

# SOUTHERN ILLINOIS SPORTS

## CONNECTION

January 2026 • Single Copy Free

## DOWN BUT NOT OUT!



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# Happy New Year! A little something for everybody to feast on in our January 2026 issue

Greetings and welcome to the January 2026 issue of Southern Illinois Sports Connection.

Before we get rolling with what we have in store for you in this month's edition, let me take a moment and welcome our faithful readers to a new year.

I don't believe I am much different than most people when I spend some time in the waning days of December looking back on the ups and downs and accomplishments and missteps of the previous year.

And at the same time that we all look back, we also have our eyes firmly affixed on the coming year and our hopes and goals as we flip the calendar forward.

Certainly, we are proud of what has been accomplished here at SISC in the past and we certainly appreciate the wonderful compliments from our readers each month, but I am also a big believer that the past is a place of reference and certainly not a place of residence. In short, we're not resting on our laurels here at SISC, we're focused on getting better and bigger in the coming years.

Let me share a story I heard a minister tell a while back. You might remember it or you might have heard it before. The minister asked if anybody knew why the windshield on a car is so big, while the rearview mirror is so small. You have to admit, that is a



## FROM THE PUBLISHER

BY JIM MUIR

unique question!

The answer, he said, is because when we're driving, we should spend almost all our time looking forward at the big window in front of us, with only an occasional glance back. Think what would happen, he said, if we locked our eyes on the rearview mirror and never looked forward. He then noted that the same holds true in life — it's OK to look back once in a while, but we should keep our eyes focused on what's in front of us.

As you welcome us into your lives at the start of another year, I feel the exact same way about SISC. We can't bring you the best product possible if we continue to look back at last week or last month or last year. In short, the promise from me here in January 2026 is that I have my eyes focused on a new chapter and firmly locked on the big picture in front of me.

My promise to you is that, while I might glance at the rearview mirror occasionally, my eyes are locked-in on that big windshield in front of me!

Looking at this month's issue, I believe we have once again delivered a product that will take readers in a variety of different directions that will all be enjoyable.

Our cover story this month is about the remarkable story of Waylon Jones, of Webber Township, who is back on the basketball court after a serious accident that required brain surgery. I will not spoil the wonderful story, written by Randy Olson, of Area-sports.net, but it is a must-read this month.

Another feature I know you will enjoy highlights the unequalled success of legendary Coach Stanley Changnon, who very well might be the best two-sport coach ever. And I am certainly not stepping out on a limb very far by

making that statement.

After your read Davy Broy's cover story, I think you will readily agree. My first thought when Davy told me he was going to write this feature, is that having Coach Stanley Changnon on our first issue of 2026 is a great way to embark on a new year.

And as always, here in our first effort in 2026, we have our usual wide assortment of columns, stories and views that makes us the most unique publication in our region. As I often say, what you hold in your hands is a virtual smorgasbord, because there's a little something for everybody to feast on in our January 2026 issue.

Finally, a big thank you to our advertisers and to the businesses that allow us to put SISC on your shelves each month. And heading into a new year, we're still FREE!

So, with all that said, thanks for taking the time to read this, Happy New Year and may good health, happiness and God's richest blessings be yours in 2026!

Jim Muir,  
Publisher of Southern Illinois  
Sports Connection



# Off and running! FCA has big plans for 2026

As we hit the ground running in 2026, I am thrilled to have this article to talk about some of the goals for Southern Illinois Fellowship of Christian Athletes in the year ahead. Our calendars fill up quickly with events, camps and so many ministry opportunities for God to be glorified.

As I shared in my first article in November, we have Britt Fullerton and Austin Dickson who serve full-time with FCA as Area Representatives. Basically, Area Reps work in specific geographic areas, and train coaches, athletes and other volunteers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the unique areas where these individuals can have influence.

Britt Fullerton lives in Mt Vernon, and serves mostly in Jefferson, Washington and Marion Counties. Austin Dickson lives in Marion and serves mostly in Williamson and Saline Counties. As I live in Sesser, which happens to be as centrally located as possible in our lower 18 counties, I serve as the Area Director.

This role has me hiring, training, and coming alongside our Area Reps, and filling the role of Area Rep in many of our counties where we are currently without full-time staff. The ministry opportunities in these areas can become overwhelming, and it takes the help of literally dozens (and at times hundreds) of volunteers.

The overall vision of Fellowship of Christian Athletes is “To see the world transformed by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes.” As the long-time American Christian evangelist Billy Graham said, “A coach will impact more young people in a year than the average person does in a lifetime.” If you allow this to sink in, it is both a blessing and at times a curse that sports have



Students at Christopher High School have a weekly FCA meeting.

become such a focal point in our society. At the current time we in FCA (and you can easily see it all over social media and television as well) are seeing coaches and athletes alike, boldly discussing their faith in Jesus and professing their Christian faith in ways that previous generations felt they should keep to themselves.

At the same time, sports in general, is one of a few “idols” in our society that can certainly take up so much of our time that we may feel there is little time left to be a true follower of Jesus. At least that is one of the excuses often heard that keeps sports at the forefront of our lives rather than Jesus.

At the same time, sports can put us in so many positions of influence to either be an example of

Christ or be the opposite example of many who are involved in sports, while playing, coaching, or spectating. How many of us can be identified in a crowd as a Christian when a referee/umpire makes a poor call? – of course, I’ve never reacted as a godless heathen in this way, but I have seen and heard it (yeah, RIGHT!)

In Southern Illinois FCA, our staff is getting to come alongside so many coaches and athletes who are wanting to find a direction to share their faith in meaningful ways. The platform that FCA has is gaining so much traction to continue to reach our ultimate mission – “to lead every coach and athlete into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His church.”

For many of our youth, this is an initial introduction to the Christian faith. Our camps that I have discussed in a previous article, are a perfect example of this framework for the fifth through eighth grade campers. One goal for 2026 is to host a minimum of eight camps throughout our area! We are also blessed to now have a part-time FCA Camp Director to come alongside and fill in anywhere he is needed.

Eli Schoenbaechler is filling this role! Britt, Austin and I are so excited to see all that can continue to move forward as we add staff, and this role is certainly a blessing as there are so many background details and literally dozens upon dozens of hours involved in running only one camp, much less eight!

As we run out of room for this article, I want to bring it to a close with another goal for 2026. Southern Illinois FCA would like to add additional staff. We are in need of adding a minimum of one full-time area representative and possibly more. As Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.” We are SO BLESSED with many volunteers who are willing to come alongside and be the hands and feet of FCA, and these volunteers are the backbone of the ministry.

However, having full-time staff in specific areas will allow FCA to continue to glorify God by bringing the Gospel to areas that FCA has yet to reach. We all look forward to seeing what God does in 2026 and I am humbled to be a part of it! If you want to find out more about ways to be involved with FCA, feel free to reach out anytime at [blaur@fca.org](mailto:blaur@fca.org). I pray that those who read this have a blessed year ahead!





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# Down But Not Out!

Webber's Waylon Jones goes from battling brain bleed to making all-tournament team

**Cover story •**  
**BY RANDY OLSON**  
*AreaSports.net*

Webber High School boys basketball standout, Waylon Jones acknowledges that he is lucky to be alive.

Even more astonishing is the fact that Jones is back at competing and enjoying the game he loves, and making a real difference on the court in helping the Webber Trojans jump to a 12-1 record and an upset win over pre-

viously unbeaten Woodlawn.

But uncertainty and panic affected Waylon and his family back on Sept. 13, 2025, when Jones was engaged in some playful organized "fighting" with some friends where they wear gloves and pads while providing physical contact to each other.

"A lot of us teenagers used to just get together and fight for fun," said Waylon. "Nobody is really trying to hurt anyone, and it's really an activity that we had done several times before, so it wasn't anything new."



  
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However, on this occasion, a punch dazed Jones to the point where he fell down and struck his head on some concrete. While the impact didn't appear to draw any laceration or blood, it was enough to knock him unconscious for a bit, and he became very disoriented.

"I really don't remember anything, but my friends said I wasn't making any sense when I talked," said Waylon. "It was all a lot of gibberish."

