

# Caged Perfection

The Story of Pittsburgh's  
South Side Basketball Team

by Robert T. Hilliard

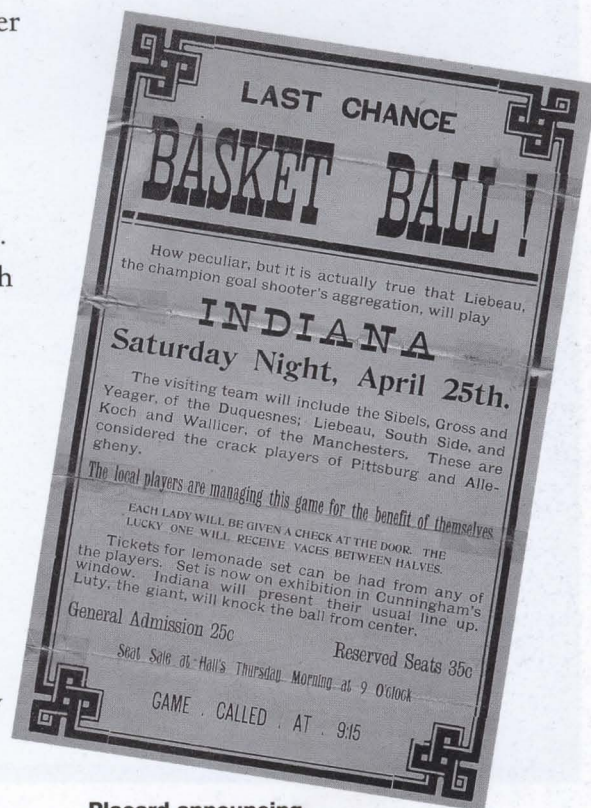


THE SUCCESS OF Pittsburgh's professional sports teams is nothing short of legendary. Any fan worthy of his or her black and gold jersey can describe in detail any of the Steelers' four Super Bowl victories, the Penguins' back-to-back Stanley Cup wins in hockey, and Pirate Bill Mazeroski's World Series-winning homer (even if the fan was born after the 1960 World Series). But, despite the phenomenal success shared by these teams, none ever achieved the ultimate goal of any professional sports franchise: an undefeated season. Yet, this lofty goal was achieved by a Pittsburgh pro sports team. One hometown team swept every game it played in one of the toughest leagues in the country, compiling a 20-0 record. The team that achieved perfection was the 1903-04 South Side squad, and the sport in which they did it was, surprisingly, basketball.<sup>1</sup>

The fact that a Pittsburgh basketball team could put up an undefeated season is startling only because of the less-than-stellar record of professional cagers here, from the recent one-season tenure of the Pittsburgh Pihranas of the Continental Basketball League, to the rarely lamented Pittsburgh Condors, which left the American Basketball Association and the sports scene in 1972. The Condors set the standard for Pittsburgh hoops futility by posting a 90-162 record over three seasons.<sup>2</sup> Their frequently laughable efforts left lingering bad feelings among a generation of Pittsburgh pro basketball fans not aware of the legacy that preceded the Condors.

