



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (5-3) vs. Hortonville (6-2)

January 8, 2016 - 7:35 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse



2015-16 Schedule

Dec. 1	at Bay Port	L 66-67 ot
Dec. 4	Appleton West	W 62-48
Dec. 10	at Kimberly	W 62-59
Dec. 18	Oshkosh North	L 47-83
Dec. 22	Fond du Lac	W 72-64
Dec. 28	*vs. Madison East	L 44-62
Dec. 29	*vs. Slinger	W 61-52
Jan. 5	at Appleton East	W 54-52
Jan. 8	Hortonville	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 15	Oshkosh West	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 19	Appleton North	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 22	at Kaukauna	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 26	at Appleton West	7:15 p.m.
Jan. 29	Kimberly	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 2	at Oshkosh North	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 5	at Fond du Lac	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 9	Appleton East	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Hortonville	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 13	Wausau East	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Oshkosh West	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Appleton North	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 25	Kaukauna	7:15 p.m.
Mar. 1	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 6	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 7	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 12	WIAA Sectional (Osh. North)	7 p.m.
Mar. 14	WIAA Sectional (Marshfield)	TBA
Mar. 20-21	WIAA State (at Madison)	TBA

* - Game played at UW-Green Bay Kress Center

Series History (since 1965-66)

- ▶ Neenah leads the regular season FVA series with Hortonville 2-0. The Rockets defeated the Polar Bears 60-54 last year on Jan. 9 at Hortonville and 73-49 on Feb. 12 at Neenah.
- ▶ Neenah leads the WIAA post season series with Hortonville 1-0. The Rockets defeated the Polar Bears 51-35 in the 2005 WIAA Regional.
- ▶ During the 25 seasons between 1926-1951, these two schools never met on the hardwood. It is believed that their first ever regular season game was last January at Hortonville.
- ▶ Hortonville High School has been around for a long time. The school started offering classes in 1902, with its first graduating class occurring in 1906.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Friday, Jan. 8 Games
	W	L	W	L	
Kaukauna	5	0	8	0	Hortonville at Neenah Kaukauna at Appleton West
Hortonville	4	1	6	2	Oshkosh North at Oshkosh West Appleton North at Kimberly
Neenah	4	1	5	3	Fond du Lac at Appleton East Saturday, Jan. 9 Games
Oshkosh North	3	2	7	2	Kettle Moraine at Kimberly Oshkosh West vs. Milwaukee South
Appleton West	3	2	6	3	Thursday, Jan. 14 Games Kimberly at Kaukauna
Kimberly	3	2	5	3	Friday, Jan. 15 Games Oshkosh West at Neenah
Oshkosh West	2	3	5	3	Appleton West at Fond du Lac
Fond du Lac	1	4	3	5	Appleton East at Hortonville
Appleton East	0	5	3	6	Appleton North at Oshkosh North
Appleton North	0	5	1	7	



Follow the FVA at:
fvasports.net

Tale of the Tape

(Conf. Only)	Neenah	Hortonville
Scoring Average	58.5	67.1
Scoring Defense	60.8	57.1
Scoring Margin	-2.3	+10.0
Field Goal Pct.	48.6	46.3
3pt Field Goal Pct.	39.5	34.3
Free Throw Pct.	65.9	69.5
Field Goal Pct. Def.	45.9	41.3
Rebounds/Game	21.8	22.8
Assists/Game	10.3	13.3
Turnovers/Game	14.0	10.3
Steals/Game	8.0	7.5
Blocks/Game	3.0	1.3
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	471-256	9-14
FVA Win Pct.	.648	.391
FVA Titles	13	0

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
Theda Care Orthopedics Plus



Tonight's Matchup



Tonight the Rockets return home to the friendly confines of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse and welcome head coach Matt Hintz and his Hortonville Polar Bears in a battle of two teams currently tied for second place in the FVA. The Polar Bears were expected to be a very good team this year and they have not disappointed through the first six weeks of the season. Hortonville returns four starters from last year's ball club. Those four returning starters (# 4 Ryan Krueger, 22.0 ppg, # 11 Kyle Witthuhn, 17.7 ppg, # 21 Charlie Schabo, 9.1 ppg, # 13 Sam Thompson, 7.7 ppg) are the four leading scorers for the Polar Bears after eight games this season. The Polar Bears enter tonight's game with a lot of confidence fresh off an exciting double overtime victory (83-82) over Oshkosh North on Tuesday night. If Hortonville can win tonight, they would stay only one game behind undefeated Kaukauna.