His friends, who were part of the group activity, had the wisdom to realize that something was terribly wrong, and so they rushed Waylon to his home where his mother, Alicia Jones was getting ready for bed at around 9:15 p.m. that night.

"I was stunned to see the boys rush through my door in such a hurry, and I immediately knew

something wasn't right," said Alicia. "I got dressed really quick, and we headed out the door."

The group quickly got Waylon to the ER at a Mt Vernon Hospital, where they examined him and did a CT scan during which they determined that there was likely a brain bleed, and time was of the essence.

Waylon also began to vomit pretty badly. So, after only about 30 minutes at the Mt Vernon ER, he was immediately life-flighted on a helicopter to St Louis Children's Hospital.

"I don't even remember the helicopter ride, and it's a good thing I didn't because I am terrified of heights, and especially helicopters," said Waylon. "I know that I probably would have panicked if I knew that I was on a helicopter."

see **WAYLON** page 6



Far left: Waylon manages a smile during the harrowing time following the surgery. Near left: Waylon is picture with the 1st Place trophy and his all-tourney team plaque following a victory in the championship game. Above: Only 10 weeks following the brain bleed and surgery, Waylon (center) was named to the all tournament team at the annual Conrad Allen Holiday Tournament. He is pictured with teammates, Nathaniel Marlow (left) and Jacob Marlow (right) who were also named to the all-tourney team.



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## WAYLON

from page 7

As soon as he arrived in St Louis, they wheeled him into the operating room, where Waylon would undergo emergency surgery that lasted about 4-1/2 hours.

"It was terrifying to me, and I felt helpless for a while," said Alicia. "They said that the bleeding was on the front lobe of his brain, and they were trying to do everything they could to stop it, and there was in fact a skull fracture, too."

Following the emergency surgery, Jones remained in St Louis Children's Hospital for two days. He has a very large scar that is a reminder of the ordeal that he went through. Much of that scar is covered up now that his hair has grown back.



Waylon Jones was in a St. Louis hospital for two days following the 4-hour surgery.

"One of the things that Waylon was worried about was whether or not he would ever be able to play

basketball again, because that is one of his passions and this is his senior year in high school," said Alicia. "He said that repeatedly as he started to recover from the surgery. While at this point, I just wanted to make sure that he was able to survive the accident, because I certainly didn't want to lose him."

The Jones family leaned on their faith during the ordeal, and it helped to be surrounded by friends and teammates who also lifted him up in prayer and were there to support them.

"The doctors said that he was a miracle, and that he was very fortunate to survive, let alone be able to return to playing basketball just 10 weeks after a major surgery within his skull, but they gave him the okay sign and said that he appeared to be fully recovered," said Alicia. "I am so thank-

ful to the doctors and nurses that cared for him, and I am thankful that God has helped him recover."

In addition to the large scar, there are other permanent reminders of what transpired on September 13 when his head hit the concrete to cause the brain bleed.

"I have a metal plate that measures 2-inches-by-two-inches as well as five screws in my head," said Waylon. "I know that I am lucky to be alive, and I am very thankful to God and those friends who knew what to do in that situation. I didn't know it at the time but some of my friends apparently grabbed a bag of ice from a convenience store and held it to my head to prevent swelling. The doctors told us later on that utilizing the ice was a big factor in keeping it from becoming worse through swelling."

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Although he sometimes feels more affected by darkness since the surgery took place, Waylon is not experiencing any serious residual side effects from the brain bleed, and he is not on any medication.

“I do get a headache once in a while and a little dizziness, but nothing too severe,” said Waylon.

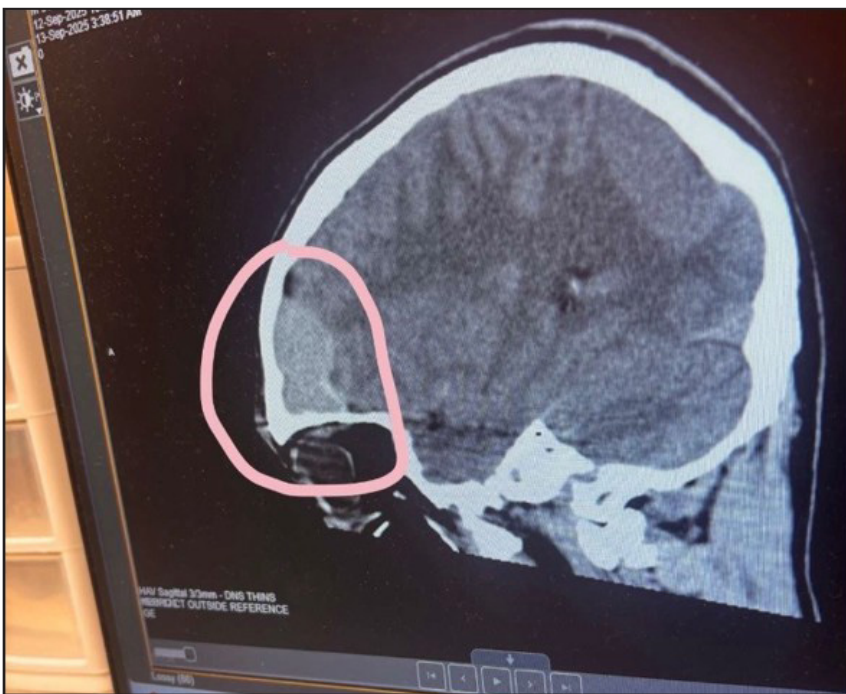
His mother, Alicia, was not actually aware that they had placed the metal plate and screws inside his head until she read the discharge papers at the hospital.

“It was a surprise for sure, but it also helped to calm me down a little bit because I was so concerned about him getting hit on the head or something and seeing the whole thing start over again,” said Alicia. “Knowing that they pieced his skull together with the metal plate and screws actually gave me more confidence that the healing pro-


cess could be successful, but even I am surprised that he was able to begin playing basketball again so soon. He went back to see the surgeon six weeks post-op for an evaluation, and now he doesn’t return for a follow-up visit until May.”

Every one of us reading this story can probably put ourselves in Waylon’s shoes, because most of us did some ill-advised activities when we were young that could have turned out terribly wrong. In that sense, we were all lucky that no harm was done to us or anyone else, but in Waylon’s case, it sure appears that there was some heaven-sent intervention to protect him and heal him.

Waylon is not just another player on the Webber boys’ basketball team, he is a major cog to the success of the Trojans.



see **WAYLON** page 10      Waylon faced a brain bleed, shown in the picture, following a fall in September.



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## WAYLON

from page 9

He was named to the All-Tournament Team at the recent Conrad Allen Holiday Tournament, along with teammates Nathaniel and Jacob Marlow.

During the recent victory over previously unbeaten Woodlawn, Waylon had some key steals and scored in double figures as the

Trojans defeated the state's No. 1 Ranked Cardinals, 62-54 in front of the hometown fans in Bluford.

Does he do any more fun fighting with friends?

"Oh no, absolutely not anymore, I am done with that," said Waylon. "Prior to the injury I had really been working hard all summer to improve my game so that we could make a run here in my senior year. I would be so

disappointed if I was not able to play this season. When I was in the hospital, I was worried that all that work I had put in during the summer was for nothing. But all glory to God. He saved my life. I have learned that 40 to 50 percent of people who have brain bleeding like this do not survive, they die.

"So, I owe everything about this outcome to God."



Right: Waylon Jones of Webber Township shows the scar that was left from the serious surgery to repair the dangerous brain bleed.

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## Cold water fishing sometimes means landing a 'whopper'

Most of us, as we get older, tend to prefer the warm confines of home to fishing out on a lake in 40-degree temperatures. Winter limits fishing to an occasional trip to a power plant cooling lake.

Mostly we tend to put away the fishing gear once hunting season arrives. It comes out again in late February in anticipation of spring spawning runs of bass and crappie. In winter, only a few hardy souls seek out the big crappies that go deep in cold weather.

The limber crappie fishing poles provide the sensitivity to feel virtually everything that meets the terminal tackle.

Try a 16-foot crappie poles rigged with 6-pound monofilament line and terminal tackle of the type normally associated with spring time crappie fishing. The line is spooled on a small spinning reel. At the other end is a half-ounce sinker. About 18-inches up from the sinker attach a three-way swivel to the main line. The third eyelet of the swivel has an 8-inch piece of line and a small jig attached. Skewer a minnow on the hook in a fashion that allows it to swim naturally.

