Washington High School

19

Toda Bella



S E C T I 0 N AL H A M P S

PANTHERS

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Congratulations to the boys' basketball team for winning the sectional championship for the first time in 32 years. Way to go Bella, you made the "Countryside" boys proud. Oh, and Wayne, they were scared. Way to go Ced, Ed, Wayne, Mal, Bella, and the rest of the team as well. Brian, Chad, Dan, Drew, Ed, Andy, and Ryan

32 Years of frustration



Row One: Left to Right: Frank Skubis, George Johnson, Tom Nowicki, Larry Gillen, Jim McElhaney, Earl Hairston, Bob Johnson, Larry Sopczynski. Row Two: Tom Phend, Lloyd Kerr, Floyd Kerr, John Pacay, Jeff Balogh, Wes Chapman, Coach Harry Lewandowski, Tom Majewski, Coach Joe Lawecki, Fred Ziolkowski, Principal John McNamara, Coach Subby Nowicki.



Front Row: Left to Right: Coach Chris Whiffin, Kevin Keen, Mike Davis, Matt Markiewicz, Jamal Henry, Todd Bella, Coach Scott Tafelski. Second Row: Athletic Director Pat Mackowiak, Coach Milt Cooper, Coach Steve Henry, Reggie Malone, William Avance, Cedric Moodie, Edmund Kyle, Quentel Howard, Coach Robert McCullough. Third Row: Bryan Forbes, Marvin Giles, Darmetrious Kilgore, Trainer Derek Ewald.

Determination

The boys' basketball team headed into sectionals with a lot of momentum. They came in with two impressive wins. One was over NIC champion Penn and the other was a thrashing of Michigan power, Brandywine.

Before the season began, many sports writers stated that the South Bend Sectional would come down to a showdown between the Washington Panthers and the Riley Wildcats.



The 1997 South Bend Sectional Champions: The Washington Panthers.

Washington had a dismal 4-7 record on the road, but had an "untouchable" 9-0 record at home.

"Home" is the key word in that sentence because "home", at the Great Western Forum is where the sectionals would be played.

"We had the attitude that nobody can beat us at home, and that is why we were confident going into sectionals," said Bella.

The team was haunted by the 32-year drought in between sectional championships.

The 1965 team led by brothers Floyd and Lloyd Kerr were the last team to cut down the nets for Washington High School.

"I don't think they worry about the past or the future," said Coach Milt Cooper prior to sectionals "What we have to focus on is the here and now."

The Panthers lost four of their last seven games of the season, which was nothing new to Cooper.

When Cooper's team went down state in Illinois, his team lost the last two games of the year.

Washington's first game in the sectional was against the Adams Eagles.

The Panthers stormed out of the locker room and took an impressive 26-11 lead at the end of the first quarter and led by as much as 20 during the game.

"We came out fired up and we had the attitude that nobody could beat us in our gym," said Henry.

The Eagles came storming back and cut into

the lead. Adams hit more shots than the Panthers, but three-pointers kept



Senior Edmund Kyle goes up strong for a layup against Riley in the Sectional Final.

the Panthers ahead as they would move on to the sectional semi-final.

There they would face-off against "West-side rival," LaSalle.



Senior Cedric Moodie slams one down over teammate Mike Davis in the LaSalle game.

With a 16-7 record going into sectionals the Panthers were not nearly the dominant team that everyone expected in the pre-season.

wins '97 sectionals



Athletic Director Pat Mackowiak hoists the sectional championship trophy toward the Panther fans.

The last time these two teams met it came down to a controversial call in the final seconds and a tip-in by

42

Senior Todd Bella goes up for two of his game-high 34 ppoints in the Sectional Final.

William Avance with two seconds remaining won the game for the Panthers.

The Panthers raced out to a 21-12 first quarter lead, but the Lions had the neversay-die attitude they needed in the sectional semi-final.

LaSalle cut the lead to four in the fourth quarter with the score

72-68.

With the LaSalle fans screaming, Bella lobbed the ball toward the rim to Moodie who threw down the alley-oop. This sparked a run for the Panthers that would put them in the sectional final.

With the lead five late in the game, Bella banged home his second three of the game to keep LaSalle back.

