

McLean County Museum of History

McLean County Basketball Tournament

Processed by
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Winter 2018

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1912-
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also <i>Local Legends: A Photographic History of McLean County Sports 1884 – 1969</i> IL (McLean) Ray 2003

Brief History

One of the longest-running tournaments in the state, the McLean County Basketball Tournament is considered one of the area's premier sporting events. The tournament began in 1911 when the event was held at the downtown YMCA and allowed small rural schools in McLean County to compete. It's still alive today, but now includes schools outside McLean County and serves as a mid-season conference tournament for the Heart of Illinois Conference (HOIC).

Scope

The collection includes the newspaper articles, tournament programs, digital scans of tickets (1912 – 1915), handwritten brackets, list of tournament champions and an email history of tournament memories by Robert Firchau from 2017.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: History

- 1.1 Recap of 1914 tournament in February, 1914 issue of *The McLean County School Era* (photocopy)
- 1.2 Digital scans of five tickets, 1912, (2); 1913, 1914, and 1915
- 1.3 Colfax High School Annual, 1920 (photocopy)
- 1.4 "McLean County Senior Basket Ball Championship 1930," *The Downs Star*, Vol. 1 No. 5, February 7, 1930
- 1.5 Handwritten brackets, either 1930 or 1931
- 1.6 Flier for reunion, January 23, 1999. 2 pp including history, list of winners, runners-up, and location by year from 1911-98 and girls from 1981-98.
- 1.7 *Pantagraph* special supplement, "A Tournament of Tradition" 100th anniversary of tournament, January 15-22, 2011
- 1.8 List of tournament champions, 1911 – 2016, 2 pages
- 1.9 "Championship Count" (number of tournament championships by school), 1 page, circa 2016
- 1.10 Email from Bruce Firchau (Robt Firchau), Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Museum Chairman, about tournament memories and history, etc. January 24, 2017
- 1.11 Three photo prints of display board on Bellflower High School's 1914 championship team, from the Bellflower Historical and Genealogical Society, taken September 2018.

Folder 2: Newspaper Articles/ Brackets 1913 – 1949 (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 2.1 "County Tourney A Big Success," February 13, 1914, p. 8.
- 2.2 "Complete Schedule for Sixteenth Annual M'Lean County Basketball Tournament," January 23, 1926, p. 21-A
- 2.3 "Tickets to Big Twin Bill 'Pick the Winners' Prize," January 16, 1949, p. 10

Folder 3: Newspaper Articles 1950-1959 (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 3.1 "Young's Yarns" (Fred Young column on L.E. Eyer and the beginnings of the tourney), no date (ca. January 1950)

- 3.2 "40th McLean County Meet Opens Tonight," January 13, 1950, p. 6
- 3.3 Contest Entry Blank, January 18, 1957, p. 16
- 3.4 Picture Octavia High School basketball team after defending its McLean County Championship, January 27, 1957, p. 12
- 3.5 Contest Entry Blank, January 13, 1959, p. 13

Folder 4: Newspaper Articles 1960 – 2010 (*Pantagraph*, unless noted)

- 4.1 Contest Entry Blank, January 7, 1961, p. 9.
- 4.2 "Past McLean County Champions," January 18, 2004, D6.
- 4.3 "A Lasting Tradition," January 15, 2006, p. D1
- 4.4 "County hoop tourney topped local sports scene" ("Page from Our Past" column), January 24, 2010, p. B6

Folder 5: Tournament Programs 1911 - 1930

- 5.1 Eleventh Annual McLean County Tournament, High School Gymnasium, Bloomington, Illinois. February 10-11-12, 1921. Handwritten bracket
- 5.2 Nineteenth Annual McLean County Basket Ball Tournament Memorial Gymnasium, Wesleyan. January 31, February 1,2, 1929

Folder 6: Tournament Programs 1940 - 1949

- 6.1 Thirty-first Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium. 1941
- 6.2 Thirty-third McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium. January 26, 28, 30, 1943
- 6.3 Thirty-fourth Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium, January 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 1944
- 6.4 Thirty-fifth Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament Illinois State Normal University McCormick Gymnasium. (2) January 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 1945 Program bracket filled out by Jimmie Lehman and Eugene Rapp
- 6.5 Thirty-sixth Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium, January 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 1946
- 6.6 Thirty-seventh Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium January 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 1947
- 6.7 Thirty-ninth Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Illinois State Normal University, McCormick Gymnasium, January 22 – 29 1949

Folder 7: Tournament Programs 1950 – 1959

- 7.1 41 Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, McCormick Gym, Normal, Illinois January 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 1951

Folder 8: Tournament Programs 1960 – 1969

- 8.1 58th Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, Horton Field House, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois. January 13 – 20, 1968 (2)

Folder 9: Tournament Programs 1970 – 2018

- 9.1 60th McLean County Basketball Tournament, Horton Field House, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois January 17-24, 1970
- 9.2 Illinois State University ISU Athletic Association letter from Eugene Hill, Tournament Manager, to program ad sponsors announcing winner of tournament, January 27, 1970
- 9.3 61st McLean County Basketball Tournament, Fred Young Fieldhouse, Illinois Wesleyan University Bloomington, Illinois.
- 9.4 106th McLean County Basketball Tournament, January 14-21, 2017
- 9.5 107th Annual McLean County Basketball Tournament, January 13-20, 2018