The cold crystalline water allows fish to spread out and find comfort zones in a variety of levels. The water carries oxygen down to different levels. Fish will go to a variety of levels



## OUTDOORS

BY DON GASAWAY

and still be comfortable.

Some anglers mistakenly seem to think that fish are like bears and that they go into hibernation in winter. Many large game fish come from cold water. Fish are not as aggressive when the water temperature is below 55 degrees, but they still eat and will take a properly presented lure.

Cold water anglers may have to fish a variety of locations. It makes winter fishing more difficult as the fish are not congregating in a single type of location or habitat. Fish located in a single area may or may not be a specific species. What might be a crappie location may prove to be a school of bass.

Slowly troll parallel to underwater ledges beneath bluffs. Follow the lay of the land beneath the surface as opposed to the shoreline.

Allow the sinker to fall to the bottom of the lake and then raise it up about a foot. While very slowly trolling along a ledge jig a minnow to give it a natural action. Move the line only a little and very slowly. The bite will be very light, almost lighter than the bite of a walleye.

Cold water fishing means warm

clothing and it is a good idea to take along an extra clothing just in case yours get wet. A ski suit, hand warmers, ski mask and rubberized gloves are a good idea. It would not hurt to have a thermos of hot coffee, hot chocolate, or soup.

It is important to use care around cold water situations. Wet rocks or a dock can have ice on it and cause an angler to fall into water or otherwise injury himself. When launching a boat, take care that both boat trailer and tow vehicle can get back up the ramp. Ice on ramp can be a problem.

Getting back to fishing patterns, any current in a body of water will increase the oxygen content and fish will relate to it. Generally, fish will be in the 12- to 20-foot-deep range. In larger impoundments without warm water discharges, the warmer water will be in the section closer to a dam.

In the main part of a lake, the combination of structure and current is a good location. Fish tend to be just out of the current near structure. Forage fish are there picking up the small plankton that flows with the current.

Runoff increases a river flow and current. Warming temperatures signal a feeding frenzy in fish. For some reason the larger fish are the first to react. Often one will have to fish hard and for a long time to get bites. Often the fish that bite will be the larger ones.

Disruptions such as sudden noises on shore or in the water makes the fish shut down. Light also seems to effect fishing action. The brighter the day, the closer to the bottom fish seem to be located.

Weedy areas or those with dark bottoms warm sooner and are areas likely to harbor fish. The weeds and the dark muddy bottoms absorb what heat there is available on a sunny day and hold it longer. Thoroughly cover the fishing zone with the jig. The fish will not be more than a foot off the bottom. Fish jigs slowly and right up against any structure available.

It is important to pay close attention for the tic of the bite and to set the hook quickly. They will not hold the lure for long. Any variation in the action of the line calls for a quick hook set. This is a game of total concentration.

Cold water fishing means sluggish fish that bite lightly but it often means big fish. Be safe, fish slowly and you might tie into one of those lunker crappie. Why not get out there and try it?

— **Don Gasaway** is a veteran freelance outdoor writer from Marion. He is on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/#1/DonGasaway-Writer](http://www.facebook.com/#1/DonGasaway-Writer) and [www.facebook.com/DonGasawayfishing](http://www.facebook.com/DonGasawayfishing).

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## Too many topics... too little space!

The parity in the NFL continues to be impressive and the number of good young quarterbacks is equally impressive. Watching how quickly teams go from the bottom of the standings to the top from year to year is great for the game and the fans.

Many times, a team's turnaround can be attributed to their young quarterback and there's currently a lot of good ones who are rising stars in the league. Just to mention three, Bo Nix has given the Denver Broncos a huge lift as they won the AFC West Division championship this season and the Number One seed going into the playoffs. In the previous three seasons the Broncos were near the bottom of the standings in the AFC West.

Drake Maye has done the same thing for New England. The Patriots won the AFC East Division championship and they are the number two seed in the AFC for the playoffs. In the previous two seasons the Patriots were last in the AFC East.

On the NFC side, Caleb Williams has given the Chicago Bears the same kind of lift as he led the team to the NFC North Division championship for the first time in seven years and the number two seed in the NFC for the playoffs. In the past two seasons, the Bears finished last in the NFC North.

As a big fan of the NFL, it's enjoyable to watch these young QB's make such a strong impact and I look forward to watching the playoffs and the 2026 Super Bowl.

It's time for my annual complaint about how junior high and high school boy's and girls' basketball have become too much of a contact sport. I'll admit that I'm old school, but it's difficult for me to sit and watch a game today as

## SPORTS REFLECTIONS

BY DAVY BROY



offensive players get mugged quite often. It's not supposed to be that way. It's basketball not football or wrestling. Some people will say that the officials are just letting the players play and I'm OK with that to a certain extent. Still, it's difficult to teach a young player how to play the game with so much unnecessary contact, especially on the shooter or dribbler.

I mean no disrespect to any of today's basketball officials. I was an official when I was younger and I realize that it's not an easy job. It takes a good and dedicated person to do it. I believe that some coaches are partly responsible for the problem.

They want their players to be extremely aggressive on defense and some of them probably tell their players to be aggressive with as much contact as the officials will allow. I understand why a coach would do that, but in my opinion, it's just gone too far.

When my teammates and I played basketball in the 1960s and early 1970s, just about any kind of contact against an offensive player was called for a foul. I always go back to some great advice that I received from an older official when I worked with him in the late 1970s. He told me, "As an official, you have to get control of the game early so that there's not too much contact, and you especially have to protect the player who has the ball." I wish more basketball games were called that way today.

I realize that I'm just an old guy who misses the way that the game used to be played with more

finesse and less contact. With all of this being said, in my opinion the excess contact is hurting the current game and it needs to be controlled more. In fact, because of so much hard contact, myself and some of my older friends have expressed the opinion that we are surprised that there are not more fights that break out during junior high and high school basketball games. Let's hope and pray that doesn't happen.

Congratulations and thank you to all of the high school officials and volunteers that worked so hard to provide so many great boy's

and girl's holiday basketball tournaments throughout our area last month. A lot of people probably don't realize how much work and organization is involved in putting these tournaments together and making them be as good as they are. These school officials and volunteers do it every year and they do it well.

I'll close by expressing how proud Southern Illinois is of Christopher native Amiah Hargrove. Amiah is doing great things as a sophomore for the University of Nebraska women's basketball team.

She comes from a great family, including her grandpa John Kretz who I have been good friends with through sports since we were young kids. Not too many high school athletes from Southern Illinois have the opportunity to compete in DI sports. Amiah does it at Nebraska at a high level not only with her very good all-around playing ability, but also with modesty and class which makes her an awesome representative of our area.

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# A long trail of excellence

Everywhere Stanley Changnon coached, success and excellence soon followed making him one of the greatest two-sport coaches in Illinois History

**January feature •**  
**BY DAVY BROY**

My hope with stories like this one is that our readers (especially younger generations) realize that we have a lot of great sports history in Southern Illinois. I'm thankful that this publication gives me the opportunity to share that fact. With that being said, there have been many very good high school coaches in our area over the past several decades, but in my opinion none of them had any more team success coaching two sports as did Stanley Changnon.

As you will see in this story, Changnon's coaching ability not only helped develop some of the best teams in our state's history, but also some of the best athletes to ever compete in our nation.

Stanley Alcide Changnon, who was born in the small village of St. Anne, IL. (Kankakee Co.), went on to become one of the state's most successful high school basketball and football coaches.

After graduating from Illinois State University in 1926, where he lettered in five varsity sports, Changnon took a teaching and coaching position in Donovan, IL. which is in the northeast part of the state. After six successful years at Donovan, Changnon moved to Southern Illinois to teach and coach at Johnston City High School. He spent the rest of

his coaching career in Southern Illinois.

