

Bad blood boiled between Bloomington, Bedford

"The Bloomington high school basket ball team played a great game last night at Bedford against the Bedford high school team and won a great victory — by the very narrow margin of 13 to 12."

— (Bloomington) *Daily Telephone*, Feb. 19, 1916.

High school basketball isn't what it used to be, and maybe that's a good thing. The year of 1916 had surprises, some of them amusing.

Imagine the excitement of a game that ended up with a score of 13 to 12. It must have been a great defensive game, and there is a strong possibility that some of the fans were startled awake by the final buzzer.

Other scores published in that Feb. 19 issue of the *Telephone* give a confusing picture of what basketball was like in those days. Smithville, for example, beat Elwood 64 to 14, and Hagerstown beat Middletown by 73 to 22.

According to the newspaper, 250 Bloomington fans went to Bedford to see the game. The article more than hinted at the intensity of the rivalry between the two schools:

"... and a half a dozen cops prevented the great rivalry of the two schools terminating into a physical clash. Two or three street fights did take place, but nothing serious and the



LOOKING BACK

By Rose McIlveen

Bloomington crowd was very well treated."

There might have been a fight at the Bloomington/Bedford game if some of the local fans had been able to carry out a plan they had put together.

Someone had written a yell designed to insult the Bedfordites. It went like this: "Touring Ford, Runabout Ford, Henry Ford, Bedford. Cheap, chepa, chepa, chepa."

The Feb. 22 issue the *Telephone* reported that the plan didn't work out because "...when they arrived at Bedford they found that their 'block of seats' consisted largely of standing room, and they were scattered all over the building, so could root with no effect."

The season ended with Bloomington defeating Wylie High of Terre Haute by a score of 42 to 20.

The Bloomington team, by the way, was made up of Ernest Lindley, George Loudon, Richard Easton, Clifford Wells, Kenneth May

and Kent Carter, all seniors.

Bloomington beat Bedford again in what we would call the sectional, but the newspaper called the district. The second game score was Bloomington 29, Bedford 13.

The March 11 issue of the *Telephone* also noted in a separate article that Bloomington fans had won \$85 in bets from loyal Bedford fans.

Apparently there was no regional tournament. Winners of the districts went directly to the state meet held at Bloomington. (The local team had also beaten Salem to earn a spot in the state tournament.)

Bloomington lost to Lebanon by a score of 25 to 15. Local citizens complained bitterly that they had not been able to see the game because of scalpers.

The *Telephone* of March 16 explained that season tickets bought for 75 cents were being sold by scalpers for as much as \$2.50. The Bloomington Boosters Club had tried unsuccessfully to prevent scalping.

When the last hurrah in the gym in the state tournament had been heard, there remained some controversy in the newspapers.

According to the *Telephone*, the Mar-

tinsville papers informed their readers that the their team had brought their own water to Bloomington because of occasional shortages here.

"They ought not expect any one to want to drink Bloomington water or take chances on the supply down there giving out at any time. It would be annoying for a member of the team who wanted a drink or to take a bath to find he had to wait until some more bonds could be sold and a decision reached as to which outlying ditch should be drained for the supply."

There was a controversy in another part of the state. In a special to the *Telephone* from Anderson there was a complaint:

"Charging that the Cicero high school basket ball five which won the sectional tournament here on Saturday displayed unsportsmanlike tactics in greasing themselves for the final contest, W.A.R. Denney, superintendent of the Anderson schools is circulating a petition asking the board of control of the Indiana High School Athletic association to disqualify the team and prevent it from representing the district."

Those were the good old days.

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