



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (0-1) vs. Appleton West (1-0)

December 4, 2015 - 7:15 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse



2015-16 Schedule

Dec. 1	at Bay Port	L 67-66 ot
Dec. 4	Appleton West	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 10	at Kimberly	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 18	Oshkosh North	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 22	Fond du Lac	7:15 p.m.
Dec. 28	*vs. Madison East	8:40 p.m.
Dec. 29	*vs. Slinger	5:30 p.m.
Jan. 5	at Appleton East	7:15 p.m.
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 series with Appleton West 60-34.
- ▶ Neenah leads the WIAA post season series with Appleton West 3-2. The Terrors won the first two (1967 Regional and 1970 WIAA State Title game) and the Rockets won the last three (1972 & 1993 Regional, 1974 Regional Final).
- ▶ The longest Neenah regular season win streak in the series is six games (1974-1976 & 1996-1998).
- ▶ The longest Appleton West regular season win streak in the series is four games (2002-2003).
- ▶ Neenah's largest margin of victory (40 points) was in 1998 by the score of 71-31.
- ▶ Neenah's largest margin of defeat (27 points) was in 1993 by the score of 80-53.
- ▶ In the 99 total games that Neenah and Appleton West have played since 1965-66, only three have gone to overtime. One of those games was in the 2001-02 FVA conference opener when the Terrors prevailed in four overtimes 68-66 at the Dick Emanuel Gymnasium.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Friday, Dec. 4 Games
	W	L	W	L	
Oshkosh North	0	0	2	0	Appleton West at Neenah
Oshkosh West	0	0	2	0	Kaukauna at Appleton East
Appleton West	0	0	1	0	Oshkosh West at Fond du Lac
Kaukauna	0	0	1	0	Appleton North at Hortonville
Appleton East	0	0	2	1	Kimberly at Oshkosh North
Hortonville	0	0	1	1	Tuesday, Dec. 8 Games
Kimberly	0	0	0	0	Menasha at Fond du Lac
Neenah	0	0	0	1	Ashwaubenon at Appleton West
Fond du Lac	0	0	0	1	Thursday, Dec. 10 Games
Appleton North	0	0	0	2	Neenah at Kimberly
					Oshkosh West at Appleton North
					Hortonville at Kaukauna
					Fond du Lac at Oshkosh North
					Friday, Dec. 11 Games
					Appleton East at Appleton West



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Tale of the Tape

	Neenah	App. West
Scoring Average	66.0	65.0
Scoring Defense	67.0	56.0
Scoring Margin	-1.0	9.0
Field Goal Pct.	-	-
3pt Field Goal Pct.	-	-
Free Throw Pct.	-	-
Field Goal Pct. Def.	-	-
Rebounds/Game	-	-
Assists/Game	-	-
Turnovers/Game	-	-
Steals/Game	-	-
Blocks/Game	-	-
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	467-255	352-370
FVA Win Pct.	.647	.488
FVA Titles	13	3

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
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Tonight's Matchup



Hello basketball fans and welcome to the 2015-16 Neenah High School boys basketball season. After another memorable season in 2014-15 in which the Rockets finished with an impressive 20-5 record that ended with a heartbreaking loss to the eventual state champion SPASH Panthers 50-47, the Rocket Game Day Report is excited to be back and hopefully better than ever. The mission of this Game Day Report is simple. We want to provide you, the fan, with as much information as possible regarding tonight's game, as well as other pertinent information involving the Neenah basketball program and the Fox Valley Association. So we hope you enjoy the pregame reading material as well as watching another exciting season of Neenah Rocket basketball. One request to both the student and adult fans, please let's provide the support and encouragement to the young men and Neenah coaching staff that will represent our school district, city and community of Neenah for the next four months. The coaches and student athletes put in countless hours of practice, strength training, film study and preparation for every game. The very least we can all do is show up and support our Rockets. Consider bringing a friend or a family member to a game this year.

The Rockets will look a little different this season. Not only did Neenah graduate all five starters from last year's team, the team also lost its head coach. Mr. Scott Bork stepped down after the season due to health concerns. Big Red was an impressive 64-12 during his three year tenure as head coach. Neenah's new head coach is Mr. Lee Rabas. Coach Rabas becomes the 10th head coach in the last 90 years of Rocket basketball, however, he is the seventh since Hall of Famer Ron Einerson retired after the 1993 season. Coach Rabas is no stranger to Neenah, as he has been a long-time teacher in the District. Coach Rabas comes to the Rockets after leading the basketball program at UW-Fox Valley to a sterling 136-23 record since 2009. Before that, Coach Rabas had been an assistant at Lawrence University and the head coach at Xavier High School from 1997-2004.

