

We Are the Champions

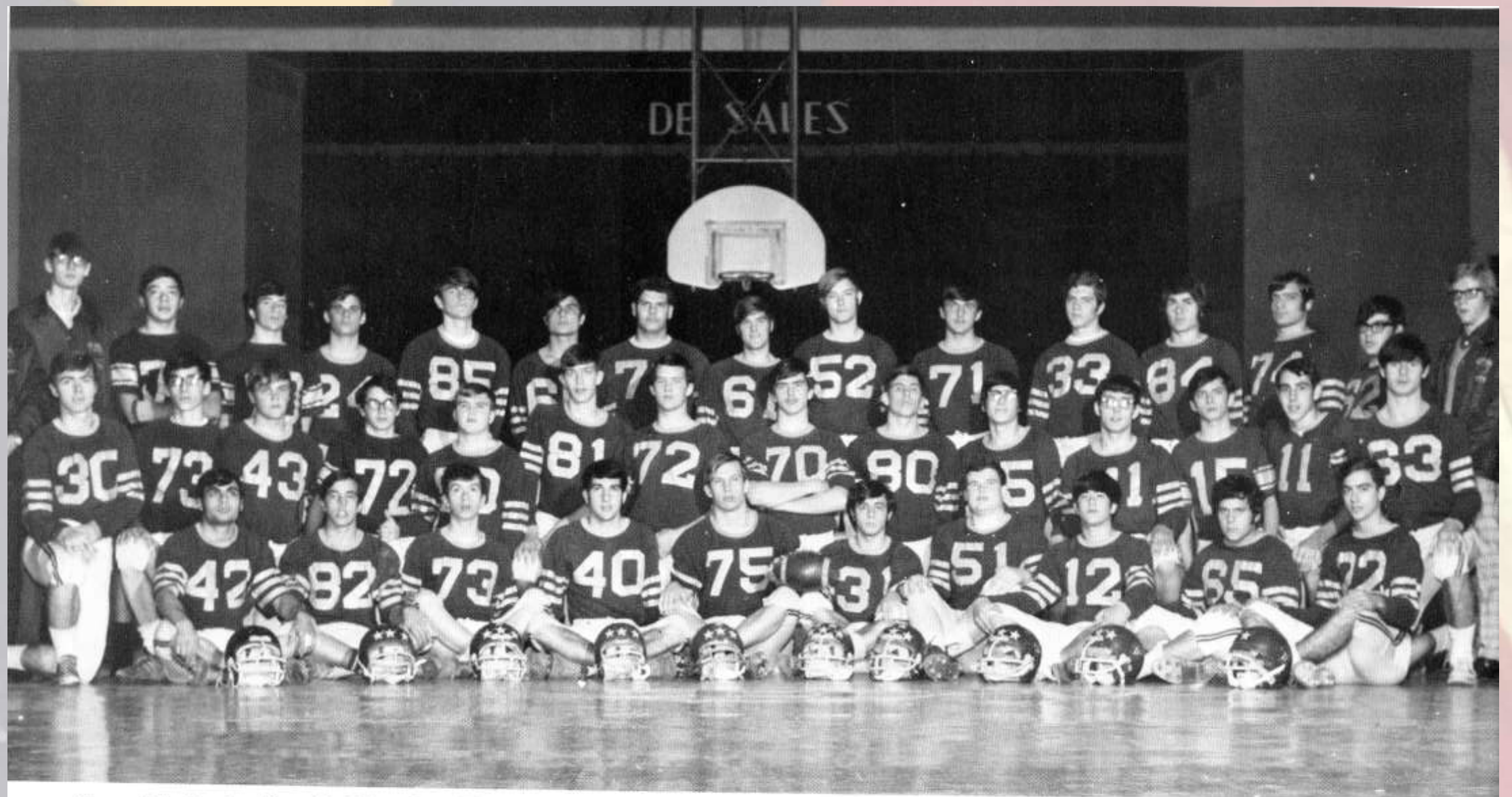
Since 1923 the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) governs over 30 sports. Schools are organized in leagues, state sections, and regions. Geneva is in Section V and the Western Region. Schools are classified by size to make competition fair.

Championships are not the only reason to play sports, but they are a highlight for teams and spectators alike. Geneva and DeSales High Schools combined have won many league championships. There have been Section V champions, and a few state champions.



With a record of 21-2, the 1933-34 Geneva High School basketball team was the first to win their league and sectional championships. Member of the team were James Parmalee, Edward Leo, Bill Wilson, Ebo Alberts, Darb Lowery, Coach Jim Loman, Morton Kenney, Richard Ferris, Tusco Dewey, Charles Kenney, and manager Robert Legg.

The 1970 De Sales High School Football team was unbeaten, untied, and unscored upon in division play as they captured the first football league title in Saint's history. The "Wharf Rats," as they were called by their coach Harry Furman, outscored their Finger Lakes West opponents 149-0.



Above: Bob Hanley, Tom De John, Greg Thomas, Botch De Meo, Steve Lahr, Deac DiCostanzo, Mark McCheyne, Ricky Ianopollo, Fred Emmi, Frank Mantell, John Corcoran, Barney Karol, Frank Mc Nerney, Ed Madia, Dan Driscoll, Jim Van Opdorp, Jim Ninestine, Steve Walczak, Mike Rose, Tar Breslin, Pat McWilliams, Steve Muzzi, Mike Cecere, John Millis, Steve Tandle, Kevin Mulcany, Russ Pullano, Frank Pullano, Mike Hanley, Pat Malone, Rick Smaldone, Steve Sychalski, David Passalacqua, Leroy Healy, Frank Lacquitara, Mike Morgante, Jim Bruno, Gerry Zappia, Steve Chelenza, Mike Nolan, Punky Welcher. (Missing: Jack Cardinale)

STATE CHAMPS!



Geneva Panthers head coach Dave Whitcomb is carried off the field following Saturday's 33-7 win over Albany Academy. By Spencer Tullis/Finger Lakes Times

After a 2005 loss in the state championship game, the Geneva High School football team won the title the following year. They defeated Albany Academy 33-7 in Syracuse University's Carrier Dome.

How We Used to Play

In the 1800s, games could be played with large groups. Tag, hide and seek, and crack the whip needed no equipment and burned off energy. Tug-of-war required a rope but it was often easy to find.

Team sports became more popular in Geneva, beginning with baseball in the 1860s. American football was refined in the early 1880s but was still violent. Basketball (1891) and volleyball (1895) were created as indoor sports that were less rough than football. Children imitated the new sports by making their own equipment and playing with neighbors.

“We didn’t have baseballs like you have today....[Stores] used to wrap the groceries up with string. We used to take the string and make a baseball with it. We used to roll it around...and tape it up. That was our baseball.” – John Choffin



Winslow Homer, *Snap the Whip*, 1873. Played on ice or dry ground, the leader moved quickly in random directions to shake off people from the “tail” of the whip.

Early tricycles like these at Genesee Park were more toy than transportation. In the 1890s the modern “safety bicycle,” chain-driven with equal sized inflated rubber tires, started a craze.



As seen on Lewis Street in the 1870s, playing ball did not need a lot of children. Taking turns hitting the ball was just as fun.

