

A HISTORY OF INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS AT
PITTSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL,
PITTSVILLE, WISCONSIN

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study is to convey to the reader the development of interscholastic athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin from its beginning in 1925 through the 1971-72 athletic season. The most notable reasons for this study are to provide some insight into the status of interscholastic athletics in the community and to provide tangible evidence of the various accomplishments of the athletes, teams and coaches.

The historical narrative is divided into three time periods. The first segment includes interscholastic athletics from 1925 through 1939. The second period includes interscholastic athletics from 1940 through 1959. The third or final segment includes interscholastic athletics from 1960 through 1971-72.

A chronological and topical approach is used in this study with pertinent incidents brought in whenever they were appropriate.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Records of Interscholastic Athletics at Pittsville High School are dated from 1925. Prior to this basketball games and track meets were played starting in 1922 under Principal Joe Cohan.

The athletic program has gone through many changes from competition in one sport, to competition in five sports.

The problems have been many as have the changes and trends in athletics.

Statement of the Problem

A historical investigation to show the development of interscholastic athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this paper is to bring up to date the records of all interscholastic sports in which Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin has participated.

A historical investigation will present some historical background of each sport and provide some knowledge of the coaches and of each sport.

Need for the Study

To provide tangible evidence to the administration,

coaches, faculty, students, and parents of the school district of the interscholastic athletic accomplishments at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Delimitations

This investigation will pertain only to the activities related to interscholastic athletics in the Pittsville School System from 1925 through the 1971-72 school year.

It is limited to only people associated with athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Limitations

This historical investigation is only related to athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin and will not affect any other area or school.

Some of the athletic records were incomplete, inaccurate, and some did not exist at all.

In some of the interviews the person could not remember specific events or dates.

It is possible that in personal interviews that bias information may have been given.

Definition of Terms

Panthers ---This refers to the school's nickname of Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Wood County League ---This refers to the athletic conference which Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin competed in.

Marawood Conference ---This refers to the athletic

conference in which Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin now competes.

W.I.A.A. --- This refers to the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association which governs the state of Wisconsin high school athletics.

Ho Ang Ho --- This refers to the school annual of Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

Procedures

The first thing that had to be done was the selection of a problem that served a purpose, and would be of interest to the researcher.

The problem, the type of paper, and the method to be used were selected. The problem deals with the interscholastic athletic program at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin, from 1925 through 1972. The type of paper chosen was a seminar paper. The method was a historical narrative. Approval of this paper was obtained from Dr. Robert Batchelder, Seminar Advisor, University of Wisconsin - La Crosse.

Upon approval of this paper, the researcher started an investigation into available information concerning the interscholastic athletic program at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin. Written information concerning interscholastic athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin was difficult to find.

Athletic Records were not available at the Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin. If athletic records were kept they were not left at the school following the departure of the athletic coach. This was the policy until approximately 1967. Athletic records from 1967 were available in three sports, football, wrestling, and track. Some of these athletic records were incomplete and inaccurate. The Pittsville High School Library did not contain a very helpful source of athletic information, the school newspaper nor the annual Ho Ang Ho. The Pittsville newspaper was reviewed and was found lacking a complete history of the paper itself. Therefore some information was obtained, but the Marshfield Record Herald, and the Wisconsin Rapids Daily Tribune were used to fill in many missing years. The researcher interviewed many past and present coaches and athletes to obtain information. The W.I.A.A. office provided some information concerning interscholastic athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin.

In tracing the development, growth, and changes within the interscholastic athletic program, the researcher was interested in all sports in which the high school competed as well as various related areas.

The sports included in the interscholastic athletic program consisted of football, basketball, wrestling,

track, and baseball.

The related areas to athletics that were chosen for investigation were: (1) athletes, (2) coaches, and (3) activities related to the athletic program.

CHAPTER II

ATHLETICS FROM 1925 - 1939

Interscholastic athletics began in 1925 with the hiring of the first athletic coach. He also was the eighth grade principal. Prior to this time the athletic coach was the high school principal.

The first athletics at Pittsville High School were basketball, and track. Joe Cohan in 1922, acted as coach. Athletic records until 1925 were not available.

The average enrollment for Pittsville High School between 1925 and 1930 was 80 to 90 students.

Pittsville High School joined the W.I.A.A. As a member of the W.I.A.A. they were members of the Wood County League from 1925 until 1950.

Pittsville High School then became a member of the Marawood Conference.

Basketball

Pittsville High School, under the leadership of Maurice Kennedy, began their basketball season in 1925.

The Wood County League, which Pittsville was a member of included: Rudolph, Amherest, Auburndale, Port Edwards, The Wisconsin Rapids Agricultural School, Biron, Neilsville, and Marshfield.

Home basketball games were played in the dance hall. The high school did not have a gymnasium at this time. The dance hall is now Old's Locker Plant. Practice was held in the school yard or in the winter at the dance hall.

"If practice was held in the dance hall a dollar fee was required. If heat was desired in the winter another dollar was required. There were no showers, or a changing area for the athletes. The athletes would wear their playing clothes under other clothing, to and from the game."

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The dance hall with the basketball court marked off left room for one row of seats on both sides of the hall.