The Rockets have gone 2-1 since they last played at home on December 22. During the holiday break the Red and White split a pair of games at the Sun Drop Invitational at the Kress Events Center at UWGB. On Monday, December 28, Neenah lost to a talented and athletic group of Purgolders from Madison East by the score of 62-44. Less than 24 hours later, the Rockets bounced back with a 61-52 win over the Slinger Owls. In that game, Neenah got off to a poor start trailing 14-4 with 10:00 left in the first half. After Coach Rabas called a time out to wake the team up, the Rockets exploded on a 39-10 run to take a commanding 43-24 lead in the second half on their way to a 61-52 victory over the Owls. Then, this past Tuesday night the Rockets traveled to Appleton East to battle the Patriots. Trailing by as many as eight points in the first half, the Rockets made a late run to close the deficit to 30-27 at the half. A three-point basket by senior Jonah Matulle tied the game at 41-41 with 10:29 left in the second half. The Rockets managed to own a two-point lead at 52-50 with 1:30 left in regulation when the Patriots stole the basketball and tied the game with a layup at 52-52. After a Coach Rabas timeout, Neenah burned 64 seconds off the game clock until junior guard Joe Jung hit a jumper with 10 seconds left to put Big Red ahead for good 54-52. With that important road win, the Rockets are now 2-0 in the FVA on foreign hardwood this season, with both wins coming by fewer than three points.



Turning Back the Clock

Since there isn't a lot of history between Hortonville and Neenah, we are doing something different for tonight's program. Tonight we are going to take a look back at arguably the finest team in the 46-year history of the FVA, the 1978 WIAA state champion, 26-0 Neenah Rockets.

The Rockets 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. More impressively, out of the 18 total members of the 1978 All-Conference Team, five of them were Rockets. However, that would not be the only amazing feat that this team would accomplish. When the season was finished, the 1978 Neenah Rockets would be the only boys basketball team in the glorious history of Neenah to finish a perfect undefeated season.

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 their entire regular season Neenah only had four opponents that were defeated by less than 10 points. This was a very cohesive team with good size, good depth, and great chemistry. Their 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." After hearing that comment, Coach Einerson looked at Coach Paske, and Coach Paske looked back at Coach Einerson. The 1978 Neenah Rockets were getting ready for takeoff, and the rest of the state would never catch them! The Rockets would wind up their regular season a perfect 16-0 in the FVA, 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 WIAA Regional title. At the Sectionals, Neenah destroyed Plymouth 69-39 and beat Manitowoc 54-44 for their 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 memorable for another reason. After 10 minutes of action, the undefeated Rockets trailed 31-13. But, these Rockets had deposited too much hard work and effort to be a champion than 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! State 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 six of those years the Rockets either placed 3rd (1971), 2nd (1969, 1970, 1972) or 1st (1975, 1978). Yes, it's a fact that few programs have ever had a run like Neenah did from 1969-1978! Until next Friday night when we welcome the Wildcats of Oshkosh West, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!



