Braaten, Kristi Kremer, Sondra Weick, coach Earl Steffens.



### THE KRISTI KREMER ERA

Much of the success of the girls basketball program at Wheaton High can be attributed to a girl by the name of Kristi Kremer, who graduated in 1985, leaving an impressive list of records that may never be broken in the years to come.

During her four seasons as a regular starter on the Wheaton team, the Warriors captured four District 21 championships, one Region 6A title and competed in the state tournament in 1983. The Wheaton teams during that period posted an amazing record of 83 wins against only 10 losses. Three of those defeats came in the regional tournament, two others in the state tournament.

An outstanding player both offensively and defensively, Kremer finished her career with a grand total of 1,760 points, 753 rebounds, 488 assists, 404 steals and 96 blocked shots. She set season marks of 608 points in one year, most rebounds with 228, most assists with 184, most steals with 145, and most blocked shots with 38. She also holds most of the same records for a single game, including a high of 44 points in one game during her senior year.

Kremer also had the best free throw percentage mark of 71 percent for a season, the best free throw percentage with 11 for 11 in a single game, the best field goal percentage with 17 for 17 in a single game and the best field goal percentage of 59 percent for a season. During her senior year she had an average of 26.4 points per game, the highest scorer in the entire state of Minnesota.

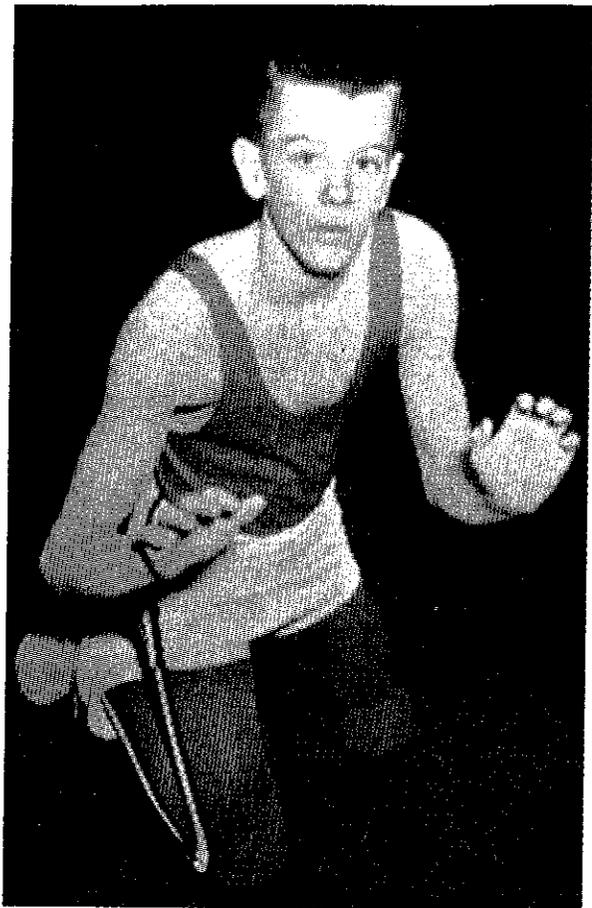
To top it all off, Kremer was named Miss Minnesota Basketball at the conclusion of her senior season. She was also named to every all-state team that was chosen. Besides being named to the Converse Top 10 All-American team, she was the only girl in the nation to also be honored as a Top Ten Academic All-American. She was the valedictorian of her senior class.

## WRESTLING

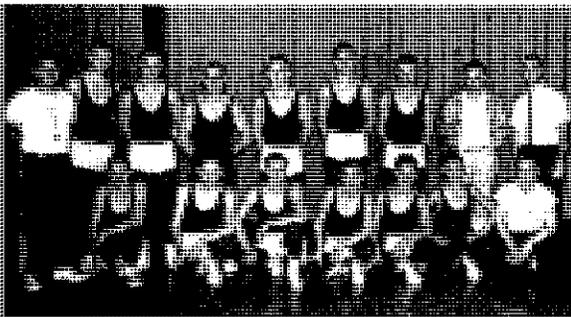
Wheaton High School athletes got their first taste of wrestling action back in 1950 when coach Martin Kranz organized a team for the first time, but it wasn't until the 1955-56 season that coach Don Schalattman got the program rolling into interscholastic competition.

The Warrior grapplers, as a team, have won only two District 21 championships. The first was in 1963 when they shared the title with Benson and the other came in 1976 when they edged out Herman for the crown. Many other Warrior teams have been strong district title contenders, however. They won the Resort Region Conference title in 1962 under coach Jim Henkes.

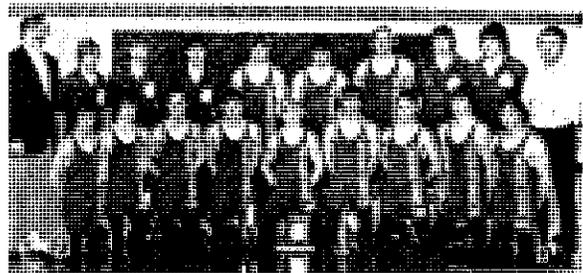
Wheaton has had a number of outstanding individual wrestlers over the years with many of them making it all the way into the state tournament. The first district title was won by Gordon Zibell in 1957. John Cunningham won the district in 1959. Other district champions from Wheaton through the 1985 season have been Gaylord Marcus, Dave Lindig, Dennis Grohn, Gary Gunderson twice, Howie Hogleund twice, Clyde Vollmers, Tom Conroy, Jim Doll twice, Tom Wilson, Steve Kellen, Greg Peterson twice, Steve Hormann, Bruce Wilson twice, Doug Wilson, Ed Sax, Mark Kellen, Alan Schmidt, Joel Bohnenstingl, David Doll, Chad Schmidt, Scott Schmitz twice, and Kevin Mau.



**GENE "CHICO" BERTRAM** won four district titles, one regional crown and competed in the state wrestling meet three times with a fourth place finish in 1963. He compiled a career record of 98-10-2 before graduating from Wheaton High in 1963.



