

1953 State Champion Boys Basketball Scholarship



Menasha — Winner State Basketball Tournament
 (Left to right): Arlen Kloeppe, Gerald Jeffery, William Volkman, Tom Kosloski, Clem Massey, Jerome Gawlick, Robert Jedwabuy, Roger Miller, Greg Ropella, Felix Ropella, Jack Wippich, Fred Schmidt, Coach Eric Kitzman.

The 1953 state boys high school basketball champions had a lot of class and showed to their best advantage, as written by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association. The champs employed a fast break on the attack and a very active pressing defense a good share of the time. The cat-like activities of the front line made the team doubly dangerous and the champs were able to steal the ball and make life miserable for their opposition. Coach Eric Kitzman's boys were in top condition for the rough three game title fight and with good reserve talent, the Menasha coach was able to substitute in good style and not weaken his team. While five boys played most of the time, it was strictly a squad victory for the Blue Jays.



The 1953 State Champion Boys Basketball Scholarship is sponsored by Greg Ropella, his wife Ruth and their son, Randy Ropella, to honor this great team.

Greg graduated from Menasha High School and lettered 11 times as an athlete. He was a starting member of the 1953 State Basketball Championship team. Greg also coached Little League for six years in Menasha. Greg was a Traffic Investigator for 29 years for the Menasha City Police Department and retired in 1990.

Ruth Ropella graduated from Menasha High School in 1957. After Greg passed away in 2009, Ruth enjoyed many special trips with her son, Randy until her passing in 2017. Randy, who graduated from Menasha High School in 1979, was instrumental in caring for his parents through each of their battles with cancer.

Eligibility:

Graduating senior from Menasha High School, who has participated on the boys' varsity basketball team, with no athletic suspensions, and plans to attend a two or four-year accredited college, university or technical college. The ideal candidate will have demonstrated the following:

- Academic success as indicated by a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA
- Hard working team player
- Involvement in the community
- Financial need may be considered

Award Amount:

One \$1,000 non-renewable scholarship award to be used for tuition first, and if there are remaining funds they can be used for books, to attend a college, university, or technical college.

Selection:

Recipients are recommended each spring by the Community Foundation Selection Committee, per eligibility requirements above.

Payment Procedure:

Scholarship payments will be released after submission of the following to the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region: completed scholarship verification form (located at www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships), verification of full time student status (class schedule with credits listed). After approval of submitted documentation, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. Most communications between the Community Foundation and the student will be via email; **please keep us advised of your current email address.**

Loss of Eligibility:

Failure to register as a full-time student for the first semester of college.

Further Information:

For more information regarding this scholarship, please contact the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region, at scholarships@cffoxvalley.org or call 920-702-7619.