

# Livingston Grade School Basketball, Baseball and Softball

Basketball was a great past time for the grade school students. The teams had many winning seasons. The 1932-33 team had a record of 23 and 1, the 1933-34 team was 19 and 4, the 1934-35 team was 15 and 7 and the 1935-36 team was 26 and 8.

The 1936-37 basketball team members were John Carach, George Grega, Mike Martz, Francis Scanzoni, Thomas Ollerton, and Elmer Warlock. The last game of the season saw Livingston defeating Edwardsville by the score of 28 to 7. Their record was 24 and 5. The softball team had a record of 10 and 2. The 1937-38 basketball schedule was one of the toughest schedules ever tackled by our team. Members were M. Dobrinick, Bruno Larcker, Julian Beres, James Margaritis, Marion Tsupros, Frank Petsche, B. Fech, G. Antalick, John King, R. Scanzoni, R. Pollett, R. Augustine, O. Pellizzaro, and C. Hainaut. Their record was 21 and 6. The baseball team had one of the most successful seasons ever enjoyed by a Livingston Grade team with a record of 12 and 0.

The 1939-40 basketball team had a record of 22 and 8. The softball team's record was 6 and 4. Members of the basketball team were: Fech, Karnosky, Hainaut, Scanzoni, Urban and Warlock. In May of 1940, the 3-M Junior High School Conference was formed. The member schools were: Benld, Gillespie, Hillsboro, Litchfield, Mr. Olive, Staunton, and Livingston. In the fall of 1940, Mr. Lusiana resigned as coach of the Livingston Grade School Team to take another position and Mr. Perne, the principal, who coached for several years before took over the position again. The Board tried to discontinue the position of coach following the resignation of Lusiana because they said that the benefits did not justify the expenses. Finally the Board agreed to furnish a basketball which was the only thing they would pay for and Mr. Perne took the position without pay. Parents furnished transportation and services were given without pay. During the last game of the season the Livingston team trounced Troy by a score of 123 to 14 and they also won the conference tournament. Members were Kostadin, Warlock Wolbert, Fech, Scanzoni, J. Hainaut, Coalson, Smith, C.



1947 - 1948 Grade School Basketball Team.

Players pictured from left: Richard Sandrin, Claude Teeske, Arthur Heinz, Frank Urekar, Robert Heinz, Fred Highlander, Rudy Knezik, Richard Vesper, Jim Highlander, Bob Malench, Donnie Coalson, Frank DallaRiva. Front: A.R. Graiff, coach, Richard Grega and Junior Vallow, managers.

Hainaut, Dobern timer and Vallow. The 1941-42 team won the conference championship. Sawchak, Marcuzzo, Augustine, Fratick, Pellizzaro, Spudich, Sciranko, Maedge and Teeske were the big guns for the 1942-43 basketball team. They won 23 games and lost 8 and placed 3rd in the 3M Conference.

On February 21, 1948, the Livingston Grade School basketball team won the lightweight sectional tournament at Hillsboro. They beat Vandalia on Saturday afternoon 19 to 10 and on Saturday evening



they beat Witt 46 to 10 for the championship. This was the first time a Livingston Grade School team had ever won a sectional tournament. They went on to play in the state tournament at Lexington, playing Mendota, but lost.

1949-1950 Grade School Basketball Team,  
Team members from left to right: Fred Fish, Paul Dean Leyden, Richard Vallow, Steve Kuba, Larry Adams, Kenny Highlander, Lee Spudich, George Robertson, Howard Vandover, Gene Libbra,  
Front: A.R. Graiff, coach and Tony Mellas, manager.

