



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (5-7) vs. Appleton East (4-7)

January 24, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Ron Einerson Fieldhouse



2016-17 Schedule

Nov. 26	at Monona Grove	W 56-50
Dec. 2	at Appleton East	L 43-46
Dec. 8	Kaukauna	L 72-92
Dec. 10	at Wausau East	L 51-71
Dec. 20	Fond du Lac	L 61-64
Dec. 22	Oshkosh West	W 63-60 ot
Dec. 27	*vs. Superior	W 47-35
Jan. 3	at Hortonville	W 59-40
Jan. 6	at Oshkosh North	L 49-76
Jan. 13	Appleton North	W 91-57
Jan. 19	at Kaukauna	L 62-89
Jan. 21	Kimberly	L 56-61
Jan. 24	Appleton East	7:30 p.m.
Jan. 28	Milwaukee Marshall	4:30 p.m.
Jan. 31	at Oshkosh West	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 3	at Fond du Lac	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Hortonville	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 9	Oshkosh North	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Appleton West	7 p.m.
Feb. 14	at Appleton North	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 17	Appleton West	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 23	at Kimberly	7:30 p.m.
Feb. 28	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 3	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 4	WIAA Regional	7 p.m.
Mar. 9	WIAA Sectional (A. North)	7 p.m.
Mar. 11	WIAA Sectional (Marshfield)	TBA
Mar. 17-18	WIAA State (Madison)	TBA

* - Game played at UW-Green Bay Kress Center

Series History

- ▶ Neenah leads the regular season series with Appleton East 53-42.
- ▶ Appleton East leads the WIAA post season series with Neenah 2-1.
- ▶ The longest Neenah regular season win streak in the series was 9 games (2012-2016).
- ▶ The longest Appleton East regular season win streak in the series is 7 games (1989-1992).
- ▶ Neenah's largest margin of victory (32 points) occurred on February 10, 2015 at Appleton East by the score of 49-17. The 17 points that Neenah allowed was the fewest points Appleton East had ever scored in the 98-game series history against Neenah.
- ▶ Neenah's largest margin of defeat (29 points) was in 1992 by the score of 72-43.
- ▶ In the 98 total games that Neenah and Appleton East have played since 1967-68, only 4 games have gone to overtime. The Patriots have beaten the Rockets in all 4 games.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Tuesday, Jan. 24 Games
	W	L	W	L	
Oshkosh North	8	0	12	0	Appleton East at Neenah
Kimberly	7	0	11	0	Appleton West at Oshkosh North
Appleton West	5	3	8	4	Kimberly at Appleton North
Fond du Lac	5	3	7	5	Oshkosh West at Fond du Lac
Kaukauna	5	4	6	5	Kaukauna at Hortonville
Oshkosh West	4	4	4	7	Friday, Jan. 27 Games
Neenah	3	6	5	7	Appleton East at Appleton North
Appleton East	2	5	4	7	Appleton West at Kimberly
Hortonville	2	6	3	8	Hortonville at Oshkosh West
Appleton North	0	10	2	11	Oshkosh North at Fond du Lac
					Saturday, Jan. 28 Games
					Milwaukee Marshall at Neenah
					Kaukauna vs. Minneapolis DeLaSalle



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fvasports.net

Tale of the Tape

(Conf. Only)	Neenah	App. East
Scoring Average	61.8	50.7
Scoring Defense	62.0	55.2
Scoring Margin	-0.2	-4.5
Field Goal Pct.	47.0	43.1
3pt Field Goal Pct.	38.9	32.1
Free Throw Pct.	68.4	63.4
Field Goal Pct. Def.	47.0	48.2
Rebounds/Game	25.2	20.0
Assists/Game	12.6	8.7
Turnovers/Game	15.7	11.2
Steals/Game	6.7	5.7
Blocks/Game	1.4	1.2
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	480-269	411-336
FVA Win Pct.	.641	.550
FVA Titles	13	4

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 back to the friendly hardwood of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse looking to snap their current two game losing streak, as they welcome head coach John Mielke and his Appleton East Patriots. Tonight's game is the second of three consecutive home games for the Rockets who will step out of conference action for the final time this year when they host Milwaukee Marshall on Saturday afternoon.

