



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (4-4) vs. Monona Grove (6-0)

December 22, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse



2017-18 Schedule

Nov. 22	Milwaukee North	W 80-69
Nov. 28	Hortonville	L 72-75
Dec. 1	Oshkosh West	L 67-71
Dec. 2	at Wisconsin Rapids	W 59-45
Dec. 8	at Fond du Lac	W 69-59
Dec. 12	at Appleton West	L 56-63
Dec. 15	Kimberly	L 61-70
Dec. 19	Appleton North	W 54-36
Dec. 22	Monona Grove	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 6	Kaukauna	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 9	Appleton East	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 12	at Oshkosh West	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 16	Oshkosh North	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 19	Fond du Lac	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 20	*Wausau East	3:45 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Kimberly	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 30	at Hortonville	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Appleton North	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	at Kaukauna	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 10	Appleton West	6:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Appleton East	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22	at Oshkosh North	7:30 p.m.
Mar. 2	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 3	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 8	WIAA Sectional (App. East)	7 p.m.
Mar. 10	WIAA Sectional (Marshfield)	TBA
Mar. 16-17	WIAA State (at Madison)	TBA

* - Game at Menominee Nation Arena, Oshkosh

Series History

- ▶ Neenah leads the regular season series with Monona Grove 1-0. Rockets defeated the Silver Eagles 56-50 last November 2016.
- ▶ Neenah and Monona Grove have never met in the WIAA post season, although they both qualified for the 1970 state tournament, albeit on opposite ends of the bracket.
- ▶ Monona Grove has qualified for the WIAA state tournament six times (1970, 1984, 1990, 1992, 1998, and 2006). Their best finish was a runner-up in both 1990 and also 2006.
- ▶ Since 1992, Monona Grove has won the Badger South Conference title three times (1994, 1995, 2013).
- ▶ Monona Grove high school was established in 1955.
- ▶ Two notable alumni have graduated from Monona Grove high school with UW-Madison ties, former offensive linemen Gabe Carimi and retired professional golfer, two-time U.S. Open champion, Andy North.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Friday, Dec. 22 Games
	W	L	W	L	
Oshkosh North	5	0	7	0	Monona Grove at Neenah
Kimberly	5	0	5	0	Hortonville at Fond du Lac
Kaukauna	5	1	5	2	Oshkosh North at Kimberly
Oshkosh West	3	2	5	2	Appleton West at Oshkosh West
Appleton West	3	2	4	3	Kaukauna vs. Mars, Pa. (at Fort Myers, Fla.)
Hortonville	2	3	2	5	Wednesday, Dec. 27 Games
Neenah	2	4	4	4	App. West vs. DeForest (at Sun Prairie)
Fond du Lac	1	4	2	6	Thursday, Dec. 28 Games
Appleton East	1	5	2	6	Kaukauna vs. Waunakee (at Mequon)
Appleton North	0	6	0	9	Oshkosh North vs. Whitnall (at Mequon)
					App. West vs. Sun Prairie or Fort Atkinson (at Sun Prairie)



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Tale of the Tape

	Neenah	Monona G.
Scoring Average	64.8	82.2
Scoring Defense	61.0	53.5
Scoring Margin	+3.8	+28.7
Field Goal Pct.	41.3	-
3pt Field Goal Pct.	34.4	-
Free Throw Pct.	69.0	-
Field Goal Pct. Def.	48.8	-
Rebounds/Game	20.0	-
Assists/Game	12.2	-
Turnovers/Game	10.0	-
Steals/Game	7.0	-
Blocks/Game	1.7	-
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	490-274	-
FVA Win Pct.	.641	-
FVA Titles	13	-

Neenah Fight Song

Go, Neenah, win this game;
 Keep your spotless fame.
 We will cheer you all the while,
 As you fight and fight.
 RAH, RAH, RAH!
 We'll cheer 'til the echoes loud resound,
 For our joys are all profound;
 Then we'll sing to Alma Mater.
 Neenah High!

Neenah Boys Basketball Booster Club Mission Statement:

To advance the boys basketball program of the NJSD with moral, physical and financial assistance.



