



Row One: Rod Rembold, Jeff Smiley, Rod Snyder, Bob Adams. Row Two: Kris Robb, Manager; Chuck Seiver, Rod Silvis, Dave Scott, Bob Gruber, Mike Smiley, Tim Engstrom, George Crognale, Manager.

The **1975-76 GHS basketball team**, led by Head Coach Fred Kiser, put together a standout season, winning Greenville's first Mercer County Basketball League title in 40 years. The 13-1 league mark set a new record for GHS, and 10 straight wins in mid-season and a total regular season record of 20-2 tied existing records set by the 1965-66 Trojans. Forward David Scott was awarded League MVP honors for his efforts.

The league championship secured a berth in the District-10 playoffs where the Trojans beat Rocky Grove 57-53 in round one. Bob Gruber lead the Trojans on the boards and in scoring with 25 points. They met local rival Sharpsville in the final. The two regular season matchups were split with the Trojans besting the Blue Devils in game one 61-47, while Sharpsville captured the second 55-45. In the rubber match D-10 final, Sharpsville's defense and a "ball control" offense led them to victory 49-42. Gruber (16 points) and Bob Adams (14) paced the Trojans.

Greenville earned a spot in the state playoffs and the Sharpsville loss fueled a first round victory in the State playoffs over Conemaugh Township. David Scott dominated the game with 44 points and 15 rebounds in the Trojans' 65-52 victory over Conemaugh. Gruber's double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds aided the cause.

The victory led to a showdown with a heavily favored Washington High. The Prexies beat Sharpsville in round one and were projected to secure a rematch with Midland once the Trojans were dispatched. The game was close throughout with Washington holding a slim 36-34 lead to start the 4th quarter. At that point the Prexies employed a stall to counter the Trojan's zone defense with only one shot being taken until 2:48 remained in the game. A Prexie turnover and two Scott free throws sent the game into overtime at 36 all. OT started slowly and Greenville scored first with Scott converting an inside bucket. Foul shots from Bob Adams and Scott offset Washinton's only basket of the period resulting in a 43-38 victory. Scott led all scorers with 17 points, while Adams had 13. Gruber was again a force on the boards with 15 rebounds.

The Trojan's quarterfinal matchup against eventual state champion Midland High was somewhat of a David & Goliath scenario as Midland won state titles in 1970, 1973 and 1974, while finishing runner-up in 1975. The Trojans battled all night but came up short in a 68-42 loss. Leading the way for Greenville was Scott with 14 points and Adams with 10. Bob Gruber and the other Trojan big men had their hands full with Midland center and Division-1 football recruit Chuck Gomez all night. The loss ended Greenville's most successful season on record at 23-4.

The Trojans shot 47% from the floor during the regular season and 67% from the line. They held opponents to 39% shooting from the floor and had a 968 to 591 rebounding advantage.

Individually, David Scott let the team in scoring with 386 points, followed by fellow seniors Bob Gruber (280) and Bob Adams (232). Gruber (280), Scott (278) and Mike Smiley (101) led the way in rebounding, while Adams (66), junior Rod Rembold (56) and Mike Smiley (54) contributed in assists.

Both David Scott (Geneva College) and Bob Gruber (University of Pittsburgh) went on to play at a high level in college. Scott was a two-year letterman at Geneva in basketball, while Gruber played on Pitt's National Championship football team. He went on to play in the NFL and USFL for eight seasons after being drafted by the Los Angeles Rams in 1980.

The 1975-76 coaches, players and managers are as follows:

Head Coach – Fred Kiser

Assistant Coach – Gary Hull

9th Grade Coach – John Rankin

Seniors

Bob Adams
Bob Gruber
David Scott
Rod Silvis
Mike Smiley

Juniors

Tim Engstrom
Mark Flack
Rod Rembold
Charlie Seiver
Jeff Smiley
Rod Snyder

Sophomores

Tab McCullough

Managers

George Crognale
Kris Robb