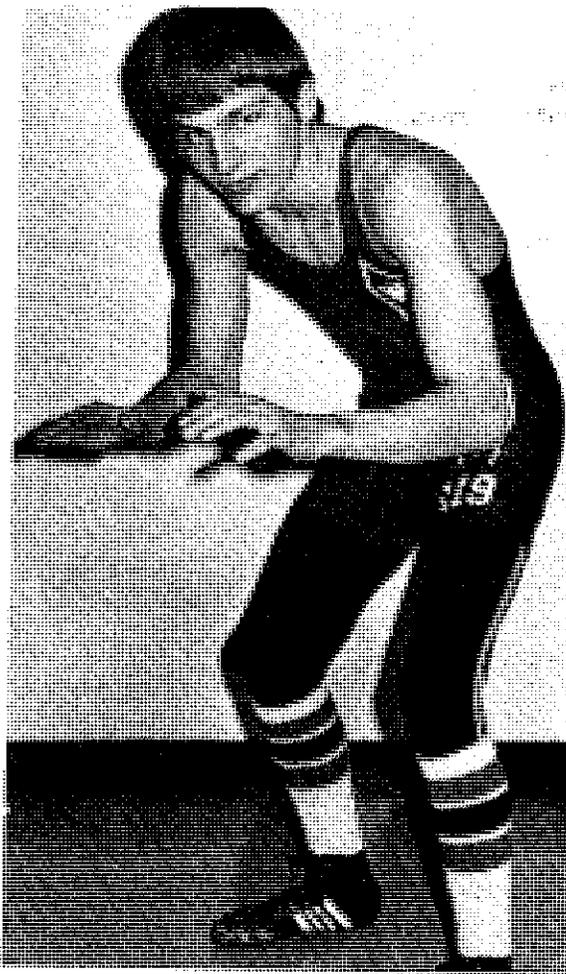
**DISTRICT WRESTLING CO-CHAMPIONS IN 1963:** Front row, left to right, Jim Gilsdorf, Stanley Drinkwitz, Gene Bertram, Wayne Marcus, Paul Gilsdorf, Gary Gunderson, Ken Bruns. Back row, left to right, coach Jim Henkes, Clyde Vollmers, Howie Hogleund, Gordle Kruger, Ron Hals, Vere Vollmers, Dan Conroy, Bill Conroy, assistant coach Don Nelson.



**DISTRICT WRESTLING CHAMPIONS IN 1976:** Front row, left to right, Mike Koob, Jeff Koob, Gregg Peterson, Bruce Wilson, Tony Kellen, Dewayne Groneberg, Steve Hormann, Mike Kellen, Glenn Frisch. Back row, left to right, assistant coach Jim Milne, Mark Kellen, Doug Wilson, Scott Frisch, Mike Gauger, Brook Buchholz, Kevin Raguse, Jeff Young, Jeff Smith, coach Al Kuvaas.

Eugene "Chico" Bertram won four straight district titles, from 1960 thru 1963. He posted a career record of 98-10-2, winning the regional championship in 1962 and finishing as runner-up in the regional two times. He competed in the state wrestling tournament three times, finishing fourth in 1963.

Winning regional championships in addition to Bertram have been Gaylord Marcus, Tom Wilson, Steve Kellen, Jim Doll, Bruce Wilson three times, and Alan Schmidt.



**BRUCE WILSON**, a 1978 Wheaton High graduate, holds the record for career wins with the Warrior wrestling team. He posted a mark of 107 wins, 24 losses and 2 draws. He made three trips to the state meet, finishing second in 1976.



**GAYLORD MARCUS**  
State meet 1959 & 1960



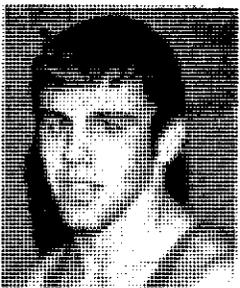
**MIKE SCHMIDT**  
State meet 1960



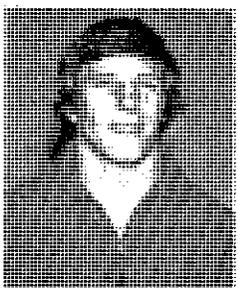
**CLYDE VOLLMERS**  
State meet 1963



**GARY GUNDERSON**  
State meet 1964



**TOM WILSON**  
State meet 1972 & 1973



**JIM DOLL**  
State meet 1972 & 1974



**STEVE KELLEN**  
State meet 1973 & 1974



**ALAN SCHMIDT**  
State meet 1981

Bruce Wilson, a 1978 graduate of WHS, posted the most career victories with 107. He lost 24 matches and had 3 draws. In the 1976 state tournament Wilson won his first three matches to advance into the championship finals, but was beaten there by Tom Kriewal of Blue Earth in a close 1-0 decision.

Al Kuvaas coached the Warrior wrestling team for 14 seasons, from 1971 through the 1985 season. His teams won a total of 99 dual meets while losing 59 and tying 4 times. He won one district title in 1976 and had strong contending teams many other times.

A fine wrestling program for the high school is brought about by the early start the youngsters get today in the elementary school program and the Jaycee kid wrestling program. The early start in the basic fundamentals of wrestling make the high schoolers strong competitors when they reach that age level.



**DISTRICT VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1982:** Front row, left to right, Carrie Schmidt, Cindy Doll, Suzanne Ringdahl, Barb Bohnenstingl, Karen Henkes, Holly Braseth. Back row, left to right, Stacie Stark, Jodi Ebel, Nicole Braaten, coach Beth Blume, Kristi Kremer, Kerl Buchholz, Rhonda Larson.

## **VOLLEYBALL**

A new fall sport for girls was introduced at Wheaton High School in 1978 when the Warriors fielded their first volleyball team under the guidance of coach Chuck Meixner. That first season was somewhat of a learning process for the team, which finished with only one win against ten losses.

Beth Schroeder took over as coach in 1979 and started building a winning volleyball program. Her first two seasons continued as learning years, but in 1981 the team posted a 15-6 record and they were on their way to more success in years ahead.

In 1982 under the same coach (now Beth Blume) the Warriors captured their first District 21 volleyball championship. After a 16-1 season record, they breezed through the district meet, but fell victim to a tough Clarissa team in the regional tournament held at New York Mills. That Warrior team wound up with a remarkable 19-2 record and claimed the Little Sioux Conference championship in their first year in the league.

The next three seasons were all winning years for the Warrior girls, but they could not regain the elusive district title. The team was 15-6 in 1983, then went through the 1984 season

without a loss, only to become an upset victim in the district tournament opener, finishing with a 17-1 record. In 1985 the Warriors posted another fine year with a 17-4 record and placed fourth in the district tournament.

In addition to winning the Little Sioux Conference crown in 1982, the Warriors also won league championships in 1984 and 1985, not losing a single conference match in each of those seasons.

## **CROSS COUNTRY**

The sport of cross country was started at Wheaton High School in the fall of 1964 by coach Wally Simonson. In the first two seasons, the Warriors captured District 21 championship honors.

Mike Larson took over as coach of the Warrior harriers in 1967 and served 15 faithful years at the helm. His teams won district championships in 1972, 1973 and 1974.