The 1926 Pittsville High School basketball team won the Wood County League, and therefore was invited to participate in the Supplemental Tournament for Basketball at Abbotsford. Travel for the players and fans was by car to Marshfield and then by train to Abbotsford. Pittsville High School lost their first game, and were out of the tournament. No consolation games were held.

Rodney Wilson was hired as coach in the 1927-28 school year.

A series of new coaches were hired following Wilson: Harold Pankert in 1928-29; Allen Walker in 1929-30; in 1930-31 Frank Schneider was hired and stayed for several years.

In spite of the coaching changes and the fact that half of Pittsville was destroyed by fire, the dance hall included, the basketball team did very well. All home games were now played at the Dairyman's Hall in Arpin, Wisconsin.

The 1929-30 Pittsville High School basketball team won every game. They also went on to win the Silver Trophy at the 5th Annual North Central Wisconsin High School Basketball Tournament. Members of this winning basketball team included: Tyjeski, Staffon, Meyer, Ilk, Walch, Leiser, Mocher, and Hofer. (First names were omitted from reference.)

Frank Schneider was the athletic coach for the school term 1930 through 1931. Members of this basketball team were: Leiser, Bonke, Homer, Mc Wold, and Franson.

The Pittsville High School basketball squad in 1931-32 had a four and two season. In the Supplemental Tournament at Abbotsford, Pittsville high beat Dorchester and then lost their second game.

Basketball records were unavailable for the 1932-33 season.

Pittsville built the Community Hall in 1936, it was to serve two purposes. It was built to serve as a civic center and double as a gymnasium for the school.

A new high school was built in 1938, and the 1939 class was the first to graduate from it.

The 1939 basketball team under Coach Milton Anderson was selected to participate in the W.I.A.A. Class C Tournament for the Greenwood District. This tournament turned out to be a "barn burner". Pittsville was playing the Wisconsin Rapids "Aggies".

"The Aggies led at the end of the first quarter 3 to 2, but Pittsville had taken the lead by half-time 10-7. The Pittsvilleites still lead at the end of the third period, 14 to 11, but the Aggies put on a last quarter spurt and tied the game up at 18-all. In the first overtime period each team made a field goal, to tie the game at 20-all. Neither team scored in the second overtime period.

High school teams are allowed to play but two overtime periods, after which each member of the team, at the end of the game shoots a free throw, with the team making the most winning the game. Newell and Uhler scored points for the Aggies, and Parker and Leigh for Pittsville to again tie the score. In the second free-throw-shooting period, Parker was the only one to score, while three Aggies made good on their attempts to win the game. The final score 25 to 23."

2

In consolation play Pittsville was defeated by Spencer 12 to 3.

Pittsville for the first time in five years beat Auburndale in the year 1939. 1939 was really a very successful basketball year for Pittsville High School. Several names of players from 1939 team follow: Karl Kleifgen, Glenn Franson, Joe Urban, Raymond Hayes,

and Thomas Brabham.

Available basketball scores for this period of time are reported in the appendix.

Baseball

Baseball for the years 1925-39, was conducted in an unorganized manner. Schools that were close together would send a team to compete against another school. Baseball was played in the fall and it was not a round robin type of play. Scores were not available for this period of time.

Track

Track was a very popular sport. The Pittsville High School provided many loyal fans.

The first track meet held at Pittsville was on May 7, 1926. Pittsville won firsts in shot put, the 200 yard dash, high jump, javelin, discuss and relay. Pittsville had second places in the 100 yard dash, pole vault, and broad jump. Each contestant could enter three events. Elwin Mehlbrech was the top track athlete for the years 1925-1929. Allen Mc Key was also a good track athlete. Ralph Pelow was according to interviews the Most Valuable Player both in track and basketball.

Track is an on and off sport in the history of athletics at Pittsville High School. Several reasons may be given why: the conference did not push for its development; the athletes lacked the time, and coaches lacked the time to

instruct the athlete; lackage of facilities; and many of the schools in the Wood County League did not have track as a sport in their athletic program.

Girls Athletics

Pittsville High School had a very active group of girls interested in athletics. Basketball was played in the years 1924-26. Boys rules were preferred, but in competition between schools girls rules were used. Evelyn Chamberlain, an English instructor, was the first basketball coach for the girls. In an interview it was stated

"Pittsville won all games where boys rules or semi girls rules were used, but lost all girl rules games."

This competition was not W.I.A.A. sanctioned and very few scores were recorded. Games were played before the boys games.

Related Areas of Study

To give encouragement to the athletes Pittsville had a Pep Club but, no Cheerleaders. Several girls dressed in the school colors purple and gold and led the fans in cheers. In 1939 the first cheerleaders were elected by the school. The first cheerleaders were Mary and Tokolsky, Beulah Franson, Juanita Keenan, and Mae Tomsych.

The high school did not have a nickname at this time. The school song was written to the tune of

Hail Chicago by the Senior Class of 1921-22.

The first school annual was published in 1925 under the direction of Evelyn Chamberlain. Ho Ang Ho was chosen for the annual's name because it means Yellow River. The Yellow River flows in the back of the high school, therefore the name is appropriate.

The athletic facilities for track and baseball were the open fields surrounding the high school. Basketball as mentioned was played in the dance hall and then the Community Hall.

