

VARSITY ROSTERS

NEENAH Rockets

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-point	3-point	Free throws	Fouls
2	Jake Hablewitz	G	5-11	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Sam Dietrich	G	6-2	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Garrett Luepke	F	6-4	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Max Klesmit	G	6-3	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Michael Monroe	G	5-10	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Grayson Schroeder	G	6-2	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Mason Morrow	G	6-3	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Ethan Parker	F	6-4	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Rex Bayer	G	5-11	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Dajarie Chester	G	5-10	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Logan Morrow	F	6-5	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Jacob Dietz	G	6-2	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Peyton Mellenthin	G	6-0	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Michael Valencia	G	6-2	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
31	Bryce Henderson	F	6-2	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Marcus Hickey	F	6-4	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
34	Tyrese Taylor	C	6-4	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Head Coach: Lee Rabas (4th season, 51-38 at Neenah, 154-94 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Al Krueger, Randy Ropella, Ron Billman

APPLETON EAST Patriots

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	2-point	3-point	Free throws	Fouls
1	Bobby Derfus	F	6-1	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Jackson Mangold	F	6-2	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Mitchell Nowak	G	6-0	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Giovanni Arizola	G	6-0	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Lucas Kotarek	G	6-1	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Nathan Lemons	G	6-0	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Evan Glaser	F	6-6	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Drew Carpenter	F	6-1	Jr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Josh Hilker	F	6-3	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
22	Sam Gurholt	F	6-3	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Kaden Clark	G	6-4	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Trey Nicholson	F	6-2	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
32	Jed Leisner	F	6-4	Sr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Head Coach: Adam Maulick (1st season, 10-8 at Appleton East, 44-64 overall)

Assistant Coaches: Anthony Miller

JUNIOR VARSITY ROSTERS

NEENAH Rockets

No.	Name	Pos.	Yr.	2-point	3-point	Free throws	Fouls
2	Zach Steigenberger	G	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
3	Ryan Janssen	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
4	Adam Koellermeier	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Kaden Lasee	G	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Adam Laeyendecker	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Chevalier Emery Jr.	G	Fr	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Devin Vinci	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Theo Kotchen	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Austin Schumacher	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Charlie Wolfgram	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Carter Thomas	F	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Ethan Noe	F	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
35	Collin Parker	G	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
41	Tyler Schraven	F	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
43	Brady Frost	C	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Head Coach: Todd Mueske

Assistant Coaches: Jake Coenen, Rich Frost

APPLETON EAST Patriots

No.	Name	Ht.	Yr.	2-point	3-point	Free throws	Fouls
4	Tyler Borowski	6-0	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
5	Collin Ottestad	5-10	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
10	Reese Meyer	5-10	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
11	Wesley Pyle	6-2	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
12	Jasiah Nolan	6-0	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
13	Bennett Peterson	6-2	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
14	Jackson Kasmarek	6-0	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
15	Kenana Rollins	6-0	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
20	Morgan Kampel	5-11	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
21	Tyler Birn	6-4	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
23	Thomas Schiermeister	6-5	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
24	Carter Thompson	6-2	Fr.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
25	Jeffry Fuhrmann	6-6	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345
33	Nicholas Bouvat	6-1	So.	22222222	333333	1111111111	12345

Head Coach: Ben Lamers

FRESHMEN ROSTERS

NEENAH

No.	Name	Pos.
2	Matt Jung	G
3	Payton Kramer	G
4	Cayden Retzki	G
5	Mason Hobbs	G
11	Will Kordus	G
13	Bryce Braunel	G
15	Evan Paque	G
21	Leyton Daharsh	G
23	Will Riemenapp	G
25	Victor Guerra	G
31	Eli Schmidt	F
33	JJ Paider	F
35	Gradin Taschner	G
45	Kaleb Weyenberg	C

Head Coach: Marc Goodman

Assistant Coach: Craig Begalle

2018-19 Neenah Schedule

11/24	at Green Bay Preble	W	71-49
11/27	Oshkosh West	L	76-78
11/30	Hortonville	W	71-67 ot
12/1	Wisconsin Rapids	W	90-59
12/7	at Oshkosh North	W	63-61
12/11	at Appleton West	L	76-82
12/14	Kimberly	L	57-60
12/21	Kaukauna	W	88-76
12/29	at Wausau East	W	69-55
1/5	at Appleton East	W	81-66
1/8	Fond du Lac	W	78-43
1/11	at Hortonville	W	73-51
1/15	at Appleton North	W	54-27
1/18	Oshkosh North	L	60-63
1/25	at Kimberly	L	77-80
2/1	at Kaukauna	L	86-90 ot
2/4	Appleton West	W	94-84
2/7	Appleton East	7:30 p.m.	
2/9	Deerfield, Ill. (at Racine)	8 p.m.	
2/12	at Oshkosh West	7:30 p.m.	
2/15	at Fond du Lac	7:30 p.m.	
2/19	Appleton North	7:30 p.m.	
3/1	Regional	7 p.m.	
3/2	Regional	7 p.m.	
3/7	Sectional (at Osh. West)	7 p.m.	
3/9	Sectional (at Wis. Rapids)	7 p.m.	
3/15-16	State (at Madison)	TBA	

