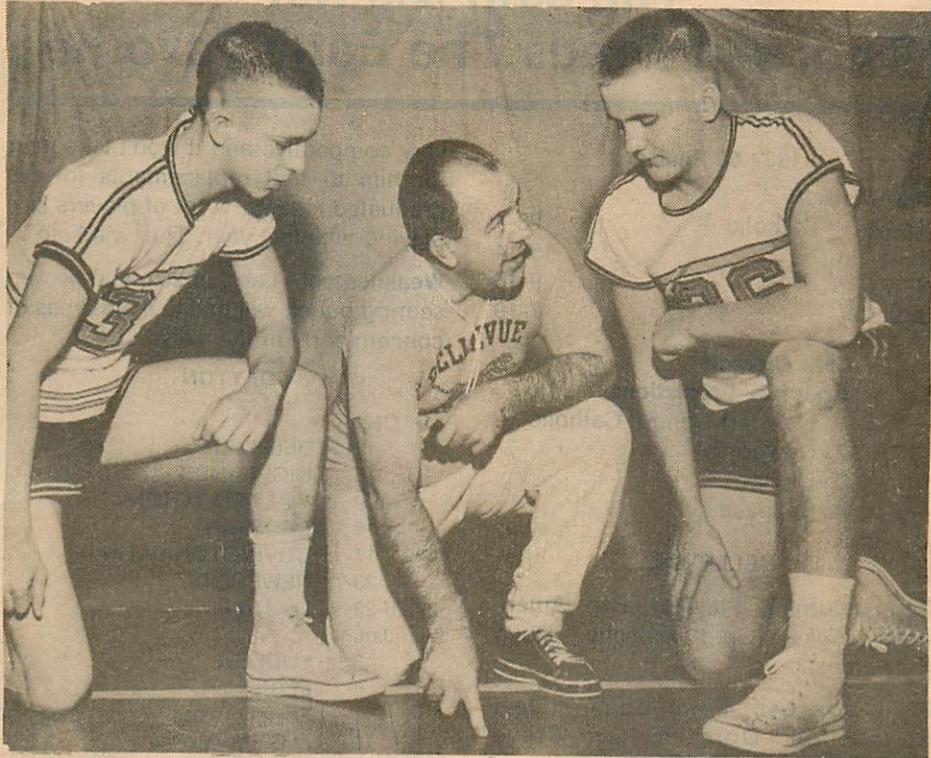


## 1949: A Magic Year for Bellevue



Ben Flora (center) with two of his later day players Dan Sullivan (left) and Steve Kiefer (right) led last Bellevue team to state.

by Mel Webster

The last time Bellevue made it to the state tournament in basketball Harry Truman was President. The year was 1949.

In 1949 you could purchase a new Crosley automobile for only \$9 per week. Ben Flora was the Tiger basketball coach and Roger Klein was only in the 8th year of a 33-year association with Bellevue.

The 1949 post season would see the 36th District Tournament (Bellevue is now in the 35th) begin with Highlands at Newport's old gymnasium.

The Floramen (as they were called then) responded with a 53-40 win led by Bill "Bones" Faber with 19 points. Faber held down the middle of a starting lineup that included forwards Roger Otten and Walt Havercamp along with guards Joe Koke and Will Hundemer.

It was a great year for the 5-11 captain Hundemer.

Following their win over Highlands, the stage was set for an encounter with the 24-1 Newport Catholic Club of coach Al Howe. Jimmy Stewart's new movie *You Gotta Stay Happy* was playing at the Madison in Covington and **they did!**

Bellevue was 21-4 and ranked 17th in the state. Newport Catholic was the Commonwealth's number 6 ranked team. The stage was set.

Faber and Hundemer had the hot hands as Bellevue pulled out from an 8-8 first quarter tie to a 25-19 halftime lead and a 35-26 advantage after three. Hundemer would finish with 13 points and the Tigers would have a 37-32 upset win. Bellevue went on to beat Dayton 35-26 in the District finals.

The march to state was officially on. In region play, the Tigers pounded Simon Kenton 55-34 with Hundemer's 24 points, and Dayton again 45-39. In the Dayton game, the big man was Roger "Dead Eye" Otten with 17 points.

That set up the region finale with 35th District Champion Beechwood.

Koke opened the game with a long field goal. "Bones" Faber added two spin shots to make it 6-0. The Tigers managed to hold on to a 27-24 halftime lead before Beechwood cut it to 37-36 with 3 seconds left in the third quarter. At the buzzer, Koke connected from long range to end at 39-36. The Tigers won the contest 56-49 and the coveted trip downstate for the last time. Faber led with 20 points followed by Hundemer (13), Koke (10), Otten (10), and Havercamp (3). Hundemer, Faber, Koke, and Otten all were selected to the all-region team.

