

# MILLER CITY STATE CHAMPS

## 44-36 Loss Sequel to Eagles' Stall!

Dayton Daily News – March 25, 1950

How did Miller City do it? That's the No. 1 question here in Ohio's Capital City tonight. Miller City, a hamlet with a population of 174, racked up its 29<sup>th</sup> straight victory this afternoon to walk off with the highest laurels in Ohio Class B high school basketball. The victory in the final game was at the expense of Eaton's Golden Eagles, 44-36.

The Wildcats, the biggest bunch of misfits – or so it appeared – ever to step on the Fairgrounds Coliseum court here, won the hearts of most of the 8,468 fans even before the game started. There they were, the Cinderella Kids, wearing uniforms six years old, playing on a basketball court bigger even than the entire Miller City school building.

But, in the third quarter, when Eaton stalled all of the way and didn't take a single shot at the hoop, the crowd swung clearly over to this spirited bunch of youngsters and their coach, C. Norris Simpson.

MILLER CITY, as usual employing a zone defense, just didn't and would not come out to pick up the Eaton boys.

So, Duke Ellington advised his Eaton charges to move the ball around in front, but keep it from out of the hole. This they did successfully, because Miller City refused to change its defensive tactics. The crowd booed loud and long at Eaton's stalling game. But Ellington was only trying to make Miller City play his type of basketball.

Eaton had trailed, 10-12, after the first eight minutes of play, but had moved ahead, 27-23, at the rest period. In that third quarter the Eagles failed to take a shot at the basket to set a record of some sort or another.

THOSE "DOWNTOWN COACHES" and there were many here from Dayton, the Miami Valley and all over the state.....were of the opinion after the game that had not Eaton elected to stall there in that third round, they might have been victorious. But it's all over, and still nobody can tell and never will know just what made Miller City click.

GENE NEFF, Eaton's brilliant All-State forward, poured 17 points through the nets to grab off individual high scoring honors, while Ralph Meyer, a talented performer for Miller City, hit a dozen straight free throws, added two fielders and finished with 16 markers.

Frank Schroeder, probably the star of this tournament, had 15 for the new champs, who take over the crown won a year ago by Delphos St. John.

Eaton had won the title in 1948 and was bidding for a second championship in three years under Ellington.

THE BALL GAME was still a toss-up until that final eight minutes which started with Eaton on top, 28-27. Meyer tied the score with a foul shot at 6:52. (The score was tied eight times, at 4-4, 8-8, 10-10, 15-15, 17-17, 19-19, 28-28 and 32-32.)

A second toss by Meyer put the Wildcats ahead by a point. Eaton called time out, but Meyer hit a rebound shot and another of his dozen free throws moved Miller City out in front 32-28. That was with six minutes even left in the ballgame.

Bill Bourne rebounded successfully for the Golden Eagles and Neff stole the ball, raced the length of the floor and scored to tie the score at 32-32. Meyer fouled Lloyd Sharp who put Eaton ahead again, 33-32, with 5:13 to play.

Vern Schroeder, brother of Frank and a cousin to all of the other members of the Miller City squad (That's no joke. All of the kids on the championship roster are related in one way or another.) punched through a left-handed set-shot at 4:55 to give Miller City a 34-33 lead. They never lost the edge after that.

Sharp committed his fifth person foul with 4:19 to go and Meyer made good. Red Weadick, star of the Springfield regional tourney a week ago, who came in for Sharp, fouled Meyer, who rang the bell again, and with 2:13 showing on the big clocks on both sides of the spacious auditorium, Miller City led 36-33.

Joe Lammers scored from underneath for Miller City with two minutes left. Neff, cool, calm and collected tossed in a free throw and a basket to cut the margin to two points, but the Wildcats started to roll again, with Meyer hitting three charity tosses and Schroeder closing out the scoring with two more buckets, the second just two seconds before the final gun.

Miller City	12	11	4	17	44
Eaton	10	17	1	8	36

### Miller City

Barlage 0 2 2. McDonald 1 1 3. V. Schroeder 1 0 2. Meyer 2 12 16. F. Schroeder 6 3 15. Lammers 1 4 6. Total 11 22 44.

### Eaton

Bourne 5 0 10. Sharp 0 1 1. Weadick 0 0 0. Longnecker 0 0 0. Neff 5 7 17. Christman 1 0 2. Charles 0 2 2. Total 13 10 36.