

## 1969 NDHSAA CLASS B BOYS BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

### OAK GROVE GROVERS



1969 Fargo Oak Grove Boys Basketball Team: Back Row (Left to Right): John Renfrew, Dave Small, Jim Rasmussen, Dave Tranby, Mark Henderson, Brad Hastings, Warren Larson, Richard Mielke, Peter Erwin, Bob Mulholland, Joel Triebold, Glenn Svanes. Front Row (Left to Right): Manager Duane Rygg, Marc Langseth, Ken Kvaale, Head Coach Darwin Gorder.

## Grovers top Hebron in 1969 B title game, complete undefeated season

Posting 26 wins in a basketball season while going undefeated is tough to do, but it was a feat Oak Grove was able to achieve in 1969 culminating with a state championship.

The Grovers' path to the 1969 NDHSAA Class B boys basketball state tournament was a tough one playing in Region 1, which had produced the eventual state champion in 1968 (Casselton) and 1967 (Ellendale). At the Region 1 Tournament, Oak Grove would play fellow unbeaten Ellendale in the first round. The Grovers came away with a 47-46 win to advance to the championship where they defeated Litchville 54-33 to earn a trip to state. It would be Oak Grove's fourth appearance in program history at the Class B state tournament and would prove to be a memorable one.

The 1969 Class B state tournament field included Oak Grove, New Town, Jud, Wolford, Berthold, Hebron, Edmore, and Northwood. Six of the eight teams had won 20 or more games. Oak Grove and Jud were undefeated entering state while Wolford was the only team returning from the 1968 state tournament.

Oak Grove edged Northwood 45-43 in the final quarterfinal game. Senior Mark Henderson scored a layup with four seconds remaining as the Grovers defeated the Trojans for the third time.

In the semifinals, Oak Grove locked up with Wolford – a team known for its pressure defense. Luckily, the Grovers had a roster deep with good ball handlers to counter-act Wolford's press. Oak Grove defeated the Wolves 53-47. Senior guard Marc Langseth

led the Grovers with 16 points. Senior forward Warren Larson added 12 points and Henderson finished with 10 points.

In the championship game, Oak Grove squared off against Hebron. The Grovers led at all the quarter stops, but saw a 12-point lead at halftime dwindle to just two points in the second half. Hebron keyed its defense to contain Langseth, but he finished with 11 points including three free throws in the final 38 seconds of the game to help Oak Grove clinch its first Class B State Championship in program history. Ken Kvaale and Dave Tranby each finished with 10 points for Oak Grove. Langseth was named the tournament's most valuable player following the championship game.