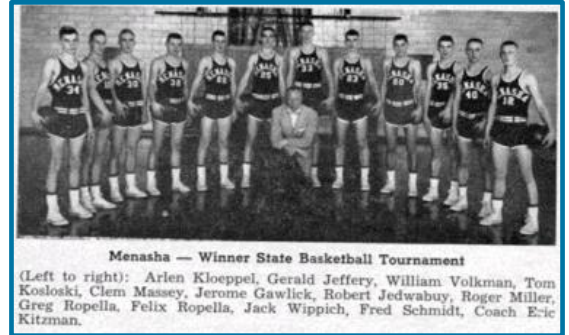
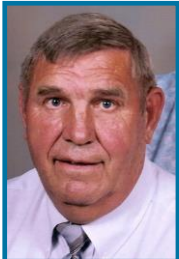


## 1953 State Champion Boys Basketball Scholarship

### Background:

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: (taken into consideration to determine recipients)

- Graduating seniors from Menasha High School
- Plans to attend a 2- or 4-year accredited college, university, or technical college as a full-time student
- Participation on the boys' varsity basketball team, with no athletic suspensions
- Minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA
- Demonstrated hard-working team player
- Community involvement
- Financial need will 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, payable for the 1<sup>st</sup> semester of college.

### Selection:

Recipients are recommended each spring by the Community Foundation Selection Committee.

### Collecting the Award & Payment Procedure:

Recipients must fill out and submit Scholarship Acceptance Form and Scholarship Verification Form through the [Scholarship Portal](http://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar) ([www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar](http://www.grantinterface.com/Home/Logon?urlkey=cffvrscholar)). Recipients are required to provide supporting documents *as instructed* in the Scholarship Verification Form, such as class registration/list **with** credits listed, proof of major, grade transcript, etc.

After approval of online Scholarship Verification Form, the scholarship check will be paid directly to the school the recipient will be attending. The **Community Foundation communicates with students via email**; it is the student's responsibility to keep their Scholarship Portal account updated with their current email address.

### Loss of Eligibility:

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

### Further Information:

- Menasha High School Guidance Department
- Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region
  - Website [www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/](http://www.cffoxvalley.org/scholarships/)
  - Email [scholarships@cffoxvalley.org](mailto:scholarships@cffoxvalley.org)
  - Phone 920.702.7629