APPLETON EAST

No.	Name
4	Ryan Mesa
10	Logan Neill
11	Jackson Parker
12	Caleb McClone
13	Zamarion Weaver
14	Andrew Basler
15	Travis Piepenhagen
15	Mason Labrec
20	Aaron Jones
22	Tyler Parks
23	Joseph Aho
24	Maddox Erickson
25	Miichael O’Hagen
31	Lucas Wittak
32	Aidan O’Hagen
	Bradley Verbeten

Head Coach: Eric Allen



	Conf.		Overall	
	W	L	W	L
Kimberly	12	2	15	2
Appleton West	10	4	14	4
Kaukauna	10	4	13	4
Neenah	8	6	11	6
Appleton East	7	7	10	8
Oshkosh North	7	7	10	8
Hortonville	6	8	7	9
Oshkosh West	5	9	7	11
Appleton North	5	9	7	11
Fond du Lac	0	14	1	17

Tonight's Games

Appleton East at Neenah

Appleton North at Oshkosh North

Appleton West at Kaukauna

Fond du Lac at Kimberly

Hortonville at Oshkosh West

Saturday, Feb. 9 Games

Marian Catholic (Ill.) vs. Kaukauna

Hortonville at Rhinelander

Deerfield (Ill.) vs. Neenah

Monday, Feb. 11 Games

Kimberly at West De Pere

Fond du Lac at Kaukauna

TONIGHT’S Matchup

Tonight the Neenah Rockets return to the friendly confines of the Ron Einerson Fieldhouse to face head coach Adam Maulick and his red-hot Appleton East Patriots. The Patriots come into tonight’s game victorious in five of their last six games with wins over Fond du Lac, Hortonville, Oshkosh North, Oshkosh West and SPASH. Coach Maulick is in his first season leading the Patriot program and has already won more conference games this year (seven) than Appleton East has won in any of the past four years. Rebuilding is nothing new for Coach Maulick as he spent his last four years coaching at Menasha where he made the Bluejays competitive, winning 34 games (for comparison, Menasha went a combined 34-230 in the 12 prior seasons). The Patriots are led by a core group of seniors. Leading the charge is (#24, 6’4” guard) Kaden Clark who is averaging over 19 points a game this season. He is joined by a quartet of seniors that all average just under ten points a game in (#10, 6’0” guard) Mitchell Nowak, (#32, 6’4” post) Jed Leisner, (#1, 6’1” forward) Bobby Derfus and (#12, 6’1” guard) Lucas Kotarek.

The Rockets are in the midst of a busy eight days. After tonight’s game, Neenah will journey to Racine on Saturday to participate in the Wisconsin/Illinois Border Battle, travel to Oshkosh West next Tuesday for a makeup game and then trek to Fond du Lac next Friday to face the Cardinals. Neenah will conclude the regular season at home against Appleton North on Tuesday, February 19. Hard to believe that we are in the homestretch of the 2019 basketball season. Speaking of things hard to believe, the Rockets or shall we say “Running Rockets” are lighting up the scoreboard unlike anything this basketball program has seen in decades. Neenah’s offensive fireworks in the last two games (86 in a defeat to Kaukauna, 94 in a win over Appleton

West) caused us to do some research. The last time Neenah scored over 80 points in consecutive conference games was in 1998 when the conference champion Rockets defeated state ranked powers Fond du Lac (82-70 in Neenah) and Oshkosh West (80-69 in Oshkosh) on consecutive nights on Valentine’s Day weekend. How about the last time Neenah scored 94 or more points in a conference game? That happened twice in 1988 when Coach Einerson’s state runner-up powerhouse defeated Appleton West 95-65 and Menasha 97-61. The last time the Rockets hit the century mark in a conference game was in the 1981 conference opener when the conference champion Rockets trampled the Kaukauna Galloping Ghosts 103-75. Just in case someone is wondering, the most points Neenah has ever scored in a conference game was in 1970 when the state runner-up Rockets exterminated the Green Bay Preble Hornets 126-75. That was Neenah’s final season in the Fox River Valley Conference.

One final thought on tonight’s game. Expect this game to be a battle for 36 minutes. When the Rockets defeated the Patriots in Appleton on January 5, that game was fiercely contested with numerous lead changes for the first 34 minutes, before the Rockets dominated with a closing run to finish the game. Expect a similar competitive ballgame tonight.



