

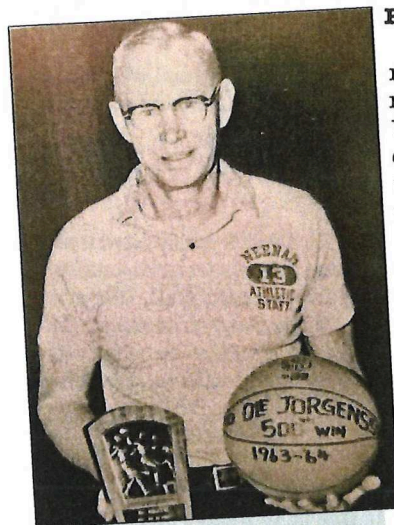
Remembering Shattuck

Roger Johnson - Class of 1973

My memory of playing in the Ole Jorgensen gym was every home game was sold out. The community support of the program was extraordinary. Notwithstanding the crowd noise, Coach Einerson could communicate his play instructions at a decibel level that everyone in the gym could hear. As a player, if you listened incorrectly, he would invite you to sit next to him for further clarification at the same decibel level. Playing for him and representing the school and the community was an honor and privilege. Neenah With Pride.

Coach Don Flunker- Neenah White Frosh Coach

During the years when the Neenah Schools were a "6-2-2-2" system with only Ninth and Tenth grade students attending Shattuck, adequate basketball practice space was restricted. For practice sessions, the O.J. Gym was divided into two sections with the Junior Varsity BB team on one side and the Neenah White Frosh and the Neenah Red Frosh teams sharing the other side. Most of the time, each of the two Frosh teams were further restricted to only a "half-court" practice facility. We had many very competitive practice sessions. And, also, many great memories.



The gym was dedicated in honor of Ole Jorgensen on Nov. 19, 1968. Jorgensen, a 1922 Neenah graduate, posted a 509-258 record from 1927-65. He lived on Reed Street directly across from Shattuck and never missed a game or one of his over 3,000 practices over 43 years of coaching football, basketball and track. He retired in 1969 and attended Neenah games until his passing in 1988 at age 84.

Ron Fedenko - Neenah Freshman Coach

From the 1972-73 season to the 1993-94 season the freshman basketball games were played at Shattuck. My most vivid memories of coaching at Shattuck are those from the Red-White games which were always intense for the players and coaches. During that time frame I had the privilege to coach with Don Flunker, Gerry Schneider, Bob Mott, and Bruce Moriarity. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to coach many outstanding young men.

John Pierce - Class of 1971

In 1969 and 1970 we lost by 1 in the State Finals. In 1971, we were undefeated and rated #1 all season. We blew a lead and lost in the semis. I was so disappointed. My main thought was winning it all for Coach Ron Einerson and that we disappointed him. But coached showed me his true colors. It was clear that all Coach Einerson cared about first and foremost was us.

Dene Storch - Class of 1972

Mr. McBride would announce each player before the game. The gym was so noisy that when they announced your name, you couldn't hear who they were introducing. As each person was announced they would point at you and then you ran onto the court. It was a great feeling knowing how much school spirit Neenah had.

Back then, Neenah and Appleton West were a big rivalry. It was in a 1972 game against Appleton West. Right before tipoff, PA announcer Mr. McBride started his announcement, there is a car in the parking lot, model so and so, and license plate whatever. Your lights are on and your car is running. It was hilarious. The whole gym was laughing!

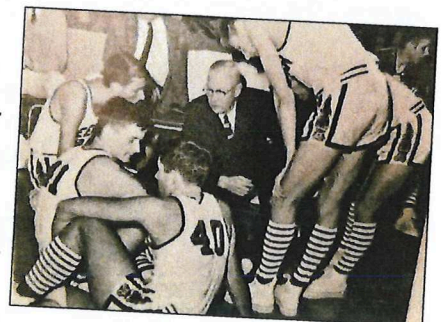
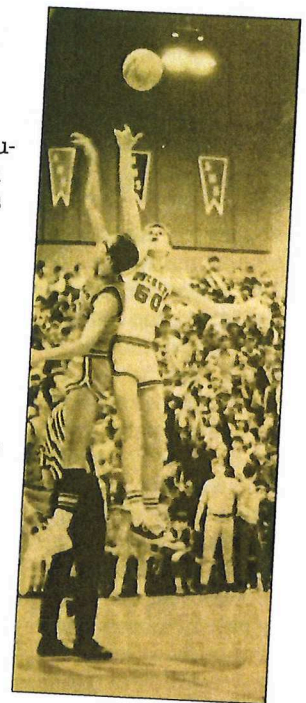
In 1970 Neenah was playing Green Bay Preble when I was sophomore. Neenah scored 126 Points. What I thought was truly amazing was at the end of third quarter Neenah had 95 points. That was without 3-point land.

Shattuck hosted Neenah basketball games from 1929 through 1973. Games moved to the newly-constructed fieldhouse at the current high school for the 1973-74 season. During the years at Shattuck, Neenah won 15 conference championships and advanced to the state tournament 13 times.

