

HISTORY OF KENNETT BASKETBALL



Kennett Girls Basketball 1924

The first girl's basketball team for Kennett was made up of six players at a time consisting of three forwards, a center, and two guards. The players were restricted to two zones and players could not move from one zone to another.

These girls were a powerhouse that compiled an undefeated season with some outstanding wins being posted over Freyburg Academy, 50-2 and 52-9, and a 51-1 win over Bridgeton Academy highlighting the season.

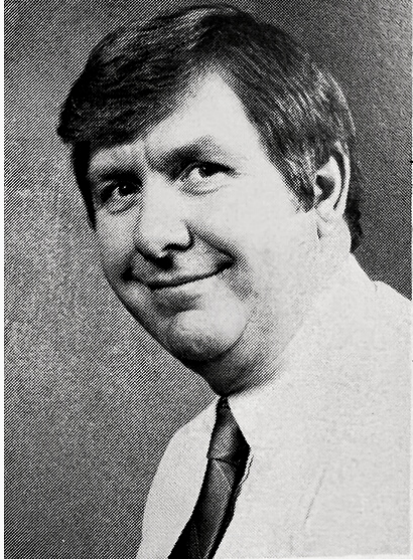
Louise Leavitt, who was named a charter member of the Kennett Eagle Sports Hall of Fame in 1991, led the girls in scoring. In a game she netted a record 46 points in a single game and in the first year, she scored 261 of the team's total of 460 points. She was also elected captain of the first girl's Basketball team.

Team members were Laura Campbell, Edith Swett, Mildred Fifield, Lousie Leavitt, Alphonsine LeBlanc, Elvena Coolidge, Josephine Boothby, Anne Lorenz, and Grace Northrop and Coach Ellis McKeen.

The girls played games in the small gym, known as "The Pit" in the cellar of the original building. Most games at that time were low-scoring games because they were played in gyms equally as small or even smaller than the Kennett gym, which accounts for the low scoring.

BASKETBALL COACHES TO REMEMBER

BOB RUSSELL 1970-1996



Mr. Bob Russell taught business at Kennett High from 1970-1999 and was involved in a wide range of athletics. He coached junior varsity boys basketball from 1970-79; girls varsity basketball from 1980-96; junior varsity baseball from 1987-96. Along with coaching he filmed for Kennett football, was a clock keeper for football games, and was the radio announcer for varsity football games.

It was when Mr. Russell was the girl's varsity coach when he built one of the premier programs in the Granite State. He led the Eagles to their very first Class I State Championship in 1989 and took three other teams (1988, 1992 and 1993) to the prestigious Final Four.

Russell was named Class I Coach of the Year In 1988 and 1989. In 2006, Kennett changed the name of the girl's basketball award to the Russ Award in his honor.

PETER AMES

A 1972 Kennett High School graduate, with over 40 years of coaching a plethora of Kennett High School and Kennett Middle School sports, you can say he bleeds black & white. Coach Ames was the head coach of the 2010 Girl's Basketball championship team. He was the most consistent and fair coach, he treated everyone the same, with the same expectations every day. Along with being the head coach for Girl's Basketball, he was also the assistant coach for football, and varsity softball for 33 years, coached boys' varsity basketball for 13 years, was the assistant cross-country coach for 2 years, and lastly was the junior varsity baseball coach for 6 years.



LARRY MEADER 2015 - PRESENT



We are grateful for the effort Larry puts forth on behalf of the Girls' Basketball program at KHS. He is always early and the last to leave. Preparing practice plans, studying film, traveling to scout competitors, collaborating with coaches across the state, and the keeper of meticulous stats. All this in addition to representing Girls D-2 at the NHBCO level, working with the administration, and communicating with families throughout the season. As rewarding as coaching is, today it is also often a thankless and highly criticized position. Larry is one of the few who accepts this as part of the gig to assure that he is giving all he can for the student-athletes and the school. Larry was named varsity coach of the year in 2019 & 2023 and was coach to the 2023 State Championship team.

CHAMPION TEAMS TO REMEMBER

1989 GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



KHS 1989 Basketball Team

1989 - Kennett's Girl's Basketball's most successful season and 1st championship was the year 1989 ending in a 53-52 win over Monadnock, making their season a perfect 22-0. This game was indicative of the whole season. It was a total team victory. Laura Harriman hit the big three-pointer, Candy Sheldon had the game-winning shot, Karen Potter came off the bench for eight clutch points, Debbie Russell had 27 points and 11 rebounds, Sue Sorensen had a big offensive rebound and hoop and Kim Southard handled all the pressure that was thrown at her. They all did their share.