The method of transportation for the athletes was walking to and from school and practice or to and from the game. This was true unless the athlete could afford a car. Transportation to an away game was hopping a ride with another athlete with a car, or else riding up with a fan. The school did not provide transportation.

Pittsville had a football team for one year. It was a group of fellows who wanted to play, the team was none conference and played only two games. Football did not flourish because of lack of facilities, lack of enough interested athletes, and the townspeople felt it to be a rough sport.

The athletic administrator or coach during the 1925-39 athletic seasons also held a full time teaching position on the high school staff.

CHAPTER III

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS 1940 THROUGH 1959

The new high school was finished in 1939, this meant that the Pittsville High School athletic program now had a true home. The new high school did not contain a gymnasium, so the community hall was still used for home basketball games.

The average enrollment at the high school was 145. This meant that more fellows would be available for athletics.

George Staffon replaced Milton Anderson as athletic coach.

The athletic program at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin consisted of basketball from 1940-44. In 1945 baseball was added again to the athletic program.

Records for this period of time were unavailable at the high school. The Ho Ang Ho was not published from 1940 through 1945, due to the Second World War. Information for this period was obtained by interviews and searching through the surrounding community newspapers.

This section of the history of athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin will begin with basketball.

Basketball

Pittsville High School was invited to participate in the W.I.A.A. Basketball Tournament at Loyal in 1940. Pittsville lost both of their games.

During the year 1941 the outstanding basketball players according to interviews were Arnie Krueger, Johnnie Krause and Walter Kleifgen.

Acting as the athletic director in 1941-42 was Coach Fisher.

In 1945 Coach Burnkrant had an outstanding team, members included: Walter Kleifgen, Captain and four year letterman; and James Urban, two year letterman; and Frank Neve, Elton Wundrow, Eugene Ferk, Virgil Potts, Bob Reich, Harold Ewer, Herbert Kissner and Eugene Stommel. This team won the Sub District Tournament, but lost the Championship Game in the District Tournament.

Coach Rollins found a very aggressive and hard fighting group of athletes at Pittsville High School in 1946. The basketball team was the shortest in the history of athletics at Pittsville High School. The average height was 5 feet 4 inches. The basketball record for that year was two wins and seventeen losses. Harold Tirtz and Walter Kleifgen were singled out as good players for 1946.

The Panthers of Pittsville High School in 1947 under the direction of Coach Hoffman compiled a 3-12 record in basketball. Harold Tirtz and Victor Krueger were mentioned as good players.

Basketball in 1948 was another repeat of the previous year.

"During the past season (1948) the boys forming the P.H.S. basketball team, fought hard, winning three games and losing fifteen. Though their percentage of games lost was high, their was only a difference of one or two points in several games. Mr Wysocki served as coach of the team."³

The basketball season for Pittsville High School in 1949 was uneventful and unsuccessful. The records show one win and thirteen losses. Directing the basketball team was Coach Julius Brown.

Mr. Rex Ritchie was the basketball coach in 1950 and 1951. Both of these basketball seasons show a poor record in the won, loss column. The outstanding player in 1950 was Ernest Hoppe. The outstanding player in 1951 was Carl Erwin.

Coach Ken Schneider appears as the athletic director for Pittsville High School in 1952. A new coach did not help the Panthers for the basketball season ended with a record of 5-11. Members of the team were: (first names omitted from reference source) Anderson, Kruse, Christensen, Blanchard, Brandt, Neve, Irwin, Combs, and Bruce.

In 1955 Pittsville High School, was rated fourth in the Marawood Conference. The basketball team won their W.I.A.A. Sub District Tournament, and won the consolation honors at the W.I.A.A. District Tournament.

Coach George Woodrick's Panthers had another winning season in 1956. The Panthers posted a 18-2 record for the basketball season. The Panthers won the W.I. A.A. Sub District Tournament, but could not pull a win out in the W.I.A.A. District Tournament. Outstanding players on that team were: J. Pelot, K. Innerfall, and L. Neve.

In 1958 Pittsville High School ranked sixth in the Marawood Conference. A surprise awaited the loyal high school fans for the basketball team won both the W.I.A.A. Sub District and District Basketball Tournaments. Pittsville High School was now in the Regional Tournament. The Regional Tournament was held in Cashton, Wisconsin. The team of 1958 had gone the furthest of any basketball team in the history of basketball at Pittsville High School. Pittsville's chances of going on to the W.I.A.A. State Tournament were shattered by a defeat from Trempealeau High School.

Available scores for this period of interscholastic athletics are in the appendix.

Baseball

Baseball as an interscholastic athletic activity to be played as a conference sport was added to the Pittsville athletic program in 1945. This meant baseball would be a regularly scheduled activity for fall or spring play. Baseball for many years at Pittsville High School was played both in the fall and spring. This provided an outlet for fellows interested in sports before track and football were added to the program, to play in those seasons.

Gerald Harris was Pittsville's first baseball coach. The first baseball team had an interesting season with a 1-3 record.

In 1947 a high school baseball team was organized again with Mr. Vaughlin as coach. Three games comprised the baseball schedule. Members of this team were: pitchers, Edward Neve and Clarence Wirtz; catchers, Allen Reshel and Bill Hatch; infielders, Art Smith, Richard Wirtz, Jack Hackman, Paul Nelson, and Charles Luther. The outfielders were Max Hoppe, Jerome Wirtz, Jerome Steidl, Harold Tritz, Ralph Tritz, Raymond Phillipoi and Roger Bushman.

