

# "Burley's" basketball boys

1956 was another prosperous year for the Big Red basketeers and Coach Howard "Burley" Grimes. The basketball squad, with a 21-4 record, captured the P.H.S.L. and District trophies, and claimed the runner-up spot in the Southwestern Ohio Regional Class A-Tournament.

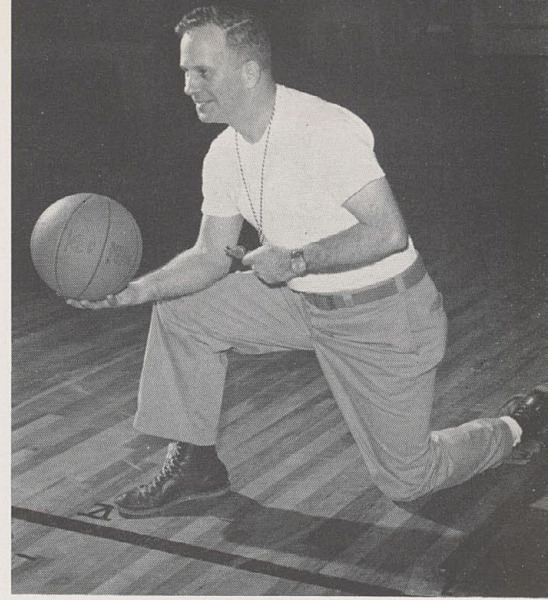
During this season, Hughes captured its fifth District title, its eleventh P.H.S.L. crown and chalked up 19 consecutive victories, breaking last year's record of 17 consecutive wins.

Coach Grimes' squad was centered around eight senior players. Co-captain Ray Apple, forward, was the team's leading scorer, with a total of 344 points. Ray was honored by the three Cincinnati newspapers by being acclaimed All-City Captain. He also was chosen on the All-State second team.

The other co-captain and forward, Ron Blackstone, was a defensive and rebounding standout. His scoring in tight spots proved of great value to the team. Steve Gooder, the squad's third forward, played a main part in the success of the Big Reds with his rebounding and jump shots.

John Smith showed his ability as a high scoring and rebounding center. His improved playing was especially helpful in the latter part of the season. Gil McKitric, his alternate, had a soft touch under the basket that gave Hughes a boost during the competition.

Jim Grimes, guard, was a high scorer with his outside shooting and lay-ups. Besides this, he was a constant scrapper, stealing the ball consistently. Tom Morrical, the other guard, proved himself with his speed and agility. His two-hand push-shot seemed never to miss. Carlton Walker, the alternate guard, was a top-notch floor man and playmaker. His accurate passes and expert ball-handling helped Hughes gain full control of the ball.



Coach Howard "Burley" Grimes

## BIG RED VARSITY SQUAD:

First Row (kneeling): Alan Blincoe (Manager), Dave Senn (Manager), Mr. Howard Grimes (Coach), Pat Breen (Manager). Second Row (standing): Walt Peters, Dave Campbell, Elvin Turner, Larry Smith, Ray Apple (Co-Captain), Gilford McKitric, John Smith, Steve Gooder, Paul Westerfeld, Ron Blackstone (Co-Captain), Jim Grimes, Tom Morrical, Carlton Walker.

John Smith (left) and Tom Morrical (11) battle for a rebound under the boards.



Carlton Walker (14) brings the ball down the floor, while Gil McKitric (19) maneuvers into position.