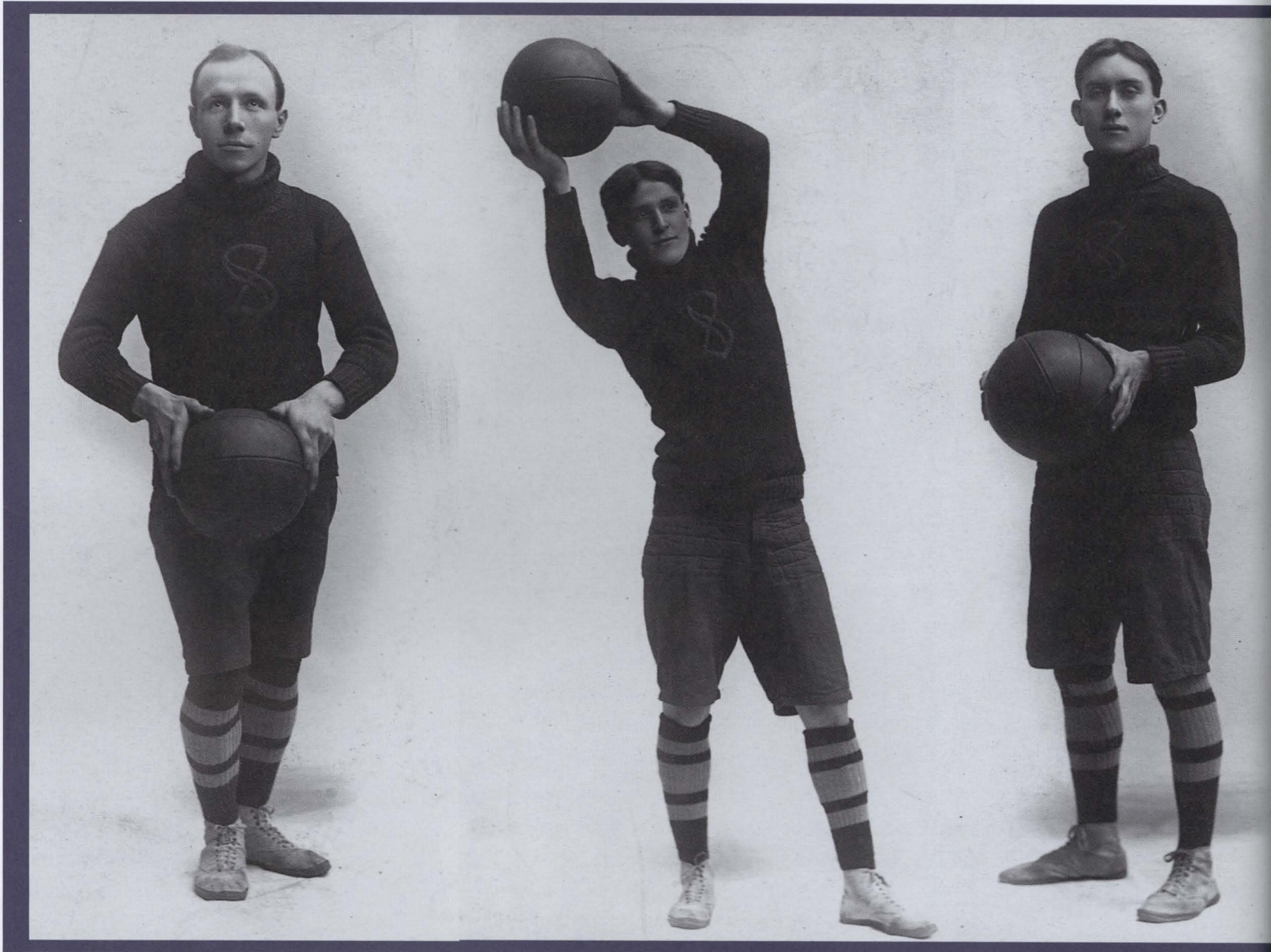
There is no doubt that South Side was a great team. They competed in the Western Pennsylvania League, which had evolved from the Allegheny County League. The ACL started play around 1896, making it perhaps the first professional basketball league in the United States.<sup>3</sup> The distinction of the first professional team is generally ceded to the Trenton Basketball Team, which also started in 1896<sup>4</sup>, but the distinction between professional and

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**Placard announcing game between South Side's champion team and pro "cagers" from Indiana, Pa., during the 1903-04 season.**





amateur leagues was often blurred, and it is unclear whether the ACL was for professionals or not.

However, the WPL, which included teams from Allegheny (North Side), Carnegie, Duquesne, Manchester, Pittsburgh, and South Side, plus a team called the Olympics (probably from the East End), was definitely a professional league.<sup>5</sup> In addition to league games, South Side also regularly played other teams from the region including Altoona, Butler, East Liverpool, Homestead, Indiana, Latrobe, McKeesport, Steubenville, and Wheeling. When the Central League was formed two years later, it consisted of Butler, Canton (Ohio), East Liverpool (Ohio), Greensburg, Homestead, McKeesport, and South Side. This league, created by a sportswriter for the former *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, operated from 1905-06 until 1911-12.<sup>6</sup>

While a league formed only of teams from the Pittsburgh area may not seem impressive, it is important to note that basketball was invented barely more than a decade before, in 1891. The game had only begun to spread in popularity at the

