



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (9-8) vs. Wausau East (13-4)

February 13, 2016 - 5:30 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	W 67-60
Jan. 15	Oshkosh West	W 65-53
Jan. 19	Appleton North	W 63-49
Jan. 22	at Kaukauna	L 58-78
Jan. 26	at Appleton West	L 56-76
Jan. 29	Kimberly	L 46-55
Feb. 5	at Fond du Lac	L 47-61
Feb. 9	Appleton East	W 66-55
Feb. 11	at Hortonville	L 55-67
Feb. 13	Wausau East	5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16	at Oshkosh West	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 19	at Appleton North	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 23	Kaukauna	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 27	at Oshkosh North	2:30 p.m.
Mar. 4	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 5	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 10	WIAA Sectional (Osh. North)	7 p.m.
Mar. 12	WIAA Sectional (Marshfield)	TBA
Mar. 18-19	WIAA State (at Madison)	TBA

* - Game played at UW-Green Bay Kress Center

Series History

- ▶ Neenah and Wausau/Wausau East have played only six times during the past 48 years with the series tied 3-3 during that span.
- ▶ Neenah lost to Wausau High School in the 1967-68 regular season 72-65.
- ▶ Neenah defeated Wausau High School in the 1969 WIAA State Tournament quarterfinal 72-59.
- ▶ Neenah defeated Wausau East in the 1971 WIAA State Tournament third place game 70-69.
- ▶ Wausau East defeated Neenah at Neenah in the 2003-04 season opener by the score of 55-45.
- ▶ Wausau East also defeated Neenah at Wausau East in the 2004-05 season opener by the score of 59-52.
- ▶ Neenah defeated Wausau East at Neenah in the 2006-07 season opener 66-51.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Saturday, Feb. 13 Game
	W	L	W	L	Wausau East at Neenah
Kaukauna	13	1	17	1	
Oshkosh North	10	4	14	4	Monday, Feb. 15 Game
Appleton West	10	4	13	5	Wrightstown at Appleton East
Hortonville	9	5	12	6	
Kimberly	9	5	12	6	Tuesday, Feb. 16 Games
Neenah	8	6	9	8	Neenah at Oshkosh West
Fond du Lac	5	9	7	11	Hortonville at Appleton East
Oshkosh West	4	10	7	11	Oshkosh North at Appleton North
Appleton East	2	12	5	13	Fond du Lac at Appleton West
Appleton North	0	14	2	16	Kaukauna at Kimberly



Follow the FVA at:
fvasports.net

Tale of the Tape

(Conf. Only)	Neenah	Wau. East
Scoring Average	58.6	57.5
Scoring Defense	61.4	49.4
Scoring Margin	-2.8	+8.1
Field Goal Pct.	44.7	n/a
3pt Field Goal Pct.	33.8	n/a
Free Throw Pct.	69.3	n/a
Field Goal Pct. Def.	47.9	n/a
Rebounds/Game	22.6	n/a
Assists/Game	11.1	n/a
Turnovers/Game	11.0	n/a
Steals/Game	5.6	n/a
Blocks/Game	1.1	n/a
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	475-261	-
FVA Win Pct.	.646	-
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
Theda Care Orthopedics Plus



Tonight's Matchup



Tonight the Neenah Rockets return home to the friendly confines of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse to play in their third game within the last five days. The Rockets close out the non-conference portion of their 2015-16 schedule tonight as they welcome representatives of the Wisconsin Valley conference, the Lumberjacks of Wausau East High School. Following tonight's game the Rockets will close out the FVA regular season with three of their final four games on the road. Next week the Red and White will travel to Oshkosh West on Tuesday and Appleton North on Friday. The final week of February will see Neenah host Kaukauna for the regular season home finale on Tuesday, February 23, and then travel to Oshkosh North on Saturday, February 27 as the makeup date from the postponed game from two weeks ago.

The Lumberjacks come into this weekend's games with a 13-4 record on the season. Wausau East will face city rival Wausau West on Friday night and then the Rockets on Saturday. Wausau East is coached by Paul Dimka. Coach Dimka is in his third year of leadership of the Lumberjack program. Wausau East is currently in third place in the Wisconsin Valley Conference trailing both Wausau West (2nd place) and the nationally ranked, undefeated, defending WIAA state champion super power SPASH Panthers (1st place). The Lumberjacks have not played anyone in the FVA this year, so there are no common opponents to compare for this non-conference battle. Wausau East does come into tonight's game with some recent momentum, having won three of its last four games. One player that Neenah will need to keep an eye on tonight is Lumberjack star #5 J.P. Lacy. The 6'6" senior was a first team all conference selection last year in the Wisconsin Valley Conference. His game has improved this year as he is averaging 20 points per game for the Lumberjacks.

The Rockets return to the hardwood tonight after splitting a pair of games earlier this week. Big Red defeated the Patriots of Appleton East at home on Tuesday night, and then lost a tough game at Hortonville on Thursday night by the score of 67-55. A poor start to the second half spelled doom for the Rockets as the Polar Bears stretched a 35-32 halftime lead to a 47-32 advantage at the 12:00 mark of the second half. The Rockets continued to chip away at the 15-point margin cutting it down to a six point deficit (61-55) with 3:48 left in the game. However, Neenah was unable to convert on numerous offensive opportunities during the final three minutes, which ultimately led to their 12 point defeat.

