

Hughes is the only Cincinnati team to win the Class A District title for two consecutive years. This year the Big Reds scored victories over Fairfield, Roger Bacon, Walnut Hills, Elder, and St. Xavier to claim the title.

Their initial victory was scored over Fairfield, 76-49. Ray Apple, showing his usual accuracy and skill, pumped in 26 points.

Roger Bacon pressed Hughes to the final second before they succumbed, 47-45. With the game tied and 50 seconds left to play, Hughes froze the ball. In the last 13 seconds, Jim Grimes laid the ball in for the winning margin, after a pass from Ray Apple.

Walnut Hills lost out in their attempt to upset Hughes. Ray Apple scored 12 points for the Hughes team. In the fourth quarter, Tom Morrical with a lay-up, put the Big Reds out in front, 52-46.

With John Smith and Ron Blackstone in a fourth quarter rally, Hughes turned back Elder, 60-48. Blackstone and Smith had 17 and 13 points, respectively.

Hughes won the championship thriller 60-58. Ray Apple tossed in a one-hand jump shot in the final four seconds to give the winning margin. He ended with 16 points, and John Smith tallied 12.

The Big Reds defeated a stubborn Troy team in the first game of the Regionals, but fell before the onslaught of the Middletown "Middies" in the finals 98-65.

Hughes, experiencing a slow first half, rallied in the second to defeat Troy 80-63. Ray Apple finished with 20 points and John Smith followed with 13.

In the Middletown contest, Hughes held All-State Jerry Lucas to 22 points but couldn't stop guard Bob Cole, who scored 37 points. Ray Apple scored 20 points, and Gil McKitric totaled 15 points.

takes Big Reds to Regional Finals

Co-captain Ray Apple gets away his famous two-hand jump shot.

