

Crossword Puzzle Answers

			T	Y	R				A	T	M						
			M	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	I	O	N				
R	E	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	A	T	I	O	N				
A	S	H	A	M	E	D			E	X	A	L	T	E	D		
C	P								N	I	N				A	D	
E	R	A	S				B	B	C		C	I	G	A	R	S	
S	I	D	E				A	A	H	S		C	R	O			
		T	O	E			B	A	A	E	D			A	R	B	
			B	P	M			L	I	R	A			S	T	O	B
P	R	E	S	E	T				N	A	B			P	A	R	A
A	I					M	A	R								N	D
N	O	W	H	E	R	E				F	O	R	E	S	E	E	
		T	R	A	N	S	P	O	R	T	A	T	I	O	N		
			M	E	T	A	P	H	Y	S	I	C	S				
				D	O	L					U	N	H				

Sudoku Answers

7	2	3	1	9	4	5	8	6
6	4	8	5	3	7	9	2	1
5	1	9	2	8	6	3	7	4
2	3	7	4	5	8	1	6	9
1	8	4	9	6	3	7	5	2
9	5	6	7	1	2	4	3	8
3	9	2	6	7	1	8	4	5
8	6	1	3	4	5	2	9	7
4	7	5	8	2	9	6	1	3

Dream Team

A strong start from Keys, who scored eight points and grabbed six rebounds, helped the Giants take a 22-16 first quarter lead, but Anderson made it a one-possession game at halftime, cutting Marion’s advantage to 31-28.

After three quarters, the Giants only led by four points, but in the final period, they completely dominated. Two three-point plays from Jones and Edwards, combined with a dunk from Keys, put Marion up 60-47, and the Giants hit nine of their final 12 shots to turn what was a close game into a 77-59 rout.

Edwards scored 25 points and collected 10 rebounds, while Jones scored 23 points, Keys added 11 points and 13 boards, and Ewer collected 10 points.

In their next three games, Marion picked up three more victories, a 99-51 drubbing of Jack Keefer and the Lawrence North Wildcats, a 69-60 victory over a young, but determined Kokomo squad, and a 30-point, 79-49 blowout of the Huntington North Vikings, before heading to Kentucky to take on Lexington Lafayette in the Thoroughbred Classic.

At this point, the Giants were on top of the world, but against the Generals, their



Lyndon Jones celebrating the 1987 championship.

dreams of another perfect season came crashing down.

After Keys scored the Giants’ first basket to open the game, Marion never led again. A 12-4 run in the second half helped the Generals take control, and after the Giants cut the lead to 76-72 in the final 30 seconds, they would not get any closer, falling by a score of 78-74.

“That was another one of those deals where we didn’t take it seriously,” Jones said. “We flew on a plane, and we did all of this crazy stuff. The game was secondary. We were pissed off when we lost that game.”

The Giants returned home to face Muncie North, winning by a score of 73-45, before needing a last-second shot by Jay Edwards to defeat Richmond 51-49.

Despite being an 8-1 basketball team nine games into the season, Green decided that his team needed a wake-up call, and what followed changed the course of the season’s trajectory.

“Bill Green went berserk after the Richmond game,” Brunner said. “Nine games in, they had completely underachieved. He went in that locker room, and the classic statement is, ‘You are not going to believe what you are going to see on Monday. If you talk to any of those guys about what that week was like until they took on New Castle that following Friday night, they had never been through anything like that.’”

“We had the one hiccup [against Lexington,] and we were not going through what we needed to do,” Persinger added. “Once we beat Richmond mid-season, I know Coach Green said, ‘Alright boys, that’s it. No more playing around.’ He took the reins, really tightened us up,

got us focused, and made us understand that we were just going through the motions and not doing what we were capable of.”

The following week of practice – between their game with Richmond and their next scheduled contest against former conference New Castle – was hellacious, to say the least.

“He made the point that he wasn’t going to put up with it,” Persinger said. “We were going to play, or we would sit on the bench. He really put us through [the ringer] the whole week. He rode us hard. We practiced long. We did a lot of running. He sent a message that got through to us that that’s what we had to do.”

“Nobody was spared. Nobody was spared from the wrath of Coach Green, whether he was yelling at me or he was yelling at Jay or Eric or Daric or Kyle. We all got it that week,” Jones added. “Green would take us over on the stairs and light us up and make things really difficult for us.”

Along with the running, and the seemingly constant beratement, Green also made the Giants’ go through drills without basketballs in their hands. In fact, during defensive drills, he would make the players play with their arms behind their back, forcing them to make stops without the use of their hands.

That week of practice helped to not only refocus the Giants, but helped them remember what they were playing for: the city of Marion, a place in the record books, and a chance to be remembered as one of the greatest basketball teams ever assembled.

And from that moment on, the Giants would not lose again. In fact, in their final

...continued from Page 7

11 regular season games, they outscored their opponents by an average of 27 points per game.

“After that, the season got to where it should be,” Persinger said. “We dominated quite a bit after that.”

Against Sam Alford and the Trojans, the Giants put together a scintillating performance, taking a 24-0 lead before New Castle scored their first basket. For the contest, the Giants recorded a school-record 25 assists, 12 blocked shots, and eight dunks, picking up their conference record 20th consecutive NCC triumph in a 93-57 rout.

In their next game against Warsaw, who had ended their 40-game winning streak the year before, the Giants continued their onslaught. Marion shot 14-of-22 in the opening two quarters, building a 32-19 lead in the process, before cruising to an 84-50 triumph. Jones scored 22 points, while Keys finished with 19.

The Giants then went on to dismantle Lafayette Jefferson 88-56, before crushing Northrop 77-46.

After those four games, it was clear that the Giants would not be held back from achieving their ultimate goal.

“Those were four strong, legitimate basketball teams – New Castle, Warsaw, Lafayette Jeff, and Northrop – and they beat them by an average of 33 points a game,” Brunner said. “Those two weeks, he got out of them what he wanted to get out of them.”

“We had a lot of success,” Persinger added. “We had a lot of experience. But we were still young kids, and we still needed direction, and [Green] gave us the direction. After that, I would say, ‘message received.’ Everybody picked it up a notch.”

Marion’s dominance continued with a 81-66 victory over Madison Heights, a 85-68 triumph over North Central, and a 49-32 win over Blackford.

In their next NCC match against Logansport, the Giants clinched a tie for the conference title, hitting 12 of their first 13 shots before going on to defeat the Berries 108-72. The 108 points broke Marion’s single game point record set back in 1978, and it was the first time that Marion had broken the century mark since 1982.

The Giants shot 77 percent (44-of-57) from the field, a school record. Edwards finished with 24 points and eight rebounds, while Jones collected 22 points and 10

Continued on Page 9.



Gayle Armes
Funeral Director



Danielle Nelson
Funeral Director



Amy Downing
Prenatal
Counselor

ARMES-HUNT

FUNERAL HOME &
CREMATION SERVICES

FAIRMOUNT CHAPEL • COLLEGE PARK CHAPEL • JONES-SMITH CHAPEL

Fairmount Chapel

College Park Chapel

Jones-Smith Chapel

415 S. Main St.

4601 S. Western Ave.

259 N. Main St.

Fairmount, IN 46928

Marion, IN 46953

Upland, IN 46989

765-948-4178

765-573-6500

765-998-2101