LaSalle came right back to cut the lead down to five again but Kyle's three-point play put the nail in the coffin.

The Panthers went on the win 87-79.

Kyle scored 27 and Moodie added 26 in the victory.

WHS was in the sectional final against the Riley Wildcats. The teams met twice before in the regular season, with Riley winning by on at Riley and the Panthers winning by one at Warsaw in the Holiday Tournament.

Washington bolted to a 26-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Bella hit a perfect 4-4 from behind the arc in the first quarter.

This lead, however, would not last long, as a 16-0 Riley run gave the Wildcats a 43-40 lead at the half.

Bella continued to shoot well in the second half and ended up with nine three pointers, breaking the South Bend Sectional record and ended up being just one short of the state record.



Coach Milt Cooper cuts down the nets after the Sectional Final victory.

Bella finished the game with a career-high 34 points.

All-state candidate, Cedric Moodie, ended with 27 of his own, while Avance and Henry added 14 and 11 respectively.

When the final buzzer sounded the crowd rushed the floor. 32 years of frustration was long forgotten as the Pride was truely back on the West Side.

Unlikely hero saves day



Senior Edmund Kyle simply said, "Get that shot out of here."

Senior Cedric Moodie looks for a place to go against Concord star, Jeremy Gillespie.

Well, the Panthers extended their season one more week with three straight victories on their home court.

Winning at home was not the problem this season as the Panthers went undefeated in the Great Western Forum.

WHS would have to win in Elkhart's Northside Gym, where they were defeated earlier in the year by Elkhart Central.

They drew the red hot Concord Minutemen in the morning session.

The Minutemen were coming off wins against Elkhart Central and Penn.

Concord controlled the first three quarters of play, but the Panthers had a lot of fight left in them.

The Panthers were held to just 38 points in the first three quarters. The high-powered offense would not be held down for the entire game as they exploded for 28 in the fourth quarter alone.

"Concord played a 1-3-1 zone, and that was the first time we had seen it all year," said Coach Milt Cooper. "We had to figure it out and in the fourth quarter we did. We stole it from them. We had to."

Junior Reggie Malone ignited the Panthers with eight fourth quarter points. The seldom-used junior hit a clutch freethrow, a couple



Junior Jamal Henry drives the lane and hits a floater against the Minutemen.

of two-point shots, and a clutch three-point shot to boost the Panthers past the Minutemen.

Henry struggled on the offensive end but three key steals in the fourth quarter suffocated the Minutemen.

While the Panthers were missing free throws, Avance was simply tipping them in and carrying the Panthers to the regional final game against the ninth-ranked East Noble Knights.

Moodie scored 19 points. He had two three-pointers and a thunderous dunk that sparked the Panther run in the fourth quarter.

In addition to Moodie, Avance poured in 16 and Kyle scored 11.

Unforgettable season comes to end

The Panther's best season in 32 years ends in Elkhart.

The Panthers headed into the night game with high hopes of winning their second regional championship in school history.

Senior Jennifer Brenner and the rest of the WHS cheerleaders attempt to fire up the crowd during the big game.

WHS has lived and died on the three-point shot during their terrific run through the post-season tournament

In the night game against East Noble, they died as two last second three-pointers would not fall.

The Panthers, who won their first sectional title in 32 years, would watch its season end at 17-8.

East Noble bolted to a 10-0 lead in the first minute and a half, only to see the Panthers claw their way back to tie the game at 21-21.

East Noble then went on a 13-2 run to end the half and led 34-23 at the half.

Washington then turned up the heat and its pressure defense forced

seven turnovers in the third quarter and clawed their way back into the game and trailed 45-43 late in the third period.

East Noble then struck swiftly again as the Panthers saw their two-point deficit rush

to six in the final 30 seconds.

The Panthers trailed by

seven points with just six minutes remaining when Kyle and Avance hit two baskets in a row to cut the lead to three.

East Noble scored to make the lead five, but Moodie knocked down a triple to cut the lead to just two points.