The Rockets will kick off their FVA season tonight as they face coach Brennan Hussey and his Appleton West Terrors. Coach Hussey is in his ninth year of leadership of the Terror program and his team enters the 2015-16 season with some big expectations with their preseason top 10 ranking in the Wisconsin Basketball Yearbook. The Terrors will present some challenges to the Rockets tonight with their front court duo of 6'7" senior Jack Flynn and 6'5" junior Joey Reader. Add to that duo their leading returning scorer from last year Pierre Majors (9.0 ppg) and you can see why there is a lot of preseason excitement in the Land of the Terrors.

Both teams have played one non conference game this season. Interestingly, both teams played Bay Port. The Rockets lost a hard-fought overtime struggle to the Pirates on Tuesday night 67-66. Three nights earlier, the Terrors defeated the Pirates 65-56. Tonight's game will have a slightly different format as the WIAA is now playing two 18-minute halves for the first time this season instead of four eight-minute quarters. The JV teams will play two 16-minute halves.



Turning Back the Clock

Tonight we are looking back on the 1972 WIAA Regional Final played between the Appleton West Terrors and the Neenah Rockets. During the early 1970's these two programs were two of the best basketball programs in the state of Wisconsin. In 1970, Appleton West defeated Neenah by a point for the WIAA state championship. In 1971, Neenah took third place at the WIAA state tournament and Appleton West won consolation. Heading into this game the Terrors were 17-1 in WIAA tournament action between 1970-1972. The Rockets were 16-2 during that same time frame and 23-3 from 1969-1972. Perhaps even more impressively, Neenah's three tournament losses were all by two points or less. During the 1972 season the teams had split the season series with the Terrors defeating the Rockets at the O.J. Gym 52-51, and the Rockets returning the favor by defeating the Terrors 74-56 at Appleton West. Coach Einerson's Rockets entered the game on a 12-game winning streak, with an overall record of 18-2, ranked eighth in the state.

A capacity crowd was on hand at Appleton East for this heavyweight clash of basketball titans. The Terrors came out smoking hot in the first quarter as they connected on 10 of 12 shots from the perimeter and took a 21-16 lead after eight minutes of action. The Rockets responded in the second quarter by registering 26 points in the quarter on 12-for-17 shooting from the field. This level of offensive execution allowed Big Red to take a three-point lead into the half. Neenah continued its torrid shooting in the third quarter to extend its lead to 59-43 late in the third quarter. Rocket senior star Dene Storch scored seven consecutive points to extend the lead to 16. The Terrors responded and went on a 8-2 spurt in the last 60 seconds of the quarter to cut the Neenah lead to 61-51 after 24 minutes of action. Appleton West kept the pressure on Neenah the entire fourth quarter as it cut the Rocket lead to three points on four different occasions, however the Rockets went a perfect 8-for-8 from the charity stripe during the final two minutes to prevail 75-69. Neenah was led in scoring by Jim Crist and Storch who both registered 24 points. Neenah would win four more tournament games in 1972, advancing all the way back to the WIAA state title game, before suffering another heartbreaker, this time to Milwaukee Hamilton 58-52. In that title game, the Rockets were unable to hold onto an 11-point lead in the fourth quarter. Until Friday, December 18, when we welcome the Spartans of Oshkosh North, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!



Neenah Rockets

0-1 Overall, 0-0 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (1st season, 0-1 at Neenah, 103-57 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

Appleton West Terrors



1-0 Overall, 0-0 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Brennan Hussey (9th season, 93-95 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Steve Reader, Justin Wettstein

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
0	Jack Mahoney	G	6-6	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Brady Drettwan	G	5-10	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Griffin Milliren	G	6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Carter Bell	G	6-3	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Dominic Smith	F	6-1	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Pierre Majors	F	6-3	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Jeason Thomas	G	6-2	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Joey Reader	G	6-6	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
35	Josh Pitz	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
43	Jack Flynn	F	6-8	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
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

Coaches: Kyle Popp and Ron Billman

Statistics Assistant: Nathan Laeyendecker

Appleton West Terrors

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
3	Pinder Singh	G	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Will Mahoney	G	5-10	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Alex Ganzel	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Seth Kurkowski	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Kevin Pritzl	F	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Sam Watermolen	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Shane Nelson	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Blake Pahlow	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Eli Hartjes	F	6-2	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Alec Goffard	F	6-2	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
34	Alex Kiley	F	6-2	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
44	Gage Giombetti	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
55	Ryan Schmit	C	6-8	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Coaches: Jim Pitz and Bob Duimstra