Neenah Rockets

5-3 Overall, 4-1 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (1st season, 5-3 at Neenah, 108-59 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Chas Pronschinske, Al Krueger

Student Assistant: Sam Borchers **Video Assistant:** Matthew Elbe

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
2	Josh Mericle	G	6-0	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Jose Alba-Zielinski	G	6-1	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Cole Szczepaniak	F	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Anthony Dehn	G	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Eli Powell	F	6-5	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Payton Mericle	G	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Rayce Prosser	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Jonah Matulle	F	6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Patrick Wangelin	C	6-5	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Jordan Mascal	F	6-5	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Anthony Bartman	C	6-6	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Zavier Sims	F	6-5	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
41	Joe Jung	G	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
43	Greg Lenhart	F	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Hortonville Polar Bears



6-2 Overall, 4-1 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Matt Hintz (4th season, 46-35 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Tom Kolosso, Jason Parker

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
1	Aaron Bonikowske	G	5-10	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Dante Lipske	G	5-9	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Ryan Krueger	G	6-5	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Tanner Pahl	G	6-1	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Trevor Welson	P	6-4	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Kyle Witthuhn	G	6-2	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Dylan Loveland	G	5-11	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Sam Thompson	P	6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Trevor Coenen	P	6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Charlie Schabo	G	5-9	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Braden Stoeger	G	6-5	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Adam Zeratsky	G	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Mitch Mocadlo	G	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345



Rocket Tradition

29 Conference Championships:
 1928, 1929, 1930, 1932, 1939, 1940,
 1943, 1945, 1946, 1949, 1951, 1961,
 1962, 1967, 1968, 1969, 1971, 1975,
 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982,
 1985, 1987, 1988, 1998, 2014

3 State Championships:
 1930, 1975, 1978
7 State Runner Ups:
 1920, 1939, 1969, 1970,
 1972, 1988, 2014

26 State Tournament Appearances:
 1920, 1925, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931,
 1932, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1947, 1952,
 1966, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972, 1974,
 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1988, 2000,
 2010, 2014

Junior Varsity

Neenah Rockets - Coaches: Kyle Popp and Ron Billman

Statistics Asst.: Nathan Laeyendecker

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
2	Seth Hammett	G	5-9	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Peyton Mellenthin	G	5-9	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Chance Pronschinske	G	5-9	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Logan Morrow	G	6-3	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Matthew Pavletich	G	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Peter Herberg	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Tyler Van Oursouw	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Spencer Schamens	F	6-2	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Jaxon Spiegelberg	G	5-9	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
41	Caleb Feavel	F	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
43	Tyrese Taylor	F	6-4	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
45	Dakota Bartlett	G	6-4	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Hortonville Polar Bears - Coaches: Chad Nimmer and Brad Leeman

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
1	Connor Roesler	G	5-6	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Bryce Chronis	G	5-7	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Sam Mullins	G	5-10	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Trevor Griesbach	G	6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Justin Bonikowske	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Liam Weber	G	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Payton Claybaugh	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Trevor Stevens	G	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Chandler Guyette	P	6-4	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Hayden Krug	P	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
34	Kameron Krueger	G	5-9	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Freshmen

Neenah Rockets

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
2	Kyle Martis	5-2	Fr.
3	Tim Nault	5-11	Fr.
4	Max Schneider	5-10	Fr.
5	Ethan Parker	6-1	Fr.
11	Grayson Schroeder	5-8	Fr.
13	Teddy Gullickson	5-7	Fr.
15	Quinn Rechner	5-7	Fr.
21	Carson Hughes	5-10	Fr.
23	Mason Morrow	5-10	Fr.
25	Hayden Jones	5-9	Fr.
31	Logan Eiden	6-1	Fr.
33	Marcus Hickey	6-1	Fr.
35	Sam Dietrich	5-9	Fr.
43	Martin Morales	6-0	Fr.
45	Andy Jensen	5-11	Fr.

Hortonville Polar Bears

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
2	Taylor Thyssen		Fr.
10	Sam Miller		Fr.
11	Grant Mullins		Fr.
14	Hunter Hackbarth		Fr.
20	Logan Griesbach		Fr.
22	Michael Jarvis		Fr.
23	Jackson Weister		Fr.
24	Gage Payne		Fr.
25	Braden Vallafskey		Fr.
30	Josh Giese		Fr.
32	Carter Knutson		Fr.
33	Garrett Gloudemans		Fr.
34	Bryce Haas		Fr.

Coaches: Rich Kuranda and Nick August

Coaches: Marc Goodman and Christian Schnell