



ROCKET GAMEDAY

Neenah (8-7) vs. Appleton East (5-11)

February 9, 2016 - 7:15 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	7:15 p.m.
Feb. 11	at Hortonville	7:15 p.m.
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 leads the regular season series with Appleton East 52-41.
- ▶ Appleton East leads the WIAA postseason series with Neenah 2-1.
- ▶ The longest Neenah regular season win streak in the series is 8 games (2012-current).
- ▶ 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 last season 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 has scored in the 96-game series history against Neenah.
- ▶ Neenah's largest margin of defeat (29 points) was in 1992 by the score of 72-43.
- ▶ In the 96 total games that Neenah and Appleton East have played, only four games have gone to overtime. The Patriots have won all four games.

Around the FVA

	Conf.		Overall		Tuesday, Feb. 9 Games
	W	L	W	L	Appleton East at Neenah
Kaukauna	11	1	15	1	Oshkosh West at Kimberly
Appleton West	9	3	12	4	Fond du Lac at Kaukauna
Oshkosh North	8	4	12	4	Hortonville at Oshkosh North
Hortonville	8	4	11	5	Appleton North at Appleton West
Kimberly	7	5	10	6	Thursday, Feb. 11 Games
Neenah	7	5	8	7	Neenah at Hortonville
Oshkosh West	4	8	7	9	Kimberly at Appleton North
Fond du Lac	4	8	6	10	Appleton West at Kaukauna
Appleton East	2	10	5	11	Appleton East at Fond du Lac
Appleton North	0	12	2	14	Oshkosh West at Oshkosh North
					Saturday, Feb. 13 Game
					Wausau East at Neenah



Follow the FVA at:
fvasports.net

Tale of the Tape

(Conf. Only)	Neenah	App. East
Scoring Average	58.3	47.2
Scoring Defense	61.5	53.9
Scoring Margin	-3.2	-6.7
Field Goal Pct.	43.9	39.6
3pt Field Goal Pct.	31.3	36.7
Free Throw Pct.	70.5	69.2
Field Goal Pct. Def.	47.1	45.0
Rebounds/Game	23.1	20.0
Assists/Game	10.2	8.8
Turnovers/Game	11.7	9.8
Steals/Game	6.0	4.3
Blocks/Game	1.3	1.1
All-Time History:		
FVA Record	474-260	408-326
FVA Win Pct.	.646	.556
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

N Tonight's Matchup

Tonight the Neenah Rockets return home to the friendly hardwood of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse to play the Appleton East Patriots. The Rockets will be busy this week playing three games over the next six days. After tonight's game, the Rockets will travel to Hortonville to face the Polar Bears on Thursday night and then return back home on Saturday night to play the Lumberjacks of Wausau East in their final non conference game of the regular season.

The Appleton East Patriot basketball program is still led by head coach John Mielke. The former Appleton West Terror standout is now in his 16th season at the helm of the Patriot program. The Patriots enter tonight's game with a 5-11 overall record (2-10 in the FVA), but don't be fooled by their record. Appleton East has suffered a number of close losses over the past few weeks to the heavyweights of the FVA. For example, the Patriots lost at Hortonville by three (50-47), at Kaukauna by nine (78-69), against Appleton West by two (33-31), and against Oshkosh North by six (49-43). And just in case you forgot from last month, the Rockets trailed the majority of the game at Appleton East on January 5, before pulling out a last-second 54-52 victory over the Patriots. Bottom line, anytime you face the discipline and fundamentals of a John Mielke coached team, you better be prepared to fight every possession for the entire 36 minutes of a ball game. The Patriots have three individuals that average double figures in scoring on the season. Those three players are #4 junior guard Nathan Brice (13.7 ppg), #12 senior guard Trent Brunner (11.1 ppg), and #15 senior forward Parker Ourada (9.9 ppg).

The Rockets enter tonight's game on a four-game conference losing streak. This is the longest losing streak since the beginning of the 2011-12 season when the Rockets also lost four games in a row in December of 2011. The four game losing streak has dropped the Rockets from a first place tie to currently being tied for fifth place in the always competitive FVA. The Rockets have experienced a little bit of everything during their four-game losing streak ranging from their inability to get a basket when they really need one, to their breakdowns on defense in trying to stop their opponents from scoring. In their most recent losses to Kimberly and Fond du Lac, the Rockets have been held under 50 points in back-to-back games for the first time all season. The Rockets need to find a way to earn a much needed win tonight over the Patriots. A win could give the Rockets a little boost of confidence as they head to Hortonville Thursday night to face a talented Polar Bear team.