Three of Larson's runners advanced all the way to the state cross country meet. Doug Laddusaw earned the honors for his second

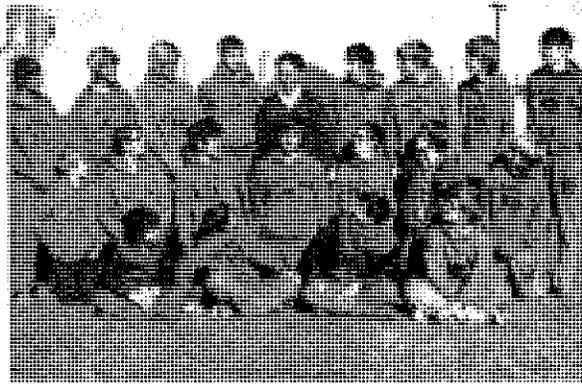


**WHEATON'S FIRST CROSS COUNTRY TEAM** in 1964 captured the District 21 championship, starting a successful venture for the school in this sport. Members of that first championship team were, front row, left to right, Dennis Goggin, Allen Magnuson, Dale Ebel, John Olson. Back row, from left, Paul Gllsdorf, Mike Hennen, Nell Berger and Sherald Toso.

place finish in the regional in 1969. Ron Schmitz also took a second place in the 1978 regional meet and went to the state. In 1981 Shawn Dobberstein went on to the state meet as a result of his fourth place finish in the regional.



**GIRLS DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS** of 1984: Front, Sherrrie Tauber, left, and Kim Krenz. Second row, left to right, Lois Sperr, RaNae Doll, Tish Kalla, Karrey Sorensen. Back row, left to right, coach Joe Kalla, Missy Sperr, Julie Kalla and Kirsten Erickson.

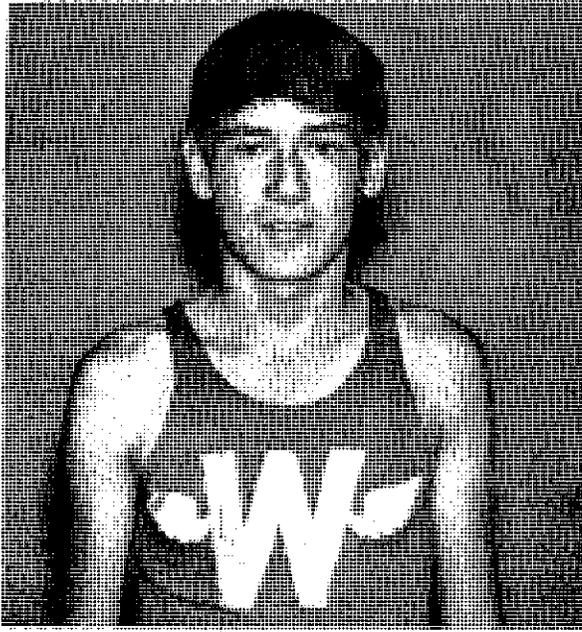


**DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPS** IN 1973: Front row, left to right, Jeff Koob, Niles Cole, Scott Frisch, Brian Rinke. Second row, left to right, Bryan Hauschld, Greg Peterson, Boh Nenti, Fred Rixe, Craig Kracht, Scott Stroot. Back row, left to right, Terry Johnson, Kim Moerer, Steve Lubben, Paul Lande, coach Mike Larson, Steve Wieser, Joel Determan, Bruce Blair, Brian Buchholz.

Cross country for girls was started here in 1977, but in the first three seasons Wheaton was the only school in District 21 to have a team, so the Warrior girls automatically advanced into regional competition.



**BOYS DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONS** of 1984: Front row, left to right, Chad Schmltdt, Marty Monson, Brian Thomsen, Mike Kloos. Back row, left to right, coach Joe Kalla, Larry Sperr, David Novak, Rick Fiedler and Larry Propp.



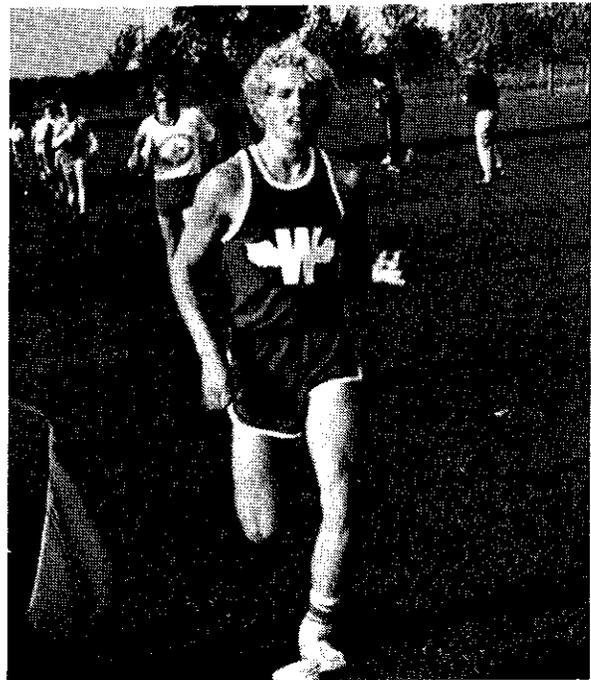
**DOUG LADDUSAW**  
State cross country meet 1969

In 1980 the district had a meet for girls for the first time, but the Wheaton team was edged out by Morris by only one point for that first District 21 championship. The Warrior girls finished second behind Morris for the next three seasons before finally winning their first district title in 1984 under coach Joe Kalla, who had taken over the coaching reins in 1982.

In 1984 the Wheaton girls also won the Little Sioux Conference championship for the first time, while the boys were finishing third.



**SHAWN DOBBERSTEIN**  
State cross country meet 1981



**RON SCHMITZ** races toward the finish line ahead of the pack in another cross country meet. Ron went to the state meet in 1978.

Kim Krenz, only an 8th grader, became the first girl from Wheaton High to gain a state meet berth in 1985 when she finished fifth in the Region 6A meet.



**KIM KRENZ**  
State cross country meet 1985

## BASEBALL

In the very earliest days of high school baseball, Wheaton High made quite a name for itself when the 1905 team claimed the state championship after winning a challenge contest over Minneapolis Central High School.

Central had beaten all of the high school teams in the Twin Cities and all outside that they had met and claimed the state championship. Their claim went undisputed except by the Wheaton team that had also won every game they had played. After the Wheatonites defeated Central, they laid claim to the state title and no other school came forth with a dispute of their claim.

