

50 Years Ago

Bismarck had been the scene of state basketball tournaments for class A teams, with one exception (1949), since 1931 but lost in its bid for the "A" in 1952 to Grand Forks and the new University of North Dakota field house. As a very acceptable by-product of that decision, however, the Capitol City and its World War Memorial Building were given their first ever assignment as host to the State Class B Tourney. The tournament manager would be Bismarck School Superintendent A.C. Van Wyk and three men, Reg Hoidal and Larry Schneider of Fargo and Harvey Hanson of Grand Forks, were assigned to do the officiating.

Coach Melly Johnson's Rugby Panthers were undefeated in 27 games and were making their 8th appearance in the state classic. Jerry Moriarity had brought the Beach through 23 games without a loss in 1951-52 and the Buccaneers were making their second trip to the state tourney. Coach Frank Good's Minot Model Beaver Kits brought a 26 and 2 record into the tournament and the Kits would be seeing Model's fourth state title in nine visits to the final eight.

Lisbon, under Kenny Ulland, was the defending state champion and was bringing a 25-3 record to this year's tourney. The Broncos had been to five previous state meets. The Kenmare Honkers and Coach Bud Hannon were bringing a 23-3 record to the tournament and would be marking their seventh trip to the B. Paul Swanson's Beulah Miners were repeaters from 1951 and would be bringing a 17 and 6 record to this year's tourney. Hankinson, at 24 and 3 and coached by Art Ernst, would be making their first state appearance. Bottineau, coached by Paul Fedje, came in at 15 wins and 16 losses and would also be in their first State B.

In the tournament opener, Minot Model came back from a 43-38 deficit with 5:45 to go and came away with a 48-45 victory over Bottineau. Both teams were excellent at the free throw line with Model hitting on 16 of 20 and the Braves 11 of 13. Henry Milkey led the Beaver Kits with 21 points while Jim Walker scored 7. For Bottineau, Marvin Kirkeby had 15 points and Randolph Carlson 11.

Defending champion Lisbon took over at the 5:30 mark in the third period to go on to a 49-38 win over the Beulah Miners in the tourney's second game. The Broncos' scoring leaders were Gene Gamache with 18 and Dave Muralt and George Morgan with 10 each. For Beulah, who made just 13 of 49 field goal attempts (27%), Waldo Schulz was the scoring leader with 11 points.

Rugby, with a 23 point second quarter, advanced to the semi-finals with a 72-51 win over Hankinson in the evening's first game. The Panthers were 31 of 63 (49%) from the field while the Pirates were limited to 28.4% on 19 for 67 shooting. Rugby's scoring leaders were Don Augustin with 22 points and Rich Razook with 15. Harmon Krause had 18 for the Pirates and Glenn Bladow scored 10.

The evening's second game found Kenmare and Beach exchanging leads six times in the second half before the Honkers ended Beach's perfect season with 52 to 47 victory. Bob Vooge was Kenmare's leading scorer with 20 points and George Stannard added 10 to the Honker total. Brian Keohane had 20 for the Bucs and was their only player in double figures.

Beulah moved into the consolation finals by defeating Bottineau 54-52 in overtime. The Miners were led by Lyle Grosz's 17 points and Jerome Herman's 16. For the

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Braves, Marvin Kirkeby was their leader with 16 points while Randy Carlson scored 14 and Rog Degner 12. Beach was also a winner on Friday afternoon as they topped Hankinson by a score of 63-51. Brian Keohane led the Bucs scoring with 19 points while Jerry Haight had 14. The Pirates were led by Harmon Krause's 23 points and Glenn Bladow's 11.

Minot Model used a big third quarter to advance to the finals of the 1952 tourney. Leading by just four points at halftime, the Beaver Kits ran the margin to 37-22 with 3:20 remaining in the third and were able to withstand Lisbon's nine point rally at the end of the period to move on to 52-48 victory. Both teams had less than average field goal percentages as Model made 20 of 60 for 33% while Lisbon shot 30.6% on 19 of 62. Henry Milkey scored 23 for the Beaver Kits and LeRoy Rice had 12. For the Broncos, Gene Gamache counted 21 and Dave Muralt 10.

Rugby made good on 25 shots in 53 attempts (47.2% in moving past Kenmare and into the 1952 championship game. Don Augustin with 23, Dick Razook with 16, and George Dokken with 13 were the Panthers' leading scorers. Kenmare, whose field goal average was just 28.4% on 19 of 67 shooting, were led in scoring by Bob Vooge's 23 points and Don Hoffman's 10.

The Beach Buccaneers built a six point first quarter lead in their consolation title game with Beulah and carried it on to final margin of 48-40. The Bucs were led by Larry Barc's 16 points and Brian Keohane's 12 while the Miners scoring leaders were Lyle Grosz with 16 and Jerome Herman's with 10. In the battle for third place, Lisbon came from a 50-43 deficit at the end of the third quarter to outscore Kenmare by 19-10 and win it 62-60. Dave Muralt led the Broncos in scoring with 18 points while Gene Gamache had 16 and LeRoy Foss had 12. Bob Vooge's 25 points led the Honkers with Dick Westlake and Don Hoffman each scoring 10.

Minot Model scored nine straight points to start the third quarter and outscored Rugby 18-5 in that period on their way to a final score of 62-52 and the 1952 State Championship. For the Beaver Kits, it was their fourth state championship in six years and for the Panthers, it was their first loss in thirty 1951-52 contests. Model, who hit on 27 of 68 field goal attempts (39.7%) were led in scoring, again, by Henry Milkey's 20 points - including 12 of the Beaver Kits' 17 fourth quarter points. Jim Walker added 14 to the Kits' point total and Jim Glasoe had 10. Rugby, who shot 49 and 47 percent in their first two tournament games, were held to 30% on 21 of 70 shooting. Dick Razook led the Panthers with 19 points and Don Augustin had 16.

Model, who usually started five underclassmen, including Henry Milkey, would come back to add to the Beaver Kits' four other championships in 1953. Rugby would also return to the 1953 tourney as would Beach and Lisbon. For Lisbon, it would be their sixth straight appearance.

The following were selected to the 1952 State Class B All Tournament Team:

Henry Milkey.....Minot Model	Dick Razook.....Rugby
Jim Walker.....Minot Model	Gene Gamache.....Lisbon
LeRoy Rice.....Minot Model	Bob Vooge.....Kenmare
Don Augustin.....Rugby	Brian Keohane.....Beach

Dick Kargard
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