



*1955-56 Boys Basketball Team*



[Click here](#) to view the induction film for the 55-56 Boys Basketball Team.

The most recognizable team in program history, the 1955-56 boys basketball team is among the inductees in the first re-charter class of the Edwardsville High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coached by Joe Lucco, who was assisted by Dick Hutton, the 1955-56 boys basketball team still has the program's best finish at state with a runner-up performance to Rockford West in the championship to conclude the season at 28-6.

Players on the team included Gordon Mallory, Bryan Madison, Jim Vaughn, Lee May, Richard Pulliam, Bobby White, Jimmy Chandler, Mannie Jackson, Buzz Shaw, Govoner Vaughn and Harold Patton.

Team managers were Wade Buckles and Royce Dettmer.

Jackson, Vaughn and Patton are already among the 52 original members of the Edwardsville Athletic Hall of Fame, which was started in 1981 by Dick Ford. The last class inducted was in 1988. Jackson and Vaughn went in as Charter Members in 1981 and Patton was in the Class of 1983.

The 1955-56 Tigers will be among the first inducted under the Team category in the first re-charter class. Other categories include Athletes, Coaches and Sports Contributors.

The team, along with all other inductees, will be honored later this year at ...

After going 23-6 and failing to advance out of the regional in 1954-55, the Tigers got off to a slow start in 55-56 with an 8-5 record through the first 13 games of the season.

"We started out slow, but we ended up winning 20 in a row before we lost in the state finals," said Vaughn, who earned third-team All-State honors as a senior. "Once we got on that winning streak, we started to find out that we were a good team.

"We just kept playing and kept getting better. We never patted ourselves on the back and said we were the best and we never compared ourselves to the previous teams at Edwardsville."

During its win streak, EHS earned victories over East St. Louis to earn its first Southwestern Conference championship since 1926, St. Anthony in the first round of the state tournament despite trailing by 19 points at halftime, Quincy in the state quarterfinals and Oak Park in the state semifinals.

In the state championship game against top-ranked Rockford West, fifth-ranked EHS lost 67-65.

The Tigers trailed Rockford West 18-14 after the first quarter, 33-32 at halftime and 54-48 after the third quarter.

In the fourth, baskets by Jackson and Vaughn pulled EHS within 59-57 with 4:19 left. Edwardsville, though, couldn't pull in front as Rockford West hit 6 of 7 free throws down the stretch, including its last with less than three seconds remaining. The Tigers had a desperation 2-point shot from midcourt fall off the mark at the buzzer.

The Tigers shot 54.7 percent (29 of 53) from the field, compared to 43.4 percent (29 percent) for Rockford West, which was outscored 58-46 from the field. Rockford West made 21 of 26 free throws, while EHS made 7 of 14.

"All we heard about was Rockford and how they had won it last year, but we played even with them all the way," Vaughn said. "I have replayed that game in my mind a thousand times and we still lost, but I think we were the better team."

Vaughn (28 points) and Jackson (21 points) were both named to the United Press All-Tournament Team at state.

"I've never gone more than three days without thinking about that season," said Jackson, the former chairman and owner of the Harlem Globetrotters, for whom he played from 1962 to 1964. "Sometimes it's sad because when you get that close to being the best at something and you let it slip away, you don't forget it.

"But overall, it was a good time for the city and a good time for my family. It was something that kicked off the rest of my life."

On the Monday following the state tournament, the Edwardsville Chamber of Commerce sponsored a banquet for the team, which an estimated 400 people attended.

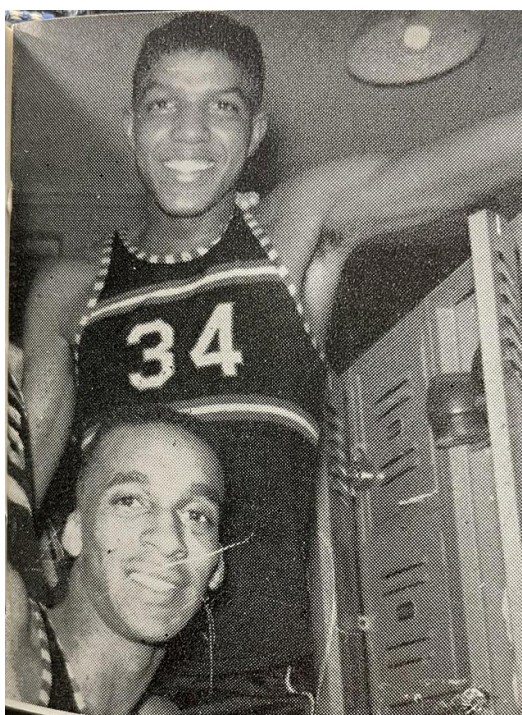


“The City of Edwardsville has been established for many, many years, but I’ll tell you with full sincerity, the star of Edwardsville has never flickered as brightly as it does today,” Lucco said at the banquet on March 20, 1956.

(article provided by Matt Kamp of the Intelligencer)









(Above, the team celebrates their Super-Sectional win)



(Above, the boys pose at their team banquet)