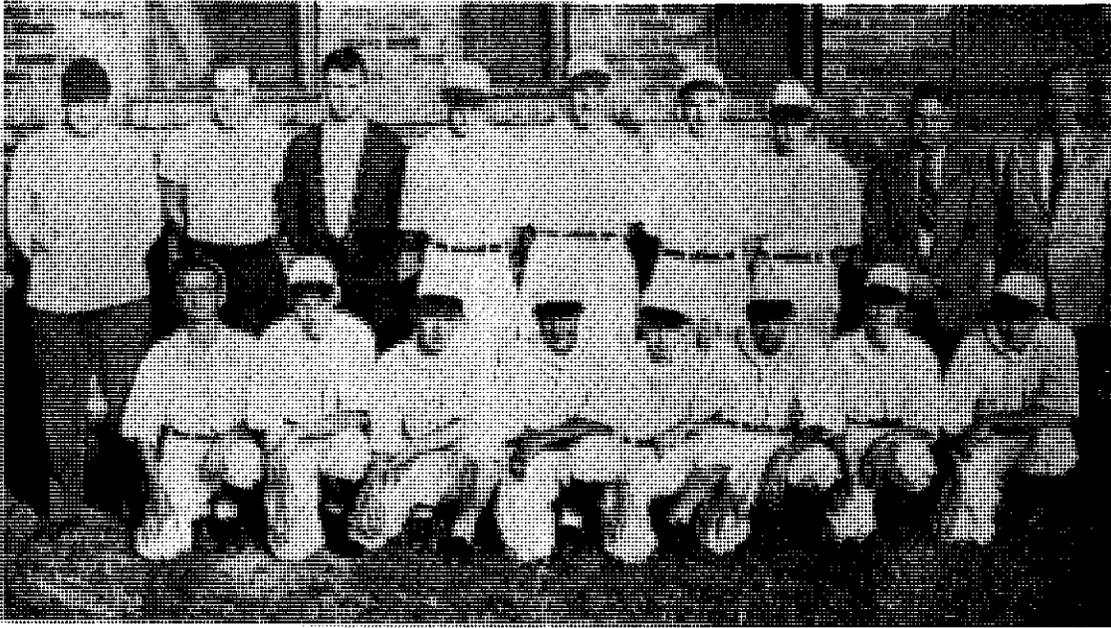
Other reports of Wheaton baseball action were found during the first thirty years of the



**STATE CHAMPIONS** of high school baseball was the claim of the Wheaton Warriors way back in 1905 after they defeated Minneapolis Central in a battle of undefeated teams, each claiming to be the best in the state.



**WHEATON HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM OF 1904:** Front row from left, Levi Anderson, Lawrence Nelson, Ben Anderson; second row from left, Alvin Swenson, Ed Anderson; back row from left, Steve Hokins, Frank Cunningham, R. L. Kempe, Albert Peterson, Clarence Peterson.



**THIRD PLACE, STATE TOURNAMENT, 1949:** The Wheaton Warriors won both the District 21 and Region 6 championships, then competed in the state baseball tournament held in Duluth. They defeated Austin in the first round, then lost to state champion Minneapolis Edison before coming back to win over Eveleth for third place honors. Team members pictured are, front row, left to right, Gordon Bock, Sidney Storm, Raymond Gullickson, Kenneth Wenker, Ronald Hofstedt, Orval Hess, Horace Janke, Ivan Neumann. Back row, left to right, coach Martin Kranz, assistant coach Bob Bruns, Harry Nash, Evan Olson, Cyril Wieser, Norman Opp, Don Holm, principal Edgar Olson and superintendent J. E. Pearson. Not pictured, Arnold Rudi, Harold Streeter.

century, but none to match the state championship success of the 1905 team. It was not until into the '30s that Wheaton High teams returned to prominence. The Warriors captured the District 21 baseball championship in 1936 under the direction of coach "Bump" Gabrielson.

The 1937 team won another district title and, since there was no further tournament advancement, the Warriors took on Cokato in a game that was billed as the unofficial state championship match for schools of Wheaton's size. Cokato won that game to claim the state title.

Wheaton High won its third straight district championship in 1938 under coach Willard Thompson, but the Warriors were dethroned by Alberta 2-1 in the 1939 district title game.

The next time the Warriors were able to win a district championship was in 1948, but

they lost out to Pelican Rapids in the regional tournament played at Little Falls.

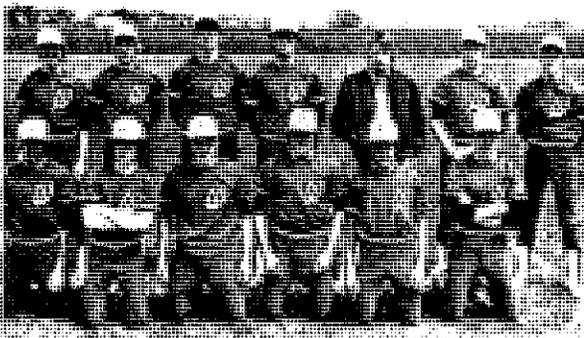


**DISTRICT BASEBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1958:** Front row, left to right, Darel Jacobsen, Dennis Bemis, Dean Osterman, Alfred Peterson, Dale Spafford, Ernie Lindig, student managers Jerry Anderson and Jerry Schultz. Back row, left to right, Lynn Nelson, Ralph Rydell, Richard Jacobson, Lee Hennen, Gary Fabel, Evan Oscarson, Ronnie Laddusaw, coach John Gustafson.

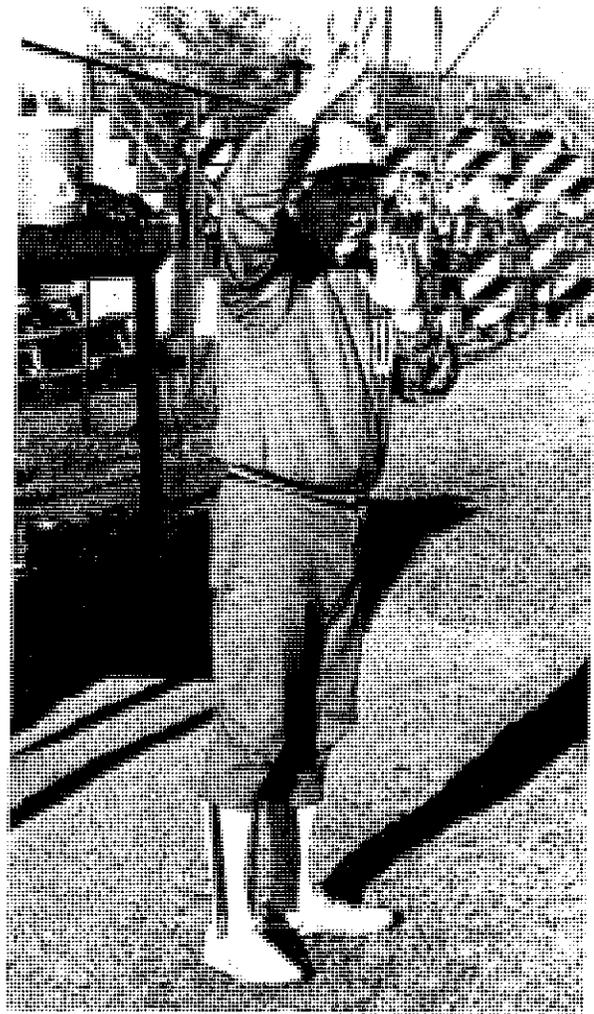


**DISTRICT BASEBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1962:** Front row, left to right, Bob Lund, Don Schultz, Bruce Peterson, Jerry Schultz, Ron Kaess, Ken Boe, Gene Bertram, Jerry Drinkwitz. Back row, left to right, coach George Sawyer, Don Novak, David Lindig, Bob Johnson, Alden Hofstedt, John McClellan, Darwin Allison, John Frounfelter. The Warriors repeated as district champions in 1963, but a picture is not available.

