



100 YEARS AGO... 1908-09 By Gus Stevens



Roger Lewis



Edgar Haskins

The big news on the local sports scene in 1908 was that Vincennes University had agreed to become part of a basketball "conference" to be called The Central Basketball League. Members were the Henderson YMCA, Oakland City College, Vincennes University, and the Evansville YMCA. VU president, Dr. Horace Ellis, was elected league vice president. An announced schedule was to start December 1 and all teams would play each other twice. Unfortunately the league never played a game after it was announced the Evansville YMCA team had cancelled its schedule because of the death of one of their football players.

Second year coach Edgar Haskins had four of his top players back from the previous season including Roger Lewis, the team's top scorer.

Lewis was the younger brother of Byron R. Lewis for whom Vincennes University's historical library is named.

The VU boys started the season in Watson's Hall at the corner of 2nd and Busseron Streets with a 24-5 win over Bruceville HS and finished with an 11-10 loss to the Bicknell Independents in the team's only out of town game.

To say the games were rough is an understatement. In the teams 14-9 loss to the Carlisle Independents the Sullivan Times reported that: "Both teams fouled often. Carlisle committed 21 fouls and Vincennes 20. Of the 21 chances Vincennes scored seven times from the foul line, and out of 20 chances Carlisle scored 12. Each side got a field goal."

The team's 6-2 won/lost record was the best in school history. Lewis of Bridgeport, Illinois, is credited with 32 points with Fred Stoltz of Vincennes finishing second with 8 points. Statistical summaries for all games are not available. As with most high school/college games of the period a high school was permitted to recruit not more than two "outsiders" from the faculty or community.

Home games were played in Watson's Hall, 2nd and Busseron Streets and the Lakewood Amusement Park roller skating rink east of the city.

Coach Haskins would later become the Superintendent of the Vincennes City Schools.

MEN'S BASKETBALL ROSTER 1908-09

Name	Pos.	Year	Hometown
Will Brown	G	Fresh.	Plainville
Guy Chambers	F	Soph.	Vincennes
Louis Coonce	G	Fresh.	Monroe City
Bert Leech	C	Fresh.	Monroe City
Roger Lewis	F	Soph.	Bridgeport, IL
William Herr	F	Soph.	Vincennes
Arthur Kimmell	G	Fresh.	Vincennes
John McAndrew	G	Soph.	Allison, IL
Fred Planke	C	Soph.	Vincennes
Fred Stoltz	F	Fresh.	Vincennes

Head Coach: Edgar Haskins

RESULTS - 1908-09 SEASON

Won 6 Lost 2

Vincennes 24 Bruceville HS 5
Carlisle Independents 14 Vincennes 9
Vincennes 27 Lawrenceville HS 10
Vincennes 13 Oaktown HS 5
Vincennes 16 Bruceville 15
Vincennes 43 Lawrenceville HS 10
Vincennes 43 VU Alumni 14
 Bicknell Independents 11 Vincennes 10

Home Games in Bold