Coach Jules Brown took over the directorship of the baseball team in 1949. This baseball season found Pittsville High School with a record of 2 wins and 6 losses.

Mr. Rex Ritchie was the baseball coach from 1950 until 1952.

The baseball team under the direction of Ken Schneider in 1956 won the Marawood Fall Baseball Championship. The seasons record was 5 wins 0 losses.

In 1957 Bob Hiles set a pitching record for Pittsville High School. The record was 4 wins and 1 loss.

Pittsville High School again wins the Marawood Baseball Conference in 1960 with a perfect record. The record was 5 wins and 0 losses.

Related Areas of Study

The B. A. A. (Boys Athletic Association) was organized in 1955. The purpose of the group was to help pay some of the expenses occurred from athletics and to present awards to the outstanding athletes. The award presented was a Pittsville High School letterman's jacket. This organization folded in the early 1960's.

Girls athletics in the 1940-59 period consisted of intra school-activities. Once in awhile the G.A.A. would send a team of volleyball players to a play day at another school. The G.A.A. conducted a very active program of activities periodically, because of the travel factor of leaving school walking close town and back to get to the Community Hall.

Starting in the late 1940's transportation was provided for the players and fans for basketball games away from home. The Pep Club was very influential in getting buses for the fans. A fan bus must have the maximum capacity of passengers before the bus will move.

The athletic staff had expanded from one coach for all sports to two coaches. The coach taught a subject, but he was paid not only for teaching, but also seperately for coaching.

CHAPTER IV

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS 1960 THROUGH 1972

The last addition to the Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin was opened in 1960. This addition contained the gymnasium.

Between 1960 and 1972 two new sports were added to the athletic program. These sports were football and wrestling. The Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin athletic program now contains five sports.

With this segment of this paper the history of athletics at Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin is presently brought up to date.

Baseball

In 1960 Pittsville's High School athletic program opened with baseball in the fall. This was to change when football became the fall sport, for baseball was switched to a spring sport at that time.

The baseball season in 1960-61 was very successful for Coach George Woodrich and his Panthers. The Panthers won the Marawood Conference. Outstanding players were: pitcher, Robert Hoppe; and two outstanding hitters Noel Denniston and Neil Denniston. Noel's batting average was .579, Neils batting average was .555. The 1960-61 baseball team was slightly different from most teams for seven out of the nine players

hit from the left.

Coach Woodrick and his baseball squad were successful in winning two Marawood Conference Trophies in 1961-62.

David Vander Muelen became the baseball coach for the years 1962 through 1964.

Coach Robert Wolff came to the helm in 1965, and started a rebuilding project in the baseball squad. The records show a 0-3 season.

The first conference win since 1961 happened in 1966 for the Pittsville High School baseball team. The team had four losses. Jim Fieber--- (catcher) was named Most Valuable Player.

A challenging baseball season was in store for the high school baseball team during the school year 1967-68. Three wins were gained, but four losses were sustained. John Heeg was named Most Valuable Player.

Pittsville High School, Pittsville Wisconsin won the Marawood Conference Baseball Championship in 1968-69. The team record was 7-0. Co-Captains were Joe LaFleur and Duane Brey. Most Valuable Players were --- Joe LaFleur, and Russ Miltimore.

Named as Most Valuable Player on the baseball squad for 1969-70 was Jim Jensen. The baseball season ended with a 5 and 4 record for Pittsville High School.

For the 1970-71 season the baseball team record was 6 wins and 3 losses. Lee Garrels was named as the Most Valuable Player.

Two of Pittsville High School baseball team members were named to the All Conference team in 1971-72. They were Mike Coon and Lee Hofer. The record books stated 7 wins and 2 losses. Jim Hofer was named as the Most Valuable Player.

Basketball

1960-61 was the first year that the Pittsville Panthers played basketball in their own gymnasium. Coach Woodrick and his team had a semi successful season.

The Denniston brothers, Noel and Neil, along with A. Regalia were outstanding basketball players for the Panthers in 1961-62. Noel Denniston's individual scoring record of 47 points in one game occurred that year. This is still the school record for individual scoring in basketball.

David Vander Muelen acted as basketball coach in 1962. The outstanding basketball players that year were V. Stewart and C. Eggett.

Vander Meulen's Panthers had a four and seven basketball season in 1963-64. In the W.I.A.A. Tournament held at Auburndale, Pittsville played Auburndale and lost. This put Pittsville out of the tournament, however Auburndale had an illegal player according to the W.I.A.A. rules and Pittsville was allowed to continue in the tournament. Pittsville proceed to loss to Nekoosa.

Tom Chasten and Victor Stewart were outstanding players for Coach Vander Muelen and the Pittsville Panthers in 1964. The Most Valuable Player Award went to Duane Frost for the Basketball season 1964.

Excitement filled the Pittsville High School during the 1964-65 basketball season. The game producing this excitement was Spencer vs. Pittsville.