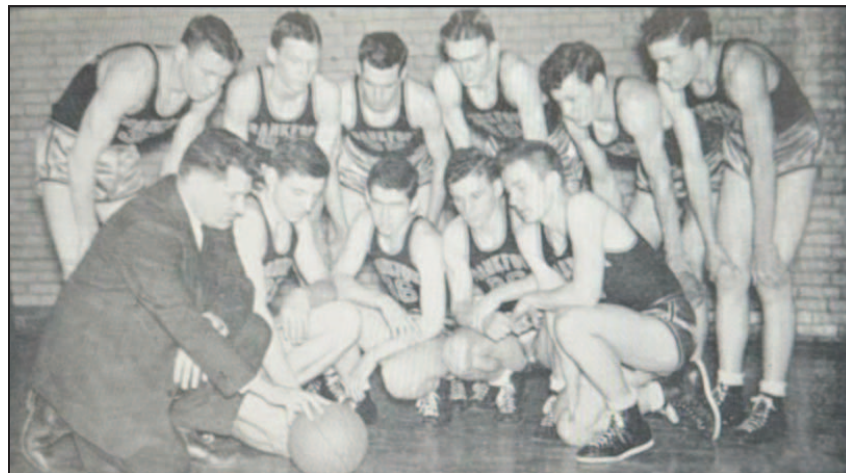
Changnon had a good two-year stint (1933-34 and 1934-35) coaching football and basketball at Johnston City, including an overall record of 34-16 in basketball. Changnon was a coaching pioneer of developing the one-handed jump shot in Southern Illinois, which he started at Johnston City.

Many older basketball fans have said that Changnon was ahead of his time in several aspects of the game and that he was not afraid of change. It was also said that helping his players in the 1930s and 1940s convert from the old traditional set shot to the quicker one handed jump shot was one of the main keys to Changnon's outstanding success as a coach.

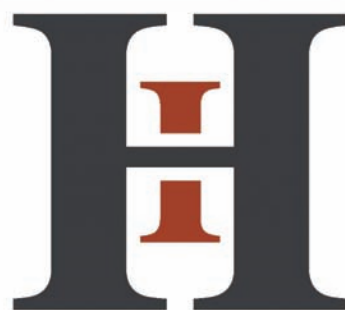
Changnon left Johnston City for a job six miles north when he was hired as a teacher, athletic director and head basketball and football coach at West Frankfort High School where he stayed for eight years.

After that he was hired for the same positions at Mt. Vernon High School and he coached there for nine years.

West Frankfort's outstanding success in both football and basketball during the 1930s and 1940s, can mainly be attributed to the programs built by head coach Stanley Changnon and his ability to develop players.



The 1942-43 West Frankfort basketball team that finished 32-4. Front row, left to right: Coach Stanley Changnon, Max Morris, John Jones, Ken Simpson, George Gabor. Back row Robert "Bunker" Jones, Ted Bidwell, Charles Shostrom, Leon Akin, Joe Hughes and Wavell Burton.



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He started coaching both sports at West Frankfort during the 1935-36 school year and within two years Changnon built both Redbird programs into two of the best in not only Southern Illinois, but also the entire state.

The school's success in both sports would continue through Changnon's final year in West Frankfort (1942-43) and for a few years after he left. Changnon's eight-year career record as the FCHS head football coach was 53-13-8 and his teams won four conference championships. His career record as the FCHS head basketball coach was 136-72. Because of his outstanding success in both sports, most longtime Redbird fans consider Changnon to be the best coach in West Frankfort history.

The Redbirds had just average success with their football program until Changnon took the reins. His first team at West Frankfort in the fall of 1935 finished 6-0-3 while his 1937 and 1938 teams had the best two-year run-in school history as they finished with an overall record of 18-1-1. Changnon's 1941 West Frankfort football squad was the only undefeated (9-0) team in school history. They outscored their opponents 341-18 (including seven shutouts) and they were considered to be the best team in the state by the Chicago Daily News.

Changnon's undefeated 1941 West Frankfort football team was so good, four of its players were selected All-State by the Chicago Daily News and four more were selected All-State honorable mention. One of the Redbird All-Staters, halfback-linebacker Lou Levanti, went on to be a Big Ten All-Conference offensive lineman at the University of Illinois. Levanti also played two years in the NFL as an offensive lineman including one year with the Detroit Lions and one year with the Pittsburgh Steelers. One of the West Frankfort players that was selected honorable mention All-State in 1941 was offensive lineman George Iubelt who went on to have good success as a high school basketball coach at West Frankfort in the 1950's before becoming an assistant basketball coach at SIU-Carbondale for several years.

Changnon built such a great football program at West Frankfort, in the four seasons after he left, his successor and former assistant coach Harlan Hodges had an overall record of 34-5-2. Hodges gave most of the credit for that success to Changnon and the program that he had built previously.

In the three years before Changnon took over the West Frankfort basketball program in 1935-36, the Redbirds had an overall record of 30-46. Changnon went on to have seven winning seasons in his eight-year tenure and the overall record of 136-72. In his final two years at West Frankfort, Changnon's teams had an overall record of 50-11 including 32-4 in 1942-43. They made it to the state finals both years as the 1941-42 team reached the Sweet 16, and the 1942-43 team reached the Elite 8. Changnon is one of only two West Frankfort basketball coaches to win over 30 games in a season.

During the 1941-42 basketball season, West Frankfort and Centralia tied for the South Seven Conference championship with 11-1 records. Coach Changnon's Redbirds and legendary Coach Arthur Trout's Orphans split during the regular season, but Centralia defeated West Frankfort in the first round at the state tournament. The Orphans went on to win the state championship and many people believed that the first-round game was the true state championship game as both West Frankfort and Centralia were ranked as the top two teams in Illinois.



The old Changnon Gym at Mt. Vernon High School which was named in honor of Stanley Changnon in 1984. The new gymnasium at the new Mt. Vernon High School also carries his name.



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## CHANGNON

from page 19

The 1942-43 West Frankfort team was the last Redbird basketball squad coached by Changnon and his most successful. Many longtime fans considered this team to be the most talented in FCHS history led by senior Max Morris, junior Joe Hughes, and sophomore Robert "Bunker" Jones who were three of the best athletes in school history. Morris went on to be a college All-American in two sports while Jones and Hughes were selected All-State in both football and basketball during their senior years at FCHS.

The 1942-43 Redbirds had the biggest line up in school history at that time with four players 6-foot-2 or bigger.

The team set a school record with their 32 wins and they won

the South Seven Conference championship with defending state champion Centralia finishing second. West Frankfort advanced to the Elite 8 at the state finals by blowing out Benton in the regional championship game and also blowing out Du Quoin and Mt. Vernon in the sectional.

Led by Changnon, the Redbirds won their first game at the state finals in Champaign as they easily handled Decatur 55-39. Now in the Elite 8 and in a position to reach the Final 4, West Frankfort suffered a big blow as their very good 6-foot-4 center Jones was badly injured in the Decatur game and unable to play in the next contest. The loss of Jones hurt West Frankfort as they were upset by Moline 39-37 in the quarterfinal game. Moline easily defeated Elgin in the semifinal game but they would go on to lose in the championship game to Paris.



The 1950 undefeated state champion Mt. Vernon Rams basketball team. Back row (left to right) Coach Stanley Changnon, James McMain, Mose Stokes, Charles Owens, Jim Stokes and Bobby Dean Wood. Front row (left to right) Bob Brown, John Riley, Max Hooper, Walt Moore and Eddie King.

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Most Redbird fans at that time knew that it was a championship game that West Frankfort should have played in.

Much like with the West Frankfort football program, Changnon's assistant basketball coach and successor Harlan Hodges carried on with the basketball program success and the players that Changnon developed. From 1942 through 1945, West Frankfort reached the state finals four straight times which included Changnon's final two years and also Hodges's first two years.

Hodges coached the Redbirds for four years (1943-44 through 1946-47) and those teams had an overall record of 94-37.

While coaching at West Frankfort, Changnon helped develop several very good athletes including two of the greatest in Illinois history.

Lou Levanti, who graduated in 1942, not only played pro football he was also the second leading scorer and leading rebounder on the 1941-42 West Frankfort basketball team that reached the state finals. Max Morris, who graduated from West Frankfort in 1943 was a late bloomer.

After starting for the Redbirds in basketball on the 1941-42 and 1942-43 state finals teams as an immature junior and senior, Morris matured and grew more after high school and went on to be one of the greatest two sport college athletes in our nation's history.

