



# HOOP HISTORIANS NEWS

*Committed to promoting goodwill through basketball*

Volume # 183 – January, 2026

## HOOP HISTORIAN HONORED WTH GYM FLOOR DEDICATION



For many years, Shamokin Area's basketball gymnasium has been referred to as "The Purple Palace." While that nickname will stay in all likelihood, the actual court now has a more official name: "Coach Klebon Court". The Indians held a special ceremony recently dedicating the court in honor of its longtime coach and Hoop Historian **Joe Klebon**. Joe was the Head basketball Coach at his alma mater, Shamokin Area High School in Coal Township, Pennsylvania, from 1986 to 2012. Klebon was also Head Coach at Warrior Run High School for eight seasons. As head coach at these locations, Klebon amassed 581 career victories in a 32-year head coaching career. At Shamokin, Coach Klebon guided the Indians to ten league division titles, eight District championships and twenty-one different tournament crowns. Congratulations, Coach K!

**Don't miss the next  
Hoop Historians  
Roundtable Discussion  
on Zoom which will  
take place on  
Sunday, February 1**



## HOOP HISTORIANS NEWS

Volume # 183 – January, 2026

## HOOP HISTORIANS FINAL FOUR HEADQUARTERS ANNOUNCED



The **Hampton Inn Indianapolis Downtown** Across From Circle Centre, 105 S Meridian Street has been selected as the official headquarters of the Hoop Historians during Final Four Week. This location was also the site of the group headquarters for the Final Fours in 2006 and 2010. Additional information about the week's activity schedule will be communicated to the group in the coming weeks.

### NCAA TOURNAMENT DATES & SITES

**First Four -- Tuesday, March 17, 2026 & Wednesday, March 18, 2026:**

University of Dayton Arena -- Dayton, Ohio

**First & Second Round -- Thursday, March 19, 2026 & Saturday, March 21, 2026:**

KeyBank Center -- Buffalo, New York

Bon Secours Wellness Arena -- Greenville, South Carolina

Chesapeake Energy Arena -- Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Moda Center -- Portland, Oregon

**First & Second Round -- Friday, March 20, 2026 & Sunday, March 22, 2026:**

Amalie Arena -- Tampa, Florida

Wells Fargo Center -- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Viejas Arena -- San Diego, California

Enterprise Center -- Saint Louis, Missouri

**Regionals -- Thursday, March 26, 2026 & Saturday, March 28, 2026:**

Toyota Center -- Houston, Texas

SAP Center -- San Jose, California

**Regionals -- Friday, March 27, 2026 & Sunday, March 29, 2026:**

United Center -- Chicago, Illinois

Capital One Arena -- Washington, DC

**Final Four -- Saturday, April 4, 2026 & Monday, April 6, 2026:**

Lucas Oil Stadium -- Indianapolis, Indiana

## FINAL FOUR WEEK FULL OF ACTIVITY IN INDIANAPOLIS



**INDIANAPOLIS**

There will be a lot going on in the "Crossroads of America" during Final Four Week, but basketball will be first and foremost in the greater Indianapolis area when the Final Four comes to town. Along with the Final Four games which will be played at Lucas Oil Stadium on Saturday, April 4 and Monday, April 6, three other tournaments will crown their champions on Sunday, April 5 at the Gainbridge Arena. The NCAA Division II and Division III title games are scheduled for that afternoon, followed by the championship game of the National Invitational Tournament later that evening. The semifinals of NIT will take place on Thursday, April 2 at historic Hinkle Fieldhouse on the campus of Butler University. The Indiana Convention Center will host both the National Association of Basketball Coaches Convention, as well as the Men's Final Four Fan Fest. And for those of you who want something other than basketball, you can attend the free March Madness Music Festival at the American Legion Mall, for three days of electrifying music featuring unforgettable acts by A-list artists, all set during the most exciting weekend in college sports.





## HOOP HISTORIANS PHOTO GALLERY

Send your pictures to:  
[hoophistorians@gmail.com](mailto:hoophistorians@gmail.com)

Looks like the Hoop Historians have traveled to the four corners of the country during this basketball season:



**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS:** Honorary Hoop Historian Jim Harrick (middle) takes time to pose with Tracy Murray and Tyrus Edney, two members of his 1995 National Championship team.



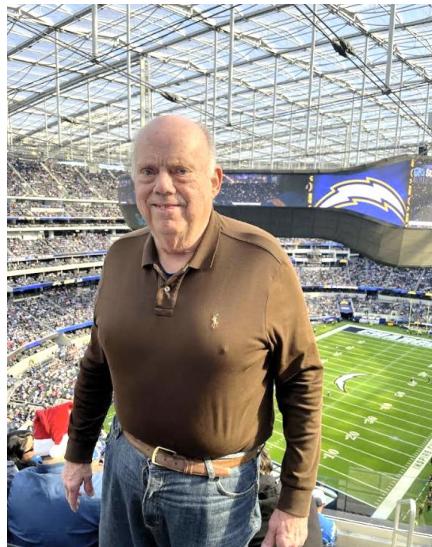
**BADGERS & BRUINS:** Hoop Historians Brian Burmeister and Doug Erickson with Eric Schulz (left), are at the UCLA-Wisconsin game in Madison.



**PLAY BALL:** Hoop Historians Chairman of the Board Don MacKay is hard at work as the Public Address Announcer for the Men's Senior Baseball League Tournament in Florida. Over 90 teams from multiple countries participated in the juncture.



**HISTORY 101:** Hoop Historians Joe Spagnolo and Ted Reineking visit with Illinois Basketball Museum Chairman Bruce Fircbau (left) at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic.



**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL:** Hoop Historian Larry Baker spent some of his Christmas holiday at the Los Angeles Chargers game at So-Fi Stadium.



**SMILE FOR THE CAMERA:** Hoop Historian Mike Kerry poses with the championship trophy of the Rady Children's Invitational during Thanksgiving Week in San Diego. This year's tournament winner was TCU who defeated Florida and Wisconsin in the two-day event.



**EMERALD CITY MEETING:** Hoop Historians Doug Erickson and Al Sack in Seattle. Doug is in his 34<sup>th</sup> year working for UCLA.



**ON THE GO:** Honorary Hoop Historian Jim Harrick (middle) really gets around. He is with two of the Bruins best boosters at Pauley Pavillion.



## MEET ME AT THE 2026 NCAA FINAL FOUR



**APRIL 4 & 6  
INDIANAPOLIS, IN**