

25 Years Ago

## 1978 Tournament

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For the fifth year in a row, the Bismarck Civic Center would be the host for the North Dakota State Class B High School Basketball Tournament and the average school population of the eight qualifiers in this 1978 tourney would be larger than normal. With former class A Larimore leading the way with 286 students there would be five schools with enrollments of over 200 students, one with 170 and two others at 83 and 70.

Frank Smith continued to be the Executive Secretary for the tournament sponsoring North Dakota High School Activities Association with Dick Schindler and Mary Kay Anderson continuing as his assistants. Jamestown Superintendent, Frank Fischer, was the President of the NDHSSAA Board of Directors and Bismarck Athletic Director, Dick Karlgaard returned as tournament manager. The eight game officials were: Larry Houser of Park River, Larry Ukestad of Jamestown, Larry Grooters of Valley City, Vernon Herbel of Grafton, John Thompson of Minot, Art Schilke of New Salem, Fabian Shoults of Park River and Jerry Harter of Fargo.

The opening round would have coach Harry Pieterick's New Rockford Rockets with an enrollment of 258 students and a pre-tournament record of 16 and 8 meeting coach Jim Schroeder's Belfield Bantams in the first game. The Bantams, with an enrollment of 210 students, entered the tournament with 18 wins and 7 losses, Valley High School came in with a 22-5 record under coach Phil Maclver, and representing the towns of Hoople and Crystal had a high school enrollment of 83. They would meet the New Town Eagles (21-5) of coach Jim Glasser in the day's second game. New Town's high school population was 206. The evening's first game had coach Gene Leer's Sargent Central Cadets, with 19 wins and 7 losses meeting coach Otto Uhdé's Wing Royals, who were 24 and 3 in pre-tourney play. There were 203 students at the Forman school while Wing was the tourney's smallest school at 70 students.

The day's final contest would have the Des Lacs-Burlington Lakers meeting the Larimore Polar Bears. The Lakers, coached by Jerry Schwan, had a high school population of 170 and were entering the state tournament with just one loss in 26 games. The Polar Bears, with veteran Bill Fruhwirth as their coach, had lost 2 regular season games while winning 24. Their losses were at the hands of Mayville-Portland and Class A Bismarck St. Mary's. There were no former state champions in this year's field and Wing was the only repeater from 1977.

Mike Altenburg's 33 points led Belfield to a 75-57 win in the tourney opener. The Bantams raced to a 19-10 first quarter lead and never looked back. Wayne Just, with 16 and Bill Shypkowski with 14 were other Belfield scorers while Wayne Trudeau had 18 points, on 9 of 14 shooting, and Ed Braaten 12 points for the Rockets. New Town jumped to a 30-15 early lead in the second quarter final game and, although Valley closed to 61-58 near the end, the Eagles prevailed in bringing about a final count of 66-58. New Town, with 59% shooting from the field, were led by Monte Fox with 25, Kenny Hall with 19, and Orville Fox with 11. The Hoople/Crystal school's scoring leaders were Steve Heigaard with 20, John McGurran with 17, and Tom Skaro with 14.

With 81% field goal shooting in the first half and 61% for the game, the Wing Royals defeated the Sargent Central Cadets 71 to 63 in the evening's first game. Richard Koski, on 11 for 15 field goal shooting, led the

Royals with 26 points. Mike Heidt had 14 points, Tim Michelson, making all six of his last six court shots, had 13 points, and Al Dockter, scoring on all five of his last court shots, had 12 points. The Cadets were led by 6'6" junior center, Steve Larson and his 23 points. In the day's closest game, Larimore, after leading Des Lacs-Burlington comfortably through the first three quarters, had to hang on for 51-47 final victory margin. The Polar Bears, shooting at 49% from the field, were led by Rich Korsgard's 22 points. He was supported by Jerry Olson's 17 points for the Bears and Dan Shide's 11. The Lakers, with a 41% shooting average, were led by Gary Askvig's 17 points and Randy Zéitz's 14.

Junior John McGurran had 17 points and 22 rebounds in leading Hoople/Crystal Valley to a 53-45 win over New Rockford in Friday afternoon's first consolation game. Randy Hanson added 16 points to the Raiders' total while Ed Braaten led New Rockford with 13 and Joel Settalmeyer, coming off the bench, scored 10. Full court pressure and 53% field goal shooting propelled Sargent Central to an 88-62 win over Des Lacs-Burlington in the second consolation game. Junior guard, Curt Kretchman made 13 of 18 shots from the field on the way to a 28 point game for the Cadets. Steve Larson with 20 and Mark Weber with 12 added to the Sargent Central totals.

