

# BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL

The 1982-83 Boys Varsity Basketball team had an outstanding season by finishing with a perfect 10-0 MSAC League record and an overall 21-2 record. The boys were led by three Seniors who guided the Bears to one of the most successful seasons in Ashley's history.

The Bears offense was in full force as John Mills averaged 23.4 points a game during the season. In the second game of the season Mills broke the old school record of 42 points a game set by Nick Kindel in 1971 by scoring 45 points against Fowler. Excitement continued to rise as Mills and Buddy Howes both joined the 1,000 point club. Mills had 1,199 points while Howes had 1,054 career points. Howes averaged 13.6 points a game and Wade Crumbaugh averaged 11.8 points per game.

Rebounding for the Bears was led by Howes and Crumbaugh with 11 and 8.6 rebounds a game average respectively. Taking care of assists was Mills with 71 assists and Crumbaugh with 52.

Defensively, the Bear trio grabbed a total of 140 steals. Crumbaugh had 50 steals while Mills and Howes both followed closely behind with 48 and 42 steals respectively. Crumbaugh also led in blocked shots with 17 while Jim Custer, a junior, had 14 and Mills had 12 blocked shots. Howes led the team by taking 32 charges.

The Bear trio also took control of All-Star and All-State teams. Mills, Howes, and Crumbaugh all made the MSAC first team. On the Herald All-Star first team and captain was Mills who was joined by Howes while Crumbaugh made the second team. Elected to the All-Area Class D Lansing State Journal first team was Mills with Howes on the second team. The Morning Sun All-Area first team selected Mills and its All-Gratiot County Area chose Mills and Howes on its first team and Crumbaugh on its second team. The Detroit Free Press named Mills captain of its All-State Class D first team while he was also chosen for the Detroit News, Associated Press, and the United Press International All-State Class D first teams. Yet the Bear team was not the only one honored as Coach Jim Dion was selected as the Morning Sun's 1982-83 Gratiot County Area Coach of the Year. He was also named as the Coach of the Year by the Lansing State Journal and chosen as one of the top Class D coaches by the Associated Press.

The Gratiot County Coach of the Year Jim Dion gives the Ashley Bears All-Stater John Mills a few words of confidence and wisdom during a very important game for the Bears. All future teams will be measured up to the accomplishments of this great team and coach, we can all be proud of them.



Front Row left to right: Al Stehlik, John Mills, Wade Crumbaugh, Buddy Howes, Mike Litwiller, Jason Custer. Back Row left to right Coach Jim Dion, Dave Schneider, Mike Burlingame, Jim Custer, Burwell Mackall, Mike Shaw. Not pictured Joe Yelsik.

