



# Mustang Hoops Update



FOUNTAIN CENTRAL BASKETBALL NEWSLETTER #29

FEB 5, 2015



## **NEW ALL TIME SCORING RECORD AT FC:**

Last weekend, Mustang Ethan Woodrow passed Mustang great Rob Simmons to become the all time career scoring leader at Fountain Central. Simmons' record had stood for nearly 50 years, as Rob was a star on the first team ever at Fountain Central, coached by Al Harden. We are honored to have Rob's son Craig, another of FC's all time greats in basketball, on hand this weekend to present Ethan with the game ball from the game in which he broke the all time scoring record. Joining Craig to present the game ball to Ethan will be former FC coach Al Harden. I have had the pleasure of visiting with both Craig and Coach Harden the past two weeks, and I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing their stories.

## **ROB SIMMONS: SCORER, REBOUNDER, WINNER**

Rob Simmons' career scoring total of 1582 points has stood as the best ever at FC for almost 50 years, until this season. Rob was a sophomore on the first basketball team at Fountain Central. In the year before consolidation, Rob played for the Richland Township Red Devils. Rob and another 1000 point scorer, point guard Wayne Garrett helped get the FC basketball program off to a tremendous start under new coach Al Harden, winning nearly 80% of their games in the first 3 years of basketball at FC. Rob still holds the record for career rebounds with 800, and that record does not look to be in jeopardy any time soon.

Rob has the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> best single season point totals in FC history. During his three years under Coach Harden, the Mustangs were 51-14! While the points and rebounds are remarkable, winning nearly 80% of their games is an amazing feat for any team.

Rob is also 11<sup>th</sup> all time at FC with 200 career assists. Unfortunately, many of the stats that we keep in our record book today were not kept in Rob's day, or I imagine we would have many more numbers to list here. Coach Harden coached Rob's teams to WRC Championships in 1966 and 1967. Rob was all conference in 1966, 1967, and 1968. His 37 points against Coal Creek still stand as the 4<sup>th</sup> best single game performance at FC (tied with current FC assistant Rodney Carver). Rob went on to play at Indiana State, where he was a teammate of McCutcheon Coach Rick Peckinpaugh (480 career wins as a head coach).



## **GAME BALL PRESENTATION:**

Craig Simmons, son of Rob Simmons and former coach Al Harden will be in attendance Friday night to present the game ball that was used when Ethan Woodrow broke the scoring record against Faith Christian. Both Craig and his father Rob accomplished a great deal as basketball players at Fountain Central.



Former FC Coach Bryan Hughes calls Craig "the best athlete I have coached," and said that "Craig was very well-liked by his teammates and coaches, and would be on my all time starting 5 for 30 years of coaching!" Craig is the 3<sup>rd</sup> all time leading scorer at Fountain Central and the 3<sup>rd</sup> all time leading rebounder. Craig was all WRC in 89, 90, and 91. He also holds the 2<sup>nd</sup> best single season field goal percentage (64.7%). Craig posted career highs of 31 points against North Vermillion and 15 rebounds against Frontier.



Craig, like his father, knew how to help his team win. During his sophomore-senior seasons, the Mustangs were 59-14! Rob's and Craig's soph-senior season records added together comes to a total of 110-28 (.797 winning percentage)! Craig's teams won THREE consecutive sectional championships, including the 1990-91 season in which they went UNDEFEATED in the regular season before finishing 23-1.



As we recognize Ethan Woodrow for becoming the new all time leading scorer in Fountain Central Basketball History, we want to also take a moment to thank the Simmons family for their incredible contributions to our basketball program at FC. We would also like to thank Craig Simmons and his family for being gracious enough to participate in the presentation of the game ball this weekend. As an avid fan of Indiana Basketball History, I thoroughly enjoyed taking the time to research some records and talk to some former coaches about Rob Simmons (and Craig Simmons as well). Thank you Simmons family for all you have done for Fountain Central Basketball!

We would also like to thank Coach Al Harden for taking the time to participate in the presentation and for sharing some basketball memories with me over the past two weeks. It has been a thrill for me as a fan of Indiana High School Basketball to get to hear stories from Coach Harden's, Rob's, and Craig's days at Fountain Central. We are fortunate to have them as part of our basketball history.



