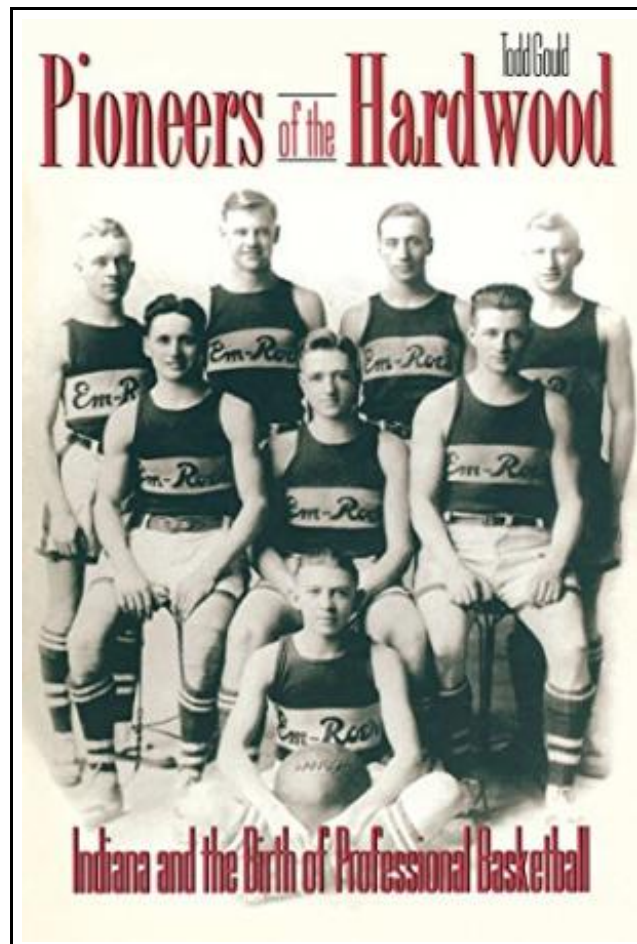


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(Mrs. Winifred Fritsch)

PIONEERS OF THE HARDWOOD: INDIANA AND THE BIRTH OF PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL

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Indiana University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, Pioneers of the Hardwood: Indiana and the Birth of Professional Basketball, Todd Gould, 'Columbus, Indiana, 1916 - The temperature was well below freezing on this winter night, but citizens inside City Hall were plenty hot. Inside, public officials and local citizens stood and shouted. But instead of sitting through a political debate or town hall meeting, they wildly cheered as two basketball teams squared off in a game played in the wide hall on the second floor'. A local group, the Columbus Commercials, pitted their skills against the Indianapolis Em-Roes, one of the most successful touring teams in the Midwest. The excitement grew as the Em-Roes entered the playing area from their first floor dressing room in the Mayor's office. Admission to the exhibition was one nickel per person. Curious spectators watched from a narrow balcony that encircled the playing floor. Others crowded around the floor, just inches from the action. Amid a swelling wall of screaming fans, the players took the floor. An official tossed what appeared to be an oversized, brown medicine ball with laces into the air. The battle began. The score remained low, but the action was intense. The partisan spectators obviously felt their team was not getting enough favorable calls from the referee. They shared their displeasure by chucking hat pins, bottles, and lighted cigarettes at the vigilant official. Unruly crowds often prompted referees to carry a revolver in their back pocket to help them escape an onslaught of disgruntled locals after a ball game. During the contest most spectators closely watched Em-Roes shooting ace Al Feeney. He led the team in scoring at six points per game. His performance in Columbus was a sight to behold. His two-handed set shots seemed to form a perfect arc...



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