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

Appleton West Terrors

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
0	Eli Vogel	5-7	Fr.
1	Donovan Thompson	5-0	Fr.
2	Seth Ward	5-10	Fr.
14	Sam Pitz	5-10	Fr.
20	Cody Nichols	5-10	Fr.
21	Colin Murray	5-9	Fr.
23	Brandon Schisel	5-11	Fr.
24	Nick Fraser	5-10	Fr.
31	Charlie Duimstra	5-9	Fr.
40	Joe Georger	6-2	Fr.
41	Spencer Mellberg	5-11	Fr.
42	John Herring	5-9	Fr.
43	Brady Jorgenson	6-1	Fr.

Coaches: Shayne Porter and Adam Mentzel

The History of the FVA (1971-2015)

The 2015-16 season marks the 46th year of boys basketball in the FVA. Listed below are the schools listed in alphabetical order based on the year the respective school joined the FVA. For example the 7 schools that were charter members are listed first, followed by Oshkosh North (joined in 1973), Two Rivers (spent 1978-79 in the FVA), Fond du Lac (joined in 1990), Appleton North (joined in 1996), and Hortonville (joined 2014). A key is included at the bottom of this chart to explain the abbreviations for the 5 columns to the right of the winning percentage.

<u>School</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Record</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>CT</u>	<u>WS</u>	<u>LS</u>	<u>WST</u>	<u>LST</u>
Appleton East	1971	406-316	.562	4	29	16	7	4
Appleton West	1971	352-370	.488	3	28	17	7	5
Kimberly	1971	416-306	.576	6	31	14	9	3
Kaukauna	1971	321-401	.445	4	21	24	12	17
Menasha	1971	172-532	.244	1	9	35	7	27
Neenah	1971	467-255	.647	13	35	10	12	3
Oshkosh West	1971	366-356	.507	8	22	23	7	7
Oshkosh North	1973	388-310	.559	5	30	13	20	8
Two Rivers	1978	6-26	.188	0	0	2	0	2
Fond du Lac	1990	289-167	.634	9	16	10	15	7
Appleton North	1996	112-248	.311	0	4	16	3	15
Hortonville	2015	5-13	.278	0	0	1	0	1

KEY

CT= # of FVA Conference Titles

WS= # of winning seasons (.500 conference record or better)

LS= # of losing seasons (< .500 conference record)

WST= # of years of the longest consecutive winning season streak in conference play

LST= # of years of longest consecutive losing season streak in conference play

Interesting Stats

- Let's analyze Neenah to start with. The Rockets joined the FVA in 1971. Our record in conference play is a league best 467-255 over the past 45 seasons. Neenah has won 13 conference titles, while finishing .500 or better 35 times and finishing below .500 10 times. Neenah's longest stretch of consecutive winning seasons was 12 years (1971-1982). Neenah's longest stretch of losing seasons was 3 years (2004-2006).
- Oshkosh West has the third most FVA titles (8). However they only have the 6th best winning percentage.
- Fond du Lac has the second most FVA titles (9), yet didn't join the FVA until 1990.
- Appleton North is the only school to never win a FVA title, that has been a conference member for over ten years.
- It is interesting how close the overall records of Appleton East and Kimberly are for the past 45 years.
- Neenah owns the best mark with 35 total seasons of finishing .500 or above.
- Menasha owns the worst mark with 35 total seasons of finishing below .500.
- Oshkosh North has the longest stretch of consecutive winning seasons in FVA history (20). That is a current mark (1996-2015). In fact, Coach Schade has not had a losing season since the Spartans went 6-10 in the 1994-95 season.
- Kaukauna is another school that is in the midst of quite a successful run with twelve consecutive winning seasons (2004-2015). Coach Schalow's last losing campaign was a 6-12 mark in 2003. This is in stark contrast to before Coach Schalow arrived in Kaukauna when the Ghosts experienced 17 consecutive losing seasons from 1979-1995.
- Fond du Lac is another school with a severe swing of success. From 1990-2004 the Cardinals experienced 15 consecutive winning seasons, 9 times winning the FVA title. In 9 of those seasons they only lost a total of two games or less. However, since 2005, Fond du Lac has only had 1 season where they finished above .500 (2008), and have experienced 7 consecutive losing seasons.
- Menasha owns the FVA record for longest stretch of losing seasons (27). The last season the Blue Jays finished with a winning mark in the FVA was in 1987 when Menasha finished 8-6. From 1988-2014 the best record the Blue Jays recorded was a 6-10 mark in 1995.