Morris played both basketball and football at Northwestern University where he was one of just a few athletes in college history to be selected 1st team All-American in two sports.

In his junior year at North-

western, Morris was selected All-Conference in basketball as he led the Big Ten in scoring. He was also selected All-American. During his senior year football season, Morris was selected Big Ten All-Conference and 1st team All-American as an offensive end.

During his senior year basketball season, Morris again led the Big Ten Conference in scoring. He was not only selected again to the All-Conference team; he was also named as the Big Ten Conference Basketball Player of the Year.

At the end of the season, Morris was selected 1st team All-American in basketball for the 2nd straight year. He received the second highest number of votes on the first team behind the great George Mikan from DePaul University.

At the time (1946), Morris was

just the third college athlete to ever be selected All-American in two different sports in the same year.

He is the last Northwestern University athlete to be selected All-American in two sports in the same year.

Morris, who gave most of the credit for his athletic development and success to Changnon, went on to play four seasons in the NBA and also three seasons in the NFL.

During Changnon's eight years at West Frankfort, the Redbirds had 12 All-State selections in football and basketball combined which is by far the highest number of any coach in school history.

Many of those athletes went on to play D1 college sports.

see **CHANGNON** page 22



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## CHANGNON

from page 21

During the 1943-44 school year, Changnon continued his coaching success, but it would be done 30 miles north of West Frankfort. Changnon left West Frankfort after the 1942-43 school year because the Frankfort School District administration backed out on giving him a \$250 raise (\$4,600 today because of inflation) that Changnon had been promised earlier.

West Frankfort's loss was a huge gain for another South Seven Conference school as Changnon took his coaching talent to Mt. Vernon, where he went on to be the first coach to win two consecutive basketball state championships in Illinois history.

After the dispute with West Frankfort, Changnon was hired at Mount Vernon as a teacher, athletic director and football and basketball coach. Changnon did not have as much success as the football coach in Mt. Vernon as he did in West Frankfort.

His Rams football teams had four winning seasons in eight years with his final two seasons being the best. Still, Changnon's success as the basketball coach at Mt. Vernon is legendary.

From the 1943-44 season, through his retirement as coach nine years later after the 1951-52 season, Changnon's basketball teams at Mount Vernon compiled an incredible record of 230-59 which is an average of 26 wins and 6 losses per season.

During that time the Rams won multiple South Seven Conference championships along with nine regional and three sectional titles. Changnon is the only basketball coach in Mt. Vernon High School history to win over 30 games in a season and his teams did it three times (1948-49, 1949-1950 and 1951-52).

Changnon and his Mt. Vernon



Coach Stanley Changnon and his 1949 state champion Mt. Vernon Rams basketball team.

Rams basketball teams won their two consecutive state championships in 1949 and 1950 with a combined overall record of 63-3 including 42 wins in a row. The 1950 championship team was a perfect 33-0. In their four games at the state finals that year, the Rams dominated with wins over Peoria (65-48), Freeport (86-61), Elgin (57-49), and then in one of the largest margins of victory in state championship game history, they defeated Danville 85-61. It was the most points ever scored by a team in an IHSA basketball state championship game by 20 points with the previous record being 65 scored by Pinckneyville when they won the 1948 state championship.

In Changnon's final Mt. Vernon basketball season (1951-52), his team earned a postseason trophy again as the Rams finished third at the state finals with a record of 32-4.

Just like it happened in West Frankfort, Changnon's basketball program was so strong at Mt. Vernon, they continued to have success after Changnon's final sea-

son in 1951-52. Two years after his retirement from coaching, Changnon's successor Harold Hutchins, and the 1954 Rams' players that Changnon's program had developed, won another state championship with a season record of 29-3.

To say that Changnon went out at the top of his game would be an understatement. In the final four seasons of his basketball coaching career, his Mt. Vernon teams had an amazing overall record of 121-11 including the two state championships and the third-place finish at the state finals.

During Changnon's 25-year high school basketball coaching career he had an outstanding overall record of 507-199. After retiring from coaching in 1952, Changnon continued as a teacher and AD at Mt. Vernon High School until 1963.

Changnon's most well-known basketball players at Mt. Vernon were Max Hooper and Walt Moore, the stars on the Rams back-to-back state championship teams.

Hooper was one of the great-

est players in Illinois history as he was selected All-American his senior year and he was also a two-time All-State selection. He set single game and Illinois state tournament scoring records that stood for many years. He was inducted into the first class of the Illinois High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

Four players from the 1950 Mt. Vernon state championship team Max Hooper, Walt Moore, John Riley and Eddie King earned DI basketball scholarships. Hooper went on to play at the University of Illinois where he earned varsity letters in both basketball and baseball.

He played on the 1952 Illinois Big Ten Conference championship basketball team that went on to participate in the NCAA Final Four and finished 3rd.

Hooper also played on the University of Illinois Big Ten Conference championship baseball team. After college, he played for two years in the National Industrial Basketball League with the Denver-Chicago Truckers.

Walt Moore was an All-State basketball selection for Mt. Vernon in his 1951 senior year.

He first went to the University of Illinois, but then after a stint in the Army, he went on to star in basketball at Western Illinois University where he was an NAIA All-American on the 1957 team that finished second in the National Championship Tournament.

Moore went on to be a successful high school basketball coach at Carbondale Illinois from 1967-70 and then later the head basketball coach at Western Illinois University from 1973-77.

Riley and King both played at Bradley University where they finished second in the NCAA championship game in 1954. One of Changnon's first star basketball players for the Rams was Bennie Purcell who graduated from Mt. Vernon in 1947.



Purcell went on to star at Murray State University where he was the MVP of the NAIA national basketball tournament in 1952. He was drafted by the NBA's Baltimore Bullets in 1952 but went on to play six years for the Washington Generals All Star team that toured with the Harlem Globetrotters.

Changon passed away on July 5, 1981 in Mt. Vernon at the age of 85. After his death he was cremated and his ashes were scattered on the football fields at Mt. Vernon and West Frankfort high schools which fulfilled his wish

to rest where he found great joy in sports.

In a newspaper interview soon after his father's death, Changon's son Stanley Jr. had this to say. "As a coach he was fair but he was also a disciplinarian. You had to do what he said or you weren't going to play.

"As a basketball coach, I think his greatest asset was the ability to analyze what his players could do. He changed his offense almost every year according to the talent he had and what they could best do. He was also equally as good at analyzing and

knowing how to attack his opponent. He was very much into every detail of the game. He was ahead of his time as a coach.

"Dad was also one of if not the first coach in Southern Illinois to begin developing the one-hand shot in basketball. That was a big change when he started teaching the one-hand shot and a lot of people were critical of it. He started that at Johnston City in the early 1930s and continued on at West Frankfort and obviously it caught on."

In 1984, three years after his death, the original Mt. Vernon

High School Gym was named in honor of Stanley Changnon. A new Mt. Vernon High School was opened in 2016. Carrying on Changnon's legacy, the Mt. Vernon School District rededicated the high school's new gym and named it in honor of Stanley Changnon in December of 2017.

During that rededication ceremony, the school district made it clear that they were ensuring that Changnon's legacy of being one of the greatest high school coaches in Illinois history continued with the new Mt. Vernon gym.



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# Your life as a puzzle

If you think about putting a puzzle together, how do you start? Do you first lay out all the pieces by color or scheme? Maybe you put all the corners in one stack. Smoothed edge pieces in another. Do you try to make a plan of how to tackle and solve it?

My pastor gave a sermon a few years back and told the story of his sister working in a place where puzzles were manufactured. And how upset people would be when they bought a puzzle only to find out a piece was missing. They'd write letters or send it back demanding all the pieces or a refund.

So, what if we look at our lives as a puzzle? Are all the pieces there? Are some missing or perhaps, there are too many, and you can't make them fit just right?

The New Year always brings a sense of fresh beginnings and the possibility of new things to come. If you laid out your life like a puzzle, what would you find? How would you prioritize your pieces? Mine would probably include faith, shelter, family, health, friends and money (for basic needs such as food and running water) for starters. If one of those pieces are missing, it most definitely affects the others, leaving a much-needed space to be filled.