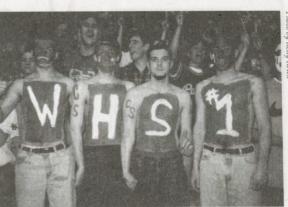
WHS had two chances to tie or take the

lead but both chances came up a little short, and the Knights had the

ball and the twopoint lead with just :21 seconds remaining.

East Noble went to the free throw line and hit one of two so the Panthers still had life remaining.

The Panthers would bring it up the court and had one chance remaining. The ball ended up in Moodie's hands and he fired up a three-pointer to tie it and it



Senior "Countryside" students Drew Jeffrey, Ryan Hanyzewski, Brian Krawiec, and Chad Mrozinski paint up for the Regional Final.

rimmed out, but the ball was kicked back out to Henry for one last shot and it wasn't meant to be as the Panthers season would come to an end.

Moodie ended the season sixth all-time in the city in career scoring with 1,566 points in his terrific four-year career.

"The kids represented themselves very well," said Coach Milt Cooper. "They got down 10-0 but they fought back. I don't like fighting back, but I knew they could do it. We just ran out of time."



Seniors Todd Bella and Cedric Moodie walk off the court for the last time in a WHS uniform. Junior Jamal Henry will be back for one more year.

HATCHET • SECTIONAL CHAMPS

Let's meet the Panthers



Name: Cedric Moodie

Year: Senior

Nickname: Corleone or Ced

Birthdate: 11-20-78

Role Model: Mother and Father

Favorite food: Steak

Favorite sports team: Lakers &

Cowboys

Goals: To make living better for

people close to me.

What turns me off: Girls that smoke.

I'd like to meet: Tupac Shakur Sports played: Basketball

Future plans: Graduate from college and provide a wealthy lifestyle for my family.

If I won the lottery I'd: Invest and make more money

What I love about school: Friends What I hate about school: Home-

Proudest moment: When we won the sectionals

Prized Possession: Family

Awards and Achievements: McDonald's All American, Upward

Bound Honor Roll

Advice to others: Keep your head up, belive in God, be your own person, and be a leader.

Favorite class: Accounting

Superstition: Not praying before a game or before I go to sleep.

Most proud of: My progress from

my freshman year.



Name: William Avance

Year: Senior

Nickname: Lil-Wayne Birthdate: 7-12-78 Role model: Dad

Favorite food: Cinnamon rolls Favorite sports teams: Detroit Pistons and the Los Angeles Lakers

Goals: College, NBA

What turns me off: Girls who "stank"

and girls who smoke

I'd like to meet: Grant Hill Sports played: Basketball

Future plans: Wealthy, sitting fat on my couch, counting hundreds and thousands

If I won the lottery I'd: Give some to my mom and look for a new house What I love about school: My "homies"

What I hate about school: Home-

Proudest moment: Getting the tip against LaSalle

Prized possession: My Bible

Awards and achievements: Honorable mention all-conference

Advice to others: Don't be a "playa

hata" and always stay real

Most embarrassing moment: When the crowd was counting down and there was 1:24 left and I threw the ball the length of the court.

Favorite class: Foods

Superstition: Splitting poles

Most proud of: Winning sectionals



Name: Edmund Kyle

Year: Senior

Nickname: Ed-dawg **Birthdate**: 6-19-79 Class rank: 143

Role model: My father Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite sports teams: Chicago Bulls and the Atlanta

Braves

Goals: Graduate from college What turns me off: People who

lie all the time

I'd like to meet: Malcolm X Sports played: Basketball Future plans: Graduate from

college and get married If I won the lottery I'd: Give some to charity and move away

from here

What I love about school: Kickin' it with my friends

What I hate about school: How

long the classes are

Proudest moment: When we

won at sectional

Prized possession: My Bible Advice to others: Don't be a follower, be a leader

Most embarrassing moment: When I went into the game without even checking in

Favorite class: English Superstition: Splitting poles Most proud of: My car



Name: Todd Bella Year: Senior Nickname: Bella Birthdate: 3-26-79 Class rank: 28

Role model: My parents Favorite food: French fries Favorite sports teams: Notre Dame, Chicago Bulls, Cubs, and Da Bears

Goals: To graduate from a good college

What turns me off: Girls who smoke

I'd like to meet: Mike Ditka Sports played: Basketball and Baseball

Future plans: To get married If I won the lottery I'd: Move to a much warmer place

What I love about school: My friends

What I hate about school: How racially divided it is and the security guards

Proudest moment: Winning sectionals in baseball and basket-

Prized possession: A ring that belonged to my grandpa

Awards and achievements: Athlete of the week, All-Conference Designated Hitter last year in baseball, and honor roll every quarter

Advice to others: You can't please everyone

Most embarrassing moment: Getting suspended for drinking last

Favorite class: Latin

Superstition: When we are on winning streak, I wear the same boxers every game.