Athletic Training Services
provided by Heidi Neustifter and
Theda Care Orthopedics Plus

Tale of the Tape (FVA Games)

	Neenah	App. East
Scoring Average	73.9	61.1
Scoring Defense	66.3	62.7
Scoring Margin	+7.6	-1.6
Field Goal Pct.	47.0	47.4
3pt Field Goal Pct.	39.7	25.6
Free Throw Pct.	72.5	65.3
Field Goal Pct. Def.	46.9	46.7
Rebounds/Game	28.8	26.7
Assists/Game	15.8	14.9
Turnovers/Game	13.6	11.4
Steals/Game	7.6	7.9
Blocks/Game	1.1	1.1

All-Time History:

FVA Record	504-286	423-367
FVA Win Pct.	.638	.535
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!

TURNING Back the Clock

Tonight, we are going back to the 1982 FVA season. Yet, to really appreciate the 1982 Rockets, we need to go back one season. In 1981, Neenah won the FVA with a 12-2 conference mark, finished the season with an overall record of 19-3, ranked fifth in the final state basketball poll. Neenah lost a lot to graduation heading into the 1982 season. Gone were first-team all-conference players Jeff Dehn, and Steve Coenen. In fact, out of the 1464 points scored during the 1981 season, only players who scored 74 total points would be returning. However, the FVA was beginning to learn the true magic of the Neenah basketball program was because of the depth of the total program. A number of players who had finished 14-2 for Neenah’s 1981 Junior Reserve team were ready to step up and make plays for the 1982 Rockets.

Tonight we are reviewing the December 11, 1981 battle between Appleton East and Neenah. Both the Patriots and Rockets were expected to be two of the top four contenders for the conference title. Appleton East entered 2-0 in conference and 3-1 on the young season. The Rockets were perfect at 2-0 in league play and 4-0 overall. The game lived up to the hype. After eight minutes of action the score was tied at 10-10. Appleton East then demonstrated their scoring punch during the second quarter when they outscored the Rockets 18-6 to take a 28-16 advantage into halftime. The Patriots continued to dominate and extended their lead to 32-16 halfway through the third quarter. Then, the Neenah Rocket defense stepped up! By forcing turnovers and missed shots by the Patriots, the Rockets were able to chip away at the 16-point margin. Neenah had finally cut the deficit under 10 when it scored to make it 34-26 with 30 seconds to go in the third quarter. Next, one of the key plays of the game was made by Rocket senior guard Jeff Gerhardt. While Appleton East was holding for the last shot of the third quarter, Gerhardt stole the ball and raced the length of the court to make the layup and beat the buzzer. Neenah only trailed 34-28 heading into the decisive quarter.

With some game changing momentum, and sensing the fans in the Neenah fieldhouse were ready to explode, Coach Einerson’s Big Red Machine jumped on the Patriots with a 12-4 run to start the fourth quarter and take the lead 40-38. The Patriots responded with a John Smith layup to tie it at 40-40 with 3:55 left in the game. However, these Rockets didn’t erase a 16-point second half deficit to make the game competitive. Neenah responded with six consecutive points, including two free throws by senior first-team all-conference guard Omar Atassi. Later in the quarter, Atassi hit a jump shot to stretch the lead with 1:35 left in the game. The Patriots couldn’t recover from the Rocket spurt and never got closer than three points. The final margin was a 50-44 win for the Rockets. This game would turn out to be a key win for the 1982 Rockets. Neenah would win the FVA title with a 12-2 conference mark. Appleton East would finish second at 10-4. The title was Neenah’s seventh FVA title in eight seasons. The 1982 Rockets would finish their season 15-5. Until Tuesday, February 19 when we welcome the Lightning of Appleton North, NEENAH WITH PRIDE!

SERIES History

- ◆ Tonight’s game is the 100th regular season meeting between the two rivals. Neenah leads the regular season series with Appleton East 57-42.
- ◆ The WIAA postseason series is tied at 2-2. Appleton East won the first two games (1993 sectional and 1996 regional) and Neenah has won the last two (2014 regional and 2017 regional).
- ◆ 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 was 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 their series history against Neenah.
- ◆ Neenah’s largest margin of defeat (29 points) was in 1992 by the score of 72-43.
- ◆ In the 103 total games that Neenah and Appleton East have played since Appleton East opened in 1967, only five games have gone to overtime. The Rockets are 1-4 in those games with their single victory coming on March 3, 2017 in the WIAA regional semifinal which was a 56-52 Neenah comeback victory in overtime.



NEENAH VS. APPLETON EAST
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2019
RON EINERSON FIELDHOUSE

NEENAH 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

Neenah Boys Basketball Booster Club Mission Statement:

To advance the boys basketball program of the NJSD with moral, physical and financial assistance.