If your life's puzzle has too many pieces, that can be problematic as well. Trying to fit in more than you are capable of...making your puzzle crowded and not quite fitting together properly. In determining what your puzzle's needs are, I recently ran across a question that seems to keep popping up everywhere I look: "In 5 years, will this be important to my life?"

That seems to put things in perspective for me. If I can ask myself if this material item I really desire



## GUEST COLUMN

BY LINDSEY COX

or this goal I want to achieve will matter in my life several years from now, that can help determine whether I need to re-prioritize my set of goals.

Life is short. We have all heard this so many times, but it is true. Too short to worry needlessly about people, places, and things that do not necessarily have a place in our own personal puzzle. This is not to say you shouldn't show kindness and compassion toward others, but it means determining what makes the most sense in this short life to fit into your life's puzzle of priorities.

I have been told to ask myself the question, "Does \_\_\_\_\_ serve my life in a positive manner?" You can fill in the blank with whatever you are struggling with. Maybe it is a certain food or habit or even relationship. And if you can easily answer with a resounding "No" it does not serve my life positively, then maybe it is time to rethink what to do about it. From my personal journey, I can tell you I have had to remove both substances and people from my life. The substance part is kind of a no-brainer (doesn't make it any easier, but it is kind of an obvious culprit).

The people part can be more difficult. I don't want anyone to read this and then think, "Well, that Lindsey Cox is cold-hearted and told me to cut some of my

family and friends out of my life." Because that is not what I am saying. Ask yourself again that question: "Does \_\_\_\_\_ serve my life in a positive manner?" Meaning, is the relationship reciprocal? Do you find yourself giving and giving without receiving anything in return?

Or are you the taker? Taking and taking without giving thanks or anything in return? In an ideal world, we would engage in reciprocal relationships consisting of kindness and understanding—helping someone out because they care about you and vice versa.

In light of us turning the final pages of 2025 and entering 2026, maybe we should work to move

important pieces of our life to the center of our focus. Setting aside things that don't serve a positive purpose. Not necessarily discarding them, but maybe just placing to the side until we find a way to make them properly fit into our overall happiness, health, and well-being. If you examine your life as a puzzle, maybe you can find ways to lighten your load of burdens and fill your heart with positivity as we all embark into a New Year and all the potential it has to offer.

— **Lindsey Cox** is married to Eli, a Benton native. Along with their two children, Jilianne and Crosby and dog, Lucky, they enjoy a pretty simple yet busy life. Enjoying and juggling work and life, including their kids' sporting events and involvement in the fine arts. They are members of First Christian Church in Benton. Lindsey's first book, "Last Damn Call," is now available on Amazon and discusses her past struggles in hopes of helping others still struggling with a message of hope and humor.

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# A new year brings changes...happy changes!

As the second semester is about to begin for my college career, I find much joy in all of the ways in which my mindset has evolved. In all aspects of my life from academics, athletics, relationships, and even hair color seem to have changed in one way or another, there is a great amount of peace in knowing I am incredibly happy with it all.

Looking back to the start of the school year, the unknown seemed to be constantly looming over me, because in truth, the unknown in life can throw at you some of the happiest or absolute hardest moments of your life.

While my first semester was a success, from navigating college classwork, to my body supporting me through training for track, it would be inaccurate to say that everything was absolutely perfect all the time.

For instance, sometimes no matter how many hours you log in study hall, that psychology test may just not be your friend... or when coach tells you to add another plate onto the fifth set of squats and you hold back the tear that wants to fall because you just know how you're going to feel it the next day trying to walk across the bridge to class.

With the wonderful mixture of excitement, fun, challenge, sadness or really any feelings that my first semester brought me, as I look forward to semester two, now I know change isn't so bad after all.

Now, as I look to the unknown of the upcoming semester and year, rather than fear, I am confident in the fact that God will provide me with the necessary tools to navigate the different paths he chooses to lead me down.

I truly feel as though much of



my success has come from not only God providing me, but the drive to utilize each opportunity he presents.

As I briefly stated a few months ago, pulling up a seat at a new table or in other terms, stepping into a new position or challenge that may make you feel uncomfortable, has been one of the most rewarding parts of my mindset change.

Having faith that God equips me with all that I need to work for wins both big and small, helps me find comfort in the unsteadiness life can bring.

When discussing the growth

and change my mindset has gone through even after just one semester, I feel as though it is so important to highlight the fact that it's OK to ask for help. It is okay to be vulnerable, and even when you're broken, there are people and opportunities waiting to help build you back up. Although I was aware of it, until you live it there's no way to really be mentally prepared for collegiate athletic training. With that, the entirety of the past few months has consisted of nothing but weight lifting and practice as we are now finally entering into the indoor winter season

for track!

The very fast and honestly pretty awesome changes my body has gone through as I am able to solely focus on throwing takes a large toll on me both physically and mentally, for myself even something as simple as seeing our incredible trainer has been a small win.

Rather than pushing away help and support, I have fully embraced the weakness my body feels on some days, and I utilize my resources, for instance some very intimidating needles and in return not only am I able to be a better athlete, but I have established a great connection with our trainer!

In semester two, I am hopeful for the chance to continue to push myself to find the wins, both big and little and enjoy them.

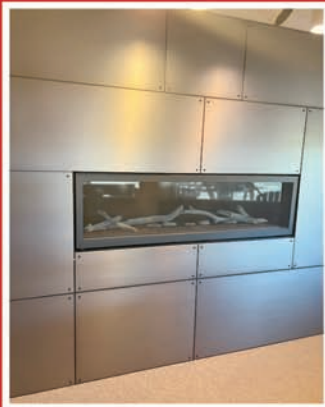
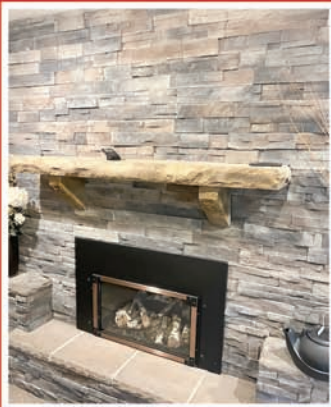
Enjoying life sounds easy, but in truth, when life is not quite the easiest thing, it can be hard to step back and observe all that one may have. As this new year passes, look for the moments even when you have to search for them, to enjoy and cherish all that surrounds you!

— **Maya Rounds** is a freshman at Southern Illinois University where she is studying Elementary Education and is on the track and field team. A 2025 Sesser-Valier graduate, Maya has a deep love for athletics and all of the opportunities they have blessed her with. Maya enjoys spending her time with family and friends, making memories at SIU, and listening to all things Taylor Swift. In her column *Open and Honest*, Maya hopes to share an inside on what it means to be a college athlete and a bit about life too!



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# Rare Air!

Webber's Nathaniel Marlow is nearing the 3,000 point plateau where only six players have ever been

The best and quietest story playing out during the current high school basketball season has to be the individual assault by Webber Township's Nathaniel Marlow to challenge the all-time IHSA scoring mark established 70 years ago (1954-1958) by Charlie "Chico" Vaughn, who played for Tamms in deep southern Illinois.

Vaughn set the all-time career high school scoring mark in Illinois of 3,358 points by scoring 377 points as a freshman, 844 as a sophomore, 1,085 as a junior and 1,052 as a senior.

As a comparison, Marlow scored 459 as a freshman, 786 as a sophomore and 970 as a junior for a total of 2,215 during that three-year span. So far through his senior season Marlow has scored 394 points in 13 games (30.3 ppg) and currently stands at 2,609 points - 749 short of Vaughn's record and 391 points short of the lofty 3,000-point total that has been reached by only six players in the history of Illinois boy's high school basketball.

Let that sink in for a minute – only six players...EVER...in the HISTORY of Illinois boy's high school basketball has reached the 3,000-point mark. That, my friends, is elite, rare territory!

As of this writing (January 8) Webber sits at 12-1 and is ranked 10th in the latest Nesto Hoops Class A statewide poll. Let's take a look back, before we look forward.

Webber Township finished with an overall record of 27-6 last season, winning a regional champion-



Nathaniel Marlow.

ship before losing to Effingham St. Anthony in the Bridgeport Red Hill sectional. Based on those numbers Webber could have as many as 20 (or more) games remaining.