Most proud of: My mom and dad



Name: Jamal Henry

Year: Junior

Nickname: Mal or Tiger Birthdate:7-22-80

Role model: Michael Jordan and Ken

Griffey, Jr.

Favorite food: Pizza and Mike-n-Ike Favorite sports teams: Bulls, North Carolina, Seattle Mariners

Goals: Win state in every sport I play play at big-time college(basketball)

What turns me off: People that lie about everything and girls that smoke I'd like to meet: Martin Luther King, Jr. and especially Jesus

Sports played: Basketball, baseball, and Tennis

Future plans: Go to a big-time college to play basketball and be a successful businessman

If I won the lottery I'd: Give some to charity, give some to my parents, and spend the rest

What I love about school:Lunch What I hate about school: Security

Proudest moment: Going to state in

tennis, winning sectionals and regionals in baseball, and winning sectionals in basketball

Prized Possesion: My certificate that says I'm a christian

Awards and Achievements: State qualifier in tennis, MVP since freshman year, and second NIC in tennis and baseball

Advice to others: Work hard to achieve your goals and never let anyone tell you that you can't do something

Favorite class: Spanish Superstition:

lucky draws(underware)

Most proud of: Going down state in



Name: Quentel Howard Year: Sophomore

Nickname: O.

Birthdate: 10-16-79

Role model: David Robinson

Favorite food: Pizza Favorite sports team: San

Antonio Spurs

Goals: To play at a Division 1

college

What turns me off: People who

I'd like to meet: Nas

Sports played: Basketball and

Future plans: To have a good

If I won the lottery I'd: Make an indoor basketball court and take good care of my family

What I love about school: All my friends are there

What I hate about school: All the work

Proudest moment: When we won at sectionals

Advice to others: Always just be yourself

Favorite class: Science Superstition: None

Most proud of: My mom and



Name: Bryan Forbes Year: Sophomore Nickname: Huggy

Birthdate: 2-6-81

Role model: Charles Barkley

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite sports team: The Rock-

ets

Goals: To become a pro-basketball

player

What turns me off: nothing

I'd like to meet: Charles Barkley

Sports played: Basketball and

football

Future plans: Go to college

If I won the lottery I'd: Buy a

new car and house

Proudest moment: When we won

the sectionals

Prized Possesion: Part of the

sectional net

Advice to others: Be yourself and

don't do drugs

Favorite class: Gym

Most proud of: My family



Name: Darmetreis Kilgore

Year: Sophomore Nickname: Gore Birthdate: 4-13-81

Role Model: Michael Jordan

Favorite food: BBQ

Favorite sports team: Bulls **Goals**: Go into business or pro

basketball

What turns me off: Playa hatas I'd like to meet: Michael Jordan Sports played: Basketball and

tennis

Future plans: Family, go to college, play pro basketball

If I won the lottery I'd: Give some to charity and buy something nice for my family

What I love about s

What I love about school: The challenge of making it to college What I hate about school: Getting

up to early

Proudest moment: Dunk against Brandywine to get 100 points

Prized Possession: Picture of my grandma and Jesus Christ

Advice to others: Stay in school and do something people will

remember you for

Most embarrassing moment:

Tripping on my warm-up Favorite class: Algebra

Most proud of: Myself, family, and mom for raising me so good.