In the 1949 season the Warriors repeated as District 21 champions, then went on to defeat Sebeka and Alexandria in the Region 6 tournament held at Chokio. In the state tournament at Duluth the Warriors opened with a 4-3 win over Austin in the first round. Then they lost 12-8 to the eventual state champion, Minneapolis Edison, in the semi-final round. In the game for third place the Warriors defeated Eveleth 2-0 to bring home a nice trophy for their efforts. Martin Kranz coached the team to this very successful season.



**DISTRICT BASEBALL CHAMPIONS IN 1976:** Front row, left to right, Doug Wilson, Jeff Koob, Glenn Frisch, Joel Mitteness, Mark Frisch, Brook Buchholz, Back row, left to right, Jim Gilsdorf, Craig Bihrie, Brian Buchholz, Todd Dobberstein, Bruce Willson, Brion Plautz, Karl Baldry.



**GEORGE SAWYER** may hold a record for number of years coaching the same sport at Wheaton High School and he also may have the record for number of victories recorded by his teams. Sawyer took over as coach of the Warrior baseball team in 1959 and through the 1986 season, a total of 28 years, his teams had recorded 215 wins against 163 losses. They had won five District 21 championships and finished as runner-up seven times. The photo above was taken on the day that Sawyer's team chalked up win number 200 in 1984.

Wheaton won its next district title in 1958 under coach John Gustafson. That team went on to defeat Henning in the first round of the regional before losing to Little Falls in the title game.

In 1959 a new era in high school baseball started for the Warriors when George Sawyer took over as head coach. Sawyer has continued to serve in that position through

the 1986 season, a total of 28 years, and still going strong. His teams over the years have compiled a grand total of 215 victories with 163 losses.

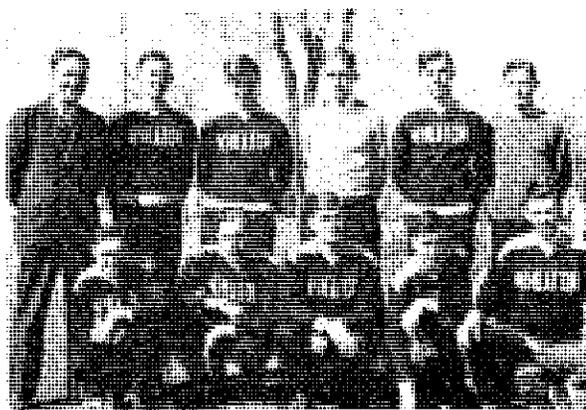
Sawyer-coached teams have won five District 21 championships, in 1962, 1963, 1967, 1976 and 1977. They have made it to the district finals seven other times. In 1968 the Warriors captured the Resort Region Conference title. The 1976 team made it to the regional finals before being stopped by Audubon 6-2.

## BOYS TRACK

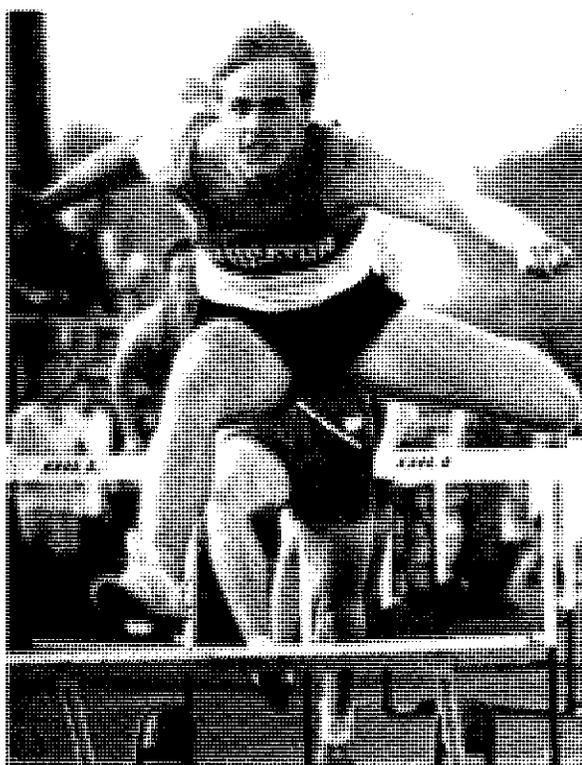
Three Wheaton high trackmen have brought home a total of five state championships over the years. On many other occasions the school has had representation in the state track meets.

Peder Naatz captured two state titles in 1986, winning both the 110 meter high hurdle event and the 300 meter intermediate hurdles. Naatz won his first state championship in the 110 meter high hurdles in 1985, so he has three state titles to his credit.

The first state championship was won by Harry Nash in 1951 when he took first place in the 100 yard dash event. Gary Fabel won the state title in the high jump in 1958 for Wheaton's second state championship.



**DISTRICT TRACK CHAMPIONS IN 1939:** Front row, left to right, James Mulvanney, Marven Marten, Arllis Schmitz, John Pearson, Arling Peterson. Back row, left to right, coach Johnson, Wesley Peterson, Milton Kurth, Vilroy Schmitz, Raymond Bernecking and George Bagby.



**PEDER NAATZ** won three state hurdles championships. He won his first in 1985, taking the 110 meter high hurdle event at the state meet, then returned to the state in 1986 and won both the 110 meter highs and the 300 meter intermediate hurdle event.

Harry Nash first went to the state meet in 1950 when he finished second in the 220 and fourth in the 100. In addition to his winning the 100 in 1951, he also placed second in the 220 that year.