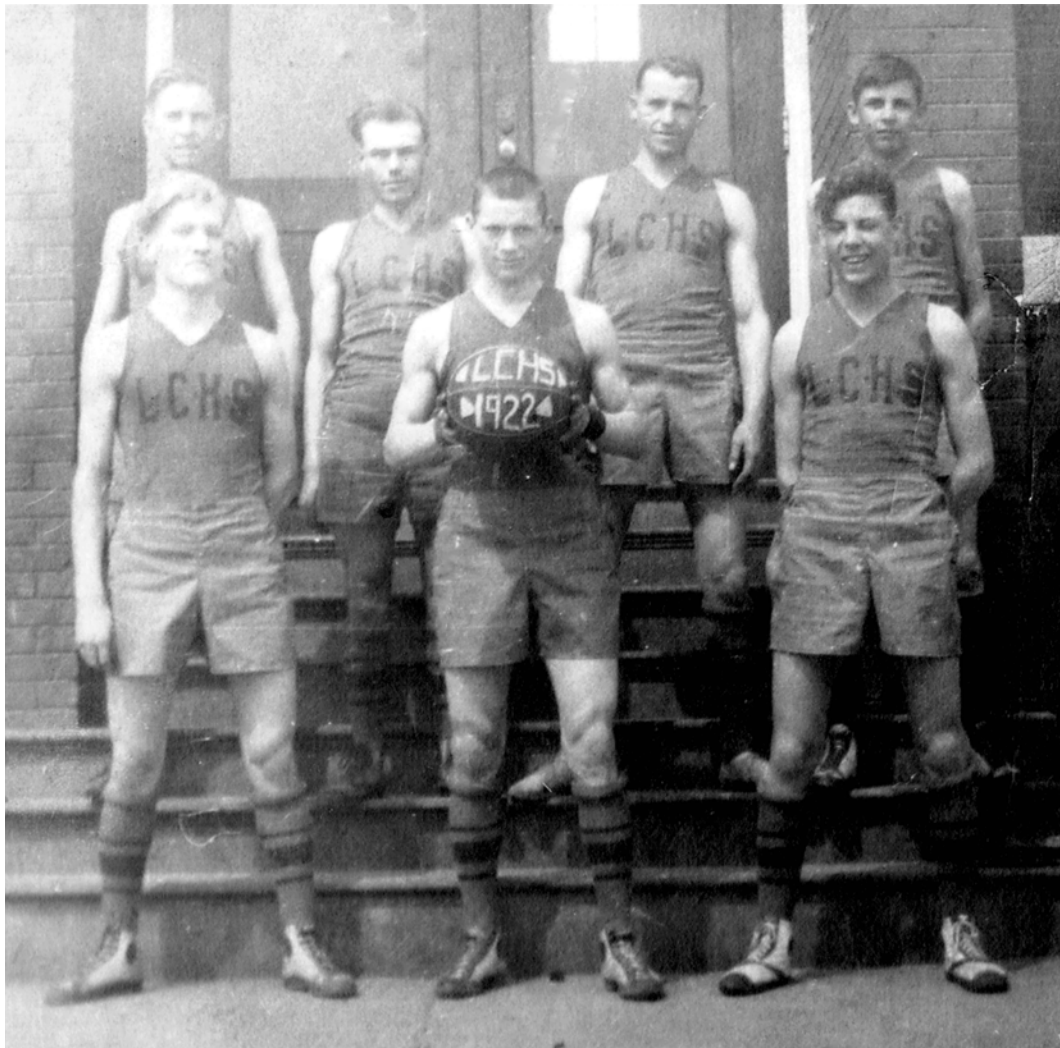


1951-1952 Grade School Basketball Team.  
Players pictured from left to right: Norman Torry, Alfred Langer, Charles Meyer, Dave Gasper, Tom Booth, Artie Spudich, Bob Kuba, Kenny Schuette, Richard Smith, Larry Grega.  
Front: Bill Voyles, manager and Dean Pieper, coach.

**High School Sport Highlights** from available school years. (Factual information from *The Olive Eagle* (first high school paper) and *The Eaglet* (second high school paper).