The last varsity game played at Shattuck was a regional final game on March 4, 1973 when Appleton East beat Oshkosh North 77-46. Oshkosh North had beaten Neenah in the regional semifinal the previous night. The Ole Jorgensen Gymnasium debuted on March 6, 1956 with a 74-72 Neenah win over Kaukauna. The Rockets played in the North Gymnasium at Shattuck from 1929-56.

Shattuck will close following the school year when a new Neenah High School opens in the fall of 2023. The current high school will become a middle school for grades 5-8.

The Ole Jorgensen Gym was the third-largest in the state of Wisconsin when it opened in 1956. Its 3,200 seats trailed only Beloit and Wisconsin Rapids in seating capacity. The gym was built at a cost of \$535,000. The opening of the gym was delayed five weeks due to construction issues. Neenah won the state title in its first season playing at Shattuck in 1929-30. The Rockets played at the Roosevelt Elementary School Gym from 1923-29 with the exception of Neenah-Menasha games that were played at the Armory until 1933. Prior to 1923, Neenah played at the Kimberly High School building, which now serves as the Administration Building on Commercial St.





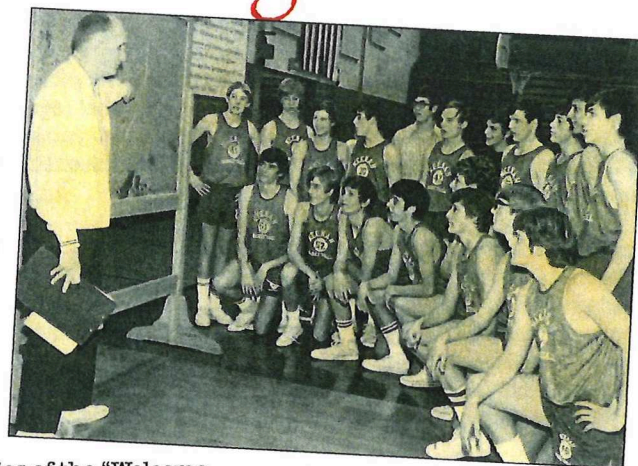
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Tom Berven - Shattuck Teacher/Basketball Coach

I have so many special memories of Shattuck. As part of a cooperative intern program with UW-Madison, I was teaching with Bill Dunwiddie in the fall of 1963 when the assassination of President John Kennedy happened. My first full time teaching position was at Shattuck High School. My classroom was above the boiler and was always warm, so my room was known as Berven's Broiler.

I remember many great conversations with Ole Jorgensen in his office. He let me be a scorekeeper in my first years at the school, where I was able to make a little additional money on the side. I have memories working with Coach Doug Martin and the packed gym on game nights. I remember Coach Einerson's first year and the Cinderella run to the historic state finals in 1969. Great memories of the "Welcome Back" celebrations, returning from the state finals in both 1969 and 1970.

My varsity tennis coaching began at Shattuck in 1971-1972 where we practiced at the courts outside the school where the current parking lot is. Most importantly though, I met my wife Donna in the lunch line at Shattuck in 1966, shortly after she started teaching at the school. Also, so many lifetime friendships were initiated at Shattuck.



Dan Blank - Class of 1968

Doug Martin was a smart, demanding, but very likable coach and almost never lost his temper. He always challenged us to be our best in all our endeavors. However, during one practice in the Ole Jorgensen gym, most of the players were in a giddy mood in anticipation of a holiday break. Coach Martin huddled us together to give us instructions for the next drill. We had two groups, the red and white, and he asked that the "red grape" go to the north end of the gym. All the players broke up in laughter about him saying "red grape" instead of red group. He got angry, yelled at us and made us do "suicide" runs for what seemed forever, then had to make 10 free throws in a row! It was the only time I remember him ever upset with us. Lesson learned!

John Arpin - Class of 1970

I have many great memories of hanging out in and around the Ole Gym in the '60's and '70's. One that always brings me back to that time was in '65 and '66 when I was an 8th grader playing for Coach Fritz Wachter at Horace Mann Junior High.

My best friend, Steve Lohr, and I would get out of practice and head for home - he lived on Chestnut and I lived on Elm - with the high school on the way.



Fans packed the O.J. Gym in 1972 when the Rockets finished state runner-up

Unfortunately, Steve moved to Darien, Connecticut in 9th grade when his dad was transferred with American Can, so it was our last year of playing together. He became a stand out guard at Darien High, was named all-state, his team MVP, and received multiple full ride offers after high school. I often wonder what NHS basketball in '69 and '70 would have looked like had Steve stayed in Neenah.

But back in '65 Steve and I were just starting our dream of being a Neenah Rocket. We would often check what door was still open on the Reed Street entrance into the school so we could sneak into the gym to watch the varsity practice. Coach Doug Martin was leading the team that year and had a tough and talented team of juniors and seniors...Jim Feters, Gary Losse, Al Ross, Larry Handler, Jim Koepke and Pete Kuehl come to mind. Steve and I loved watching those guys getting ready to play on Friday night and talked nonstop on how we would one day be on that same court playing for the Rockets.

The Ole gym is filled with memories for me and every other player who was blessed to put a pair of Chuck Taylor

for a great bunch of teammates and coaches.