Other Wheaton Warriors who have competed in the state track meet over the years have been: James Mills, 220 yard dash in 1955; Gary Fabel, high jump in 1957 prior to his winning jump in 1958; John Deal, 880 yard run in 1958; Allen Weick in both 1964 and 1965 in the 440 yard dash; Joel Determan in the two mile and Jim Doll in the shot put in 1974; Doug Wohlenhaus in the shot put in 1975; Peder Naatz in both the 110 and 300 meter hurdle events at the state in 1984 and again in 1985, winning his championship as a junior in 1985.

Boys track teams at Wheaton High have not always had the manpower nor the depth to compete with the strengths of Brecken-



**HARRY NASH** was Wheaton's first state track champion as he won the 100 yard dash event at the 1951 state meet. He also finished second in the 220 that same year.



**GARY FABEL** captured the state title in the high jump at the 1958 track and field meet with a leap of 6'½".

ridge or other schools over the years, but have always been quite competitive with the limited number of tracksters available.

The Wheaton Warriors did claim one District 21 championship, that coming back in 1939 when they scored thirty-three and one-third points to win over Alberta's twenty-nine. Wheaton qualified seven boys for the regionals that year. They were Milton Kurth, James Mulvanney, John Pearson, Wesley Peterson, Marvin Marten, Arllis and Vilroy Schmitz.

The first district individual champion was Sylvester Burke when he took firsts in both the 100 and 200 yard dashes in the 1933 district meet. Since that time Wheaton trackmen have claimed many individual championships.



**JAMES MILLS**  
State track meet 1955



**JOHN DEAL**  
State track meet 1958



**ALLEN WEICK**  
State track meet 1964 & 1965



**JIM DOLL**  
State track meet 1974



**JOEL DETERMAN**  
State track meet 1974



**DOUG WOHLNHAUS**  
State track meet 1975



**REGIONAL TRACK CHAMPIONS IN 1972:** The Wheaton Warrior girls won the Region 6 track title and advanced all of the above team members to the state meet in St. Cloud. Pictured are, front, left to right, Julie Fridgen, Mary Henkes, coach Dianne Atkinson. Second row, from left, Laurie Blasing, Sarah Hopkins, Lisa Koob, Shelly Itzen. Back row, from left, Jay Krenz, Joan Behrens, Lori Gail, Vicki Boom and Donna Conroy.

### **GIRLS TRACK**

In the spring of 1972 Wheaton High School Athletic Director Jim Henkes appeared before the school board to request the bringing of "women's lib" to the school. Henkes said he would like to see a track program started for the girls that spring, a move that was approved by the board.

Wheaton High became one of the first schools in District 21 and also in Region 6 to

compete in track, and the program met with immediate success. That first team was coached by Diane Atkinson and the Warrior girls won the first Region 6 track championship. There was no district meet held that year because there weren't enough schools into track as yet.

In that first regional meet held at Morris, Julie Fridgen won first places in both the 220 and 440 yard dashes, Mary Henkes won the

880 and Lori Gail took the 50 yard hurdles. Wheaton's 880 yard relay team of Joan Behrens, Sarah Hopkins, Shelly Itzen and Laurie Blasing also took a first place finish. Donna Conroy took a second place, Vicky Boom, Lisa Koob and Jay Krenz all took thirds and all of these girls advanced to the first state track meet, which was held at St. Cloud. Julie Fridgen's 7th place in the 440 was Wheaton's best finish at the state, but this was only the beginning of what has become a very successful sport for WHS girls.

In 1973 Lynette Johnson took over as the girls track coach, a position she still holds today. That year there was a district meet, and the Warriors finished second behind Morris in the team standings. All first place and second place finishers in the district qualified to advance directly into the state meet at Rosemount. Making the trip to the state were Laurie Henkes, Sue Krumwiede, Vicky Boom, Mary Henkes and Jean Johnson in individual events as well as Laurie Henkes, Ginger Hagen, Linda Behrens and Sue Krumwiede in the 440 yard relay event. The relay team finished third in their heat,



**SECOND IN STATE IN 1980:** Wheaton's 880 yard relay team finished second in the state track meet. Members of the team were, from left to right, Karen Henkes, Suzanne Ringdahl, Lynn Fiedler and Andrea Satter.

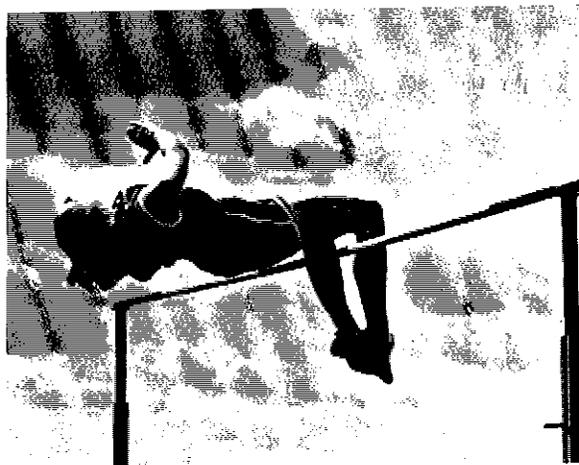
but that was the highest finish by any WHS girl at the state meet.

The 1974 team captured their first District 21 championship. The Warrior girls went on to win other district titles in 1980, 1981, 1982, 1985 and 1986 and in ten of twelve years, from 1975 through 1986, they sent representatives to the state track meet.

Deb Wohlenhaus made it to the state four straight years from 1975 through 1978. She came up with a fourth place finish in her specialty, shot put, in 1976, then followed with



**DEB WOHLLENHAUS** demonstrates her form in the shot put event. Deh went to the state track meet four consecutive years with her best finish being a fourth place in 1976.



**LISA COOK** goes up and over the bar in the high jump event. Lisa made four trips to the state track meet with her best showing a third place finish in 1981.

two sixths and a fifth place in following state meets. Wheaton's mile relay team of Andrea Satter, Deb Wohlenhaus, Laurie Henkes and Linda Behrens qualified for the state in 1976. Betty Wieser replaced the injured Satter in that event.