## **Livingston High School Basketball. 1924 through 1927**

Members of the 1924-25 team were Loren Berry, William Hoffman, Anton Perne, John Kopuster, John Walker, Albert Healey, Harry Dowden, Walter Benardin, Andy Smerk and John Marinko. Freshman members were Ellsworth Best, David Martinelli and Albert Graiff. Some of the teams played were Mt. Olive, Wood River, Madison and Donnellson. Admission was 35 cents for adults and 20 cents for children. Members of the 1925-26 team were Benardin, Smerk, Becker, Healey, Walker, and Perne. Two games of interest were a 3 to 0 win over Sorento with Benardin scoring the only points and a win over Marine by a score of 12 to 6. The team won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the county tournament. In 1926-27 Coach T. Fisher states in *The Olive Eagle*, "The fellows in the high school should be more than proud of the athletic equipment at their disposal this season—the gymnasium. I can truthfully say that I believe it to be the best I have ever seen in a high school anywhere near the size of our own."



Livingston High School Basketball Team 1921 - 1922:

Back row (left to right): William Fenwick, Frank Otwirk, Martin Sarko, John Anthony

Front row: John Kopuster, Ignatz Thiel, Steve Anthony



1927 Livingston High School Basketball Team

Standing from left: Walter Bernardin, Albert Graiff,  
John Lusiana, Unidentified, Anton Perne,  
Front: Unidentified

## **Livingston High School Basketball and Baseball. 1945 through 1951**

In 1945-46 after winning the district the team was eliminated by Pocahontas in the regional tournament by the score of 44-42 in a very questionable contest. This game closed the L.C.H.S. careers of Bowles, Saloka, Mihalic, and Urekar. We got revenge in baseball, however, where the team beat Pocahontas by a score of 15 to 9. Fall baseball was played in the 1946-47 year with the Eagles winning 3 while losing 1. Two players returned from the service to play basketball. They were Rico Pellizzaro and Joe Dragovich. Other members of the team were Sawchak, Augustine, Isaacs, Fratick, Teeske, Meyer, Spudich and Allen. Edwardsville was added to the schedule and the Eagles were beaten in an exciting game by the score of 33 to 31. The Eagles had a tremendous finish. They won the conference and advanced to the regional where they beat Pocahontas and Highland to go on to the sectional. They won the first game of the sectional by defeating Greenville but lost to Dupon in the finals by a score of 43 to 35—just one game away from state. The following year Livingston again played Edwardsville. It was again close and exciting with an ending score of 44 to 41. During the 1948-49 season the game between Edwardsville and Livingston was a thriller and again Livingston came out on the short end by the score of 42 to 40, however the Eagles proved that they were right up there against the best of them. Meyer, D. Allen, Ulrich, Teeske, Marcuzzo, Moggio, Torry, J. Allen, Wargo, Prange, Loeh, and freshman, Sandrin and Malench were the guns for the Eagles. After winning the district this Eagle Team was defeated in the regional by a score of 23 to 21. In baseball this year the Eagles won the district championship with a win over Hillsboro but fell to the Collinsville Kahoks by a 1 to 0 score. Members of this baseball team were Torry, Moggio, R. Sandrin, Meyer, Teeske, Loeh, Wargo, Dumont, Allen, Heinz, Evans, and Highlander. The 1949-50 squad included Malench, R. Sandrin, Torry, Kurtz, Heinz, Bodi, Urekar, J. Sandrin, and Kline. They had a wake-up call from the Edwardsville Tigers losing by a score of 63 to 37. They lost in the final game of the district to Coffeen by a score of 44 to 39.



