

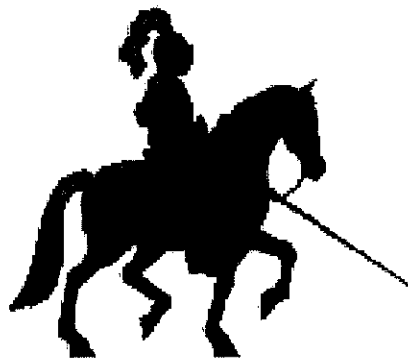
1961-'62 Girls' Basketball Team

The relatively short time span from 1957 to 1967 would prove to be a very productive one for Lunenburg High School's athletic teams. A check of the yearbooks during that period reveals that Lunenburg was the winner of no fewer than twenty-two championships in six different sports. During that same period, the Lunenburg Athletic Hall of Fame has already inducted six individuals and two teams. Now, a third team from that storied period will join them: The 1961 – '62 Girls' Basketball Team. From 1961 to 1964 the girls' basketball teams won three Wachusett League Championships and it is significant to note that twelve of the varsity letter winners from the '61 -'62 team had a hand in two of those championships.

This team outscored their regular season opponents 519 to 274, an average difference of nineteen points per game, and held more than half of their opponents to under twenty points. It was in the playoffs, however, where things became interesting. The team had suffered one of only two losses that season to arch rival North Middlesex by a score of 38 to 30. In the final game of the regular season against North Middlesex, Lunenburg was trailing through the first three quarters, but came from behind in the final quarter to defeat them by two points, 30 to 28, thereby setting up a one game playoff with North Middlesex for the Western Division Championship. In that game, played on a neutral court in Littleton, North Middlesex once again held the lead over the first three quarters by scores of 6-3, 14-9, and 23-15. With only seven seconds to play, North Middlesex was still in the lead by a seemingly insurmountable five points: 27 – 22. A quick basket by Ann Fuller cut the lead to three. Kay Curtis then took over, swishing one shot and tying up the ensuing inbounds pass for a jump ball. She won the jump and got a return pass for a layup as the buzzer sounded. Wow! The next playoff series, a two out of three series for the overall Wachusett League Championship, was by comparison somewhat anti-climactic, with ten point and seven point Lunenburg victories over Westford.

In an unusual coincidence, the boys' team from that same 1961 – '62 season, previously inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009, lost to North Middlesex in the early game, then beat them in the final game, forcing a playoff with them which they won, and followed that by a sweep over Westford for their championship.

Now it is time for the girls' team, and the Lunenburg High School Athletic Hall of Fame Committee is pleased to honor the 1961 – '62 Girls' Basketball team with their induction into the LHS Athletic Hall of Fame.





1961-'62 Girls' Basketball Team

- Front Row: (left to right) Linda Szocik Dyer, Kay Curtis Griffin, Virginia Freeman Thoma, Linda Knight Gurney, Ann Fuller (deceased), Karen Kukolich.
- Middle Row: Coach Dunigan, Helen Rice Metcalf, Janice Hansberry Harley, Elizabeth Goodale Torre, Joanne Combe Masin, Elizabeth Palonen Volkan.
- Back Row: Helen Rinki Wornham, Cynthia Curtis (deceased), Janet Johnson Wiehe, Gail Griffiths Welch, Marilyn Colvin Stewart. (Insert) Jacquelyn Lynch.