

1967-68

Basketball squad claims first RRC championship

FACTS & FIGURES

Final records

FALL '67
Football 6-2-1

WINTER '68
Boys basketball 11-6

SPRING '68
Baseball 5-8
Track not available

MVPs

Football: Rich Koppelman
Basketball: Rich Koppelman
Baseball: John Vesey & Dan Keller
Track: Not available

River Raisin Conference CHAMPIONS

Football: Sand Creek
Basketball: Whiteford and Summerfield
Baseball: Ida
Track: Sand Creek

All-State

Rich Koppelman, football, HM (AP); basketball, HM (AP)
Leo Bischoff, football, HM (AP)
880 relay team (Steve Schmidt, Tom Huner, Matt Bieber, Maurice Martin), track, 10th place at state meet



The **1967-68 Bobcat basketball team** won the school's first-ever league title, tying Summerfield for the RRC crown.

BOBCAT HEADLINES

- Rich Koppelman became the first Bobcat running back with 1,000 yards
- John Vesey led the Bobcat baseball team in pitching wins for third second straight season.

- Mel Hartsel came back to coach varsity baseball
- Tom Hooker, Red Herman, Steve Schmidt and 880 relay team win RRC track titles
- Terry Brenke scored 38 and 37 points in final two regular season basketball games.

TRIVIA

Q – Only three players have led the boys basketball team in scoring three consecutive seasons. Who are they?

NUMBERS, NOTES & QUOTES

FOOTBALL: Rich Koppelman had one of the best seasons for any Whiteford player ever in the fall of 1967, scoring 90 points and being named MVP for the second straight year. Named honorable mention All-State, the halfback became the first Whiteford player to run for more than 1,000 yards in a season. He also threw for 128 yards and a touchdown and caught four passes. On defense, he made 52 tackles and intercepted a pass. He finished the season with 1,182 yards of total offense and 2,395 yards of total offense in his career.

BASKETBALL: This was the season that Bobcat fans had waited for. The 1967-68 unit that took the floor for Whiteford had just a 1-3 record after four games, but came on strong to win 12 of the next 15 games and capture a share of the River Raisin Conference championship.

Rich Koppelman was the go-to man for Whiteford, averaging 19.0 points per game and more than 13 rebounds an outing. A senior trio, including Koppelman, Tom Huner and Terry Brenke, scored nearly 80 percent of the teams points. Brenke was second on the team in scoring at 17.7 a game. He also was second on the team in rebounding at 12.2 a contest. The 6-4 center had a great end to his career, scoring 37 points against Dundee and 40 against Britton when the Bobcats needed a win to tie for the league title. Huner ended his career two points shy of 500 for his career while Brenke (660) and Koppelman (808) combined for the distinction of being the highest-scoring classmates to date. Koppelman's total set a school scoring record. Koppelman also became the first WHS basketball player to be honored by a statewide panel of sportswriters when he was named to the Associated Press All-State Honorable Mention list.

WHS tied Summerfield for the league title. The two rivals split their two meetings during the regular season.

BASEBALL: Mel Hartsel became the varsity baseball head coach, his second stint with the team.

TRACK: Tom Huner ended his track career with four first-place finishes in two RRC track meets.