Livingston Community High School 1948 - 49

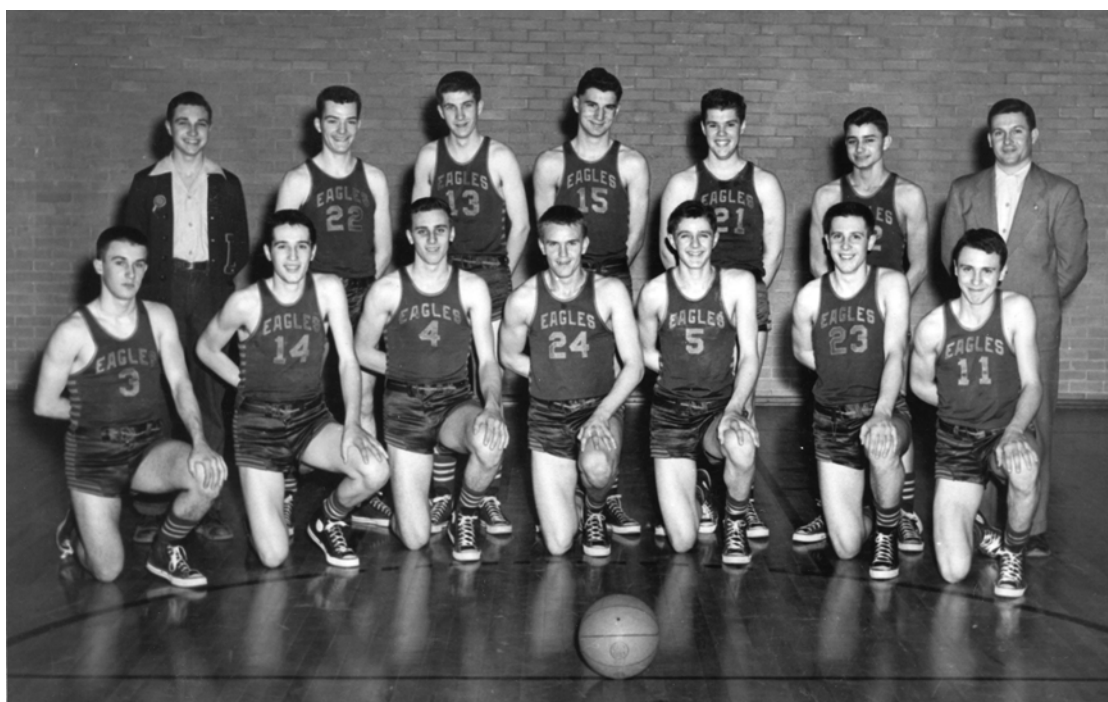
Back row: Coach Anton Perne, Franklin Wargo, Richard Sandrin, Herbert Loeh, Jim Allen, Bob Moggio, Ray Torry, Bob Malench, Frank Pedrotti, manager.

Front row; Richard Meyer, David Allen, Udell Ulrich, Richard Teeske, Bill Marcuzzo.

1951 - 1952

Back row: Donald Smerk, Delbert Johnson, Howard Salter, Doyle Heim, Richard Stanko, Donald Coalson, Coach George Spudich

Front row: Bob Malench, Jim Sandrin, Art Heinz, Robert Bodi, Frank Urekar, Richard Sandrin, Don Kline.



