

# Thorp High School Celebrates 100 Years of Boys' Basketball

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Thorp High School was filled with nostalgia and camaraderie on Saturday, January 3, as the 2014-2015 Cardinals hosted a WIAA 100 Years of Boys' Basketball alumni event at Tetzner gymnasium. Thanks to the extensive efforts of Head Coach and former Thorp basketball alumni Rich Sonnentag as well as the collaboration of the Thorp Alumni Association (TAA), the evening was filled with memorabilia, reminiscing, and of course, basketball.

As visiting alumni from all around the state entered, they were given a name badge with their graduating year. Men from seasons as early as 1944 up to 2014 filled the stands for a special video montage presentation. Game videos spanning multiple decades showcased many well-known players, coaches, and highlights from Thorp's longstanding history, including Gary Bandor, coach Jack Tetzner, and buzzer-beating, game winning shots.

Just as the varsity players were about to begin warm-ups for their game against the Black River Falls Tigers, the team introduced three honorary team captains for the night. Joe Pawlak, Rich "Bear" Turenne, and Carl "Red" Wyczawski from the 1944 team, made their way to center court, where the current basketball lineup greeted and thanked them. Before the night was through, all of the boys' basketball alumni were recognized for playing their part in the school's history of the game. During halftime of the varsity game, each basketball alumni in attendance was announced, as well as their graduating year.

Following the evening's event, all alumni were invited to a reception after the game at Cindy's Hall.



**The players of the 2014-2015 Thorp Cardinals greet the three honorary team captains at center court before the start of the varsity game.**



**As names were announced one by one, the boys' basketball alumni stood, cheering for the other players that came before and after them.**