WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR

By: Larry Gundrum

The Washington County Fair came to Slinger in 1938. It is held at the County Grounds on the north side of the village on the last full weekend of July. It is one of a few free fairs held in Wisconsin and is thought to attract up to 50,000 visitors each year. Washington County held a large parade in conjunction with the fair in 1986 to help celebrate its 150th anniversary. The highlight of the parade was a sky diving exhibition where several sky divers eluded electrical wires to land on a semi trailer in front of the businesses at 109 and 111 Kettle Moraine Drive South.

The Washington County Fair along with the Slinger Super Speedway and Little Switzerland have helped make Slinger the Entertainment Capital of Washington County.

SPORTS

By Henry Karius

SLINGER HIGH SCHOOL

While the Slinger High School sports teams have experienced moderate success over the years in various sports, the boys and girls cross country and track teams have enjoyed enormous success dominating the Parkland Conference and enjoying regular success at the state level.


championships in 1982 and 1993. Although several individuals have advanced to the state tournament, Slinger has never had a male state champion in cross country.

While the boys teams have captured their fair share of championships, the girls teams have been a dominant force since the late 1970s.

The girls track team coached by Steve Bingen (a former SHS graduate) captured Scenic Moraine track championships in 1977 through 1980. After moving to the Parkland Conference, they captured an incredible ten straight track championships from 1983 through 1992. They captured indoor conference championships in 1980 (Scenic Moraine), and have a current string of eleven straight Parkland Conference Indoor championships from 1983 through 1993, with the 1994 event not held as of the time of this article. While their success in these events seems remarkable, they have been even more dominating in the Conference Relay meets. They captured Scenic Moraine Conference Relay championships in 1976 and 1979. Immediately upon moving to the Parkland Conference, they began a string of thirteen consecutive Parkland Conference Relay championships in 1981. Their streak was broken in 1994.

Although the Slinger girls have never captured a team state championship, they have had several individuals recognized as state champions in their respective events. The first state champions in Slinger High School history was the 1976 relay team of Denise Borchardt, Darlene Beine, Jody Phelan, and Darlene Kratz. This foursome captured the 4x800 Relay championship. In 1979, Cathy Branta began a remarkable string of domination. She captured the state championships in 1979 in both the one mile and two mile events as a sophomore. In 1980 and 1981, she continued her streak by winning both the 1600 meter (formerly the one mile) and the 3200 meter (formerly the two mile) events setting record times. In 1986, Patti Boehlen captured state championships in two events winning both the Triple Jump and the 100 meter dash.

The girls cross country team also coached by Bingen captured Parkland Conference titles eight consecutive years starting in 1981 and capturing their last championship in 1988.

Several individuals have advanced to participate in the state tournament with two female runners capturing state championships. Diane Breuer captured the state championship...

The Owls captured Parkland Conference football championships in 1983, 1984, and 1992. All three teams were eliminated in their first games, with both the 1983 and 1984 teams losing to Port Washington, and the 1992 team being beaten by Elkhorn. The 1983 team was undefeated during the regular season.

After winning nine individual state championships while at Slinger, Branta continued her successful track and cross country career as a standout at the University of Wisconsin in the early 1980s leading the Badgers to several track and cross country championships. She captured all-Big Ten honors, and tried out for the Olympics. She was a first alternate for the 1984 Olympic Games.

The only boys basketball team to participate in the state tournament was the 1976-1977 team coached by Doug Potter. They beat East Troy at Whitewater to advance to the state tournament in Madison where they were eliminated in their first game by Prairie du Chien. The team was Scenic Moraine Conference co-champions, and finished the season with a 21 win, 3 loss record.

In football, where only conference champions participated in the state championship playoffs until 1990, and only conference champions and second place teams currently participate, Slinger has had three teams qualify for the playoffs.


924 SD Slinger High School Championship Basketball team, 1920-1921 season. Slinger High played its home games at Roth's Hall (now attached to "The Slinger House") until 1924 when the first high school gym was built. Members shown from left: Manager Harold Thelissen, Oscar Kratz, Harry Schuck (Village President 1932-33), Lawrence Kramer, Lester Herbst (who scored 22 baskets in a 100-14 win over Kewaskum on Feb. 21, 1923, probably the highest single game total ever by a S.H.S. player) and Alex Baer.

Other Slinger high school teams have won conference championships throughout the years, but none of these teams have participated at the state level.

There has been a tremendous expansion in women's athletics at the high school level in recent years. Girls can now participate in volleyball, basketball, track, cross country, tennis, fastpitch softball and soccer.

Boy's currently field teams in football, basketball, wrestling, track, soccer, cross country, golf, tennis, and baseball.
Slinger Rock River League


Slinger has had a city baseball team for decades. They participate in the Rock River League, as well as the Tri-County Night League which was formed in the 1970s. Slinger won Rock River League championships in 1958, 1959 and 1961 under the direction of manager Glenn Dhein. They continued their winning ways in the 1980s capturing Rock River League championships in 1983 and 1984 under manager David "Butch" Zimmerman and also in 1989. Slinger has also captured the Tri-County Night League championship in 1986 and 1992. Steve Salter has managed the Slinger team since 1986.

GIRL'S SPORTS

7.36 NZ Schlesinger Girls Basketball Team 1911-1912. This team was Coached by Fred Roth and played in Roth’s Hall. Left to right, top row: Ella Theisen, Ema Klug, Anna Theisen, Elida Kaiser and Helen Landt. Bottom row: Molly Schodron, Helen Kaiser, Carrie Thiel, Norma Roth and Aurelia Klug.
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