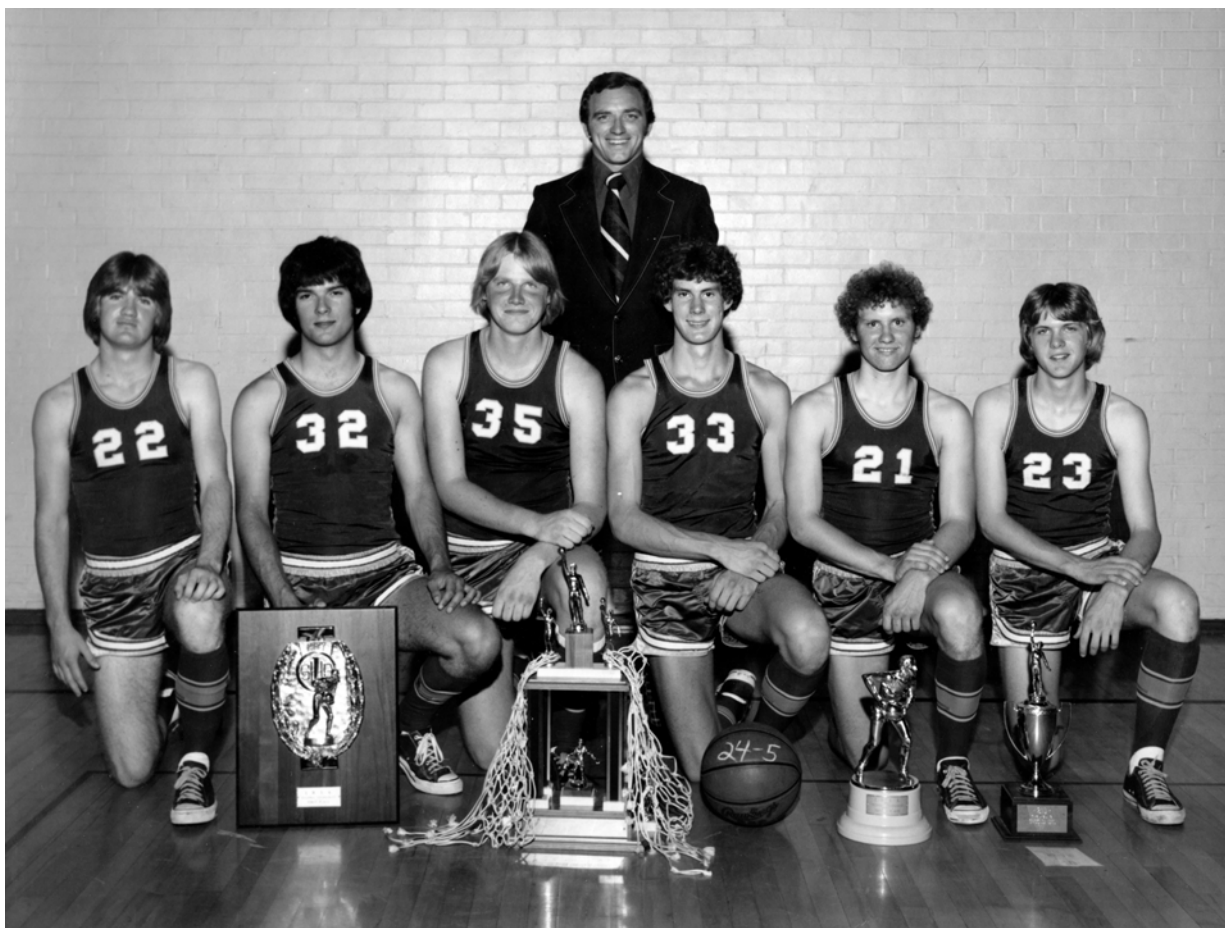


# Memories of those Winning Seasons

by Dave Lamore

The 1976-77 Livingston Eagles, 24-5, are considered one of the best teams in Livingston history. The top six players were: Louie Wray, the sixth man who pushed the starters hard in practice and helped win the first sectional game; RayBob Robertson, only a sophomore, who fought his way into the starting line up, worked hard to improve, and was an important contributor to the team's success during the stretch run; Tom Salter, Mr. Dependable, was the point guard who ran off the defense flawlessly, rarely committing a turnover; Jim Matesa was the team's 6'4" "Big Man," his development his senior year, both offensively and defensively, solidified the whole team; John Schuette, a 6'3" starter since his sophomore year, was the team's leading rebounder, field goal percentage leader, and defensive stopper. He always drew the other team's best offensive threat; and Todd Brooke, a four year starter, "Mr. Clutch," honorable mention all starter who tallied 1,608 total points during his high school career.