Other members of the championship squad were Tom Mason, Dick Jones, Tom Qualey, Jack Binkley, Bob Dougherty and Dick Perin.

The Tigers lost their first game at the "Sweet 16" to a powerful Clark County team 54-40. They led 20-18 before losing Faber, Haverkamp, and Hundemer eventually to fouls.

Bellevue finished 25-5 in a season that will long be remembered as one of the best ever.

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# The 35th District Thoroughbreds The Early Favorite

## 1982-83 Finish

### 35th District

*Newport Catholic	28-4
Bellevue	15-14
Newport	9-16
Dayton	7-19

### 35th District

#### Coaches' Predictions

1. Newport Central Catholic
2. Newport
3. Dayton
4. Bellevue

## BELLEVUE

**Top Returning Players:** Bob Auteri, Sean Wilke, Greg Batsche, Doug Schoulties.

**Key Losses:** Tom Bosse, Jeff Schoulties, Doug Miller, Steve Crittendon.

**Summary:** Bellevue has a lot to try and replace this year after two trips to the ninth region tournament. The Tigers seem to recover well though. The season before they lost Doug Miller and Jim Maher and still performed well. It will be billed as a rebuilding type of year, but the Tigers should be in the thick of the Class A and 35th District race.

**Strengths:** In each of Mike Swauger's four seasons at Bellevue, the Tigers have been a good team. They have some good young talent.

**Weaknesses:** Lack of size and experience should be the big headaches early in the season.

## BELLEVUE

Dec.	
2	at Dayton
6	at Beechwood
9	HOLY CROSS
13	at Walton-Verona
16	LUDLOW
20	at Brossart
22	CAMPBELL CO.
28-29-30	Dayton Invit.
Jan.	
6	at Ludlow
10	COVINGTON LATIN
13	SILVER GROVE
14	NEWPORT
17	at St. Henry
20	DAYTON
24	BEECHWOOD
27	at Holy Cross
31-Feb. 4	All A Classic
Feb.	
7	BROSSART
10	COVINGTON LATIN
11	at Grant Co.
14	at Silver Grove
17	ST HENRY
18	WALTON-VERONA
24	HIGHLANDS

## DAYTON

**Top Returning Players:** Paul Hundemer, Bob Hartman.

**Key Losses:** Jack Gish, Larry Jourdan.

**Summary:** Dayton will be faced with its annual problem of lack of size. The Greendevils also lost some very important performers named Jack Gish and Larry Jourdan. Coach Stan Steidel enters his ninth season looking for an improved record in an always tough district.

**Strengths:** Steidel's teams are always

very competitive and it won't take long for him to find replacements for his graduated leaders. A lot of players saw playing time last year. That will help.

**Weaknesses:** Lack of size and proven scoring punch will be the main areas of concern early in the season.

## DAYTON

Dec.	
2	BELLEVUE
6	HIGHLANDS
9	WALTON-VERONA
16	BROSSART
17	COVINGTON LATIN
23	NEWPORT
27-28-29	Dayton Invit.
Jan.	
3	LUDLOW
6	at Brossart
7	at Holy Cross
10	at Silver Grove
13	ST. HENRY
17	at Beechwood
20	at Bellevue
27	at Walton-Verona
31-Feb. 4	Class A Classic
Feb.	
7	COVINGTON LATIN
8	at Holmes
10	SILVER GROVE
14	at St. Henry
17	BEECHWOOD
18	HOLY CROSS
21	WILLIAMSTOWN
24	at Ludlow

Dist. at Dayton

## NEWPORT

**Top Returning Players:** Bob Basey, Dan Parten, Steve Kowolonek.

**Key Losses:** Gerald Combs, Cliff Housley, Steve Wagenlander.

**Summary:** Coach John Gross always comes up with a solid combination. He'll be looking to put the Wildcats back together into a contending regional team this year. The 1982-83 season was disappointing. Expect the Wildcats to bounce back this year with some young players.

**Strengths:** Senior guard Bob Basey, and forwards Steve Kowolonek and Dan Parten should give Newport a solid base to build on. The Wildcats are usually good shooters and will be a quick team for the most part. They will need to replace Wagenlander inside to be real effective.

**Weaknesses:** At this point they need to find a consistent shooting guard and some overall team size, but that could change quickly.


  
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