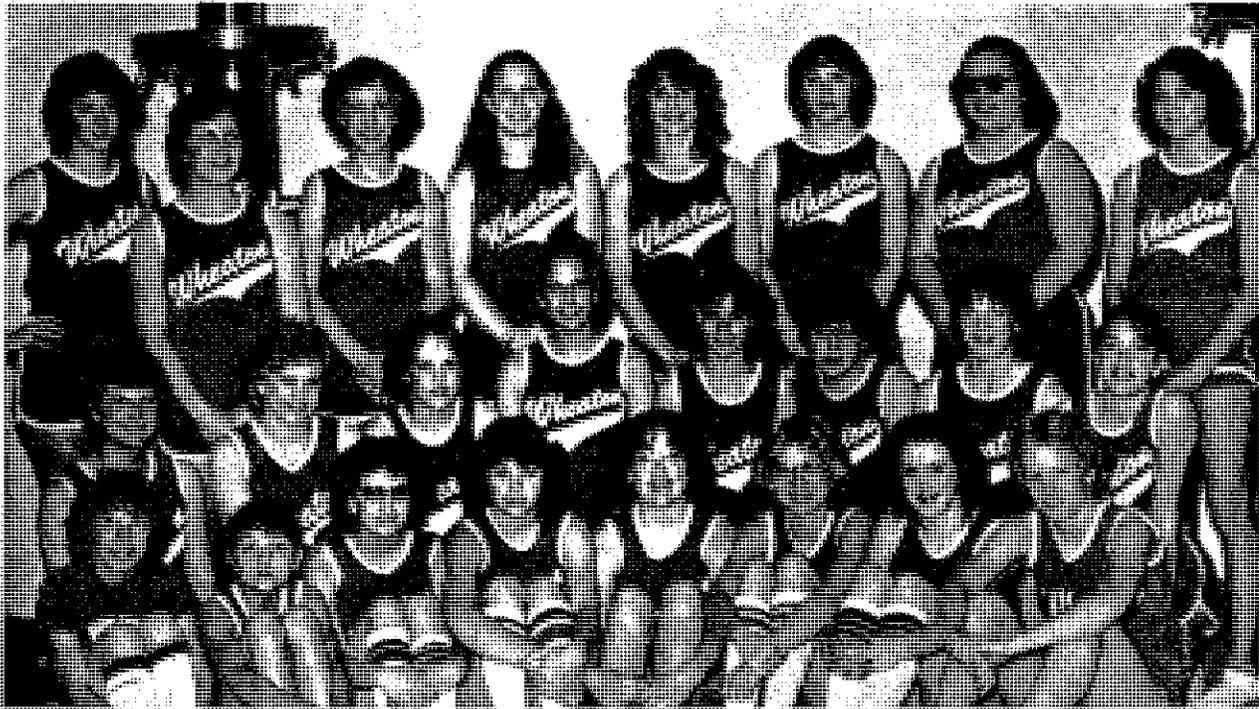
Andrea Satter qualified for two events at the state meet in 1978, running in both the 220 and 440 yard dashes. She finished fourth in the 440. Satter returned to the state in 1979 in the 440 and in 1980 in the 200 meter. In 1978 Lisa Cook started a string of four consecutive trips to the state in the high jump. She finished third in the 1981 state meet.

Wheaton's best state meet finish came in 1980 when the 880 yard relay team of Karen Henkes, Suzanne Ringdahl, Lynn Fiedler and Andrea Satter finished in second place.

Sondra Weick, only an 8th grader, became the next Wheaton girl to make it to the state in 1983 when she qualified by placing second in the 400 meter dash at the



**ANDREA SATTER**  
State track meet 1978 & 1979



**DISTRICT TRACK CHAMPIONS IN 1981:** Front row, left to right, Sandy Berneking, Stacie Stark, Mary Jo Wieser, Mary Montonye, Kristi Benson, Christine Weick, Janine Ringdahl, Nancy Henkes. Second row, from left, Lisa Rinke, Suzanne Ringdahl, Jennifer Deal, Karen Henkes, Kristi Wieser, Tracy Buchholz, Tisha Kalla, Karen Gail. Third row, Marcy Cory, Becky Schmitz, Kristi Kremer, Andrea Satter, Lisa Cook, Keri Buchholz, Clarine Holtz, Carrie Bihrlle. Not pictured, Tami Varner.



**SONDRA WEICK**  
State track meet 1983 & 1985

regional meet. After missing out on the state because of an injury in 1984, Weick returned to the state in 1985 to run in the 400 again. She finished fifth in her heat, but just missed qualifying for the finals in that event.

Girls track is truly a major sport at Wheaton High every spring as the team is constantly among the top teams in both the district and the region. There are always a large number of girls coming out for the sport, starting down in the junior high, keeping the program headed toward continued years of success.

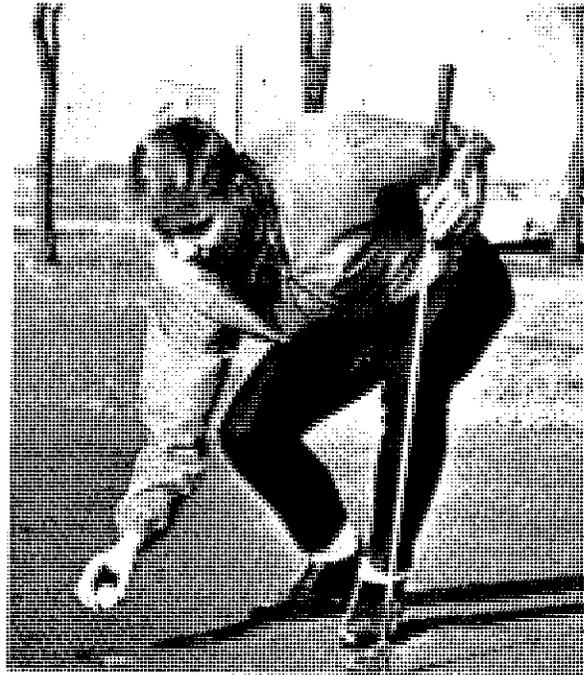
## GOLF

The first high school golf team was started in 1935 under the direction of coach "Bump" Gabrielson. There seemed to be a good deal of interest for this new high school sport.

Wheaton High competed in the District 21 meet in 1936 and finished third behind Graceville and Benson. Stanley Kaess of Wheaton was second in the meet, runner-up to Harold O'Neil of Graceville.

In 1937 the Wheaton team moved up to a runner-up finish in the district behind Benson. Vilroy Schmitz placed third and Stan Kaess fifth in that meet.

Wayne Fleischer became the first Wheaton High golfer to win medalist honors in the



**MIKE SWANKE** qualified for the state golf tournament in 1964. Here he is shown as he pulls the ball out of the cup after getting his second hole-in-one.

district meet when he carded the low score in 1956. Kenneth Boe won the district in 1961 and Mike Swanke took low honors in 1963. Boe qualified for the state meet and finished 16th in that. Swanke earned a trip to the state meet in 1964.