However, tonight is a new day and presents a new opponent. With the WIAA seeding meeting only a week away, tonight's game presents an important opportunity for the Rockets to earn a quality non-conference win and also register their 10th win of the season.



Turning Back the Clock

Tonight we are going back 47 years to March of 1969 for an interesting match-up between Wausau High School and the Neenah Rockets at the WIAA state tournament. One of the things that made this game so intriguing was that the head coach at Wausau was the former head coach at Neenah. Head coach Doug Martin had succeeded legendary Neenah Rocket alum and coach Ole Jorgensen at the conclusion of the 1965 season. Martin coached the Rockets for three years, leading them to the WIAA state tournament in his first season in 1966. Neenah also earned conference championships during Martin's final two years of leadership in 1967 and 1968. Neenah's 1968 team (20-3) was an outstanding ball club that unfortunately was upset in their first tournament game by Appleton. In the spring of 1968, Neenah School District Superintendent Dr. Donald Scott made one of the most important hires of all time, a gentleman by the name of Ron Einerson was selected to lead the Neenah Rocket basketball program. We are not trying to go out on a limb here, but that was a pretty successful hire! Coach Einerson inherited a team that lost all five starters from the 1968 team, but come March they were executing like a finely-tuned engine.

In 1930, Neenah defeated Wausau in the first round of the WIAA state tournament and wound up winning its first WIAA basketball title. The Rockets were hoping to do the same thing in 1969. The Rockets started out hot, leading 18-10 five minutes into the game. The Rockets did not score another point in the final three minutes and Wausau went on a 12-0 spurt to take a 22-18 lead after one quarter. Wausau extended its lead to 26-20 before a John Arpin bucket ended the Wausau run and started the Rocket comeback. Consistent offensive firepower provided by Tom Kopitzke and Pat Hawley keyed a 13-6 Rocket run as Neenah headed off to the locker rooms with a 35-32 lead. Coach Einerson must have given a rousing halftime pep talk because the Rockets erupted with 19 points in the third quarter to take a sizeable nine-point lead at 54-45 into the final eight minute frame.

The Rockets continued to scorch the nets of the UW Fieldhouse in the final quarter by producing another 18 points on their way to a comfortable 72-59 victory over Wausau and a trip to the WIAA state semifinals. Amazingly, this was Neenah's first berth in the WIAA's final four since 1942. Hawley led the Rocket attack with 20 points, Arpin chipped in with 12, and Tom Koepke also added 12 points for the Red and White. For the game, the Rockets shot almost 50 percent from the field and held a 43-36 advantage on the boards. Neenah performed this well while getting limited minutes from their point guard Tom Ponto. However, another trademark over the years of Coach Einerson's teams (incredible team depth) paid off when Bob Block stepped in for Ponto and contributed nine points and played a solid floor game for the Rockets. The 1968-69 Rocket season extended two more nights. Neenah won on Friday in the state semifinals before losing a heart-breaker in the 1969 championship game.

Until Tuesday, February 23, when we welcome the Galloping Ghosts of Kaukauna to the Ron Einerson Field House, NEENAH WITH PRIDE.



Neenah Rockets

9-8 Overall, 8-6 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (1st season, 9-8 at Neenah, 112-64 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

Wausau East Lumberjacks



13-4 Overall, 5-3 Wisconsin Valley Conference

Head Coach: Paul Dimka (3rd season, 34-30 overall)

Assistant Coach: Chuck Woelfel

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
1	Thomas Dunbar		6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
2	Kyle Daniel		5-11	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Charlie Keefe		6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	JP Lacy		6-6	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Michael LaPree		6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Adam Schmidt		6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Sawyer Schlindwein		6-5	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
34	Matt Tuman		6-0	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
44	Joe Artz		6-6	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
54	Trevor Stokes		6-1	Sr.	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

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
2	Seth Hammett	G	5-9	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	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

Coaches: Kyle Popp and Ron Billman

Statistics Asst.: Nathan Laeyendecker

Wausau East Lumberjacks

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
1	Michael Sauer			Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
2	Trey Buchberger			Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Chris Nash			Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Alex Becker			Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Forrest Kronberger			Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Javoyne Jones-Shields			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Jordyn Schalow			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Tyler Meyer			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Austin Pagel			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Nathan Rodman			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
44	Nik Peterson			So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Coaches: Dan Garrett and Jared Morris

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.

Coaches: Marc Goodman and Christian Schnell

Wausau East Lumberjacks

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
2	Ryan LaCerte		Fr.
3	Jakson Meyer		Fr.
4	Sam Schubring		Fr.
10	Nick Mulder		Fr.
12	Ben Liss		Fr.
13	Dominic McCarthy		Fr.
15	Alex Brundidge		Fr.
20	Tannen Taylor		Fr.
21	Mario Duwe		Fr.
23	Jack Kane		Fr.
25	Ethan Holster		Fr.
35	Kenny Smith		Fr.
50	Logan DeMeyer		Fr.
	Mykal Johnson		Fr.

Coaches: Steve Lacerte and Jim McFarlane