Name: Reggie Malone

Year: Junior Nickname: Reg Birthdate: 6-14-79

Role Model: Isaiah Thomas

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite sports team: Chicago Bulls, Chicago Bears, and the

Toronto Raptors

Goals: Finish high school

What turns me off: Bad Breath

and "player haters"

I'd like to meet: Tupac Shakur Sports played: Basketball

Future plans: Make it to college **If I won the lottery I'd**: Buy a new home for my family

What I love about school: Just

being present

What I hate about school: Get-

ting up too early

Proudest moment: Being born Prized Possession: Picture of

me

Awards and Achievements:

Trophies from the past

Advice to others: Always stay

in school

Favorite class: U.S. History

Most proud of: My mom and

dad

Cutting down the nets



Name: Kevin Keen Year: Sophomore Nickname: Keen-bean Birthdate: 1-31-81 Class rank: 27

Role model: Michael Jordan
Favorite food: Lasagana
Favorite sports team: Notre
Dame, Bulls, Bears, and the Cubs
Goals: Be successful in life
What turns me off: Smokers
I'd like to meet: Michael Jordan
Sports played: Cross country,
Basketball, and Baseball
Future plans: Go into business
If I won the lottery I'd: Invest the
money

What I love about school: Being with friends

What I hate about school: Finals Proudest moment: Winning sectionals and regionals in baseball and winning sectionals in basketball

Prized Possesion: Bible my grandma gave me

Awards and Achievements: Two letters in Cross country and one in baseball

Advice to others: Do the best that you can in everything you do Most embarrassing moment: Being the only one not to play in sectionals

Favorite class: Accounting Superstition: My lucky underwear Most proud of: My grandma



Name: Michael Davis

Year: Junior Nickname: Daddy Birthdate: Jan. 22 Class Rank: 99

Role Model: Allen Iverson

Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite sports team: The Chi-

cago Bulls

Goals: To be successfull in life.
What turns me off: Drinking and

smoking

I'd like to meet: Tyra Banks
Sports played: Basketball
Future plans: Go on to college
If I won the lottery: I'd give
money to my church and family.
What I love about school: The
people

Proudest moment: When told I was playing varsity basketball.

Prized Possession: Bible

Awards and Achievements:

Most Defensive Player

Advice to Others: Stay in school and off drugs.

Most embarrassing moment: Getting a foul in 1.0 seconds.

Favorite class: Accounting Superstition: Splitting a pole Most proud of: Mom and Dad



Name: Marvin Giles

Year: Junior

Nickname: Big Dog Birthdate: 5-4-80

Role model: Eddie Jones Favorite food: Pizza

Favorite sports team: Chicago

Bulls

Goals: To be successful

What turns me off: Anyone that smokes.

I'd like to meet: Someone fa-

Sports played: Basketball Future plans: Go to college

If I won the lottery I'd: Give money to my family members and the poor

What I love about school: Hanging out with my homies What I hate about school: Too

much homework

Proudest moment: Winning sectionals

Awards and Achievements: Word processing

Advice to others: Work hard and

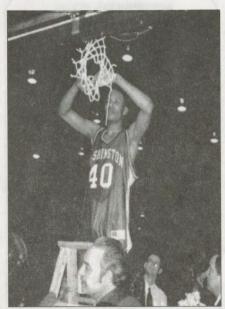
don't ever give up.

Favorite class: Team games

Superstition: Splitting Poles

Most proud of: My mom and dad

Cutting down the nets



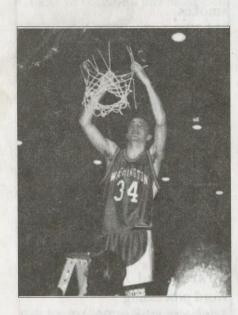
Senior Guard Cedric Moodie



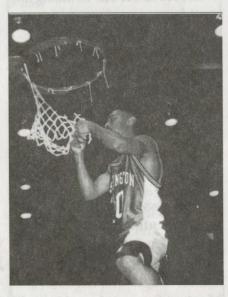
Senior Forward William Avance



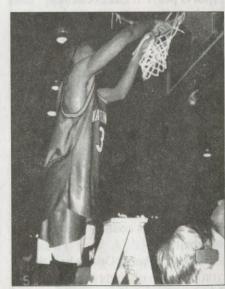
Senior Center Edmund Kyle



Senior Guard Todd Bella



Junior Guard Jamal Henry



Sophomore Forward Quentel Howard