"A capacity crowd is expected by P.H.S. officials, who suggest that people in the Pittsville area who are interested in attending get their early. When capacity crowd is reached, the doors will be closed. All coats will be checked to allow for maximum seating. Both teams have identical records 6-1 in conference play, and 7-1 overall. The two teams are tied for the Marawood Conference lead and this game may will settle the conference championship." 4

Pittsville lost to Spencer, but went on to win the conference. In the W.I.A.A. Sub Regional tournament Pittsville High School defeat Nekoosa and Granton. In the Regional Tournament Pittsville is defeated by Edgar.

Two Pittsville Panthers are named to the All Conference Marawood basketball team. They were Vic Stewart and Tom Chasteen. Vic Stewart was also as a member of the Channel 7 WSAU Television All Star Team.

Pittsville High School had another great basketball season in 1965. Coach Hilgendorf's Panthers suffered only 3 defeats that year. Pittsville High School stayed in competition during the W.I.A.A. Tournaments until the Sectional Tournament held at Stevens Point. There they were beaten by Wisconsin Rapids.

The basketball season of 1966 for Pittsville High School was again one of many triumphs. Pittsville won the Sub Regional Tournament, but went on to lose their first game of the Regional Tournament. Representing Pittsville High School on the Marawood All Conference Basketball Team was Roger Stewart.

In the 1967-68 basketball season the Pittsville High School Panthers held down second place in the Marawood Conference. The boys coached by Mr Hilgendorf performed very well throughout the season. John Heeg and Roger Stewart helped the Panthers win many games.

The Pittsville Panthers had a new coach in 1968. Coach Noel Denniston, a home town lad, came and started a rebuilding program in basketball. The win loss column was not particularly impressive, with a 7-11 record. Two impressive Panthers contributing to the team were Joe LaFleur and Rick Marten.

Coach Denniston's Panthers in 1969 had improved. Available records show an increase in the win column, as compared to the loss column. Mike Perkel was named Most Valuable Player.

Gary Sherwood was named as the Most Valuable Player in 1970. The basketball season ended with Pittsville Panthers in fourth place in the Marawood Conference. Pittsville High School won the right to go to the W.I.A.A. Regional Tournament. The Pittsville fans were extremely excited. This would be the second time in the history of basketball at Pittsville High School that they were in the Regional Tournaments. The hopes of going to the State Tournaments was shattered by a defeat at the hands of Stratford High School. Larry Brey received an honor by being selected to the second team Mararwood All Conference.

The selection of the All Conference team is done by the coaching in the Conference. They pool the names of the leading players for their teams, and then votes are taken. The players with the highest number of votes are All Conference.

The selection of Most Valuable Player at Pittsville High School is done by vote by the athletes from each activity. In 1971-72 Mike Coombs was chosed as the Most Valuable Basketball Player.

Wrestling

Wrestling was introduced to the Pittsville Athletic program in the 1963-64 school term. The Coaches were Kenneth Hall, and Charles Donatell. The first wrestling squad consisted of nine athletes. Scores for the matches held that year were unobtainable.

The Ho Ang Ho for 1964-65 did not contain a section for wrestling, therefore the conclusion was drawn that wrestling was not a part of the athletic program for Pittsville High School that term.

The 1965-66 school year put Pittsville High School again in the wrestling spirit. New leadership was provided by Coach Al Albrecht. The wrestling squad consisted of twelve athletes. Two sets of scores were found for this year of wrestling. Pittsville lost to the Auburndale "Aubies", and in a meet held at Stratford they came in last out of six competing schools. The outstanding matmen for this wrestling season were Larry Grubofski, and Fred Niemeyer.

In 1966-67 Pittsville's Fearsome Foursome helped compile a Combined Record of 39 wins, 10 losses, and 3 ties. The Fearsome Foursome consisted of Jim Weinfurter, Jim Ronek, Larry Grubofski, and Jerry Hahn.

Jim Weinfurter, represented Pittsville High School at the Scholfield Wrestling Sectional. Jim wrestled in the 95 lb. division.

Coach Albrecht in the school term 1967-68 had two outstanding wrestlers, they were Jerry Hahn and Larry Grubofski. Jerry wrestled at 133 lbs. his record was 15 wins, 1 loss, and 0 ties. Larry's records show 9 wins, 1 loss, and 2 ties. Larry wrestled at 120 lbs. The over all team scores were 3 wins, 9 losses, and 1 tie.

An extra incentive was added to the wrestling program for the athlete in 1968 that of the Simon Award. The Simon Award:

"Simon is the Mascot of the P.H.S. Wrestling team. Simon is a big, mean, tough, unruly type character who will not stop until he gets the job done. But the way he does the job is the key to his success. He is so rough and tough that his opponents move to get out of his way. The award is given weekly to the wrestler who demonstrates this ability."

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The Pittsville wrestling team had two champs in the Marawood Conference in 1968. The two were Jerry Hahn, at 138 lbs. ; and Chuck Schiller, at 95 lbs. The team record was 8 and 8.

Jerry Hahn took all the team awards for wrestling. He was the Takedown Champ, the Pin Champ, and the Most Valuable Player.

The 1969-1970 wrestling squad was coached by Arthur Klenecki. Wrestling records for this year proved one tie and no wins for the wrestling squad. Jerry Masephol and Roger Iwanski, contributed to the Panthers by pinning several opponents.

New leadership came again to the the wrestling squad in 1971. Coach Turnquist's directions provide for an increase in the win column. Dave Masephol and Bob Iwanski helped the teams won and lost records by winning many team points.