## **ROB SIMMONS – CAREER HIGHLIGHTS**

### **CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS:**

<b>CAREER POINTS:</b>	<b>1582 (2<sup>ND</sup> ALL TIME)</b>
<b>CAREER REBOUNDS:</b>	<b>800 (1<sup>ST</sup> ALL TIME)</b>
<b>CAREER ASSISTS:</b>	<b>200 (11<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME)</b>
<b>ALL CONFERENCE:</b>	<b>1966, 1967, 1968</b>
<b>TEAM RECORDS:</b>	<b>1965-66 (17-4) CONF CHAMPS</b>
	<b>1966-67 (19-2) CONF CHAMPS</b>
	<b>1967-68 (15-8)</b>

### **SINGLE SEASON:**

<b>SINGLE SEASON POINTS:</b>	<b>452 (67-68) – 4<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME</b>
	<b>413 (66-67) – 11<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME</b>
	<b>391 (65-66) – 17<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME</b>
<b>SINGLE SEASON REBS:</b>	<b>219 (67-68) – 7<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME</b>
	<b>208 (66-67) – 10<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME</b>

### **SINGLE GAME:**

<b>SINGLE GAME POINTS:</b>	<b>37 VS COAL CREEK (4<sup>TH</sup> ALL TIME)</b>
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### **TONIGHT'S OPPONENT:**

#### **ROCKVILLE ROX**

Last season, Rox point guard Keiontre Wilkey lit us up for 34 points. The Mustangs still managed to hang on for a win, but Wilkey scored at will against us. Wilkey is back, as is sophomore Lance Hopkins, one of the better athletes in the conference. The Rox are very quick, and they attack on defense. The Rox come in winners of 5 straight, and they are playing well. They force a lot of turnovers, so taking care of the ball and containing the drive will likely be a determining factor in the outcome of the game.

#### **JV BI-COUNTY (SEEGER, COVINGTON, ATTICA)**

The JV has been improving weekly and has their Bi-County Tournament Saturday at Attica, starting at 9 a.m. Our JV has slowly improved our ball-handling and free throw shooting after struggling greatly with both early in the season. Cole Myers has had some impressive games in the post, and Jake Vancleave has started to assert himself as a scorer. Tim Ellis, Bradley Howell, and Brandon Howell have really brought some effort and intensity to the line-up. Uriah Kyger and Mason McCollum have developed as steady rebounders for us. Luke Cooper has continued to improve his ball-handling and has started making some big shots. As a group, they are showing signs of progress every week. Coach Horlacher and Coach Huckstep have done a great job working with them this season.

### **AL HARDEN – FIRST MUSTANG COACH EVER:**

In doing research for the presentation of our new all time scoring leader, I had the pleasure of speaking with Fountain Central's first coach ever, Al Harden. Since my dad was a long-time assistant for Phil Buck at Anderson Madison Heights (coaching IU stars Ray Tolbert, Bobby Wilkerson, and Winston Morgan), I love to hear stories of the "good old days" of Indiana High School Basketball, so talking with Coach Harden was truly a treat for me.

Coach Harden's teams went 73-36 in 5 years, including a 19-2 season in 1966-67. Coach Harden's teams won the WRC in 1965-66 and 1966-67. His 1965-66 team averaged just under 70 points per game. And, of course, Coach Harden coached Rob Simmons while he was at Fountain Central. Coach Harden coached two 1000-point scorers at FC (Wayne Garrett-1040 and Rob Simmons-1582).

Coach Harden played at Covington before continuing his playing career for the Indiana Hoosiers. He then returned to Fountain County to coach the Mustangs after the consolidation of the Hillsboro Wildcats, Veedersburg Green Devils, Wallace Peppers, Richland Township Red Devils, and the Kingman Black Aces. Harden went on to coach at Denver University, and later had three sons who were great basketball players as well – Rodny, Roger, and Rob. Rob was an Indiana All Star and Roger was Mr. Basketball in 1982 before going on to play for the Kentucky Wildcats. Al Harden was also the VP at Converse in the 80s when Converse signed Larry Bird and Magic Johnson to shoe contracts, giving us the classic "Choose Your Weapons" ads from the 80s. Coach Harden has truly "seen it all" when it comes to basketball. If you ever have a chance to listen to him talk about what he has seen as a coach/player/parent in basketball, I highly suggest you take the opportunity. Thank you, Coach Harden, for taking time out to participate in Fountain Central Basketball once again.



### **BEST OF LUCK TO A GOOD FRIEND:**

When I came to Fountain Central as basketball coach, I met football coach and athletic director Brian Moore. Coach Moore was instrumental in my decision to come to FC and coach basketball. He has been the most supportive athletic director I have ever worked for, and he has become a good friend in the last four years. Though I will miss him greatly, I am excited for him and his new opportunity at Lafayette Jeff. I wish Coach Moore the best, and I will be cheering for the Bronchos next season as he tries to build their football program back into a contender. Broncho fans are lucky to be getting a coach dedicated to developing students as athletes and as players. Thank you Coach Moore for all you have done for Fountain Central Athletics! You will be missed.