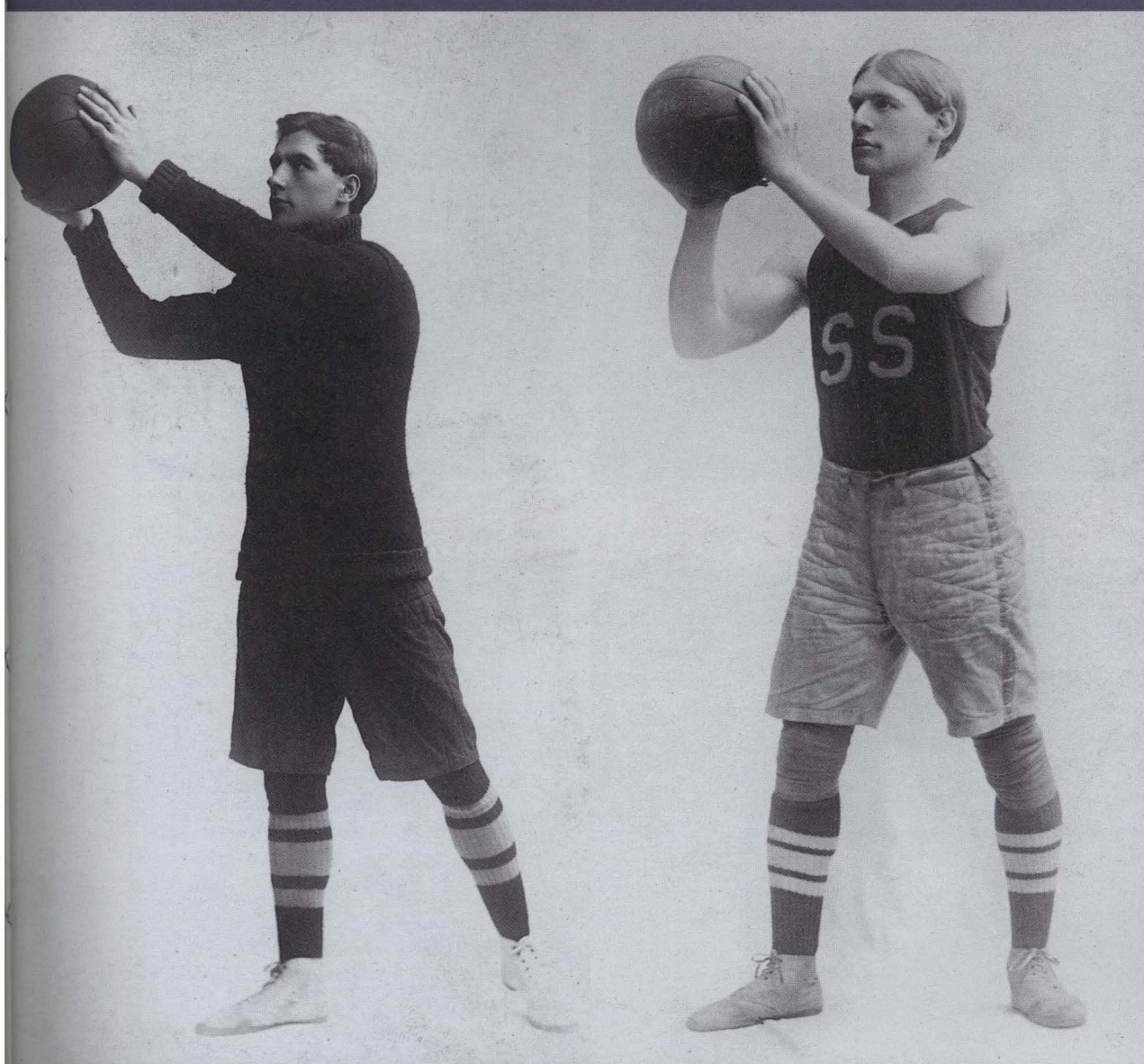
time, and there were only two or three professional leagues in the entire country.<sup>7</sup> It was not until almost two decades later that basketball began to attract attention nationwide.<sup>8</sup>

Occasionally, when the money was right and league schedules permitted, teams from different professional leagues barnstormed against each other. These games were a huge attraction and it was common practice for managers to supplement their take from the gate by pooling the money of their hometown fans and wagering it against a matching pool from the other team. These pools sometimes ran as high as \$2,000, a sizable sum at the turn of the century.<sup>9</sup> However, the loot hauled in was often secondary to bragging rights earned by the winners.

Before a series between Homestead and Steubenville in 1902, one of the first interstate matchups of league champions, the following letter came from a glassworker in Jeannette, in Westmoreland County, to Louis Rosser, coach of the squad in Duquesne (just east of Homestead along the Monongahela River):

Dear Lou — You can't chuck a spittoon [sic] out of the





Basketball professionals in the game's infancy were all white and much shorter than today's stars. South Side's starting five, from left, were: John Seibel and Bill Windeknecht at guard; Joseph Leithead at one forward; Henry Nickel at center; and Henry Liebau at the other forward.

second-story window up here without hitting some Steubenville guy on the head. They're all glass workers, and it's worth a man's life to say he ever bought a sandwich in Pittsburg. Put me wise. Can you lick Farren's [Steubenville] gang. [sic] If so, I'll get out and make a front. If not, it's the tall and untrimmed forest for me.

Rosser replied:

Dear Bill — Bet all you have. Get all you can legitimately. Beg all you dare without putting the police on. Mortgage the family cat. Sell the furniture and borrow all your friends will stand. Put this in a lump and bet it that we will beat Steubenville in the series.<sup>10</sup>

The amount of cash being bet on the games was a direct reflection of the fan support which was a hallmark of the WPL, and later the Central League. South Side filled the Market House and the Odd Fellows Hall, the two arenas in which they played their home games, three nights a week with capacity crowds in excess of 500 people.<sup>11</sup> In larger venues, South Side still played

before capacity crowds, and sometimes throngs of up to 500 people had to be turned away at the gate.<sup>12</sup>

Some fans were so devoted to their teams that they provided more than just moral support. In the early days of the game, the basket was often placed on a wall below a balcony, allowing fans to be seated directly above and behind it. By 1895, it had become commonplace for rowdy (and presumably long-armed) fans to station themselves in these seats and help out the home team by reaching out and guiding the ball into the net. In that year, an invention was devised that soon became a permanent fixture of all basketball courts — the backboard.<sup>13</sup> An interesting aspect of the backboard issue, one that relates to the Central League, is that the glass backboard, assumed by most sports followers to have come into use in the 1970s, was actually invented and used by the McKeesport Tubers team as early as 1910.<sup>14</sup>