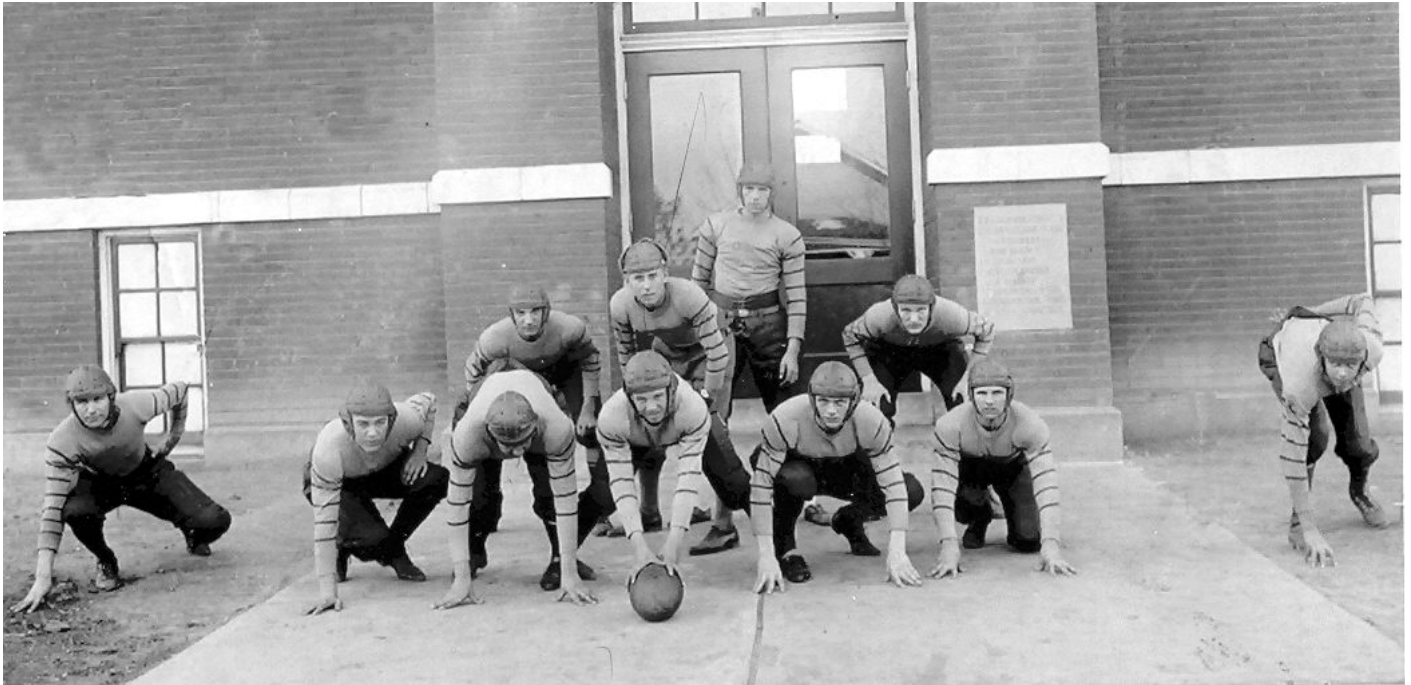
Dave Lamore who began coaching these boys as fifth graders and moved to high school with them had three straight 20-win seasons in a row, capped by the 1976-77 season. When asked to comment about his 1976-77 team, he said, "I grew up with these kids. They were a dream to coach. Very competitive, fundamentally sound, very unselfish (all the starter averages were in double figures), and always gave 110%. Even opposing coaches marveled at their unselfishness." When asked which victory he remembered most, he quickly replied, "the Madison game at home. Madison was ranked number 5 in the state when they came to Livingston, and we defeated them 78-72 before a standing room only crowd." When asked what was his most disappointing loss? "Again it was Madison in the finals of the sectional. We lost 70-65 and they went on to blow everyone else away by 25 points per game in claiming the Class A Championship in 1977."



Players from left to right: Tom Salter, Louie Wray, Jim Matesa, John Schuette, Todd Brooke and RayBob Robertson. Coach Dave Lamore, standing.

## Livingston High School's First Football Team 1921 - 1922

The team played with only eleven players and never won a game. They were coached gratuitously by William Nixon.



Back row: George Michuda, Jr., right halfback; William Fenwick, quarterback; Martin Sarko, fullback, and John Kopuster, left halfback.

Front row: Frank Otwirk, right end; John Novotney, right tackle; Raymond Dauderman, right guard; William Dunlap, center; Ignatz Thiel, left guard; Theodore Kroposhik, left tackle, and John Anthony, left end.

## Livingston High School Baseball 1951 - 1952



Back row: Coach George Spudich, Robert Heinz, Rudy Knezik, George Robertson, Ken Highlander, Lee Spudich, Don Coalson and Larry Adams.

Front row: Jim Sandrin, Richard, Sandrin, Art Heinz, Fred Highlander, Don Kline.