Turning Back the Clock

Tonight we are going back 37 years to January of 1979 for a key game between the Appleton East Patriots and Neenah Rockets played in front of a packed Armstrong Field House on the campus of Neenah High School. Both teams entered this game tied for first place in the FVA with identical 8-2 records. Head coach Ron Parker's Patriots had upset the Rockets earlier in the season by two points (65-63) in overtime. In that game the Patriots scored a basket with two seconds left in regulation to force overtime. Ironically, Appleton East did the same thing in overtime, when they hit a jump shot with two seconds left in overtime to beat Neenah. That Appleton East victory snapped Neenah's amazing 29-game consecutive win streak which dated back to March of 1977 when Madison LaFollette defeated the Rockets by three (46-43) in the WIAA state semifinals.

The Rockets erupted out of the gate by scoring the first 10 points of the game and taking a 14-10 lead after eight minutes of action. Neenah maintained a slim two-point margin at the half 28-26. The Patriots inched a point closer in the third quarter cutting the Neenah advantage to a single point 41-40. Appleton East had played a zone defense during the game to try to control the explosive Neenah offense. Through three quarters it had worked. The Patriots finally tied the game at 46-46 with 5:15 left to go in regulation. Then the scoring action happened fast and furious throughout the remainder of the game. The Rockets responded with a 7-0 spurt over the next two minutes to take a 53-46 advantage. Five of those seven points were from senior star Mike Kreklow. Senior guard Dan Nordness added the other bucket. Four of the next six points were scored by the Patriots to cut the Neenah lead to 55-50 with 1:44 left in regulation. Kreklow scored again with a basket and a free throw to put Neenah back up eight (58-50). Two converted free throws by Patriots Dave Callaway and one by Bob Macke brought the Patriots to within five (58-53) with a 1:18 left in regulation. Neenah broke the Appleton East full court pressure and Kreklow found senior Tim Stoesz for a basket to put Neenah ahead 60-53. A Patriot basket by Jerry Post and a Rocket layup by senior all-conference second team member Kevin Rohde concluded the scoring for the night with the Rockets hanging on for a 62-55 hard-earned victory over the Patriots.

As he did throughout the entire 1979 season, Kreklow led the way for Neenah. On this night he tallied 23 points. Kreklow would lead the conference in scoring (24.7 ppg), and rebounding on his way to collecting the FVA Player of the Year award, as well as being recognized as first-team all-state. Following high school graduation, he played two years at Wisconsin before finishing his college career at Drake. This was an important victory for the Rockets as they went on to win their final six games of the regular season to claim their fifth consecutive FVA conference title. Neenah finished the conference season with a 14-2 record, two games ahead of Menasha and Appleton East at 12-4. The Rockets' mark of five consecutive seasons winning the FVA title is the second longest streak in FVA history. Fond du Lac won outright or shared six consecutive titles from 1993-1998. Until Saturday, February 13th, when the Lumberjacks of Wausau East come to town, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!



Neenah Rockets

8-7 Overall, 7-5 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (1st season, 8-7 at Neenah, 111-63 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 East Patriots



5-11 Overall, 2-10 Fox Valley Association

Head Coach: John Mielke (16th season, 196-164 at Appleton East, 343-240 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Aaron Shaw, Michael Mullins, Tom Neises, Tim Carpenter

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
4	Nathan Brice	G	6-0	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Braden Hutter	G	5-7	So.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Andy Smith	S	5-10	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Matt Polfuss	S	6-2	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Trent Bruncker	G	5-9	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Brady Reichardt	S	6-2	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Drew Flores	G	5-11	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Parker Ourada	F	6-3	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Blair Murphy-Pociask	S	6-1	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Mitchell Nowak	G	5-11	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Cole Krause	F	6-0	Sr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Kaden Clark	F	6-3	Fr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Tim Stadler	F	5-10	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Tray Thompson	G	5-7	Jr.	2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Tanner Zielke	F	6-4	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

Appleton East Patriots

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-pointers	3-pointers	Free Throws	Fouls
4	Lucas Kotarek	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Bobby Derfus	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Darquise Winters	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Adrian Banda	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Kevin Thao	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Jacob Thorstenson	G			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Evan Ourada	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Ben Davis	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
30	Michael Sheffler	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Jeb Leisner	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345
50	Nick Van Abel	F			2222222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Coaches: Jeff Beschta, Jake Schneider and Zach Williams

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 East Patriots

No.	Player	Ht.	Yr.
3	AJ Sweetalla		
4	Jack Habeck		
11	Jacob Lawrence		
12	Aaron Al-Ibrahim		
13	Jordan Jude		
20	Nathan Lemons		
21	Gavin Krause		
22	Josh Hilker		
23	Sam Gurholt		
24	Zinou Bentaalla		
33	Trey Nicholson		
34	Noah Berven		
42	Peyton Nesemeier		
44	Jackson Mangold		

Coaches: Steve Coenen, Jake Coenen and Phil Gurholt