Although modern sports fans can relate to the enthusiasm with which local fans pursued their teams' fortunes, the game itself would be almost unrecognizable today. The most obvious



difference is that the game was played in a cage made of rope or wire mesh (hence the practice, which continues today, of referring to basketball players as “cagers”). A photo of the South Side court at the Market House on East Carson Street appears to show a cage made of chicken wire stretched over a wooden frame. The cages, which were first brought into use around 1896 to prevent out-of-bounds delays, persisted on the courts of eastern professional teams into the 1930s.<sup>15</sup>

Other differences in the game played by South Side would also be quickly apparent to modern fans. Although the number of players on the court had already gone through its evolution (from ten to seven to the five still used today) and players were awarded two points for a field goal and one for a foul shot, the games were still drastically different from the fast-paced, airborne style played today. Players, for instance, were diminutive by today’s standards. In 1900, the starting five for the Homestead Athletic Club averaged a Lilliputian 5-foot-8 and 145 pounds.<sup>16</sup>

Another facet of the Central League games which would seem foreign to today’s fan is that one of the most basic elements of the sport, the dribble, was still in its embryonic stages. Many teams simply passed the ball from one stationary player to another instead of trying to run while bouncing the ball. A sort of reverse dribble was also allowed at the time. Rather than bouncing the ball on the floor, players could bounce it up in the air on the palms of their hands. When this led to players bouncing the ball only an inch or two off their hands as they moved upcourt, a rule was passed requiring them to bounce it higher than their heads.<sup>17</sup>

WPL and Central League games were relatively low-scoring affairs. South Side, over one 44-game stretch, averaged 36 points per game while their opponents averaged 16.<sup>18</sup> Average scores for most teams were in the low 20s’. There were several reasons, but one of the chief limits on scoring was that with each basket scored, the ball had to be retrieved from the net. The use of nets

## How Good Was South Side?

**T**HE AMAZING record of the South Side basketball team begs the question about how good the Central League was, when all the teams were from Western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. In assessing the competitiveness of the early basketball leagues, it is important to keep in mind that the game was barely a decade old. Dr. James Naismith invented basketball in 1891.

According to Robert W. Peterson (*Cages to Jumpshots, Pro Basketball’s Early Years*), the players of the Trenton (N.J.) Basketball Team are generally conceded to have been the sport’s first professionals, and their first season was 1896-97. But Peterson notes that the game’s sudden popularity was such that, by 1900, “there were scores of professional teams in the Philadelphia-New York area, southern New England, the Hudson River Valley of New York state, and eastern and southwestern Pennsylvania.” Although most of these teams began as barnstormers who had no set schedule and played against amateurs as often as other professionals, it wasn’t long until the first professional leagues appeared.

The National Basketball League, which despite its name included only teams from the Philadelphia and southern New Jersey area, was formed in August 1898 and began play the following December. The league survived only until 1903, when many of its players began to defect to other leagues that had become prominent — and that paid better.

Other professional leagues began to spring up all over the eastern United States: the American League (Philadelphia area); the Interstate League (New Jersey and eastern

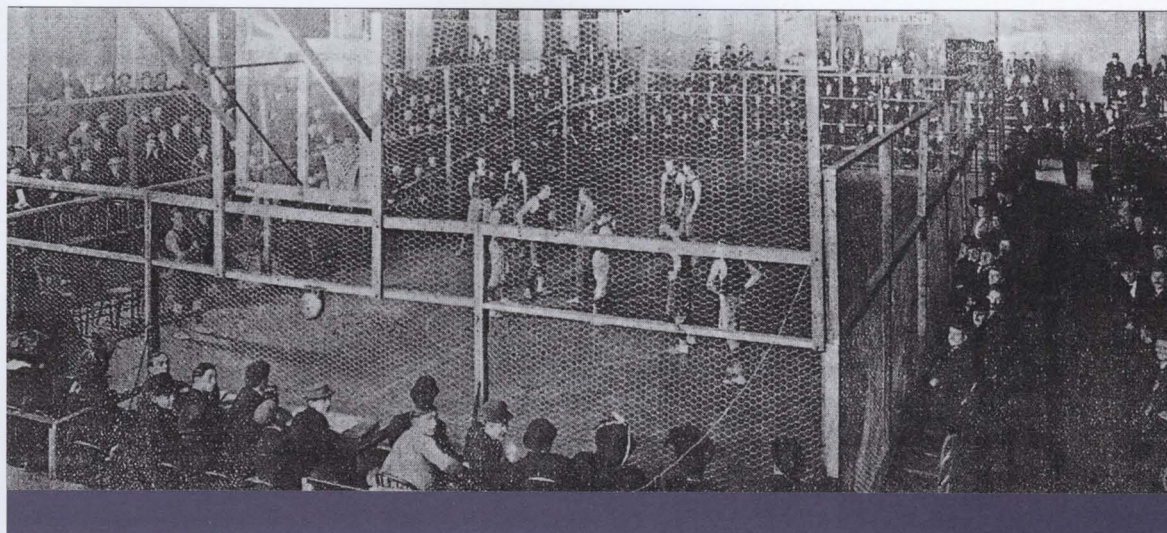
Pennsylvania); the Eastern League (eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and New York); the New England League (Massachusetts and New Hampshire); and the Hudson River League (upstate New York). However, Peterson points out that “[a]ll of the early leagues were unstable, with only one [the Eastern League] surviving more than six seasons.”