Based on 20 games, Marlow would need to average 37.4 points per game to pass Vaughn. Another key point to consider is that if Webber Township makes a deeper post-season run it would increase Marlow's chance as he chases the record established by the legendary Vaughn. Reaching the 3,000-point mark seems to be almost a certainty as we head into the 2026 portion of the season. Marlow is 391 points away from going over 3,000, meaning he will need to average 19.5 ppg, based on 20 games.

Perhaps the best way to put Marlow's gaudy numbers in perspective is to compare them with some of the other high school greats from this area – players who were virtual scoring machines. Among

## A FEW RANDOM THOUGHTS

BY JIM MUIR

those Marlow will likely pass in the coming weeks on the all-time scoring list in Illinois are Marty "Mule" Simmons, of Lawrenceville (2,968 points), Scott Burzynski, Sesser-Valier (2,762 points), Dwight "Dike" Eddleman, (2,702 points), Centralia and Ron "Moose" Stallings (2,643 points), Ridgway. In the past two weeks Marlow has passed JoJo Johnson (2,575 points) Benton, Jim Mitchell, (2,561 points) Zeigler-Royalton, Mike Duff (2,558 points) Eldorado, and T.J. Wheeler (2,528 points), Christopher.

The most interesting part of this story is that, for as good as Marlow is on the basketball court, he is an even better person off the court. He is a devout Christian and shares his testimony openly. In the world we live in today, I find that so amazing and refreshing.

Marlow said he handles pressure by reminding himself about why he plays basketball. Here's a quote from Marlow from a previous story I wrote about him:

"I play basketball to glorify my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through all of it," Marlow said. "That knowledge eliminates the pressure of feeling like I have to score a certain number of points every night. I am not as concerned about meeting certain standards in basketball or other people's standards as I am concerned about meeting God's standards for me."

That quote speaks more about Nathaniel Marlow than his attack on the IHSA record books~

Below is a partial list of all-time scorers from the IHSA website. As

you look through this, keep in mind two numbers. Marlow started the year at 2,215 and currently (as of January 8) has 2,609 total points heading into 2026. It will be fun and exciting to watch this play out in the next couple months!

Thanks for taking the time to read this and God's blessings to you!

From the IHSA Website:

- [1.] 3,358, Charles Vaughn, Tamms, 1954-58 (377-844-1085-1052)
- [2.] 3,160, Andy Kaufmann, Jacksonville (Routt)/Jacksonville (H.S.), 1984-88
- [3.] 3,157, Jamie Brandon, Chicago (King), 1987-90
- [4.] 3,048, Ross Robertson, South Beloit, 2021-2025 (535-722-825 -966)
- [5.] 3,034, Jon Scheyer, Northbrook (Glenbrook North), 2002-06 (512-733-861-928)
- [6.] 3,033, Joe Aden, Dongola, 1955-58
- [7.] 2,986, Marty Simmons, Lawrenceville, 1980-83
- [8.] 2,944, Mike Robinson, Peoria (Richwoods), 1993-96
- [9.] 2,932, Rennie Clemons, Springfield (Calvary), 1987-90
- [10.] 2,931, Pierre Pierce, Westmont, 1997-2001 (488-495-784-1,164)
- [11.] 2,896, Chuck Taylor, Chicago (Roosevelt), 1980-83
- [12.] 2,844, Noah Frederking, Okawville, 2014-17
- [13.] 2,823, Archie Dees, Grayville, 1950-51, (486 pts.), Mt. Carmel, 1951-54 (2,337 pts.)
- [14.] 2,817, Jared Cain, Patoka, 2014-2017
- [15.] 2,770, John Patterson, Williamsville, 1987-91
- [16.] 2,762, Scott Burzynski, Sesser (S.-Valier), 1989-92
- [17.] 2,743, Paul Lusk, Trenton (Wesclin), 1986-90
- [18.] 2,702, Dwight (Dike) Eddleman, Centralia, 1939-42
- [19.] 2,682, Jalen Brunson, Lincolnshire (Stevenson), 2011-2015
- [20.] 2,643, Ron Stallings, Ridgway, 1965-68
- [21.] 2,621, Milik Yarbrough, Zion (Z.-Benton), 2011-14
- [22.] 2,600, Sam Puckett, Chicago (Hales Franciscan), 1967-70
- [23.] 2,581, Sean Knox, White Hall (North Greene), 2001-05
- [24.] 2,575, Thomas Wyatt, Aurora