Coach Mielke is now in his 17th year of leadership of the Patriot basketball program. The former 1977 FVA first-team all-conference guard won his 200th career game as head coach of Appleton East earlier this season. Appleton East enters tonight's game 2-5 in the FVA with an overall record of 4-7. The Patriots also enter tonight's game on a losing streak, as they have lost four in a row, with their last win occurring on December 28 when they defeated Superior 44-34 at a holiday tournament at UWGB. The Patriot season has somewhat mirrored the Rocket season this year in that they have both beaten Superior in out of conference action and lost conference games to Kimberly, Oshkosh North, and Kaukauna. Where it is a little different is that the Patriots lost close games at Oshkosh West (65-62) and Hortonville (61-55) during the past week, where Neenah had beaten both of those teams earlier this year.

Of course, the Rockets probably suffered their most bitter defeat of the year to the Patriots back on December 2 in the FVA opener when Neenah squandered a double digit second half lead and lost at Appleton East 46-43. In that game the Rockets extended a four-point half time lead (27-23) to double digits before falling apart down the stretch. The inability to put the ball in the basket as well as committing key turnovers on the offensive end of the floor was as frustrating to watch as seeing the Patriots hit several key shots which ultimately led to the Rocket demise in the three-point loss. However, the joy of playing a balanced conference schedule is that tonight is a chance for revenge for the Rockets. The Patriots present a very balanced scoring attack for the Rockets to defend tonight. East has five players that average between eight and ten points a game this season. Those players are four seniors (#4 6'0" guard Nathan Brice, #11 6'3" forward Matt Polfuss, #20 6'1" forward Blair Murphy Pociask, #22 6'3" forward Jason Gurholt) and a sophomore (#30 6'1" forward Bobby Derfus). Those five players lead Coach Mielke's patient offensive attack that stresses passing, cutting, floor spacing, good ball movement and taking the best available shot.

Tonight is a critical game for the Rockets. With a win, Neenah can earn revenge for its loss to Appleton East on December 2, move its conference record up to 4-6, as well as its overall record to 6-7 with Milwaukee Marshall coming to town on Saturday.



Turning Back the Clock

Tonight we are going back 18 years to January 1999 and an important FVA matchup between the Appleton East Patriots and the Neenah Rockets played at the Armstrong Fieldhouse. This 1999 season was one of unexpected change for the Neenah boys' basketball program, when Head Coach Tim Hopfensperger surprisingly stepped down in October. The Neenah administration hired former Wisconsin Badger sharp shooter Tim Locum to lead the program on a one-year interim basis. Locum inherited a program that had tied for the FVA title in 1998 and lost in the WIAA sectional final to conference rival Fond du Lac. The 1999 team was a year away from competing for a FVA title or a trip to Madison with four of their key contributors (Sam Oatman, Aaron Shaw, Dusty Pagel and Derek Huebner) all being juniors. Neenah got off to a good start in 1999 when it won both of its non-conference games with come-from-behind victories at home over Madison Edgewood (54-51) and Appleton Xavier (67-60). They opened the FVA season by losing their first four games (three of them to FVA heavyweights Oshkosh West, Fond du Lac and Appleton East). They then won two in a row (Kimberly and Kaukauna), before losing their next two games (Appleton West and Oshkosh North). So the Rockets were 4-6 halfway through the season. The weekend before they played the Patriots, they beat Menasha and Kaukauna to even their mark at 6-6. The Rockets had already played Appleton East earlier in the season and Coach Ron Parker's Patriots soundly defeated the Rockets 78-61 at Appleton East. This was an Appleton East team that was expected to challenge state powers Oshkosh West and Fond du Lac for the 1999 FVA title. Coach Parker's 23rd edition of Appleton East basketball boasted two first team all conference players in senior 6'10" center Dave Mader, and senior 6'1" guard Rob Nenahlo. The future Badger averaged 13 points and 8 boards a game, while Nenahlo averaged 15 points a game for the Patriots.

Appleton East controlled the first half. The Patriots led 16-10 after eight minutes of action and held the Rockets to a measly three points in the second quarter as they headed into halftime with a commanding 27-13 lead. The Rockets struggled to contain Mader in the post, as he scored 13 out of East's 27 total points in the first half. Whatever Coach Locum tried to do to fire up the troops at halftime didn't work as East extended their lead to 18 points halfway through the third quarter. At that point, a frustrated Locum benched all five starters. The Neenah bench responded and cut the Patriot lead to 34-21 at the end of three quarters. Then, the Red and White woke up the echoes of their glorious past in the fourth quarter. Neenah went on a 22-4 run during the first seven minutes of the fourth quarter and led 43-38 with under a minute to go. Neenah connected on four three-point field goals (Shaw 3, Oatman 1) during this amazing run. Appleton East responded when senior Chris Vandenberg hit a three-pointer with under 12 seconds to go to cut the lead to 43-41, however that was the final basket of the game as the Rockets prevailed 43-41. Oatman had 13 points and four steals for the Rockets while Shaw had 13 points and nine rebounds for Neenah. This win would propel the Rockets into winning five of their last seven regular season games and finish tied for fourth in the FVA with a 10-8 conference mark and overall record of 12-8. Until Saturday, January 28, when we welcome Milwaukee Marshall, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!