During the time that Pittsburgh South Side played in the Western Pennsylvania and Central leagues (1903-1912), only four other leagues were in operation for more than one season: the Philadelphia League (1902-1909), which included the Conshocken team that South Side squared off against; the New England Basketball League (1903-1905); the Eastern League (1900-1933, with an eight-year hiatus from 1923 to 1931); and the Hudson River League (1909-1912). The pro leagues were confined to the Northeast, according to Peterson, “partly because that region was the prime breeding ground for basketball and also because the population centers were close enough together to make league play practicable.... Most teams traveled by railroad and interurban trolley; a few of the clubs used the newfangled automobile for short trips.”

Because of the time and cost involved in travel between cities, inter-league games were a rare occasion, making any comparison between teams difficult. However, in reviewing the final standings of each of the seminal leagues, one fact stands out: among the more than 60 contemporary teams, playing over nine seasons in leagues across the Northeast, only one — Pittsburgh South Side — posted an undefeated record for an entire season.

And no matter the level of competition, it is difficult to argue with perfection. ⚙





A rare photograph of home court on Pittsburgh's South Side, c. 1915. Play was "caged" in wire mesh to reduce time lost to balls out of bounds.

with holes in the bottom did not come until 1912. In WPL games, each hoop was fitted with a contraption that, when a cord attached to the hoop was pulled down, rolled the net upwards and forced the ball back out the top.<sup>19</sup>

Another factor that contributed to low scoring was the ball itself. It was a "leather-encased pumpkin somewhat larger than today's molded ball, with laces along one side creating a bulge that made shooting and dribbling an adventure."<sup>20</sup>

Nonetheless, even with major limitations (including the fact that all the South Side players maintained full-time jobs, each team receiving only about \$55 per game)<sup>21</sup>, South Side ruled the courts of Western Pennsylvania for years. Over a three-season span, from 1903-04 to 1905-06, their record was 87-17, with two and a half league championships (more on the half later). In the first two of those seasons, they were a staggering 54-1-2, including the perfect 20-0 in 1903-04.<sup>22</sup> The numbers they posted become more incredible when one discovers that South Side used essentially the same five starters for those three seasons. These men, all city residents, faced various colleges, all-star teams, and teams whose stars had been imported by the highest bidder (free agency is hardly an invention of the latter half of the century). And they defeated nearly every one.

The South Side roster included Henry Liebau and Joseph Leithead at forward, Henry "Heine" Nickel at center, and John Seibel and Bill Windeknecht at guard. The reserves included Marty Weitzel, John Anderson, "Chief" Muller, Bill Koch, "King" Brady, and Walter East, an end on the Western University of Pennsylvania (later the University of Pittsburgh) football team.<sup>23</sup> The team was managed during their perfect season by a man named Roberts, and later by John J. Freund, Jr., who was "always... ready to sacrifice his supper, his sleep and his cash, if necessary, in the interests of his [team]"<sup>24</sup> While South Side could never have dominated without great athletes, they were apparently a team without one outstanding star.

This was not the case with the teams they played, however. The most notable was the Carnegie team headed by Hans (Honus) Wagner, who played some baseball for the Pittsburgh

Pirates during his time away from basketball. Although Pirates management had some concerns about possible injuries, Wagner played for the Carnegie squad for several years.<sup>25</sup> He even went to the extent of recruiting his Pirate teammates to play, including Patsy Flaherty, the "premier southpaw of the Pittsburg team."<sup>26</sup> Due to his status as a baseball celebrity and hometown hero, Wagner was always a drawing card when the two teams played.

One game between South Side and Carnegie was such an event that

a special train arrived in Carnegie with the Southside team and five cars of rooters with cow bells, tin horns and everything that would make a noise. It was then that the great rush for seats began at the hall. With the 600 from the Southside and the hundreds who had collected in the streets of Carnegie, the hall was soon filled to the roof with the Southside rooters on one side and those of Carnegie on the other. Standing room was all sold, but still they came and continued to come until it is estimated that 500 were turned away.<sup>27</sup>

Apparently the homecourt advantage and Flaherty's presence gave the edge to Wagner's squad, as Carnegie managed a rare win over South Side that night.