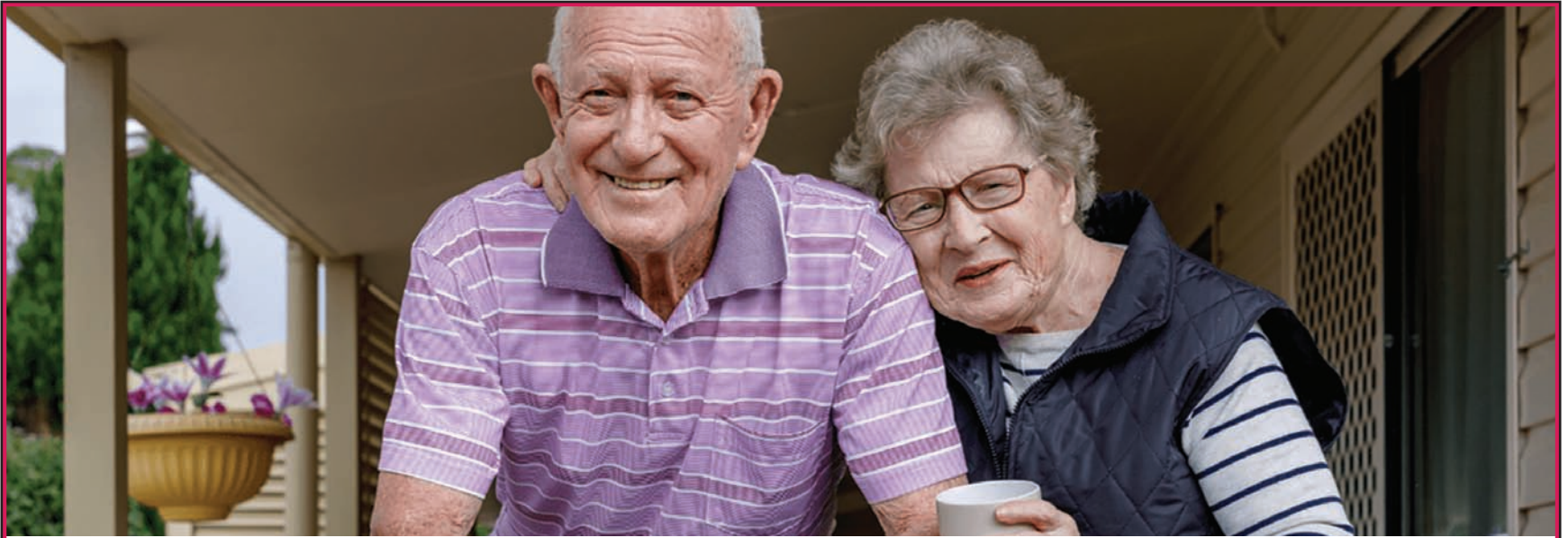
- (East), 1986-90
- [24.] 2,575, JoJo Johnson, Benton, 1988-92
- [26.] 2,571, Brandon Cole, Chicago Heights (Bloom), 1987-90
- [27.] 2,569, Rich Fetter, Riverton, 1975-79
- [28.] 2,561, Jim Mitchell, Ziegler (Z.-Royalton), 1977-80
- [29.] 2,558, Mike Duff, Eldorado, 1974-77
- [30.] 2,542, Luke Williams, Hume (Shiloh), 1994-97
- [31.] 2531, Luke Smith
- [31.] 2531, Luke Smith, Addison Trail (2021-2025)
- [33.] 2,528, T. J. Wheeler, Christopher, 1987-90
- [34.] 2,515, Ron Zagar, DePue, 1954-57
- [35.] 2,512, Jeff Baker, Park Ridge (Maine South), 1976-79
- [36.] 2,508, EJ Liddell, Belleville (West), 2015-19
- [37.] 2,506, Paxton Giertz, Seneca, 2021-2025 (364, 622, 714, 806)
- [38.] 2,479, Dusty Bensko, Pleasant Plains, 1997-2001
- [39.] 2,468, Dave Johnson, Oneida (ROVA), 1972-76
- [40.] 2,459, Connor Heaton, Moweaqua (Central A&M) 2016-2020
- [41.] 2,449, Brian Martin, Chrisman, 1995-98
- [42.] 2,429, Shane Hawkins, Pinckneyville, 1990-94
- [43.] 2,420, Ted Farmer, Valier, 1955-58
- [44.] 2,419, Lee Lampley, Rockford (Boylan), 1992-94
- [45.] 2,410, Jerry Boldt, Woodlawn, 1980-83
- [46.] 2,407, Ryan Hogan, Deerfield, 1993-97
- [47.] 2,402, Matt Parker, Robinson, 1992-96
- [48.] 2,397, Malcolm Miller, Shelbyville, 2016-2019
- [49.] 2,396, Andrew Drone, Junction (Gallatin County), 2009-2013
- [50.] 2,394, Rick Lamb, Illiopolis, 1976-79
- [51.] 2,390, Sean Connor, Zeigler (Z.-Royalton), 1981-85
- [52.] 2,384, Dan Imming, Aviston, 1966-69
- [53.] 2,358, Monte Kuhnert, DuQuoin, 1982-86
- [54.] 2,346, Jalen Quinn, Tuscola, 2018-2022
- [55.] 2,341, John Conkin, Easton/Mason City, 1964-67
- [55.] 2,341, Malachi Persinger, Peoria (P. Christian), 2021-25
- [57.] 2,335, Glen Grunwald, Franklin Park (East Leyden), 1973-76
- [58.] 2,324, Keil Peebles, Johnston City, 1972-75
- [59.] 2322, Jaden Schutt, Yorkville Christian, 2018-2022
- [60.] 2,320, Bill Small, Roanoke (R.-Benson), Aurora (West), 1955-59
- [61.] 2,314, Brad Waller, Lombard (Glenbard East), 1976-80
- [62.] 2311, Christian Trexler, Tamms (Egyptian), 2016-2020 (463-587-627-634)
- [63.] 2,307, Steve Cunningham, Bridgeport, 1959-60
- [64.] 2,302, Oliver Rollins, Carrier Mills, 1953-56
- [65.] 2,301, Jim Kinney, Magnolia (Swaney), 1953-57
- [66.] 2,300, Marc Davidson, Aurora (A. Christian), 1987-91
- [67.] 2,295, Howard Johnson, Marshall, 1970-73
- [68.] 2,293, Will Watson, Tremont, 1960-64
- [69.] 2,285, George Wilson, Chicago (Marshall), 1958-60
- [70.] 2,257, Mel Reddick, Chicago (Morgan Park), 1962-66
- [71.] 2,256, Jaron McCracken, Amboy, 1993-97
- [72.] 2,249, Jayme Noelke, Springfield (Calvary)
- [72.] 2,249, Zach Toussaint, Johnsbury, 2016-19
- [74.] 2,246, Rich Gross, Sheldon, 1976-80
- [75.] 2245, Roderic Gatewood, Jr., Mounds Meridian (2020-2023)
- [76.] 2,243, Roger Suttner, Ridgway, 1956-59
- [77.] 2,234, Kevin Rhodes, Canton, 1988-91
- [78.] 2,233, Bob Kivisto, East Moline/Aurora (East), 1964-68
- [79.] 2,228, Clint Buchen, Cuba, 1999-2002 (122-585-681-840)
- [80.] 2,222, Dana Ford, Tamms (Egyptian), 2000-03 (399-611-610-602)
- [81.] 2,219, Joe Morganfield, Westmont, 1980-83
- [82.] 2219, Coltin Quagliano, Kewanee( Wethersfield), 2017-2021
- [83.] 2,218, Ron Eeton, San Jose, 1965-69
- [84.] 2,216, Joe Stark, Breese (Community), 1961-64
- [84.] 2,216, Drake Hammel, West Hancock, 2016-20



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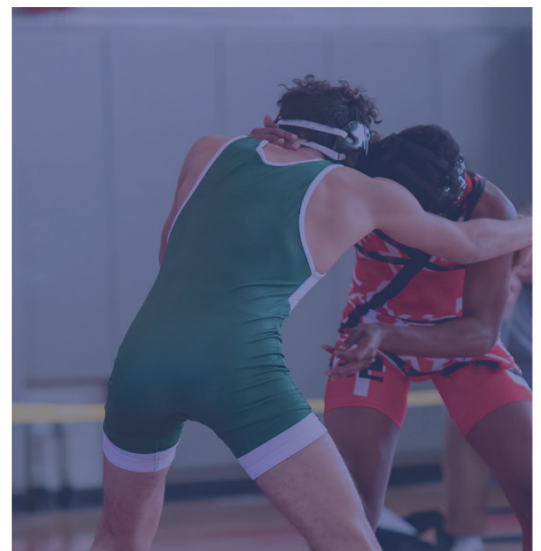
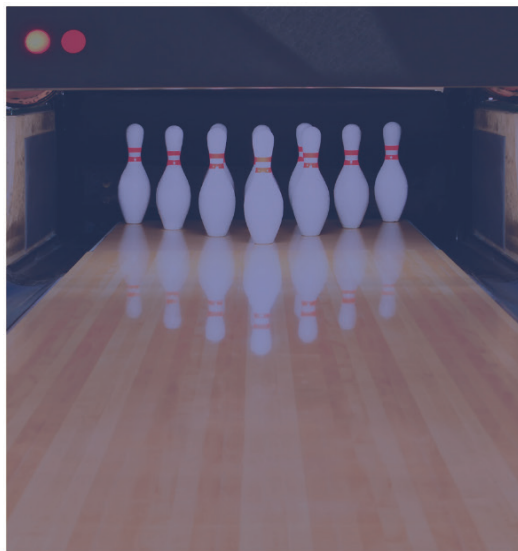
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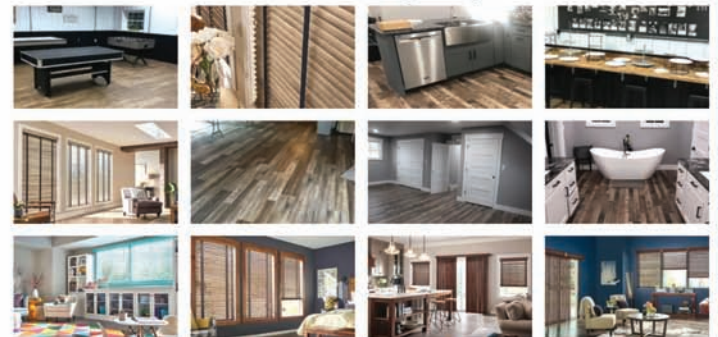
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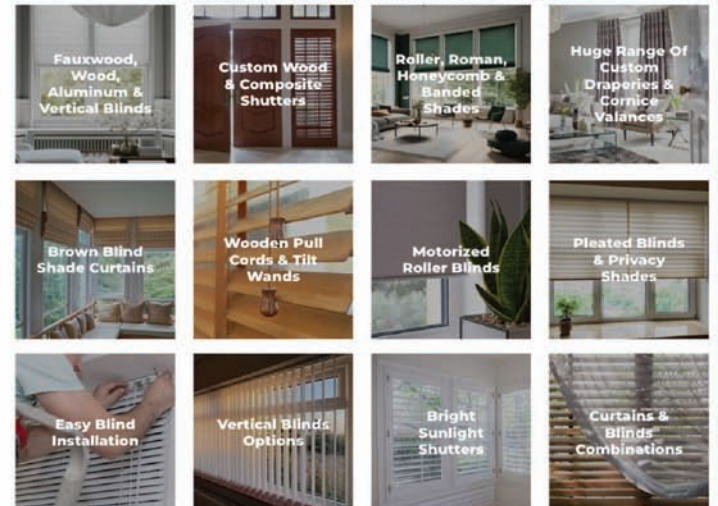
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