

1987-88

Football squad is first to reach playoffs

FACTS & FIGURES

Final records

FALL '87

Football	8-2
Girls basketball	18-5
Golf	3-14-1

WINTER '88

Boys basketball	18-5
Volleyball	16-8

SPRING '88

Baseball	13-8
Softball	21-12
Boys track	2-7
Girls track	1-8

MVPs

Football: Joe Butz, Troy Goetz, Don Long
 Golf: None chosen
 Girls basketball: Jamie VanBrandt
 Boys basketball: Brad Nieman
 Volleyball: Jamie VanBrandt
 Baseball: David Ballert
 Softball: Jamie VanBrandt
 Boys track: Chris DuPree
 Girls track: Darlene Kelly

Tri-County

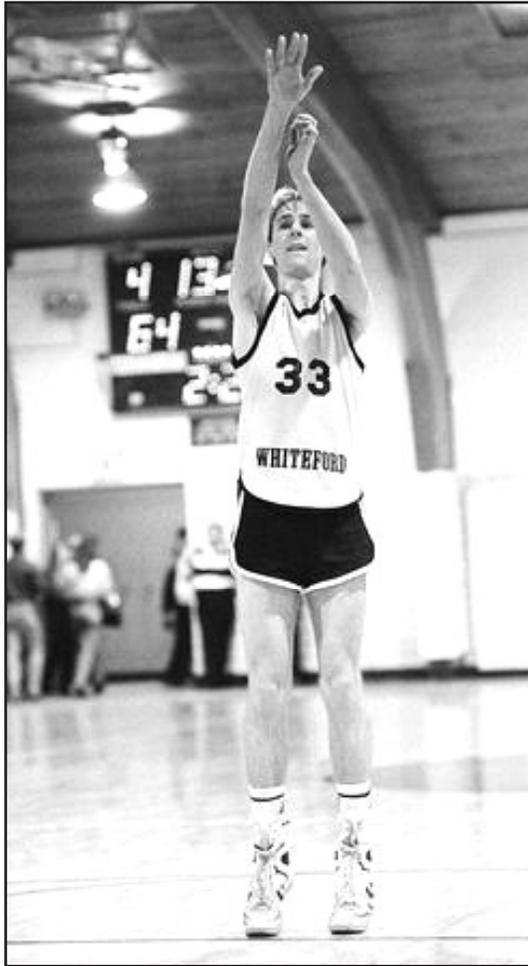
Conference

CHAMPIONS

Football: Sand Creek
 Girls basketball: Morenci
 Boys basketball: Whiteford
 Volleyball: Morenci
 Baseball: Morenci
 Softball: Summerfield
 Boys track: Summerfield
 Girls track: Sand Creek

All-State

Brad Nieman, basketball, 1st team (AP), 2nd team (Free Press), 2nd team (News)
 Jamie VanBrandt, softball, 2nd team
 David Ballert, baseball, 1st team
 Troy Goetz, football, HM (Free Press)
 Don Long, football, HM (Free Press)



Brad Nieman (above) became Whiteford's first-ever First Team All-State boys basketball player after the 1987-88 season.

BOBCAT HEADLINES

- Overall, it was one of Whiteford's finest sports seasons in school history:
- Brad Nieman became the first Bobcat boys basketball player to be named First Team All-State after setting a career scoring record and leading Whiteford to a second straight TCC championship, a top 10 ranking and 18 victories
- Relay team of Troy Goetz, Matt Waterford, Bryan Pfaff and Chris DuPree finished 2nd and 3rd at state track meet. DuPree placed 5th in 100 and 6th in 200
- A field goal by Don Long put the Bobcats into state football playoffs. Troy Goetz rushed for more than 1,000 yards and Joe Butz led defense to 8-2 season on the gridiron
- The softball team reached state championship game for fourth time in five years
- Jamie VanBrandt was team MVP in basketball, volleyball and softball
- Darlene Kelly won her fourth track MVP honor
- David Ballert was All-State in baseball

NUMBERS & NOTES

GIRLS BASKETBALL: Sophomore Dawn Murphy moved into the role of top scorer for the Bobcats, who won 18 games, including an impressive District title victory over Sand Creek. Senior Jamie VanBrandt was the MVP and Jami Stewart also averaged in double digits.

FOOTBALL: The first playoff team in school history won eight games for Whiteford, including the first seven of the season. In those seven games, the defense allowed only 24 points.

Then, in week eight, Whiteford dropped a 23-14 game against Sand Creek.

"The crowd was loud," said Sand Creek Coach Ernie Ayres told The Monroe Evening News. "Our kids had trouble hearing the snap count and that's unusual in high

school football."

Despite the loss, the Bobcats were still in playoff contention. Against Morenci, Whiteford won 25-22 after a late drive that ended in a Don Long field goal. The win sent Whiteford into the playoffs at St. John's. There, the Bobcats lost to Fowler.

Troy Goetz went over the 1,000 yard mark for the season and returned four interceptions for touchdowns, including a 72-yarder in the playoffs.

BOYS BASKETBALL: Brad Nieman stepped onto the Whiteford basketball court for the first time as a player in 1984. In 1988, the 6-2 Nieman stepped off the floor holding nearly every scoring record in school history.

Nieman broke the single season (530

and career (1,208) scoring marks during a sensational senior season. He led the Region in scoring.

SOFTBALL: Despite losing 11 regular season games, the always-tournament ready Bobcats went on a tear in the post-season, winning the District and Regional and shutting out Frankfort in the state semifinals. Whiteford lost to Bay City All Saints in the state finals, but once again were among the best in the state. Jamie VanBrandt had another great season, winning 19 games on the mound. Dawn Murphy had an outstanding sophomore season, leading the team in just about everything, including batting (.467), runs (42), hits (49) and RBI (39).