Neenah Rockets

5-7 Overall, 3-6 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (2nd season, 18-18 at Neenah, 121-74 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Al Krueger, Randy Ropella, Gage Moede

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
2	Josh Mericle	G	6-1	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Joe Jung	G	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	A.J. Dehn	G	5-11	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Chance Pronschinske	G	5-11	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Sam Borchers	G	5-11	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Rayce Prosser	G	6-0	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Matthew Pavletich	F	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Logan Morrow	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Jordan Mascal	F	6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Zavier Sims	F	6-4	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Anthony Bartman	C	6-5	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Peter Herberg	F	6-3	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
45	Greg Lenhart	F	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Appleton East Patriots



4-7 Overall, 2-5 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: John Mielke (17th season, 201-177 at Appleton East, 348-253 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Steve Coenen, Michael Mullins, Tom Neises, Tim Thompson

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
4	Nathan Brice	G	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Braden Hutter	G	5-7	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Mitchell Nowak	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Matt Polfuss	F	6-3	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Lucas Kotarek	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Trey Thompson	G	5-7	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Drew Flores	G	5-11	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Tim Stadler	F	5-10	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Blair Murphy Pociask	F	6-1	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Evan Ourada	F	6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Jason Gurholt	F	6-3	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Nic Van Abel	F	6-5	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Kaden Clark	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Bobby Derfus	F	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Jed Leisner	F	6-0	So.	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 - Head Coach: Christian Schnell Assistant Coach: Ron Billman

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
2	Sam Dietrich	G	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Peyton Mellenthin	G	5-10	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Hayden Jones	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Grayson Schroeder	G	5-11	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Jack Van Dyke	G	6-5	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Dan Craig	G	5-8	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Mason Morrow	G	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Max Klesmit	G	6-1	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Tim Nault	F	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Marcus Hickey	F	6-2	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
35	Logan Eiden	F	6-0	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
41	Andy Jensen	F	6-1	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
43	Tyrese Taylor	C	6-4	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
	Ethan Parker	F	6-3	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Appleton East Patriots - Head Coach: Jake Schneider Assistant Coach: Jake Coenen

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
4	Aaron Al-Ibrahim	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Grady Dimond	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Jack Habeck	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Jacob Lawrence	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Josh Hilker	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Noah Berven	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Nathan Lemons	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Zinou Bentalla	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Sam Gurholt	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Trey Nicholson	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Jackson Mangold	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Freshmen

Neenah Rockets

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
2	Davis Greene	5-11	Fr.
3	Michael Monroe	5-6	Fr.
4	Cole Schultz	5-7	Fr.
5	Dylan Anderson	5-11	Fr.
11	Rex Bayer	5-8	Fr.
13	Kameron Kellogg	5-7	Fr.
15	Evan Webster	5-8	Fr.
21	Brandon Koga	6-0	Fr.
23	Bryce Henderson	5-10	Fr.
25	Garrett Luepke	6-0	Fr.
31	Dom Veaser	5-8	Fr.
33	Sam Jung	5-10	Fr.
35	Hayden Schoultz	5-11	Fr.
43	Jacob Kaszuba	6-0	Fr.
45	Josh Brazee	6-1	Fr.

Appleton East Patriots

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
5	Deion Espinoza		Fr.
11	Giovanni Arizola		Fr.
12	Joey Schneider		Fr.
13/15	Devin Xiong		Fr.
20	Drew Carpenter		Fr.
21	Shayne Lamb		Fr.
22	Andrew Diener		Fr.
24	Sam Crum		Fr.
25/35	Dylan Timmer		Fr.
30	Spencer Meyer		Fr.
31	Jack VanDenHeuvel		Fr.
32	Evan Glaser		Fr.
33	Ricky Thao		Fr.
34	Grant Patzlaff		Fr.
52	Seth Paschke		Fr.

Coaches: Marc Goodman, Todd Mueske & Rich Frost

Coaches: Tim Carpenter, Sam Mader & Austin Meyer