Although the South Side team lacked marquee players, it compensated with the fundamental strengths that every coach preaches: teamwork and execution. Nearly every newspaper account of a South Side game made reference to their passing ability and the coordination and teamwork displayed. One example of their work together was that they were one of the first teams to utilize signals to call plays on the court. Described as "something altogether different from the game as played hereabouts," the signal codes, "similar to those used by gridiron teams and the like," were expected to allow South Side to make even "greater efforts towards perfecting team work in its most stringent form."<sup>28</sup>

In addition to their finely-tuned passing game, South Side had exceptionally quick players who were nearly all good scorers. At the end of the 1902-03 Allegheny County League season, all five South Side starters ranked in the league's top 10 scorers.<sup>29</sup>





South Side team mascot and, *right*, cover of an official score card.

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**JOS. M. LEITHEAD, Treasurer**

**GEORGE VERNER, Asst. Treas.**

Information to Patrons on Page 8.



Athletic  
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The league leader was South Side forward Henry Liebau, who scored 68 times from the field and 85 from the foul line in only 17 games. His 221 points for the season, 18 more than the next closest player, gave him an average of 13 points per game in an era when most teams scored in the low 20's. This would roughly equate to a National Basketball Association (NBA) player today averaging 45 points per game.

Liebau, who continued to be South Side's leading scorer for several seasons, was not only a consistent scorer and outstanding foul-shooter, but an innovator as well. He apparently discovered that he could sink shots from further away from the basket if he held the ball in one hand and swung it in an arc over his head. Of course, the term "hook shot," later made famous by Tommy Heinsohn and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, had not yet been invented to describe it. According to Joe Hevey, assistant research coordinator at the Professional Basketball Hall of Fame, the earliest reference to the hook shot among players elected to the Hall is Robert Gruenig, who was enshrined in 1963.<sup>30</sup> Gruenig, who played for the Denver Safeways in 1937, is listed in his official biography as one of the first to use the hook shot extensively.

However, judging from the newspaper accounts of Liebau's shooting prowess, it seems that Greunig may have reinvented the wheel. The tone of these articles indicates that Liebau was probably the only one using the hook shot in the Central League, or was at least the first. The shots were described as "sensational goal(s) over his head"<sup>31</sup>, "a corker... one of his old-time one-handed ones"<sup>32</sup>, and "his world-famed overhead shots."<sup>33</sup> Another indication that Liebau may have been the first to use the hook shot was the description of a 1904 game against an all-star team from the Philadelphia League. The sportswriter noted that "Liebau played his usual strong game and made two of his famous one-handed shots, which surprised the boys from the East."<sup>34</sup>

Although South Side defeated many notable teams of their era, including the New York Nationals<sup>35</sup> and the Buffalo Germans (who are now enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame)<sup>36</sup>, perhaps their finest moment came against the Philadelphia all-star team. In late December 1903, South Side was just gaining momentum in what would ultimately become the first and only undefeated season ever in either the WPL or Central League. The barnstorming all-stars from the Philadelphia League, considered one of the strongest leagues in the country, had spent their Christmas holiday in the western half of the state, laying waste to many of the WPL teams. Their arrival in Pittsburgh to play the South Side team brought out the largest crowd of the season.<sup>37</sup>

The headline in the *Pittsburgh Post* the following morning briefly tells the story: "Great Are The Southsides." The local squad pounded the hand-picked team from the east, and the fans and newspapers were in a mood to gloat. "[The] all-Philadelphia basket ball team went up against the real thing last night against the champion Southside boys, and went down to defeat by the score of 44-13," sneered the *Post*. South Side jumped out to a 5-point lead early in the game, led by Liebau and Nickel. The all-stars tied the score, but "Seibel got the ball and begged it down the floor, shooting for goal, while on a dead run and making

good. He was rewarded by an outburst of applause that almost cracked the windows." The half ended with South Side up 13-7, but that was as close as it ever got. The scoring and quickness of South Side wore down the Philadelphians in the second half, as "[t]he Quakers could not stand the pressure and the home boys literally ran away from their opponents."<sup>38</sup>

It was an important win for South Side because it came over a team of top players from a superior league. But Pittsburgh sports fans, just as they would today, almost certainly accepted the victory as proof of their city's athletic superiority over Philadelphia. It was undoubtedly made sweeter by the lingering perception that Pittsburgh was Pennsylvania's second city, coarse and unrefined compared to Philadelphia.

And so, in the finest tradition of sports, the stage was set for a rematch. This time, rather than playing a team that had been thrown together for a promotional tour, South Side would face Conshohocken, reigning champion of the Philadelphia League. "Owing to the good showing made by the Southside team against the picked team from the East... and the intense interest," Conshohocken would travel across the state to defend its league honor. In one of the less-than-fine traditions of sport, the eastern all-stars had also indulged in a little trash-talking, which the Pittsburgh papers had been quick to report. "Notwithstanding the

score made against them, the all-star team which played here last Tuesday were all certain that the champion Conshohocken bunch will be too strong for Southside, as they are not only fine individual players who have team work down to perfection, but they stated that they are too big and heavy for the local champions who will be unable to withstand their rushes."<sup>39</sup>

Conshohocken was led by its center, a man named Keenan, who was, the papers reported, "one of the most famous, if not the most famous basketball