The 1989 state champion Eagles were five seniors: Laura Harriman, Karen Potter, Debbie Russell, Candy Sheldon and Kim Southard; three juniors: Heidi Packard, Sue Sorensen and Jennifer Wheeler; and sophomore Kristen Beauregard along with Head Coach Bob Russell.



CHAMPION TEAMS TO REMEMBER

2010 GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



KHS 2010 Basketball Team

2010 - Kennett, who finished its season 19-3, knocked out the top three seeds in order to win the championship. The Eagles reached the championship game by topping No. 11 seed Coe Brown Academy, 60-46, in the preliminary rounds; then beating No. 3 seed Souhegan, 50-48, in Amherst in the semifinals; and nipping Portsmouth, 42-41, to win the title at Southern New Hampshire University. It was an incredible championship game. Kennett won it on a shot by Allie Wagner with thirty seconds left in the game. It was one of the greatest wins/moments in KHS Basketball history.

The 2010 state champion Eagles were seniors Kasey Cavanaugh and Moriah Heath; juniors Melissa Frase, Sam Meader, Shelby Neal and Allie Wagner; sophomores Stephanie Loynd, Rachel Miller and Jesse Wagner; and freshmen Lauren Kidder, Jordan Murphy and Lauren White, and head coach Peter Ames along with assistants Larry Meader and Pat Murphy.



CHAMPION TEAMS TO REMEMBER

2023 GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



KHS 2023 Basketball Team

2023 - Trailing by one with no time on the clock, Kennett's Kaylee McLellan went to the line and buried two clutch free throws to give the second-seeded Eagles a 38-37 victory over top-seeded and unbeaten Bow, capturing the 2023 NHIAA Division II Girls Basketball State Championship.

As the final seconds ticked away, McLellan received the ball at the top of the key from Sydnie Chin and drove to the right to throw up a desperation runner. The final buzzer sounded and the Falcon's bench flooded the court to celebrate an apparent

championship, but there was a whistle and a foul called.

The court was cleared and McLellan went to the line with no time on the clock and no rebounders in the lane to give head coach Larry Meaders' Eagles a dramatic one-point win and their third-ever Division II title.

The Eagles (21-1) came ready to play as they jumped out to an 11-7 lead after one quarter, led 25-15 at half and held a 12-point lead with 6:49 left in the third quarter.

The game was tied at 31-31 entering the fourth quarter, which would be a grind between the two best defensive teams in the division. The two teams combined to shoot just 4-16 from the field in the final stanza before setting up McLellan's game-winning heroics.

While the game ended with two of the most clutch free throw in tournament history by McLellan, the game could be seen as being ultimately decided at the charity stripe. The Eagles were an impressive 11-13 from the line as a team (84.6%) and the Falcons were just 7-13 (53.8%). McLellan alone was a perfect 8-8.

The 2023 Eagles were seniors Marissa Caputo, Catherine Chick, Sydnie Chin, Hope Elias and McLellan; juniors Isabel Brown, Kaley Goodhart and Sam Sidoti; sophomore Abigail Hynes; and freshman Marlie Liebenow and head coach Larry Meader along with assistance Steve Cote & Dave Caputo., ONE TEAM ONE MISSION - MISSION COMPLETE

1000 POINT CLUB FOR KENNETT BASKETBALL

KENNETT HIGH SCHOOL	
EAGLES	
1,000 POINT CLUB	
1970	ROGGER BLANCHARD
1982	LARRY DAY
1990	JEFF PERRY
1995	ABE WROBLESKI
1998	TREVOR MacDONALD
1989	DEBBIE RUSSELL
1994	ERIN RUSSELL
1994	ALISON MacDONALD
1999	KISTEN UMLAH
2011	ALISON WAGNER
2011	MELISSA FRASE
2019	ISABEL WROBLESKI

This club recognizes boys and girls basketball athletes who score 1000 points or more during their 4 years of playing basketball at Kennett High School.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Rogger Blanchard, Larry Day, Jeff Perry, Abe Wrobleski, Trevor MacDonald, Debbie Russell, Erin Russell, Alison MacDonald, Kristen Umlah, Alison Wagner, Melissa Frase & Isabel Wrobleski