Athletic Training Services for all NJSD athletics are provided by:
Heidi Neustifter
 and
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Tonight's Matchup



Tonight the Rockets welcome veteran head coach Dan Zweifel and his undefeated Silver Eagles of Monona Grove to the friendly confines of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse to take on the Rockets in Neenah's last game before the beginning of the Christmas holiday break. Monona Grove is 6-0 on the season and ranked seventh in Division 2. They have destroyed their first six opponents by an average winning margin of 28.7 points a game. They are led in scoring by senior big man Jake Schroeckenthaler (#33, 6'7", senior forward) who is averaging 18 points a game this year. Schroeckenthaler was a first-team all-Badger Conference performer last year for Coach Zweifel when he led the Silver Eagles to a 17-7 record, while averaging 17 points and just under 8 boards a game. However, the Silver Eagles are far from a one man show in 2017-18. They currently have three additional players averaging in double figures in points in Caden Nelson (#2, 6'1" junior guard, 17.7 ppg) Sam Hepp (#5, 6'7" junior forward, 11.6 ppg) and Max Nelson (#21, 6'0" senior guard, 10 ppg).

The Rockets return to the hardwood after a 54-36 victory over winless Appleton North on Tuesday night. The Rockets were tied with the Lightning at half at 21-21, before waking up and outscoring the Lightning 33-15 in the second half to earn the win. Neenah will need to play much better on both ends of the floor tonight against the Silver Eagles if they want to have a chance to pull out the victory.

Tonight is alumni night for the Neenah basketball program. At halftime of the varsity game former players and coaches will be introduced. Also, during halftime, the basketball program is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the 1978 undefeated WIAA state champions. Please take a moment to read some of the additional data provided in tonight's ROCKET GAMEDAY about the 1978 season. We thank all of our former players and coaches for coming back tonight. Playing basketball in Neenah is special. It is an honor and privilege to earn the opportunity to wear the Red and White and represent this school and community in a sport that has won three state titles, 26 sectional titles and 29 conference titles. For close to 100 years the expectations of hard work, discipline, and unselfish teamwork have been passed down from class to class. All of our coaches and players have contributed to the excitement that makes Neenah basketball not only special in this community, but also in the state of Wisconsin. Go Big Red!



Turning Back the Clock

Tonight, we are looking back at the 1978 Neenah Rockets. This team returned three key contributors (two of them starters) from their 1977 squad that finished 18-6 and lost in the state semifinals to eventual champion Madison LaFollette 46-43. Ironically, those three players (Tim Skalmoski, Keith Cowling, Tom Patt) would all be recognized as first-team all-FVA at the end of the 1978 conference season. Remarkably, out of the 18 total members of the 1978 FVA all-conference team, five of them were Rockets. Yet, that would not be the lasting memory of this team. When the season finished, the 1978 Neenah Rockets would be the only men's basketball team in the history of Neenah High School to finish a perfect season as state champions.

The 1978 Rockets were another one of Coach Einerson's teams that simply crushed their opponents. Neenah's average margin of victory in their 26 wins was 17 points per game! During the regular season Neenah only had four opponents that were defeated by fewer than 10 points. The first close game was the fourth game of the season which was a 60-58 victory over Milwaukee Lincoln. However, what happened at the next practice may have set the tone for the next four months. While discussing the close victory Coach Einerson explained to the team that they needed to continue to improve, but that he didn't expect them to win every game. As soon as Coach made that comment, senior Tom Patt responded with, "Wait coach, we do expect to win every game." The 1978 Neenah Rockets were getting ready for takeoff, and the rest of the state wouldn't catch them!

The Rockets would wind up a perfect 16-0 in FVA action, 18-0 overall. The beat continued on during the WIAA tournament. The Red and White defeated Oshkosh West 73-61, New London 75-54 and Menasha 68-45 to claim another regional title. At the sectionals, Neenah destroyed Plymouth 69-39 and beat Manitowoc 54-44 for its ninth trip to the state tournament since 1969. At state, the Rockets held on for a 66-65 win over a very good Homestead team that was 22-1 and on its own 19-game winning streak. In the semifinals, Neenah used a dominant second and third quarter performance to defeat Clintonville 73-56. In the finals, the Rockets would face Beloit. Yes, the same Beloit Knights that needed a miracle to defeat the Rockets in 1969. Yet, this game would be unforgettable for another reason. After 10 minutes of action, the undefeated Rockets trailed 31-13. But, these Rockets had deposited too much work and effort to come up short in this game. With the aid of a swarming, suffocating, trapping defense; the Rockets would outscore the Knights 45-18 over the final 22 minutes to claim their second state title in four years! Wisconsin Player of the Year Tim Skalmoski led the Rocket comeback with 19 points. This title would bring some closure to Neenah's amazing 10-year run of state tournament dominance. Consider the following facts during Neenah's nine trips to state from 1969-1978: in 6 of those years the Rockets either placed third (1971), second (1969, 1970, 1972) or first (1975, 1978). Until January 6, when we welcome the Galloping Ghosts of Kaukauna, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!