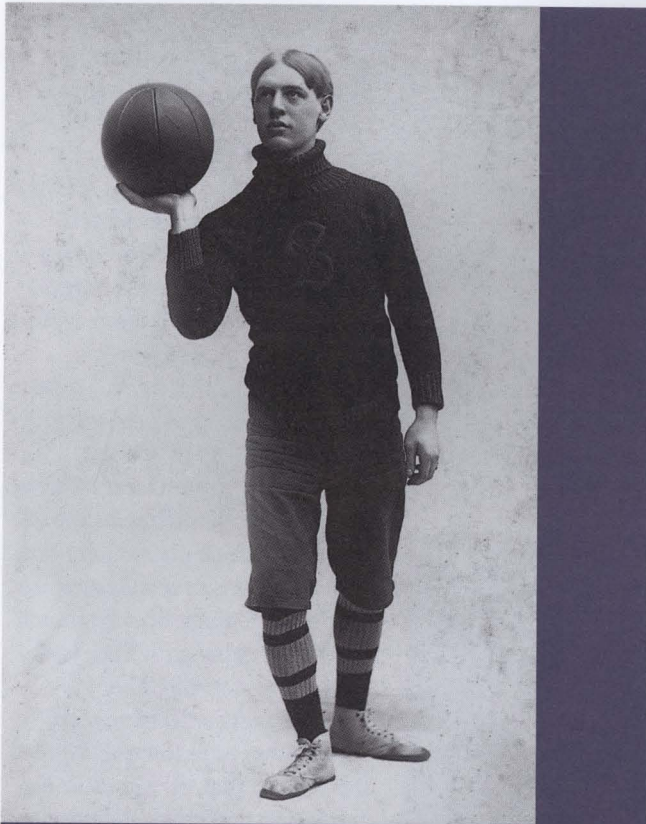


Manager Roberts of the champion team.

player in the country." With him in the lineup, Conshocken was considered "the fastest as well as the heaviest aggregation in the East." The general feeling of "the wise ones" was that "[a]lthough the local team had an easy time of it with the All-Star team last week, they will be up against a different proposition" with Conshohocken. The eastern team, like South Side, had played together for several years, and their players were huge for that era, averaging about 190 pounds.<sup>40</sup>

Legions of South Side rooters turned out to cheer their team to the championship of the state. The game was witnessed by "the largest crowd since 1902. The space outside of the playing floor was a solid mass of roiling, screeching humanity." Things started on a sour note for South Side when their center, Heine Nickel, faced with the difficult task of matching up with





Forward Henry Liebau's pose suggests the method required to advance the ball down-court, instead of dribbling: balancing the ball on the hand and fingertips. *Opposite:* Ad in score card for Pittsburgh Brewing, which survives today with brands such as Iron City.

Conshohocken's Keenan, became confused and shot the ball into the opponent's basket. The field goal was credited to Keenan, but apparently the embarrassment Nickel endured from the laughing crowd jolted him: that was Keenan's final score of the night.<sup>41</sup>

Nickel scored for his own team on the next play after his gaffe, but Conshohocken pulled out to an early 7-3 lead. Then, "with the crowd yelling like maniacs," South Side pulled ahead at the half, 12-9. The highlight of this run was Liebau "making one of his famous one-arm over the shoulder shots."

After Conshohocken's John O'Keefe "furnished a most agreeable [halftime] surprise by entertaining the audience with a number of songs," the game resumed (despite a 10-minute delay while O'Keefe picked up the coins thrown by the crowd in appreciation). Nickel continued to torture his more famous counterpart by holding him scoreless while sinking three consecutive shots, allowing South Side to pull away. Later in the half, South Side's Windeknecht "made the most splendid shot of the game when he fired it through the net [from] two-thirds down the floor." Despite a late rush by the visitors, South Side held on to win the championship, 26-20. Conshohocken fell to a team that would prove to be unbeatable, and "Southside hung up another scalp."<sup>42</sup>

Another major highlight for South Side occurred two years later, in the inaugural year of the Central League. After compiling a 54-1-2 record, collecting two league championships, and generally having their way with the other teams in the region over a two-season span, the manager of the East Liverpool team, William Hocking, determined not to let it continue. Before the start of the 1906-07 season, he signed six top players who had starred in the Philadelphia and New York leagues.<sup>43</sup>

His free agent signings paid off as East Liverpool rolled to the championship of the Central League at 22-8, with South Side finishing third at 17-13. However, the first year of the expanded league had been such a success that the decision was made to play a second season, consisting of 19 games, to determine a second championship. Using essentially the same troop of Pittsburgh residents that they always had, South Side played stronger through the spring season and won the second half with a 16-3 record. East Liverpool finished second at 12-7. When the league attempted to arrange a playoff series between South Side and East Liverpool to determine the season championship, the Ohioans refused to play, citing a dispute over the rules under which the game would be played. Left with no alternative, the Central League awarded each team half of the championship, giving South Side two and a half league championships in three seasons.<sup>44</sup>