Coach Thompson arrives to lead the Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin Wrestlers in 1972.

Wrestling records for that year demonstrated that Pittsville could development an improved wrestling squad. Five wins and five lossess, with one tie. Ken Hendren (126 lbs.) was named Most Valueable Player, and he also received the Take Down Trophy. Kirk Rucker, Jack Kane, and Bruce Wayerski, all received 1sts. at the Blair Tournament. Hendren and Kane were also named to the Marawood 2nd. All Conference team.

Wrestling is a fast growing activity in Pittsville High School. It is truly an individual sport, and one in which an athlete can challenge himself to win.

Track was revived in the Pittsville High School athletic program in 1962. Coach John Hilstead was replaced by Coach Elwood for the school terms 1963-65. Track records for this time were few and difficult to find.

Track records for 1964 show that Pittsville High School won second place in a triangular meet held at Marshfield and was third in the Annual Marawood Track and Field Meet held at Marshfield.

In a track meet held at Wisconsin Rapids, Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin won first places in the Broad Jump, 440 yard dash, 88 yard run, and High Jump. The Panthers winning these first, appear in the same order as above, John Laughlin, Broad Jump 17 feet 5 inches; Nelson, 440 yard dash 56.1; Cliff Eggett, 880 yard run 26.1; John Laughlin, High Jump 5 feet 6 inches.

In 1965 Coach Ray Elwood was in command of the Pittsville High School Track Team. F. Niemeyer, H. Nelson, and D. Novacek were graduating Seniors from the track squad.

Coach Hilgendorf's Panther track squad had an exciting year in 1966. In a triangular meet held at Marshfield Pittsville placed second. J. Hofer won

first place in the discuss and shot put, D. Zeller won first in the mile, D. Reambach won first in the half mile and J. DeWerff won the long jump.

In a triangular meet held at Pittsville, Pittsville came in second. Five first places were won. At the Sectional W.I.A.A. Track Meet Pittsville was eighth out of eighteen schools. Outstanding tracksters were Jim Hofer, and Dave Zellner.

The Pittsville Panthers track team captured fourth place in the Marawood Conference. Jim Hofer won the conference championship in the Shot Put and Discus throw, by heaving the shot 42 feet 11 inches and throwing the discus 125 feet $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Both performances established new conference records in the events. Dave Zellner won the conference championship in the Mile Run.

Records for track were not available for the year 1968.

In 1969-70-71 the Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin won the Marawood Conference Track Title. Coach Noel Denniston for those years was very pleased and proud of the track squad. Outstanding tracksters were: Duane Brey and Rick Marten for the school term 1969, Rick was entered in four events; in 1970 Dwight Du Pee and Mark Gronski; and in 1971 Mark Gronski, Glen Neilson, and Mike Coombs were the Most Valuable Players.

The school year of 1964-1965 produced the first organized football team for Pittsville High School. The Panthers playing in the Marawood Conference under Coach Ray Elwood, did not fair well in the win loss column but, they learned much about the sport and procedures necessary to produce a better team.

In 1965-66 Coach Elwood stated:

"Team is progressing --- no pre season scrimages might hurt, so swing into action against Abbotsford."

The win, loss record for this year was again bad.

The Panthers did not win a single game. Teams they played against included Abbotsford, Spencer, Greenwood, Edgar, Auburndale, Stratford, Wild Rose.

Coach Elwood, in his last year as football coach at Pittsville High School saw one very important football win that was against Athens for the Pittsville Homecoming. The rest of the football season saw no wins for Pittsville High School, in 1966.

A new coach for football arrived in 1967. John Wyatt, present Principal and football coach, for Pittsville High School. This football season saw an improvement in the win, loss column. Seven wins and one loss.

An extra incentive was added by Coach Wyatt to help get his players up and ready for the game. The

introduction of the Skull and Crossbones Award.

This award was to be earned by the defensive ball players. The defensive players must earn at least 60 points to get the award. Points were given for: touchdown scored while on defense, blocked punt, pass interception, fumble recovery, individual tackle, and gang tackle. Each of the above had a different point value depending upon the difficulty involved. The Skull and Crossbones award was given to twelve players in 1967.

"Pittsville's High School Football Team Stuns State's No. 1 Small School Grid Team, Stratford, 14-13."

This headline in 1968 showed the true makings of the Pittsville High School Football Team. The Stratford-Pittsville game will long be remembered by Coach Wyatt and the Panthers. The season proved challenging, the records show five wins and three losses. In 1968 thirteen players received the Skull and Crossbones Award.

The 1969 Pittsville Panthers Football Team ended the season with eight wins and one loss, second in the Marawood Conference and ranked 18th in the final U.P.I. ratings of small schools in Wisconsin.

Five losses and four wins was the Pittsville Panther football record for 1970.

In 1971 the football season again was fairly successful.

The defensive team must have worked extra hard for seven-teen Panthers were awarded the Skull and Crossbones Award for their helmets.

See the Appendix for further available football records.