Belfield broke out to an 11-2 margin early in their semi-final contest with New Town and expanded it to 41-22 at the half. The Bantams, on 56% shooting, were led by 6'4" Mike Altenburg's 29 points, 6'6" Wayne Just's 20, and Scott Hutzenbiler's 17. New Town, restricted to 37% shooting, were led by Kenny Hall's 23 points, Monte Fox's 21, and George Good Bear's 11 points. Larimore's ball control prevailed over Wing's up-tempo play as the Polar Bears moved to the finals with a 63-49 win over the Royals in the second semi-final. The Bears, on 24 of 45 shooting from the field (53%), were led by Dan Shide's 26 points and Rich Korsgard's 19. Wing's leading scorers were Mike Heidt with 14 and Lamonte Jacobson with 11.

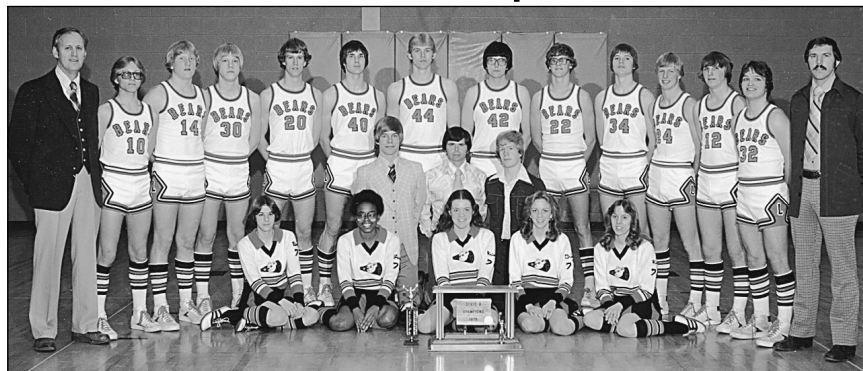
Sargent Central recovered from a 6 point half-time deficit for a 69-58 win over Valley in the game for fifth place. The Cadets were led by Steve Larson with 21, Curt Kretchman with 16, Mark Weber with 15, and Mike Sundquist with 12. The Raiders' leaders were Steve Heigaard with 26 and John McGurran with 10 points. New Town scored 25 points in the first quarter as they totaled 84 points to Wing's 48 in the battle for third place. Kenny Hall hit for 30 of the Eagles points while Monte Fox scored 24 and Noah Williams 11. Richard Koski and Mike Heidt each had 14 points for Wing.

Before a packed house at the Bismarck Civic Center, the Larimore Polar Bears scored a 72-57 win over Belfield in the 1978 championship game. The Bears, behind by a 20-18 margin at the end of the first quarter, took a 34-30 half-time lead and steadily expanded on it in the second half. The Bears were 27 of 56 from the field for 48% and were led in scoring by Dan Shide's 22 points, Jerry Olson's 17, and Rich Korsgard's 11. The Bantams, who made 22 of 59 from the field (37%), were led by Mike Altenburg with 23 points and Wayne Just with 11. The win was Larimore's 18th straight victory.

Sargent Central would make it back in 1979 and would win it all. New Town would follow the Cadets to the winner's circle in 1980. Larimore with 23 wins in 1979, would join Sargent Central as the only repeaters in that year's tourney.

Dick Karlgaard  
Excerpted from Bismarck Tribune files

## 1978 State B Champion Larimore Polar Bears



Front Row (l. to r.): Brenda Hanson, Jackie Henderson, Kristi Ralston, Trish Barry, Kim Lieberg. Middle Row: Darin Johnson (Mgr.), Gary Ballard (Asst. Coach), Ben Sullivan (Mgr.). Back Row: Bill Fruhwirth (Head Coach), Don Salway, Jerry Pearce, Paul Mutch, David Maurer, Dan Shide, Jerry Olson, Todd Bommersbach, Brian Fruhwirth, Rich Korsgard, Todd Nowek, Gerald Notbohm, Brad Swanson, Terry Jordan (Asst. Coach). Not Pictured: Mark Anderson.

## 1978 STATE TOURNEY TOP SCORERS:

Mike Altenburg, Belfield - 85  
Kenny Hall, New Town - 72  
Monte Fox, New Town - 70  
Steve Larson, Sargent Central - 64  
Dan Shide, Larimore - 57  
Curt Kretchman, Sargent Central - 56  
Steve Heigaard, Valley - 54  
Rich Korsgard, Larimore - 52  
Wayne Just, Belfield - 47  
Richard Koski, Wing - 45

## 1978 State B Runner-Up Belfield Bantams



Front Row (l. to r.): Doug Hoff, Rocky Jablonsky, Brad Anderson, Matt Ewanivk, Bill Shypkowski, Bob Hild. Back Row: Chuck Carter (Asst. Coach), Erv Simmioniw, Ron Altenburg, Wayne Just, Mike Altenburg, Curt Myers, Scott Hutzenbiler, Jim Schroeder (Head Coach).