

# Trend of Attendance Records Indicate Lush Years Over for Local High Schools

ATTENDANCE AT GRID GAMES for Greater Muskegon's two Class A high schools picked up considerably with the end of World War II, and gradually reached a peak in 1947 to 1949. . . . But in the last couple of years an alarming downswing in the figures has been shown.

Like other sports, which include basketball, baseball, attendance trends have been sharply downward in 1950 and 1951. . . . With the past season, even with an undefeated team, Muskegon registered the lowest average attendance since and including 1944, the final war year.

In that 1944 season, for example, Muskegon averaged 8,001 a game for five games, topped by 10,459 at the Heights game. The average swelled in 1945 to 8,589 a game, in 1946 to 10,093 a game, with only one game played at Hackley Field that year drawing less than 10,000 customers. The Heights game set an all-time mark with 11,576 present.

The banner year was 1947, when every game drew 10,000 or more cash customers, winding up with 11,033 for the Heights game. The five home contests averaged 10,061 customers per game.

The average in 1949 was kept up by 10,889 at the Catholic Central game, and 10,489 at the concluding Heights game, with the season averaging 9,250 customers.

Only four home games were played in 1950 with the average 7,077 per game, and last fall an average per game of only 7,033 per game was far under the eight-year average of 8,647 for each game. Not since the last 1949 game have 10,000 or more visited Hackley Field.

## Heights Also Far Under Peak Level

MUSKEGON HEIGHTS, once handicapped by lack of seating accommodations, started upward on the attendance scale in 1946. . . . That's when new bleachers just about doubled the capacity of Phillips Field.

An average of 3,376 per game in 1944, and 4,275 in 1945, jumped abruptly to 6,223 in 1946, 7,062 in 1947. Then in 1948, when Muskegon added 9,121 attendance, the Tigers averaged 7,089 customers per game.

A slump was felt in 1949, although the season opened with the top crowd drawn through the gate at Phillips Field, 9,421 to a Catholic Central game. When the season ended the average for five games was only 5,681.

The 1950 season, stimulated by the annual Muskegon game drawing 8,762, averaged 6,120 and in 1951 the average dropped to 5,068, lowest since the field capacity was increased in 1946.

The answer to the slump? Anyone who KNOWS, will earn the gratitude of faculty managers at Muskegon and Muskegon Heights. These men, who watch the crowds and handle the cash taken in to support all athletics in their schools, would like to know.

## Here Are Figures for Eight Years:

Muskegon, 1944 Season	
Flint Central	7,155
Benton Harbor	8,348
Holland	7,010
Jackson	9,032
Muskegon Heights	10,459
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,004</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>8,001</b>

Muskegon, 1945 Season	
G. R. Catholic	9,942
Grand Haven	8,584
G. R. Creston	7,154
G. R. Ottawa Hills	5,600
Kalamazoo Central	8,250
Muskegon Heights	11,006
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,536</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>8,589</b>

Muskegon, 1946 Season	
Flint Central	10,110
Benton Harbor	10,731
Holland	10,224
G. R. Ottawa Hills	7,822
Muskegon Heights	11,576
<b>Totals</b>	<b>50,463</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>10,093</b>

Muskegon, 1947 Season	
Chicago Fenger	10,686
Grand Haven	10,584
Rockford, Ill.	10,498
Kalamazoo Central	10,203
Muskegon Heights	11,033
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,004</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>10,601</b>

Muskegon, 1948 Season	
Flint Central	8,667
Benton Harbor	8,261
Holland	7,923
Hobart, Ind.	6,867
Royal Oak	7,224
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,152</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7,830</b>

Muskegon, 1949 Season	
G. R. Catholic Central	10,889
Grand Haven	9,183
Libbey of Toledo, O.	6,789
Kalamazoo Central	8,900
Muskegon Heights	10,489
<b>Total</b>	<b>46,250</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>9,250</b>

Muskegon, 1950 Season	
Flint Central	6,770
Benton Harbor	7,810
Holland	7,597
Harrison Tech., Chi.	6,130
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,307</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7,077</b>

Muskegon, 1951 Season	
Lansing Sexton	6,834
Grand Haven	7,343
Hamtramck	6,023
Kalamazoo Central	5,698
Muskegon Heights	9,467
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,165</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7,033</b>

<b>Grand Total (46 games)</b>	<b>345,881</b>
<b>Season Average</b>	<b>43,235</b>
<b>Game Average</b>	<b>8,647</b>

Heights, 1944 Season	
Saginaw	4,363
Grandville	2,127
Holland	4,070
Grand Haven	4,021
Battle Creek	2,288
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,879</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>3,376</b>

Heights, 1945 Season	
G. R. Creston	2,870
G. R. Catholic Central	3,964
G. R. Union	4,498
Kalamazoo Central	4,719
Benton Harbor	5,326
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,377</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>1,275</b>

Heights, 1946 Season	
Holland	6,588
Grand Haven	6,968
Battle Creek	4,793
G. R. Creston	6,172
G. R. Union	6,394
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,115</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>6,223</b>

Heights, 1947 Season	
G. R. Creston	5,816
G. R. Catholic Central	8,532
G. R. Union	6,922
Kalamazoo Central	7,083
Benton Harbor	6,857
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,310</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7,062</b>

Heights, 1948 Season	
Holland	6,106
Grand Haven	6,050
Battle Creek	4,691
G. R. Creston	5,765
G. R. Union	7,798
Muskegon	9,121
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,532</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>7,089</b>

Heights, 1949 Season	
G. R. Creston Central	9,421
G. R. Creston	3,342
Benton Harbor	4,926
Kalamazoo Central	5,887
G. R. Ottawa Hills	4,833
<b>Total</b>	<b>28,404</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>5,681</b>

Heights, 1950 Season	
Holland	5,595
Grand Haven	6,536
G. R. Creston	3,845
G. R. Union	5,882
Muskegon	8,762
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,599</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>6,120</b>

Heights, 1951 Season	
G. R. Catholic Central	8,157
G. R. Union	5,392
Kalamazoo Central	4,394
Benton Harbor	4,789
Hazel Park	2,609
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,341</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>5,068</b>

<b>Grand Total (41 games)</b>	<b>231,557</b>
<b>Season Average</b>	<b>28,945</b>
<b>Game Average</b>	<b>5,648</b>

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