**KENNETH BOE**  
State golf meet 1961



**CRAIG BIHRLE**  
State golf meet 1977

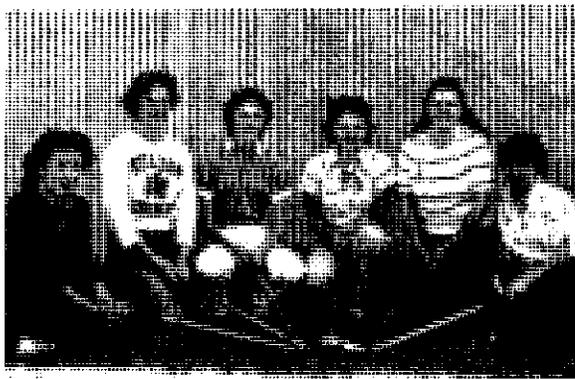
The next Wheaton golfer to make it to the state meet was Craig Bihrie, who finished fourth in the 1977 meet at the University of Minnesota golf course.

Two other Wheaton golfers, Scott Keaveny in 1979 and Joel Hoiium in 1982, captured District 21 medalist honors.

Golf for girls was started in 1979, but there was no district meet that season. The Warrior girls won three straight District 21 championships in 1980, 1981 and 1982 under coach Sharon Johnson. The coach's daughter, Lori Johnson, won district medalist honors in 1981.



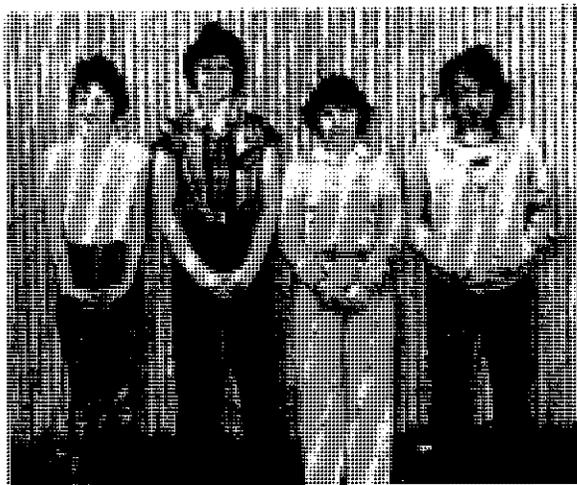
**DISTRICT GOLF CHAMPIONS IN 1980:** Front row, left to right, Kristi Behrens, Julie Fahleen, Donna Gustafson. Back row, left to right, Barb Bohnenstingl, Lori Johnson, Rhonda Larson, Lynette Peterson, Kim Jacobsen, Mary Hagen. Not pictured, Karen Alsaker.



**DISTRICT GIRLS GOLF CHAMPIONS IN 1981:** From left to right, Barb Bohnenstingl, Lynette Peterson, Mary Hagen, Kim Jacobsen, Rhonda Larson, Lori Johnson.

In 1983 the district meet was abandoned in favor of a sub-region meet, which included more schools than the district had, so Wheaton could not defend its district crown. In the first sub-region, Lori Johnson qualified for advancement to the Region 6 meet, then went to the state where she finished 27th among 40 participants.

The 1984 girls team placed third in the sub-region for a second straight year and this time Mary Hagen advanced to the region, then to the state meet. Hagen made a return



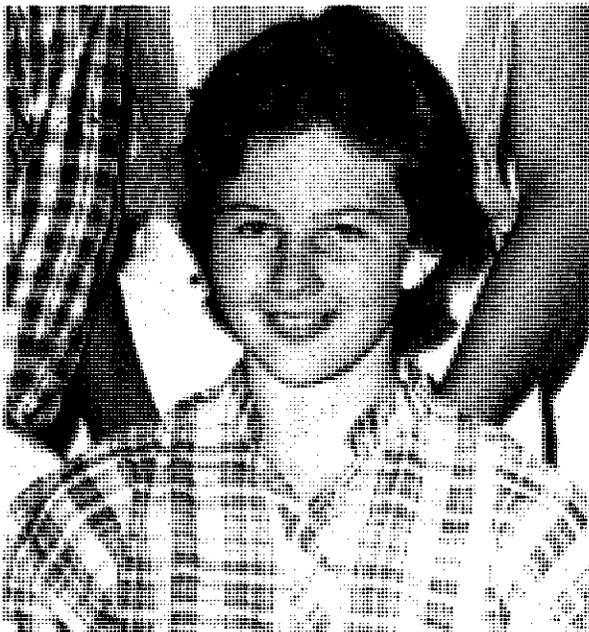
**DISTRICT GOLF CHAMPIONS IN 1982:** From left to right, Mary Hagen, Rhonda Larson, Barb Bohnenstingl and Lori Johnson.



**LORI JOHNSON** earned a berth in the state golf tournament in 1983 where she finished in 27th position.

trip to the state meet in 1985 where she made a strong showing for a 17th place finish.

The Wheaton girls team has also claimed two Little Sioux Conference golf titles, those coming in 1983 and 1984.



**MARY HAGEN** qualified for the state golf meet two years in a row, 1984 and again in 1985, when she finished in 17th place.

## SOFTBALL

Softball for girls was started at Wheaton High in 1978 with Karen Block as the first coach of the Warrior team. She coached for two seasons, but neither team could come up with a winning record.

In 1980 under coach Wayne Rostad the Warriors posted a winning season mark of 6-4, but they were knocked out of tournament play by Cyrus in the first round of district action.

Derry Peterson took over as coach of the WHS girls in 1981 and his first team finally managed to win their first district tournament contest, an 11-10 win over Graceville-Clinton, but they were then ousted by Morris and finished the year with a 7-6 won-lost record.

The best season record came in 1983 when the Warriors had a 9-4 regular season record, but they, too, fell in the first tournament game to Hoffman-Kensington to end Wheaton High's most successful softball season.

The team of 1982 had a 4-8 record. In 1984 it was 5-7 and in 1985 the Warriors failed to win a single game in 11 tries.



**GIRLS SOFTBALL** was started at Wheaton High in 1978, but it took a few seasons before the Warriors came up with their best year in 1983 with a 9-5 record. Members of that team pictured were, front row, left to right, Kristi Warholm, Sandy Grohs, Rhonda Behrens, Sue Ahrens, Holly Braseth, Kari Schmitz. Back row, left to right, Julie Fahleen, Nancy Henkes, Kristi Behrens, Keri Buchholz, Cindy Doll, Jean Hiedeman, Lisa Fridgen, Debbie Fahleen. Not pictured, Camille Hess, Rhonda Johnson.



Contributing immeasurably to the success of any community are the clubs and organizations which function in it. While such organizations regularly head up worthwhile projects, it hasn't been all work and no play for Wheaton organizations over the years, as evidenced by this photo. Pictured are members of the Wheaton Library Club at a costume party at

the home of Grace Lundquist in the 1950's. Pictured front row, left to right: Hannah Rydell, Della Huber, Ramona Grosland; second row from left: Mickey Fridgen, Louise Rustad, Lucille Ringdahl; back row from left: Mabel Reckner, Doris Palmgren.