Young men named to the Marawood All Conference Team are listed below for the years 1967-70:

Art Smith---First Team Linebacker, Wally Steffeh---First Team Defensive, and Offensive Tackle. 1968

Joe La Fluor---End, and Rick Marten Linebacker. 1969

John Hubbard---Running Back, John also received the high honor of Honorable Mention to the Wisconsin All State Team, he is the only Pittsville player to have received this honor. John also was selected to the Channel 7 All Star Team. Roger Iwanski was named to the Marawood All Conference Defensive Team. 1970 Jim Jensen Offensive End. Selections for the Marawood All Conference Team for the Pittsville Team if any were not available, . for the 1971 school year.

RELATED AREAS OF RESEARCH

The Most Valuable Player Award for football's first year at Pittsville High School went to Eric Gronski.

Coach Elwood was assisted by Mr. Dave Vander Muelen, and Mr. Chuck Donatell.

Glenn Peters won the Most Valuable Player Award

in football for the football season 1965-66.

In 1969 the Marawood Conference changes membership with Nekoosa and Rib Lake being added, and Granton dropped.

Football games until 1971 were played in the afternoon when they were home games. In 1971 lights were put up for night playing.

The last bit of related information concerning football would be to mention the assistant coaches that worked with Coach Wyatt. This included several for different years: Mr Al Albrecht, Mr. Bob Wolff, Mr. Duane Kreusel, and Mr. Arnold Thoreson, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Denniston.

Girls Interscholastic Athletics

Pittsville High School has always had an active G.A.A. The girls simply need more coaching and guidance in athletics. The first G.A.A. gals played basketball, since the G.A.A. now has baseball (softball) volleyball, and track.

Pittsville had five girls at the field day in Monona Grove for the year 1967. The girls were Pat Spurgeon, Jo Ellen Hatch, Adele Accola, Marge Rosandich, and Mary Lippert. No records were available as to how the girls performed. The girls were coached by Mrs Jens.

Miss Mary Germehle, the present Physcial Education teacher for the girls is also the main advisor for the G.A.A. Miss Gerzmehle started taking records of the G.A.A. activities in 1971. Athletics in 1971 for the girls consisted of play days or sports days. There activities were between or with schools on a non-conference basis.

In 1972 the W.I.A.A. recognized womens athletics so Pittsville High School joined the conference play for the girls. Available scores for girls basketball in 1971 show a 1-4 season.

The girls track team was invitied to the Wisconsin High School Girl's Track and Field Meet, but no records were kept. This meet was in 1970.

At a girls track meet (triangular) at Witterfield Pittsville won second place. Events in 1971 included: 50 yd. dash, softball throw, these two have since been eliminated, the 100 yd dash, 440 and 880 yard run, the mile run, 440 pursiut, 70 yd. low hurdles, discuss, long jump, high jump, shot put, and the 880 medley relay. Competition was by the size of the school.

Available girls track records are reported in the appendix.

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APPENDIX

APPENDIX B

Available Basketball Scores

Pittsville's scores are given first

1929-1930

Milladore 13-8
Tournament Play
Auburndale 25-8
Abbottsford 26-6
Owen 25-6

1930-1931

Milladore 15-5
Biron
Milladore
Wisconsin Rapids Aggies 9-16
Rudolph 6-12
Auburndale
Biron 7-38
Auburndale 9-39
Wisconsin Rapids Aggies
Port Edwards
Rudolph
Tournament Play
Auburndale 3-30
Colby 3-31

1931-1932

Wis. Rapids Aggies 8-7
Rudolph 23-11
Port Edwards 12-9
Rudolph 20-11
Tournament Play
Dorchester 17-15
Unity 16-20

1945-1946

Plainfield 17-33
Marathon 21-51, 36-51
Stratford 33-25, 51-31
Necedah 48-39, 44-32
Unity 36-25, 40-38
Adams Friendship 39-52, 33-51
Hancock 53-31, 32-25
Auburndale 21-23, 31-33
Rudolph 36-22, 40-26, 47-46

1945-1946 cont.

Spencer 31-37
Wis. Rapids J.V.'s
37-36
Greenwood 37-57
Tournament Play
Spencer 37-36
Rudolph 47-46
Greenwood 37-57

1946-1947

Ondassagon 13-14
Stratford 8-28
Necedah 16-35
Stratford 11-29
Unity 25-31
Necedah 12-31
Adams Friendship
25-61
Rudolph 22-42
Marathon 28-78
Adams Friendship
21-66
Auburndale 19-24
Hancock 36-61
Marshfield 18-23
Marathon 19-32
Unity 27-20
Tournament Play
Fairchild 28-27
Owen 13-32
Greenwood 30-40

1948-1949

Rudolph 31-27, 18-40
Stratford 23-24, 17-30
Necedah 28-47, 36-48
Auburndale 16-32
Almond 29-49
Wild Rose 31-27
Granton 33-53
Montello 29-40
Plainfield 35-47

Available Basketball Scores

Pittsville's scores are given first

1953-1954

Stratford 42-80
 Edgar 49-53
 Athens 49-62
 Granton 68-59
 Auburndale 49-32
 Port Edwards 60-49
 Rudolph 44-36
 Necedah 61-32
 Marathon 54-44
 Stratford 39-84
 Edgar 63-62
 Athens 47-65
 Port Edwards 61-57
 Granton 89-32
 Auburndale 45-55
 D.C. Everest 58-54
 Rudolph 60-48
 Marathon 57-55