As happens with all powerhouse sports teams, South Side began a gradual decline in its level of play. Although they remained in the Central League until its final season (they were the only team to play in the league during every year it existed), they were never again able to capture a championship. Their core players retired and became managers, or moved on to other teams. And with the demise of the Central League in 1912, and no television highlight reels as reminders, the accomplishments of





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the South Side team were soon forgotten. Within only a few decades, there were few people who recalled that "[t]he Southsides [were] a home team in every sense of the word, and it [was] no wonder that the Pittsburgh basket ball patrons [were] proud of this popular organization."<sup>45</sup>

Only the newspaper clippings are still left to remind us that "[a]t no time since its organization has [South Side] occupied any but stellar positions in basket balldom [sic], having met and defeated the greatest teams in the country. Time and again..., one after the other, all [challengers] were given a setback. The record of the champion South Side basketball team is without doubt unparalleled in local or foreign athletics, especially when one considers how the players have clung together."<sup>46</sup>

It is ironic that in a city which never allows its sports legends a moment's rest, the memory of one of its greatest professional teams, comprised entirely of Pittsburgh players, has been asleep for nearly a century. ☼

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> William J. Scheffer, ed., *Season of 1904-05 Official Basket Ball Guide* (Philadelphia, 1905), 38.
- <sup>2</sup> American Basketball Association World Wide Web Page, [www.geocities.com/colosseum/5290/](http://www.geocities.com/colosseum/5290/)
- <sup>3</sup> *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch*, 7 Jan. 1900, 9, mentions Duquesne as four-time champions.
- <sup>4</sup> Robert W. Peterson, *Cages to Jumpshots: Pro Basketball's Early Years* (New York and Oxford, 1990), 32.
- <sup>5</sup> Peterson, 189.
- <sup>6</sup> Peterson, 50.
- <sup>7</sup> Peterson, 47.
- <sup>8</sup> Peterson, 48.
- <sup>9</sup> Peterson, 50.
- <sup>10</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, 21 Jan. 1902, 10.
- <sup>11</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, "Remarkable Record of South Side Team," date and page unknown. This and other entries noted below, many from unknown newspaper sources, are contained in a scrapbook of news clippings about the South Side team in

the possession of Edith Fischer, Brentwood, Pa. Fischer's father was Henry Liebau, a forward on the South Side team during its undefeated streak.

- <sup>12</sup> "Carnegie Is Celebrating," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>13</sup> Peterson, 26.
- <sup>14</sup> Peterson, 51.
- <sup>15</sup> Peterson, 34.
- <sup>16</sup> *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch*, 11 Mar. 1900, 9.
- <sup>17</sup> Peterson, 27.
- <sup>18</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, "Remarkable Record of South Side Team," date and page unknown.
- <sup>19</sup> Peterson, 25.
- <sup>20</sup> Peterson, 4.
- <sup>21</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, "Remarkable Record of South Side Team," date and page unknown.
- <sup>22</sup> *Pittsburgh Sun*, 31 Dec. 1925, 11; and Peterson, 189.
- <sup>23</sup> *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch*, 4 Dec. 1904, 9.
- <sup>24</sup> Ed F. Balinger, "Basket Season Winds Up Soon," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>25</sup> Dennis and Jeanne Burke DeValeria, *Honus Wagner, A Biography* (New York, 1996), 98-99.
- <sup>26</sup> *Pittsburgh Post*, 26 Dec. 1904, 9.
- <sup>27</sup> "Carnegie Is Celebrating," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>28</sup> *Hill Top Record*, date unknown.
- <sup>29</sup> "Liebau Is The Leader of League," newspaper unknown, 29 Mar. 1903.
- <sup>30</sup> Personal conversation with author, 29 Oct. 1996.
- <sup>31</sup> "Potters Forced to Accept One More Defeat," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>32</sup> "Another Victory for South Side Team," *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, year unknown.
- <sup>33</sup> "Butler Bites Dust in Southside Hall," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>34</sup> *Pittsburgh Daily Dispatch*, 30 Dec. 1904, 9.
- <sup>35</sup> "Walkover for Southside," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>36</sup> J.N. Patterson, "Strong Showing in Basketball," *Hill Top Record*, 3 Jan. 1903.
- <sup>37</sup> *Pittsburgh Post*, 21 Dec. 1904, 10.
- <sup>38</sup> *Pittsburgh Post*, 21 Dec. 1904, 10.
- <sup>39</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, 23 Dec. 1904, 9.
- <sup>40</sup> *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, 27 Dec. 1904, 9.
- <sup>41</sup> *Pittsburgh Post*, 28 Dec. 1904, 7.
- <sup>42</sup> *Pittsburgh Post*, 28 Dec. 1904, 7.
- <sup>43</sup> Peterson, 49.
- <sup>44</sup> Peterson, 51.
- <sup>45</sup> "Basket Season Winds Up Soon," newspaper and date unknown.
- <sup>46</sup> "Celebrated Floor Stars," newspaper and date unknown.