1958-1959

Edgar 41-66
 Necedah 58-51
 Athens 55-56
 Marathon 36-33
 Rudolph 58-52
 Auburndale 49-54
 Granton 66-53
 Stratford 33-81
 Edgar 42-71
 Necedah 51-34
 Athens 57-60
 Marathon 48-52
 Rudolph 64-52
 Auburndale 50-81
 Granton 63-56
 Stratford 57-65

1968-1969

Granton 60-56
 Auburndale 58-71
 Abbottsford 61-64
 Spencer 52-43
 Marathon 53-78
 Edgar 68-52
 Athens 56-60
 Stratford 49-92
 Nekoosa 65-86
 Necedah 59-63
 Granton 52-55
 Auburndale 54-47
 Abbottsford 59-68
 Spencer 62-85
 Marathon 64-71
 Edgar 76-63
 Athens 98-67
 Stratford 63-78

1969-1970

Nekoosa 49-69
 Stratford 54-58
 Auburndale 70-59
 Granton 46-64
 Spencer 80-54
 Abbottsford 73-79
 Marathon 80-85
 Auburndale 73-70
 Marathon 60-59
 Abbottsford 66-57
 Athens 98-7
 Edgar 75-70
 Tournament Play
 Nekoosa 56-59
 Amherest 65-35

Available Football Scores

Pittsville's scores are given first

1966

Wild Rose 25-7
 Spencer 34-12
 Edgar 14-6
 Athens 14-6
 Stratford 0-34
 Marathon 33-7
 Auburndale 6-0
 Abbotsford 9-6

1967

Hillsboro 26-0
 Edgar 7-13
 Auburndale 14-25
 Athens 35-7
 Stratford 14-13
 Spencer 6-27
 Marathon 26-6
 Abbotsford 48-0

1968

Neillsville 42-14
 Nekoosa 36-6
 Auburndale 12-20
 Edgar 36-0
 Athens 44-6
 Stratford 20-14
 Spencer 28-16
 Abbotsford 22-12
 Marathon 20-0

1969

Athens 14-8
 Abbotsford 8-0
 Edgar 18-7
 Rib Lake 44-0
 Nekoosa 0-22
 Spencer 12-13
 Stratford 0-33
 Auburndale 6-12
 Marathon 14-23

Baseball Scores

Pittsville's scores are given first

1945-46

Wis. Rapids Aggies 7-25
 Nekoosa 1-3
 Wis. Rapids Aggies 0-10
 Auburndale 4-3

1948-49

Auburndale 5-4
 Auburndale 4-1
 Marshfield Purdy Jr. High 27-3

1949-50

Auburndale 0-7
 Rudolph 8-6
 Auburndale 1-0
 Granton 2-12
 Rudolph 3-11
 Edgar 2-1

1953-54

Marathon 2-5
 Athens 19-16
 Rudolph 7-5
 Stratford 6-1

1954-55

Marathon 11-1
 Athens 0-4
 Rudolph 9-0
 Edgar 7-3
 Stratford 0-4

1956-57

Marathon 5-0
 Athens 4-3
 Rudolph 11-1
 Edgar 17-11
 Stratford 4-0

1957-58

Marathon 4-9
 Athens 5-0
 Rudolph 7-6
 Edgar 1-0
 Stratford 1-0

1958-59

Fall Baseball
 Marathon 4-9
 Athens 5-0
 Rudolph 7-6
 Edgar 1-0
 Stratford 1-0
 Spring Baseball
 Marathon 5-0
 Athens 4-3
 Rudolph 11-1
 Edgar 17-11
 Stratford 4-0

1967-68

Stratford 0-5
 Spencer 2-5
 Granton 6-4
 Auburndale 0-7
 Port Edwards 4-7

Girls Track Records

High jump --- 4'8" set by Robin Capling
220 Yard Dash---.29.8 set by Peggy Quihlin
Discus--- 90 feet set by Le Ann Hasanfang
100 Yard Dash 12.2 set by Linda Olds
880--- 2.36 set by Debbie Kumm
Shot Put 27' 11" set by Diane Betz
Long Jump 12' 3" set by Cindy Du Pee
440--- 1:17.4 set by Roman Gronski
70 Yard Hurdles---.13.2 set by Connie Schenger
80 Yard Hurdles---.15.2 set by Cindy Trachte
440 relay---59 seconds set by Donna Hendrickson
Micky Hendron
Linda Olds
Donna Christian

SUMMARY OF SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

Interscholastic athletics at the Pittsville High School, Pittsville, Wisconsin, represents an opportunity for the community to get together.

Interscholastic athletics has grown from one sport, basketball, to five sports. These activities are football, basketball, track, wrestling, and baseball.

Basketball highlights: Pittsville High School has had two teams go as far as the Regional Tournaments. The years were, 1958 and 1966

Wrestling is a very new sport, very few highlights are available. Wrestling has had an very outstanding wrestler his name was Jerry Hahn. Jerry never went to state but, he has won all of the schools wrestling honors.

Track, another new activity at Pittsville High, has developed into an activity with great interest shown by the students to participate or to watch. The track team has won the Marawood Conference for the last three consecutive years.

Football, the highlights here would be, the win over Stratford in 1968. Also in 1968 Pittsville High had an athlete named to the all state football team, his name John Hubbard.

In baseball no highlights were given by the coach.